

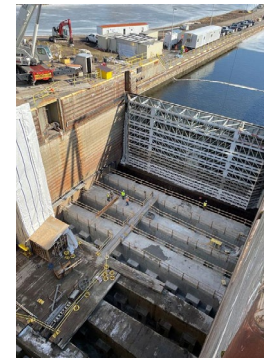
GLS's Major Winter Work Projects: Over \$225 Million Invested Since 2009

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) completed routine winter inspection and maintenance work at Eisenhower and Snell Locks this winter. At Snell Lock, the second of two winter seasons of work for the replacement of the diffuser structures was completed. This is similar to the project that occurred over the 2021 and 2022 winter seasons at Eisenhower Lock to replace its diffuser structures. Over the course of this winter, the remaining three diffusers were demolished and replaced. The completion of these projects was a significant accomplishment, especially given that they were completed within narrow timeframes and in the harsh winter months of northern New York.

This winter also saw the significant completion of the construction of the new Seaway Visitor Center. The Visitor Center is expected to have a grand opening in the spring of 2024. Visitors will be able to experience spectacular views of vessels transiting through Eisenhower Lock. The facility will also have a wide variety of exhibits designed to engage visitors of all ages and provide an educational experience on the locks, the Seaway and the region.



New Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock in Massena, New York



Winter Work in progress

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Strengthening Great Lakes Infrastructure: A Commitment to Growth, Capacity and Resiliency



Adam Tindall-Schlicht
Administrator.

The Great Lakes region boasts a network of ports that serve as vital economic engines, supporting industries, and communities along their shores. As GLS Administrator, I

greatly value and recognize the historic nature of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed by the Biden-Harris Administration, which includes significant increases in overall Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) funds and other key United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) grant programs, supporting new and exciting expansion opportunities at ports across the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway region.

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GUEST COLUMN

Mike Steenhoek, Executive Director – Soy Transportation Coalition

Increased Investment in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway = Greater Supply Chain Resilience



Over the past several years, a concerning variety of transportation-related challenges and disruptions have served as a reminder of one of the cardinal

rules of supply chains, "Do not put all your eggs in one basket." The pandemic, drought conditions, geopolitical instability, worker shortages, energy cost and scarcity, terrorist attacks, management vs. labor tension, etc. have all contributed to less certainty that the products we produce and consume will be delivered economically and reliably. For U.S. soybean farmers, this challenge

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These exciting projects are further evidence of how Great Lakes ports are not only critical hubs of commerce but also pillars of community development and environmental stewardship.

DOT has been a key partner in supporting the growth and development of U.S. Great Lakes ports, having invested over \$245.6 million since 2009. This funding has been distributed across various programs, including 16 PIDP projects totaling \$172.5 million, 4 Marine Highway projects totaling \$5.8 million, 3 TIGER/BUILD grant projects totaling \$32.2 million, 3 FASTLANE/INFRA grant projects totaling \$23.9 million, and 1 ARRA grant project totaling \$11.2 million. These investments have played a crucial role in modernizing port infrastructure, enhancing operational efficiency, and supporting economic growth in the Great Lakes region. Through strategic partnerships with the maritime industry and continued investment, USDOT remains committed to ensuring the long-term viability and competitiveness of Great Lakes ports.

Such investments in the Great Lakes region have stirred substantial enhancement in port infrastructure, catalyzing growth, and revitalization. One such example is the Dock 24 and 26 Master Modernization and Rehabilitation Project at Port Cleveland in Ohio. This project, funded through PIDP in 2019, aims to rehabilitate two of the Port's main docks. The modernization and rehabilitation repairs have positioned the port to anticipate its cargo volumes to double in the next 20 years, stimulating increased trade and commerce in the region. The project also included the revitalization of a rail spur adjacent to Dock 24, optimization of transportation logistics, and implementation of a new stormwater treatment system, demonstrating a dedication to environmental stewardship by the Port.

In Minnesota, the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's PIDP-funded project aims to finance the construction of a rail-served warehouse and the rehabilitation of deteriorating wharf walls. This initiative unlocks access to over seven acres of existing lay-down area on the terminal, facilitating the storage of heavy-lift cargo. Additionally, the project includes the establishment of on-dock rail infrastructure to enhance transportation efficiency and connectivity within the port. Such investments not only improve operational capabilities but also safeguard previous infrastructure investments from deterioration, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the port.

