

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION P.O. Box 600 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI

Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

Lt. Governor

June 11, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to express support for the Gloucester County Improvement Authority's 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application entitled *The Delaware River Rail Capacity Expansion and Safety Improvement* project.

This project involves the construction of new rail infrastructure that will establish a loop connecting to an existing rail spur serviced by Conrail. The loop will improve and facilitate the efficient movement of cargo within the Repauno Port & Rail Terminal ("Repauno"). The project is intended to have significant positive safety impacts on the region surrounding the Repauno Port & Rail Terminal. Repauno handles energy products — propane and butane — primarily for export. It is critical that the movement of these energy products is as safe as possible given their hazardous nature, especially as this industry sector continues to experience significant growth.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) strongly supports freight rail and multimodal infrastructure improvements throughout the state. NJDOT has provided funding to support a highway bypass to provide direct access to Repauno. This ensured that the increase in port truck traffic would not burden local communities. This is one example of the partnership between NJDOT and the private investors in Repauno.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely.

Diane Gutiefrez-Scaccetti

Commissioner



VICTOR CARSTARPHEN MAYOR TEL: 856-757-7200 EMAIL: MAYOR@CLCAMDEN.NJUS WEBSITE: WWW.CLCAMDEN.NLUS

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to express support for the Gloucester County Improvement Authority's 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application entitled *The Delaware River Rail Capacity Expansion and Safety Improvement* project.

This project will have significant positive safety impacts on the region surrounding the Repauno Port & Rail Terminal ("Repauno"), which includes the City of Camden. Repauno handles energy products — propane and butane which are considered hazardous — primarily for export. It is critical that the movement of these energy products is as safe as possible, especially as this industry sector continues to experience significant growth. This is even more critical in densely populated areas. Furthermore, the populations that sit between Repauno and Conrail's Shared Assets Operation Pavonia Rail Yard in Camden ("Pavonia") have a median household income level of \$55,000 which is \$30,000 below the median household income in the State of New Jersey. These communities deserve to be ensured that the commodities being shipped through their neighborhoods is done in the safest and most efficient way. Rail is the right form of transport compared to trucks and moving the least number of trains possible is the industry's overall goal.

This project creates a rail loop at Repauno that connects to an existing rail spur. The immediate benefit of a rail loop is to allow for unit trains from Camden at Pavonia to deliver the product by reducing the number of trains needed by 75 percent. In other words, this project will demonstrate an immediate reduction in weekly train trips through these critical neighborhoods that have suffered from an equity standpoint. With multiple at-grade crossings along the route between Pavonia and Repauno, a reduction of 75 percent of train trips will have significant safety and travel time impacts that will be felt by residents throughout the region. In addition, by reducing train trips, greenhouse gas emissions will see a significant decline over the life of the project. Finally, this project will spur more economic development in the area and will create additional well-paying union jobs.

For these reasons, I strongly support this project that will allow the site to continue to be developed while improving the safety and quality of life for the local residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Hönorable Victor G. Carstarphen, Mayor

City of Camden



TOWNSHIP OF GREENWICH

420 Washington Street Gibbstown, New Jersey 08027 Telephone: (856) 423-1038 Fax: (856) 423-2989

June 21, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to express strong support for the Gloucester County Improvement Authority's 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application entitled *The Delaware River Rail Capacity Expansion and Safety Improvement* project.

This project will have significant positive safety impacts on the region surrounding the Repauno Port & Rail Terminal ("Repauno"). Repauno handles energy products — propane and butane which are considered hazardous — primarily for export. It is critical that the movement of these energy products is as safe as possible, especially as this industry sector continues to experience significant growth. This is even more critical in densely populated areas. Furthermore, the populations that sit between Repauno and Conrail's Shared Assets Operation Pavonia Rail Yard ("Pavonia") have a median household income level of \$55,000 which is \$30,000 below the median household income in the State of New Jersey. These communities deserve to be ensured that the commodities being shipped through their neighborhoods is done in the safest and most efficient way. Rail is the right form of transport compared to trucks and moving the least number of trains possible is the industry's overall goal.

This project creates a rail loop at Repauno that connects to an existing rail spur. The immediate benefit of a rail loop is to allow for unit trains from Pavonia in Camden, New Jersey, to deliver the product by reducing the number of trains needed by 75 percent. In other words, this project will demonstrate an immediate reduction in weekly train trips through these critical neighborhoods that have suffered from an equity standpoint over the last few decades since the major employer—DuPont—left the region. With multiple at-grade crossings along the route between Pavonia and Repauno, a reduction of 75 percent of train trips will have significant safety and travel time impacts that will be felt by residents throughout the region. In addition, by reducing train trips, greenhouse gas emissions will see a significant decline over the life of the project. Finally, this project

will spur more economic development in the area and will create additional well-paying union jobs.

For these reasons, We strongly support this project that will allow the site to continue to be developed while improving the safety and quality of life for the local residents. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any question, Please contact Mayor Vincent Giovannitti at 856-423-1038 x208.

Sincerely,

layor Vincent Giovannitti

Gouncil President Joseph DiMenna

Councilman William Franklin

Councilman Antonio Chila

Councilman Kenneth Ridinger





June 22, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg Secretary United States Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

I am writing in strong support of the Gloucester County Improvement Authority's *The Delaware River Rail Capacity Expansion and Safety Improvement Project* Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) application. This project will construct a rail loop at the Repauno Port & Rail Terminal ("Repauno") that will allow unit trains to service the site increasing its overall efficiency and improving rail safety throughout the region. The project will be made possible through the combination of a significant private investment by Delaware River Partners LLC and this RAISE grant.

The Delaware River Rail Capacity Expansion and Safety Improvement Project is critical to the region and to the nation as it will allow for increased energy exports from the northeast as well as providing propane and butane to local communities. The rail loop will allow Repauno to move approximately 60,000 barrels of natural gas liquids, or more than 2.3 million gallons per day through the site. The natural gas liquids products will originate from sites throughout the northeast as far away as Ohio. This significant investment committed to constructing a rail loop will create a facility that can accept unit trains making it more cost effective, efficient, and safe to move these products.

Southwestern Energy responsibly explores for and produces natural gas liquids throughout Ohio, and West Virginia.

Approximately up to 30,000 barrels per day of our natural gas liquids potentially could be deliver to the Repauno terminal. Due to the volume being exported it is critical that we have access to efficient rail service. The increased capacity on the Delaware River is critical as there is a dearth of energy export capacity in this region. The project will contribute to the growth of the northeast energy sector and will create jobs in this area of New Jersey where the median household income is \$30,000 below that of the State of New Jersey. The project's investment in new export and domestic capacity will also decrease the nation's dependence on foreign energy sources.

For the foregoing reasons, we fully support the full funding of this application. If you have any questions I can be reached at <u>Jason Kurtz@swn.com</u> or 832-796-7377.

Sincerely.

Jason Kurtz

VP Marketing & Transportation

RE WY