



CONNECTICUT Port Authority

QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE TRANSPORTATION & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES

Pursuant to PA 24-81

April 1, 2025 Submission

Connecticut Port Authority (“the Authority”) is a quasi-public agency, pursuant to Section 1-120(1) of the General Statutes of Connecticut (“CGS”), a body politic and corporate, constituting a public instrumentality and political subdivision of the State of Connecticut (“State” or “Connecticut”) that is responsible for coordinating the development of the State’s ports and harbors and maritime economy. See generally CGS § 15-31b(a). It is the mission of the Authority to grow Connecticut’s economy and create jobs by strategically investing in the state’s three deep water ports and small harbors to enable each to maximize its own economic potential.

Pursuant to Public Act No. 24-81:

“Sec. 89. Section 15-31k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*): On or before October 1, 2021, and quarterly thereafter, the executive director of the Connecticut Port Authority shall submit a report regarding the status of pending and current contracts, small harbor projects and the construction project at the State Pier in the town of New London to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.”

“Sec. 51. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025, and quarterly thereafter, the Connecticut Port Authority shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies that shall include the following: (1) A description of the authority's work to support grants under the Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program; (2) a description of the authority's dredging activities and the needs concerning dredging in harbors in the state; (3) a description of the authority's marketing activities on behalf of maritime communities in the state; and (4) a staffing plan to handle the needs of the authority.”

I. Status of Pending and Current Contracts and Other Agreements

The following is a status list of current contracts:¹

1. Connecticut Innovations Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

ACTIVE – The Authority has a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with quasi-public agency Connecticut Innovations, effective March 6, 2019, for the purpose of providing the Authority with management and other administrative services, specifically in the areas of human resources, time and labor, payroll, benefits, and CORE-CT.

2. Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as Amended

ACTIVE – The Authority entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with Connecticut Department of Transportation (“CTDOT”) and the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut, effective June 2016, to facilitate the governance of the ports and harbors of the State, and the orderly transition and transfer of related resources to the Authority. The MOU also provides certain services to the Authority’s State Pier facility in New London, such as snow removal for the approach to State Pier Road.

3. Concession Agreement as Amended

ACTIVE - The Concession Agreement between the Authority and State Pier New London terminal operator Gateway New London, LLC was executed in January 2019. It is a twenty (20) year agreement, with two (2) additional ten (10) year options. Amendments No.1 and No.2 to the Concession Agreement were executed on August 20, 2024 and September 5, 2024 consecutively. These Amendments include the extension of the contract term from twenty (20) to twenty-three (23) years from the Closing Date.

4. Harbor Development Agreement (HDA) as Amended

ACTIVE – The Harbor Development Agreement (“HDA”) between the Authority, State Pier New London terminal operator Gateway New London, LLC and partners North East Offshore (“NEO”), a joint venture of Ørsted and Eversource, was executed in February 2020. The HDA resulted from a 2018 Request for Proposals process with respect to the operation of the State Pier facility and the subsequent Concession Agreement with Gateway (noted in #3 above).

The HDA governs the financial contributions and other commitments involved in the redevelopment and near-term operation of the facility as a state-of-the-art heavy-lift capable port facility that will accommodate a wide variety of cargoes, including wind turbine generator staging and assembly. The generational improvements will benefit the port’s long-term growth by increasing its capacity to accommodate heavy-lift cargo for years to come while maintaining its freight rail link. The HDA term includes the approximately two (2) year construction project, a ten (10) year sublease period and an

¹ Electronic copies of contracts available upon request.

additional seven (7) year option (terms of the option period to-be-negotiated at the end of the initial sublease period).

