



U.S Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590
www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm

News

SLSDC 03-11
Thursday, July 28, 2011
Contact: Nancy Alcalde (SLSDC)
Tel: 202-366-0091

Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority Earns Seaway Award for Increase in International Freight Shipments

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority registered strong increases in international cargo shipments during the 2010 navigation season, earning it the prestigious Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award from the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC), an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation. SLSDC Administrator Terry Johnson presented the award today to the President and CEO of the Port Authority, Paul Toth, during the summer meeting of the American Great Lakes Ports Association in Toledo.

The port registered nearly 4.8 million metric tons (mt) of cargo during the 2010 navigation season, over 16 percent more than in the 2009 season, earning the port its eleventh Pacesetter award.

“This impressive economic performance highlights the importance of marine transportation to Toledo, the Midwest and the nation,” said Administrator Johnson. “As the port continues its facility improvements and modernization projects, I anticipate that strong traffic numbers will be realized this year as well.”

“The reasons for the increase in tonnage include a rebounding economy resulting in more coal, iron ore, and pig iron moving through the Seaway,” said Toth. “Our cargo volumes are currently outpacing the volume from our last several years. We are fully utilizing our new equipment to handle additional cargo, particularly wind components.”

Last year, the Port of Toledo acquired two mobile harbor cranes to replace their existing World War II-era cranes. The new cranes, which are used to handle bulk and project cargo, are twice as productive and 75 percent more fuel-efficient. The port has also reconstructed and enhanced on-dock rail at Midwest Terminals allowing for more rail cars to be stored on-site and has installed a new rail branch line at the Toledo Shipyard, providing for an intermodal connection with the Norfolk Southern system.

The Pacesetter Award is presented annually to U.S. Great Lakes Seaway ports that register increases in international cargo tonnage shipped through the Seaway during the navigation season. Originally known simply as the Pacesetter Award, the name change honors long-time Seaway trade analyst Bob Lewis who passed away in 2001.

###