



August 28, 2007

Commissioner Gerald Nicely  
Tennessee Department of Transportation  
James K. Polk Building  
505 Deaderick Street  
Suite 700  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0349

Dear Commissioner Nicely:

We appreciated meeting with you and your staff in Nashville on August 23, 2007, to discuss the several Tennessee highway projects which are critical to the success of the Port at Cates Landing. I summarize our discussions below:

1. Interstate 69

There is no single highway project more valuable to the Port and all of West Tennessee than I-69. Once in place, I-69 will facilitate historic increases in commerce and the economic development in West Tennessee. Our interest is to insure that I-69 remains funded and on schedule for completion. Of particular concern are the following two (2) portions of I-69:

(a) I-69 From Troy to Dyersburg

We understand that the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is currently evaluating the existing limited access stretch of U.S. Highway 51 from Troy to Dyersburg to determine whether this highway might be classifiable as I-69 in its current condition. Should improvements be required to secure this classification, we request that TDOT fund and construct the same as soon as possible. The establishment of this twenty-two (22) mile route as I-69 would provide a boost to the entire project in West Tennessee, as well as the Port, and would serve as evidence to all that I-69 is a reality.

(b) I-69 From Fulton, Kentucky to Troy, Tennessee

We understand that TDOT is currently at work in the planning, engineering and

acquiring of rights-of-way for I-69 from Fulton to Troy. One obstacle to this project is the tight turning radius at the proposed intersection of Kentucky's Purchase Parkway and the new I-69.

We request that TDOT commit to funding the further planning and engineering of this critical intersection and that the construction of the intersection and the I-69 roadway from Fulton to Troy proceed as soon as possible.

2. State Highway 22 in Lake County

The first contract for construction of the Port will be let by the Corps of Engineers next month, September, 2007. To accommodate the increased construction traffic, immediate improvement to State Highway 22 from the Port at Cates Landing through the City of Tiptonville to U.S. Highway 78 is needed.

Our Commissioners will attend the Public Hearing in Tiptonville on September 13, 2007, where these improvement will be discussed. We are also working closely with the City of Tiptonville and Lake County to insure the cooperation of all local governments with TDOT for the improvement of Highway 22 in Lake County.

3. Highway 78 in Dyer County

The shortest and most direct route for transport traffic from the Port to the Interstate Highway System is U.S. Highway 78 in Tiptonville to I-155 at Dyersburg. With the completion of the Port in 2009, transport traffic on this route will increase significantly. For this reason, we request that funding of the engineering and planning of the required improvement of Highway 78 be committed and that the work proceed without delay.

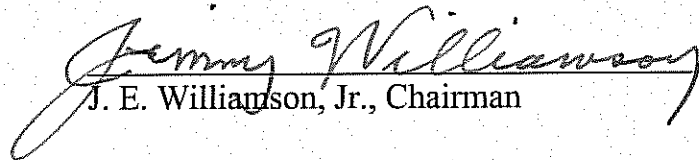
We also request that TDOT consider re-directing a portion of Highway 78 in Dyer County from its present route through the heart of the City of Dyersburg to a location west of the City. The location we propose is the planned intersection of I-69 and I-155 which is West of the Dyersburg Exit 13 on I-155. At this location, I-155 extends in an East-West direction towards the Mississippi River Bridge on the West. I-69 is planned to intersect I-155 from the South. We propose that the re-directed Highway 78 connect to this intersection from the North and provide direct access to the Port. With access in all four (4) directions, this Intersection will accommodate heavy interstate traffic without interference from Dyersburg's residential and retail commercial districts through which Highway 78 currently extends.

We appreciate all the assistance you and TDOT have provided the Port Authority and Northwest Tennessee to date and we look forward to receiving the schedules for the completion of these critical projects.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

NORTHWEST TENNESSEE REGIONAL  
PORT AUTHORITY



J. E. Williamson, Jr., Chairman

JEW/as

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Mr. Joe Hill  
Mr. Steve Allen  
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