



# NAWE News

April 5, 2024

## The Latest with NAWE

**NAWE Board Member to Testify at Congressional Field Hearing at PortMiami on April 5** – This morning, Georgia Ports Authority Chief Commercial Officer and NAWE Board Secretary, Ed McCarthy, testified at a joint Congressional subcommittee field hearing at PortMiami. The [hearing, titled "Port Safety, Security, and Infrastructure Investment,"](#) examined emerging challenges to safety and security at U.S. ports, as well as the state of port infrastructure and future investment needs. The subcommittees holding the joint hearing—the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Transportation and Maritime Security Subcommittee of the House Committee on Homeland Security—invited Mr. McCarthy to testify at the event. During this process, NAWE also secured a second witness to represent MTOs on behalf of the National Maritime Safety Association (NMSA). Dave Morgan, President of Cooper/Ports America and Board President of NMSA, also testified today at the hearing. Both McCarthy and Morgan provided critical testimony from the perspective of MTOs and occupational safety on these important topics affecting our industry. You can rewatch the hearing through the committee's [website at the link here](#).

**NAWE Meets with Congressional Leaders in Mississippi** – The NAWE team met with key congressional leaders in south Mississippi last week at an industry roundtable hosted by the Port of Gulfport. We had a productive day meeting with Congressman Mike Ezell (R-MS-04), FMC Commissioner Carl Bentzel, Taylor Machine Works President and COO Robert Taylor, and local leaders from south Mississippi, as the group convened for an industry roundtable to discuss plans to expand the port. Following the roundtable, officials from Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport joined the group for a port tour.

Port of Gulfport Director Jon Nass hosted the event, while NAWE Board Chairman and Director of

Government Relations for Ports America Tom Saunders, attended and served as the MTO host. Also in attendance were a district representative for Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Mayor of Gulfport Billy Hewes. To see local media coverage of the event, [click here](#).

**Supporting Baltimore Recovery Efforts** – Our thoughts are with the individuals, families, and city of Baltimore impacted by the tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. We know this will be a long rebuilding process, and we'd like to promote a few organizations that are helping with relief efforts should you wish to extend a helping hand. The Baltimore Magazine has compiled a list, [found here](#), of various local non-profits and organizations that are accepting donations to support their work.

### Save the Date: NAWE Annual

We are excited to announce that our 2024 Annual Meeting will be in the Old San Juan, Puerto Rico this November 13-15! The meeting will take place at [Hotel Rumbao, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel](#) where guest rooms are available for \$199 + tax / per night. Rooms can be [reserved at the link here](#). We hope to see you in Puerto Rico later this year!



## Legislative Updates

**With FY 2024 Appropriations Bills Signed into Law, Congress Turns its Attention to Other Pressing Matters** – Both chambers adjourned last week for the two-week Easter recess after the Senate passed the \$1.2 trillion minibus spending package by a 74-24 margin and the President signed the measure into law, averting a partial government shutdown that would have affected several federal agencies. With the FY 2024 appropriations process behind them, Congress has turned its attention to other issues, including funding for Ukraine, consideration of a Francis Scott Key Bridge disaster supplemental, and filling the newly vacant House Appropriations Committee chairmanship.

With aid to Ukraine stalled in the House, Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA-04) is in search of a winning strategy to muscle a package through the chamber, which means getting it past enough fellow Republicans who are skeptical about sending more aid to the embattled nation. Several strategies

have emerged, including a proposal to turn some Ukraine assistance into a loan, and seizing frozen Russian assets and handing them to Ukraine. Although there is bipartisan support for seizing Russian assets, only a couple of billion dollars currently resides in the U.S.—most of the \$300 billion is frozen in banks in Western Europe, where some U.S. allies have been slow to agree to use the money to help Kyiv.

The Biden administration is also expected to decide on a package to help rebuild the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore prior to the President's visit there today. The Biden administration is going to ask for upwards of \$1 billion to respond to the Francis Scott Key Bridge emergency and other priorities. Also on the table is money for other disasters and expiring programs, including the Affordable Connectivity Program—a Federal Communication Commission (FCC) benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford broadband. President Joe Biden will travel to Baltimore on today, just 10 days after the cargo ship Dali slammed into the bridge, sending the structure into the Patapsco River while killing six construction workers.

Finally, House Appropriations Committee Chair Kay Granger (R-TX-12) announced that she would not seek reelection and would step down early from chair of the influential House Appropriations Committee. In a letter to Speaker Mike Johnson on March 22, Granger stated, "Recognizing that an election year often results in final appropriations bills not getting enacted until well into the next fiscal year, it is important that I do everything in my power to ensure a seamless transition before the [fiscal 2025] bill development begins in earnest." Granger's early exit sets up a scramble for the House Republican Steering Committee to select a new chair, with Transportation-HUD Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole, R-Okla., considered most likely to replace her.

The NAWE team will continue to closely monitor and report further on significant developments on legislation of interest to NAWE members.

