



# **FLORIDA PORTS COUNCIL**

## **Summer Board Meeting**

**July 16, 2014**  
Orlando, FL

**Orlando Airport Hyatt**



## **ITINERARY**

# **Florida Ports Council Summer Board Meeting Wednesday, July 16, 2014**

**Orlando Airport Hyatt  
Orlando, Florida**

### **Wednesday, July 16, 2014**

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10:00 a.m. - Noon	Florida Ports Council Board Meeting	Tullamarine/Tegel Room
12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Lobby North
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Florida Ports Council Board Meeting	Tullamarine/Tegel Room

Dress is business casual for all Florida Ports Council events.



For more information contact: Christy Gandy at (850) 222-8028 or [christy.gandy@flaports.org](mailto:christy.gandy@flaports.org)

**TAB 1**  
**CALL TO ORDER**



## **SUMMER BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 16, 2014**

**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

***Orlando Airport Hyatt***

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order and Chairman's Welcome

2. Roll Call and Opening Comments

3. Administrative Issues

A. Approval of the Minutes – April 9-10, 2014 Meeting in Tallahassee

B. Budget Report

C. President's Comments

D. Other Issues

i. Fall Board Meeting & Annual Meeting: September 9-10 - Omni - Amelia Island

ii. Spring Board Meeting & Legislative Forum: April 2015 - Tallahassee

iii. Florida International Trade Symposium and Expo

4. Communications Update

5. Marketing Update

6. Program Administration

A. Global Opportunities Study Update

B. Governance Whitepaper Update

NOON- Lunch Break (Port Director's Lunch)



## 7. Partner Updates

Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

Enterprise Florida

Florida Chamber of Commerce

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Florida Department of Transportation

Florida TaxWatch

## 8. Legislative

### A. State:

- i. 2014 Session Recap
- ii. Looking ahead to 2015 Session

### B. Federal:

- i. Federal Initiatives
  - FPC Washington DC Fly-In Recap/Future trips
  - MARAD's Strong Ports Program – Fran Bohnsack
- ii. Issues:
  - WRRDA
  - MAP-21
  - Miscellaneous

## 9. Other Issues

A. Scott for Governor Campaign

B. Miscellaneous

## 10. Adjournment

Guests: FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad  
Fran Bohnsack, MARAD  
Lori Baer, AECOM

**TAB 2**  
**ROLL CALL**



## **ROLL CALL**

### **MEMBER:**

### **DESIGNEE:**

JOHN WALSH, CANAVERAL

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BRAD THORPE, CITRUS

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STEVE CERNAK, EVERGLADES

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VAL SCHWEC, FERNANDINA

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DON WEST, FT. PIERCE

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BRIAN TAYLOR, JACKSONVILLE

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DOUG BRADSHAW, KEY WEST

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CARLOS BUQUERAS, MANATEE

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JUAN KURLA, MIAMI

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MANNY ALMIRA, PALM BEACH

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WAYNE STUBBS, PANAMA CITY

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AMY MILLER, PENSACOLA

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EUGENE RAFFIELD, PORT ST. JOE

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WALTER MILLER, ST. PETERSBURG

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PAUL ANDERSON, TAMPA

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**TAB 3**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

**TAB 3A**  
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**FPC Spring Board Meeting  
& Legislative Forum**

**Tallahassee - April 9 & 10, 2014**

MINUTES  
**Florida Ports Council**  
**Board Meeting and Legislative Forum Meeting**

Wednesday, April 9, 2014  
Opal Room, Hotel Duval, Tallahassee

**1. Call to Order:**

Chairman Val Schwec called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Chairman Schwec had a few opening remarks before roll call. He noted his request for John Walsh to join the Executive Committee, and welcomed Juan Kuryla as new director of Port Miami.

Quorum was determined by roll call.

**Members in Attendance:** Chairman Val Schwec, Manuel Almira, Paul Anderson, Carlos Buqueras, Juan Kuryla, Amy Miller, Walt Miller, Wayne Stubbs, Brian Taylor and John Walsh

**Others in Attendance:**, David Anderton, Michael Poole, Ram Kancharla, Ed Miyagishima, Cory Chandler, John Thorington, Doug Wheeler, Jennifer Krell Davis, Michael Rubin, Toy Keller, and Christy Gandy

**2. Port Comments:**

Palm Beach – The port has been focused on growing inline cruise passengers, but is challenged with the local community opposing forward progress.

Panama City – The port is having a good year, and is on pace to match or improve over last year. There are 65 new jobs associated with the newly built warehouse, and 311 money has purchased new stackers. They are trying to get new mobile harbor cranes which need to be approved by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) by September or October. Additional on-port projects are progressing, as well. The port is working towards a partnership with the Rock-Ten Company who has an additional 45 acres behind their facility, Rock-Ten needs a deep water channel, which the port has, and the port needs additional land. Currently, the port is updating their master plan and doing something unique by receiving funds from FDOT to pay for the consulting services. They are working together as a team with the consultants so that the master plan has the involvement of the department.

St. Petersburg – The City Council approved \$2.2 million for wharf renovation and all funding is ready to move forward with completion scheduled by October. They are currently installing power pedestals along the wharf. The port is interested in attracting research vessels and yachts. Recently they have had more attention than ever -- the City wants the port to complete a shore side development. The City Council expects an update later this month on the feasibility of such a development. The SRI Research Facility is still active; however, as part of their original deal, they do not pay rent to the port, so the port is still looking for additional funding sources.

Miami – The cruise season is going very well at the port with 4.8 million passengers so far this year. The cargo side is remaining flat, but still working on growing transshipment strategies. The Bimini Ferry is

going more strongly than expected despite some minor issues with tendering. The Tunnel opens in May and is on target. The on-port rail service project, which started five months ago, is scheduled to be completed soon.

Pensacola – The port has a new lease approved through the City Council with an offshore fuel station, and on-port manufacturing of products that will be exported for offshore oil industry. Phase one guarantees 100 full time permanent jobs. Phase two will add two additional production lines and another 100 full time permanent jobs. This is a good niche business for Pensacola considering its proximity to oil drilling in Gulf of Mexico. Pensacola's competition was Beaumont, TX for this project.

Tampa – The port recently had meetings with MARAD who wants to gain expertise on small ports and wants to provide funding for small ports to develop port master plans. The port also is working on its strategic master plan. Three major projects are commencing implementation: East Port is adding 25 acres and all is going well; the Army Corps is making progress on a dredge disposal project; and, there is a \$60 million project on the way to add capacity by dredging the channel. The I-4 connector project opened with sold out festivities, including a 5K run. The port received good publicity on this \$6.5 million project, which includes dedicated truck lane access into and out of the port. The steel business has increased and just celebrated its 25 year anniversary. Rebranding efforts were announced at the State of the Port event, and the port is now Port Tampa Bay with a new logo. The port is pushing out in global marketing and business development. Fitch gave the port an "A" stable rating, although they had hoped for a more positive rating.

Everglades – The Southport turning notch project is being constructed by the port; the master plan update is ongoing and should be complete before their board meeting in May or June. The port's revenue and business are showing slow steady growth. Cruise terminal 4 is officially under renovation with a slip extension from 900ft – 1150 ft. Macintosh Road is finally complete with the ribbon cutting 1.5 weeks ago. The Intermodal Transfer Container Facility is scheduled to open July 15 of this year.

Canaveral – The port's landside work is underway as part of the 100ft widening project. The Army Corp refuses to look at Section 408 in WRRDA, but staff thinks that language may provide some protection. Dredge equipment is currently held up in Mobile but work will start the end of April, and the port channel will be two feet deeper by next year. Section 204 will allow us to go to 55 foot depth, but a three-year study needs to be completed first. The new cruise terminal is under construction, with the tilt walls being installed. Royal Caribbean has entered into a new 10 year contract and Norwegian Cruise Lines has brought in a new home ship as well. Hansen has started a "short sea shipping route" at Port Canaveral. They will be shipping slag later this year to Brooklyn NY, Baltimore, NC and Everglades. Morton Salt has signed a new ten year lease and is expanding too. Both companies would like to see rail in the port to distribute up the east coast and into the south and Midwest via Florida. Once rail connectivity is complete, they will move goods to Atlanta. Newly purchased cranes are on the dock and the port should have a new container terminal agreement in May or June.

Jacksonville – The port has completed its strategic plan, which was rolled out in January. Port business levels are good but the challenge is Puerto Rico. The port is moving ahead with berth replacements on Blount Island. They are continuing sheet pile work at Tallyrand. The design build for the ICTF is completed and underway and the PED phase of harbor deepening will be complete in June.

Fernandina – The port has added new service to Dominican Republic and Central America. They are not on a regular schedule yet, but will be. The Puerto Rico market is weak, but the port is potentially looking

to have an old service restart in June. The port has almost completed its master plan. Currently they are in the process of talking to municipalities about the plan. There are two container lines that have shown a very serious interest in Fernandina, and the port would benefit greatly from even just one of those opportunities.

Manatee – Port business is growing for steel and lumber, but they are looking to diversify and not just depending on those materials. There are two auto projects coming to the port soon, but the port is still trying to finalize the details. The port has been approved to go to 45 ft., which is the requirement for deeper draft vessels to come into Manatee. Air Products exports products - without polluting -- on three ships a day, creating 250 jobs and \$500 million a year. The company is providing a huge boost to the local economy by lowering unemployment and providing higher paying jobs.

Schwec stated that those are great reports and sound a lot more positive than 12-24 months ago.

### **3. Administrative Issues**

#### **a. Approval of the Minutes – November 13-14, 2013 Meeting in Pensacola**

Chair Schwec had one change to correct the name of the Pasha Group on page 3 first paragraph. Wayne Stubbs motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Steve Cernak. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **b. Audit Report**

Doug Wheeler presented the annual audit report prepared by Carr Riggs and Ingram. Wheeler also noted that FPC has filed the annual 990 tax return, and the return is included in the meeting materials along with a copy of the audit. Wheeler stated that FPC is halfway into the fiscal year and tracking well. This year we did very well on collection of dues, and FSTED fees are coming in regularly. Juan Kuryla asked about the marketing budget, as to whether or not it was included in the dues or if it was separate. Wheeler explained that originally it was a separate fee, but this year the dues were adjusted accordingly to be included in the annual membership dues.

Cernak motioned to approve the audit as presented, seconded by Paul Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **c. President's Comments**

Wheeler stated that there are a lot of exciting things going on this year. He said that he will soon be presenting the executive committee with the position descriptions and a proposed review process. Staff is continuing to grow partner relationships and is seeing tremendous benefit from relationships with the Florida Chamber, Enterprise Florida (EFI) and is working with Florida TaxWatch. FPC staff has reached out to TaxWatch on jointly producing a Seaport Governance Study .

Wheeler noted that Mike Rubin will provide an update on legislative issues during tomorrow's meetings and we will have a few guests as well (Rep. Ray, Sen. Brandes, perhaps others). Session has been good thus far. We have had a few fire drills and have a lot of issues still in play. He said that staff will remain vigilant in identifying both opportunities and potential threats and will continue to appreciate the support provided by your respective port's lobbyists and staff.



We continue to expand our efforts in the areas of communications and marketing -- Jennifer Krell Davis will have a great report on some of the marketing efforts and the new website and logo launches. Our current levels of engagement in both the traditional and social media realms are at the highest levels ever for the organization and Jennifer will cover this in her update later today.

Wheeler recognized the new chairman, Val Schwec, for being accessible, responsive and engaged, which is appreciated. He also thanked Paul Anderson for his efforts as a legislative chairman as we move through the session and particularly on the FSTED funding issue. Wheeler thanked the port directors and staff for being responsive and helpful; the ports' staffs continue to be a key link in the connection between the ports and the Council.

#### **SIDEBAR ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUE:**

Anderson noted he had a visit with Secretary Prasad this morning who was very direct in seeking out assistance to a bill in the house that would provide a lump sum of \$100 million annually from sales tax to FDOT's work program, with \$15 million going to rural projects.

Staff and port directors discussed who was supporting the addition of \$100 million for transportation and how the idea of increasing the FSTED amount by \$10 million was being included in the discussion. Wheeler will follow up with involved parties and provide an update during the meeting on Thursday.

#### **d. Governance**

##### **i. By-Laws re: Annual Meeting date**

Schwec and Wheeler discussed annual meeting wording in the FPC By-Laws. They both think that there is a change needed to increase flexibility in meeting dates due to the timing of budget approval.

Steve Cernak motioned to change the By-Laws as presented, seconded by Kuryla. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **e. Program Administration**

##### **i. Florida Sunshine Law Review**

Cory Chandler, Florida Ports Council General Counsel, showed a power point presentation reviewing Florida's Sunshine Law and providing examples of public records and open meeting challenges.

##### **ii. FPFC Annual Audit**

Toy Keller noted the Florida Ports Financing Committee Audit has been completed and there were no issues of substance. Keller let the members know that the audit is available, but it will not be approved until the next Financing Commission meeting. Chairman Paul Anderson has been notified of the audit.

#### **f. Other Issues**

Christy Gandy stated that the Florida Ports Council Summer meeting will be a one day meeting in Orlando. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport on June 26, 2014. Cut-off date for the hotel is June 4, 2014. The Florida Ports Council Annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the FSTED Council meeting in September at the Omni Amelia Island and hosted by the Port of Fernandina.

**g. Port Governance and FPC White Paper**

Rubin stated that FPC staff is finalizing a white paper on port governance in the U.S. and Europe. We are checking with some of our partners about working with us on this white paper and have reached out to TaxWatch to get their input. We expect to have a final product to deliver to the Legislature and other interested parties in the near future.

**4. Communications Update:**

Davis reviewed the successes in press coverage, and the growth in the social media networks. We have already had many valuable conversations with elected leaders, state and national partners, community leaders and industry experts on Twitter and Facebook. FPC continues to work closely with the FDOT and Governor's office on press issues and releases. FPC staff also worked with the Florida Channel on a Florida Crossroads special focusing on the success of Florida's ports and the future of international trade in Florida.

**5. Marketing Update:**

Davis reviewed the new logo, which was sent to the Board previously. Davis then introduced the agency, Taproot Creative that redesigned the Florida Ports Council website, FlaPorts.org, so they could go through the new site and explain all of the new features and resources. Taproot Creative personnel then highlighted the new and improved features.

**6. Partner Updates:**

Wheeler stated that the latest newsletter from CAGTC was included in the materials.

Wheeler provided an update on Enterprise Florida – its China offices opened and they are strongly urging us to use that office. That office's charge is to increase cargo business between China and Florida. They have reached out to FPC staff and we will share with you how to get involved. They currently have two offices in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Wheeler added that the Trade Mission to Dominican Republic with Enterprise Florida went well.

Wheeler stated that the Florida Ports Council had several members involved as either sponsors or attendees in the Florida Chamber's International Days. Wheeler is on a trade and logistics task force for the trade and logistics institute with Keller. The Chamber will be rolling out the Trade and Logistics Study 2.0 in Pensacola next week, and Panama City and Palm Beach are on the list for roll-outs as well. They have engaged the entire community, not just a few people, which is a really good opportunity for seaports to get plugged in and engaged.

Almira noted he has been asked by Keiser University, who is starting a trade and logistics university about the trade and logistics task force. He has heard that the community partners are interested in a Florida Maritime University.

Wheeler stated that Cernak is the chair of Florida Oceans Alliance and appreciates the experience the ports bring to that organization. Cernak is currently at their meeting which is scheduled concurrent with the FPC meeting.

Stubbs asked if the South Florida ports are concerned about climate change and could the Florida Oceans Alliance be the organization to spearhead that issue. He added that this is not just sea level rise, but also emissions and several other environmental issues that will need to be worked out.

Wheeler said that FDOT produced a piece about their most recent freight forum. The bottom line is seaports need to put all of their freight-related projects into the online SeaCIP system because it drives the FDOT work program, and planning process.

The meeting stood at recess for the day at 4:55 p.m.

[The meeting reconvened at: 9:39 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2014. Members not in attendance from previous day: Paul Anderson; Members in attendance: Brad Thorpe]

## **7. Legislative Report**

### **a. State Issues**

Rubin began the discussion regarding a possible increase of FSTED funding from \$15 to \$25 million, but added that there is close to \$380 million unspent on port projects, and currently under JPAs. This unspent money could potentially be an issue with respect to the Legislature approving an increase. Wheeler is hopeful to talk to Jim Boxold this morning about the increase in FSTED funding.

Rubin stated that one bill that will not look the same after today in the Senate is the House's tax incentive package (HB 5601). You may recall that this legislation includes an additional \$100 million in sales tax being redirected into the State Transportation Trust Fund. The Senate, and especially incoming Senate President Gardiner, does not support this use of sales tax dollars. FPC will continue to support the \$100 million along with other transportation modes, and will work to see if there are other bills that this language could be amended on.

FPC is still working with Representative Ray on the potential for inclusion of language with respect to the development of a "rapid resumption of trade plan" after an emergency. We would like to see any language include a prioritization by the Division of Emergency Management of seaport projects after a disaster. We have seen issues in the past creating a problems where electricity to fuel pumps at seaport terminals was not high on the priority list. Currently Representative Ray is working with FPC staff and FDOT on potential language to be included in his legislation.

Rubin went on to report that the FDOT transportation package was moving swiftly through the House and Senate. This legislation is mainly language from last year that failed to pass after amendments related to the Miami Dolphin stadium were placed on the department's package late. The House and Senate are working to keep this legislation "clean" and have requested that no amendments be filed to this legislation.

He said that Representative Adkins has pulled her local bill authorizing an increase of weight limits for the Port of Fernandina, but continues to work with FDOT on the issue. The railroads have pushed back hard, and they also have pushed to get entities like AAA involved to oppose the issue. FPC staff continues to work with FDOT about changing the rules to include non-divisible bulk cargo in addition to containers in the rule weight increase adopted by FDOT

previously. We will continue to have these discussions, and if necessary seek legislation next year on the issue.

Rubin stated that there are two seaports – Canaveral and Palm Beach -- that have filed local bills modifying the enabling legislation for their ports. The Governor's office does not like special districts and their ability to tax, and this may be a difficult time to pass this type of legislation. Both Canaveral and Palm Beach are working with the Legislature to seek agreement on any modifications to their local bills. Manny thanked Mike for his help.

Rubin added that Senator Latvala's ethics/public records bill (SB 1648) has been modified to remove the requirement that any records held by an entity that has public agencies as members must open all their records to the public. FPC was part of an advocacy group that included the Chamber, League of Cities and others that opposed this legislation and worked on changing the proposal. He said we do not expect this legislation to pass out of the House.

We also worked with several legislators to modify the ethics/lobby registration bill by Senator Latvala. This bill would have required several special districts, including seaports, to develop a lobby registration program for entities lobbying their boards. This issue arose from a problem regarding a hospital board. This legislation will be amended to remove the requirement for seaports. However, Rubin said we do not expect the House to take up the measure at this time.

Brian Taylor mentioned service contracts and how Florida's sunshine laws impact rates in those contracts. Other Southeastern states do not have to disclose their rates. With the state investing heavily in the ports, they should be interested in protecting the rate information. Rubin noted that there seems to be positive feedback for possibly changing this language next year. The Florida Chamber is also generally supportive. This issue affects all Florida ports competing with ports in other states. Taylor suggested that the FPC work with the Chamber to gather support to work on the issue for next year.

Rubin stated that there are already exemptions that are similar. We have a number of senators that would be willing to file a public records rates addendum that will keep them out of the sunshine. Public records requests on financials make it difficult for seaports to conduct business, creating a competitive disadvantage.

Stubbs said that we should avoid the temptation of reducing rates, and if we make that information available, we need to discuss the Florida Ports Conference (which decides rate issues in light of federal anti-trust laws). Rubin will find out status of the Florida Ports Conference.

