



November 30, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
United States Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write today in support of the FASTLANE grant application for funds to complete the Charleston/I-26 Intermodal Freight Corridor, a critical infrastructure need that will promote safety and flow of essential commerce throughout the Southeast region.

The corridor provides critical direct access between I-26 and the Leatherman container terminal, located on the former Navy Base at the Port of Charleston. The new terminal, a key project in the SCPA capital plan scheduled for completion by December 2019, will increase SC Ports Authority's (SCPA) volume capacity by 50 percent. It is the only permitted new container terminal on the East and Gulf Coast and is necessary for the Port of Charleston to accommodate growing volumes of post-Panamax vessel calls to the East Coast. After completion of the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project, which was designated in the President's 'We Can't Wait' initiative as a nationally significant infrastructure project, Charleston will be able to service the largest vessels calling the East Coast.

The intermodal freight corridor will benefit the entire multimodal system in the Southeast region by linking commuter, freight and rail traffic. Most importantly, it will prohibit the blending of truck traffic in neighborhoods with residents, creating a safer situation for citizens and commerce.

The intermodal freight corridor will dramatically promote and improve the flow of goods, helping drive the economies of South Carolina, the Southeast and the nation. At the same time, it will ensure that the SCPA will continue its role as the key economic development driver in the state – integral to nearly 200,000 jobs and \$10.2 billion in labor income annually.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this application within the applicable rules and regulations of the grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Pitts".

Ted Pitts
President & CEO
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

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