5. New England Central Railroad (NECR) Land and Track Lease as Amended

ACTIVE – The New England Central Railroad (“NECR”) Land and Track Lease between the Authority and New England Central Railroad, Inc. (NECR), a subsidiary of Connecticut-based Genesee & Wyoming Inc., was executed in March 2020. NECR agreed to lease a five-acre parcel under its control to the Authority to facilitate the redevelopment of the port facility to transform the State Pier in New London into a state-of-the-art heavy-lift capable port facility that accommodates a wide variety of cargoes, including wind turbine generator staging and assembly. The agreement covers the approximately two (2) year construction project, as well as the ten (10) year sublease period. It includes a renewal period capped at ten (10) years.

6. Saybrook Junction (Office Lease) as Amended

ACTIVE – The Authority leases office space for its headquarters at 455 Boston Post Road, Suite 204 at Saybrook Junction in Old Saybrook, which terminates June 2026.

7. Gowrie Group (Insurance Documents)

ACTIVE – Gowrie Group is the Authority’s current insurance broker, responsible for advising and marketing all insurance coverages.

8. Regan Communications / Quinn and Hary (Website Services Contract) as Amended

ACTIVE – The contract for monthly web maintenance includes uploading files and other content (including meeting agendas, minutes and recordings) to the Authority’s website and other activities, as requested, and is currently continuing month-to-month, based on direction from the Office of Policy and Management (“OPM”).

See Section V for information regarding the RFP for Communications & Marketing issued in 2024.

9. Sound Computing (IT Services)

ACTIVE - The Authority has an annual IT services contract with Sound Computing that is currently month-to-month, based on direction from OPM.

A Request for Quotations (RFQ) was issued at the end of March 2025. It is anticipated that a selected firm will be engaged prior to the end of FY 2025.

10. Cohn Reznick LLP (Auditing Services)

ACTIVE – The Authority entered into an engagement with Cohn Reznick LLP for the provision of Auditing Services for its FY 2024 after attaining a successful bid in response to CPA’s RFP for Auditing Services placed in August 2023. The CPA has the option to

engage Cohn Reznick for a maximum period of three successive years resulting from this RFP.

11. Robinson and Cole LLP (Legal Services)

ACTIVE – The Authority executed a three (3) year engagement with Robinson and Cole for Legal Services, which commenced on December 20, 2023.

12. Kiewit Infrastructure Co. Construction Manager-at- Risk (CMR) (State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Project) as Amended

ACTIVE – The Kiewit Infrastructure Co. was selected by the Authority to serve as the Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMR) for the State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Project and to engage subcontractors through a competitive bidding process to perform various construction work packages at the State Pier facility.

13. AECOM Construction Administrator (State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Project) as Amended

ACTIVE – The Authority's contract with AECOM designates AECOM as its Construction Administrator (owner's representative) for the State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Project.

14. AECOM Permitting (State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Project) as Amended

ACTIVE – The Authority's contract with AECOM authorizes AECOM to provide permitting services in support of state and federal permitting for the State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Project.

15. Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) Grant Agreements

ACTIVE – Following approval of the SHIPP project list by the State Bond Commission, the Authority executes grant agreements with recipient municipalities. See Section II for additional information regarding SHIPP.

16. GZA Geoenvironmental. Inc Consulting Services Agreement as Amended

ACTIVE – The Authority's agreement with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. ("GZA") is for the purpose of assessing the current condition and future capabilities of Fort Trumbull's Pier No. 7 in New London.

At the August 20, 2024 meeting of the Authority's Board of Directors, the Board authorized the Executive Director to execute and deliver a Third Amendment to that certain Consulting Services Agreement by and between the Authority and GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. to extend the term of the Amended Agreement from June 30, 2024, to March 31, 2025 for professional services related to engineering design solutions for repairs and modifications of Pier 7 located within Fort Trumbull State Park.

In October 2024, the Authority received a draft version of the 100% design plans from GZA. The final version is anticipated in 2025 as GZA finalizes electrical requirements supplied by the U.S. Navy for shore power at Pier 7.