Wheeler introduced Bill Wilson and Cissy Proctor with DEO who attended the FPC meeting, and mentioned that Director Panuccio will be officially appointed tomorrow. He reported that the Director's goal is to visit all 15 ports.

Rubin raised the Florida Water and Land Legacy Constitutional Amendment (#1) issue which, if passed, would require 33 percent of net revenues from documentary stamp taxes to be deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for twenty years. Doc stamps are currently charged on purchase of real property, not lands for environmental purposes. There is a finite amount of money available, and this would be a misspending of funds that should be used for

local roads and Strategic Intermodal Systems (SIS) projects, potentially impacting the SIS funding ports receive from FDOT

Wheeler asked the group if they want to take a position. FPC could express concerns regarding the impact on SIS funds. Schwec concurred, commenting that it seems nonstrategic when we're supporting FDOT to put money into the trust fund, but money also would be taken out of SIS. Rubin recommended that supporting the chamber's position on the issue would probably be a good position for the FPC to take. The attendees agreed to monitor the issue and the Chamber's position.

#### **b. Federal Issues**

Rubin stated that the FPC Washington, DC Fly-in is set for May 19-20, with a Florida Ports Caucus on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. FPC staff is setting up individual meetings and breakfast at the Florida House. Staff is working with CAGTC to hopefully set up some meetings with federal groups as well as partner on the reception. Rubin stated that WRRDA, MAP-21 and other discussions still need to take place. Hotel arrangements have been made at the Capitol Hill Hotel and the cut-off date is April 28.

Stubbs surveyed the group, asking about each of the port's current issues with the Army Corps of Engineers. Cernak commented that Everglades' issues are uncertain due to changes in WRRDA. Walsh added that the practical reality due to chief reports is that there are projects sitting and no one else is getting funding because chief reports' are not submitted. The Corps has unwritten, unofficial policies made up to fit certain ports.

Cernak said that the Corps committed to have their chief's report done by January, but nothing they committed to at that meeting has moved. He said it is up to the elected officials to push it through. Taylor said that JAXPORT should have its chief's report by the end of the month for its harbor deepening project. Almira said that Palm Beach should have theirs by the end of the month.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER WILL SECCOMBE, VISITFLORIDA**

Seccombe thanked the port directors for all they do for the Florida Tourism industry. He said that there is no question that what the ports in Florida are doing is making a difference in the industry. 2014 is looking good with rising numbers, and growth is up 10 percent over last year's records. The cruise industry is doing well and a large part of the leading edge is that people come back. In the past it was thought that cruising was hurting tourism, but it actually helps because it brings people back. VisitFlorida is partnering with CLIA in a new marketing campaign to focus on cruising. CLIA will be a good partner on this even though some cruise lines don't like the idea, but Disney is willing to come to the table. Visit Florida is working to increase funding to \$100 million to bring in 100 million visitors this year. Their goal is 3 percent annual growth, but the challenge is investing in infrastructure and moving in the same direction. He invited all members to get more involved with VisitFlorida and encouraged all tourism-related companies to visit [www.visitflorida.com](http://www.visitflorida.com).

Schwec asked if VisitFlorida breaks down the 90 million visitors by foreign vs. domestic and business vs. pleasure travel. Seccombe answered that they produce an annual visitor marketing study that breaks down those numbers. Domestic visitors are the lion share and 13 million visitors come from overseas.

One in 10 Canadians visited Florida last year. He added that Latin America travel to Florida has exploded and that there are huge opportunities in India to attract new visitors, as well.

Juan Kuryla asked if the visa issue had been resolved. Seccombe said that the time to get a visa waiver has gone from 180 days to less than a week in Brazil, but the larger challenge is the lack of custom officers.

Walsh said that there is a unified front presented by other states, but ours should be differentiated. Seccombe said that at the biggest travel events VisitFlorida has the biggest stand and we're selling Florida, not individual destinations, but with all locations featured under Visit Florida. He would be happy to work with any of our directors to make a bigger impact because it will create value.

#### [FEDERAL ISSUES DISCUSSION CONTINUED]

Rubin stated that WRRDA and HMT continue to be challenges. We are going to meet with CAGTC on MAP-21 and other seaport issues. Keller provided an update on MAP-21, stating that the Senate says they are going to mark up the bill in April; the House is saying the last week of June. Boxer wants to keep the language pretty much the same but the Commerce Committee takes a more multi-modal approach.

The Administration's transportation reauthorization bill proposes \$302 billion over four years, a \$10 billion multimodal freight grant program, and \$1.25 billion annually over the next four years for the TIGER grant program. The proposal gives \$4 billion to the TIFIA program over the next four years.

The Highway Trust fund is expected to run out of funds in July. As a result, many states have already ceased building projects and others indicate they will run out of project funds within weeks of the July target date. Keller noted that Secretary Prasad informed the Transportation Commission recently, that Florida could continue building its projects for six months before they would run out of the federal funds.

There was a discussion of how ports report cargo numbers, whether it is both private and port terminal cargo traffic.

#### [GUEST SPEAKER REPRESENTATIVE LAKE RAY]

Representative Ray stated that he deeply enjoys working with FPC staff and it makes a big difference before the Legislature. Also FPC provided important data last year in the Economic Impact Study with numbers that he has used all across the state. He also shared that study with the Governor who is focused on these types of impacts. He then discussed HB 3 on Freight Logistics Zones. This is a concept taking the Freight Mobility plan to the local level. Our counties and cities are not necessarily in tune with our ports and what we are trying to do. The problem is that you can roll out the red carpet for a prospective customer and have those efforts stopped by local obstacles. He would also like to add language about QTI, and increasing those dollars during next session. He stated that HB 3 also contained other concepts, such as continuity of operations language. He wants to make sure that ports are protected in a disaster from losing business due to lack of a continuity plan. The plan would include an option to move a shipper temporarily to another port to make sure Florida doesn't lose the business permanently. Second, asset management language – he has met with the Secretary of FDOT and will work with ports over the summer to get feedback. The goal is to get more information about the lifecycle of port equipment so we can assist in meeting future needs. It also changes the maximum of \$5 million to ILCs to a minimum of \$5 million. Ray indicated that he wants to make sure that SIS funds are spent properly on appropriate projects to attract major shippers.

Ray stated that a lot of our focus is on developing a gateway system with 15 opportunities to bring business to Florida. We all want to be a part of moving the goods to Chicago or Memphis. My question is: why are all the goods going to Chicago in the first place? It's because it is based on an old model. If we begin to look back at why goods would go to Chicago and then come back to us as a final product in a store, we need to figure out how to get those companies down to Florida. We are doing what we need to do improve our infrastructure, but we need to really focus on getting that first big company to shift the momentum – "Move the Market."

Schwec commented that it seems like Florida has taken a long time to come around to the idea that we should be working to attract more manufacturers. Ray stated that there are cycles of wanting growth and not wanting growth, and increasing regulation. There is a real movement of manufacturers re-shoring in the United States. We have technology changing, the cheapest energy in the world and we stand by our products. The question is whether Florida can capitalize on that movement.

Stubbs asked how big the zones are envisioned to be. Ray answered that it could be multiple counties or a mega-site, it could be a corridor, and that it should be decided by the market.

Ray stated that it's about marketing the market, moving the market. We are all looking at Savannah and they set their path 20 years ago. We are moving goods to Chicago on a 160-year-plan. We need to figure out how to be the lead dog, and break some molds.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Carlos Buqueras motioned for adjournment, and the motion was seconded by Amy Miller. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

**TAB 3B**  
**BUDGET REPORT**





## PORT ST. JOE PORT AUTHORITY

Post Office Box 745  
Port St. Joe, FL 32457  
Phone: (850) 229-5240

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2 July 2014

Mr. Doug Wheeler  
Florida Ports Council  
502 East Jefferson Street5  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

The Port St. Joe Port Authority (PSJPA) respectfully requests a waiver on the assessment and payment of the Florida Ports Council dues for this current year and for next year.

The PSJPA has faithfully paid the annual ports council dues for the last several years in anticipation of again becoming one of Florida's active sea ports. We have been operating on a carryover surplus that was earned several years ago from a bond issue arrangement, from grant money used to update the port master plan and from a Gulf County Commission revolving loan. These funds unfortunately have been completely spent and we are now operating on small donations that are being received from a recent mail out.

We no longer have any paid staff and the unpaid appointed port commissioners along with a volunteer administrative assistance are running the day to day operations.

On a brighter side however, the St. Joe Company (JOE) has formed a strategic partnership with the PSJPA with the intent of helping develop the Port of Port St. Joe and assist in obtaining funds to dredge the 14 mile shipping channel to its authorized Federal depth of 35 feet. Last year JOE donated \$250,000 in matching funds so that the PSJPA could obtain a \$750,000 grant for the purpose of obtaining the required dredging permits. The permitting application for the dredging component was submitted to the State and Federal authorities in March of this year and it is anticipated that the permit will be approved by October, 2014. Assuming funding, which the PSJPA believes will be in place, the Port of Port St. Joe should be up and operating by the end of 2015. Once operating, it is anticipated the PSJPA will have a steady and substantial stream of revenue from tariffs, taxes, rents and user fees.

Sincerely,

Leonard Costin, Chairman  
Port St. Joe Port Authority

**TAB 3C**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

**TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING**

**TAB 3D**  
**OTHER ISSUES**



# Florida Ports Council Annual Board Meeting

## DRAFT ITINERARY

**Tuesday, September 9, 2014 – Wednesday, September 10, 2014**  
**Amelia Island, Fernandina, Florida**

### Tuesday, September 9, 2014

9:00 a.m. – Noon	SEMC Meeting	Omni Amelia Island TBA
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Port of Fernandina Tour	Meet in the lobby for transportation
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Omni Amelia Island TBA
1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	FPC Annual Board Meeting	Omni Amelia Island TBA
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Reception	Omni Amelia Island TBA
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Dinner (Private)	Omni Amelia Island TBA



Presenting Sponsor:



### Wednesday, September 10, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Port Director's Breakfast (Port Directors Only)	TBA	Omni Amelia Island
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast - Staff	TBA	Omni Amelia Island
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	FPC Board Meeting	TBA	Omni Amelia Island
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	TBA	Omni Amelia Island
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	FSTED Meeting	TBA	Omni Amelia Island

For more information contact: Christy Gandy at (850) 222-8028 or [christy.gandy@flaports.org](mailto:christy.gandy@flaports.org)

# **Florida International Trade Symposium and Expo**

Florida Ports Council
SCOPE OF SERVICES
PRE- MEETING TASKS
Site Selection
Create RFP, send out and coordinate returns
Create a report with all bids to present to Florida Ports Council
Negotiate with hotel and/or other meeting facilities
Set up site visit
Create budget with estimates for all conference costs
Set up credit account or invoice
Conference Registration
Create customized website registration to allow for special rates, discounts, speakers, and other registration options
Manage discount code process which include inputting and monitoring discounts for all those needing special rates
Provide qualified personnel to represent the client as the point of contact for conference-related questions and registration assistance
Set up 'event parked reports' so that client can access any important registration data in real-time at their convenience; will provide weekly reports also if needed
Send invoices for purchase orders and for unpaid registrations on a routine basis, electronically
Process all registration and other event income
Marketing & Materials
Design a sponsor marketing structure to find new involvement via CMC contacts and other venues
Manage sponsor registration and logistics
Cross-marketing with other associated organizations
Create and distribute conference promotional materials, including (for example) 1-page sponsor flyer, 1-page registration flyer, registration brochure, postcard, banquet/awards program, onsite conference program
Create and distribute other conference materials including conference graphics, conference proceedings, onsite signage
Organization
Fee for (1) staff to attend site visit
Fee for (1) staff to attend (1) Board Meeting (airfare and hotel expense is not included and is the financial responsibility of Florida Ports Council to reimburse)
(1) minimum CMC staff to participate in (1) board meeting per month unless otherwise determined
Consultation services for conference improvements, enhancements, and restructure of agenda, events, and processes
Work with Florida Ports Council to determine all events, meals, off site activities, transportation, gifts etc.
Compile projected costs for all elements in budget
Project and monitor revenue and expenses using a detailed budget tracking system
Logistics
Prepare master plan for meeting site, including event locations, room sets, F&B
Create Florida Ports Council event sheet (AES) for each meeting function
Contract with and arrange needs with audio/visual company
Locate venue, contract with and arrange needs for any offsite receptions, tours or events
Sleeping Rooms
Compare master list for hotel
Determine who will be on master list
Assign suites and identify VIP guests for amenities
Compare and submit all billing information on sleeping rooms to Florida Ports Council
Speakers
Complete speaker management with an assigned full-time speaker coordinator from CMC
Integrate speaker bio/picture/workshop info upload fields into online registration system
Manage distribution and collection of speaker acknowledgements, instructions, forms, session content
Coordinate speaker needs for allotted speaking time

Presentations - create template, collect presentations, load to onsite laptops
Create and distribute moderator packets
<b>ON-SITE MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>Meeting Site</b>
Provide (3) CMC & Associates staff to work main conference dates
Conduct pre-conference meeting with hotel
Review all banquet event orders and meet daily with conference service manager to review previous day's charges
Work with convention services manager on all issues related to meeting logistics
Meet with volunteers to train on responsibilities
<b>Registration</b>
Manage all pre-registered attendees, speakers, sponsors and guests
Print onsite name tags and receipts
Create and print certificates for conference attendees, speakers, and moderators
Set up electronic conference evaluation and certificates of attendance and distribute via email
Onsite conference materials provided included onsite program, badge holders, badge stock and tickets
<b>POST MEETING</b>
Receive, organize, and review hotel and supplier invoices and reports, and solve any billing discrepancies
Complete budget, including preliminary estimates and actual costs
Prepare report with survey results from workshops, and if desired, electronic post-event survey; requires manual entry of results from onsite surveys

<b>CONTRACTOR'S PROPOSED FEE</b>
<b>\$25,000.00 flat fee for first year - hotel contract must include a minimum of (4) complimentary guest rooms for (3) nights for staff - all travel and meals are included in this fee for CMC &amp; Associates staff</b>
<b>10% commission on actual sponsor &amp; exhibitor income</b> - based on approximately \$77,000.00 in exhibitor and sponsorship fees - estimated \$7,700.00
<b>10% commission on hotel guest room nights</b> - to be built into hotel contract - payment provided directly by hotel to CMC with no direct cost to client



Florida Ports Council			
INCOME			
Item	Quantity	Price	Total
Full Conference Registration	200	\$400.00	\$80,000.00
Late Conference Registration	100	\$450.00	\$45,000.00
Trade Show Only Registration	25	\$250.00	\$6,250.00
Platinum Sponsor	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Gold Sponsor	3	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Silver Sponsor	6	\$2,500.00	\$15,000.00
Bronze Sponsor	5	\$1,500.00	\$7,500.00
Exhibit Booth	40	\$850.00	\$34,000.00
Additional Exhibitor Registration	25	\$350.00	\$8,750.00
Dinner Tickets	10	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Guest/Spouse Registration	25	\$150.00	\$3,750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>405</b>		<b>\$226,250.00</b>

Florida Ports Council		
BUDGET & EXPENSES		
	Projected	Actual
<b>CMC</b>		
Conference Planner	\$25,000.00	
10% of Sponsor & Exhibitor Sales	\$8,750.00	
Credit Card Fees	\$5,500.00	
<b>Other</b>		
AV	\$10,000.00	
Awards	\$1,000.00	
Decoration	\$1,000.00	
Entertainment	\$1,500.00	
Hotel F&B	\$129,498.08	
Food & Beverage Credit		Included in F & B
Exhibits	\$7,500.00	
Printing	\$500.00	
Design Services	\$1,000.00	
Signs	\$750.00	
Comp Rooms	\$1,500.00	
Room Credits		
Speaker/Speaker Travel	\$8,000.00	
Tips	\$500.00	
Misc Charges - parking, phone etc.	\$1,000.00	
TOTAL	\$202,998.08	
<b>Income vs. Expenses: Profit/Loss</b>		
Income	\$226,250.00	
Expense	\$202,998.08	
<b>Profit</b>	<b>\$23,251.92</b>	

**TAB 4**  
**COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

## Social Media - Facebook



The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook page for the Florida Ports Council Organization. The page header features a large background image of a port with shipping containers and a crane. The Florida Ports Council logo is on the left, and the text "Florida Ports Council Organization" is on the right. Below the header, the page is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a "PEOPLE" section showing 366 likes and a "Reach People Nearby" section with a map and a "Promote Page" button. Below these are two profile pictures of Brian Trauman and Angie McPherson, each with an "invite" button. The "ABOUT" section on the left describes the Florida Ports Council (FPC) as a Florida nonprofit corporation that serves as the professional association for Florida's 15 public seaports, providing... and includes a link to http://www.flports.org/. On the right, the "Timeline" section shows a status update from the Florida Ports Council Organization asking "What have you been up to?". Below this is a post from the Florida Ports Council Organization sharing a photo of the Jacksonville Harbor Deepening project, posted by Jennifer Krell Davis on July 2. The post includes text about the project and a link to "See More". Below the text is a photo of a meeting. Further down is another post from the Florida Ports Council Organization sharing a photo of Port Miami, posted by Jennifer Krell Davis on July 2. The post includes the text "Great pic!" and a hashtag "#Photo of the Day - PortMiami Maritime Cargo Transportation Port". Below the text is a photo of a port with shipping containers and a city skyline in the background.

**FLORIDA PORTS COUNCIL**

**Florida Ports Council Organization**

Follow Share

Timeline About Photos Likes More +

PEOPLE

366 likes

Reach People Nearby  
Reach up to 190,000 people near Tallahassee

Promote Page

Invite your friends to like Florida Ports Council

Brian Trauman Invite

Angie McPherson Invite

See All Friends

ABOUT

The Florida Ports Council (FPC), is a Florida nonprofit corporation that serves as the professional association for Florida's 15 public seaports, providing...

READ MORE

http://www.flports.org/ Promote

Status Photo / Video Event, Milestone +

What have you been up to?

Florida Ports Council Organization shared Jacksonville Port Authority's photo.  
Posted by Jennifer Krell Davis (7) · July 2 ·

The Jacksonville Harbor Deepening project is taking another important step forward.

Right now, representatives from 10 area agencies, including the City of Jacksonville, the U.S. Coast Guard Southeast and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Cons... See More

Florida Ports Council Organization shared Port Miami's photo.  
Posted by Jennifer Krell Davis (7) · July 2 ·

Great pic!

#Photo of the Day - PortMiami Maritime Cargo Transportation Port



## Social Media - Facebook

Promote Page

Brian Trauman

invite

Angie McPherson

invite

See All Friends

ABOUT

The Florida Ports Council (FPC) is a Florida nonprofit corporation that serves as the professional association for Florida's 15 public seaports, providing...

READ MORE

<http://www.flports.org/>

Promote

PHOTOS

LIKED BY THIS PAGE

Port Tampa Bay

Manatee County Port Authority

Lake G. Ray, III

PORTS

Florida Ports Council shared a link via Port Canaveral

Posted by Jennifer Krell Davis · 17 · June 17

Port Canaveral is a powerful economic catalyst for its community.

Port Canaveral's massive mission outlined to community

[www.floridatoday.com](http://www.floridatoday.com)

CEO: Port will be responsible for 50,000 jobs, \$20B annual economic impact in 10 years

Like · Comment · Share

1 Share

Bill Masse likes this.

Write a comment...

49 people reached

Boost Post

PORTS

Florida Ports Council shared a link via Florida Department of Transportation

Posted by Jennifer Krell Davis · 17 · June 11

Great for Florida!