Toledo, Ohio's Reconstruction and Upgrade of Dock Face and Introduction of Liquid Transloading Facility project, funded through PIDP, addresses critical infrastructure needs at Midwest Terminals Facility 1 within the Port of Toledo. The project aims to overhaul and enhance the dock infrastructure, including the replacement of the concrete cap and associated structures,

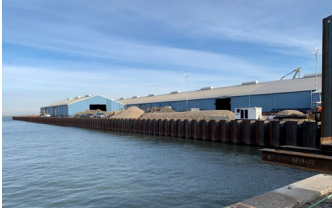
replacement of the concrete cap and associated structures, installation of new rail infrastructure, and completion of necessary maintenance dredging. Furthermore, the project includes the construction of a liquid transloading facility, aligning with the port's vision of transitioning to an integrated intermodal port transportation network.

In Wisconsin, the Port of Green Bay's Site Development Project, funded through PIDP, marks the initial phase of transforming a former power plant site into a cutting-edge port terminal. The project includes clearing and cleaning up an existing brownfield site, constructing new dock walls and bulkheads, placing fill behind the dock walls and bulkheads, installing stormwater collection and treatment facilities, adding bollards and crane pads, resurfacing asphalt, and erecting a building for offices, repair shop, and storage space. These efforts will optimize transportation within the terminal, enhance operational capabilities, and support future growth.

Similarly, the Agricultural Maritime Export Facility in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, funded through PIDP in 2019 (Phase 1) and 2023 (Phase 2), has transformed an underutilized area within the port into an export facility for agricultural commodities. This multi-phase project involves now-completed construction of a transloading facility, erecting a fabric building for storage, and refurbishing mooring infrastructure to enhance operational capabilities. Seaway shipments of dried distiller's grains with solubles (DDGs) and other agricultural exports are already moving through the Seaway from Port Milwaukee.

Detroit, Michigan's Port Capacity Improvements Project, funded through PIDP, revitalizes a historic dock dating back a century and enhances a secondary marine fueling station to cater to the needs of the Great Lakes maritime industry. The project includes the erection of platforms for handling dry bulk cargo, rebuilding an existing dock structure, installing two bulk-liquid storage tanks, and creating an additional berth to streamline the fueling process for cargo vessels. These improvements expedite the refueling process for commercial vessels, reducing waiting times to access fueling facilities and supporting efficient maritime operations.

In Ogdensburg, New York, efforts are underway to expand the main dock terminal, a project that has received funding through PIDP very recently. This expansion involves installing a mooring dolphin system and carrying out associated dredging to create a new berthing area. The project is significant as it not only enhances the port's capacity but also improves its capabilities to accommodate vessels of varying sizes and types. Additionally, the expansion is expected to streamline operations, increase efficiency, and bolster the port's role as a key player on the St. Lawrence River.



Port of Cleveland, FY2019 PIDP-funded Dock 26W complete.



Duluth Seaway Port Authority, FY19 PIDP-funded building project completed.



Port Milwaukee, FY19 PIDP-funded project completed.



Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, FY19 PIDP-funded project in progress.

The Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor's PIDP-funded project aims to convert a vacant 3.5-acre gravel yard into a multimodal bulk storage facility adjacent to the primary bulk cargo operations. The project involves constructing an approximately 84,000-square-foot bulk warehouse with more than an acre of concrete surfaced storage area surrounding the warehouse. This initiative will enhance the port's capacity to handle bulk cargo efficiently, supporting economic growth and enhancing operational capabilities.

Finally, the Lake Erie Renewable Energy Resilience Project in Monroe, Michigan, funded through PIDP in 2022, aims to revitalize and fortify aging infrastructure to bolster vessel and cargo handling capacity at the Port. The project includes the renovation of riverfront infrastructure, construction of a turning basin, establishment of a "Maritime Readiness Slip," and

implementation of shore power infrastructure, also promoting environmental sustainability.

These projects are just few examples of how DOT investments not only improve infrastructure but also create jobs and support economic growth in Great Lakes communities. They exemplify a GLS and DOT commitment to leveraging the full capacity of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway system. With ongoing investment at the U.S. and Canadian Seaway Locks, coupled with generational BIL-funded grant opportunities, enhancing the movement of goods through Great Lakes Seaway ports has never been more possible. Supporting the maritime industry as critical to the North American economy is a key priority for me, for Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, and the Biden-Harris Administration. Together, we are strengthening the Great Lakes region's position as a hub of commerce and ensuring a prosperous future for generations to come. ■■■

In February 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of \$3 billion in competitive grants from the Clean Ports Program. The program was authorized and funded by Congress in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Funds will be split between two separate grant programs - one focused on planning grants, and one focused on zero-emission technology deployment. Eligible applicants include port authorities, local, state, or tribal governments with jurisdiction over ports, or air pollution control agencies. Private entities can apply in partnership with an eligible public agency.

GUEST COLUMN
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is particularly acute given how over half of all the soybeans produced in the country will be exported. If your customer is next door, transportation is less important. However, when your customer is halfway around the world, transportation is essential.