17. Escrow Agreement with Webster Bank Per State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) State Pier Project Permit Condition

ACTIVE – As required by Condition #7 of DEEP License 201905859-SDF TW WQC for improvements to the New London State Pier, this escrow account was established to fund \$3,425,000.00 in support of fish habitat restoration projects as mitigation for coastal resource impacts authorized by the license.

18. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) and the State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”), Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) relating to the State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Project.

ACTIVE – The MOA is a condition of the Authority’s pending federal license from USACE for in-water work at the State Pier facility. The Authority is not a direct party to the MOA between USACE and SHPO, but is an “invited signatory.”

19. Agreement with U.S. Department of Commerce and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (“NOAA”) National Ocean Service (“NOS”) Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services as Amended.

ACTIVE – This is a five-year reimbursable agreement totaling \$124,000 for the ongoing enhancement, management, operation, maintenance, and repair of the New Haven, Connecticut Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (“PORTS”). NOS’ PORTS program supports safe and cost-efficient navigation by providing shipmasters, pilots, and other users with accurate real-time information required for safe vessel loading and transit, and to avoid groundings and collisions. This agreement is up for renewal on February 28, 2025.

At the January 21, 2025 meeting, the Connecticut Port Authority Board of Directors approved the Authority to enter into an amendment to the agreement.

20. Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) for the New Haven Harbor Improvement Federal Navigation Project Design Phase

ACTIVE – In December 2022, the Authority entered into a Memorandum of agreement (“MOA”) with the Army Corps of Engineers for the design phase of the New Haven Harbor Improvement Federal Navigation Project. Maintenance dredging is anticipated to begin in October 2025.

21. Planning Assistance to States Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) for a Dredged Material Placement Planning Study

ACTIVE – On March 13, 2023, the Authority entered into a Planning Assistance to States Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a Dredged Material Placement Planning Study. The study will build upon the recommendations made in the

2015 Dredged Material Management Plan for Long Island Sound. The Corps is responsible for leading the team. A detailed Project Management Plan (“PMP”) was completed February 2024. See Section IV for additional information.

22. Willscot (Trailer Lease)

INACTIVE – The Authority leased a trailer for office space at 200 State Pier Road, New London, CT 06320. The Lease Agreement began on August 30, 2024 for a minimum period of six (6) months and has been terminated.

II. Status of Small Harbor Projects

It is the mission of the Connecticut Port Authority to grow Connecticut's economy and create jobs by strategically investing in the state's three deep water ports and small harbors to enable each to maximize its own economic potential. In pursuit of this mission, the Authority has created the Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) as a central part of its strategy to support economic development throughout Connecticut's waterfront communities.

Connecticut General Statute, Section 13b-55a(c), states "Harbor improvement projects include the preparation of plans, studies and construction for the alteration and improvement of various state, municipal and other properties in or adjacent to the waters of the state, for purposes of improving the economy and infrastructure of the state."

Section 13b-56(b) provides "Any municipality may undertake a harbor improvement project, including the development, improvement, construction and installation of berthing areas, channels to berthing areas, sea walls, piers, docks, navigation aids, and bridges and other related facilities and structures, pursuant to a harbor improvement plan."

Harbor improvement projects qualify for varying levels of cost share via SHIPP, depending on the type of activities proposed:

Harbor Management Plans-Studies (50% Cost Share)
Boat Ramp Facilities Feasibility Studies/Design (All Planning Studies are 100% Grant Funded - No Cost Share)
Marina Repairs (Docks, Piles, other) (20% Cost Share) *
Dredging (20% Cost Share) *

*Not all municipalities have the funding resources to provide a 20% Cost Share. The program will accept preliminary project works (Design and Permitting) paid by the municipality as the cost share in lieu of the 20%.

RATING CRITERIA:

- Local and Regional Supporting Actions.
- Economic and Market Viability.
- Timeline to Implementation.
- Project Permitted.
- Financial Impact if Project Grant not Awarded.
- Type of Marine Related services Provided by Facility.
- Stage of Project, planning, design, construction or other.
- Number of current employees, and jobs created by this project.

