

The Newsletter of the Port of Pittsburgh Commission

2025 Vol 2 (issue #21)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Happy Spring! I hope everyone who has been affected by the recent storms in PA has recovered and is safe.

In this issue, we will have an update on the PIDP grant (MARAD's Port Infrastructure Development Program), and we will cover what is going on with the Monongahela River dredging. Plus, we will look back at a few events such as We Work the Rivers and the IRPT Ohio River Basin Meeting. We also have a new email information service that is designed to actually send you **fewer** emails, not more! Imagine that.

Our featured guest for 3 Rivers 3 Questions is Pennsylvania's own Secretary of Transportation, Mike Carroll.

Our PortPitt staff will be participating in Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day, which is May 16, which is also a lead-in to our next issue which will be another special issue dedicated to National Safe Boating Week, so be sure to look for that in your inbox.

Finally, our cybersecurity expert, Nate Turer, will explain the importance of keeping your computer clean and running well!

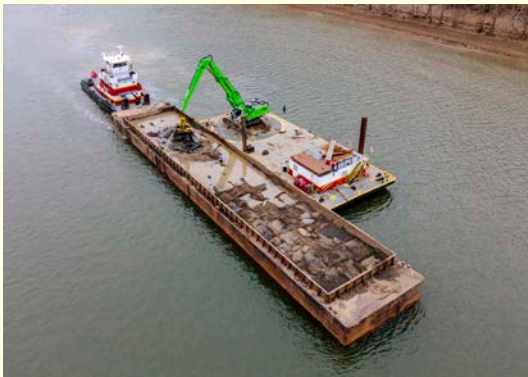
On behalf of the Port of Pittsburgh Commission, enjoy the Springtime and stay safe on the water!

Mary Ann Bucci Executive Director, Port of Pittsburgh Commission

PortPitt to work with DLZ Engineers for Lower Mon

The Port of Pittsburgh Commission has begun working with DLZ Engineers of Bridgeville to assess the additional dredging needs of the Lower Mon, in the area of the former Elizabeth lock and dam pool.

Terminals and shippers in this area have experienced difficulty reaching the navigation channel since the resulting lowering of the water level in that area. DLZ will be working to evaluate the technical aspects to improve commercial navigation, as well as incorporating a direct outreach plan with the PPC to contact Mon River operators to determine a strategy for success. The PPC will continue to organize efforts and advocate for funding to remediate affected areas on the lower Mon. 🌊



3 RIVERS, 3 QUESTIONS

with *Mike Carroll*

*Mike Carroll is Pennsylvania's
Secretary of Transportation*



1. Secretary Carroll, it's an honor to have you participate in our 3 Questions/3 Rivers. How are things in Harrisburg, and what are some topics that are currently at the top of your list?

Things in Harrisburg are busy and the work PennDOT does every day to meet the needs of 13 million residents is challenging, but we are up to the challenge. The Governor announced his FY 2025-2026 budget proposal earlier this year which includes the continuation of the step down on the State Police's reliance on the Motor License Fund as well as a significant investment in mass transit across the Commonwealth. I have been making my way around the state advocating for this additional investment in public transportation.

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GOOD THINGS FLOW FROM HERE



Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day is May 16

The National Safe Boating Council's Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is Friday, May 16, 2025. Whether you work or recreate on the water, join the PortPitt staff in recognizing the importance of wearing your personal flotation device.

It's easy to participate. Wear your life jacket at work (or at home), snap a picture, and share on social media with the hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday. Be sure to tag both PortPitt and the NSBC! (@PortPitt and @BoatingCampaign on Facebook, X, and Instagram).

Following Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day is National Safe Boating Week from May 17-23, 2025. PortPitt will be doing an entirely separate newsletter dedicated to National Safe Boating Week.

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AT WORK DAY

MAY 16, 2025

Hosted by the National Safe Boating Council, this annual event is a fun, educational way to heighten life jacket awareness and highlight the various styles just prior to the official launch of the Safe Boating Campaign.

SafeBoatingCampaign.com



Share Your Story
@safeboatcampaign
@boatingcampaign
#wearyourlifejacketatwork



Reference to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm, or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Watch your inbox for our special National Safe Boating Week edition of The Newsflow coming soon!