Motivated by the need to "spread more eggs across more baskets," the Soy Transportation Coalition (STC) has increasingly partnered with leaders and stakeholders along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway to promote the greater utilization of the system to connect with international markets. While the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway does not account for a significant percentage of U.S. soybean exports, we believe it can and should be a more viable option – particularly during this era of supply chain uncertainty. As a result, the STC has engaged in a couple tangible projects designed to enhance the economics of exporting soybeans, soybean meal, or other agricultural products via the system.

In November of 2023, the U.S. Maritime Administration announced the 2023 recipients of their Port Infrastructure Grant Program (PIDG). We were very pleased to see the DeLong Company's Agriculture Maritime Export Facility's Phase II project listed among the recipients – being awarded \$9,276,352. The Agriculture Maritime Export Facility is located at Port Milwaukee. Phase II of the project will involve the construction of two grain storage silos, electrical service upgrades, and additional handling equipment in order to further export soybeans and soybean meal.

The Soy Transportation Coalition and the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board approved \$200,000 to help underwrite engineering, permitting, project management, and construction support expenses associated with Phase II of the project.

There were three motivations for the Soy Transportation Coalition and the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board to provide funding for this important project: 1.) To provide meaningful investment to a project that will enhance U.S. soybean and soy product exports in the near future; 2.) To invest in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway in order to diversify our supply chain; and 3.) For the DeLong Company and Port Milwaukee to be able to highlight the funding commitment from farmer organizations, which would enhance the viability and competitiveness of their grant application. Soybean farmers have a long history of seeing their funding leveraged – thereby helping accelerate project completion and increasing its scale and scope. The investment by soybean farmers for DeLong’s Agriculture Maritime Export Facility is another tangible example of this.

Soybean farmers greatly appreciate DeLong and Port Milwaukee for the significant investment they are making to expand U.S. soybean and soy product exports. They are ultimately the ones making this investment happen. It’s been a pleasure to collaborate with them on this important project.

Moreover, the STC continues to partner with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation in promoting the Gateway Incentive Agreement – an initiative to encourage greater utilization of the system by providing a 50 percent toll reduction for new freight being transported via the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway. Soybeans, soy products, and other grain are eligible commodities for this program.

The STC looks forward to continuing to partner with Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway stakeholders in promoting the system as an additional option for serving our export markets. By doing so, we will increase the resiliency of our supply chain and better position farmers for future success.

Established in 2007, the Soy Transportation Coalition is comprised of fourteen state soybean boards, the American Soybean Association, and the United Soybean Board. The goal of the organization is to position the soybean industry to benefit from a transportation system that delivers cost effective, reliable, and competitive service. To learn more, contact Mike Steenhoek at msteeenhoek@soytransportation.org or 515-727-0665. ■■■



2024 Binational Seaway Opening

The binational ceremony was held in St. Catharines, Ont., Canada and included a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the [Wiley-Dondero Act](#). Stay tuned for a recap of Opening Day in the spring 2024 Seaway Compass. ■■■



GLS/SLSMC Host the Annual Stakeholder Appreciation Reception

On November 30, 2023, the U.S. Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) and the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) were honored to host the binational Great Lakes Seaway Stakeholder Appreciation Reception in Montreal, Canada. The Appreciation Reception remains an excellent opportunity for networking with maritime industry leaders from around the world. GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht and SLSMC President and CEO Terence Bowles spoke at the event, highlighting their shared vision for a resilient and economically productive shipping season on the Great Lakes in 2024.

The Great Lakes Seaway Appreciation Reception remains an opportunity to salute and say “thank you” to all those who support the movement of cargo through the Great Lakes Seaway System. ■■■



SLSMC President & CEO Terence Bowles (left) GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht (right) and Delivered remarks during the annual reception.

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2023 Navigation Season Review Overview

During the 2023 Seaway Navigation Season, 37.563 million tons of cargo transited through the locks, an increase of 3.4 percent over 2022's volume. The strongest performing sectors during the season included dry bulk, which was up 5 percent; grain, which was similarly up 5 percent; and liquid bulk, which was up 3.4 percent.

Of note, 2023 was the longest navigation season on record with the Montreal-Lake Ontario Section closing on January 5, while the Welland Canal closed on January 7.

VIEWS FROM THE WATERFRONT: 2023 GREAT LAKES PORT HIGHLIGHTS



"The Port of Cleveland moved close to 9 million tons of cargo across our docks in 2023. The investments made in the last 2-3 years at our bulk and general cargo terminals have improved the efficiency and speed with which we move cargo. In addition, our cruise business grew substantially in 2023, with the addition of first-time calls by Viking and Le' Dumont. 2024 will see additional improvements and the beginning of the planning and design phase of another project, which will eventually allow us to convert from diesel to electric cargo handling equipment within the next 10 years."

