

PORT CURRENTS

THE PORT OF VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to The Port of Virginia's new community newsletter

Welcome to the most recent edition of Port Currents, a quarterly newsletter about what is happening at America's most modern port. Being a good neighbor in our host communities is important and we believe that communicating with you is essential to long-term success. Thus, this quarterly publication is one means of helping you stay informed about the projects and initiatives underway at our terminals.

Port Milestones

The Port of Virginia continues to be an industry leader in innovation and operational excellence. Read more about the port's latest accomplishments below.

Fiscal Year 2024 Recap

The Port of Virginia closed fiscal year 2024 (FY24) having processed 3.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), a 2 percent increase over fiscal year 2023 and the second-best fiscal year performance in the port's history. The growth in cargo volume is just one of the successes of FY24. In addition, the port is making gains on its \$1.4 billion infrastructure program that is creating a modern, efficient, and sustainable port that has the capabilities and capacity to serve its customers and users for decades to come. In September 2023, construction began on the renovation of the North Berth at Norfolk International Terminals (NIT) to enhance the port's capability to serve larger, fully-laden container ships. In January, the port announced its transition to 100 percent clean electricity, leading all major US East Coast ports and accelerating the port's goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. In March, dredging was completed on a wider shipping channel that allows for safe, two-way movement of ultra-large container vessels, reducing port stay by up to 15 percent. The port's fiscal year runs from July through June.

Central Rail Yard Expansion

The Port of Virginia's expanded central rail yard became fully operational in early August, signaling the completion of a project giving the port the capacity to process 2 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) by rail annually. The expansion enhances the port's reach to important Midwestern population and manufacturing centers by train. Virginia Transportation Secretary W. Sheppard "Shep" Miller III, US Deputy Transportation Secretary Polly Trottenberg, Maritime Administrator Rear Admiral (Ret.) Ann Philips, US Reps. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Jen Kiggans (R-VA) along with industry representatives were in attendance for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Construction began in 2022 and the \$83-million-project was delivered on-time and on-budget; the investment is part of the port's larger \$1.4 billion Gateway Investment Program. The port used a \$20 million federal grant and a \$20 million grant from the state Department of Rail and Public Transportation to build two new rail track bundles and purchase three all-electric cantilever rail-mounted gantry cranes. The project gives the port an additional 455,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of annual on-dock rail capacity an increase of 31 percent, port-wide. Both of the East's Class I rail carriers, Norfolk Southern and CSX, serve the port with regular, on-dock, double-stack service.



Port representatives and government officials cut the ribbon for The Port of Virginia's newly-expanded Central Rail Yard at Norfolk International Terminals.



Grant Funding Update

We continue to pursue grant opportunities to further our efforts in operational efficiency, environmental sustainability and long-term success. Applications have been submitted for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) and Clean Ports Program.



COLLEAGUE SPOTLIGHT

Solomon Egbe

Solomon Egbe joined our team as Vice President, Health, Safety, and Environmental on July 22, 2024. Solomon is an experienced and highly capable leader in the Health, Safety and Environmental disciplines within the maritime industry. Solomon will be leading the Port in our goal to be the safest port in North America.



COLLEAGUE SPOTLIGHT

2024 Summer Interns

The Port of Virginia welcomed six interns across the organization this past summer. We would like to recognize Elizabeth Guindon (Public Affairs), Alex Niblo (Operations), Kealyn Greenwell (Customer Service), Sanjana Venkatraman (Sustainability), Andrew Pascoe (Supply Management), and Josh Lubbe (Human Resources) for their hard work and for the value they all brought to our organization.

Terminal Updates

An update on our operations and infrastructure projects.

Dominion Substation

Construction is currently underway on a new Dominion Energy substation on terminal at Norfolk International Terminals (NIT). As early as 2025, this station will be responsible for providing the bulk of NIT's electricity demand, providing resiliency for the port, and allowing more of the existing grid space to be utilized by the surrounding neighborhoods and naval facilities.

Virginia Inland Port Rail Expansion

The Port of Virginia is enhancing its inland reach through a \$15 million investment to expand the rail yard at the Virginia Inland Port (VIP), increasing the on-terminal track capacity by 40 percent. The expansion includes the addition of four rubber-tire gantry cranes to increase efficiency of loading and unloading rail containers. Located in Front Royal, VIP is strategically positioned allow customers and port users to further reach the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast & Midwest markets.



At the Virginia Inland Port (VIP) in Front Royal, four rubber-tire gantry cranes are being installed to enhance operational efficiency in the terminal's rail yard.

GO-Zero Program

The GO-Zero program is an initiative created to help reduce the amount of air pollution from drayage trucks, or motor carriers, in the Commonwealth of Virginia and to provide funds for partners to purchase zero-emissions (ZEV) and near-zero emission (NZEV) drayage trucks. The program ran its second round of applications from July 10 to September 10, receiving applications for multiple zero or near-zero emission trucks. The program made awards in 2023 for a CNG and two electric trucks to be received before the end of calendar year 2024. The program has also provided multiple truck reimbursements through the traditional program in 2024.



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