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November 21, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the application submitted by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) to the Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for Long-term Achievements of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program. Alameda CTC, in partnership with the Port of Oakland and numerous stakeholders, is developing the Global Opportunities at the Port of Oakland (GoPort) project which will relieve significant congestion for high-volume truck traffic that impacts Port efficiency and reliability by improving key Port access gateways and circulation throughout the Port, including facilities and intermodal connectors that are part of the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN).

Bay Planning Coalition is a nonprofit, member organization that advocates for sustainable commerce, industry, infrastructure, recreation and the natural environment connected to the San Francisco Bay and its watershed. We work very closely with the Port of Oakland and regional government bodies such as Alameda CTC on improving goods movement throughout the region and view this as a key project related to that goal. Bay Planning Coalition strongly supports the GoPort project which will expand global trade, increase freight efficiency, and create jobs.

The Port of Oakland is the third busiest container port on the West Coast and the GoPort project improvements will support continued growth at the Port. The GoPort project is under development and will be delivered as one integrated project including:

- **The 7th Street Grade Separation** will be constructed as an elevated, realigned T-intersection of 7th Street and Maritime Street and add additional track capacity to alleviate a major chokepoint for intercontinental rail and drayage trucks.
- **Middle Harbor Road and Maritime Street** improvements, which connect to 7th Street, will include moving marine terminal gates to more efficient locations and reconstructing and realigning the roads to better handle truck queueing, prevent unsafe driver behavior and add bicycle and pedestrian paths for local community access to jobs and to a shoreline park.
- **Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) technology** will include backbone communications infrastructure and systems integration to cost-effectively manage truck arrivals, improve incident response and connect to regional smart corridor systems.

These improvements, in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Oakland Army Base, which includes significant state, local and private-sector investment in modern rail, warehousing and transloading facilities, will support local job creation and economic opportunities throughout the nation.

The GoPort project improvements are essential to the global competitiveness of the Port of Oakland, which supports more than 827,000 jobs nationally and 73,000 jobs regionally, and provides the Northern California Megaregion's primary connection point to world markets.

In addition, the GoPort Project improvements will generate extensive safety, quality of life, and environmental sustainability benefits for local communities. In particular, reducing the amount of idling trucks and trains will greatly reduce diesel particulate matter and improve health for the adjacent West Oakland neighborhood where asthma rates exceed the regional average. A new, separated bike and pedestrian path will provide local community access to jobs and recreation at a shoreline park.

Substantial local funds have already been invested in planning and project development for these nationally significant improvements at the Port of Oakland. With the assistance of this grant, construction could be advanced and be complete by mid-2020.

Your support of these vital investments as part of the national freight transportation system is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



John A. Coleman  
Chief Executive Officer