– William Friedman, President & CEO, Port of Cleveland

"With an increase in total maritime tonnage and ship arrivals, plus the reactivation of an iconic grain elevator and the launch of Duluth's first regular trans-Atlantic liner service since the late 1970s, the 2023 navigation season was a very good one for the Port of Duluth-Superior. It was also a very long one – the longest international shipping season in port history and one of our port's longest Great Lakes navigation seasons as well. It was great to see that extension of commerce and supply chain viability on this valuable binational waterway."



– Deb DeLuca, Executive Director, Duluth Seaway Port Authority



"It was a transformational year at Ports of Indiana-Burns Harbor on multiple fronts as we worked through major transitions with three terminal operators and advanced key phases of the port's \$35 million dock and rail expansions. Cargo results were mixed as new operations were put in place and closures on the river and Seaway locks diverted some shipments to other modes. However, it was still a solid year for cargo shipments as the port handled 2.6 million tons, which is the median total for the last five years."

The port also recorded its third highest volume of steel shipments with 1.4 million tons, and saw increases in fertilizer, coal, minerals, project cargo and rail shipments. The outlook for 2024 is extremely positive with new operators ramping up their business and multiple port expansion projects nearing completion. These transformational changes position our port for significant long-term future growth."

– Ryan McCoy, Port Director, Ports of Indiana-Burns Harbor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

“Port Milwaukee in partnership with The DeLong Company celebrated the official opening of its new Agriculture Maritime Export Facility this past June. Leveraging the Seaway, the first couple of shipments of animal feed were delivered to markets in northern Europe. The new terminal projects to ship 300,000-400,000 metric tons annually with a focus on Northern Europe, The Mediterranean, North Africa, and The Middle East. As a premier turnaround port on the Great Lakes, Port Milwaukee had another strong year of international cruising with the arrival of over 11,500 passengers.”



– Jackie Q. Carter, Director, Port Milwaukee



“It was another active Seaway Navigation Season for the Port of Ogdensburg in 2023. In addition to receiving various cargos throughout the year the Port expanded its equipment fleet with new stacker and feeder conveyors to better position itself for success. A highlight for the Port of Ogdensburg was becoming the proud recipient of the 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration. This \$5.1M in funding will aid in expanding the Port’s dock by approximately 450 feet and dredging a section of non-federal channel. By deepening and expanding the marine terminal facility, the Port can achieve greater levels of efficiency and economies of scale making it more competitive.”

– Steve Lawrence, Executive Director, Ogdensburg Bridge And Port Authority

“Overall, the 2023 Great Lakes Shipping season in at the Port of Chicago saw volumes that were quite impressive. This was despite headwinds from significantly reduced barge traffic throughout the summer due to closure of several locks along the Chicago Area Waterway system due to schedule USACE maintenance and repair needs. Consolidated volumes from our Chicago terminals were 2.2 million tons, composed mainly of Iron & Steel, Metals, Forest Products, USAID, and Sugar. Across various locations over 40 vessels, 170 Barges, 37,000 Trucks; 5,000 railcars, 3,000 TEU’s were handled via operators around the Illinois International Port District.”



- Erik Varela, Executive Director, Illinois International Port District

“Much was accomplished at the Port of Toledo during the 2023 shipping season. We experienced a slight increase in tonnage over our 2022 totals making 2023 our highest tonnage season since 2007. Perhaps more importantly, we continued to invest in the modernization and improvement of our port equipment and infrastructure.” The Port of Toledo will have invested nearly \$30M in federal, state, and local funding in the reconstruction of their primary dock wall at the general cargo dock and the construction of a new 50,000-barrel liquid bulk transload facility by the time both projects are completed in the summer of 2024. Additionally, in the fall of 2023, Midwest Terminals of Toledo unveiled the nation’s first diesel to electric powered locomotive operating exclusively at the Port of Toledo. “In 2024 we’ll continue pursuing additional funding opportunities and new projects and we’ll be investing millions more to complete a bulk material conveyor project and to construct a new warehouse facility adjacent to our liquid transload area.”



– Joseph Cappel, VP of Business Development, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority



“The Port of Oswego had a record tonnage year in 2023 and planning is underway for another one in 2024. To meet the growing demand for our services, we’ve invested over \$3.5 million in dock upgrades, so we can expand the number of vessels we serve at one time. In addition, we’re planning for the future with a \$5 million expansion of rail service at our intermodal terminal, making the Port the largest operating yard in Oswego County. We’ve also just purchased a 55,000 lb.

forklift to handle a new product line, and we just secured our first Foreign Trade Zone customer. All this is happening as we prepare for the influx of components and materials we’ll be handling for construction of the new Micron Technology semiconductor fabrication facility being built less than 30 miles from the Port.”

