

14 May 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support – PIDP Grant Application for Main Dock Area Master Plan Development

Turner L. Haddock

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Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of **International Paper Company**, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Main Dock Area **Master Plan Development** and its application for funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's **Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)**. This planning effort represents a prudent and necessary investment that will advance nationally and regionally significant freight infrastructure through strategic, data-driven decision-making.

The proposed Main Dock Area Master Plan will establish a comprehensive, long-term framework to guide future port-related infrastructure investments that improve **freight mobility, operational efficiency, and a state of good repair at the Port of Mobile**. The planning effort will assess current conditions, forecast future freight demand, and evaluate multimodal access to ensure infrastructure investments are coordinated, sequenced, and aligned with regional and national supply chain needs. By doing so, the Master Plan will position the region to accommodate economic growth while maximizing the performance and reliability of existing assets.

This initiative has clear **regional and national significance**, as the Port and its supporting infrastructure serve as a critical node in the regional freight system and the broader national transportation network. Development of the Master Plan will support informed capital programming, improve coordination among public and private stakeholders, and ensure that future projects advance USDOT priorities such as freight movement efficiency, economic competitiveness, and supply chain resilience.

The Main Dock Area Master Plan will also prioritize **resiliency, sustainability, and risk reduction** by strengthening the Port's ability to withstand extreme weather events and other disruptions and integrating asset vulnerability assessments, along with operational efficiency strategies into long-term planning. These elements will help reduce future disruptions, improve infrastructure durability,

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and ensure the Port remains a reliable component of the national freight system over time.

For these reasons, **International Paper Company** strongly supports this PIDP grant application and urges USDOT to fund the development of the **Main Dock Area Master Plan**. This planning effort will lay the foundation for efficient, resilient, and nationally significant infrastructure investments that deliver lasting public benefit.

Regards,



Turner L. Haddock
Manager, Export & Warehousing
International Paper Company