Get e-Nav
(/component/banners/click/232.html)

US port infrastructure - FAST progress on funding

(/media/k2/items/cache/a8955b818f34ccbfdd586a36b0977a70_XL.jpg)
Kurt Nagle, the ceo of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)

There is a bit of understatement, in saying that the US ports sector of the maritime business is ecstatic about recent developments.

First, there is the election. When asked for views about a Trump presidency, Kurt Nagle, the ceo of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), speaking on a conference call, pointed out that Trump had mentioned harbour deepening, a lightning rod issue for AAPA members, at a recent rally on a tour around the US heartland to thank voters for their support.

Nagle said, "We think that there is a recognition by the new administration that we need to invest....in our transportation infrastructure...and specifically our freight infrastructure, if we are to compete internationally."

There is more, the conference call itself, organized by the AAPA and another group promoting surface transportation, had the purpose of recapping developments on the one year anniversary of the Fixing America's Transportation Act (FAST Act), which sets aside $11bn for freight handling, over a five year period, included within a much larger funding authorization.

In a prepared statement, Nagle said: "For the first time we have dedicated funding for multimodal freight projects. This is a big step forward. It shows that Congress and the Administration firmly recognize that seaports must be connected to America's surface transportation network in order for the freight network to be efficient."

The conference coincided with the release of an AAPA-led report "The State of Freight II", amplifying on the AAPA's estimate that $29bn would be needed in the next decade, for baseline investments in seaport landside infrastructure.

One example, mentioned on the call by Maryland Port Administration's deputy chair Kathleen Broadwater concerned a railway tunnel, built in the 1890s, connecting the Port of Baltimore with the network of the CSX railroad, that must be raised to allow the movement of trains with double stacked containers. When asked about a desired funding mix, Broadwater suggested equal tranches from the private side, the State (in this case, Maryland) and from funding mechanisms under the FAST Act.

The AAPA call also coincided with other developments that are viewed as auspicious for the seaports, and for inland waterways which also depend on Federal funding for maintenance of river depths. A revised Water Resources Development Act is now in the final stages of its tortuous voyage through the U.S. legislative process.

Under the latest drafts of the bill, dubbed Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (or WIIN), the allowable harbour dredging depth would be increased to 50 feet (from the present 45 feet) on harbor deepening projects, which become eligible for a 75% federal contribution. Additionally ports will also gain better access to money previously withheld by the Federal government, out of a trust fund built up on collections from the Harbor Maintenance Tax - a levy on each container imported into the US.

Posted 13 December 2016

Barry Parker (/editor/barry-parker.html)
New York correspondent, Seatrade Maritime

Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/dialog/share?app_id=325860034430795&display=popup&href=https://goo.gl/cCKPUz&redirect_uri=http://www.seatrade-maritime.com/media/coalweb/modules/generic/html/popup-close.html) 0
Twitter (https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=US%20port%20infrastructure%20-%20FAST%20progress%20on%20funding&url=https://goo.gl/cCKPUz&via=Seatrade)
Google (https://plus.google.com/share?url=https://goo.gl/cCKPUz&title=US%20port%20infrastructure%20-%20FAST%20progress%20on%20funding) 0
Linkedin (https://www.linkedin.com/shareArticle?mini=true&url=https://goo.gl/cCKPUz&title=US%20port%20infrastructure%20-%20FAST%20progress%20on%20funding) 0
Reddit (http://reddit.com/submit?url=https://goo.gl/cCKPUz&title=US%20port%20infrastructure%20-%20FAST%20progress%20on%20funding) 0
Mail (mailto:?subject=I thought you might like this!&body=Website: Seatrade Maritime News%0D%0ATitle: US%20port%20infrastructure%20-%20FAST%20progress%20on%20funding%0D%0ADescription: There%20is%20a%20bit%20of%20understatement%2C%20in%20saying%20that%20the%20US%

Published in Americas (/news/americas.html) Dispatches (/news/dispatches.html)
Regulation (/sectors/regulation.html) Port & Logistics (/sectors/ports-and-logistics.html)
Finance & Insurance (/sectors/finance-and-insurance.html) Americas (/news/americas.html)

Tagged under Ports (/news/americas/tag/Ports.html)
dredger (/news/americas/tag/dredger.html) Dredging (/news/americas/tag/Dredging.html)
infrastructure (/news/americas/tag/infrastructure.html) US (/news/americas/tag/US.html)
US ports (/news/americas/tag/US%20ports.html) trump (/news/americas/tag/trump.html)
E Weekly Headlines (/news/americas/tag/E%20Weekly%20Headlines.html)

(/component/banners/click/241.html)

(/component/banners/click/239.html)

(/component/banners/click/265.html)

Get the **Seatrade Maritime** Newsletter Sign up now (/news/news-al

Welcome to Seatrade Maritime News

UBM is one of the world's leading B2B events organisers providing vibrant and dynamic events enriched with digital and print media

Read more... (/seatrade.html)

Sign up to our Email Newsletter (/news/news-alert-sign-up.html)
Download Media Pack (/banner-advertising.html)
Our Editorial Team (/news/writers-and-contributors.html)
Seatrade Maritime Review (http://www.seatrademagazine.com/)
Seatrade Cruise News (http://www.seatrade-cruise.com/)

Follow Us

(http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Seatrade-Global-4843168?home=&gid=4843168&trk=anet_ug_hm&goback=%2Egmr_4843168)
(http://www.twitter.com/Seatrade)
(http://www.facebook.com/SeatradeGlobal)
(http://plus.google.com/+Seatrade-global/)

Popular Topics

- MSC boxship collides with fishing boat - five dead, six missing (/news/americas/msc-boxship-collides-with-fishing-boat-five-dead-six-missing.html)
- ITF head Cotton urges owners having difficulty paying crews to talk with the unions (/news/europe/itf-sec-gen-cotton-urges-owners-having-difficulty-paying-crews-to-talk-with-the-unions.html)
- Rickmers Maritime bondholders vote against restructuring, liquidation looms (/news/asia/rickmers-maritime-bondholders-vote-against-restructuring-liquidation-could-loom.html)
- The parallels between investing in shipping and art collecting (/news/americas/the-parallels-between-investing-in-shipping-and-art-collecting.html)
- Rickmers Maritime faces do or die bondholder meeting on Weds (/news/asia/rickmers-maritime-faces-potential-do-or-die-bondholder-meeting-on-weds.html)
- Panama Canal records 500 neo-panamax transits in new locks (/news/americas/panama-canal-records-500-neo-panamax-transits-in-new-locks.html)

Upcoming Events

Sea Asia
25 April - 27 April 2017
Marina Bay Sands®
Singapore
http://www.sea-asia.com (http://www.sea-asia.com)

Seatrade Offshore Marine & Workboats
25 September - 27 September 2017
Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre
Abu Dhabi, UAE
http://www.seatradeoffshoremarine.com/ (http://www.seatradeoffshoremarine.com/)

More Events (/events.html)

Company Information

Contacts (/contact.html)
Advertise (/banner-advertising.html)
Disclaimer (/disclaimer.html)
Cookies (http://privacypolicyubm.com/cookiepolicy/)
Privacy Policy (http://privacypolicyubm.com/)

Copyright © 2015 - 2016 Seatrade UBM (UK) Ltd. All rights reserved.