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**Navigational Clearance Achieved:**
Largest Ship to Cross Panama Canal Makes Grand Entrance

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By raising the navigational clearance of the Bayonne Bridge, deepening harbor channels and modernizing port infrastructure and operations, the Port Authority was able to seamlessly welcome the largest container vessel to cross the Panama Canal or call on an East Coast port -- the CMA CGM T. Roosevelt on September 7. The ship is aptly named after the 26th president of the United States and former New York governor who championed the construction of the canal in the early 1900s.

“This is a time for both celebration and validation, as this ultra-large, eco-friendly container vessel’s arrival signifies the culmination of the hard work of so many Port Authority employees, who have ensured the continued competitiveness and vitality of our port,” Port Director Molly Campbelf said. “It was almost a century ago when the Port Authority was originally tasked with overseeing and improving marine trade operations in the bi-state region. Now, the Port Authority’s made it clear to the region, nation, and world that we are ready for our next century of service.”

The CMA CGM T. Roosevelt is one of the world’s largest, environmentally friendly vessels, measuring about 1,200 feet long (more than four times the size of the Statue of Liberty!) and has a cargo capacity of up to 14,414 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units). Despite its enormous size, the ship was able to reach APM Terminals at Elizabeth-Port Authority Marine Terminal thanks to the June completion of the $1.6 billion Bayonne Bridge Navigational Clearance Project, as well as other initiatives, such as the 50-foot harbor deepening program. These initiatives have modernized the port’s infrastructure and made it accessible to vessels carrying up to 18,000 TEUs.

The mega vessel was given a grand welcome to the Port of NY & NJ, including a water cannon salute, the presentation of the colors by the Port Authority Police Department’s Honor Guard and Pipes & Drums, and a commemoration event where Port Authority Chairman Kevin O’Toole, Chief of Major Capital Projects Steve Flate, Ms. Campbell, and other officials and guests came together to mark the occasion. Witnessing firsthand as History called on the port once again, many other Port Authority employees also took time to watch from vantage points in Bayonne and Staten Island, as the T. Roosevelt made its way to the terminal.

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In September, qualified residents in the expanded area of Zone Two were mailed packets outlining the various programs and services for which they may be eligible to receive. Services include: Window Replacement and Temporary Hotel Stay Programs, Pool and Window Cleaning services, and the Power Washing Program. The Port Authority has contracted with O.R. Colan Associates (ORC) to verify eligibility, and work with the residents who are interested in participating. For additional information about the Community Mitigation Program or any of the services mentioned above, please contact ORC at 201 301-6265 or Chad Serpa, Bayonne Bridge Project External Relations Representative at 718 390-2532 or 718 390-3003.

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The Port Authority of NY & NJ Thanks Chief Niekrasz

In appreciation for his support during the Bayonne Bridge Navigational Clearance Project, City of Bayonne Police Chief Drew Niekrasz, who retired in June, was presented a commorative plaque by Director of Public Safety/Superintendent of Police Michael Fedorko and Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Assistant Director of Asset Management Dennis Stabile.

Over the past several years, Chief Niekrasz, a 30-year BPD veteran, worked closely with the Port Authority on traffic management around the bridge, helping to minimize the impact on residents. At the plaque presentation, Superintendent Fedorko and Mr. Stabile also greeted incoming Police Chief Drew Sisk, with whom they will continue this important Bayonne partnership.

Milestone Update

- Overall Project Completion: 75%
- Northbound Approach Roadway Installation: 99%
- Southbound Approach Roadway Fabrication: 70%
- Northbound Main Span Roadway Concrete Deck: 100%
- Southbound Main Span Roadway Concrete Deck: 95%

Construction Update

As demolition of the old roadway and support structures continues, crews have been concurrently erecting the precast concrete piers that will carry the southbound approach roadway.

Closures

For scheduled bridge closures, please check www.panynj.gov/WeeklyConstruction

For the most up-to-date information on Detours and Local Street Closures, visit www.panynj.gov/BBstreets

Employee Spotlight

Name: Jimmy Moorey
Hometown: New York, New York
Job Title: Assistant Resident Engineer

Job Responsibilities: Mr. Moorey has over a decade of experience providing construction management and inspection services for a variety of infrastructure projects throughout the New York and New Jersey metropolitan area. As Assistant Resident Engineer for the Bayonne Bridge Navigational Clearance Program, Mr. Moorey has been a vital asset since the start of the project in 2013. He is responsible for monitoring the contractor’s field construction activities for compliance with contract drawings and all codes and standards, mentoring and managing the inspection team, assisting the Resident Engineers in the administration of the construction contracts, and overseeing and ensuring that over 200 six-foot diameter drilled shafts are constructed in accordance with the project plans, among other critical tasks including SOE, footings, substructure per segments erection and superstructure roadway segments erection. “The raising of the Bayonne Bridge has been a challenging yet rewarding process, and is a project that I am proud to be involved with from the beginning,” said Mr. Moorey. His knowledge and experience has allowed for this extraordinarily complex project to progress.

Staten Island

John’s Famous Deli has been proudly serving the Port Richmond neighborhood for several decades and has become a favorite breakfast and lunch spot among many of the workers on the Bayonne Bridge Navigational Clearance Project. The deli is located on Innis Street in Staten Island and is open Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are known for their delicious menu items, like their hot shrimp parmigiana and roast beef sandwiches. Alberto Moreno, owner of John’s Famous Deli, appreciates the support from the workers raising the Bayonne Bridge and from the local community.

Bayonne

Ms. Antonette Bugaja, a Bayonne native who lives near the Bayonne Bridge, turned 90 on August 24, 2017. She celebrated this milestone with family, friends, and Port Authority staff at her home. Ms. Bugaja was born a few years before the original Bayonne Bridge was opened to traffic, and is excited to witness the completion of the Bayonne Bridge Navigational Clearance Project. She has many memories of the Bayonne Bridge, turned 90 on August 24, 2017.

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Milestones and construction updates are ongoing, and you can find more information on the Port Authority’s website for the latest updates.

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The CMA CGM T. Roosevelt sails under the Bayonne Bridge on its way to Elizabeth-Port Authority Marine Terminal, thanks to the agency’s project to raise the crossing’s navigational clearance from 151 feet to 215 feet. Photo Credit: Mike Middagh by the Port Authority Police Department’s Honor Guard and Pipes & Drums, and a commemoration event where Port Authority Chairman Kevin O’Toole, Chief of Major Capital Projects Steve Flate, Ms. Campbell, and other officials and guests came together to mark the occasion. Witnessing firsthand as history called on the port once again, many other Port Authority employees also took time to watch from vantage points in Bayonne and Staten Island, as the Roosevelt made its way to the terminal.

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"Raise the Roadway"