



**For Immediate Release**  
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**PORT AUTHORITY COMMISSION DELIVERS**  
**SMART AND SECURE TRADELANES INITIATIVE**

*Other agenda items include matters related to Bayport*

**Commission Meeting: Monday at 2 p.m.**  
**Press Conference: Monday at 3 p.m.**

HOUSTON – The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) Commission approved a recommendation to enter into a memorandum of agreement to participate in Smart and Secure Tradelanes (SST), an automated global security network initiative, during its monthly meeting on **Monday, March 31, 2003**. Chairman Jim Edmonds presided over the commission meeting in the board room at the **PHA’s Executive Office Building, located at 111 East Loop North**. The meeting was immediately followed by a press conference addressing questions related to the initiative and port security in general. Chairman Edmonds was joined by **former PHA Chairman Ned Holmes (who also serves as Chairman of P&O Ports), Tom Griffin, Senior Vice President of Operations for Transoceanic, and Steve Sewell, President of Parsons Brinckerhoff Ports and Marine Division**. Representatives from **Savi Technology**, the solutions provider for SST, provided technical demonstrations.

**Smart and Secure Tradelanes Initiative (SST)**

SST leverages an existing infrastructure of proven automatic identification technologies, including Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), satellite tracking systems, sensors, and biometrics. This complete solution has proven to provide real-time visibility on the location and security status of cargo containers and other supply chain assets. The focus of the initiative in Houston would be on end-to-end container security – tracking shipments originating from manufacturing, distribution, and port facilities in Europe and Latin America to their destination at the Port of Houston.

“As one of the leading container ports in the U.S., the Port of Houston should undertake every appropriate measure to ensure container safety and security,” stated Chairman Edmonds. “Our involvement with Smart and Secure Tradelanes will enhance our proactive approach to security through best practices technological leadership, which will protect both the lives and livelihoods of people in this region,” Edmonds added.

The objective of SST is to rapidly deploy a baseline infrastructure that provides real-time visibility, physical security through non-intrusive, automated inspection and detection alerts, as well

as a complete audit trail of a container's journey from origin to final destination. The SST solution leverages the technology and infrastructure of the Total Asset Visibility (TAV) network, a battle-tested, real-time response information system pioneered by the U.S. Department of Defense. TAV, the world's largest wireless cargo tracking network, was designed and deployed to track all military shipments during times of peace and conflict through truck, train, and ship transportation – from the factory to the foxhole. The TAV network is built on existing U.S. and international standards that allow open integration of automatic identification and data collection technologies.

### **Bayport Matters**

The Port Commissioners approved two recommendations related to the proposed Bayport Container and Cruise Terminal. One recommendation involved plans and specifications prepared by Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam (LAN) for the first phase of the approximately 60-acre container yard project with authorization for PHA to advertise and receive competitive sealed proposals (CSPs) at an estimated cost ranging from \$43 million to \$54 million. Another recommendation called for adding \$60,000 to the current purchase order for Benchmark Ecological Services to provide additional environmental services related to the permit application process for Bayport. Benchmark will be requested to execute such tasks as wetland delineations, habitat improvement plan development, and mitigation plan modifications as well as participate in meetings involving the PHA and various agencies. Benchmark previously prepared both the initial and revised wetland mitigation plans for the proposed Bayport project.

The Bayport project remains under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is expected to issue a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) this spring. "Although no work will be performed and no spending will be authorized until and unless the corps approves the permit, we're taking necessary steps to ensure that our plans for the Bayport project are environmentally sound," stated Chairman Edmonds.

Pending the FEIS and construction permit approvals, the PHA is committed to meeting ISO 14001 standards upon the completion and opening of the Bayport facility. The Port of Houston Authority last year became the first U.S. port to achieve compliance with ISO 14001 standards through its environmental management system (EMS) at Barbours Cut Container Terminal and the Central Maintenance Facility.

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#### ***The Port of Houston Authority***

*The Port of Houston Authority owns and operates the public facilities located along the Port of Houston, the 25-mile long complex of diversified public and private facilities designed for handling general cargo, containers, grain and other dry bulk materials, project and heavy lift cargo, and other types of cargo. Each year, more than 6,600 vessels call at the port, which ranks first in the U.S. in foreign waterborne tonnage, second in overall total tonnage, and sixth largest in the world. The Port Authority plays a vital role in ensuring navigational safety along the Houston Ship Channel, which has been instrumental in Houston's development as a center of international trade. The Barbours Cut Container Terminal and Central Maintenance Facility are the first of any U.S. port facilities to develop and implement an innovative Environmental Management System that meets the rigorous standards of ISO 14001. Additionally, the port is an approved delivery point for Coffee "C" futures contracts traded on the New York Board of Trade's Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange. For more information, please visit [www.portofhouston.com](http://www.portofhouston.com)*