

April 27, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Support for the New Bedford 2016 TIGER Grant Proposal**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the New Bedford Regeneration Committee, I am writing in full support of the New Bedford Harbor Development Commission's (HDC) proposal to the 2016 TIGER funding opportunity provided by the US Department of Transportation.

The Regeneration Committee are members of a working group that initially came together in March of 2014 when Mayor Mitchell asked many of the region's business, community, and maritime industry leaders to serve as members of the New Bedford Regeneration Committee. The task before the committee was to articulate a strategy for the City's economic regeneration that builds on the committee's collective experience in leading successful enterprises. The committee's final report, *Uniting in Pursuit of Growth and Opportunity*, is a statement that was intended to attract broad popular buy-in, shape the economic development strategy over a five-year period, and signal to both private investors and government officials outside the region that New Bedford has a clear set of objectives. The report highlights four main strategies: (1) bolstering local capacity to promote economic development, (2) fostering the development of Downtown New Bedford, (3) enhancing workforce development in advanced manufacturing, and (4) modernizing our greatest asset—the Port of New Bedford.

Throughout the history of the city, the harbor has always been New Bedford's greatest asset, and it still holds much potential for further development. In the committee's final report, one of the four key elements identified was the "strategic investment in port infrastructure and dredging," which is exactly what the HDC is proposing through this project.

The harbor has not undergone comprehensive dredging in more than 40 years, which has clearly undermined the port's ability to remain competitive. The recently released Waterfront Framework Plan also identified the dredging and expansion of North Terminal as key to meeting the harbor's full economic potential.

As the only other general purpose industrial port in Massachusetts, the Port of New Bedford is not only a boon to the local economy – its economic impact is felt across the entire Commonwealth.

We are excited to support this proposal that aims to directly implement one of our main strategies, and hope you join the cross-sector leaders in New Bedford in supporting it as well. This project will send a ripple effect across the city, encouraging further investment from private companies that support the diverse industries within the port and advancing job opportunities and growth.

We thank you for considering this proposal and for funding such important projects throughout the country.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Sapienza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Anthony Sapienza, Committee Chairman**

President JA Apparel Corp.

President New Bedford EDC