



June 5, 2015

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

Dear Honorable Anthony R. Foxx,

Work Train is pleased to support the Port of Oswego's transformative CenterState NY Inland Port and Rail Connector Project. This project will have a substantial long-term impact on our region's economy and will create job opportunities where they're needed most, within Syracuse, where poverty and joblessness are pervasive.

Work Train (WT) is a unique workforce initiative, driven by a collaborative of leaders from the private sector, economic development, philanthropy, the workforce investment board, local government, training and education, and grassroots organizations. WT was spearheaded and is managed by CenterState CEO. Funded by the United Way of CNY, Allyn Foundation, Community Foundation, Reisman Foundation, and Gifford Foundation, Work Train seeks to establish a community-wide workforce platform, using a "Dual Client Model," where both low-income residents and employers are supported. Work Train is designated as a partner within the National Fund for Workforce Solutions.

In 2015, Work Train has launched workforce platforms serving regional employers in the manufacturing and health care industries. Work Train operates as an adaptable framework that can be applied to different industries, across different worker skill levels. CenterState CEO and Work Train staff will work with the Port of Oswego to develop a Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) platform that will identify the Inland Port's workforce needs and translate them into a program designed to attract, train, and develop workers from disadvantaged Syracuse neighborhoods. Since the Work Train model is predicated upon providing career pathways for underserved populations, this collaboration will ensure that entry-level CenterState NY Inland Port workers participating in the TDL Work Train platform are provided with the supports, education, and training necessary to move up within the TDL industry.

We look forward to working with Port of Oswego and other regional partners to develop and implement this strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dominic Robinson".

Dominic Robinson  
Director, Work Train

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret M. O'Connell".

Margaret M. O'Connell  
Chair, Work Train Collaborative