

CORBA'S CURRENTS

CENTRAL OHIO RIVER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Mission: To promote commerce, safety/security, environmental stewardship, and public relations for the Central Ohio River Valley Region including Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana

NEWS YOU CAN USE... from Chairman Scott James

The Ports of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky is still ranked #1 for total inland port tonnage in the United States. The top ranking was revealed in the latest data available (the 2018 rankings) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which shows our Port region handled 38.5 million tons of commodities over the course of the year. **Congratulations to ALL!**

The 5th Annual CORBA Golf Outing set for September 1 at Aston Oaks Golf Club is filling up fast.

In addition, BB Riverboats, a CORBA member, is excited to announce our reopening. We are following all of the policies and procedures that have been given to us by the CDC, the Northern Kentucky Health Department, the FDA, the United States Coast Guard, and the Passenger Vessel Association. We have been cruising since Memorial Day and everyone is so happy to be back out on the river! As demand increases, and capacity restrictions allow, we will continue to offer more cruises. Currently we are cruising Wednesday-Sunday each week. Please call 859/261-8500 or visit our website at www.bbriverboats.com for more information and reservations.



Worth Reading.....

CORBA Connects to Local Chambers and Beyond Debbly Shipp

Editor's note: Mrs. Debbly Shipp is the new Director of Partnership Development at Thomas More University. For several years before accepting this role, Mrs. Shipp was the Vice President, International Affairs and Business Growth for the Northern Kentucky chamber of Commerce where she also led the Northern Kentucky International Trade Association (NKITA).

For the past four years I have worked with various subject matter experts to deliver programming for regional businesses to help them grow and strengthen their relationship with the community and the world. We helped businesses by coordinating meetings that facilitated and improved alliances and partnerships to maximize international trade. The Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Region is fortunate to have considerable foreign direct investment by companies providing worldwide logistics and manufacturing. On many occasions, I have heard executives of foreign-owned companies with facilities located in this region state how bewildering it was that businesses in this area underutilized the river for commerce and the transportation of goods.

New Members

Welcome:

Great Lakes Power

Upcoming Events

ORCO Columbus Meeting

Q4 – Date to be announced

CORBA Regional Maritime Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 2
11am, Via Zoom

CORBA Golf Outing

Tuesday, September 1
10am Shotgun Start

Aston Oaks Golf Club
North Bend, OH

Next CORBA Member Meeting

Fall 2020...details coming

If you would like to be a featured "Member of the Month" please send an email to corba.info@gmail.com

Websites of Interest

CORIS

<https://centralohioriver-businessassociation.com/cor-is/>

Their comments inspired me to connect with The Central Ohio River Business Association (CORBA) to find out more about river logistics. From this, I have learned firsthand how dedicated the CORBA Steering Committee is in the promoting of river commerce for the Ports of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. One of their many achievements is the recent designation of a new short-haul service along on the U.S. Marine Highway Route M-70 making it an approved project eligible for federal grant funding. The designation enables ports, companies and governments that utilizes the river to transport goods the opportunity to apply for funding with the U.S. government. Of particular interest to foreign-owned companies in this region is this funding can be used to improve the movement of commodities on and off of cargo ships and barges from the Ohio River directly on to trucks. Having the ability to utilize the Ohio River for most of the delivery route, means less fuel expense, less trucks and less wear and tear on our highways.

Last year I was privileged to serve on a committee with the Covington Rotary and Thomas More University that hosted foreign scientist studying watershed management. This was the part of Rotary International's "service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders". As a member of the committee, I was reminded that Thomas More University owns and operates the Ohio River Biology Field Station, a teaching and research facility along the banks of the River in California, KY, 17 miles upstream of downtown Cincinnati. Since 1967, students and faculty have been conducting research on water quality and offering STEM Outreach programs to K-12 schools. Dr. Lorentz, TMU's Biology professor and Field Station Director informed the committee and visitors that over the past five decades of research at the Field Station, they have documented improvements in the health of the ecosystem and water quality of the Ohio River. He said, alongside its natural resources, the Ohio River serves as a valuable resource for industry, transportation, and recreation and is a major driving force of the economy for the Greater Cincinnati region and beyond.

I could not agree more with TMU's Dr. Lorentz and CORBA that the Ohio River is a valuable asset that should be developed, preserved, and celebrated for the value it can provide this region.

BOST INTRODUCES BILL TO HELP INLAND PORTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Bost (IL-12) today introduced bipartisan legislation to increase access to critical federal funding for small ports, terminals, and waterways. Bost’s bill, the **Coastal and Inland Ports and Terminals Commerce Improvements Act**, establishes a competitive grant matching program for projects at smaller ports and terminals AND makes privately-owned terminals that are important contributors of our maritime commerce system eligible for assistance.

“America’s inland ports and terminals are a vital and undervalued contributor to the movement of commerce,” said Aimee Andres, Executive Director of Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc. of East Alton, Illinois.

