



April 22, 2014

Mr. Anthony Foxx, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: **Science City Urban Infrastructure**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to endorse the proposed project Science City Infrastructure Project on behalf of the Puerto Rico Medical Services Administration ("ASEM", by its Spanish acronym). ASEM, an autonomous agency affiliated with the Puerto Rico Department of Health, is entrusted with centralizing operations and services provided by the medical center's member institutions, those physically located in the Medical Center.

The proposed project involves creating road infrastructure containing pedestrian and bicycle pathways and a bridge over the Las Americas Expressway that will link the UPR Comprehensive Cancer Center Hospital, currently under construction, with the new Science City R&D, commercial and residential district. The bridge will also allow pedestrian and vehicular traffic to flow from the Medical Center to the Science City district, since there is a new bridge connecting the CCCH parcel to the Centro Médico acreage. Science City is an integral component of the Commonwealth government's initiative to turn the island into a biomedical research and development hub.

This creation of the Science City and its connection, via the roads of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, to *Centro Médico*, are vital for the medical complex's continued development as the Island's most important healthcare facility and one of the Caribbean's leading medical treatment centers. The research and treatment operations in the new Cancer Hospital currently being built will greatly complement the services provided in the medical center.

Finally, the Medical Center will enjoy other great benefits from being able to link itself with the rest of the Knowledge Corridor. The physical connection with the Knowledge Corridor will provide the Medical Center the opportunity to attract world class physicians, researchers and innovators. The promenades envisioned in the project will foster residential, commercial and academic developments critical to ensure the neighborhood's economic sustainability. The combined infrastructure will also be a magnet for additional lodging facilities which will foster the thriving medical tourism industry in San Juan.

*Centro Médico*, which ASEM administers, is the oldest, most extensive and largest medical complex in the Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. The facilities within the medical center's 227-acre Rio Piedras site include:

- The University Adult Hospital: general medical and surgical hospital with 262 beds
- The Dr. Antonio Ortiz Arnau University Pediatric Hospital: a children's general hospital with 145 beds operated for the Puerto Rico Health Department by the University of Puerto Rico, this is also the main trauma hospital for pediatric cases.
- San Juan Municipal Hospital: a 215-bed general hospital operated by the San Juan municipal government.
- San Juan Pediatric Hospital: Also operated by the San Juan municipal government.
- Industrial Hospital: a 125-bed facility for injured workers/employees, managed by the State Insurance Fund. It has 65 doctors on its staff and has the best burn care unit in the Caribbean.
- The Dr. Isaac González Oncology Hospital: a 49-bed institution managed by the Puerto Rican League against Cancer.
- The 358-bed Veterans' Administration Hospital, which serves as a major teaching hospital for medical students and residents in Puerto Rico.
- Caribbean Cardiovascular Center (*Centro Cardiovascular del Caribe*): This is the main hospital for open heart surgery in the Caribbean. It features a hotel for patient family members, enhancing medical tourism on the Island.
- Dr. Ramón Fernández Marina Psychiatric Hospital: the government-run main in-patient, psychiatric hospital in Puerto Rico.
- Psychiatric Correctional Hospital: both a hospital and correctional facility, it is operated jointly by the Puerto Rico Corrections Department and the ASEM.

I believe that this project, which physically connects the institutions above to the new Cancer Hospital and the Science City district, truly has the makings to set in motion a new era for *Centro Médico*. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about *Centro Médico* or our support for the project.

Truly yours,



Irving A. Jiménez-Narvaez  
 Executive Director  
 Medical Services Administration, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

