



## ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Section [15-31a\(n\)](#) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, "for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of the State's maritime policies, facilities and support for maritime commerce and industry."

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025**  
**11:00 AM**

**Location:**

Southern Connecticut State University  
Adanti Student Center  
Room 201 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
345 Fitch Street, New Haven, CT 06515

**Teams link was provided**

*\*Please Note: In addition to the notes below, an audio recording of this meeting can be found on the Authority's website at <https://ctportauthority.com/governance/>*

### **Board Attendance**

Chair Paul Whitescarver; Vice-Chair Grant Westerson; Gaffney Feskoe; John Johnson; David Kooris; Brian Thompson; Sally Kruse; Kaelie Moran; Paul Hinsch; Thomas Gill; Kristin Urbach; Doug Dalena; Mayor Rilling; Mayor Passero

Absent: Dave Pohorylo; Kimberly Lesay; Thomas Patton; Paul O. Robertson

Staff/Other: Michael O'Connor; Fayola Haynes; Jill Dowling-Moreno; Melissa Root; Anthony Afriyie

### **NOTES**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Paul Whitescarver called the Annual Public Hearing to order at 11:00am.

#### **2. Connecticut Port Authority Presentation**

*(Begins at 1:20 of the audio recording)*

Executive Director Michael O'Connor provided a presentation that included a review of 2025 and an overview of priorities for 2026. For the 2025 review, he noted updates to staffing; marketing and communications efforts; engagement with shoreline partners; sponsorship of the CT Maritime Heritage Festival; Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP); ongoing activities including New London State Pier operations, federal grant application for Groton Fuel Terminal, implementation of EPA Clean Ports grant, commercial fisherman leases for dock space at State Pier and Fort Trumbull Pier 7; and dredging updates including the completion of maintenance

dredging in New Haven Harbor, maintenance dredging of Stony Creek in Branford, New Haven channel work in 2026/2027, and dredging in Bridgeport (2029) and Black Rock (2030); planning for future dredging management; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Planning Assistance to States study that continues to progress. He noted priorities for 2026 including dredging, logistics and freight opportunities, federal grants, SHIPP, engagement and future activities at New London State Pier.

### **3. Public Hearing**

*(Begins at 27:18 of the audio recording)*

Paul Whitescarver provided an introduction. Public Comment was made by:

- Jim Dwyer, Stratford
- Geoff Steadman, CT Harbor Management Association
- Rita Nigri, Grant Coordinator, City of Norwalk
- Michael Pelton, First Selectman, Town of Portland
- Kim Taylor, Southport, former Fairfield Harbor Management Chair
- Erin McKenna, Planner, City of Stamford
- Geoff Steadman for Mark Paine, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of West Haven

### **4. Adjournment**

*(Begins at 51:03 of the audio recording)*

Paul Whitescarver thanked Southern Connecticut State University, Connecticut Port Authority (Authority) Executive Director and Staff. He noted that it has been a successful year for the Authority in its mission to grow the State's maritime economy and recognized former Board Chair David Kooris for his years of service on the Board. He thanked the Board members for their participation this year and years prior and noted a positive outlook for the year ahead.

Motion to adjourn made by John Johnson, seconded by Grant Westerson. Hearing adjourned at 11:53am.