

May 1, 2024

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

Application: Port of Stockton's RIISE Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) supports the application by the Port of Stockton (Port) to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) competitive grant program for the Rail Infrastructure Improvements for Sustainable Exports Project (RIISE). The components of the RIISE project include the San Joaquin Rail Bridge replacement, Long Lead Double Track, New West Complex McCloy Yard, and the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation. These initiatives are key to modernizing our freight rail infrastructure, boosting the economy, and enhancing sustainability in our region.

Anticipating a notable increase in rail volumes through its East and West Complexes in the coming years, the Port is preparing to accommodate longer and more frequent trains. These will predominantly be single commodity unit trains, transporting bulk materials for global export. Such growth necessitates substantial investment in the Port and its surrounding infrastructure to sustain its contribution to the regional, national, and global economy.

The RIISE project aims to upgrade rail infrastructure, increasing efficiency, reducing congestion, and lowering emissions. A key focus is the resolution of the Stockton Diamond bottleneck, California's most congested rail corridor, improving capacity and operational flexibility at the Port. Together, these components will significantly enhance the Port's capacity and efficiency, ensuring it remains a leading net export facility and mitigating the need for cargo redirection to other ports, thereby saving costs and reducing emissions.

MCTC would like to thank USDOT for its consideration and welcomes the opportunity to support the Port in the pursuit of this Project.

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor
Executive Director
Madera County Transportation Commission