Authority's Plan to Ensure a Transparent and Equitable Process for Selecting and Disbursing Grants through the Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program

The Authority remains committed to a transparent and equitable process for selecting and disbursing grants through SHIPP. Since the inception of the SHIPP program in 2017, all qualified respondents have received funding. When a new round of SHIPP

funding is announced the application requirements and selection criteria are posted publicly, along with the SHIPP Policies and Procedures².

In 2021, per guidance from OPM, the Authority updated its SHIPP Policies and Procedures. The SHIPP Policies and Procedures govern the selection criteria and grant funds disbursement requirements for program respondents. One modification to the SHIPP Policies and Procedures was to shift to providing recipients grant funds on a reimbursable basis. Per the new requirements, grantees must submit a Certified Invoice to the Authority for completed work to receive funds.

To receive reimbursement for funds, a grantee must submit the following documents:

1. Certified Invoice with all back-up material.
2. Updated Project Schedule
3. Project Narrative Report
4. Project Budget Report(s)
 - a. Budget Narrative
 - b. Progress Report
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Grantee Affirmative Action Plan

Since its inception, the three (3) tranches of the SHIPP grant have resulted in excess of \$12 million dollars, which has been awarded to 33 projects spanning 16 municipalities in the state of Connecticut. Needless to say, there are boundless benefits to be gained from the economic development of our state's harbors.

A summary of previous SHIPP grants is shown below along with a detailed listing of projects proposed under SHIPP Round 4.

SHIPP	Authorization Date	Number of Municipalities	Number of Projects	Amount Funded	Amount Expended
Round 1	11/29/2017	16	16	\$4,011,650	\$3,393,955
Round 2	4/16/2021	6	8	\$2,956,200	\$1,463,834
Round 3	4/06/2023	6	9	\$5,043,856	\$679,716

SHIPP Round 4

The Authority announced its Request for Applications of SHIPP Round 4 on March 1, 2024 with an application deadline of July 31st, 2024. The Authority received a total of 17 applications from 14 municipalities totaling \$12.6 million in requested funds. On October 15th, 2024 the Authority's Board of Directors approved 16 applications totaling \$10.3 million in requested funds be submitted to the Bond Commission for approval. The Authority submitted the request to the State Bond Commission in October 2024 and is currently awaiting State Bond Commission action.

² Electronic copy available upon request.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>SHIPP Category</i>	<i>SHIPP Application Request</i>	<i>SHIPP Committee Approved Amount</i>
Branford	Marina-Docks, Piles	\$800,000.00	\$800,000.00
Clinton	Boat Ramps	\$143,000.00	\$143,000.00
Essex	Dredging	\$440,000.00	\$440,000.00
East Hartford	Boat Ramps	\$1,551,577.00	\$1,551,577.00
Hartford	Marina-Docks, Piles	\$636,204.35	\$636,204.35
Middletown	Marina-Docks, Piles	\$1,472,736.00	\$1,472,736.00
Norwalk	Marina-Docks, Piles	\$3,528,000.00	\$3,528,000.00
Norwich	Breakwaters, Piers	\$192,000.00	\$192,000.00
Norwich	Boat Ramps	\$480,000.00	\$480,000.00
Old Lyme	Marina-Docks, Piles	\$280,000.00	\$228,500.00
Old Lyme	Dredging	\$1,342,630.20	\$33,000.00
Stonington	Marina-Docks, Piles	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Westbrook	Breakwaters, Piers	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Westbrook	Breakwaters, Piers	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
West Haven	Boat Ramps	\$152,900.00	\$152,900.00
Westport	Marina-Docks, Piles	\$170,000.00	\$170,000.00

Public Act No. 24-48 was passed on May 28, 2024. This legislation allows the Authority to fund private maritime infrastructure projects in small harbors. Section 1 (b) references an account may be used for funding these essential projects. The Authority recommends the Appropriations Committee fund this account so it can be administered separately from municipal SHIPP projects.