3 Rivers, 3 Questions with Mike Carroll (continued)

Without it, agencies like Pittsburgh Regional Transit will see significant service impacts which would be detrimental to the riders who depend on it.

I am also monitoring the impacts of the of the Army Corp of Engineers' removal of the Elizabeth Dam and its effect on the many businesses along the Monongahela River. Terminals suddenly found their docks to be either too elevated or flooded. Recognizing the need, I approved a grant to PPC of approximately \$4.2 million to be used for repairs, re-builds and/or dredging along the river. Six terminals received funding ranging from \$250,000 to \$1,400,000.

2. Last fall, you took part in a listening session sponsored by PortPitt in partnership with the USACE and the PA House Transportation Committee aboard the Gateway Clipper. What were some takeaways from what you learned from that meeting?

Thank you for inviting me. The listening session was very educational, and I thoroughly enjoyed my experience on the river learning more about the importance of the three rivers to the Pittsburgh region. There were many takeaways, but I will highlight three. One takeaway was recognizing the support the PPC and the businesses along the river have with their Federal and State elected representatives. The turnout was great, and everyone was very engaged and inquisitive. Another takeaway was a better understanding of the challenges that businesses along the river are experiencing as it relates to the need for dredging areas outside of the scope of the USACE to ensure safe, efficient passage for the barges and towboats along the river. And lastly, seeing firsthand the challenges of the aging lock system on the river system and learning how that affects not only the commercial business but also the recreational users.

3. In closing, what message would you like to send to our river stakeholders about the importance of the rivers in our region?

The importance of the three rivers to the Western PA region is not lost on me. I saw how the rivers support the transportation of goods by barge and support recreation enjoyed by residents and visitors to the region. PennDOT is a committed partner to the PPC, and I look forward to future visits.



IRPT Ohio River Basin Meeting

The IRPT (Inland River Ports and Terminals) held an Ohio River Basin listening session meeting at the Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square in Pittsburgh, PA on April 21st. IRPT Executive Director Aimee Andres and Deputy Director Anthony Gex moderated the event. In addition to the PPC staff, various leaders from region's river stakeholders and support agencies gathered to offer their perspectives and input. Among the topics of discussion included cargo traffic in the region, funding opportunities, upcoming outreach to federal elected officials, as well as an update on the status of projects on our three rivers from the US Army Corps. The IRPT holds these meetings with their members to understand their perspectives, improve their businesses, and to inform policy makers on the needs and economic impacts of our industry, and the Port of Pittsburgh Commission was proud to support this event. For more information on IRPT, as well as their fall conference, click here: <https://www.irpt.net/>



New PIDP Grant deadline: September 10

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program grant opportunity has a new deadline. The amended Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), found at this link, announces the availability of up to \$500 million in funding for the fiscal year FY2025 PIDP.

Applications must now be submitted to Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. E.D.T. on September 10, 2025. Funds for the PIDP are awarded on a competitive basis to projects that improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port. PortPitt encourages local terminal operators to look at the \$125,000,000 which is reserved for small projects at small ports within the PIDP. For more information, please contact scott@portpitt.com.



PortPitt launches curated email service to reduce email volume to stakeholders

PortPitt launched its new service, called the ImPORTant Notice, last month which is designed to reduce the volume of emails that stakeholders receive from us. By selecting specific categories of subjects, recipients will receive only emails that pertain to their businesses or any topics that they are interested in.



We Work the Waterways

On April 22nd, the We Work the Waterways program made its way back to the Pittsburgh area. The event hosted eight area high schools and more than 120 students, who had the chance to learn first-hand from a number of local industry experts, about career opportunities in the river industry. PPC Staff members Scott Harshman and Matt Pavlosky took part in the event which included presentations as well as the PPC Prize Wheel informative river trivia game with prizes for the students. Additionally, local river industry experts provided hands-on safety demonstrations and education to give the students first-hand knowledge of working on the rivers.



