

**Baltimore Sun**

**Port of Baltimore initiative for marine highway under review**

**U.S. Marine Administration to study application by Baltimore and two partners**

By Hanah Cho, The Baltimore Sun

The U.S. Maritime Administration has selected the port of Baltimore and its partners, the Port of New Bedford in Massachusetts and Port Canaveral in Florida, for the opportunity to apply for funding under the America's Marine Highway Program.

The federal program is intended to encourage shippers to transport cargo by water instead of using the nation's highways.

Under the initiative, the partnership among the three ports proposed developing a marine highway that would link the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and southern regions. The administration advanced the partnership's application for further analysis.

**Baltimore Business Journal**

**Port of Baltimore proposes marine highway to move more freight by sea**

The Port of Baltimore is being considered for millions of dollars in grants for a program designed to encourage moving more freight by sea.

[The Maryland Port Administration](#) is partnering with the ports of New Bedford, Mass., and Canaveral, Fla., on the East Coast Marine Highway Initiative. The group is one of six projects that has moved forward for further study. Eight projects have been approved for grants.

The MPA's initiative proposes developing a marine highway service using a fleet of new and existing vessels transporting containers along the Interstate 95 corridor. The plan suggests adding other ports to the system in the future.

The [U.S. Transportation Department](#) is awarding the grants through the [U.S. Maritime Administration](#). The agency received 35 applications for the grants.

It's not clear how much money will go to the projects. The agency is putting \$7 million toward projects initially, but more money is expected to be available in the future. To date, the maritime administration has awarded \$58 million in grants to start or expand marine highway services.

**Journal of Commerce**  
**Port Of Baltimore Selected For Further Study As Marine Highway Project**  
**Federal Initiative Could Help Create Jobs and Reduce Highway Congestion and Emissions**

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- The Port of Baltimore, in partnership with the Port of New Bedford (MA) and Port Canaveral (FL), has been selected for further study and analysis by the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) for its America's Marine Highway program. The partnership has proposed what is called the East Coast Marine Highway Initiative. The goal of the Marine Highway program is to identify routes where water transportation presents opportunities to relieve landside highway corridors from traffic congestion and reduce air emissions. MARAD received 35 applications submitted by ports and various U.S. transportation entities and selected eight projects eligible to apply for immediate funding and six additional initiatives (Port of Baltimore Advertisement partnership) for additional research and the chance to apply for funding of the marine highway program.

“I want to thank the U.S. Department of Transportation and Maritime Administration for advancing our application to further analysis and consideration,” said Maryland Port Administration (MPA) Executive Director James J. White. “The Port of Baltimore is positioned in a very unique geographic location and is right in the middle of one of the largest consumer markets in the country. We believe this project could create jobs at our Port as it would bring domestic trucks and their cargo to our marine terminals. Instead of that cargo being hauled hundreds of miles by truck, it would be placed onboard a ship or barge and transited by water to its destination.”

The partnership between the ports of Baltimore, New Bedford, and Canaveral would develop a marine highway that would link the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern regions of the U.S. and provide an alternative for transporting freight along the 1,000-mile Interstate 95 corridor. MARAD will work with the partnership to further research and analyze their initiative.

The Port of Baltimore employs about 16,500 workers. Out of about 360 U.S. ports, the Port of Baltimore is ranked 15th nationally for total foreign cargo tonnage and 12th for total dollar value of cargo. The Port is responsible for about \$3.7 billion in personal wage and salary income. Activities at the Port of Baltimore generate nearly \$400 million in state and local taxes.

## **The AfroAmerican Newspaper** **Port of Baltimore Selected for Finalist in Marine Highway Program**

by AFRO Staff

The Maryland Port Administration recently announced that the Port of Baltimore has been chosen for further study and analysis by the U.S. Maritime Administration's for the America's Marine Highway program. The program was designed to find routes along the Interstate 95 corridor where water transportation can replace surface transportation routes that contribute to air pollution and traffic congestion along the highway.

"Making better use of our rivers and coastal routes offers an intelligent way to relieve some of the biggest challenges we face in transportation – congestion on our roads, climate change, fossil fuel energy use and soaring road maintenance costs," said U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood in a statement. "There is no better time for us to improve the use of our rivers and coasts for transportation."

The project was selected for advancement as a partnership with the Port of New Bedford in Massachusetts and Port Canaveral in Florida. MPA officials said the partnership proposed the creation of the East Coast Marine Highway Initiative. The future plan will work to develop a marine highway linked throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southern regions of the U.S. The initiative would utilize new and existing fleets to transport containers and trailers to various destinations along the Interstate 95 corridor.

Baltimore's port was among eight selected from 35 applications from ports and other transportation entities to be eligible to apply for immediate funding and further research. The Maritime Administration said that roughly \$7 million in funding has been made available for these projects.

"I want to thank the U.S. Department of Transportation and Maritime Administration for advancing our application to further analysis and consideration," said MPA Executive Director James J. White in a statement. "The Port of Baltimore is positioned in a very unique geographic location and is right in the middle of one of the largest consumer markets in the country. We believe this project could create jobs at our Port as it would bring domestic trucks and their cargo to our marine terminals. Instead of that cargo being hauled hundreds of miles by truck, it would be placed onboard a ship or barge and transited by water to its destination."

As far back as the American Revolution the port played an integral part in the battle against the British. Today, the port is an integral part in the economic, environmental, and cultural sustainability of Maryland. It is a hub for jobs and economic growth in a variety of sectors including finance, transportation and shipping, education and tourism.

According to the MPA, about 16,500 direct jobs and \$3.7 billion in annual wages depend on the continued viability of the port. In 2008, the MPA reported that almost 9 million tons of cargo passed through its waterway. However, 2009 and an unstable economic climate brought a decrease in imports, exports, overall tonnage and cargo to the port according to a study conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division. Those indicators decreased an average of 32 percent, though Baltimore ranked the 12th highest port nationwide for cargo value. If selected, the proposed initiative could bring much needed relief to the region to help alleviate the eight percent unemployment rate in the Baltimore area.