



March 17, 2023

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

RE: Wilmington Terminal Railroad Support for North Carolina State Ports Authority's North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization Project at the Port of Wilmington

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing on behalf of the Wilmington Terminal Railroad to share with you our strong support for the North Carolina State Ports Authority's (NC Ports) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY2023 Port Infrastructure Development grant program to fund the North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization project at the Port of Wilmington.

The project will construct a new private access road and North Gate vehicle entrance to the Port of Wilmington that will resolve truck/rail conflicts at a busy existing railroad grade crossing at the Port's North Gate. Vehicles currently entering the Port of Wilmington's North Gate must cross a highway-rail grade crossing situated at the port's main railroad switching yard. Train operations and switching movements in the railroad yard can block the roadway leading from the North Gate to port facilities for hours daily.

The North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization project will improve rail crossing safety by relocating traffic to a crossing to the north, reducing daily railroad occupancies from nearly 30 to two (one occupancy for the daily inbound train and one occupancy for the daily outbound train). Also, the project will increase rail switching capacity that will enable general growth.

For these reasons, the Wilmington Terminal Railroad respectfully asks for your support and funding of the North Carolina State Ports Authority's North Gate Relocation and Access Optimization project at the Port of Wilmington, a project worthy of funding under the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY2023 Port Infrastructure Development Grant program.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical port project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Su Son', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Su Son
General Manager