

United States Senate

May 18, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my support for the *America's Global Freight Gateway: Southern California Rail Project* that has applied for a competitive grant under the Department of Transportation's Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) program. This project will help remove freight bottlenecks to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which are respectively, the first and second busiest container ports in the nation. This project is vitally important, not only to Southern California, but to the entire nation and I urge that this request be approved.

This application has been submitted by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Los Angeles County Transportation Authority (LA Metro), in partnership with the Port of Los Angeles (POLA), the Port of Long Beach (POLB), and the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACECA). This request for \$81.2 million in funding from FASTLANE will fund five rail projects throughout Los Angeles County. The component projects will all help to make the ports more efficient by creating better rail access to the ports and improving traffic flows on the primary corridors that drive freight to the ports. The projects are:

- *Grade Separations, City of Pico Rivera:* ACECA is requesting \$15 million to create grade separations along Durfee Avenue in Pico Rivera, CA. the project will create grade separations to improve the safety of railroad crossings.
- *Grade Separations, City of Montebello:* ACECA is requesting \$35 million to create grade separations and additional safety improvements at rail crossings in Montebello, CA. The improvements will greatly improve safety at key rail crossings and also alleviate traffic congestion.
- *Alameda Corridor Southern Terminus Gap Closure, Port of Los Angeles:* POLA is requesting \$5 million to construct additional track to connect two on-dock railyards. The project will reduce train blockages at the port, reduce the potential of rail collisions and increase the efficiency of trains headed to the port.

- *Terminal Island Railyard Enhancement, Port of Los Angeles*: POLA is requesting \$12.34 million to add additional tracks to a staging and storage railroad. Adding additional track will increase the on-dock rail capacity at the port and reduce the reliance of trucks, which contribute to congestion primarily on two main freeways that are used to deliver cargo to the port.
- *Terminal Island Wye Improvements, Port of Long Beach*: POLB is requesting \$13.8 million to construct new track to connect a part of the port that currently relies on a single track to connect its on-dock rail facility. Adding this track would increase rail efficiency at the port and reduce the reliance of trucks to deliver cargo to the port.

This collection of projects will bring immediate benefits to Southern California, and make numerous traffic and safety improvements in communities. However, these projects will also increase the efficiency of two ports that are vitally important to the American economy.

These component projects of the Southern California Rail Project are prudent investments that we can make now in order to sustain in the competitiveness of the U.S. economy for many years to come. Please consider this application pursuant to all existing laws and regulations. My office is prepared to respond to any questions or concerns regarding this matter. Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator