PA Unveils 10-Year Plan

The Port Authority this week proposed a record $27.6 billion, 10-year capital plan that is one of the most comprehensive efforts ever undertaken by the 93-year-old agency to painstakingly identify and prioritize its critical long-term transportation needs.

Covering the years 2014 through 2023, the capital plan is expected to result in 126,000 total job years and $29 billion in regional economic activity.

“The proposed 10-year capital plan is a transformational moment in the Port Authority’s history,” said Executive Director Pat Foye. “Under the leadership of Governors Cuomo and Christie, the agency has undergone a rigorous, data-driven process to identify and prioritize the most important capital projects, including significant investment in state-of-good-repair projects that strengthen the region’s aging transportation infrastructure while also enhancing transportation capacity and service for our customers. The $27.6 billion investment plan will return this agency to its core mission and ensure that it remains a key economic engine, creating more than 126,000 jobs for the region.”

Deputy Executive Director Deborah Gramiccioni said, “The proposed $27.6 billion, 10-year capital plan lays out a bold vision that combines significant investment in state-of-good repair projects with funding for vital new transportation infrastructure such as the raising of the Bayonne Bridge, a new Goethals Bridge and the extension of PATH to Newark Liberty International Airport. We are committed to providing new transportation choices for people and goods while enhancing transportation capacity and service for our customers.”

Continued on page 2

The PA Was Watching

The Port Authority activated its Emergency Operations Center and the PAPD Command Center for Super Bowl XLVIII and its related events from January 26 through February 3. About 400 people from the PA, the National Football League, and state, federal, and private-sector partners monitored the major Hudson River crossings and game-related events in both states, and coordinated transportation movements.

Executive Director Pat Foye, who joined staff at the EOC on Super Bowl Sunday, said the Office of Emergency Management, the PAPD, and numerous departments and facilities did an excellent job in controlling, coordinating, and communicating traffic-management decisions. He praised their efforts to ensure the safety and security of those using PATH and the agency’s other transportation infrastructure to get to and from the game and related events during the week.

Chief Security Officer Joseph Dunne said, “The interaction with our partners in the region resulted in seamless transportation movements. I’m proud of our people.”

PA Unveils Preliminary 2014 Budgets

The Port Authority released for public review preliminary 2014 operating and capital budgets that keep core operating expense growth at half the expected rate of inflation, enhance security at the agency’s transportation facilities, continue the aggressive efforts to rebuild and recover from Superstorm Sandy, and provide for record levels of capital spending on critical infrastructure.

The $2.9 billion operating budget keeps core operating expenses at half the expected rate of inflation by maintaining nonpolice staffing levels at 5,143 positions and achieves additional savings through a reduction in employee health care costs and other benefits that took effect over the past two years. The 1.1 percent uptick in core expenses is attributed to higher insurance premium costs – up $18 million following Superstorm Sandy – and enhanced security guard services at the airports.

The 2014 operating budget also includes a new police class in 2014 and new spending to transform the World Trade Center – where nearly 1.5 million square feet of office space will come on line this year – from a construction site to an operating facility.

The budget also includes $9 million in new expenses to enhance the agency’s unarmed security forces to provide another layer of protection.

Continued on page 3
Judging the Future City

From left, Raul Garcia, Jami Bjornstad, and Jason Del Nero of Engineering and OSD’s Yves Veve participated as judges and volunteers at the regional Future City Competition, a yearly competition for New York City students in grades 6 through 8. The event was held January 18 and 19 at the Sony Wonder Technology Lab in midtown Manhattan.

Future City is a national nonprofit, project-based learning experience sponsored by the engineering community to help foster interest in math, science, and engineering through hands-on applications. Students work as a team with an educator and engineer mentor to plan cities using SimCity software; research and write solutions to engineering problems; build tabletop scale models with recycled materials; and present their ideas before judges at regional competitions in January. Regional winners represent their regions at the National Finals in Washington, DC, this month.

If you’d like to volunteer or learn more, visit Employee Bulletins, Volunteer Opportunities, on EmployeeNet.