Ports Advocates Front and Center as President Signs Florida-Critical WRRDA Act | Sunshine State News

[www.sunshinestatenews.com](http://www.sunshinestatenews.com)

Environmentalists weren't alone in applauding President Obama Tuesday for signing the bipartisan Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA).



## Social Media - Twitter



**Rick Scott** @ScottforFlorida · May 20

An investment in FL ports means good jobs and lasting careers.  
[bit.ly/1mSdQAd](http://bit.ly/1mSdQAd) #sayfie #letskeepworking



14



8



**CareerSource Florida** @CareerSourceFL · Apr 14

The @FloridaPorts has a new website - packed with info ab this major contributor to #FL economy: [flaports.org](http://flaports.org)



2



1



**Alice Ancona** @aancon · May 30

Global trade is big business and Florida ports are leading the way!  
@FIChamber @FloridaPorts: [bit.ly/SMPsocial](http://bit.ly/SMPsocial)"



1



**Journal of Commerce** @JOC\_Updates · Jun 3

.@FloridaPorts 5-year plan pushes big investments to improve competitiveness of state's ports: [joc.com/port-news/us-p...](http://joc.com/port-news/us-p...)

Expand



Reply



Retweeted



Favorite



Share



More



**Gulf Coasta, City of Pensacola and Ananth Prasad, PE** favorited your Tweet May 19

May 19: Always good when #FlaPorts come together to fight for economic growth through freight investment. #DCFlyin [pic.twitter.com/kWzXqeQJBy](http://pic.twitter.com/kWzXqeQJBy)



Retweeted by MetroPlan Orlando



**FLORIDA DOT** @MyFDOT · Jun 11

#WRRDA signed into law = good news for #FlaPorts infrastructure, navigation, flood & environment restoration projects [sunshinestatenews.com/story/ports-ad...](http://sunshinestatenews.com/story/ports-ad...)

Expand



Reply



Retweeted



Favorite



Share



More



Followed by Port Manatee



**TBPartnership** @TBPartnership · Jun 2

Excited to report that #FlaPorts Cargo and Cruise business continued to rise in 2013! Release and report here: [bit.ly/SMPsocial](http://bit.ly/SMPsocial)

Expand



Reply



Retweeted



Favorite



Share



More



**Peter Schorsch** @SaintPetersblog · Apr 14

**Florida Ports** Council updates look and vision with new website. [wp.me/pShRp-ALL](http://wp.me/pShRp-ALL)  
#sayfie

Expand



Reply



Retweeted



Favorite



Share



More

## Social Media – Twitter - WRRDA



**FORWARD Florida** @ForwardFla · May 30

#WRRDA will boost @FloridaPorts. Bill now awaits Pres. Obama's signature.  
[bit.ly/1rpuqvE](http://bit.ly/1rpuqvE) @FDOT\_Secretary #trade #ports #jobs

Expand

Retweeted 1 Fav 0 0 0 0



**Frederica Wilson** @RepWilson · Jun 10

Excited to join @BarackObama at #WRRDA bill signing. Big win for @FloridaPorts, American #jobs & #trade! [pic.twitter.com/tMrfl83qf](http://pic.twitter.com/tMrfl83qf)

Barack Obama and The White House

View photo

Retweeted 1 0 0 0



**Frederica Wilson** @RepWilson · Jun 10

Headed to @WhiteHouse for #WRRDA bill signing that will authorize federal improvements to @FloridaPorts. Watch live: [ti.house.gov/wrrda/](http://ti.house.gov/wrrda/)

Expand

Retweeted 1 0 0 0



**Daniel Webster** @RepWebster · May 20

@FloridaPorts: FL ports support 680k direct/indirect jobs & \$96B in econ activity #WRRDA positions FL to keep growing



Retweeted 3 2 0 0

[View more photos and videos](#)



## Social Media – Twitter - WRRDA



**Daniel Webster** @RepWebster · May 20

As I supported passage of @Transport #WRRDA #4jobs today, I met w/ reps @FloridaPorts to discuss econ impact for FL [transport.house.gov/wrrda/](http://transport.house.gov/wrrda/)

Details

Retweeted ★ Favorited



**FloridaPortsCouncil** @FloridaPorts · May 20

.@RepWebster @Transport Thank you for all of your hard work on this important legislation! #WRRDA

Details



**House Transportation**

@Transport



Following

@FloridaPorts @RepWebster Thank you for your great help/support!

Reply Retweet ★ Favorited Storify ... More



# News & Updates

## New FPC Website and Logo

*April 15, 2014*



As you may have seen last week, the Florida Ports Council has updated its website [www.flaports.org](http://www.flaports.org) and logo. We invite you to take a look at our new features designed to help you find information quickly and easily. You can now find information under our [Resources](#) section by type of material, or by “tags.” We also have a new search option at the top of the page that you can use to find any data or materials on our site. The [Seaports](#) section contains a Google map of the locations of the ports, and detailed profiles including accomplishments and contact information, you can also reach these profiles on the homepage by scrolling down.

We have added a new [Advocacy](#) section, in which we are working to upload information on our priority issues.

Our [Events](#) area will feature Florida Ports Council and FSTED events as well as partner events. We invite you to use the *Submit an Event* form found in the Events menu to add an event to our calendar. We also encourage you to email us publications or resources from your organization to add to our Resource Library. We are excited to share our research and presentations, as well as the many other studies and reports that impact Florida ports.

We will be sharing our new website design and our logo on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), please retweet or “like” to your partners and colleagues.





## Florida Ports Council updates look and vision with new website

By Phil Ammann on April 14, 2014

With a new look and an updated website, the Florida Ports Council takes a monumental step in advancing the goal of supporting the state's fifteen public seaports.

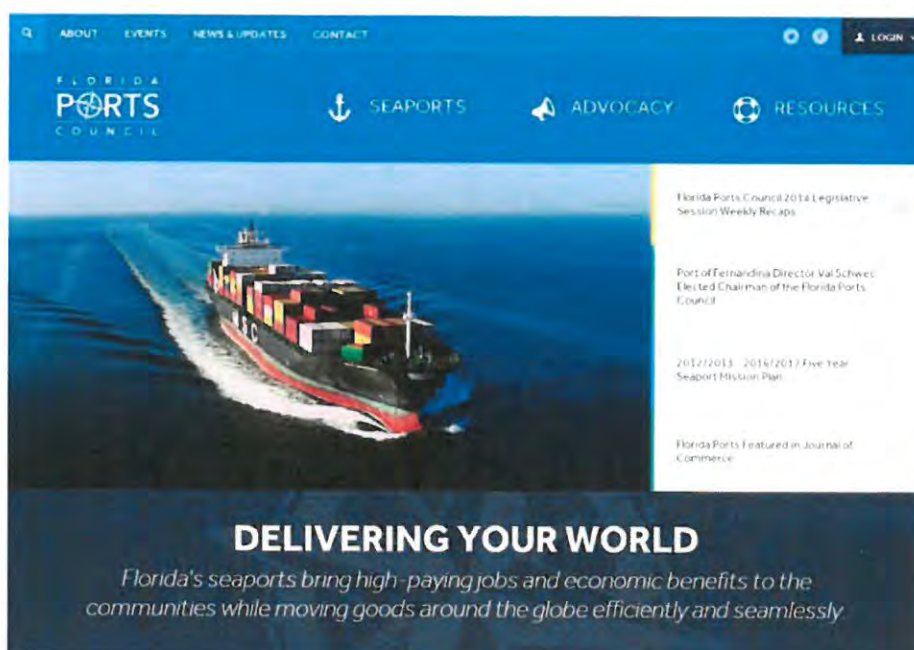
The Ports Council is a non-profit association advocating for seaports and their management, created to educate legislators and the public about how ocean-based commercial navigation is an essential part of the Florida's economy. Seaports provide 13 percent of Florida's Gross Domestic Product, with more than 680,000 direct and indirect jobs and \$96 billion in economic value through cargo and cruise activities.

The cruise industry alone affects nearly every industry in the country, with 130,000 jobs and \$5.8 billion in wages for Florida workers.

Through its newly rebranded website, [www.flaports.org](http://www.flaports.org) users can access Ports Council data by type of material, separated into appropriate subject tabs. A restructured search option can quickly find any information or materials on the site, full profiles of members including accomplishments and contact information, as well as a Google map function of all Florida port locations.

Another feature is the Advocacy section, with regular posts of priority issues facing the shipping, cruise and sea transportation industries. Other sections include a calendar, with the ability to upload an Event and a Resource Library with publications from a wide array of related organizations.

The Ports Council will be promoting [flaports.org](http://flaports.org) through social media and the body is asking users and supporters to help get the word out about the new look with Facebook and Twitter.





For Immediate Release

Contact: Jennifer Krell Davis

Florida Ports Council

[jenniferkd@flaports.org](mailto:jenniferkd@flaports.org)

850.222.8028

## Florida Ports Recognize Florida World Trade Month 2014

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Ports Council, representing Florida’s 15 public seaports, is pleased to recognize May 2014 as Florida World Trade Month, to increase awareness about the importance of international trade as a major contributor to job creation and corporate growth. More than half of Florida’s nearly \$158.4 billion in international trade comes through Florida’s seaports, making international trade and growing our global partnerships critical to our ports and Florida as a whole.

“World Trade Month is an opportunity to educate the public and the state’s leadership on the positive economic impact ports make on our state through their role as gateways to international trade,” said Doug Wheeler, president and CEO of the Florida Ports Council. “We are proud to work with Governor Scott, Enterprise Florida, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, World Trade Miami and all of our seaports in celebrating international trade and its impact to Florida.”

For more information on World Trade Month, including a calendar of events and participating organizations, visit [www.floridaworldtrademonth.com](http://www.floridaworldtrademonth.com). Be a part of the conversation by using the hashtag [#FLTrade2014](https://twitter.com/FLTrade2014) or following the Florida Ports Council at [@floridaports](https://twitter.com/floridaports) on Twitter. In addition, you can read the [proclamation from Governor Scott](#) and find out more about Florida’s ports at [www.flaports.org](http://www.flaports.org).

###



# Funding flows to Florida's ports

Jim Turner, The News Service of Florida 6:31 p.m. EDT May 19, 2014

TALLAHASSEE -- Gov. Rick Scott on Monday celebrated the soon-to-open, \$915 million PortMiami tunnel.

And when the new state budget arrives on his desk, Scott will get to decide on spending \$139 million more over the next year to continue the rush to upgrade Florida's seaports.

The port funding --- tied to expanding global trade and attracting the larger cargo ships expected to traverse a widened Panama Canal --- has been packaged at more than \$117 million for the fourth consecutive year.

The proposed funding would go to about 20 port projects, including \$15 million for a gantry crane at Port Tampa Bay; \$9.75 million for a new cruise terminal at Port Canaveral; and \$2.6 million for a revamp of Port of Jacksonville's Blount Island marine terminal.

In a prepared statement following the tunnel ceremony, Scott said "investing in our ports is key to our success" in creating jobs.

However, his office wasn't ready Monday to say that any of the proposed port funding approved by lawmakers this spring is safe from the veto pen. Legislative leaders have not yet sent the proposed 2014-15 budget to Scott for his signature and vetoes.

"Governor Scott has made investments in Florida's ports a top priority for growing jobs for Florida families --- and looks forward to reviewing the budget once it reaches his desk," John Tupps, a spokesman for Scott, said in an email.

Using the scheduled 2015 completion of the Panama Canal work as a catalyst, Florida has been in a race against other east coast states to deepen harbors and improve dockside facilities, with seaport funding jumping from \$8 million in 2008 to \$117 million in 2011, reaching nearly \$288 million in the current year.

Florida Ports Council spokeswoman Jennifer Davis called the money "another critical step in making Florida's infrastructure competitive in the global marketplace."

"The fact is that our geography and built-in consumer market are unique assets that are attractive to global business leaders," Davis said in an email Monday. "However, building the transportation infrastructure they need is the final piece that will make Florida a global hub for commerce."

During media interviews Monday morning, the governor continued to highlight the need to improve the state's seaports and transportation infrastructure.

"It's going to put us on the map," Scott said of the PortMiami work during an appearance on WFOR in Miami.

"We'll be dredged to 50 feet, the only port south of Virginia. But the most important thing, it will create more jobs."

The state- and locally-funded tunnel, which could open to the public by the end of the month, is designed to speed trucks and passenger vehicles on an alternative bay crossing between the port and the MacArthur Causeway, providing a direct connection to Miami International Airport and Interstate 95.

Scott said the tunnel and an ongoing \$220 million dredging to deepen the channel and harbor from 42-feet to 52-feet, will bring an additional 33,000 jobs and \$34 billion annual impact from the port.

Hopeful of an eventual federal repayment, Scott directed \$77 million from the Florida Department of Transportation's work plan to the dredging in 2011, with the state's contribution eventually growing to \$112.5 million. Miami-Dade County covered the rest of the work.

Scott also used the tunnel opening to repeatedly criticize his potential Democratic gubernatorial challenger, former Republican Gov. Charlie Crist.

"This is something that Jeb Bush pushed, it had a big priority, Charlie Crist didn't, so it slowed down and we lost some jobs," Scott said on WFOR. "But we're back on track."

Similar comments were repeated in other interviews.

The project actually has been on the board for more than 30 years, getting approved to proceed in October 2009, a little more than two years before the massive tunnel work began.

Crist responded in a tweet Monday, "Glad to see the completion of the Port of Miami Tunnel --- proud my admin. was able to help take it from drawing board to construction!"

However, improving the ports across Florida has grown in importance since Scott took office, with the Florida Chamber of Commerce's 2010 report, "Florida Trade and Logistics Study," serving as the blueprint for the governor and state lawmakers.

The report declared the state has a "once in a generation" opportunity to add 143,000 port-related jobs while boosting port business by \$21.5 billion and tax revenue by \$723 million a year.

The recently completed follow up, "Florida: Made for Trade (Florida's Trade & Logistics Study 2.0)," continued the emphasis on moving goods through Florida, via ship, trucks, rail and air, along with a need to increase Florida's manufacturing.

"We believe ... we can create 150,000 new high paying jobs over the next five years by simply doubling our exports from Florida," Mark Wilson, president and CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, told the state Cabinet last week. "That's the rallying cry of why we're doing what we're doing."

# Scott promises more port money if re-elected

Author: [News4Jax.com Staff](#), [webteam@wjxt.com](mailto:webteam@wjxt.com)

Published On: May 20 2014 09:21:17 AM EDT Updated On: May 21 2014 12:05:28 PM EDT



*Gov. Rick Scott arrives at JaxPort for announcement.*

## **JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -**

In his third visit to JaxPort this year, Florida Gov. Rick Scott promising to spend more money on the state's deepwater ports if he wins a second term, reaching a total of \$1 billion over his eight years in office.

During port visits to Jacksonville on Wednesday, followed by Port Canaveral and Tampa, Scott will detail the \$700 million spent on Florida's ports and infrastructure over the past four years and his commitment to do more if reelected.

Scott says projected approved last fall to the Blount Island Terminal will improve infrastructure and handle heavier cargo, creating 50 construction jobs, 4,600 direct and indirect jobs plus the retention of 12,000 existing jobs.

In March, he attended the announcement of the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility at Dames Pointe which is expected to create over 340 construction jobs and 800 direct and indirect jobs over the next four decades. It will allow ships and freight trains to transfer cargo containers efficiently, giving JAXPORT faster access to Southeast markets.

"As we work to create even more jobs for the next generation, investing in our ports is key to our success," Scott said in a release. "Our ports are our connection to global commerce and the world. If we want to become a destination for the world's tourists and for the world's jobs – we have to keep investing in our ports."

According to the Florida Ports Council, cruise and cargo activity at Florida ports generate more than 680,000 direct and indirect jobs and \$96 billion in total economic value. For every \$1 invested in Florida seaports, Florida's economy experiences \$6.90 in economic activity.

This marks the first time Scott has outlined what he plans to do if he wins re-election in November. The incumbent Republican is in a tough re-election battle against former Gov. Charlie Crist and is trailing in some polls.



Canaveral Port Authority · Port Citrus · Port Everglades · Port of Fernandina · Port of Fort Pierce · Jacksonville Port Authority ·  
Port of Key West · Manatee County Port Authority · PortMiami · Port of Palm Beach · Panama City Port Authority · Port of Pensacola ·  
Port St. Joe Port Authority · Port of St. Petersburg · Port Tampa Bay  
Doug Wheeler, President and CEO

**For Immediate Release:**

Contact: Jennifer Krell Davis

Florida Ports Council

[jenniferkd@flaports.org](mailto:jenniferkd@flaports.org)

850.222.8028

## Critical Water Resources Legislation Passes Congress

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (, 2014) – The Florida Ports Council congratulates the U.S. House of Representatives for approving the bipartisan Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA) conference report 412-4. The next step will be for the report to be heard by the U.S. Senate. The Florida Ports Council has been in Washington D.C. this week for its spring Fly-In with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity advocating for this important legislation.

“The passage of the WRRDA report by the U.S. House is a huge step toward having the first water resources legislation in six years. Florida ports are grateful for the immense amount of time and effort that our Congressional members and staff have spent in advocating for our system of ports and freight infrastructure,” remarked Doug Wheeler, president and CEO of the Florida Ports Council. “This bill contains improvements to the project approval process at the federal level, as well as other policy improvements, to assist Florida ports’ efforts in creating jobs, growing the economy and continuing to position Florida as a global hub for business.”

The conferenced version of WRRDA promotes our nation’s competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth by upholding the seminal federal responsibility to maintain a strong transportation infrastructure and ensure the efficient flow of domestic and international commerce. More specifically, the legislation reforms the U.S. Army Corps process to remove inefficiencies and add timelines for studies, and ensures the full utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund by 2025, so that 100 percent of the funds collected go towards their intended purpose of operation and maintenance activities.

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Port of Key West · Manatee County Port Authority · PortMiami · Port of Palm Beach · Panama City Port Authority · Port of Pensacola ·  
Port St. Joe Port Authority · Port of St. Petersburg · Port Tampa Bay  
Doug Wheeler, President and CEO

**For Immediate Release:**

Contact: Jennifer Krell Davis  
Florida Ports Council  
[jenniferkd@flaports.org](mailto:jenniferkd@flaports.org)  
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## Critical Water Resources Legislation Passes Full Congress

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (May 22, 2014) – The Florida Ports Council applauds the U.S. Senate for approving the bipartisan Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA) conference report 91-7. The next step will be for the bill to go before the President for final approval. The Florida Ports Council has been in Washington D.C. this week for its spring Fly-In with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity advocating for this important legislation.

“We applaud Florida’s Congressional leadership for working together to pass this important investment in Florida’s and this nation’s infrastructure. This bill is a big win for all Floridians,” remarked Doug Wheeler, president and CEO of the Florida Ports Council. “This bill contains critical improvements to the project approval process at the federal level, as well as other policy improvements, to assist Florida ports’ efforts in creating jobs, growing the economy and continuing to position Florida as a global hub for business.”

The conferenced version of WRRDA promotes our nation’s competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth by upholding the seminal federal responsibility to maintain a strong transportation infrastructure and ensure the efficient flow of domestic and international commerce. It impacts infrastructure, navigation, flood, environmental restoration, and water projects from the Florida Panhandle all the way to the Everglades. More specifically, the legislation reforms the U.S. Army Corps process to remove inefficiencies and add timelines for Corps studies, and ensures the full utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund by 2025, so that 100 percent of the funds collected go towards their intended purpose of operation and maintenance activities.

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# SAINTPETERSBLOG

LIFE AND POLITICS FROM THE SUNSHINE STATE'S BEST CITY

## Obama signs Water Resources Act, aiding Florida ports, Everglades

By *Peter Schorsch* on June 11, 2014

Florida port improvements and Everglades restoration could see up to \$1.4 billion from the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, a bipartisan water resources bill signed by President Barack Obama on Tuesday.