## Executive Branch Updates

**EPA and DOT to Hold Webinars on Clean Ports Initiative and PIDP Grant Programs on April 11 and April 25** – Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will be holding webinars to discuss recently released Notice of Federal Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) through the agencies' [Clean Ports Initiative Program](#) and [Port Infrastructure and Development Program \(PIDP\)](#). On April 11, the EPA and DOT's Maritime Administration (MARAD) will host a joint webinar to discuss current funding opportunities under both programs, including eligibility, application details, and evaluation criteria. The webinar will take place from 2-3 pm (ET). To register, [click here](#).

Additionally, on April 25, the EPA will host a webinar to answer frequently asked questions about the two funding opportunities available under its Clean Ports Initiative program—the [Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition NOFO](#) and the [Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition NOFO](#). The webinar will be held from 1-2 pm (ET). To register for the webinar, [click here](#). Both webinars will be recorded and posted publicly on the agencies' websites.

**FMC Posts February 2024 Activity Report** – On March 28, the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) posted its February 2024 Activity Report. Among the statements and releases included in the report are: 1) [FMC Publishes Final Rule on Detention and Demurrage Billing Practices](#); 2) [FMC Updates Controlled Carrier List](#); 3) [Notice to Passengers Regarding American Queen Voyages](#); 4) [Recording of FMC Hearing on Red Sea Available](#); 5) [Statement of FMC Chairman Daniel Maffei before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation](#); 6) [Statement of Commissioner Carl W. Bentzel on the Demurrage and Detention Billing Requirements Final Rule](#); 7) Opening Statement of [Chairman Daniel Maffei](#), [Carl Bentzel](#), and [Max Vekich](#) at Informal Hearing of the Federal Maritime Commission Examining Impacts to Shipping Resulting from Current Conditions in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Regions; 8) [Commissioner Sola Meets with Mayor Sandy Stimpson in Mobile, Alabama](#); 9) [FMC Releases Schedule for Hearing on Threats to Shipping](#); and 10) [January 2024 Activity Report](#). To read the full report, [click here](#).

**FMC Chairman Maffei & Commissioner Dye to Speak at AgTC Annual Meeting on May 21** – Chairman Daniel Maffei and Commissioner Rebecca Dye will address attendees of the [Agricultural Transportation Coalition \(AgTC\) 2024 Annual Meeting](#). Chairman Maffei will provide a Working Lunch address on Tuesday, May 21 discussing “New Rules for Everyone: Federal Maritime Commission: Implementing OSRA: New Rules for Detention & Demurrage, Box Rules, Investigations, Enforcement.” Commissioner Rebecca Dye will speak with AgTC members in an off the record session on Wednesday, May 22. More information about the event including costs and instructions on how to register can be found on the [AgTC website](#).

**FMC Chairman Maffei Speaking at NCBFAA on April 15** – FMC Chairman Daniel Maffei will provide the keynote luncheon speech at the 51st National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA) Annual Conference on April 15. Additional details about the event can be found on the [NCBFAA website](#).

**FMC Chairman Maffei to Address New England Trade Group on April 10** – FMC Chairman Daniel Maffei will provide the Luncheon Keynote address at the Coalition of New England Companies for Trade's (CONNECT) 28th Annual Trade & Transportation Conference on April 10. The conference takes place April 9-11, and more information about the agenda and cost to attend can be found on the [CONNECT website](#).

**FMC Commissioner Sola to Speak at Sea Trade Cruise Global on April 9** – FMC Commissioner Luis Sola will discuss shore power issues as part of a panel being held at the [SeaTrade Cruise Global conference](#) taking place April 8-11, 2024. For more information about the event and how to register to attend, visit the [event website](#).

**OSHA Requires Employers to Post 2023 Work-Related Injury Data with Employees** – The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently sent out an announcement requiring employers to post 2023 Work-Related Injury Data for review by their employees.

Employers must post their 2023 Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses ([Form 300A](#)) in their workplace through April 30, 2024, in a location where employees can see it. The requirement applies to a broad swath of employers including those involved in port and harbor operations, marine cargo handling, navigation services to shipping, and other support activities for water transportation (employers falling under NAICS code 4883). To see more on this topic, please refer to the OSHA Fact Sheet link: [Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses \(osha.gov\)](#).



## Grants Corner

Welcome to Grants Corner! This section of our newsletter will feature available grant updates and funding opportunities that are of interest to NAWE members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the NAWE staff if you have questions about the specific grant programs included below.

Please remain on the lookout for upcoming grant webinars and training sessions hosted by NAWE.

**Biden Administration Posts Open and Upcoming Infrastructure Funding Opportunities** – On January 30, the Biden Administration posted an updated list of open and upcoming infrastructure funding opportunities under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The document highlights funding opportunities that communities can apply for today, as well as a calendar of key upcoming funding opportunities for 2024. To view the full list of programs, their descriptions, and deadlines, please click [here](#). DOT Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) – PIDP assists in funding eligible projects for the purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. There is \$450 million available to be awarded. Applications must be submitted no later than April 30, 2024. For more information on the application process, [click here](#).