PA Engineer Presents Technical Paper

Senior Traffic Engineer Alan Ginder (right) this month presented a technical paper – “Process for Gaining Consensus in Developing Roadway Access Management Guidelines for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey” – at the 2014 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The paper describes the agency’s initiative to develop roadway access management guidelines and provides an overview of the agency’s process used to build support and gain consensus.

The guidelines are being used to manage the location, spacing, operation, and design of driveways, street connections, and signalized intersections to preserve safety and efficiency at PA airports and marine terminals. More than 30 engineering and planning professionals from around the world learned about the agency’s initiative and shared their experiences.

One WTC Hails the Champions

The Port Authority and the Durst Organization lit the spire of One World Trade Center green on February 2 in honor of the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII Champion Seattle Seahawks. The team’s colors shone all night.

Holland Tunnel Wins ‘Award for Excellence’

On behalf of the facility, Holland Tunnel Physical Plant Manager Steve Olmo accepted the International Facility Management Association’s Award for Excellence for staff’s heroic disaster-recovery efforts during and after Superstorm Sandy in October 2012. Despite unprecedented flooding from the storm surge, the HT was able to reopen for bus traffic within four days.

10-Year Plan

Continued from page 1
to revitalizing the region’s aging transportation infrastructure in a smart, cost-effective, and efficient manner that allows us to get the most out of every dollar we invest. The plan will serve as a living document subject to continued review and revision as necessary, ensuring a transparent and thoughtful process that benefits the region and our customers.”

PA Hosts World Ports to Encourage Greener Ships

Port Commerce last week hosted the quarterly meeting of the Environmental Ship Index Work Group, which developed the ESI – an internationally recognized way of scoring and ranking the cleanest oceangoing vessels. The Work Group’s meetings focus on maintaining the integrity of the program and making changes to the ESI formula to accommodate new international maritime regulations.

In addition to the PA, Work Group members attending included representatives from the ports of Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg, Le Havre, Prince Rupert, and Los Angeles, all of which are providing financial incentives to ships based on their ESI score. The Clean Vessel Incentive Program, part of the PA’s Clean Air Strategy for the bistate port, achieved great success in its first year, providing more than $1.1 million to 569 ships that made qualifying calls to PA marine terminals in 2013. These clean ship calls achieved substantial annual emissions reductions totaling an estimated 190 tons of nitrogen oxide, 243 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 43 tons of particulate matter.

“The industry response has exceeded our expectations,” said CVI Program Manager Sharon Heller, “and we look forward to even greater participation next year as we attract the cleanest vessels to our port.”

2014 Budget
Continued from page 1

for the traveling public at the agency’s facilities.

The record $4.4 billion capital budget for 2014 calls for investments in facilities that will result in more than 23,800 total job years and more than $5.4 billion in economic activity for the region this year. It will allow the agency’s signature projects to proceed on schedule, including raising the Bayonne Bridge roadway, replacing the Goethals Bridge, redeveloping LaGuardia Airport’s Central Terminal Building, replacing the GWB’s steel deck, reconstructing of airport runways and taxiways, and redeveloping Greenville Yard-PA Marine Terminal.

“This budget reflects our ongoing return to the agency’s core mission with the goal of maximizing every dollar in investment for the region’s infrastructure,” Executive Director Pat Foye said. “This disciplined budget allows us to do more with less on the operating side, allowing us to invest record levels in priority capital projects that will fulfill our mission of building and maintaining world-class transportation facilities.”

Deputy Executive Director Deborah Gramiccioni said, “As stewards of the region’s major transportation facilities, we have an obligation to our tens of millions of customers to make sure they are well maintained, and that we invest our resources in projects with the greatest need. This budget keeps our staffing and administrative costs in check, which allows us to invest record levels in our airports, tunnels, bridges, port and rail system.”

The PA is seeking public comment on the proposed budgets, which are available at http://www.panynj.gov/corporate-information/pdf/2014-budget.pdf