



April 25, 2014

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

RE: Science City Urban Infrastructure Project -- San Juan, Puerto Rico

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UPRCCC), gives its unequivocal and enthusiastic support to the proposed Science City Urban Infrastructure Project.

The project encompasses pedestrian and vehicular ramps and pathways that will connect the *Centro Médico*, the medical complex in San Juan, the new University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center Hospital and the new Science City district. *Centro Médico* is the main healthcare facility for Puerto Rico's 3.7 million inhabitants, with 10 hospitals; as well as, the facilities of the UPR Medical Sciences Campus and the nearby Veterans Administration Hospital.

The UPRCCC, of which I am the Deputy Executive Director, is a government corporation affiliated to the University of Puerto Rico created in 2004. Our Mission is to promote basic, clinical and epidemiological research on cancer prevention and control, and to provide direct clinical care through our hospital facilities to Puerto Rico's cancer population. We aim to be leading Cancer Center for addressing health disparities affecting Hispanics in the United States as well.

The Comprehensive Cancer Center Hospital Project is the next critical step for the UPRCCC. Construction of the 287,000 square foot, 12-story Comprehensive Cancer Center Hospital, with an initial investment of \$196 million, began earlier this year. The Hospital will house eight operating rooms specialized for cancer surgery, an intensive care unit, intermediate care unit and three floors with 96 beds, and services for chemotherapy, the treatment of breast cancer, bone marrow transplants and nuclear medicine, among many other services.

Hon. Anthony Foxx
April 25, 2014
Page 2

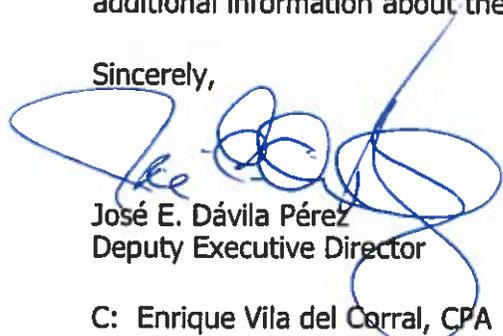
The University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center Hospital alone will create 1,300 direct and indirect jobs during the construction phase and 750 jobs once the Hospital is functional; including clinicians, researchers and others. Will also encompass basic clinical translational and epidemiological cancer research, focused on the needs of the people of Puerto Rico and Latino communities in the states.

The proposed infrastructure project will provide vital vehicle and pedestrian access to the UPRCCC's new facilities via a bridge over the six-lane PR-18, Las Americas Expressway; the island's major north-south highway. In so doing, it allows access to the postsecondary, research and health sciences facilities located to the east, across PR-18. It will also allow a route to and from the Hospital that does not add congestion to the area around the *Centro Medico* complex.

The UPRCCC has a long-established relationship with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC), a world-renowned cancer research and treatment institution. The Science City Infrastructure project adds momentum to the creation of new, future projects between our institutions, while at the same time strengthening the existing ties between us, by providing increased scientific opportunities to our combined research communities.

I am eager to see the project's completion. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information about the UPRCCC or the proposed project.

Sincerely,



José E. Dávila Pérez
Deputy Executive Director

C: Enrique Vila del Corral, CPA
Chairman of the Board of Directors