The Act is the first signed by a U.S. president in 14 years — and the first attempt since 2007 — to authorize future spending of federal dollars for eight Florida projects from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, including deepening of the Jacksonville harbor and improving water quality in the Everglades.

"This bipartisan bill will provide the needed funding to ensure the safety of our ports and the competitiveness of our shipping industry," said U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross in a statement on Tuesday.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson added that Florida projects are "important for either the environment or the economy."

Among the port projects included in the bill are deepening of the Jacksonville and Canaveral harbors, as well as widening and deepening the Lake Worth Inlet. Inclusion in the act does not guarantee a project will get federal funding, but it increases its chances of inclusion in future spending bills.

In a release, Col. Alan Dodd, the Army Corps' Jacksonville District commander called Congressional authorization "the first step."

"It now makes these projects eligible for funding during the appropriations process," Dodd said. "After receiving appropriations, we can then finalize designs, partnership agreements and contract actions that will enable us to start construction."

Even so, Florida Ports president Council Doug Wheeler said the act would improve the Corps' approval process, in addition to "long-overdue release" of funds and "assist Florida ports' efforts in creating jobs, boost the economy and continuing positioning Florida as a global hub for business."

"For the first time in seven years, federal and state restoration partners can start work on new Everglades projects," said Julie Hill-Gabriel, Audubon's director of Everglades policy. The act will help continue to increase wetland habitat, protect fragile coastal estuaries, and secure drinking water supply for more than 7 million Floridians.





## Congress Passes WRRDA Legislation

POSTED BY SUSAN REVELLO ON MAY 30, 2014 IN TRANSPORTATION | 278 VIEWS | [LEAVE A RESPONSE](#)

Congress managed to set aside its usual partisan bickering and recently came together on a major piece of legislation that will benefit the Super Region and all of Florida.

The House on May 20 approved the final conference committee version of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) by a 412-4 vote, and the Senate followed suit right before Memorial Day, approving the measure by a 91-7 margin. The entire Super Region House delegation voted in favor of the bill, as did both Florida Senators, Bill Nelson (D) and Marco Rubio (R).

In voting overwhelmingly to pass WRRDA, Congress authorized \$12 billion in new funding for projects designed to improve the nation's ports and waterways infrastructure. Additionally, it put significant cost and time constraints on feasibility studies by the Army Corps of Engineers, de-authorized \$18 billion in outdated projects and will terminate any newly authorized project not substantially completed after seven years.

Virtually all Florida ports stand to benefit from the bill, as it will help them prepare to service the larger container vessels that will be shipping most cargo -- especially goods traveling through the widened Panama Canal -- in the future. The Florida Ports Council cited these benefits in praising passage of the bill.

"Florida ports are grateful for the immense amount of time and effort that our Congressional members and staff have spent in advocating for our system of ports and freight infrastructure," council President Doug Wheeler said in a statement released after the House vote. "This bill contains improvements to the project approval process at the federal level, as well as other policy improvements, to assist Florida ports' efforts in creating jobs, growing the economy and continuing to position Florida as a global hub for business."

When urging Congress to pass the bill last fall, Wheeler noted that Florida is home to 15 public seaports that create 680,000 direct and indirect jobs and \$96 billion in total economic value. The council indicates these activities account for \$2.4 billion in state and local tax revenues.

No money has reached the ports yet. The next step is for Congress to begin appropriating the money authorized by this bill.

## Water Resources Bill Passes Congress, to the Benefit of Florida

By: [Kevin Derby](#) | Posted: May 20, 2014 4:00 PM



**Ander Crenshaw, Corrine Brown, Dan Webster**

To the delight of state leaders and the entire Florida delegation, the U.S. House overwhelmingly voted to pass the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) Conference Report on a 412-4 vote on Tuesday.

The measure now heads to the U.S. Senate, which is expected to pass it.

Leaders from Florida insisted it will boost the area by supporting ports, even as the Panama Canal expansion nears completion, helping Apalachicola Bay's oyster business by including water agreements with Georgia and Alabama and helping Everglades restoration.

The Florida Ports Council has been in Washington, D.C. this week for its spring Fly-In with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity advocating for this legislation.

"The passage of the WRRDA report by the U.S. House is a huge step toward having the first water resources legislation in six years," said Doug Wheeler, president and CEO of the Florida Ports Council. "Florida ports are grateful for the immense amount of time and effort that our congressional members and staff have spent in advocating for our system of ports and freight infrastructure. This bill contains improvements to the project approval process at the federal level, as well as other policy improvements, to assist Florida ports' efforts in creating jobs, growing the economy and continuing to position Florida as a global hub for business."

Former U.S. Rep. Tom Feeney, president and CEO of the Associated Industries of Florida (AIF), praised Congress for passing the report, insisting it will help the Sunshine State.

"With the passage of WRRDA today by the U.S. Congress, Florida can expect to see a boost in economic growth and job development by way of manufacturing and transportation industries looking to locate near our Florida ports," said Feeney. "Along with Gov. Rick Scott, AIF and its members have been advocating to expand our ports' capabilities to accommodate the supersized ships and build more manufacturing and transportation infrastructure as a result of the Panama Canal expansion."

Feeney singled out leaders from both parties for their efforts in passing the report.

"As a state affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers, AIF has supported these maritime and manufacturing efforts in our nation's Capitol, and we applaud the leadership efforts by Gov. Scott, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congresswoman Lois Frankel, Congressman John Mica, Congressman Steve Southerland, and Congressman Dan Webster for seeing this good bill through the process," Feeney added. "AIF supports WRDA and encourages the U.S. Senate to pass this bill so that we can see the fruits of its labor in action here in Florida."

"Florida's water resources are a competitive advantage that we must continue to responsibly develop," said U.S. Rep. Dan Webster, R-Fla. "Investing in our ports, harbors and other water infrastructure will expand our economic footprint, create jobs and help us compete to be the crossroads of international trade following the

completed expansion of the Panama Canal. If you manufacture goods, import or export products, ship containers or aggregates, retail consumer merchandise, or work in any of these industries, then this bill is for you.”

U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Fla., took to the House floor to praise the bill.

“The Water Resources Development Act Conference Report is a perfect example of how government is supposed to work,” Brown said. “I want to thank Sens. Boxer and Vitter and Congressmen Shuster, Gibbs, Rahall and Bishop for their commitment to producing a comprehensive and bipartisan bill supported by all stakeholders. I also want to thank President Obama for his leadership in improving and expediting the process for completing projects at the Corps of Engineers and encouraging Congress to complete the WRDA Conference. I hope this bipartisanship continues as we reauthorize Surface Transportation Programs.

“This legislation includes a lot of positive provisions that are going to help improve, expand, and accelerate Corps of Engineers projects,” Brown insisted. “These projects, in turn, will improve the safety of the American public, generate billions of dollars in economic activity, create hundreds of thousands of good paying jobs, and benefit the nation’s economy as a whole.”

Brown and U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw, R-Fla., insisted the report would help the First Coast.

“The improved policy and programs in this conference report are great news for the nation and my home state of Florida,” Brown said. “Along with the authorization for both Mile Point and JAXPORT channel dredging that I championed, the bill includes authorizing language for numerous critical water infrastructure projects throughout Florida. The bill also allows for federal assumption of operations and maintenance for projects paid for by nonfederal sponsors, includes a provision that will allow ports to utilize more of the harbor maintenance tax, and allows local sponsors to fund and seek future reimbursement for any project that receives its chief’s report. This language is essential because there are still several critical projects that will be ready to go long before we do another reauthorization.”

Said Crenshaw, “Passage of the WRRDA bill means authorization for JAXPORT dredging and a fix for Mile Point -- a giant step forward for job creation and economic growth in Northeast Florida. I’ve backed these projects from day one and couldn’t be happier to vote for this comprehensive bill on the House floor today. With the long-overdue removal of navigation hazards at Mile Point and the dredging of the St. Johns River, large cargo container ships can move into the region, bringing more trade, more jobs, and a stronger economy for decades to come. That’s a win-win across the board.”

*Reach Kevin Derby at [kderby@sunshinestatenews.com](mailto:kderby@sunshinestatenews.com).*



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Doug Wheeler, President and CEO

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850.222.8028

## Critical Water Resources Legislation Signed by the President

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 10, 2014) – The Florida Ports Council applauds President Obama for signing the bipartisan Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). The Florida Ports Council has been in Washington D.C. with officials with the Florida Executive Office of the Governor, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity advocating for this important legislation.

“Florida’s Congressional leadership was critical to the passage of this important investment in Florida’s and this nation’s infrastructure. With the last water resources act occurring in 2007, the passage of this WRRDA is a true accomplishment,” remarked Doug Wheeler, president and CEO of the Florida Ports Council. “This bill contains critical improvements to the Corps project approval process, seaport policy improvements, and long-overdue release of HMT funds, which will assist Florida ports’ efforts in creating jobs, growing the economy and continuing to position Florida as a global hub for business.”

The final version of WRRDA promotes our nation’s competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth by upholding the seminal federal responsibility to maintain a strong transportation infrastructure and ensure the efficient flow of domestic and international commerce. It impacts infrastructure, navigation, flood, environmental restoration, and water projects from the Florida Panhandle all the way to the Everglades. More specifically, the legislation reforms the U.S. Army Corps process to remove inefficiencies and add timelines for Corps studies, and ensures the full utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund by 2025, so that 100 percent of the funds collected go towards their intended purpose of operation and maintenance activities.

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*The Florida Ports Council is the professional association of Florida’s 15 public seaports, providing advocacy, leadership and research on seaport-related issues before state and federal government. Florida’s ports support more than 680 thousand jobs in the state and contribute \$96 billion to the state’s economy each year.*

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## Ports Advocates Front and Center as President Signs Florida-Critical WRRDA Act

By: [NANCY SMITH](#) | Posted: June 11, 2014 3:55 AM

Environmentalists weren't alone in applauding President Obama Tuesday for signing the bipartisan Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA).

The Florida Ports Council has been in Washington, D.C., with officials from Gov. Rick Scott's office, from the Florida Department of Transportation and from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity -- all advocating for the Florida-vital legislation.

"Florida's congressional leadership was critical to the passage of this important investment in Florida's and this nation's infrastructure. With the last water resources act occurring in 2007, the passage of this WRRDA is a true accomplishment," remarked Doug Wheeler, president and CEO of the Florida Ports Council.

"This bill contains critical improvements to the Corps project approval process, seaport policy improvements, and long-overdue release of HMT funds, which will assist Florida ports' efforts in creating jobs, growing the economy and continuing to position Florida as a global hub for business," Wheeler said.

In a written statement, the Ports Council summed up the final version of WRRDA by saying it "promotes the nation's competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth by upholding the seminal federal responsibility to maintain a strong transportation infrastructure and ensure the efficient flow of domestic and international commerce."

It impacts infrastructure, navigation, flood, environmental restoration, and water projects from the Florida Panhandle all the way to the Everglades.

Julie Hill-Gabriel, Everglades policy director for Audubon Florida, saluted the act's signing. "Now, for the first time in seven years, federal and state restoration partners can start work on new Everglades projects.

"Audubon looks forward to continuing our work with project managers to increase vital wetland habitat, protect our fragile coastal estuaries, and to secure the drinking water for over 7 million Floridians," she told the [Orlando Sentinel](#).

Florida environmentalists' enthusiasm for WRRDA's passage may have been somewhat dampened by the Corps' Civil Works Review Board, which failed in April to approve the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). Board members found it impractical at this time. Corps officials have called

it "a delay."

CEPP is a plan to clean up water from Lake Okeechobee and release it into the Everglades. Now excess water is released into the Caloosahatchee River on the west coast and the St. Lucie River on the east coast.

Specifically, the WRRDA Act reforms the U.S. Army Corps process to remove inefficiencies and add timelines for Corps studies. Among other important provisions, it also assures the full use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund by 2025 so that 100 percent of the funds collected go toward their intended purpose of operation and maintenance activities.

Reach Nancy Smith at [nsmith@sunshinestatenews.com](mailto:nsmith@sunshinestatenews.com) or at 228-282-2423.



**The Florida Ports Council congratulated the U.S. House of Representatives for approving the bipartisan Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA) conference report 412-4.**

The next step will be for the report to be heard by the U.S. Senate. The Florida Ports Council has been in Washington D.C. this week for its spring Fly-In with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity advocating for this important legislation.

*“The passage of the WRRDA report by the U.S. House is a huge step toward having the first water resources legislation in six years. Florida ports are grateful for the immense amount of time and effort that our Congressional members and staff have spent in advocating for our system of ports and freight infrastructure,”* remarked **Doug Wheeler, president and CEO of the Florida Ports Council**. *“This bill contains improvements to the project approval process at the federal level, as well as other policy improvements, to assist Florida ports’ efforts in creating jobs, growing the economy and continuing to position Florida as a global hub for business.”*

The conferenced version of WRRDA promotes the nation’s competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth by upholding the seminal federal responsibility to maintain a strong transportation infrastructure and ensure the efficient flow of domestic and international commerce.

More specifically, the legislation reforms the U.S. Army Corps process to remove inefficiencies and add timelines for studies, and ensures the full utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund by 2025, so that 100 percent of the funds collected go towards their intended purpose of operation and maintenance activities.



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Doug Wheeler, President and CEO

**For Immediate Release:**

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## New Report Shows Continued Increases in Cargo and Cruise for Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (May 30, 2014) – The Florida Ports Council released the [2014-2018 Five-Year Florida Seaport Mission Plan](#) providing updated figures on international trade, cargo data and cruise activity at Florida's seaports. The report also includes detailed profiles of each of Florida's seaports.

"The story revealed in these numbers is that Florida seaports are continuing their role as critical economic engines for their communities and for the state by growing their cargo and cruise business," said Doug Wheeler, president and CEO of the Florida Ports Council. "With the recent strategic investments by the Governor and Legislature, we expect those numbers to continue to grow and bolster Florida's economy overall."

Some highlights of the 2013 data include:

- Florida's Waterborne International Trade rose to \$85.9 billion in 2013, a \$300 million increase.
- Florida seaports moved more than 105.1 million total tons and 3.2 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent containers) of cargo in 2013.
- Florida seaports recorded a large trade surplus with trading partners in South America in 2013, exporting \$11.1 billion more than it imported from the region.
- Florida seaports account for 13 percent of Florida's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – up from 9 percent in 2008.
- Florida seaports also served more than 14 million cruise passengers in 2013.

We are especially pleased that we can provide this new data during [2014 Florida World Trade Month](#), which recognizes the significant contributions Florida's seaports make to the local and state economies.

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*The Florida Ports Council is the professional association of Florida's 15 public seaports, providing advocacy, leadership and research on seaport-related issues before state and federal government. Florida's ports support more than 680 thousand jobs in the state and contribute \$96 billion to the state's economy each year. The Florida Ports Council administers the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council (FSTED) which is required to provide a 5-year Florida Seaport Mission Plan annually according to F.S. 311.09(3).*

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# PORTS

Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council

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## THE FIVE-YEAR FLORIDA SEAPORT MISSION PLAN



PORT CANAVERAL PORT CITRUS PORT EVERGLADES PORT OF FERNANDINA PORT OF FORT PIERCE JAXPORT PORT OF KEY WEST PORT MANATEE PORT MIAMI  
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2014

FLORIDA  
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**TAB 5**  
**MARKETING UPDATE**



**DESTINATION:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



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Florida ports have cutting-edge intermodal transfer facilities and the capability to handle any cargo from containers, automobiles and bulk products to project and break bulk cargo. With a large built-in consumer market and connections to every international market, from Brazil to Bangladesh, Florida ports are equipped and ready to launch your products around the globe.

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TO AND FROM MARKETS ALL OVER THE WORLD.**



**With a large built-in consumer market and connections  
to every international market, Florida ports are equipped  
and ready to launch your products around the globe.**

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SEAPORTS



ADVOCACY



RESOURCES



President Signs Critical Water Resources Legislation (WRRDA)



New Report Shows Continued Increases in Cargo and Cruise for Florida



Gov. Scott Releases Policy Focused on Investing in Ports and Growing Trade in Florida



Florida Ports Council 2014 Legislative Session Weekly Recaps



## DELIVERING YOUR WORLD

*Florida's seaports bring high-paying jobs and economic benefits to the communities while moving goods around the globe efficiently and seamlessly.*

**TAB 6**  
**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

**TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING**



**TAB 7**  
**PARTNER UPDATES**

**CAGTC**

(Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors)

**Refer to Tab 7 Partner Updates  
Supplemental**

# **ENTERPRISE FLORIDA**

# ENTERPRISE FLORIDA **EXPORT SALES MISSION**

## **SINGAPORE** **& MALAYSIA**

September 19-26, 2014



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the official economic development  
organization for the State of Florida.



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR FLORIDA COMPANIES

- Singapore offers excellent opportunities for Florida companies to sell their products and services as the country is virtually a free port. Singapore is a major trading hub, importing and exporting all kinds of products from consumer goods to high technology and industrial goods for re-export to third countries.
- Bilateral trade in goods between the U.S. and Singapore has risen 40% over the past decade to more than US\$48 billion in 2013, underlining the benefits of the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA) it was enacted in 2004. In 2013, Florida exported more than US\$237 million of goods to Singapore.
- In 2013, Singapore was the U.S. 13th largest export market for manufactured goods and the U.S. top trading partner in the ASEAN region. The U.S. is the number two supplier of Singapore's total imports just behind Malaysia. The World Bank Report "Doing Business 2011" cited Singapore as the world's easiest place to do business. The World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2011 – 2012 ranks Singapore as the world's second most competitive country and having the best protection of intellectual property.
- Many American exporters use agents or distributors to serve the Singapore market and other markets in Southeast Asia. Finding prospective partners presents no problem. Singapore firms are aggressive when it comes to representing new products and usually respond enthusiastically to new opportunities. In addition, most Singaporean companies are open to joint venture proposals, and many are interested in manufacturing under license.
- Price, quality and service are the main selling factors in Singapore. Prospective exporters to Singapore should be aware that competition is strong and that buyers expect good after-sales service. Selling techniques vary according to the industry and product, but are comparable to the techniques used in any other sophisticated market. It is also important for U.S. firms to visit their representatives and maintain a good relationship with them
- For centuries, Malaysia has profited from its location at a crossroads of trade between the East and West, a tradition that carries into the 21st century. Geographically blessed, peninsular Malaysia stretches the length of the Strait of Malacca, one of the most economically and politically important shipping lanes in the world.
- U.S.-Malaysia bilateral trade for 2013 was more than US\$40 billion. Malaysia is the U.S. 2nd largest trading partner in the ASEAN region and the U.S. 25th largest export market. In 2013, Florida exported about US\$69 million of goods to Malaysia.
- The Malaysian economy grew 4.1% in 2013 and is expected to grow between 5-5.5% in 2014.

