



Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr.P.H., F.A.C.P.
Health Officer

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June 10, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Mobile County Health Department is writing in support of the Mobile Airport Authority (MAA) and the Alabama State Port Authority's (ASPA) joint application for the Transportation Demonstration Program grant authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. This grant will greatly assist in modernizing intermodal and multimodal transportation infrastructure to streamline connections between aviation, maritime, rail networks and highways. We applaud Congress' and the U.S. Department of Transportation's commitment to multimodal investments to foster U.S. market competitiveness while addressing climate change and environmental justice goals.

The Port of Mobile sits at the confluence of publicly owned deep-water seaport terminals, five Class 1 railroads servicing all of North America, two U.S. Interstate systems and an air cargo Aeroplex with a Federal Aviation Administration approved plan to establish an international commercial airport. The City of Mobile and the Alabama State Port Authority seek to modernize existing intermodal and multimodal infrastructures and expand facilities to increase supply chain efficiency, create jobs, reduce congestion, and carbon emissions, and improve safety.

The MCHD mission is to promote, improve, and protect the overall health of the community we serve. The MCHD has recognized and supported our seaport's initiatives to invest in nonroad diesel reducing technology to meet Tier 4 objectives, and in electrification equipment to reduce greenhouse emissions in port operations. The program grant is important as it provides much needed funding to further the port's environmental objectives by using autonomous and/or electric trucks and reducing freight/container intermodal movement distances between the container terminal and the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility. This project and its objectives are in step with our health goals for Mobile.

We respectfully request that US DOT award this important grant to the city/state partnership at the Port of Mobile.

Sincerely,

Bernard H. Eichold II, M.D., Dr.P.H., F.A.C.P.
Health Officer

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