

**PORT OF PALM BEACH DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION AND
COMMISSION ACTION**

**DISTRICT REPORTS
ITEM G-1**

PREPARED BY: Manuel Almira Executive Director August 16, 2018

SUBJECT: **Executive Director's Report**

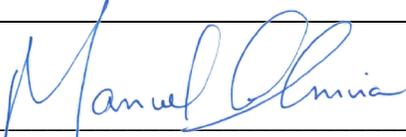
BACKGROUND: An outline of the topics to be reported on at the August 16, 2018 Regular Board Meeting is attached for your review.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED: No _____ Yes X

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS: Informational Item Only.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Manuel Almira, Executive Director

DATE ACTION TAKEN: _____

Approved: _____

Disapproved: _____

Deferred To: _____

Incorporated into Minutes: _____

Motion By: _____

Seconded By: _____

Unanimous: Yes _____ No _____

By: _____

**Port of Palm Beach District
Executive Director's Report
Board of Commissioners Meeting
August 16, 2018**

Around the Port

Florida Department of Transportation District #4

Last Friday, Carl Baker, Doug Vogt of Tropical Shipping, and I met with Rick Ferrin of TranSystems. TranSystems is an engineering company that conducts traffic analysis and studies for FDOT District #4.

As part of TranSystems' continuing contract with FDOT, they will be performing a "Capability, Capacity and Surface Transportation Network Planning" research project. The purpose of the study is to accurately forecast constraints, bottlenecks and service level failures in the surrounding transportation network that serve the Port of Palm Beach. The Port has significantly improved cargo and passenger throughput over the past five years; since this trend is definitely continuing – especially with the capital improvement projects underway and planned – FDOT and TranSystems endorsed the study.

This project will cost FDOT approximately \$130,000, but is at **NO COST** to the Port.

Florida State Transportation Economic Development (FSTED)

The Port of Palm Beach submitted two grant requests last month as part of the Florida Ports Council Annual Program Project Application Cycle.

The first request was for \$1.5 million, at a 50/50 match, for Annex Property Site Improvements. Once the Annex Property is rezoned by the City of Riviera Beach for Port use, per the Tri-Party Agreement, this 5.2-acre property needs to be brought up to code. Site improvements would include new landscaping and irrigation for the entrance to the site, perimeter and west end, along with new water mains and fire hydrants, and new site and security lighting.

The second grant request is for \$2.25 million, also at a 50/50 match for **the Peanut Island Area D Mitigation Project**. The Port has begun working with the Army Corps of Engineers on re-examining what will be required to clean up Area D to increase the level of cruise ship navigational safety. As part of the work that will be required in Area D, the Port is planning to complete an environmental mitigation project in a different area in the Lake Worth Lagoon BEFORE that project begins.

Port Visit by Ambassador of Kosovo: Otto F. Van Geigenblatt

The Port received a visit on July 31, 2018 from the Honorary Ambassador of Kosovo, formerly Serbia and once Yugoslavia. He has an interest in establishing a distribution center for wine and olive oil, two of the most plentiful products from this region in Europe. The focus of his business plan is to utilize South Florida as a trans-shipment port for South and Central America, and the Caribbean Islands. Currently, his plans call for a minimum of 5,000 acres. He has had discussions with the mayor and city manager of Belle Glade. We plan to introduce him to Florida Sugar and illustrate to him the plan for an Inland Port.

Vertex Cell Tower

On August 1st, the City of Riviera Beach Council approved the business permit for Vertex Cell Tower. Items still outstanding as of August 6th are:

- A/C Permit for CBP area in the MOC building, 3rd floor
- Annex property rezoning
- 2 permits regarding the MOB Demolition and the Pad

Events

- Forum Club of the Palm Beaches – August 10, 2018
- Port of Palm Beach Benefits Fair: Scheduled for Thursday, August 30, 2018 in our Board Room
- Florida Ports Council Annual Board Meeting – St. Petersburg, Florida – September 5-6, 2018
- AAPA Energy & Environmental Seminar – Jersey City, NJ – September 11-12, 2018
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of PBC – Business Expo & Job Fair – September 27, 2018
- Business Development Board – 36th Annual Gala – September 29, 2018
- AAPA – 107th Annual Convention – Valparaiso, Chile – October 7-10, 2018