

May 10, 2024

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

Subject: Letter of Support for the New York City Department of Small Business Services' **Brooklyn Marine Terminal Modernization Project** Application for USDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants (MPDG) FY25-26

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As elected officials representing the Brooklyn Marine Terminal, we write to you in enthusiastic support for New York City's application, led by its Department of Small Business Services, for U.S. DOT's INFRA / MEGA grants through the MPDG program. NYC is requesting funding for the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) to implement critical upgrades to the Brooklyn Marine Terminal (BMT), which hosts an active container terminal and cruise terminal, to ensure the future viability of the working waterfront in the New York-New Jersey harbor. The modernization of BMT into a global model—for modern maritime uses optimized for low-emission last-mile freight movement, community hiring, and neighborhood engagement—will create quality jobs and reduce truck trips in the city and region.

BMT is well-positioned for further growth as a specialized container terminal and a micro-distribution hub in a harbor-wide network for sustainable freight deliveries given its access to vast distribution markets east of the Hudson River. Modernization of the Brooklyn Marine Terminal will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand local and regional economic capacity, and increase good-paying jobs. NYC is committed to the expansion of a citywide Blue Highway network and is implementing federal funding to integrate waterfront infrastructure for micro-freight deliveries and micro-hub infrastructure at harbor landings. NYC's proposed project aims to rebuild two obsolete finger piers into an optimized marginal pier for transloading containers, break-bulk, and micro-freight, and make critical repairs to protect the functionality of an active pier for container and break-bulk cargo which will support establishing BMT as a Blue Highway Hub.

In addition to waterside improvements for greater freight capacity at BMT, this project would improve transportation infrastructure serving the container terminal and nearby Brooklyn Cruise Terminal, to reduce traffic impacts on the surrounding Red Hook community. Currently, the arrival of increasingly large cruise ships causes severe congestion on local streets, with for-hire and passenger vehicles funneling into a single point of ingress at the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal. Improving ingress and internal circulation at BMT will divert cruise-bound traffic from local streets and increase capacity for freight deliveries. Improving pedestrian access to the NYC Ferry landing adjacent to the cruise terminal will be instrumental, as well, for increasing the use of ferries by cruise passengers.

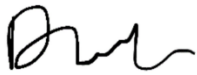
Red Hook and surrounding neighborhoods are largely environmental justice and disadvantaged communities whose residents are predominantly working-class people of color. Given that many constituents such as those living in NYCHA's Red Hook East and West Houses face high rates of asthma and other respiratory issues;

investing in Red Hook through the Brooklyn Marine Terminal would enhance the economic growth and health of the neighborhood, while working to improve the lives of those around it with public health and climate goals in mind.

These investments will contribute toward redevelopment of a waterfront that supports modern maritime and low-emission last mile deliveries while creating quality jobs in an inclusive, green economy.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important and innovative project.

Sincerely,



Dan Goldman
Representative
10th Congressional District



Charles Schumer
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



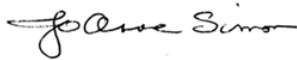
Andrew Gounardes
New York State Senate
District 22



Marcela Mitaynes
New York State Assembly
District 51



Charles Fall
New York State Assembly
District 61



Jo Anne Simon
New York State Assembly
District 52



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