



May 19, 2020

Secretary Elaine Chao
US Department of Transportation,
200 New Jersey Avenue SE,
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing on behalf of the Port of Galveston in support of its efforts to strengthen rural cargo infrastructure through its proposed Cargo Corridor Complex project, a phased project consisting of the creation of a four-lane cargo corridor, the construction of a new and technologically enhanced access gate, and the creation of 35 acres of additional cargo laydown space. This project is an integral part of the Port of Galveston's completed and board-approved twenty-year strategic master plan.

The Port of Galveston's Cargo Corridor Complex will benefit local and regional economic prosperity through:

- Securing up to 500,000 new cargo tonnage volumes within the decade, increasing available employment opportunities throughout the Texas Gulf Coast region.
- Improving a critical first and last mile cargo connector roadway with obsolete design, expanding the existing intermodal capacity of the Port of Galveston and optimizing connectivity.
- Retaining customers that are currently outgrowing available space.
- Providing additional cargo storage, allowing customer to upsize and achieve economies.
- Improving access, mobility, safety, and efficiency of vehicular movement on Galveston Island, thereby reducing traffic congestion, with less idling, leading to emission reduction.
- Improving access during heavy weather, easing congestion caused by current infrastructure related flooding.
- Reconstructing underutilized facilities and improving state of repair while facilitating asset preservation.

As such, I strongly endorse the Port of Galveston's proposed West End Cargo Corridor Complex as it plays a critical role in the continued development of Galveston Island's cargo business, the creation of a state of the art cargo complex with good growth opportunity, and the improvement of access, mobility, safety, and efficiency in and around the Texas Gulf Coast region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina M. Spagnola".

Gina M. Spagnola
President & CEO
Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Elliott".

Theresa Elliott
Chair, Advocacy Committee
Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce