

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 23, 2024



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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Alabama Port Authority is critical to commerce, and whether by river, rail, or road, the Port is committed to connecting our people, places, and businesses. With five Class I and four short-line railroads that touch Mobile, the Port's railroad, Terminal Railway Alabama State Docks, or TASD, conducts all switching operations for customers at the Port of Mobile.

With its application for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) Program, the *TASD New Horizons Project* (or "the Project") offers an opportunity to contribute to economic growth and job creation. Additionally, the Project will support a safer and more efficient operational environment that will continue the Alabama Port Authority's commitment to sustainability through building more resilient infrastructure that operates with reduced emissions and increased reliability.

Proposed improvements include expanding the existing TASD interchange yard, raising it to protect it from storm events, and adding power switches. In addition, with these proposed improvements in place, the Port is looking to study how the new infrastructure would impact the overall rail network around the Port of Mobile. With a deeper understanding of how growth around the Port should be accounted for and how this growth will influence TASD's daily switching operations, the Port will be able to better plan for the future with sustainability and efficiency in mind.

The Port of Mobile's capabilities and connectivity make it an ideal gateway for all types of cargo, from coal and containers to forest products and steel, to automobiles and aggregates. The Port can handle import and export cargoes of virtually any type and volume. With deep water, modern equipment, and multimodal connectivity, Alabama's Port is one of the most efficient, productive, and accessible ports in the nation.

The City of Mobile strongly supports this much-needed Project. The Project provides crucial improvements to a well-connected Port that, in 2022 alone, supported 351,359 jobs, or one out of every seven jobs in Alabama, and contributed \$98.3 billion in economic value statewide.

For these reasons, we thank you for your consideration of the Alabama Port Authority's application for federal CRISI grant funding to accelerate the construction of the *TASD New Horizons Project*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Stimpson'.

William S. Stimpson
Mayor