III. Status of the Construction Project at the State Pier in the Town of New London

Project Overview and Update

The Authority executed a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) with OPM and DAS, effective October 2, 2019, in connection with procurement, technical services, contract administration and construction management activities in support of the State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Project (the Project) in New London. OPM’s involvement terminated on May 31, 2022, and the MOA was amended in June 2022 to reduce DAS’ involvement during the remaining construction phase of the project on an as needed basis. The MOA with DAS was terminated on February 20, 2024, as requested by DAS and approved by the Authority’s Board of Directors. The OPM MOU terminated June 30, 2024.

The New London State Pier (“NLSP”) has reached substantial completion in June 2024 and is 100% operational in support of Offshore Wind Projects through its tenant Ørsted. NLSP continues to be the epicenter for staging and assembly of components in support of Revolution Wind. The generational improvements that transformed State Pier into the premier marshaling facility in the country included the following highlights:

- The infrastructure upgrades have re-made State Pier into a modern, heavy-lift capable terminal that meets the facility requirements of the offshore wind industry, while maintaining its freight rail link.
- The upgrades include the creation of two heavy-lift pads, each capable of handling loads of 5,000 pounds per square foot (psf). The rest of the facility’s load bearing capacity has been enhanced to 3,000psf.
- Hundreds of jobs were created during the construction phase of the project.
- The Ørsted joint venture company has entered into a ten-year lease agreement, which will allow it to use State Pier for wind turbine generator pre-assembly and staging, resulting in approximately 100 FTE offshore wind-related jobs created at the site. During periods in which Orsted is not utilizing the facility for its own offshore wind development projects, they have the right to sub-lease thus allowing continued revenue stream for the State of Connecticut.
- Three offshore wind projects totaling more than 1,700MW are already scheduled and/or completed from the completed facility:
 - South Fork Wind (132MW, State of New York)- Complete
 - Revolution Wind (304MW, State of Connecticut and 400MW, State of Rhode Island)- In Progress
 - and Sunrise Wind (880MW, State of New York)- anticipated to Commence approximately 2026

Project Cost Update

In April 2021, the Authority executed a Construction Manager-at-Risk contract (“CMR”) with Kiewit Infrastructure Co., which resulted in generating a Target Guaranteed Maximum Price (“GMP”) of \$204 million (i.e., \$193m construction cost, plus another \$11m in contingency) for construction of the Project. Combined with the project’s separate non-construction or ‘soft costs’, which totaled \$31.5 million and included items

such as design, permitting, lease of adjacent property, construction administration and 3rd party testing, the total project cost was estimated at \$235.5 million.

As noted by the Chair of the Board at the Authority's March 22, 2022 special board meeting, the permitting process for the project took significantly longer than anticipated and the board openly discussed that there was cost associated with the permit delay and additional cost in accelerating certain aspects of critical path construction activities associated with the State Pier's heavy lift platform to accommodate the handling of offshore wind components necessary for delivery of Orsted and Eversource's first offshore wind project, known as South Fork Wind.

The Authority successfully negotiated and approved the costs associated with the permitting delay and project acceleration. As of May 24, 2022, based on the trade contractor buy-out / procurement activities, the project's awarded GMP for construction totaled just over \$185 million. As a result of legislative authorization for an additional \$20 million and the Bond Commission's action on May 26, 2022, the available funds for the State Pier Infrastructure Improvements Project was increased to a total of \$255.5 million.

At its meeting on June 21, 2022, the Authority's Board of Directors executed the final trade contractor notice to proceed for dredge related work. The dredging and material disposal subcontract cost was \$32 million. Collectively, with all trade packages awarded, the construction related GMP was approximately \$217 million and together with the soft cost forecast of \$33 million, generated a total project cost of approximately \$250 million. This total project cost was consistent with public discussions of the project.

