

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 14

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PORT OF GREATER CINCINNATI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPLICATION FOR A MARITIME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT BENCHMARK RIVER AND RAIL TERMINALS AS CO-APPLICANT, AND TO ACCEPT AND ADMINISTER ANY AWARDED FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority (the “Port Authority”) is a port authority created under Chapter 4582 of the Ohio Revised Code and is authorized to promote, develop, and facilitate transportation, logistics, maritime, economic development, and related public purposes within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation administers the Maritime Assistance Program (“MAP”), which provides grant funding for eligible maritime transportation and freight projects that improve the efficiency, capacity, safety, and competitiveness of Ohio’s maritime cargo terminals; and

WHEREAS, MAP program guidelines have recently been modified to allow qualifying privately-owned river terminals to be co-applicants with Ohio port authorities apply for MAP funding for eligible projects;

WHEREAS, the Port Authority desires to pursue a MAP grant co-application with Benchmark River and Rail Terminals, LLC (“Benchmark”), located at 4820 River Road in Cincinnati, for a project to add two 600,000-gallon stainless steel, barge-served bulk liquid storage tanks and related terminal improvements at Benchmark’s active marine cargo terminal (the “Project”) located in ; and

WHEREAS, the Project is expected to increase on-site storage capacity, improve barge unloading efficiency, reduce demurrage and transfer bottlenecks, support increased throughput capacity of up to ten percent, and allow the terminal to handle a wider variety of bulk liquid cargo and specialty chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the additional terminal capacity will benefit current and future customers and regional commerce by increasing overall terminal flexibility and making existing rail assets available for new business, which positions the terminal to accommodate future growth from additional Ohio manufacturers, distributors, and agricultural users requiring bulk liquid storage and multimodal transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated Project cost is Seven Million Nine Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$7,986,000), of which the Port Authority intends to request MAP grant funding of up to Two Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,200,000), with the remaining Project match of Five Million Seven Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$5,786,000) to be provided by Benchmark or private or local sources; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that submitting the MAP application and, if awarded, accepting and administering the grant funds for the Project furthers the Port Authority’s public purposes and support maritime freight, supply chain, economic development, safety, and terminal capacity objectives in the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority:

Section 1. The Board authorizes the President and other appropriate officers and staff of the Port Authority to prepare, execute, submit, and deliver the MAP application and any related certifications, assurances, agreements, schedules, exhibits, and supporting materials necessary or desirable in connection with the Project.

Section 2. If the MAP grant is awarded, the Port Authority is hereby authorized to accept the grant award, enter into and perform any grant agreement and related documents, coordinate with Benchmark as co-applicant and project partner, receive and disburse grant funds in accordance with applicable requirements, and take all actions necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

Section 3. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board and any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were held, in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.

Adopted: JULY 27, 2026

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0



Chairperson

Attest: _____
Secretary