– William W. Scriber, Executive Director – CEO, Port of Oswego Authority

Seaway Guardian Update

Despite a setback in late 2022, the *Seaway Guardian* was fully successful in completing its first GLS Buoy Run. The vessel was able to complete its inaugural Buoy Run for fall 2023 at 100 percent reliability with proven operational efficiencies.

Since summer 2020, the marine towing ice class vessel, *Seaway Guardian* had commenced to assume primary vessel operations from the marine towing vessel, *Robinson Bay*. The Robert Allan Ltd. designed Tundra 3600 Ice Class Tug (see salient particulars), *Seaway Guardian*, is primary for the provision of icebreaking / ice-management services on the St. Lawrence Seaway, handling aids to navigation (buoys), and pushing the corporations’ two (2) barges (“BPL 6704” / “GRASSE RIVER”). The tug is also capable of secondary roles in firefighting, pollution response, and vessel assist.

In the years 2021 and 2022 the tug, *Seaway Guardian*, had continued its transition to the GLS’s main vessel. For spring 2022, the vessel was fully utilized for ice breaking in the vicinity of the U.S. locks with favorable results. The vessel was then tasked with demobilization of the buoy barge post its shipyard / repair period in Hamilton, Ont. proving itself once again.

However, in commencing the fall 2022 Buoy Run with the GLS Buoy Barge, the vessel had experienced a casualty. The *Seaway Guardian* whilst proceeding from Eisenhower Lock to Iroquois Lock on December 18, 2022 had suffered an issue with its port main propulsion drive system rendering the drive inoperable. There was no harm to personnel or pollution to the environment resulting from such. The vessel was able to proceed on its starboard main propulsion drive system to the upper wall of Eisenhower Lock for a detailed dive inspection. Upon inspection a dislodged hull appurtenance (anode – not properly secured during vessel construction) was found stuck fast in-way of the port propeller and kort-knozzle barring the propeller to turn freely. Due to the cause, nature, and extent of the casualty, the vessel had warranted a drydock period in 2023 for propeller refurbishment and full internal inspection of the drive unit system for damage.

By summer 2023, GLS had contracted with Heddle Shipyards (Ontario Shipyards) to perform the drydocking of marine towing vessel (shipyard period), *Seaway Guardian*, for inspection and repair of the propulsion system. The shipyard period had consisted of the following project highlights:

- Vessel mobilization – Massena, N.Y. to Hamilton, Ont.
- Vessel on drydock.
- Port z-drive - disassembly, inspection, UDT, repairs & re-installation
- De-mobilization and vessel transit return to Massena, N.Y. (under own power)

By fall 2023, the vessel was fully operational again and able to return to its homeport in Massena, N.Y. to fully assist in GLS’s Mission to facilitate the safe and efficient passage of commercial vessels through the Seaway. During the month of December 2023, the *Seaway Guardian* was successful in executing its maiden buoy run safely at 100 percent reliability with proven operational efficiencies including emissions, fuel consumption along with increased uptime in a challenging environment. The vessel is now ready for spring 2024 the vessel will be in operation in performing ice management and the buoy run.

The success of operating the vessel would not have been possible without the great support and dedication of GLS Massena, N.Y. and Washington, D.C. staff as well as the following organizations: Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority, Inn at Gran View, Village of Clayton, New York, 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel, Ontario Shipyards. ■ ■ ■



Seaway Guardian.



Seaway Guardian at U.S. Seaway locks.

Seaway Employees Earn Prestigious Recognition



On January, 25, 2024, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg honored several of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation's (GLS) outstanding employees at the 56th Annual U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary's Awards Ceremony, held in

Washington, D.C. The event, presided over by Secretary Buttigieg, celebrated the exceptional contributions of individuals and teams across DOT who have demonstrated unparalleled dedication to the Department's strategic goals and mission.

Among the distinguished recipients were the interdepartmental team behind the transformative Green Shipping Corridor Network (GSCN), an ongoing initiative seeking to decarbonize shipping on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway. Comprising Peter Hirthe, LaToya James, Jazmine Jurkiewicz, Sylvonica Madlock, Chora Snyder, Rebecca Yackley, and other DOT employees including Elizabeth Fox. This cadre of GLS professionals was awarded the prestigious Leadership in Sustainability and Climate Award for their exceptional leadership on both a regional and global scale.

The GLS Trade and Economic Development team, consisting of Rebecca Yackley, Peter Hirthe, and Jazmine Jurkiewicz, received the Secretary's Partnering for Excellence Award for achievements in enhancing international cruise ship activity across the Great Lakes. Their collaborative efforts have not only bolstered regional economic development but have also positioned the GLS as a key player in fostering new international partnerships and cruise tourism via the St. Lawrence Seaway. Seven cruise lines designed itineraries for ten vessels on the Great Lakes in 2023, totaling almost 400 U.S. port calls for an estimated 100,000 cruise passengers.