Several site-specific issues were necessary to overcome to deliver the Project in compliance with the approved design criteria. For example, additional demolition of the State Pier's existing subsurface structural concrete deck was necessary to accommodate the width and transport corridor associated with the installation berth's heavy lift platform. Additional micro piles and anchor wall piles were necessary to overcome poor subsurface soil characteristics at the Northeast Bulkhead Annex and South Wall and modifications to the electrical equipment were required to accommodate changes to the shore to ship power connections. The most significant site issue that has impacted the Project is deep obstructions, such as rocks and boulders that range from 2-feet to upwards of 10-feet in circumference and are located 20 to 50-feet or more below the surface. The presence of these obstructions prohibited the successful driving of the pipe and sheet pile to their required design depth. For structural stability of the wharf and to achieve certification that the cargo platforms can handle the significant loads generated when transferring cargo from the shore to the ship, the obstructions had to be removed and the piles driven to design depth. Removal of the deep obstructions took longer and cost more than anticipated.

As of its meeting on July 18, 2023, the Authority's Board of Directors had (i) approved amendments to the Harbor Development Agreement ("HDA") that enabled its private-sector partners to provide \$23.75 million (half) of additional construction funding and (ii) obtained legislation that facilitated the State of Connecticut to provide \$30 million of additional funding. These additional funding sources, plus other minor adjustments, increased the available funds for the project to \$311 million.

The estimated project cost of the HDA as of the Authority's Board Meeting dated August 20, 2024 comprised of construction costs amounting to \$275 million, and soft costs averaging \$36 million. As previously noted, Substantial Completion of the Project was achieved in June 2024. The Authority continues to work with the CMR to ensure the balance of punch list items are completed.

The CMR and the Authority are engaged in project closeout discussions. The expected action is to have the contract completely closed by June 1, 2025. The CMR has requested compensation for additional time spent in construction activities prior to June of 2024. These requests are outside of the contract as written. There are three issues which were not constructed as designed which require resolution. These items are being dispositioned in a manner that will not inhibit use of the pier for ongoing and future work.

IV. A Description of the Authority's Dredging Activities and the Needs Concerning Dredging in Harbors in the State

Status of Dredged Material Placement Planning Study

The Connecticut Dredged Material Management Study is being conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") under the authority provided in Section 22, Water Resources Development Act of 1974, as amended and commonly known as the Planning Assistance to States ("PAS") program under the "comprehensive plan" category. The study will conduct analyses of dredge material needs and placement sites in Connecticut in support of overall statewide coastal dredged material management planning. The Authority is the non-federal sponsor and cost-shares the study on a 50:50 basis with the federal government. A Study Agreement between the Authority and the USACE was executed on March 16, 2023, with an agreed upon initial study cost of \$1.5 million. The study will update a comprehensive list of non-federal dredging needs along the Connecticut coastline over the next 25 years, characterize the materials needed to be dredged, and identify methods and locations to place the dredged material. The placement methods will consider the suitability of the materials for approved uses and will include beneficial uses. On August 20, 2024, the Authority's Board of Directors voted to approve an amendment to the agreement with USACE. This amendment increased the State's investment in this project to \$3.25 million. This will allow the USACE to conduct further investigation and detailed analysis of alternate dredged material placement sites regionally throughout the state. The sites will benefit stakeholders by reducing the distance contractors travel to dispose of dredged material.