“Every year, 575 million tons of cargo travels through our inland ports and waterways, including America’s Central Port and Kaskaskia Port in Southern Illinois” **said Bost.** *“Half a million American jobs depend upon inland shipping, yet these ports are at a disadvantage when competing for federal grants. Improving these facilities will have a big impact on our economy and help make local farmers, miners, and manufacturers more competitive in the marketplace.”*

In 2019, Congress enacted the *PORTS Act* to provide matching grants for enhancing operations and efficiency investments at our larger ports. Bost’s *Coastal and land Ports and Terminals Commerce Improvements Act*, which was co-sponsored by U.S. Rep Conor Lamb (D-PA), expands upon the success of the *PORTS Act* by better utilizing an existing set-aside to establish a similar competitive grant matching program for smaller coastal and inland ports and terminals.

“The legislation sponsored by Congressman Bost (R-IL) and Congressman Lamb (D-PA), addresses inequities in existing law that have placed smaller coastal ports and terminals at a disadvantage when competing for infrastructure investments and create long-term sustainability. We appreciate their leadership on this important issue to IRPT Members”, said Andres.

This historic piece of legislation, which allows private terminals eligibility, is truly bi-partisan. The bill, sponsored by Bost (R-IL) and Lamb (D-PA), is co-sponsored by Congressmen Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), Bob Gibbs (R-OH), and Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV), Congressman Dave Loebsack (D-IA) and Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (D-MO).

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$9.5 Million in Grants for America’s Marine Highways

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) awarded \$9.5 million in grants to eight marine highways projects across the Nation under the America’s Marine Highway Program. The funding supports the enhancement of navigable waterways and expands existing waterborne freight services in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, New York, New Jersey, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington and American Samoa.

“This Federal assistance will provide additional options to reduce congestion on the roads and help the surrounding local communities’ and the regions’ economic recovery,” said Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

The America’s Marine Highway Program promotes the increased use of the Nation’s navigable waterways to ensure landside congestion relief, new and efficient transportation options, and increased performance of the surface transportation system. The program works with public and private stakeholders to achieve these goals.

Of the eight projects that were awarded grants, seven are located in Opportunity Zones, which were created to revitalize low-income and economically distressed communities using private investment. Low-income communities are nominated by U.S. States, U.S. possessions, and the District of Columbia and then certified by the U. S. Secretary of the Treasury as Opportunity Zones. Opportunity Zones have been certified in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

“The continued expansion and modernization of the U.S. marine transportation system benefits the maritime industry. U.S. waterway freight systems offer a safe and efficient option for shippers and reduce road traffic and emissions while providing jobs, commerce, and crucial resources to dozens of communities across multiple states,” said Maritime Administrator Mark H. Buzby.

Since 2016, the Maritime Administration has provided \$33.8 million in grants for the America’s Marine Highway Program. A total of 18 eligible marine highway projects has received funding assistance to further improve the transportation system and national security by adding to the nation’s strategic sealift resources and providing transportation alternatives during times of disaster or national emergency.

Projects receiving funding are:

Illinois

M-35/M-55 Container on Barge Service (awarded \$1,268,800) (Opportunity Zone) Sponsored by America’s Central Port District, the grant will support the purchase of a 275-ton crane, eighteen cameras and their installation, and a Container Tilter. America’s Central Port District Container Handling and Securing Equipment Project will bring efficient container on barge movement to the St. Louis area on the M-55. In addition to increasing container-on barge movement, this award will revitalize some of these areas and recreate the strong heritage of river transportation.

Indiana

M-70 Barge Service in the Ports of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky and Beyond (awarded \$545,136) (Opportunity Zone) Sponsored by Ports of Indiana, the grant will establish a new storage facility and support expansion of its existing Marine Highway service between Nucor Gallatin in Ghent, Kentucky and the Port of Indiana-Jeffersonville. Components include the construction of an outdoor laydown area and the purchase of a forklift. This award will create supply chain efficiencies for Nucor and the private sector partners as well as generate public benefits by taking over 2,000 trucks off the highways and eliminating more than 130,000 miles in one-way truck hauls per year.

Kentucky

M-70 Barge Service in the Ports of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky and Beyond (awarded \$2,363,800) (Opportunity Zone) Sponsored by OKI (Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments), Nucor Steel Brandenburg was awarded the grant to support the construction of a marine

terminal and consists of two re-purposed casino barges. By moving cargo via barge on the Ohio River, the marine terminal is expected to employ approximately 20 people with full-time jobs in the material handling and stevedoring functions as well as related jobs for fleet boat operators and deckhands. In addition, this award will help stimulate the U.S. shipbuilding industry on America's inland waterways.

Louisiana, Tennessee

Baton Rouge-New Orleans Shuttle of the M-55 (awarded \$778,350)

Sponsored by the Port of New Orleans, SEACOR AMH was awarded the grant to provide permanent dunnage fabrication and installation in 29 of its existing pool of barges. Permanent dunnage fabrication will increase utilization of the barges. The award will support the continued growth of the Memphis, Tennessee, to Port Allen, Louisiana, container shuttle service and allow the movement of 10 percent more containers per barge.