Stephen McCargar, Operations Specialist based in Massena, was honored with the Transportation Safety Award for his significant contributions in advancing and implementing transformative measures in Seaway lock operations. Mr. McCargar's dedication has had a profound impact on ensuring the well-being of Seaway personnel and the North Country community while also sustaining over 2,000 safe and secure vessel transits in the last year.

Chora Snyder, Contract Specialist based in the GLS's Massena, N.Y. office, was presented with the Secretary's Excellence Award, a testament to her outstanding performance and exceptional

commitment in undertaking federal procurement activities responsibly and diligently. Ms. Snyder has contributed across the organization, proving instrumental by supporting multiple key GLS initiatives, including the Seaway Infrastructure Program (SIP) for capital asset renewal in Massena.

Sylvonica Madlock, Julie Kuenzler, and LaToya James are part of the DOT Equity Team which received the Diversity Award for progress in institutionalizing equity, inclusion and accessibility as core values and practice throughout DOT. Their unwavering commitment has set a benchmark for promoting a diverse working environment within DOT has positively impacted the entire organizational culture.

In response to the accolades, GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht expressed his gratitude, stating, "We are thrilled that the Department of Transportation has recognized the superior performance and exceptional accomplishments of these GLS employees and their DOT colleagues. GLS awardees demonstrate a commitment to excellence and innovation, setting a standard for a sustainable, equitable and collaborative future for shipping via the Great Lakes Seaway. Their achievements reflect the dedication and professionalism of the entire GLS workforce, and we couldn't be prouder of their contributions." ■■■■



GLS awardee in attendance at the USDOT 56th Annual Secretary's Awards Ceremony (L-R): Public Affairs Specialist LaToya James; International Trade Specialists Peter Hirthe and Jazmine Jurkiewicz; Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht; Director of Trade and Economic Development Rebecca Yackley; and Executive Officer Sylvonica Madlock.

GLS Trade Director Receives IMPACT Award

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) also celebrates the remarkable achievement of Rebecca Yackley, longtime Director of Trade and Economic Development at the GLS, who recently received the prestigious Great Lakes Seaway IMPACT! Award in Toronto, Canada. This recognition, which is annually given to one woman by the maritime industry, is a testament to Rebecca's dedication and impactful contributions to the GLS, the Great Lakes Seaway System, and the North American maritime economy. Ms. Yackley's leadership has played a pivotal role in advancing numerous initiatives, including the expansion of international cruise shipping, and making a positive difference in Great Lakes/Seaway communities for over two decades.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Rebecca's career at the GLS in the January-March 2024 *Great Lakes Seaway Review*. ■■■■



Calling Participants to Join the GLS Office of Trade and Economic Development in 2024

The GLS is inviting stakeholders to join our delegation for the following initiatives, announced at the Highway H2O Annual General Meeting in Toronto, Ont. On January 18, 2024:

Seatrade Cruise Global, Miami, FL - April 8-11, 2024

The GLS's Office of Trade & Economic Development team will exhibit at Seatrade Cruise Global, the cruise industry's leading annual business-to-business (B2B) event with networking and exhibitions. More information can be found at <https://www.seatradecruiseevents.com>.



JOC Breakbulk and Project Cargo Conference, New Orleans, LA - April 24-26, 2024

The GLS's Office of Trade & Economic Development team will exhibit at Breakbulk24, organized by The Journal of Commerce within S&P Global Market Intelligence, is a premier, senior-level conference and networking venue for the breakbulk and project cargo shipping and logistics community. More information can be found at <https://events.joc.com/breakbulk>.



CLEANPOWER, Minneapolis, MN - May 6-9, 2024

Hwy H2O will exhibit at ACP's CLEANPOWER conference and exhibition, which brings together policymakers, corporate leaders, and experts in the clean energy sector. More information can be found at <https://cleanpower.org/expo/>.



Trade Winds, Istanbul, Turkey - May 13-15, 2024

The GLS's Office of Trade & Economic Development team will exhibit at Trade Winds, the largest annual U.S. government-led trade mission and business development forum. It will feature customized B2B and business-to-government (B2G) meetings and networking forums. More information can be found at <https://www.trade.gov/trade-winds>.



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Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Trade Mission to Bilbao, Spain – May 16-17, 2024

The GLS/SLSMC trade development team, led by GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht, will travel to Bilbao, Spain for meetings and a reception with maritime industry representatives to develop new Seaway trade opportunities within the cargo sector.