The Authority has continued to work with USACE and DEEP, and in May 2024, the Connecticut Dredged Material Management Study Dredging Inventory and Forecast Assessment of Navigation-Dependent Facilities in Connecticut Waterways of Long Island Sound questionnaire was finalized and distributed by the Authority to those identified in the past as waterway asset managers/owners within Connecticut waterways. The deadline for questionnaire submissions from stakeholders was July 31, 2024, however the Authority worked with USACE to allow for late submissions if received. In October 2024 the USACE, DEEP and the Authority conducted three public information sessions to inform stakeholders of the process and receive feedback. Over one hundred members of the public registered for these informative webinars. USACE is finalizing the inventory of potential placement sites and final placement site screening. They anticipate starting the scoping and detailed investigations of a finite list of possible placement sites in Summer 2025 with a final report anticipated in late 2026.

New Haven Harbor Improvements

This project includes widening and deepening the federal navigation channel and expanding the federal turn around basin. The Cross Sound Cable final installation will occur during this project work which involves placing the cable at a final location and depth that will not interfere with future actions to perform maintenance dredging. December of 2023 sounding data for the channel indicates that there is significant shoaling of the channel. As a result, a restriction has been imposed on ships arriving at New Haven Harbor and there are instances where ships have waited for high tide to provide increased margin because of the lower water depth. USACE will perform

maintenance dredging of the channel in October of 2025 and there are discussions scheduled to discuss the potential to perform limited dredging sooner than October to support safe transit lanes for ship traffic. The accomplishment of the improvement project will begin in October of 2026 and be completed by February of 2028.

Bridgeport / Black Rock Harbor Improvements

The Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Bridgeport & Black Rock Harbor nears completion. The next phase is the Final Planning, Engineering and Design (PED) Phase and is expected to start in December of 2025. There is an estimated \$1.3 million needed for the non-federal share of this project. The USACE is also preparing preliminary cost estimates for the construction of a CAD (Confined Aquatic Disposal) cell to support the needed dredging in these two areas.

Statewide

The Connecticut Port Authority is reviewing the process for businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities to perform dredging with a focus on ways to lower permitting times and costs, and to minimize the cost of disposal.

V. A Description of the Authority’s Marketing Activities on Behalf of Maritime Communities in the State

In late 2024, the Authority issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Communications and Marketing Services. In early 2025, the selection committee reconvened with the Authority’s new Executive Director. Interviews with shortlisted firms were completed in March 2025 with a recommendation to the Authority’s Board of Directors to follow in April. It is anticipated that a selected firm will be engaged before the end of FY 2025.



In line with the State’s new branding guidelines, the Authority has a new logo thanks to the support of Anthony Anthony, Chief Marketing Officer in the Office of Statewide Marketing & Tourism, and Paul O. Robertson, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

The Authority is an active member in several local, state and national organizations including the Connecticut Maritime Trades Association (CMTA), Connecticut Tourism Coalition, Connecticut Maritime Association (CMA), Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT, North Atlantic Ports Association (NAPA), American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), and Oceantic Network. The Authority attends events held by these and other organizations to promote and support the growth of Connecticut’s maritime economy.

In early 2025, Connecticut Port Authority Executive Director Michael O’Connor served as a presenter at CMTA’s Industry Day where he addressed dredging needs in the State. He participated in a Career Day event hosted by Junior Achievement of Southwest New England at Guilford High School to introduce students to possible careers in the maritime sector along with CMTA Chairman Tasha Cusson and Managing Director Jennifer Kaweck. He also participated in a Career Day event at Norwich Free Academy.

In April 2025, Michael O’Connor will be representing the Authority at the CMA Shipping Conference in Stamford, CT and the Oceantic Network’s International Partnering Forum (IPF) offshore renewable energy conference in Virginia.

VI. A Staffing Plan to Handle the Needs of the Authority

The Authority plans to bring an updated Schedule of Positions to the April 2025 meeting of the Human Resources Committee which includes current positions and the addition of a position to address community outreach needs. It also plans to engage interns in FY 2026.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at director@ctportauthority.com if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the content of this report.

Submitted by:

Connecticut Port Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. O'Connor".

Name: Michael J. O'Connor

Title: Executive Director

Date: March 31, 2025