New York, New Jersey

M-95 New York Harbor Container and Trailer-on-Barge Service (awarded \$308,000) (Opportunity Zone)

Sponsored by the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the US Coastal Service Inc. was awarded the grant to support the launch of a new barge service between Kearny Point, New Jersey, and Newtown Creek, New York. The award will fund the planning, permitting, and engineering studies required to start operation. This service will establish New York Harbor and its ports as a premier marine highway hub for barge services while reducing traffic by eliminating up to 6,000 truck-miles per week.

New York, New Jersey

New York Harbor Container and Trailer-on-Barge Service (awarded \$148,664) (Opportunity Zone)

Sponsored by The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Red Hook Container Terminal, LLC. was awarded the grant to purchase low-emission yard tractors to support barge operations in the New York and New Jersey Harbor. The procurement of these new yard tractors will reduce cargo delays, operating costs, highway maintenance costs, and diesel emissions.

Oregon, Washington

Port of Morrow M-84 Barge Service Expansion (awarded \$3,200,000) (Opportunity Zone)

Sponsored by the Port of Morrow, Tidewater Barge Lines, Inc. was awarded the grant to support the expansion of barge services from the Port of Morrow in Boardman, Oregon, to Vancouver, Washington. The expansion will include the procurement of a new barge capable of handling a combination of containers that will ultimately alleviate area traffic by diverting freight to the underutilized M-84 corridor.

American Samoa

Port and Landside Infrastructure Improvements/Port of Pago Pago American Samoa (awarded \$943,000) (Opportunity Zone)

Sponsored by the Port of Pago Pago American Samoa, the grant will be used to purchase a yard floodlighting system, rehabilitate the dock fendering system, resurface the container yard, and procure forklifts. Funding this project will increase the port's ability to be more flexible with its operations area, resulting in an increase in the overall productivity of port facilities.

RMC

The Regional Maritime Committee conducted a Zoom Virtual meeting on July 1, 2020. The meeting was quite robust, with several newsworthy topics being presented.

Robyn Bancroft announced that MARAD AMH grants had been awarded to Nucor Steel for work being completed at their Brandenburg facility and to the Port of Jeffersonville for infrastructure and materials handling equipment improvements. Although not in CORBA's designated port area, the M-70 Marine Highway designation announced in February and these grants bring attention to the Ohio River. Robyn also announced that both Cincinnati Bulk Terminals and Benchmark River and Rail Terminals have applied for grants under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program that is administered by the Federal Rail Association.

Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL) has introduced HB 7416, Coastal and Inland Ports and Terminals Commerce Improvements Act. This is important because it establishes a grant matching program for projects at smaller ports and terminals and makes PRIVATELY OWNED TERMINALS eligible for assistance. Members are encouraged to look into the details of the Bill and contact our local representatives, asking for their support.

Jeremy Edgeworth, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, announced that the Metro Analytics has been engaged to complete an updated transportation study. The next step is to canvas stakeholders and for the advisory committee.

Regional Maritime Committee 2.0

Next meeting: September 2nd at 11am.

Ohio Maritime Assistance Program

The Ohio General Assembly recently enacted the Ohio Maritime Assistance Program (MAP) which is the first significant source of ODOT funding dedicated exclusively to water-based freight infrastructure in decades.

This competitive grant program makes \$23 million of funding available to eligible Ohio port authorities on Lake Erie, the Ohio River or a Lake Erie tributary. Eleven million is available in SFY 2020 and \$12 million in SFY 2021. ODOT will be consolidating the funding into a single call for projects to simplify the application process and to allow for projects of a greater scale. The MAP requires a 50% match.

A wide variety of projects are eligible to receive funding under the MAP. Examples include the improvement of construction of maritime cargo facilities, improvements to shipping channels and the purchase of heavy equipment for cargo loading and unloading. In addition to capital expenses, the funding may be used for right-of-way acquisition, environmental remediation and the planning and engineering work required for maritime freight improvement projects. The legislation requires that project will result in the handling of new types of cargo or an increase in cargo volume.

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/5501.91v1>

<http://www.maritime.ohio.gov>

ORCO

The Ohio River Coalition of Ohio (ORCO) advocates for commerce, job creation, and economic development through use of the Ohio River system as an integral part of Ohio's freight transportation network. ORCO is a coalition of various Ohio entities all along 451 miles of the Ohio River reaching from East Liverpool to Cincinnati. ORCO was created to develop a strategy and messaging to advance Ohio's maritime interests and concerns throughout Ohio, especially to the legislature. ORCO participants meet by phone once per quarter and plan a meeting in Columbus once a year in the spring. **The Columbus meeting is scheduled for Q4 – date to be announced.** For more information about joining please contact Sandy Brown at corba.info@gmail.com.