Breakbulk Europe, Rotterdam, Netherlands – May 21-23, 2024

Hwy H²O, led by GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht, will exhibit at Breakbulk Europe. This key trade event brings together breakbulk/project cargo and maritime industry representatives from throughout Europe. More information can be found at <https://europe.breakbulk.com/>.



Posidonia Exhibition, Athens, Greece – June 3-7, 2024

The GLS's Office of Trade & Economic Development team will exhibit in the U.S. Pavilion at Posidonia, the world's largest conference for the global shipping and shipbuilding industry. During the week-long event, the GLS will also host an information reception with members from the Greek shipping industry and current Seaway users. This will mark the fifth time the GLS has exhibited at Posidonia. More information can be found at <https://posidonia-events.com/>.



Cruise Canada New England Symposium, New York, NY – June 11-13, 2024

The GLS's Office of Trade & Economic Development team will attend the Cruise Canada New England Symposium, which brings together 200 industry delegates representing ports, cruise lines, marine agencies, tourism representatives, government partners as well as local suppliers. More information can be found at <https://www.cruiseccnesymposium.com/en/Symposium/2024-Symposium.aspx>.



Antwerp XL Conference and Exhibition, Antwerp, Belgium – October 7-11, 2024

The GLS's Office of Trade & Economic Development team will exhibit at Antwerp XL, a key breakbulk, RORO, heavy lift and project cargo industry event for Europe. More information can be found at <https://www.antwerpxl.com/>.



Breakbulk Americas, Houston, TX – October 15-17, 2024

Hwy H₂O will exhibit at Breakbulk Americas, the region's largest trade event for the project cargo and breakbulk industry. More information can be found at <https://americas.breakbulk.com/Home>.



If you are interested in participating or receiving more information on any of these events, reach out to Rebecca Yackley, Director, Office of Trade & Economic Development, 202-297-9448, rebecca.yackley@dot.gov or Peter Hirthe, Great Lakes Regional Representative, 414-551-3161, peter.hirthe@dot.gov. ■ ■ ■

Green Corner: A Sustainable Seaway



The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System
Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent

We are excited to introduce

a new segment in the Seaway Compass, the Green Corner: A Sustainable Seaway, where we will provide you with updates on the efforts of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS), in partnership with The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC), in creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly shipping network within the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System. More specifically, we will keep you informed about our initiatives, accomplishments, and plans in the areas of green shipping and decarbonization via the Green Shipping Corridor Network (GSCN).

Background

The GSCN was introduced by a U.S. and Canada joint announcement at COP27 in 2022. As the binational leads for this program, GLS and SLSMC have made significant progress on moving the Great Lakes GSCN toward net 0 carbonization by 2050.

To date, the following data-sharing meetings have convened:

- First GSCN Collaborative Forum held on April 4, 2023 in Chicago
- Working Groups established:
 - Performance Management (Meeting Date: August 29, 2023, Washington, D.C.)
 - Alternative Fuel Solutions (Meeting Date: September 7, 2023, Montreal, Canada)
- Green Shipping Corridor Network (GSCN) Virtual Stakeholder Meeting (February 27, 2024)

Next Steps:

Second GSCN Collaborative Forum will be held May 6, 2024 in Montreal.

Calls to Action:

Feedback

GSCN Framework. A draft version of the GSCN Framework of Goals and Objectives, which was discussed at the February 27 meeting, can be found at <https://www.seaway.dot.gov/sites/seaway.dot.gov/files/2024-03/GSCN%20Objectives%20Goals%20concept%20document.pdf>

Seaway stakeholders are invited to submit written feedback via email to gl@dot.gov for aggregation by GSCN Facilitators.

Implementors sought!

For those organizations/individuals seeking to directly contribute to the accomplishment of the recently released GSCN Framework, please immediately contact:

- Jean Aubry-Morin, Vice President, External Relations (SLSMC) at jaubrymorin@seaway.ca.
- Anthony (Tony) Fisher, Deputy Administrator (GLS) at anthony.fisher@dot.gov.

Recommendations

Ideas for workshops, panelists, or other working group activities at the 2nd Collaborative Forum are welcome. If you (or a recommend point of contact) are interested in attending, speaking at, or have other recommendations about the 2nd Collaborative Forum, please immediately contact:

- Jen Wilk, Director, Congressional and Public Relations (GLS) at jennifer.wilk@dot.gov.
- Sylvonica Madlock, Executive Officer and Chief of Staff (GLS) at sylvonica.madlock@dot.gov.

References

- GSCN 1st Collaborative Forum report is available online at <https://www.seaway.dot.gov/GSCNForum>.
- U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization is available online at <https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/climate-and-sustainability/us-national-blueprint-transportation-decarbonization>.
- U.S. Maritime Decarbonization Action Plan (preview) is available online at <https://www.transportation.gov/priorities/climate-and-sustainability/maritime-action-plan-preview>.

