

RESOLUTION NO. 22-PT-15  
PRESENTED TO THE BOARD – JULY 14, 2022

TO: PORT AUTHORITY COMMISSION AND  
NEAL RICHARDSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FROM: SUSAN TAYLOR, PORT DIRECTOR

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL APPLICATION TO THE US  
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION (MARAD) FOR A MARINE HIGHWAY  
CONTAINER-ON-BARGE (COB) PROJECT DESIGNATION

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

To promote the expanded use of the inland waterways for moving America’s freight, MARAD designates locally sponsored marine highway projects through which ports and other entities located therein can apply for grants. The Port Authority applied for and received such a designation in 2015. This resolution seeks approval for the Authority to renew the designation.

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**BACKGROUND:**

MARAD, a subdivision of the US Department of Transportation, provides federal support for US merchant marine interests. Its Marine Highway Program seeks to reduce the nation’s dependence upon moving freight by truck, redirecting cargo instead to the country’s inland waterway system. Shipping by barge greatly reduces fuel consumption, air pollution, and landside congestion. Fewer trucks on the road also cuts highway maintenance and replacement costs.

Marine Highways parallel the interstates from which MARAD seeks to redirect cargo, in our case I-55 (New Orleans to Chicago) and I-35 (St. Louis to Wisconsin). COB provides river transport of containerized goods, either loaded on barges or on self-propelled vessels (see Attachment A). Our designation, M55/35 COB Project, has created the opportunity for ports within this network to receive MARAD grants for planning, dock infrastructure, equipment such as COB cranes, etc. In addition to renewing our designation, we will combine it with another similar project that is expiring and slightly expand the scope to include unitized (palletized or other) cargo.

The Authority is requesting authorization to submit a renewal application under above structure and according to 46 CFR § 393 – the Marine Highway Final Rule. The requested Project Designation, the “M55/M35 Container on Barge and Unitized Cargo Project,” has an August 15, 2022, application deadline.

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**REQUESTED ACTION:**

Approval of this Resolution 22-PT-15 by the Port Commission.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Port Authority Commission hereby approves this Resolution and authorizes the Authority to apply to the US Maritime Administration for a renewal of the M55/M35 Container on Barge Project Designation.
2. The Executive Director and/or his designee, and the appropriate officers, agents and employees of the Authority, are hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.
3. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately after its passage and approval by the governing body of the Authority.

**ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022.

THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS PORT AUTHORITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

[SEAL]

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary



**Resolution  
22-PT-15  
Attachment  
A**