**FY 2024 Open Grant Opportunities** – The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that they are now accepting FY 2024 applications for the following programs:

1. **DOT Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)** – PIDP assists in funding eligible projects for the purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. There is \$500 million available to be awarded. The application deadline has been extended and must be submitted no later than May 10, 2024. For more information on the application process, [click here](#).
2. **DOT's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements (CRISI)** – The CRISI program funds projects that improve railroad safety, efficiency, and reliability; mitigate congestion at both intercity passenger rail and freight rail chokepoints to support more efficient travel and

goods movement; enhance multi-modal connections; and lead to new or substantially improved Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation corridors. There is \$2.48 billion available to be awarded. Applications must be submitted no later than May 28, 2024. For more information on the application process, [click here](#).

3. **EPA's Clean Ports Program** – The Clean Ports Program funds zero-emission port equipment and infrastructure, as well as climate and air quality planning at U.S. ports. The program includes two separate funding opportunities: the Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition and the Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition. There is \$2.8 billion available to be awarded for zero-emission technology deployment at ports, and \$150 million available to be awarded for climate and air quality planning. Applications must be submitted no later than May 28, 2024. For more information on the application process, [click here](#).

**Upcoming FY 2024 DOT Infrastructure Grant Opportunities** – According to the White House's "Upcoming Infrastructure Funding Opportunities" webpage, remaining NOFOs and program awards that may possibly be released in early 2024 are:

1. **DOT's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program** – Summer 2024
2. **DOT's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program** – Fall 2024

**DOT Posts List of Grant Application Resources** – On April 2, DOT posted an updated list of its popular "Grants Navigator Application Resources." Below are links to the DOT's resources:

1. [Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements](#)
2. [Grant Application Checklist for a Strong Transportation Workforce and Labor Plan](#)
3. [What Is a Benefit-Cost Analysis \(BCA\)?](#)
4. [Federal Tools to Determine Disadvantaged Community Status](#)
5. [Use of DOT Funds for Public Involvement](#)

The NAWE team continues to monitor and will report any updates on the 2024 round of NOFOs for federal grant program opportunities of interest to NAWE members.

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## Upcoming Events

**NAWE on the Hill (NOTH) 2024** – We look forward to hosting the next 2024 NAWE on the Hill (NOTH) event for NAWE members in May. These fly-ins allow NAWE members the chance to directly interact with members of Congress and their staffs. If you would like to join, please RSVP for the event linked below.

- [RSVP for May 13-14, 2024, NAWE on the Hill](#)

## Committee Meetings in April

- April 9 – NAWE Legislative Committee Meeting at 4 p.m. ET
- April 24 – NAWE Security Committee Meeting at 2 p.m. ET

**NAWE 2024 Annual Meeting** – Join NAWE in San Juan, Puerto Rico this November 13-15! The meeting will take place at [Hotel Rumbao, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel](#) where guest [rooms are available for \\$199 + tax / per night](#).

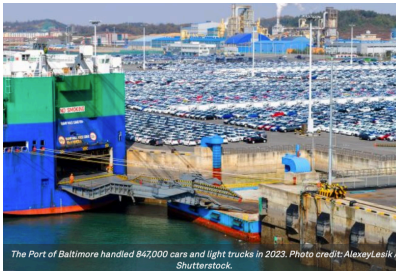
## Articles of Interest



### WorkBoat

[Reopening the Baltimore ship channel priority, Buttigieg says](#)  
March 27, 2024

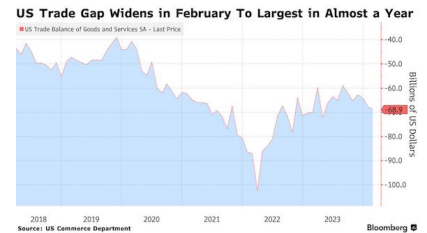
The collapse of the Francis Scott Key bridge – still draped across the bow of the 984'x157' container ship Dali since the collision Tuesday morning – has bottled up the port to prevent any movement of ships and cargo. Clearing the channel and dealing with supply chain issues are immediate tasks, Buttigieg said in a White House press briefing Wednesday.



### Journal of Commerce

[Ro/ro shipping adjusts to Baltimore port disruption](#)  
March 29, 2024

The ports of Wilmington, Del., and Brunswick, Ga., are handling the first wave of diverted vehicle carriers from Baltimore, where one of four roll-on/roll-off (ro/ro) terminals at the port continues to receive shipments thanks to its location on the seaward side of the collapsed bridge.



### American Journal of Transportation

[US trade gap widens to \\$68.9 billion, largest in nearly a year](#)  
April 4, 2024

The US trade deficit widened in February for a third month as the value of imports exceeded exports. The deficit in goods and services trade expanded 1.9% from the prior month to \$68.9 billion, the largest shortfall in nearly a year, Commerce Department data showed Thursday. The median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists called for a \$67.6 billion gap.



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