Personnel News



In January 2024, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) introduced **Robert Garbaty** as its new Sr. Manager, Cargo Growth. Mr. Garbaty's diverse career has now brought him to the forefront of the marine industry. With a solid foundation over two decades of experience in strategic sourcing, leadership and sales, Robert is set to make waves in his current role.

After a robust 13-year tenure in the steel industry, where Robert has progressed from operational roles to strategic purchasing and interfacing with C-suite executives, he has developed a keen eye for developing strategy for high-value commodities. His expertise was further solidified by a transformative Total Cost of Ownership project under the aegis of Europe's largest steel conglomerate.

Mr. Garbaty's journey then navigated through seven years as a Director of Trading for a US-based company specializing in steel raw materials, and then culminating in a pivotal role within the marine sector. As the Director of Sales with Federal Marine Terminals, a division of Fednav, Canada's largest break-bulk marine carrier, he was instrumental in managing sales for all North American land-based terminals over a three-year period.

As a new member of the team at the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, Robert will be showcasing the importance of the Great Lakes Seaway System, driving cargo growth into and out of North America's heartland. The mission is to enhance the visibility and utility of this vital maritime corridor, ensuring efficient and sustainable transportation that supports the economic vitality of the region.



On January 16, 2024, **Jen Wilk** joined the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation as the Director of the Office of Congressional and Public Relations in Washington D.C. Ms. Wilk's experience includes 17 years in the maritime industry. Previously, she led teams at the Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) and the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA).

Jen is an active member in the Propeller Club of Washington D.C. and the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA). Ms. Wilk earned a Master's of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from American University in Washington, D.C.



In February 2024, the Duluth Seaway Port Authority announced the hiring of **Jeff Udd** as its director of government and environmental affairs.

A Duluthian, Udd worked most recently for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as manager of its water and mining section. There, he had statewide responsibility for water permitting, compliance and enforcement activities at industrial facilities. Udd's scope of responsibility also included the dredged material management program, ballast water discharge program and the industrial stormwater program.

Mr. Udd spent more than 20 years in various MPCA roles, beginning as an engineer and working with a wide array of stakeholders. Prior to joining the MPCA, he worked for the Cargill corporation in Ohio and Nebraska. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and he holds a registered professional engineer credential from the State of Minnesota.

Udd succeeds Jeff Stollenwerk, who is retiring in March after five-plus years as the Port Authority's government and environmental affairs director.

Careers | Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)

General Engineering (Electrical) - DIRECT HIRE <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/776388100>

Close Date: August 12, 2024

This position performs duties involving analysis, troubleshooting, design, specification writing, drawing preparation, and cost estimating on projects/systems in the electrical, electronics and controls fields. These duties are primarily associated with the operation, maintenance and improvement of the St. Lawrence Seaway locks and related facilities owned by the U.S. DOT. Familiarity with related engineering fields, such as mechanical and civil, is also required.

Save the Date

April 8-11



Seatrade Cruise Global

Miami Beach, Fla.

Info: <https://www.seatrade-cruise.com/seatrade-cruise-global-4>

April 14-17



NCBFAA Annual Conference

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Info: <https://www.ncbfaa.org/>

April 16-21



Cruise 360

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Info: <https://cruise360.org/>

April 24-26



JOC Breakbulk & Project Cargo Conference

New Orleans, La.

Info: <https://events.joc.com/breakbulk>

May 6-9



CLEANPOWER 2024 Conference & Exhibition

Minneapolis, Minn.

Info: <https://cleanpower.org/expo/>

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Save the Date

May 15-17



Great Lakes Cities Initiative

Montreal, Canada

Info: <https://glsccities.org/events/annual-meeting/>

May 21-23



Bilbao Port Visit and Breakbulk Europe

Rotterdam Ahoy, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Info: <https://www.europe.breakbulk.com/Home>

June 3-7



Posidonia Exhibition

Athens, Greece

Info: <https://posidonia-events.com/>

June 5-7



GREENTECH 2024

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Info: <https://green-marine.org/greentech/>

June 11-13



Cruise Canada New England Symposium

New York, N.Y.

Info: <https://www.cruiseccnesymposium.com/en/Symposium/2024-Symposium.aspx>

August 8-9



American Great Lakes Ports Association 2024 Annual Conference

Chicago, Ill.

Info: <https://www.greatlakesports.org/2024-annual-conference/>

Save the Date

October 7-11



Antwerp XL Conference and Exhibition

Antwerp, Belgium

Info: <https://www.antwerpxl.com/>

October 15-17



Breakbulk Americas

Houston, Texas

Info: <https://americas.breakbulk.com/Home>