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Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority & Midwest Terminals of Toledo Earn Honors for Freight Shipments Rise in 2006

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (TLCPA) and Midwest Terminals of Toledo registered strong increases of international freight tonnage through the St. Lawrence Seaway last year over their 2005 performances, earning both the St. Lawrence Seaway's annual tonnage award. The port registered 3.2 million metric tons in 2006, almost 25 percent more while Midwest posted 700,000 tons for a 17 percent improvement.

The beefed up traffic numbers earned the port its ninth Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter tonnage award and Midwest its second Pacesetter honor. SLSDC Administrator Collister Johnson, Jr., traveled to Toledo to spotlight their important role in moving the Nation's growing freight tonnage.

"The Seaway serves as a vital gateway for exporting U.S. farmers' grain to international markets and importing goods needed by American manufacturers," said Collister Johnson Jr., SLSDC Administrator. "The excellent performance of Toledo's port and terminal highlight marine transportation's importance for the city, the region, and the country."

More than two-thirds of the port's cargo transiting Seaway locks last year was grain. Toledo's three grain shippers--Cargill, Archer Daniel Midlands (ADM) Grain Co., and the Andersons--handled 2.1 million tons at the port, a whopping 56 percent increase over 2005. The performance was the staple bulk commodity's finest showing since 1994.

James H. Hartung, President/CEO of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority expressed sentiments similar to those of Seaway Administrator Johnson.

"My experience convinces me that the most effective marketing for the Great Lakes occurs when port authorities and terminal operators work in concert with one another," he said. "Our strategic location, quality facilities and professionalism both on and off the dock convince shippers very quickly that using Toledo is "good business."

In 2006 the port's general cargo facility, Midwest Terminals of Toledo International, handled its first shipments of gas pipe from Bremen, Germany. Ten to twelve more ships are slated to arrive this season each carrying more than a thousand 50 foot long, 42" diameter, rubber coated pipes. The Midwest Terminals expects another five shiploads next year as the project ends.

Part of the \$4.5 billion, 1,300-mile Rockies Express Pipeline from Wyoming to the Buckeye State, the Ohio section of the pipeline is expected to be operational in June 2009. The pipe will be railed from the port downstate to Lebanon where it will run eastward to Clarington.

The Pacesetter plaque is awarded annually by the SLSDC to U.S. Great Lakes ports and terminals posting increases in international tonnage shipped through the binational U.S.-Canadian waterway. For the 2006 season seven other ports and four other terminals won the award.

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