



**Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council**

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June 2, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC), the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Syracuse metropolitan area has been made aware that the Port of Oswego Authority is submitting **The CenterState NY Inland Port and Rail Connector Project** for TIGER grant application funding consideration. The concept of an inland port has been a topic of conversation for several years and one that could take advantage of the extensive rail and freight related infrastructure that currently exists in the area. The project will provide manufacturers with a centrally located, integrated and, cost effective state-of-the-art inland port where they will be able to efficiently containerize, warehouse, and ship their products for export. Improvements and enhancements to the efficient movement of freight are supportive to the area's Long Range Transportation Plan and various Sustainability Plans.

The SMTC will work diligently with the project partners to see a successful implementation of this regional, national and international freight project. A project that enhances freight mobility and provides economic development opportunities at the same time can be a great benefit to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D'Agostino", written over a light blue horizontal line.

James D'Agostino  
Director

**The Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Office of the Mayor • Syracuse Common Council • Syracuse Planning Commission • CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity • New York State Department of Transportation • New York State Department of Environmental Conservation • New York State Department of Economic Development • New York State Thruway Authority • Office of the County Executive • Onondaga County Legislature • Onondaga County Planning Board • Central New York Regional Transportation Authority • Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board • Federal Transit Administration • Federal Highway Administration