

Port of Pittsburgh Commission & Legislative Committee Report – Scott Harshman (Port of Pittsburgh), Chair; Legislative Committee: Scott Harshman, Pat Kelly, and George Petrus

### 1. WRDA 2022

- Congressional Hearings continue
- Port of Pittsburgh priorities
  - Upper Ohio River Navigation System Project
  - Oppose additional taxation, tolling, lockage fees or other charges on inland waterways
  - Reassess how the Army Corps of Engineers conducts their Benefit-Cost Analysis

### 2. Congested Mitigation Air Quality Program

- Reminder – next phase of program will begin in Fall 2022

### 3. PortPitt's Small Grants Program

- Grant awards up to \$10,000
- Currently receiving applications
- visit: <https://www.portpitt.com/pages/portpitt-small-grants-program>
- **Deadline is March 18th**

### 4. Other Grant Funding Opportunities

- USDOT MARAD Port Industrial Development Program - \$450M available this year
  - Currently receiving applications – **deadline is May 16<sup>th</sup>**
  - The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also expanded the list of eligible projects to explicitly include projects that reduce or eliminate port-related criteria pollutant or greenhouse gas emissions such as:
    - port electrification or electrification master planning
    - harbor craft or equipment replacements or retrofits
    - development of port or terminal microgrids
    - provision of idling reduction infrastructure
    - purchase of cargo handling equipment and related infrastructure
    - worker training to support electrification technology
    - installation of port bunkering facilities from ocean-going vessels for fuels
    - electric vehicle charging or hydrogen refueling infrastructure for drayage and medium or heavy-duty trucks and locomotives that service the port and related grid upgrades
    - other related port activities, including charging infrastructure, electric rubber-tired gantry cranes, and anti-idling technologies
  - USDOT will be holding "The "Economic Vitality: Small Projects at Small Ports" webcast on March 23, 2022 from 12:00 - 2:00PM EST
- USDOT MARAD Marine Highway Program – currently open – due April 29<sup>th</sup>.

- Federal grant opportunities coming soon:
  - Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program
  - Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities
  - Nationally Significant Freight & Highways Projects program, also known as Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)
  - National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program (“Mega-projects”)
    - \$5B new program for large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits.
    - Projects eligible under the Mega-projects program include:
      - a highway or bridge project carried out on the National Multimodal Freight Network; the National Highway Freight Network; or the National Highway System
      - **a freight intermodal (including public ports) or freight rail project that provides a public benefit**
      - a railway-highway grade separation or elimination project
      - an intercity passenger rail project
      - and certain public transportation projects that are eligible for Federal Transit Administration funding of title 49, United States Code
- PA state grant funding
  - Applications are currently being accepted for the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund program. Opened March 1<sup>st</sup>. Deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## 5. Legislative / Executive Branch actions of interest:

- Federal Government
  - FY21-FY22 Omnibus Spending Package - \$1.5 trillion includes \$782 billion in defense spending and \$730 billion for non-defense spending
    - US House to vote on it today and then send it to the Senate
    - Includes earmarks
  - EPA announced on March 3<sup>rd</sup> plans to set new, more stringent standards to reduce pollution from heavy-duty vehicles and engines starting in model year (MY) 2027. Public hearings to be announced in the future.
- State Government
  - Governor Wolf presented his proposed budget last month - \$43.7 billion
  - Includes proposed minimum wage increase
  - Proposes corporate tax reform to the current Corporate Net Income Tax rate from 9.99 to 7.99 percent on January 1, 2023, with a reduction to 6.99 percent in 2026 on a path to 4.99 percent.

END