

THE PORT REPORT



PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

SEPTEMBER 2007

Mayor White and STB Chairman Nottingham Tour Freight Rail System



Houston City Council Member Carol Alvarado; Mayor Bill White; STB Chairman Charles "Chip" Nottingham; PHA Commissioner James W. Fonteno, Jr.; Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia; and PHA Commissioner Elyse Lanier.

U.S. Surface Transportation Board Chairman Charles D. "Chip" Nottingham, at the invitation of Houston Mayor Bill White, visited with the railroads, key stakeholders, including the port authority and members of the Gulf Coast Freight Rail District, to discuss the roadway at-grade crossings with freight rail and other concerns facing freight rail service in the Houston region. After a helicopter tour of the Houston regional freight rail system and the stakeholder meeting, Chairman Nottingham commented on the Houston region's freight rail service and the mobility impacts of at-grade crossings.

"Houston is at the epicenter of global commerce," Nottingham said in a press conference held at the PHA Executive Office Building. "Few cities in this nation have the same issues of rail and transportation....It's a giant challenge for Houston. But any tough problem can be solved by a team approach."

The freight rail district allows the city of Houston, Harris and Fort Bend counties and the port to create, design and fund projects to reduce the impact of rail on urban mobility, reduce rail congestion and improve air quality in the region.

U.S. Labor Secretary Chao Sees Firsthand How Port of Houston "Works"

On Sept. 5, U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao visited the Port of Houston Authority to meet with PHA and industry leaders and labor officials to learn why the Port of Houston has been successful with its labor relations.

Chao said the majority of jobs created in the U.S. in coming years will be "high-skill jobs like those being created in Houston," as a result of partnerships forged between labor and management.

A major economic engine for Texas, the Port of Houston contributes to the economy because of its strong relationship with labor and serves as a labor relations model for ports around the country.



Clyde Fitzgerald, President of the ILA; Captain Robert Thompson, Presiding Officer, Houston Pilots; Dean Corgey, Vice President Gulf Coast, Seafarers International Union of North America; Lamar Doyle, President, S&Y Towing; Stephen Huffman, President, G&H Towing; Secretary Chao; Kase Lawal, PHA Commissioner; James T. Edmonds, PHA Chairman; Harris County Judge Ed Emmett; and H. Thomas Kornegay, PHA Executive Director.

Program Aims at Making Buffalo Bayou 'Clean & Green'



Shell Oil Company President John Hofmeister.

A public-private partnership is working to keep Houston's Buffalo Bayou clean and green. The year-round program, spearheaded by Port Commissioner Elyse Lanier, is an environmental initiative that will use community service workers through the Harris County Supervision and Corrections Department to clean up litter and debris.

Shell Oil Company anchors the Clean & Green Port of Houston Program as major corporate partner. Public agency partners are the Port of Houston Authority, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Greater East End Management District, Harris County Constable Precinct 6, Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department and the Harris County Flood Control District. Other program partners are McFall, Breitbeil & Shults, P.C., Vista Fibers Company and Williams Brothers Construction Company.

Five days a week, a land-based crew will collect litter and debris from the banks of the waterway, while a waterborne crew will work from a skimmer boat to clean storm drains, banks and other natural collection areas. Aiming to collect more than 10 cubic yards of debris a day over the next year — enough to fill 83 garbage trucks — the program will focus on a seven-mile stretch of the bayou.

August Port Commission Highlights

At its August 28 meeting, the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority:

- Approved awarding a construction contract to Laughlin-Thyssen, Inc., for replacement of the fender system at Jacintoport Terminal and associated expenditure authority, for \$5,757,420.
- Approved awarding a construction contract to Reytec Construction Resources, Inc., for Bayport Marine Gate Expansion, Stage 2 – Civil and Electrical, for \$2,173,750. The gate requires expansion to accommodate increased cargo volumes.
- Approved a change order to Orion Construction, L.P., for Bayport Cruise Terminal Complex – Phase 1 wharf and dredging for \$1,666,943. The change order will provide for 180,000 cubic yards of advanced dredging work.
- Approved a contract amendment with HFP Acoustical Consultants for additional funds of up to \$75,000 for the professional services of acoustical consulting and operating and maintaining the sound monitoring system for the Bayport Container and Cruise Terminal.
- Approved advertisement and receipt of competitive sealed proposals for Bayport Phase 1 Wharf Advanced Dredging and Mooring at an estimated cost range of \$8.5 million to \$9 million. Additional mooring space is required at the current Bayport Container Terminal to accommodate longer ships.
- Approved execution of a new five-year agreement and funding to the National Oceanographic Service for the maintenance and oversight of the physical oceanographic real time system (P.O.R.T.S.) for fiscal years 2008–12 for \$1,198,695.



Port of Houston Authority Commissioner James W. Fonteno, Jr. and Executive Director H. Thomas Kornegay.

Homeland Security Group Tours PHA Facilities



Port of Houston Authority representatives recently led a contingent of chemical industry specialists from the Department of Homeland Security on a tour of the Houston Ship Channel aboard the *M/V Sam Houston* and a tour of the Fentress Bracewell Barbour's Cut Container Terminal.

The purpose of the tour and briefing was to keep DHS officials abreast of how the Port of Houston — home to the world's second largest petrochemical complex — exceeds many federal guidelines governing maritime commerce and security.

Representatives were also briefed on the volume of resin that is exported from Barbour's Cut, hazardous material HAZMAT container handling and the work of PHA's on-site HAZMAT team.

First Port of Houston-Wide Job Fair Set for Oct. 11

Partnering with The WorkSource in a collaborative effort, the Port of Houston Authority, the West Gulf Maritime Association, San Jacinto College and the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region will hold the first Port of Houston-Wide Job Fair on Thursday, October 11. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jimmy Burke Activity Center, 500 W. 13th St. in Deer Park.

This job fair is being held to provide the public and private companies along the Houston Ship Channel with the opportunity to identify qualified candidates for the technical and highly skilled jobs available at their companies. The WorkSource is a non-profit workforce development organization providing comprehensive human resource services in the 13-county Houston-Galveston region.



Questions?

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