

Proudly Serving:

Parishes: Assumption • Lafourche • St. Charles • St. James • St. Mary • St. John • Terrebonne
Municipalities: Baldwin • Berwick • Franklin • Golden Meadow • Gramercy • Lockport • Lutcher • Morgan City • Napoleonville • Patterson • Thibodaux

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: Letter of Support – Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District’s
2016 FASTLANE Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As CEO of the South Central Planning & Development Commission, I am writing to you today in full support of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District’s (Port of Morgan City) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s FY 2016 *Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE)*. I understand that the port district is requesting funds for a major infrastructure project with estimated costs totaling \$15 million; and, therefore, the port is requesting \$9 million in *TIGER* funding and will provide a non-federal match of \$6 million.

An investment by the DOT into the port’s project can truly help us all capitalize on the recent success the port has had in securing shipping business. It is my understanding that they have recently attracted new business to the port, filling a niche for small-scale vessels, by importing salt from Mexico and exporting rice to Haiti. Based on a recent economic impact report by Dr. James Richardson of LSU, there is a \$300,000 impact (\$270,000 of personal earnings; \$35,000 of tax revenues) on the local economy every time the ship makes a trip to Morgan City from Mexico; and, there is hope that this ship will make 30 calls to Morgan City annually. This is fantastic; and, I applaud their endeavors because it has, also, spurred other shipping companies to inquire about using the Port as a possible location to ship their goods and cargo. Unfortunately, their limited dock area prevents them from fully capitalizing on their strategic location and recent successes; and, the lack of dock area restricts the amount of business that can be conducted at the port. *TIGER* funding enables the port to expand and increase the amount of business conducted at the port because it is my understanding that *TIGER* funds will be used to design, engineer and construct over 64,000 ft² of additional dock area at the port, providing immediate economic and safety benefits.

In closing, Secretary Foxx, thank you for your consideration in this matter; and once again, please know that we are in full-support of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District’s FY 2016

Arlanda Williams
CHAIRWOMAN
Councilwoman
Terrebonne Parish Council

Timothy Roussel
VICE CHAIRMAN
Parish President
St. James Parish Council

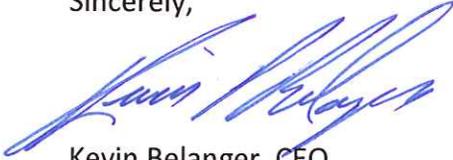
Natalie Robottom
TREASURER
Parish President
St. John The Baptist Parish Council

Wendy Benedetto
SECRETARY
Councilwoman
St. Charles Parish Council

Kevin Belanger
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

FASTLANE application because it improves transportation, safety and economic development in the state and nation.

Sincerely,



Kevin Belanger, CEO