

Wilmington Area Planning Council

850 Library Avenue, Suite 100
Newark, Delaware 19711
302-737-6205; Fax 302-737-9584
From Cecil County: 888-808-7088
e-mail: wilmapco@wilmapco.org
web site: www.wilmapco.org

WILMAPCO Council:

June 3, 2013

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WILMAPCO Executive Director
Tigist Zegeye

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, South East
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the Port of Wilmington's TIGER 5 Grant Application for the Rehabilitation of Wharf Unit 1. This project supports the Port in maintaining the infrastructure necessary for the movement of freight and goods within the WILMAPCO region. One of the stated goals for the WILMAPCO 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is to **Support Economic Activity, Growth and Goods Movement**, and this project will directly support the action to **Enhance our Goods Movement Capabilities**.

This application is supported by the State of Delaware, New Castle County, the City of Wilmington, and the Chambers of Commerce for both the State of Delaware and New Castle County. As the MPO for this region, the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) strongly supports the efficient movement of freight and goods as well as projects that provide economic development opportunities for our region. We feel that this project will benefit both our local and regional transportation networks by allowing more goods to enter the region via marine shipping as opposed to long-haul trucks.

We believe this grant application meets the goal of the TIGER 5 program to invest in infrastructure projects that will have a significant, positive impact on metropolitan areas and regions. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tigist Zegeye, Executive Director



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