## MISSION ITINERARY \*

**Friday, Sep. 19** Depart to Singapore

**Saturday, Sep. 20** Arrive in Singapore late night

**Sunday, Sep. 21** Free for own appointments

**Monday, Sep. 22** Country Breakfast Briefing by U.S. Embassy staff  
Gold Key one-on-one pre-arranged business appointments  
Networking luncheon  
Networking evening reception by the U.S. Ambassador

**Tuesday, Sep. 23** **AM:** Gold Key one-on-one pre-arranged business appointments

**PM:** Florida delegation departs Singapore for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Wednesday, Sep. 24** Country Breakfast Briefing by U.S. Embassy staff  
Gold Key one-on-one pre-arranged business appointments  
Networking evening reception by the U.S. Embassy

**Thursday, Sep. 25** **AM:** Networking breakfast  
Follow up meetings  
**PM:** Florida delegation departs Kuala Lumpur

**Friday, Sep. 26** Florida delegation arrives in Florida

*\* Subject to change*





## BEST EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA

*The industries list below in non-exclusive. If your industry is not mentioned below, please contact us for a no-obligation assessment. Some of the best trade opportunities for Florida companies include:*

### **SINGAPORE:**

- Electronics
- Aircraft and parts
- Pollution control equipment
- Medical devices
- Laboratory and scientific instruments
- Computer hardware and software
- Telecommunication equipment
- University education services
- Franchises
- Oil and gas equipment

### **MALAYSIA:**

- Aircraft parts
- Digital broadcasting products & contents
- Broadband products
- Environmental equipment
- Renewable energy & efficient energy
- Franchising
- Health supplements
- Oil and gas equipment

# SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA

September 19-26, 2014

## OPTION 1 - GOLD KEY PACKAGE

(Limited Space Available)

- ☐ First company representative: \$1,700
- ☐ Additional company representative: \$600

### Package includes:

- **Gold Key Service:** The U.S. Commercial Service in Singapore and Malaysia will schedule one-on-one appointments with pre-qualified companies in the region that have expressed an interest in your company's products/services
- Admission to all Florida mission networking events
- Ground transportation to all official mission events



## OPTION 2 - DELEGATE PACKAGE

(Limited Space Available)

- ☐ Each company representative: \$750

### Package includes:

- Admission to all Florida mission networking events
- Ground transportation to all official mission events

*Note: Delegates are strongly encouraged to schedule their own individual appointments and activities during their free time*



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## GRANTS

Trade grants will be available to qualified Florida manufacturers and professional service providers, covering 100% of the registration fee for the first company representative. Please note that the grant is only available for the Gold Key Package. A separate application process is required for this grant.

## MISSION REGISTRATION DEADLINE

**OPTION 1 & OPTION 2 • JULY 16, 2014**

### For registration forms contact:

Selma Fates at [sfates@eflorida.com](mailto:sfates@eflorida.com)

### For more information on the mission contact:

John Diep at [jdiep@eflorida.com](mailto:jdiep@eflorida.com)

*Registration will not be considered final until registration forms and payment have been received.*

## FOR GOLD KEY PARTICIPANTS

Upon submission of completed registration forms, your products and objectives will be reviewed for product suitability in Singapore and Malaysia by U.S. Commercial Service industry experts. Approval takes approximately 10 business days.

## FOR DELEGATES

The Delegate Package does not require a review and, therefore, will be processed upon receipt of payment.

## CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations prior to July 15th must be made in writing and sent to Selma Fates at [sfates@eflorida.com](mailto:sfates@eflorida.com). NO VERBAL cancellations will be accepted. For a full refund, cancellations must be received by July 15th, 2014.

## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Enterprise Florida has contracted the services of Express Travel, an independent travel agency, to coordinate all airline and hotel reservations. Special group discounted hotel rates have been negotiated for this event. Travel arrangements will be coordinated and confirmed individually. For additional travel guidance, please contact Express Travel: (305) 341-1200 x 222.

## HOTELS: (Estimated costs)

**REGENT SINGAPORE**, 1 Cuscaden Road, Singapore 249715 Tel: +65 6725 3194  
Room Rate: \$320/night + tax (breakfast and Wi-Fi included)

**INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL**, 165 Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tel: +60 3 2782 6316  
Room Rate: \$220/night + tax (breakfast and Wi-Fi included)

## FLIGHTS: (Estimated costs)

Singapore—Kuala Lumpur (one way) \$300 + tax

*Travel arrangement can be coordinated directly with Express Travel: (305) 341-1200 x 222*



Join Secretary of Commerce Gray Swoope  
on an Export Development Trade Mission to

# PANAMA

OCTOBER 5 - 7, 2014



[enterpriseflorida.com](http://enterpriseflorida.com)



*An invitation from*  
**Secretary Gray Swoope**



Dear International Business Leader:

Enterprise Florida, the state's lead economic development organization, will be leading a mission to Panama City, Panama on October 5-7, 2014. You are invited to join me and other business leaders for this export and trade event.

Panama is a significant trading partner for Florida. More than \$2 billion in Florida products were exported to Panama last year, and forecasts for the market remain strong.

Panama is one of the strongest economies in Latin America. The country boasts the second fastest growing GDP in the region, expected to reach a 6 percent growth in 2015. Panama's dollar-based economy offers low inflation in comparison with neighboring countries and zero foreign exchange risk. The U.S.-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement offers U.S.-made goods a competitive advantage. Furthermore, the current expansion of the Panama Canal is expected to generate new opportunities for Florida businesses.

This mission will provide Florida companies with the potential to expand their business and build new relationships. I encourage you to join me on this important mission as we grow our state's economic ties with this region.

Sincerely,

Gray Swoope  
Secretary of Commerce  
President & CEO Enterprise Florida, Inc.

# PANAMA

## MISSION ITINERARY \*

**Sunday, October 5th** Delegation departs Miami International Airport for Panama City

**Monday, October 6th** Panama City

- Country Commercial Briefing
- Gold Key Business Matchmaking Appointments
- Networking Reception

**Tuesday, October 7th** Panama City

- Gold Key Business Matchmaking Appointments
- Networking Luncheon at the Panama Canal
- Networking Evening Reception by the U.S. Ambassador
- Delegation Departs Panama City, Panama

*\* Subject to change*



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR FLORIDA COMPANIES

- Since the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, Panama has been a strategic hub for commerce and security in the Americas. It has sole responsibility for operating the canal. A \$5.25 billion expansion will allow significantly larger vessels to transit and might alter shipping routes to and from multiple U.S. ports.
- The economy has seen high growth due to successful transportation facilities and infrastructure development, and banking and services account for 80 percent of jobs.
- In Panama, consumer attitudes and many brand preferences are similar to the U.S. Since Panama is largely a service-based economy with no history of manufacturing, it is used to importing practically all goods.
- The Trade Promotion Agreement between the U.S. and Panama will continue to offer U.S.-made goods a competitive advantage. Panama's average tariff on goods is only 7 percent and in several sectors duties are either zero or are waived.
- Exports from Florida accounted for more than \$2 billion in 2013. Total merchandise trade with Panama in 2013 amounted to nearly \$2.3 billion in 2013. The U.S. is Panama's most important trading partner, with about 30 percent of the import market share.

## BEST EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

### **AUTOMOTIVE PARTS & SERVICE EQUIPMENT**

- Products include engine parts, pumps, filters, batteries, ignition parts, spark plugs, lamps, body parts, brake parts, shock absorbers, tires, exhaust components, and used remanufactured parts especially for buses, dump trucks, and other commercial vehicles.

### **BUILDING PRODUCTS**

- The demand is especially strong for gypsum board, lighting, roofing products, and flooring products. The canal project is requiring massive amount of cement, aggregate products, and steel.

### **COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS**

- Best prospects are personal computers, LAN equipment, laptops, and laser printers.

### **ELECTRICAL POWER EQUIPMENT**

- The market offers excellent opportunities for both hydroelectric generators, especially small and medium size plants, and thermo generators. There is strong interest by several companies to develop non-traditional energy sources and the Government of Panama is expected to play a stronger role in promoting the use of these technologies.

### **HOTEL AND RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT**

- Best prospects are kitchen equipment, chafing dishes, industrial stoves, laundry equipment, and furniture in general.

### **MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

- Best prospects include electro medical equipment, monitoring equipment, imaging equipment, and laboratory equipment.

### **PORTS AND SHIPBUILDING EQUIPMENT**

- The increased port activity offers excellent opportunities for U.S. port equipment exporters. The following product categories enjoy good demand: quay cranes, container cranes, forklifts, top loaders, rubber tire gantry cranes, power packs, and flatbeds. Additionally, the new ports offer opportunities for material handling equipment such as small forklifts, small trucks, and similar equipment.

### **SECURITY AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

- Best sales prospects are electronic surveillance equipment, fire and burglar alarms, smoke detectors, and safe/strong boxes. Car alarms systems are always in strong demand. All types of safety equipment such as gloves, eyeglasses, harnesses, vests, etc. are in great demand.

### **TELE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

- Best products are PABX systems, radio trunking systems, satellite-based telecommunications facilities, wireless systems and fiber optics cable.

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### **U.S. COMMERCIAL SERVICE IN PANAMA CITY, PANAMA**

As part of EFI's Gold Key Package, participants will have the opportunity to take advantage of the unparalleled trade facilitation services provided by the U.S. Commercial Service (USCS) in Panama City. The USCS will coordinate all one-on-one Gold Key appointments. The USCS offers a variety of products and services designed to facilitate U.S. exports.



## OPTION 1 - GOLD KEY PACKAGE

- ☐ First company representative: \$1,050
- ☐ Additional company representative: \$500

### Package includes the following:

- **Gold Key Service:** The U.S. Commercial Service will schedule one-on-one appointments with pre-screened Panamanian companies that have expressed an interest in your product or service.
- Admission into all mission events.
- Translation services during the one-on-one appointments.
- Ground transportation to all mission events.



Gold Key participation will be limited to a total of 15 Florida manufacturers, distributors, and service companies that best meet the participation criteria. Selection of these firms will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Final selection will be determined by the U.S. Commercial Officer after a review to ensure markets viability.

## OPTION 2 - DELEGATE PACKAGE

- ☐ Each company representative \$350 per person

### Package includes the following:

- Admission to all mission events.
- Ground transportation to all mission events.

*\*Note: This option encourages delegates to schedule their own individual appointments and activities during their free time.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### For registration forms contact:

Stephanie Pavolini at [spavolini@eflorida.com](mailto:spavolini@eflorida.com), 305-808-3388  
or Jorge Riano at [jriano@eflorida.com](mailto:jriano@eflorida.com), 305-808-3389

**Gold Key Registration Deadline:** July 31, 2014

**Delegate Package Registration Deadline:** September 30, 2014

*Registration will not be considered final until ALL event, travel registration forms, and payment have been received.*

## GRANTS

EFI will offer a limited number of Gold Key Matchmaking one-on-one appointments through the USCS for participating Florida companies. The price of this service is \$1,050. However, small and mid-sized Florida manufacturers and eligible high tech companies as well as professional service providers may qualify for a Gold Key Grant, which will offset 100 percent of the Matchmaking Registration fee for the first company representative. A separate application process will be required for this grant. Participants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

### FOR GOLD KEY PARTICIPANTS

Once EFI receives your form, a USCS officer in Panama will conduct an assessment of your product or service. You will be notified of approval within approximately 10 business days.

### FOR DELEGATES

The Delegate Package does not require a review and, therefore, registration and payment will be processed upon receipt of registration forms.

### TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Express Travel, an independent travel agency, will coordinate all airline and hotel reservations. Special group discounted airfare and hotel rates have been negotiated for this event. Mission participants are expected to travel as a group and must do so in order to use ground transportation. For additional travel guidance, please contact Express Travel: (305) 341-1200.

### ESTIMATED TRAVEL COSTS

Hotel: Marriott, Panama City, Panama

- single occupancy: \$134 / night

- double occupancy: \$149 / night

This rate includes breakfast and internet connection.

Flight: COPA Airlines

- Miami-Panama City: roundtrip, \$532.00

- Orlando-Panama City: roundtrip, \$440.00

Travel arrangements can be coordinated directly with Express Travel (305) 341-1200.

### CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations prior to August 30, 2014 must be made in writing. No verbal cancellations will be accepted. For a full refund, cancellations must be received by August 30, 2014.



**Enterprise Florida**, the lead economic development organization for the state of Florida, facilitates job growth for Florida's businesses and citizens, leading to a vibrant statewide economy.



June 16, 2014

Mr. Doug Wheeler  
President  
Florida Ports Council  
502 E. Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Doug:

Enterprise Florida, Inc. would like to invite you to become a member of our new Florida International Trade Partnership. The new Florida International Trade Partnership will be a statewide strategic collaboration network of trade and economic development partners with the objective expanding statewide trade development synergy and coordinating the exchanges of information, education on international trade and advocacy issues and expanding market opportunities, export assistance and trade finance facilitation for Florida's small and medium-sized companies.

Membership in the Florida International Trade Partnership will also enable participating statewide and regional economic development partners to participate in a new Florida Trade Partners Grants Program that will be launched in August, 2014. This program will provide technical and financial support to local and statewide export development missions that complement EFI's overall programs and strategies.

We envision that The Florida International Trade Partnership will meet four times a year in various locations throughout Florida. The first meeting will be held in Miami in August 2014. Exact date, time and location will be confirmed by email in a few days.

During the first meeting, we will discuss the goals and objectives of the Florida International Trade Partnership, provide international business outlook briefing and discuss issues of importance to Florida's international community I hope your schedule will allow you to participate in this important meeting.

For more information please contact Selma Fates at [sfates@eflorida.com](mailto:sfates@eflorida.com) or 305-808-3668.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Mencia', written over a horizontal line.

Manny Mencia  
Sr. Vice President, International Trade & Business Development



# **FLORIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**Refer to Tab 7 Partner Updates  
Supplemental**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**



## East Central Florida Corridor Task Force Meeting

June 27, 2014

Beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Exploration Tower

670 Dave Nisbet Drive

Cape Canaveral, Florida 32920



### Objectives

- Review existing transportation system and potential future transportation investments in the study area
- Identify potential regional transportation connectivity gaps
- Discuss potential coordination opportunities with utilities and other infrastructure
- Continue development of guiding principles for corridor planning in the study area
- Provide guidance to staff for technical analyses of corridor alternatives
- Obtain public input
- Identify action items and next steps

### Agenda

#### *Sign in and coffee*

Welcome and review of today's agenda

Bill Killingsworth, Chair

Review and approval of meeting minutes from June 5

Bill Killingsworth

Corridors in the East Central Florida study area: existing system and planned and proposed investments

- Jim Wood, Director, Office of Policy Planning, Florida Department of Transportation
- Gary Huttman, Deputy Executive Director, MetroPlan Orlando
- Bob Kamm, Executive Director, Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization
- Noranne Downs, District 5 Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 5

#### *Break*

Transportation hubs and future connectivity needs

- John Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, Canaveral Port Authority
- Phillip Brown, Executive Director, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
- Rick Cloutier, Deputy Director of Aviation, Melbourne International Airport
- Frank DiBello, President and Chief Executive Officer, Space Florida

Panel discussion: role of transportation in the study area's future economic competitiveness

- Noel Munson, Strategic Business Planner, Division of Strategic Business Development, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- Jacob Stuart, President, Central Florida Partnership
- Rick Weddle, President and Chief Executive Officer, MetroOrlando Economic Development Commission
- Robert E. Salonen, Director, Business Development, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast

*Break/pick up lunch*

Working lunch panel: Coordination with private sector investments

- Bob O'Malley, Resident Vice President of State Government and Community Affairs, CSX Transportation
- Michael Reininger, President and Chief Development Officer, All Aboard Florida
- Ed Scott, Director of Transmission Planning, Duke Power
- Leonard "Sandy" Sanderson, Regional Manager, Corporate External Affairs, Florida Power & Light

Discussion of issues, opportunities, guiding principles and potential actions for the 4Cs

*Break*

Public comment\*

Discussion of issues, opportunities, guiding principles and potential actions for the 4Cs (continued)

Task Force work plan

Bill Killingsworth, John Kaliski, Shelley Lauten

- Future meeting dates and locations
- Community workshop plans

Review of action items and next steps

Bill Killingsworth

*Adjourn*

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*\*Note: Public comment will begin at 3 p.m. and end after all interested parties have made their comments but no later than 3:30 p.m. Please sign in and complete a speaker card if you desire to make a comment at this time. Please limit your remarks to 3 minutes. In lieu of speaking publicly you are welcome to fill out a comment card and leave it with us or submit your comment via our website at [www.ECFCorridorTaskForce.org](http://www.ECFCorridorTaskForce.org)*

# **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



## ***Florida Department of Transportation***

**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

**ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.**  
SECRETARY

June 23, 2014

Ms. Carol Whitmore  
Chairman  
Manatee County Port Authority  
300 Tampa Bay Way, Suite 1  
Palmetto, FL 34221

Dear Chairman Whitmore:

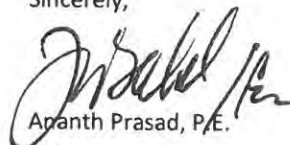
As you know, the Florida Department of Transportation, under Governor Scott's direction, is very interested in the success of Florida's 15 deep water seaports. On-port investments in our seaports over the past four years have exceeded \$680M – investments that have and will generate significant economic benefits and high paying jobs throughout the state.

As we've discussed with you at previous meetings, we believe there are significant opportunities afforded to the Tampa Bay ports for expansion due to growth in the central Florida market, imports from increased manufacturing operations in Mexico, growth in transshipments to/from Caribbean ports, and the growth of the South and Latin American markets – all driven by the aggressive capital investment programs underway by the region's ports.

As we continue to invest in our seaports, we want to ensure the state and Tampa Bay region can capitalize on these and other opportunities. In order to help promote regional cooperation, we would like to invite you to join your fellow port commissioners, your executive directors, and state elected officials at a facilitated discussion on August 13th in St. Petersburg from 9:00am - 3:00 pm. I will initiate the morning discussion, which will include comments from your local legislators, as well as presentations from each port Chair on current planning efforts, strategies, and investments underway to drive port growth. A facilitated discussion will follow focused on identifying possible areas for future coordination among the three seaports to help the region maximize available local and state resources to ensure Tampa Bay's ports are as competitive as possible with other Gulf and Caribbean ports. The discussion is envisioned to focus on the identification of possible avenues for future regional coordination and ultimately set the agenda for a cooperative future.

The Department will notice this meeting as required by law. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Richard Biter at [Richard.Biter@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Richard.Biter@dot.state.fl.us). I look forward to working with you and your port staff and elected officials on this important and timely topic.

