

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 26, 2026

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



RE: Letter of Support for the Alabama Port Authority's New Horizons Project – Mobile, Alabama

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am writing to express my support for funding for the Alabama Port Authority's (APA) New Horizons Project through the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program for fiscal years (FY) 2025-2026. APA has committed \$9.3 million as a 20% local match to this grant application and urges your consideration. The total cost of this project is \$37.2 million.

The Alabama Port Authority provides essential transportation services for Alabama customers and major Class I railroads on its 75-mile track network. Imports and exports in this region are growing and APA's railroad experiences congestion due to increased demand. This project will increase capacity and APA's ability to better service its customers in a safe and efficient manner while growing its workforce.

Project Description

Depending on grant award and obligation, the project involves final engineering design, federal environmental approval, installation of approximately seven miles of new rail track, and automating flat switching yard conversion. Including final engineering and NEPA requirements, the project assumes 24 months for completion.

Benefits

This project will allow for critical capacity improvements to support rail connectivity across the Southeast and Midwest regions of the U.S. It will eliminate chokepoints and aging infrastructure that affects safe operations, economic losses, and operational efficiency. As noted within the 2026 National Freight Strategic Plan, short line infrastructure constraints are a modal challenge for the country. The implementation of this project will efficiently contribute to the improvement of the associated corridor network that can safely transport goods and improve reliability and resiliency. Federal investment in this project will help improve rail efficiency in the region and America.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Spiro N. Cheriogotis
Mayor