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May 28, 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 Mobile County Commission 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,


Mobile County Commission
Randall Dueitt, President



ALABAMA
PORT AUTHORITY
Delivering for Alabama

BACKGROUND

The Port of Mobile is the only deep-water port in Alabama and consistently moves 50+ million tons of cargo each year. The Port has a significant economic impact on the state of Alabama, with a total economic impact of \$98.3 billion in 2022 alone in addition to over 350,000 direct and indirect jobs and more than \$2.4 billion in direct and indirect tax impacts. ASPA owns the public terminals at the Port of Mobile, on 4,000 acres with more than 30 berths that provide import and export services for containerized, bulk, breakbulk, Ro-Ro, and heavy lift cargoes and is also home to private bulk terminal operators and the fastest-growing container terminal facility in the United States.

The Port currently has more than \$1 billion in capital projects underway statewide. The Port Authority will nearly double its cargo handling capacity upon completing an expansion currently underway at the container terminal. In addition to the terminal expansion and the harbor deepening and widening project, the Alabama Port Authority plans to develop logistics facilities in Mobile and open two new inland intermodal facilities served by CSX in both Decatur and Montgomery. These projects are set to begin operation within the next two to five years and will provide new advantages and opportunities for shippers.

Other planned investments include constructing an inter-terminal connector bridge to create on-dock rail access at the container terminal and modernizing general cargo piers. These projects are primarily funded through federal budget appropriations and grants championed by former Senator Richard Shelby. In addition to federal funding, the Alabama State Legislature allocated \$20 million in 2023 to modernize the Port's McDuffie Coal Terminal. Beyond these public funding sources, the Port reinvests all revenue outside of operating expenses to improve and expand its facilities.

FAST FACTS

STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACT

- \$98.3B economic value delivered to Alabama in 2022 alone
- Over 350,000 jobs created by Port of Mobile operations
- \$2.4B state and local tax impact

NATIONAL ASSET

- Recently named second fastest growing port in the U.S. by Forbes
- \$52B+ economic value delivered outside of Alabama in 2022
- 50-foot depth by 2025 | Deeper than Savannah (-47) and the deepest container port in the Gulf
- Connectivity into Chicago within 3 days
- 5 Class I Railroads and 3 Short-line Railroads
- East-West (I-10) and North-South (I-65) interstate routes
- Near-dock international airport

DIVERSE CAPABILITIES

- The Port of Mobile serves both containerized and bulk/breakbulk commodities
- All piers on the general cargo facility at the Port of Mobile are rail served
- Home to a one-of-its-kind rail ferry service that transits between Mobile and Mexico
- Third largest coal handling facility in the United States

CONTAINERIZED CARGO

- Two new super-post-panamax cranes for a total of six cranes (4 post and 2 super-post) by 2025
- Turn times for drop-off and pick-up of containerized cargo are under an hour (nationwide, turn time average is 2-3 hours)
- On-dock intermodal rail service in 2025