Sincerely,



Ananth Prasad, P.E.  
Secretary



**Seaport Projects**  
**Fiscal Year 2015**  
As of 04/07/14 GAA

DISTRICT	FM#	ONPORT PROJECTS			ALLOCATION
		DESCRIPTION			
		<b>PORT</b>			
1	43345719403	PORT MANATEE BERTH REHAB & RECONSTRUCT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	76		\$1,300,000
2	41264889405	BLOUNT ISLAND & TALLEYRAND MARINE TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS	76		\$2,600,000
2	43503419401	FENDER SYSTEM REPLACEMENT	76		\$450,000
3	43503719401	PORT OF PANAMA CITY BERTH IMPROVEMENTS WEST 1 BERTH	76		\$1,000,000
4	43503219401	PORT EVERGLADES SLIP 2 (WESTWARD) LENGTHENING	76		\$1,850,000
4	43503319401	PORT OF PALM BEACH TROPICAL SHIPPING REEFER LINE	76		\$275,000
5	43503119401	NEW CRUISE TERMINAL 1	76		\$1,500,000
6	25445229403	PORT OF MIAMI SOUTH FISHERMAN'S CHANNEL	76		\$2,741,000
6	43503519401	MALLORY SQUARE & BERTHING DOLPHINS	76		\$762,000
7	43513019401	PORT TAMPA BAY HOOKERS POINT IMPROVEMENT	76		\$2,200,000
30	23702419401	D/W SEAPORTS BOX	76		\$48
30	4138211201	ACQUISITION OF SEAPORT TRADE DATA INFORMATION	76		\$322,000
30	43176419401	SEAPORT (FSTED) DISTRICTWIDE BOX	76		\$400,000
		<b>TOTAL FSTED PROJECTS (PORT) (DS) (DPTO)</b>			<b>\$15,400,048</b>
		<b>PORB</b>			
6	25445229401	PORT OF MIAMI SOUTH FISHERMAN'S CHANNEL	76		\$9,000
30	43176419401	SEAPORT (FSTED) DISTRICTWIDE BOX	76		\$5,813
		<b>TOTAL FSTED PROJECTS (PORB)</b>			<b>\$14,813</b>
		<b>TOTAL FSTED PROJECT (PORT) (PORB)</b>			<b>\$15,414,861</b>
		<b>DIS/GM</b>			
3	43578319401	PORT ST JOE CHANNEL DREDGING	76		\$20,000,000
4	42282719401	PORT OF PALM BEACH PORT-WIDE SLIP REDEVELOPMENT	76		\$1,514,521
4	43059619401	PORT EVERGLADES SOUTHPORT TURNING NOTCH EXPANSION	76		\$10,000,000
5	42253329401	PORT CANAVERAL NORTH SIDE DEVELOPMENT CONTAINER YARD EXPANSION	76		\$9,750,000
7	42282629401	PORT TAMPA BAY CONTAINER YARD IMPROVEMENTS	76		\$10,400,000
89	41678659402	STRATEGIC SEAPORT INVESTMENTS - SIS	76		\$3,935,479
89	41678659430	STRATEGIC SEAPORT INVESTMENTS - SIS	76		\$1,514,521
		<b>TOTAL FDOT PROJECTS (DIS/GM)</b>			<b>\$57,114,521</b>
		<b>DISTRICT</b>			
4	42282719401	PORT OF PALM BEACH PORT-WIDE SLIP REDEVELOPMENT	76		\$76,852
4	42282719401	PORT OF PALM BEACH PORT-WIDE SLIP REDEVELOPMENT	76		\$1,709,627
4	43059619401	PORT EVERGLADES SOUTHPORT TURNING NOTCH EXPANSION	76		\$4,718,000
30	42802211201	SEAPORT SYSTEM PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	76		\$310,999
		<b>TOTAL DOT PROJECT (DISTRICT)</b>			<b>6,815,478</b>
		<b>SIB1 LOAN</b>			
7	43520419401	TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY GANTRY CRANE STATE SIB LOAN	76		\$15,000,000
7	43520519401	TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY ON DOCK TRANS LOAD STATE SIB LOAN	76		\$10,000,000
		<b>TOTAL SIB1 LOAN</b>			<b>\$25,000,000</b>
		<b>TOTAL FSTED, FDOT, DISTRICT AND SIB LOAN PROJECTS</b>			<b>\$104,344,860</b>
		<b>INTERMODAL</b>			
1	42259019401	PORT MANATEE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COLD STORAGE WAREHOUSE	11		\$2,500,000
1	42061919401	PORT MANATEE INTERMODAL CONTAINER AND CARGO TRANSFER YARD PH I	11		\$1,857,902
1	42259019401	PORT MANATEE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COLD STORAGE WAREHOUSE	11		\$2,323,592
4	42282719401	PORT OF PALM BEACH PORT-WIDE SLIP REDEVELOPMENT	11		\$1,300,000
7	43500919401	PORT TAMPA BAY TAMPA PORT AUTHORITY	11		\$1,463,486
30	42174211201	PUBLIC TRAN PLANNING CONSULTANTS -RESERVE BOX	00		\$176,261
		<b>TOTAL INTERMODAL PROJECTS</b>			<b>\$9,621,241</b>
		<b>ILC</b>			
30	43229819401	INTERMODAL LOGISTICS CENTER INFRASTURE SUPPORT PROGRAM			\$5,000,000
		<b>TOTAL ILC</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
		<b>BONDS</b>			
		SEAPORT BOND PROGRAM			
30	19361519401	PAYMENT OF BOND DEBT SERVICES	71		15,000,000
30	40727619401	PAYMENT OF BOND DEBT SERVICES	77		10,000,000
30	43317219401	SEAPORT INVESTMENT BOND	PO		10,000,000
		<b>TOTAL BOND DEBT SERVICE</b>			<b>35,000,000</b>
		<b>TOTAL SEAPORT GRANT, INTERMODAL, ILC AND BOND</b>			<b>\$153,966,101</b>
		<b>GR15</b>			
7	43600519401	PORT OF TAMPA BAY GANTRY CRANE PURCHASE	GR15		\$12,000,000
		<b>FISCAL YEAR 2015 TOTAL</b>			<b>\$165,966,101</b>



# Update on the FDOT Feasibility Report for a Florida Intermodal Transportation and Logistics Academy

**TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING**

# **FLORIDA TAXWATCH**

**Refer to Tab 7 Partner Updates  
Supplemental**

**TAB 8**  
**LEGISLATIVE**



**TAB 8A**  
**LEGISLATIVE:**  
**STATE**

## 2014 Legislative Session Recap



## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: May 5, 2014

TO: Florida Port Directors

FROM: Michael Rubin, Vice President Governmental Affairs

SUBJECT: **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – END OF SESSION REPORT**

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The 2014 Regular Session ended late on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Transportation investments remained an important part of this Legislature's policies, and Florida seaports had another successful year with significant appropriations in this year's General Appropriation Act. This marks four years of substantial appropriations to seaport projects by Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature. We continue to work with Governor Scott and incoming House and Senate leadership to ensure that these allocations are the custom for this Administration and Legislature.

While this Legislative Session did not feature a headlining item of seaport policy legislation, the House and Senate worked hard to pass a variety of bills. We provide the following report on issues that either passed or failed to pass during Regular Session 2014:

### ***Legislation Passed By the Florida Legislature***

1. **Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget (HB 5001)**: Florida seaports received approximately \$140million in appropriations in the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2014/15. As noted above, this marks four fiscal years in a row that the Governor and Legislature have allocated over \$100 million to seaport projects. The Florida Legislature also was blessed with additional general revenue funds this year, and at the end of budget negotiations allocated a significant amount of general revenue to over a hundred additional projects. Specific line items in the budget containing seaport appropriations include:
  - a. **Line Item 1873** -- \$15 million for debt reserve payments (FPFC 1996 Bond/Refinance)
  - b. **Line Item 1874** -- \$10 million for debt reserve payments (FPFC 1999 Bond/Refinance)
  - c. **Line Item 1875** -- \$104,344,860 for the FSTED Program, SIS, GM, and other DOT allocations in FDOT 5-Year Work Program.  
This line item also includes an additional \$12 million from the General Revenue Fund "to the Port of Tampa Bay for the purchase of a gantry crane..."

- d. **Line Item 1876 -- \$10 million for the Seaport Investment Program** (2014 Division of Bond Financing Bond – approximately \$150 million bond proceeds).
- e. **Line Item 1878 -- \$67,157,080 for Intermodal Development/Grants** (This line item includes some DOT district seaport project recommendations).

The final budget also included a specific appropriation from General Revenue of \$300,000 for the Seaport Employment Training Grant Program. A similar appropriation was vetoed last year by the Governor.

- 2. **FDOT Transportation Legislation (CS/CS/HB 7005 by House Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee)**: The base FDOT transportation legislation passed out as HB 7175 without any amendments and contained a variety of issues FDOT had tried to pass last year. The Legislature also passed HB 7005 with a number of other items requested by various modes. This legislation was amended to include authority to use certain port vehicles that have not been registered with Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles on public roads for the transport of cargo from the port facilities.

This was the only language from HB 3 that was amended onto transportation legislation that passed during Regular Session 2014.

- 3. **Economic Development (HB 5601 by the House Finance and Tax Subcommittee)**: The Legislature passed a pared down “tax cut” bill that included approximately \$105 million in tax cuts for items like hurricane preparedness and back-to-school purchases. However, the bill does not include any language directing the recurring allocation of \$100 million in sales tax revenues to the State Transportation Trust Fund. At the end of the day, Senate President Designate Andy Gardiner was not in favor of the allocation. We will continue to work with FDOT to encourage the allocation of additional funds to the Trust Fund.
- 4. **Canaveral Port Authority (CS/HB 1023 by Representative Goodson)**: After several amendments were adopted based on discussions with the Office of the Governor, the Canaveral Port Authority local legislation was passed by the Legislature. The legislation codifies, amends, repeals, and reenacts several provisions relating to powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Port Authority.
- 5. **Governmental Ethics (CS/CS/SB 846 by Senator Latvala)**: The Legislature passed CS/CS/SB 846 on the last day of Regular Session. As noted in previous memoranda, the legislation was amended to remove the lobbyist registration requirements for all special districts except water management districts.
- 6. **Special Districts (CS/CS/CS/SB 1632 by Senator Stargel)**: The Legislature passed CS/CS/CS/SB 1632 on the last day of Regular Session. The bill includes a variety of changes to reporting requirements for special districts. As noted in previous memoranda, the bill does not repeal language that authorizes seaport authorities with approved master plans to be exempt from oversight review by local governments.

## *Legislation **NOT** Passed By the Florida Legislature*

1. **Freight Logistics Zones (CS/CS/HB 3 by Representative Ray and CS/SB 136 by Senator Ring)**: This legislation was not passed by the Legislature. The bills were not taken up by the full Senate. Representative Ray would like to work with FDOT and Florida seaports concerning the development of freight logistics zones around the state, the development of asset management programs by seaports, and the creation of a resumption of trade study for freight movement in the state this spring and summer.
2. **Public Records and Meetings (SB 1648 by the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability and HB 1151 by Representative Hood)**: This legislation was not passed by the Legislature. Language concerning the broad expansion of public records to entities with dues-paying public members was ultimately removed from the legislation, but the bills were not taken up by the full House.
3. **Nassau County Ocean Highway and Port Authority (HB 1075 by Representative Adkins)**: This legislation was not passed by the Legislature. The House never placed this bill on any committee agenda. The bill would have allowed the port authority a weight limit on break-bulk freight of 100,000 pounds to match the current FDOT rule on weight limits for containerized cargo. FDOT has stated their desire to continue working with Representative Adkins to resolve this issue. We will continue to follow this discussion and provide you with any updates. Several returning members of the Legislature remain concerned over this issue, and if necessary, legislation may be filed again next year.
4. **Port of Palm Beach (CS/HB 1229 by Representative Rooney)**: Issues over ad valorem taxation and board member salaries could not be resolved with the Office of the Governor, and this legislation was not passed by the Legislature. The legislation would have codified, amended, repealed, and reenacted several provisions relating to powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Port Authority.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and excellent communication efforts this Regular Session. We think our group efforts have enabled us to maintain the unprecedented level of consistent funding over the last four years. Please call or email us if you have any questions.

**Follow the Florida Ports Council to get the latest news on seaport issues:**





## Looking Ahead to 2015 Session

Amendment No.

## CHAMBER ACTION

SenateHouse

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Representative Ray offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove lines 34-76 and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (2) and paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 311.07, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

311.07 Florida seaport transportation and economic development funding.—

(2) A minimum of \$25 ~~\$15~~ million per year shall be made available from the State Transportation Trust Fund to fund the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program. The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council created in s. 311.09 shall develop guidelines for project funding. Council staff, the Department of

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Amendment No.

15 Transportation, and the Department of Economic Opportunity shall  
16 work in cooperation to review projects and allocate funds in  
17 accordance with the schedule required for the Department of  
18 Transportation to include these projects in the tentative work  
19 program developed pursuant to s. 339.135(4).

20 (3)

21 (b) Projects eligible for funding by grants under the  
22 program are limited to the following port facilities or port  
23 transportation projects:

24 1. Transportation facilities within the jurisdiction of  
25 the port.

26 2. The dredging or deepening of channels, turning basins,  
27 or harbors.

28 3. The construction or rehabilitation of wharves, docks,  
29 structures, jetties, piers, storage facilities, cruise  
30 terminals, automated people mover systems, or any facilities  
31 necessary or useful in connection with any of the foregoing.

32 4. The acquisition of vessel tracking systems, container  
33 cranes, or other mechanized equipment used in the movement of  
34 cargo or passengers in international commerce.

35 5. The acquisition of land to be used for port purposes.

36 6. The acquisition, improvement, enlargement, or extension  
37 of existing port facilities.

38 7. Environmental protection projects which are necessary  
39 because of requirements imposed by a state agency as a condition  
40 of a permit or other form of state approval; which are necessary

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Amendment No.

41 for environmental mitigation required as a condition of a state,  
42 federal, or local environmental permit; which are necessary for  
43 the acquisition of spoil disposal sites and improvements to  
44 existing and future spoil sites; or which result from the  
45 funding of eligible projects listed in this paragraph.

46 8. Transportation facilities as defined in s. 334.03(30)  
47 which are not otherwise part of the Department of  
48 Transportation's adopted work program.

49 9. Intermodal access projects.

50 10. Construction or rehabilitation of port facilities as  
51 defined in s. 315.02, excluding any park or recreational  
52 facilities, in ports listed in s. 311.09(1) with operating  
53 revenues of \$5 million or less, provided that such projects  
54 create economic development opportunities, capital improvements,  
55 and positive financial returns to such ports.

56 11. Seaport master plan or strategic plan development or  
57 updates, including the purchase of data to support such plans  
58 and asset management plans.

59 Section 2. Subsection (9) of section 311.09, Florida  
60 Statutes, is amended to read:

61 311.09 Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic  
62 Development Council.—

63 (9) The Department of Transportation shall include no less  
64 than \$25 ~~\$15~~ million per year in its annual legislative budget  
65 request for the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic  
66 Development Program funded under s. 311.07. Such budget shall

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Amendment No.

67 include funding for projects approved by the council which have  
68 been determined by each agency to be consistent. The department  
69 shall include the specific approved Florida Seaport  
70 Transportation and Economic Development Program projects to be  
71 funded under s. 311.07 during the ensuing fiscal year in the  
72 tentative work program developed pursuant to s. 339.135(4). The  
73 total amount of funding to be allocated to Florida Seaport  
74 Transportation and Economic Development Program projects under  
75 s. 311.07 during the successive 4 fiscal years shall also be  
76 included in the tentative work program developed pursuant to s.  
77 339.135(4). The council may submit to the department a list of  
78 approved projects that could be made production-ready within the  
79 next 2 years. The list shall be submitted by the department as  
80 part of the needs and project list prepared pursuant to s.  
81 339.135(2)(b). However, the department shall, upon written  
82 request of the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic  
83 Development Council, submit work program amendments pursuant to  
84 s. 339.135(7) to the Governor within 10 days after the later of  
85 the date the request is received by the department or the  
86 effective date of the amendment, termination, or closure of the  
87 applicable funding agreement between the department and the  
88 affected seaport, as required to release the funds from the  
89 existing commitment. Notwithstanding s. 339.135(7)(c), any work  
90 program amendment to transfer prior year funds from one approved  
91 seaport project to another seaport project is subject to the  
92 procedures in s. 339.135(7)(d). Notwithstanding any provision of

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Amendment No.

93 law to the contrary, the department may transfer unexpended  
94 budget between the seaport projects as identified in the  
95 approved work program amendments.

96 -----  
97

98 **T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

99 Remove lines 3-6 and insert:

100 311.07, F.S., revising the minimum amount of funds to  
101 be made available from the State Department Trust Fund  
102 for the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic  
103 Development Program; providing that seaport asset  
104 management plans are eligible for funding from the  
105 Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic  
106 Development Program; amending s. 311.09, F.S.;  
107 revising the minimum amount of funds to be included in  
108 the annual legislative budget request by the  
109 Department of Transportation for the Florida Seaport  
110 Transportation and Economic Development Program;  
111 amending s. 311.101, F.S.; revising the

072441

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**TAB 8B**  
**LEGISLATIVE:**  
**FEDERAL**

# **Federal Initiatives**



The Florida Ports Council Cordially Invites You to Our

## ***2014 Washington D.C. Fly-In*** ***May 19 -20, 2014***

### Monday:

4:40 p.m. “Focus on Freight” Congressional Staff Roundtable  
With the Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors  
*Location: Capitol Hill Club*

5:30 - Congressional Appreciation Reception  
7:30 p.m. *Location: Capitol Hill Club*

### Tuesday:

8:00 a.m. Florida Ports Breakfast Briefing  
Hosted by Congressman Southerland  
*Location: Florida House, 1 Second St. N. E.*

3:00 p.m. Florida Ports Congressional Caucus Briefing  
Hosted by Chairs Brown, Diaz-Balart, Posey and Wilson  
*Location: 421 Cannon House Office Building*

*Please join the port directors of Florida’s seaports, as well as Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Director Jesse Panuccio and the Florida Department of Transportation Assistant Secretary Richard Biter for discussions on critical seaport issues before the U.S. Congress and the Congressional Appreciation Reception.*

*In Partnership With:*

***Patton Boggs***

***Alcalde & Fay***

For additional information and to RSVP, please contact Mike Rubin:

[mike.rubin@flaports.org](mailto:mike.rubin@flaports.org) or 850.222.8028

## PortTalk: A Regional Maritime Collaboration

The Maritime Administration has instituted PortTalk, a tailored regional collaboration. Ports, along with their State DOTs and Metropolitan Planning Organizations, will spend the day with U.S. DOT developing solutions to their port and transportation system needs to capitalize on current and future opportunities.

## Port Planning & Investment Toolkit

Successful port infrastructure projects often require investment-grade plans backed by both public and private stakeholders. To help ports craft those plans, the Maritime Administration and the American Association of Port Authorities have partnered to develop a Port Planning & Investment Toolkit, which will be available to the public in late 2014.

## TIGER \* Planning Grants

The 2014 round of TIGER Grants includes Planning Grants, and ports can use these funds in the preparation or design of surface transportation projects. These can include environmental analysis, feasibility studies and other pre-construction activities. Planning Grant recipients will be able to utilize the Port Planning & Investment Toolkit to develop investment-grade port project plans.

## TIGER \* Capital Grants

The TIGER Discretionary Grant program provides a unique opportunity for U.S. DOT to invest in transportation projects that achieve critical national objectives. Congress has dedicated more than \$4.1 billion to the program, and over \$430 million has been awarded to port infrastructure projects through the first five rounds of TIGER Grants.

## Port Conveyance Program

The Port Conveyance Program creates public-private partnerships by providing no-cost transfers of surplus Federal real properties for the development of port related facilities. As of 2014, over 2,600 acres have been conveyed to eligible entities to expand the Nation's Marine Transportation System by increasing port capacity and infrastructure, improving goods movement and meeting future national defense needs.

## Environmental Solutions

The Maritime Environment and Technology Assistance Initiative fosters collaborative projects with maritime industry stakeholders, academia, and Federal and state agencies to address emerging environmental challenges such as air pollution, non-indigenous aquatic species and other vessel discharges. Other focus areas for the initiative include marine use of alternative fuels and technologies (e.g., liquefied natural gas, fuel cells and biofuels), as well as approaches for improving energy efficiency and conservation in the maritime sector.

## About Us

The Maritime Administration has been helping to strengthen and improve the marine industry since 1950. Now the StrongPorts team is dedicated to helping America's ports meet tomorrow's needs.

