



April 3, 2023

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

RE: Support for North Carolina State Ports Authority's ***North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization*** at the Port of Wilmington under the United States Department of Transportation's FY2023 Port Infrastructure Development grant program.

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit the attached application under the United States' Department of Transportation's FY2023 Port Infrastructure Development grant program to fund the ***North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization*** at the Port of Wilmington. The Port of Wilmington is a critical gateway to the global marketplace and a PID grant for this project will help facilitate increased global trade for the nation, state, and region.

The proposed PID grant for the ***North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization*** at the Port of Wilmington will construct a new private access road and North Gate vehicle entrance to the Port of Wilmington that removes trucks from neighborhood streets and reduces truck delays at a private railroad grade crossing located adjacent to the port's entrance gate. Relocating and optimizing truck access via the North Gate will allow the port to meet increased business demand and attract new users. The ***North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization*** project also enables less congestion on nearby surface streets, fewer trucks idling, and reduction of emissions, while providing a safer entrance point that will accommodate truck traffic and railroad operations without delaying shipments of goods.

The ***North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization*** PID grant application requests \$10,950,805 (38 percent) of a \$28,472,092 for a 'Small Project at a Small Port'. NC Ports is prepared to provide the remaining \$17,521,287 (62 percent) of funding to complete the ***North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization*** project.



The *North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization* project supports both regional and national economic vitality, supporting a safe, efficient, and cost-effective freight movement option for Port customers and neighbors. This project improves infrastructure condition, promotes traffic reduction, and facilitates economic growth. We look forward to your favorable consideration of the attached grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Wicker".

Robert A. Wicker
Chairman