



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2013

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PORT RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDING TO INCREASE CARGO CAPACITY

TIGER Funds Will Enlarge Land Availability At Fairfield Marine Terminal And Add Rail Access

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- Governor Martin O'Malley today applauded the work of the Maryland congressional delegation in helping to secure \$10 million in federal funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program for the Port of Baltimore to increase its cargo handling capacity and provide rail access at its Fairfield Marine Terminal. The project will use dredged material from the Port's main access channel to fill an obsolete and dilapidated basin and create a new 7.6-acre cargo staging area in a prime location near the vessel berth.

"I want to thank our congressional delegation for all of their hard work to secure these federal dollars for one of our state's greatest economic engines, the Port of Baltimore," said Governor O'Malley. "These dollars will allow us to continue to grow our busy cargo business while also maintaining and growing good-paying, family-supporting, blue collar jobs."

The bulkheads at the Fairfield Marine Terminal's basin are antiquated and at more than 60 years old, at the end of their useful life. The dredged material that will fill the basin will come from the 50-foot deep channel leading to the Seagirt Marine Terminal. While the channel is currently deep enough to accommodate supersized container vessels, there are portions of the channel that need to be widened to allow for easier access for larger ships. That material will fill the basin, creating additional cargo lay-down land. Rail access will also be added to Fairfield, enhancing the efficiency of handling autos and roll on/roll off equipment (farm and construction machinery) which are the primary commodities of that terminal. The Port of Baltimore currently ranks first among all U.S. ports for handling autos and roll on/roll off machinery.

The Port of Baltimore's application for TIGER funding was among 568 national applications requesting more than nine billion dollars. The total estimate for the project is \$29 million. The Maryland Department of Transportation has agreed to fund the other \$19 million.

In addition to autos and roll on/roll off machinery, the Port of Baltimore is also ranked as the top port among 360 U.S. ports for handling imported forest products, imported sugar, imported aluminum and imported gypsum. Baltimore ranks second in the U.S. for exported coal, and imported iron ore. Overall Baltimore is ranked ninth for the total dollar value of international cargo and 11th for international cargo tonnage.

Business at the Port of Baltimore generates about 14,630 direct jobs, while about 108,000 jobs in Maryland are linked to port activities. The Port is responsible for \$3 billion in personal wages and salary and more than \$300 million in state and local taxes.

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Governor Martin O'Malley MDOT Secretary James T. Smith, Jr. MPA Executive Director James J. White

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