



“BRIDGE DAY” at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as Two Simultaneous Bridge Projects are approved at Board of Commissioners Meeting

New York Shipping Association (NYSA) Congratulates the Port Authority Leadership

Edison, NJ – April 26, 2013 – In an unprecedented move, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey announced it will simultaneously begin major construction projects to enhance the Goethals and Bayonne bridges. Both projects will unequivocally benefit the Port of New York and New Jersey by allowing larger container ships to access the area terminals.

In a statement read at the April 24 Port Authority Board of Commissioners meeting, New York Shipping Association President Joseph C. Curto publically applauded the effort and extraordinary work performed by the Port Authority on the Bayonne Bridge Project to date. Stating, “I can appreciate the complications and enormity of a project of this nature. I want to thank the Port Authority for recognizing that there is a critical time element involved for completing the Bayonne Bridge project, or having it well underway to coincide with the widening of the Panama Canal.”

“Governor’s Christie and Cuomo are to be heartily congratulated for their commitment to and leadership in upgrading and enhancing the region’s infrastructure. By approving the Goethals Bridge replacement and the raising of the Bayonne Bridge roadway, the Port Authority has ensured the continued competitiveness of the Port of New York and New Jersey is recognizing role in strengthening the Greater New York economy,” Curto remarked after the Port Authority meeting.

“The proactive direction of the Port Authority leadership sends a very significant positive signal to the port community and port users. Their comprehensive planning initiative from taking advantage of the “We Can’t Wait” program to expedite and prioritize the Bayonne Bridge Environmental Assessment, to the unprecedented public private partnership consortium for the Goethals Bridge project, put in place the last piece of the puzzle which will serve to complement the billions of dollars already invested in our port to prepare it for the future,” Curto continued.

NYSA and its members recently completed negotiations on a new evolutionary six year labor contract with the International Longshoremen's Association which provides the will and the means to address many of the issues which have negatively impacted the ports' competitiveness and efficiency. The Bayonne Bridge roadway raising has long been seen as a huge problem which potentially would impact the port's vitality and ability to serve the new generation of post Panamax ships.

"The last piece of the puzzle is the Bayonne Bridge. Once this project is complete, we will have all of the tools necessary to guarantee the continued success of the Port of New York and New Jersey. A healthy port is crucial to a prosperous regional economy," Curto concluded.



NYSA represents the terminal operators and ocean carriers, who operate in the Port of New York and New Jersey, and negotiates the collective bargaining agreement with the International Longshoremen's Association and the Port Police and Guards Union on their behalf. NYSA hires and trains the labor that moves more than \$210 billion* in goods through the largest port complex on the east coast with terminals in Newark, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Bayonne, Brooklyn and Staten Island.

*Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census - GTI