January 20th, 2016

Professor Edoardo Marcucci
Roma Tre University
Rome, Italy

Dear Professor Marcucci:

It is my greatest pleasure to inform you that the leadership of the Center of Excellence on Sustainable Urban Freight Systems (COE-SUFS) has decided to accept Roma Tre University as an Associate Research Center (ARC) of our CoE-SUFS.

The core partners, in addition to Rensselaer, are: Michael Browne (University of Gothenburg, City of Gothenburg), Julian Allen (University of Westminster, London), Eiichi Taniguchi (Kyoto University, Osaka), Lorant Tavasszy (TNO-Delft University, Rotterdam), and Russell Thompson (University of Melbourne, Melbourne). The partners are complemented by a number of distinguished Associate Research Centers (yours included)—in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa—that will help disseminate sustainable freight practices in their countries (see attached list). Our members, both academic and public sector, represent the leading edge of research and practice in urban freight systems. By working together, we will have a large impact in the way urban freight activity is conducted throughout the world. Your participation as a leader of one of the Associate Research Centers will significantly contribute to achieve the goals of the CoE-SUFS.

The main goal is to work to foster sustainability efforts on urban freight, to enhance economic competitiveness, quality of life, and environmental justice. Needless to say, this fits well with you current research efforts. We would like to use the intellectual and financial resources of the CoE to help you bring about the transformation that you envision. These are some of the initiatives we have ongoing at the CoE-SUFS that may benefit your research and your collaborations with your city:

- **A best practice dissemination program** to help cities quickly identify the best ways to address the urban freight related problems found in their jurisdictions.
- **A proactive research program** to use the power of cutting edge research to find solutions to the numerous challenges that cities face in relation to urban freight activity.
- **A peer-to-peer exchange program** so that cities could exchange ideas and experiences related to their efforts to enhance the beneficial impacts of urban freight activity, and minimize the negative ones.

We are eager to expand our ongoing collaborations with you and your team. We believe that, by working together, it is possible to find suitable solutions to the pressing problems faced by the transportation community. We should work together to inform both public and private sector representatives of the goals of the CoE; to disseminate the kind of strategies that could be implemented to improve urban freight; and to start a discussion about how to improve the efficiency and sustainability of urban freight activity, and the research that is needed.

We look forward to working with you in the Center of Excellence on Sustainable Urban Freight Systems.

Yours truly,

José Holguín-Veras, Ph.D., P.E.
William H. Hart Professor, and
Director of the VREF’s Center of Excellence on Sustainable Urban Freight Systems