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**News**

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## **GLS Celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Grand Opening of New Seaway Visitor Center in Massena, N.Y.**



*Cutting the ribbon on a new visitor center at U.S. Eisenhower Lock in Massena, N.Y., on May 13, 2024 (L-R): Ross Levi, Vice President/Executive Director of Tourism, Empire State Development; David McMillan, Chairman, GLS Advisory Board; Ben Dixon, Executive Director, St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce; Town Supervisor Susan Bellor, Village of Massena, N.Y.; Deputy Secretary of Transportation Polly Trottenberg; William Mielke, Member, GLS Advisory Board; Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS); and Amy Stark, Visitor Center and Community Relations Manager, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.*

MASSENA, N.Y. – Yesterday, top U.S. Department of Transportation officials were on hand as the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) celebrated the grand opening of its new visitor center at the U.S. Eisenhower Lock in Massena, N.Y. The center will welcome visitors to the Seaway and provide a world class tourist attraction for the region. The new visitor center represents a best-in-class example of a Federal net-zero emissions building: it is all-electric, meets the Biden-Harris Administration’s [Federal Building Performance Standard](#) by eliminating the on-site use of fossil fuels, and uses 100 percent carbon-free electricity, as the center takes advantage of hydropower generated from the Seaway.

“I am proud to announce the opening of the new Visitor Center at the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway in Massena, New York,” said **Deputy Secretary of Transportation Polly Trottenberg**. “The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System is a driver of economic development and job creation in the region. The new visitor center will not only serve as a cornerstone for tourism in the North Country region, but it will also allow tens of thousands of people from around the world to watch ships transit the lock and to learn about this vital part of the U.S. Marine Highway system.”

“The grand opening of the new Seaway Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock, which I worked hard to deliver funding to support, is a big day for our St. Lawrence River communities, and the culmination of a years-long effort to bring much-needed upgrades to an essential transportation link and tourist destination,” said **Senator Chuck Schumer**. “Each year, tens of thousands of tourists visit Massena to witness ships passing through the iconic Eisenhower Lock and now they will have the modern facility needed to make their visit one to remember. These upgrades will provide a major boon to tourism and give families a proper welcome with top-notch amenities. I fought to ensure this new Visitor’s Center would open, and now it’s ready to further revitalize the entire North Country, bringing economic energy to our downtown and scenic communities. I am proud to have fought for and delivered the \$6 million in federal funding that made this possible and will always work to boost our tourism economy in the North Country.”

During the grand opening ceremony, Deputy Secretary Trottenberg and GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht were joined by U.S. and Canadian dignitaries, along with a gathering of Great Lakes Seaway System stakeholders.

This modern facility not only showcases the Seaway’s rich history, but is a major North Country destination, and is expected to draw over 100,000 visitors annually. As the new center opens its doors, the GLS invites the public to explore the past, present, and future of this vital waterway.

“As we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wiley-Dondero Act, which created the St. Lawrence Seaway, we reflect on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System’s performance and how it continues to highlight its resiliency and importance as a global maritime supply chain,” said **Adam Tindall-Schlicht, Administrator of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation**. “Watching ships coming through the Lock is not only important to the economy of the area, but it holds cherished memories for many who have grown up or spent their summers here.”

The Biden-Harris Administration is leading by example to tackle the climate crisis through President Biden’s [Federal Sustainability Plan](#), which establishes an ambitious path to achieve net-zero emissions from federal buildings by 2045.

“President Biden set bold goals for Federal sustainability, and this project helps us achieve those goals,” said **Andrew Mayo, Federal Chief Sustainability Officer of the White House Council on Environmental Quality**. “Upgrading our federal buildings to be more efficient and sustainable also means healthier communities.”

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System provides maritime commerce with reliable, efficient, and environmentally friendly cargo movement that supports high-quality jobs in the U.S. and Canada and helps us address our joint climate goals. More than 241,000 jobs and \$36 billion in economic activity in the U.S. and Canada are supported annually by the movement of various cargoes on the Seaway System – more than 135 million metric tons of cargo each year. Hundreds of

ships from all over the world make multiple trips through the St. Lawrence Seaway annually, moving grain, iron ore, coal, steel, stone, and large cargoes such as windmill components.



*New Seaway Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock in Massena, New York*

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