## Contact Us

Email: [StrongPorts@dot.gov](mailto:StrongPorts@dot.gov)  
StrongPorts: (202) 366-PORT [7678]  
Planning: (202) 366-PLAN [7526]  
Finance: (202) 366-FUND [3863]  
Support: (202) 366-PROJECT [7765]  
Environment: (202) 366-ENVIRO [3684]  
[http://www.marad.dot.gov/ports\\_landing\\_page/StrongPorts/StrongPorts.htm](http://www.marad.dot.gov/ports_landing_page/StrongPorts/StrongPorts.htm)



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Maritime Administration**



*Photo compliments of Port of Seattle*



# StrongPorts

**Building partnerships with  
our Nation's ports to meet  
tomorrow's needs.**

\* Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)

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[http://www.marad.dot.gov/ports\\_landing\\_page/StrongPorts/StrongPorts.htm](http://www.marad.dot.gov/ports_landing_page/StrongPorts/StrongPorts.htm)



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Maritime Administration**



*Photo compliments of Port of Seattle*



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**Building partnerships with  
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tomorrow's needs.**

\* Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)



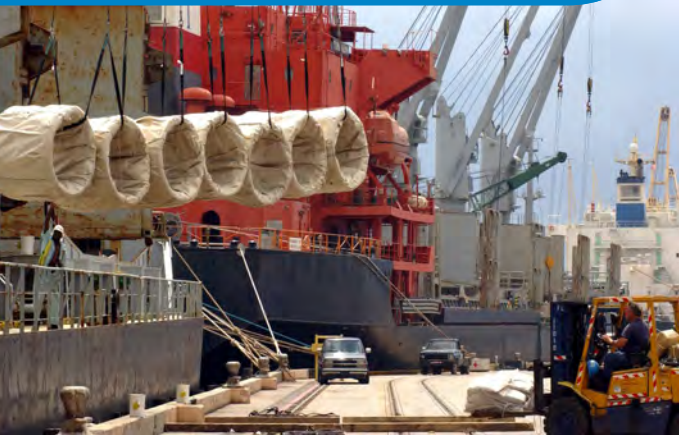
StrongPorts is designed to deliver assistance to all U.S. ports and their communities. The StrongPorts framework provides initiatives and activities aligned with the three phases of project development – **Planning and Engagement, Finance and Project Support**. Program participation is voluntary.



## Planning and Engagement

The Maritime Administration is encouraging ports to develop investment-grade plans detailing the transportation system benefits, economic opportunities and positive environmental impacts of the projects to the ports and their greater communities. StrongPorts Program services to assist in these planning efforts include:

- PortTalk Regional Collaborations
- Port Planning & Investment Toolkit
- Innovative Environmental Solutions
- Delivery of Federal services
- Stakeholder outreach



*Photo compliments of Port of New Orleans*

U.S. maritime ports are critical links in the U.S. domestic and international trade supply-chain, serving as the hubs where cargoes are transferred between ocean going vessels, barges, trucks, trains and pipelines. The StrongPorts Program supports efforts to improve infrastructure in ports and intermodal connectors throughout the United States and ensure they are capable of meeting our future freight transportation needs.



## Finance

Many port modernization projects require multi-source financing that may include port, Federal, State, local and private funding. In addition to overseeing the port-related TIGER Grants, the Maritime Administration can help ports identify funding sources. Services include:

- Port Infrastructure Fund
- Port Conveyance Program
- Identifying Federal, State and local funding sources



## Project Support

Many port modernization projects require the participation of numerous stakeholders from Federal, State and local governments alongside the private sector. Projects often involve activities requiring collaboration among multiple government agencies to address environmental review, risk mitigation and permitting. In some cases, the Maritime Administration can use its unique authority relating to the improvement of port facilities to help resolve, simplify or overcome these complex challenges.



*Photo compliments of Port of Corpus Christi*

For more information on any of these areas, please call 202-366-PORT [7678] or email [StrongPorts@dot.gov](mailto:StrongPorts@dot.gov).

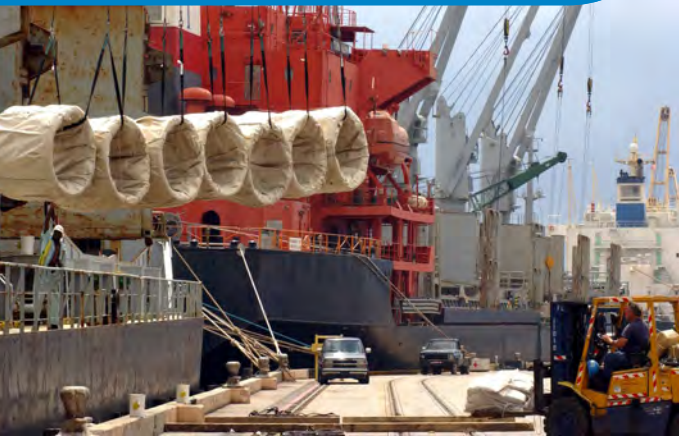
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*Photo compliments of Port of Corpus Christi*

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# **Federal Issues**

**Water Resources &  
Reform Development Act  
(WRRDA)**

**TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING**

# MAP-21



**TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING**

## **Miscellaneous**



June 12, 2014

Port Canaveral

Port Citrus

The Honorable Ted Yoho  
U.S. House of Representatives  
511 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Port Everglades

Dear Congressman Yoho:

Port of Fernandina

First, we would like to thank you for your support of Florida's maritime industry and the high-paying jobs associated with the industry. As you know, 680,000 Floridians are supported by maritime activity occurring at our seaports -- moving millions of cruise passengers and over 105 million tons of international and domestic cargo. Your leadership and efforts have helped us grow these high-paying jobs in Florida, and we need your help to maintain and continue their growth.

Port of Fort Pierce

Port of Jacksonville

Port of Key West

We are writing this letter to ask for your help on another issue of importance to Floridians in response to a recent proposed rule by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Specifically our concerns involve the proposal **to add new user fee categories and significantly increase current user fees charged** for certain agricultural quarantine and inspection services. This detrimental proposal may reverse the positive impact on job growth and undermine the very efforts you have made to increase trade in Florida.

Port Manatee

PortMiami

Port of Palm Beach

APHIS's conclusion that a doubling of fees will have only a "negligible impact" on consumer goods and services is particularly troubling at a time when consumer costs continue to rise and are impacting their ability to feed their families. In addition, APHIS has pointed out that its use and collection of these new fees "are not subject to appropriations by Congress" -- thus removing these increased fee collections from annual oversight by Congressional appropriation and substantive committees. We believe that any discussion of this type of fee increase should come before Congress for their review and approval.

Port of Panama City

Port of Pensacola

Specific issues of concern with new user fee categories and increases include the following:

Port of St. Petersburg

- The proposed new fumigation fee of \$375 for agricultural products. Under this proposal, importers of fresh flowers would have to pay this fee to individually fumigate small batches of flowers. This fee could increase the total price per-box of flowers by 200 percent.

Port of Port St. Joe

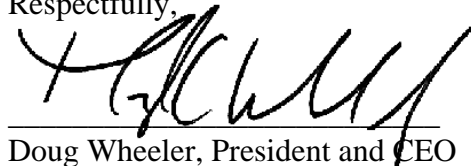
Port Tampa Bay

- The removal of the annual 15-arrival cap on screening of commercial cargo vessels, and increasing that arrival fee from \$496 to \$825. Thus, commercial cargo vessels (regardless of their previous inspection findings and effective pest/disease mitigation protocols) making more than 15 transits during a calendar year will now be penalized for making additional transits. This fee is particularly harmful to Florida maritime interests as our state has regional cargo carriers conducting operations in the Caribbean and Latin America that make **many more than 15 transits per year**. Instead of partnering and rewarding these private sector businesses for their efforts to use clean vessels in their transits, APHIS is pursuing a fee that will only penalize them for multiple visits.
- The proposed \$2 dollar passenger fee on cruise passengers: While the APHIS proposal at least removes the potential \$825 charge for multiple cruise vessel calls discussed above (imagine the impact of *that* on a cruise vessel making several weekly trips out of a Florida seaport), the proposal is particularly harmful to Florida. Florida businesses, residents and tourists are already subject to several user fees and taxes that do not necessarily pay for services in this state. A foreign tourist visiting Florida and embarking on a cruise at one of our seaports can end up paying an additional \$4 for that visit. While that may not seem cost prohibitive to a federal agency, financing the services of APHIS at the expense of Florida tourism hurts Florida's economy.

These types of fees will undermine the efforts of Congress to increase the flow of international trade into the U.S., as well as increase the exports of U.S.-made goods. Congress recently passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) to build and maintain our nation's trade infrastructure. Adding new user fees will diminish the efforts of a bi-partisan Congress, and have a detrimental impact on trade, business development and jobs in the U.S. As such, we ask for your intervention to have APHIS's fee increase proposition discontinued.

Thank you for consideration of this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Doug Wheeler, President and CEO  
Florida Ports Council

June 13, 2014

Mr. Kevin Shea, Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Docket No. APHIS-2013-0021  
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD  
Station 3A-3.8  
4700 River Road, Unit 118  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

**Re: Docket No. APHIS-2013-0021-User Fees for Agricultural Quarantine  
and Inspection Services**

Administrator Shea,

We write as representatives of the agriculture, manufacturing, pest management, trucking, shipping, air transportation, and passenger and cargo vessels industries to request that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) extend the comment period by at least 60 days for the proposed rulemaking entitled "User Fee for Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services" that the agency published in the April 25, 2014, *Federal Register*. Since the AQI fee increase proposal is closely linked to the pending rulemaking seeking to increase fees for overtime services, we are also seeking an extension of that comment period.

Our collective organizations represent virtually the entire supply chain, so it is disappointing that we were not asked for any input in the development of the AQI rulemaking or even given advance notice of the proposal, despite that the increased and newly established fees will have a significant economic impact on our members and their customers. The 60-day comment period is simply not ample time to adequately analyze the rulemaking and discuss it with our constituencies and related stakeholders.

Further, an extension of the comment period is needed to provide time for further study and to obtain additional information from APHIS for stakeholders to provide well-reasoned and informed comments. For instance, the analysis in the proposed rules does not include a complete income-and-expense balance sheet that details the agency's financial status of the AQI Program. Further, cost-savings and efficiencies are not identified that could be gained by terminating, scaling back or consolidating (either within the agency or with other federal entities) administrative or other programs or activities.

A separate breakdown of APHIS's costs for indirect employee expenses, such as workers' compensation costs, also is not provided even though it is being incorporated into the proposed fee increase. In addition, the cooperative agreements that APHIS has entered into with other federal agencies, such as Customs and Border Protection, to allocate resources to implement the agriculture and quarantine inspections needs to be ascertained. The additional expenses that resulted from CBP's increased involvement with the processes that now are being assessed through the proposed inspection fees should also be included.

Stakeholders need time to ascertain as to whether APHIS has taken appropriate steps to protect against double-billing for services performed by Customs and Border Protection and APHIS for the same services. Finally, stakeholders need time to explore with APHIS how it has collaborated with major trading partners to identify efficiencies and determine whether an economic analysis has been performed to assess the impact of the proposed rules on cross-border trade.

In closing, we appreciate APHIS' consideration of our comments and again urge the agency to extend the comment period by at least 60 days to provide stakeholders with additional time to analyze the proposal and collect relevant information. We believe this additional time also will provide an opportunity for APHIS to provide additional justification for the proposal and assurances that the fees are truly covering just the cost of the service and not broader programmatic costs.

Sincerely,

Airforwarders Association  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Association of Port Authorities  
American Trucking Associations  
Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference  
Association of Ship Brokers and Agents  
ASOEX (Chilean Fresh Fruit Exporters Association)  
Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance  
Chamber of Shipping of America  
Cruise Lines International Association  
Diamond State Port Corporation/Port of Wilmington, Delaware  
Express Delivery and Logistics Association  
**Florida Ports Council**  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas



Docket No. APHIS-2013-0021

June 13, 2014

Page Three

Global Cold Chain Alliance

International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses

International Refrigerated Transportation Association

Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay

National Association of Manufacturers

National Association of Maritime Organizations

National Custom Brokers and Forwarders Association of America

National Grain and Feed Association

National Pest Management Association

North American Export Grain Association

Port of Virginia

Passenger Vessel Association

The National Industrial Transportation League

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

United States Great Lakes Shipping Association

World Shipping Council

Cc: The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
The Honorable Ron Wyden  
The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
The Honorable Frank Lucas  
The Honorable Collin Peterson  
The Honorable Dave Camp  
The Honorable Sander Levin  
The Honorable Richard Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner, CBP

June 13, 2014

Mr. Kevin Shea, Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Docket No. APHIS-2013-0021  
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD  
Station 3A-3.8  
4700 River Road, Unit 118  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

**Re: Docket No. APHIS-2009-0047- Fee Increases for Overtime Services**

Administrator Shea,

We write as representatives of the agriculture, manufacturing, pest management, trucking, shipping, air transportation, and passenger and cargo vessels industries to request that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) extend the comment period by at least 60 days for the proposed rulemaking entitled "Fee Increases for Overtime Services" that the agency published in the April 25, 2014, *Federal Register*.

Since the proposed overtime fee increase proposal is closely linked to the pending rulemaking seeking to increase and establish new Agricultural Quarantine Inspection fees, we are also seeking an extension of that comment period. As pointed out above, these rulemakings and the fees that they would impose impact many different economic sectors including the entire supply chain. The 60-day comment period is not ample time to adequately analyze the rulemaking and discuss it with our constituencies and related stakeholders.

In closing, we appreciate APHIS' consideration of our comments and again urge the agency to extend the comment period by at least 60 days and engage all stakeholders regarding the rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Airforwarders Association  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Association of Port Authorities  
American Trucking Associations  
Agricultural and Food Transporters Conference

Docket No. APHIS-2009-0047

June 13, 2014

Page Two

Association of Ship Brokers and Agents  
ASOEX (Chilean Fresh Fruit Exporters Association)  
Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance  
Chamber of Shipping of America  
Cruise Lines International Association  
Diamond State Port Corporation/Port of Wilmington, Delaware  
Express Delivery and Logistics Association  
**Florida Ports Council**  
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses  
International Refrigerated Transportation Association  
Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Maritime Organizations  
National Custom Brokers and Forwarders Association of America  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Pest Management Association  
North American Export Grain Association  
Port of Virginia  
Passenger Vessel Association  
The National Industrial Transportation League  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
United States Great Lakes Shipping Association  
World Shipping Council

Cc: The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
The Honorable Ron Wyden  
The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
The Honorable Frank Lucas  
The Honorable Collin Peterson  
The Honorable Dave Camp  
The Honorable Sander Levin  
The Honorable Richard Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner, CBP

**TAB 9**  
**OTHER ISSUES**

**From:** Scott for Florida Communications

**Date:** May 20, 2014 at 8:30:31 AM EDT

**Subject: Governor Rick Scott To Announce \$1 Billion Commitment To Florida Ports And Unveil Let's Keep FLORIDA PORTS Working Plan**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 20, 2014

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## **Governor Rick Scott To Announce \$1 Billion Commitment To Florida Ports And Unveil Let's Keep FLORIDA PORTS Working Plan**

**Tallahassee, FL** – Governor Rick Scott will travel to JAXPORT, Port Tampa Bay and Port Canaveral this week to discuss his commitment to Florida ports and trade infrastructure by announcing \$1 billion for ports over his eight-year term in office. Over the past four years, Florida has invested over \$700 million dollars in port and port-related or trade-related infrastructure under Governor Scott's leadership.

**STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT:** "As we work to create even more jobs for the next generation, investing in our ports is key to our success. Our ports are our connection to global commerce and the world. If we want to become a destination for the world's tourists and for the world's jobs – we have to keep investing in our ports.

"While many states waited on Washington to help fund infrastructure needs, Florida never waited on the federal government to step in and help us be more competitive or successful. In Florida, we have made investments in our seaports and expedited funding for major ports projects and I am proud we are committing to invest a total of \$1 billion in Florida's ports over our entire eight-year term in office."

According to the Florida Ports Council, cruise and cargo activity at Florida ports generate more than 680,000 direct and indirect jobs and \$96 billion in total economic value. For every \$1.00 invested in Florida seaports, Florida's economy experiences \$6.90 in economic activity.

Please find a .pdf version of Governor Scott's Let's Keep FLORIDA PORTS Working Plan [HERE](#).

G O V E R N O R  
**RICK SCOTT**

**LET'S KEEP WORKING**  
*FLORIDA PORTS*





# FLORIDA PORTS LET'S KEEP WORKING

## Governor Rick Scott Commits to \$1 Billion Investment in Florida Ports and Trade Infrastructure During Term

### GOVERNOR SCOTT'S PORT LEADERSHIP AND INVESTMENT

Under Governor Rick Scott's leadership, Florida has positioned itself as a major force in international trade and job creation through support for our seaports. According to the Florida Ports Council, cruise and cargo activity at Florida ports generate more than 680,000 direct and indirect jobs and \$96.6 billion in total economic value.<sup>1</sup> For every \$1.00 invested in Florida seaports, the state's economy sees an additional \$6.90 in economic activity.<sup>2</sup> For Governor Scott, this focus on Florida's seaport and related freight infrastructure is about creating long-lasting, quality careers for Florida families.

According to an August 2012 report on North American Ports by Colliers International, "[t]he expansion of the Panama Canal will alter global trade routes and is already promoting the advancement of the science of logistics. The expansion will impact more than just shipping companies: Retail supply chains, manufacturers and commodity traders will each feel the effects of new access to eastern ports."<sup>3</sup> This expected dynamic shift in global trade presents Florida, uniquely positioned as a gateway to North, Central and South America, a generational opportunity to create a new economy and new jobs in the Sunshine State.

*"Governor Scott's leadership and focus on making wise investments in our ports, as recommended by the Florida Chamber's Trade & Logistics Study, has positioned Florida to become a global hub for trade, boosted economic growth and put our state in line to create 150,000 good paying jobs in the next five years. It's clear we need **four more years of this kind of leadership** that puts Florida's long-term interests ahead of short-term politics."*

**Mark Wesson, President and CEO – Florida Chamber of Commerce**

These related industries are a major source of jobs for Floridians. In addition to Florida's 15 public seaports, Florida is home to 19 airports with commercial service. This includes "the nation's top hub for international air cargo," more than 2,700 miles of roads and 12,000 miles of state highways that help provide the infrastructure to support 60,000 exporting businesses, 20,000 importing businesses and hundreds of thousands of "jobs in transportation, trade and logistics" that "pay 30 percent more than the statewide average."<sup>4</sup>

Florida is already a leader in trade with Latin America and the Caribbean. With the expected growth of the global economy, particularly in Central and South America, Florida is positioned, geographically and strategically, to continue to create great jobs for Florida families in trade industries. Further investments in Florida's trade infrastructure can help build our leadership in trade with Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, these investments can help create new opportunities with trading partners as our ports become more competitive in new markets such as Asia and other parts of the world.

Since his election in 2010, Governor Scott has remained focused on the significant impact investments in Florida's trade infrastructure have had on jobs and economic growth. Under his watch, Florida has seen historic investments in its seaports and expedited funding for major ports projects. These investments are critical to making Florida a leader in handling new mega cargo ships that will come with the expansion of the Panama Canal. But, the job growth potential for Florida does not end with the Panama Canal expansion. Because of Governor Scott's efforts, Florida is poised to lead the nation in expanded international trade opportunities as all of its ports are strategically positioned to gain new business.

## GOVERNOR SCOTT'S LEADERSHIP DID NOT WAIT ON FEDS

When the federal government dragged its feet, Governor Scott stepped up to ensure that Florida did not miss out on a generational opportunity with PortMiami's Deep Dredge project. Because of the Governor's efforts, "The *Deep Dredge* will make PortMiami the only U.S. port south of Norfolk, Virginia, that can accommodate the new, mega cargo vessels that will pass through the expanded Panama Canal," paving the way for 33,000 new jobs in the region and \$34 billion in annual economic impact.<sup>5</sup>

*"The Florida Chamber of Commerce has had the good fortune to travel on many of the ten trade missions Governor Scott has led around the world since he was elected, and I can say from firsthand experience he is a great cheerleader and promoter for the state of Florida and all the things we are doing right in our state. After all, the proof is in the results. Florida companies that participated in those missions have seen an increase in \$474 million in their exports."*

**David Hart, Executive Vice President – Florida Chamber of Commerce**

His support didn't end there. Since 2011, Governor Scott pushed for funding for major projects throughout the state, ensuring Florida has the chance to capitalize on new trading opportunities throughout its seaports. With these continued investments under Gov. Scott's leadership, the state's entire port system is poised to transform Florida into a shipping and logistics leader not only in the United States, but around the world.

To further prioritize the improvement of Florida's seaport infrastructure, Gov. Scott also signed legislation in 2012 creating Florida's Strategic Port Investment Initiative (SPII). This initiative, housed within the Department of Transportation, helped to create a dedicated funding source for Florida seaport investment. This program provides a minimum of \$35 million per year from the State Transportation Trust Fund, to further Florida's efforts to become the number one state for international trade and port infrastructure.

In December 2011, the Department of Transportation created Florida's first office of Freight, Logistics, and Passenger Operations adding another dimension to Florida's future in trade and logistics. Working closely with industry, the Office has made Florida a nationwide leader in the United States in the development of a comprehensive freight plan to guide the state's trade- and logistics-related economic development decisions into the future. Additionally, Governor Scott has also focused on advancing Florida's logistics capabilities through the Intermodal Logistics Center (ILC) Support Program. The program's previous awardees that helped support and create a total of 1,213 direct and indirect jobs, include: Port Manatee Commerce Center, Keystone ILC Terminal (Jacksonville), South Florida Logistics Center (Miami) and the Port Panama City Intermodal Distribution Center. This program offers economic benefits to all Floridians by supporting job creation at ILCs that are responsible for moving freight through our ports, manufacturing and the seamless transfer of freight.

*"Governor Scott's commitment to seaport infrastructure and growing Florida's economy began on day one of his administration and this year marks four years of **historic appropriations** (over \$100 million annually) to seaport projects across the state."*

**– Val Schwec, chairman of the Florida Ports Council**

## **BECOMING THE TOP STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PORT INFRASTRUCTURE—HOW WILL WE GET THERE?**

### **1 Continue investing in Seaport Infrastructure**

- Invest more than \$1.1 billion in Florida trade infrastructure over eight years
- Continue support for Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program and Strategic Port Investment Initiative at the current, historic levels
- Ensure that Miami Deep Dredge is completed on time
- Support new dredge and infrastructure projects at other Florida ports to continue to elevate the competitiveness of the entire Florida ports system

### **2 Develop and Execute Florida's Freight and Logistics Capabilities**

- Continue support of the Intermodal Logistics Center support program, which provides a \$5 million annual allocation to help construct access improvements for centers planned and funded with private sector funds
- Highlight Florida's freight strengths so that shipping companies, freight consumers and international trading partners see Florida as a state competitive and cost-effective partner that can handle their freight needs and get goods quickly to market
- Ensure that transportation infrastructure and regulatory requirements allow for the development of major national distribution centers for companies after their freight enters through our ports

### **3 Market Florida Ports In-State to Capture the Florida Inbound Cargo Market**

- Highlight and market recent advances in Florida's trade infrastructure that make our ports a new and better option for Florida companies to receive their cargo
- Work with our ports, their boards, and local and regional economic development offices to ensure that as many Florida businesses as possible receive their cargo through Florida ports

### **4 Market Florida Ports Around the Nation and the World to Develop New Trading Partners for Florida and its Ports**

- Market Florida ports' infrastructure improvements and increased capabilities to handle the business of existing and new US trading partners, and major shipping companies
- Pursue opportunities to further increase its share of Asian imports by focusing its efforts through its Japan and China Trade Offices, which received recurring funding in the Legislature this year, to ensure that Florida ports and companies are visible to major shipping companies handling Asian cargo

### **5 Manufacture More Goods in Florida to Create Jobs and Fix the "Empty Container" Problem**

- Fix Florida's "empty container problem" by growing Florida origin exports
- Continue to focus on developing advanced manufacturing opportunities so that Florida businesses can maximize their global trading potential and become a source of further international trading opportunities through Florida ports

## DESTINATION OPPORTUNITY: THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA PORTS

### ⦿ Port Everglades Southport Turning Notch

- Lengthen the deepwater turnaround area for ships, allowing a single-berth slip to accommodate five ships
- Expand capacity to 730,000 TEU once fully completed
- 2,227 construction jobs, 5,529 direct and indirect jobs once completed by 2027

### ⦿ PortMiami Tunnel

- Tunnel project that will connect MacArthur Causeway (SR-A1A) to Dodge Island, connecting the port with I-95 and I-395, a major development in transportation connectivity for the region
- Part of the 33,000 new jobs estimated by the Port

### ⦿ PortMiami Deep Dredge

- Major construction to deepen cargo shipping channel to 50 feet
- 33,000 new jobs, on top of 207,000 jobs already supported in region directly and indirectly, increase economic impact to region to \$34 billion from \$27 billion annually

### ⦿ Port Tampa Bay

- Major project that will provide new berthing facilities, dredging, warehouse space, cargo handling and storage capabilities, helping to support expansion of current container terminal facility
- 525 construction jobs, retain 2,500 existing jobs and up to 1,400 new permanent jobs

### ⦿ Port of Palm Beach Slip Redevelopment

- Redevelopment of port slips improve overall cargo operations
- 570 jobs

### ⦿ Port Panama City

- Container terminal expansion to improve internal capacity and circulation for the ports growing cargo opportunities
- 400 jobs

### ⦿ JAXPORT Blount Island Terminal

- Redevelopment of major terminal facilities allowing the port to improve infrastructure and handle heavier cargo

### ⦿ Port Manatee Berth Reconstruction

- Renovation of existing berths that handle 50% of Port Manatee cargo
- 595 construction jobs, 180 permanent new jobs

### ⦿ Port Canaveral Northside Development Container Yard

- Rehab North Cargo Berth 5&6 to create a state-of-the-art container terminal at Port Canaveral
- 400 total jobs

### ⦿ Port Everglades Intermodal Container Transfer Facility

- Intermodal hub to transfer ship and rail cargo, international and domestic

### ⦿ Port Manatee Cold Storage Warehouse

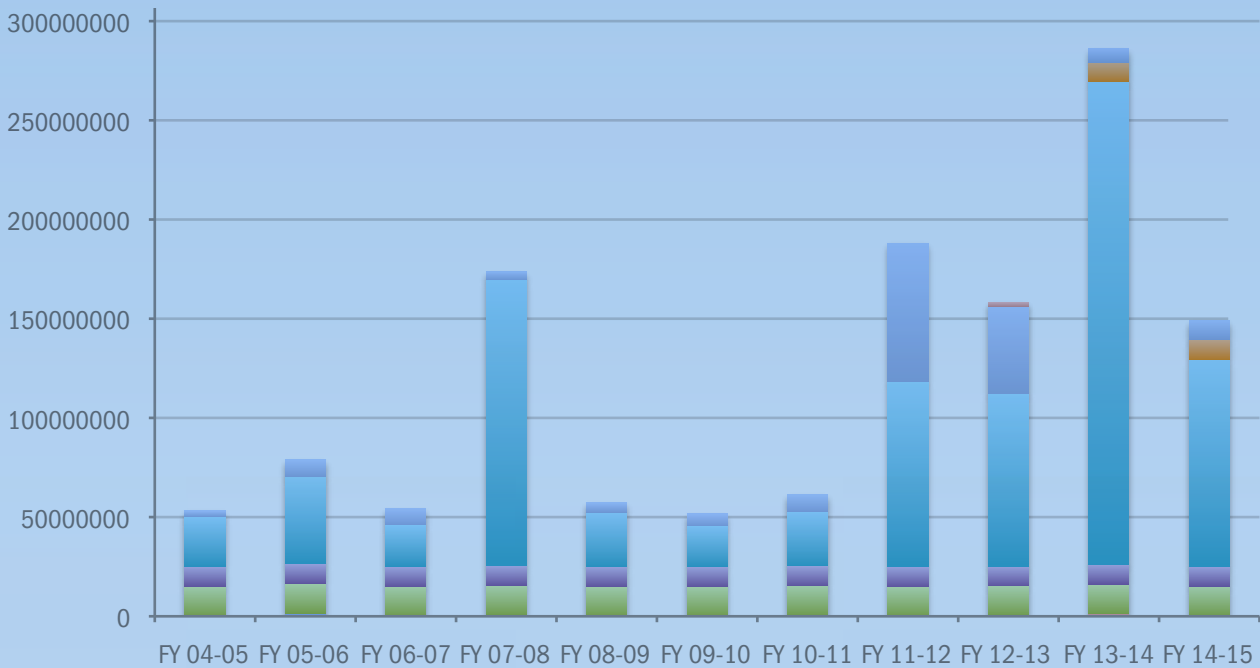
- Construction of state-of-the-art, nearly 200,000 square foot cold storage facility

### ⦿ Port Manatee Intermodal Container and Cargo Transfer Yard

- Creation of new outside storage locations to handle additional cargo



## FLORIDA TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING 10-YEAR HISTORY



- Economic Development Transportation Projects
- Intermodal Development/Grants
- Seaport Investment Program
- Seaport Grants
- Seaports Access Program
- Seaport - Economic Development
- Transportation Planning Consulting
- County Transportation Programs



## GOVERNOR SCOTT CUT TAXES ON MANUFACTURERS

The Governor's continued effort to grow manufacturing jobs in Florida will fuel the investments Florida has made in its ports. When Gov. Scott took office, Florida was one of only a few states that charged a sales tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment. Working with the Legislature, Governor Scott pushed to eliminate this tax, making clear to new and existing manufacturers Florida was open for their businesses to grow. This focus is critical in maximizing port investments in Florida as well. According to the Florida Chamber Foundation's *Florida: Made for Trade*, "the total tonnage of good moving into Florida from both U.S. and international sources is nearly twice the tonnage leaving the state—suggesting that a large number of ships, containers, cars, and trucks leave the state empty or less than fully loaded." Governor Scott's focus on fixing Florida's "empty container problem" by increasing Florida origin exports will ensure that Floridians have more opportunities for jobs in both manufacturing and as a result of increased activity in our ports.

## RESULTS ARE SHOWING ALREADY

A Florida Chamber study produced in 2011 indicated that only 55% of containerized waterborne imports bound for Florida is directly handled through Florida ports. Recent investments, however, have already dramatically shifted the playing field in favor of Florida ports.<sup>6</sup> In the past four years, the share of Florida Asian containerized cargo imports directly handled by Florida ports has increased by 9 percentage points (from 38% to 47%), or 145,000 containers (TEUs). These goods are consumed in Florida, but previously moved into Florida through non-Florida ports like Savannah and Los Angeles/Long Beach. This capture of additional Florida-bound freight represents 1,377 direct, induced and indirect jobs, \$9.4 million in state and local tax revenues and \$74 million in direct business revenue.<sup>7</sup>

This growth in jobs and trade in Florida is a direct result of investments made by the state and local seaports in transportation infrastructure. These investments have made Florida's seaports more competitive with other ports such as Savannah, Mobile, Houston and Charleston. Now a vessel movement from Hong Kong to a deepwater Florida port, such as PortMiami, via a post-Panamax container ship will be much faster and cheaper than movements through other seaports.

Further, Florida is beginning to capitalize on its long-stated goal of capturing more of the market for Florida bound imports. For instance, in 2012 Walt Disney World made a historic shift and began importing goods destined for its parks in Orlando through JAXPORT, a major victory demonstrating the progress that Florida ports have made. As infrastructure upgrades at Florida ports continue, more Florida companies will find it beneficial to use our ports instead of going through other out-of-state ports.

Together, all of these investments and improvements are critical to creating good jobs and long lasting careers for Florida families.

*"Economic data shows that maritime jobs and economic benefits in Florida have returned to pre-recession levels and in many cases have increased. Governor Scott's leadership has resulted in a strategic statewide economic focus that has notified the global business community of Florida's commitment to freight infrastructure and improving their ability to get goods to market."*

**— Doug Wheeler, President and CEO of the Florida Ports Council<sup>2</sup>**

### Endnotes

1 *Fast Facts 2013*, Florida Ports Council. 2 Cambridge Systematics, Inc. study for Florida Department of Transportation, July 2006. 3 Colliers International White Paper, "North American Port Analysis," August 2012. 4 Florida Chamber Foundation, *Florida Trade and Logistics Study 2.0, "Florida: Made for Trade,"* 2013. 5 Port Miami website: <http://www.miamidade.gov/portmiami/deep-dredge.asp> 6 Florida Chamber Foundation, *Florida Trade and Logistics Study*, 2010. 7 The Florida Ports Council



Standard & Poor's rating on the FPFC's  
2011A and 2011B Bonds

# RatingsDirect®

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## Summary:

### Florida Port Financing Commission; Miscellaneous Tax

#### Primary Credit Analyst:

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## Summary:

# Florida Port Financing Commission; Miscellaneous Tax

### Credit Profile

Florida Port Financing Commission refunding revenue bonds (State Transportation Trust Fund-Intermodal Program)

Long Term Rating

AA+/Stable

Affirmed

### Rationale

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its 'AA+' rating on Florida Port Financing Commission's (State Transportation Trust Fund [STTF]-Intermodal Program) series 2011A and 2011B refunding revenue bonds.

The 'AA+' rating reflects our view of the following factors:

- The pledge of motor vehicle license tax revenues levied state wide to cover a \$10 million transfer annually from the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) STTF to support debt service pursuant to Florida statutes 320.20(4). The distribution is subordinate to the constitutional funding commitment for the Florida Board of Education (capital outlay and debt service fund) which has ranged from \$104 million to \$120 million in the past 10 years, a \$25 million deposit to the STTF, and a \$15 million commitment to the Florida Port Commission, which secures another series of bonds.
- Steady growth of motor vehicle license revenues over time. Fiscal 2013 revenues totaled \$765 million, representing average annual growth of 3.4% increase since 2001. Current projections by the Florida Revenue Estimating Conference show steady annual growth in this tax source through 2023.
- Strong coverage from the revenue source covering the transfer that supports debt service on these bonds even when factoring in prior-lien commitments. For the most recent audit year, pledged revenues covered all lien obligations by 4.5x. Coverage is projected to remain above 2x even after the reductions in rates.
- The lack of additional parity authorization.

There is no debt service reserve funded for this issue, which is offset by the requirement that the DOT transfer the entire \$10 million on the first day of the fiscal year to a trustee-held escrow fund. Each borrower under this program has assigned its right to receive funds from the STTF directly to a trustee that provides the funding source for the \$10 million transfer to the escrow fund. There is a 1x debt service coverage requirement for this issue.

Pursuant to state statute, there will be no impairment of debt service payments. Under the master agreement between the DOT and the Florida Port Financing Commission, the \$10 million must be programmed annually as a budget item by the DOT until all bond obligations are paid off. The master agreement also states that payments must be made by the DOT regardless of any disputes that may develop with the commission, trustee, or the individual ports. There is no offset, abatement, or counterclaim of the payment obligation allowed pursuant to the master agreement.

The Florida Constitution requires motor vehicle license tax revenues first be allocated for educational capital outlay projects. Funds for capital outlay purposes are allocated based on a school enrollment formula, with the distribution in



fiscal 2013 equal to \$120 million compared to total revenues of \$765 million. After satisfying education capital outlay requirements, \$25 million motor vehicle license tax revenues are dedicated by statute 320.20(2) to be deposited into the STTF, followed by a \$15 million allocation securing the Florida Port Financing Commission's series 2011A and 2011B state transportation trust fund revenue bonds pursuant to Florida Statutes 320.20(3), the \$10 million allocation for this bond issue pursuant to FS 320.20(4), and then various other uses including (but not limited to) the STTF, Highway Safety Operating Fund, State Law Enforcement Radio System Trust Fund, and transfers to local governments.

Florida's economy continues to improve at a strong pace and is gaining momentum, but given the depth of the recession in the state, it still has a long way to go before it fully recovers. According to IHS Global Insight, Florida's payrolls grew by 2.0% year over year in December 2013 and the state is expected to outpace the U.S. in terms of employment growth through 2017. Annual motor vehicle licensing has been required in Florida since 1917, with reclassifications of vehicles and rate changes occurring several times. According to projections from the state's most recent revenue estimating conference, motor vehicle license tax revenues will continue experience positive growth through 2023. The state had increased rates in 2009 during the depths of the recession but recently rolled them back to 2009 levels as part of the governor's 2015 budget proposal. The revenue reduction is estimated at \$395 million in fiscal 2015 and \$433.6 million by 2019. Although, in our view, revenue could decline based on the rollback to 2009 rates, Florida's economic growth will help to partially mitigate some of the impact of the revenue reductions and continue to contribute to strong debt service coverage.

This bond program was established pursuant to state statute to finance the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program and for funding seaport intermodal access projects of statewide significance. Bond proceeds fund loans made by the Florida Port Commission to certain participating ports to finance, refinance, or reimburse state-approved capital projects. Of Florida's 14 deepwater ports, 10 participate in this bond program. The largest allocations have gone to Jacksonville Port Authority (\$35 million), Port of Miami (\$32 million), and Tampa Port Authority (\$26.6 million). Additional parity debt may be issued in the future for additional projects, subject to a 1x additional bonds test, but there is no capacity under the current debt service structure.

## Outlook

The taxes supporting this bond issue are levied statewide and have experienced steady growth over time, affording a high debt service coverage level of all obligations secured by pledged revenues. Although the rollback to 2009 rates could translated into weaker revenues, the stable outlook reflects our view that a healthy economic recovery will help to partially mitigate potential revenue declines and contribute to still-strong coverage levels.

## Related Criteria And Research

### Related Criteria

USPF Criteria: Special Tax Bonds, June 13, 2007

**TAB 10**  
**ADJOURNMENT**

# **GUEST SPEAKER BIOS**



# **Lori A. Baer**

**Vice President, Ports and Marine Lead  
AECOM**

Lori A. Baer has served government and the seaport industry with a focus on team-building and governmental interface on local, state, regional, national and global levels. Currently vice president and ports and marine lead for AECOM, Ms. Baer is a recognized consultant to the port industry, with experience gained in executive positions with PortMiami and the Port of Palm Beach, as well as the American Association of Port Authorities. Ms. Baer plays a role in achievement of critical objectives in transportation, environment, land-use, waterfront redevelopment and security disciplines. Throughout her consulting career, Ms. Baer has served as a trusted bridge between industry and community stakeholders, as well as the full spectrum of government entities, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, state Departments of Transportation, metropolitan planning organizations and environmental and regulatory agencies. Ms. Baer is a lifelong Florida resident and a graduate of The Florida State University.

Frances M. Bohnsack  
DOT/Maritime Administration  
South Atlantic Gateway

Dr. Fran Bohnsack is the South Atlantic Gateway Director for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) with responsibilities to assist ports in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. She is responsible for the strategic planning, execution, and management of projects that advance the Department of Transportation's objectives to enhance safety, promote the marine transportation system and economic growth, reduce congestion, protect the environment, and support emergency preparedness.

Before joining MARAD in January of 2011, Dr. Bohnsack served as the Executive Director of the Miami River Marine Group and Port Director of the river's terminal cooperative, a non-profit trade association representing cargo carriers serving the Caribbean, Central, and South America. As President of the Port of Miami Propeller Club and a Board Member of the Port of Miami Crane Management Committee, Inc. Dr. Bohnsack has been recognized by the local and regional Propeller Clubs as the Member of the Year and as the Marine Council's Person of the Year. In 2008, the Marine Industries Association of South Florida presented her with its annual Award of Excellence. In 2010, she received one of six national awards given by Boat USA for "Commitment to Boating Access." Dr. Bohnsack has also been recognized by the *Journal of Commerce* as one of Florida's Outstanding Women in Transportation, by *The Florida Shipper* as an Outstanding Leader in Transportation, and by the World Trade Center Miami for Exceptional Leadership in Promoting Trade.

Dr. Bohnsack received her Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 1988. In addition to her maritime activities, D. Bohnsack has served on numerous environmental boards in South Florida's Miami-Dade County where she resides.