Errin Howard, executive director of We Work the Waterways, said, "One of the things that makes We Work the Waterways so special is the incredible collaboration between diverse groups. It's a unique opportunity where everyone comes together, forgoing competition to promote the same important cause: educating the next generation and highlighting the vast opportunities within our industry." For more information on We Work the Waterways, check out their website: <https://www.irpt.net/www-home/>



2025 PortPitt/PhilaPort Breakfast

The Port of Pittsburgh Commission continued its partnership with the Port of Philadelphia (PhilaPort) in sponsoring our annual Networking Breakfast, in conjunction with the 121st Traffic Club Dinner here in Pittsburgh. Approximately 60 guest took part in the event which provides stakeholders with the opportunity to share issues and updates with industry, elected officials and support organizations. Special thanks to PhilaPort's leadership team, including their Sr. Marketing Mgr. Dominic O'Brien, for their continued support and co-sponsorship of this annual event.



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GO GLOBAL

EXPORT SALES & FINANCE WEBINAR

DESCRIPTION

How to grow exports depends on the right export finance tools you use. Your company can increase sales by utilizing PA and U.S. EXIM programs with commercial bank financing. We will explain the Export Credit Insurance as well as the Export Working Capital Loan programs. We will encourage interaction with attendees and panelist, especially using case studies and success stories to illustrate the example.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide practical, actionable information on SBA & EXIM bank programs and commercial bank export financing.
- Access trade promotion grant and in-country expertise from the U.S. Commercial Service and Authorized PA trade specialists.
- Help exporters & prospective exporters understand cross-border risk, export and pre-export financing needs and support programs.
- Offer a forum for exporters, service providers and export specialists to meet in an informal environment.

**FREE
WEBINAR**

Thursday, May 22
9-10 AM

Presented By

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GOOD THINGS FLOW FROM HERE



Let's Keep it Clean! by Nate Turer

Happy Spring! With Spring comes Spring cleaning and parting ways with supplies and tools that are nonfunctional and worn. This can be a painful process to see the money that you placed in these assets vanish into the bin. Computer hardware is among the most expensive office assets that a company or individual must buy. And now it might feel more than ever, you are replacing desktop or laptop devices every few years, and those costs certainly add up, especially on the enterprise level. So today, let's learn to get more bang for our buck and to get the most lifespan out of your device.

The physical degradation of a computer is minimal if it is operating at the correct temperature and environment. An "I5" chip found in a lot of office computers has an idle temp of around 100°F and heavy load temp of about 150°. Heat is the enemy of electronics, and too much will damage the device or cause faults to form. Your computer throttles itself to prevent it from exceeding a temperature redline and damaging itself irreparably. Dirt, dust, or vents being covered will cause the CPU to heat up faster, and the computer will slow itself to compensate.

The most important thing you can do to preserve the integrity and life span of your processor is to keep your computer clean. A deep clean once or twice a year, or on the spot when noticing dust build up or that it is warming faster. **Do not use vacuum cleaners or cleaning solvents to clean electrical devices. You should only clean devices that are powered off and removed from their power source and outlets or you risk electrical shock.** Devices should be cleaned with compressed air held upright and aimed at an angle to their target. Use a microfiber lint-free cloth or brush to clean fans or filters. Contact directly with component

surfaces is discouraged for most users but if needed use a soft ESD-safe brush, or reach out to an IT service. This will greatly increase your device's life span and keep it closer to operating at the speed it was when you first bought it.

Every year we get bigger and better things! Software becomes more advanced, files get larger, and computers get faster. Eventually your hardware cannot keep up. This is a fact of the technology. An Apple 2 can't run Windows. It just doesn't have the power to do so. But this can be staved off by disabling software on startup that might slow down the system and by limiting the number of active programs or processes. Your computer will begin to slow down if you have 100 tabs open and multiple large excel sheets open. So, if your computer is starting to show its age, treat it like your desk's surface, and try and keep only one or two things open at a time. Ensure that you are keeping your hardware drivers and software up to date.

Make sure your laptop is being turned on and off regularly, computers can start to suffer after an extended uptime. So, regular restarts will help keep them running smoothly. If you're using a laptop, keeping it plugged in and limiting charging to 80% will help maintain its integrity. Furthermore, remember that a computer is a collection of parts. If you are struggling with issues from one part or aspect, it can be cheaper to replace the individual part than the whole unit or schedule technology purchases in such a way that they are spaced out to minimize monetary outlays.

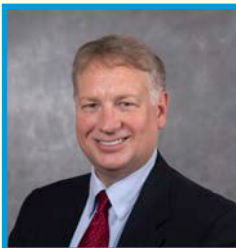
While maintenance and care may not be as exciting as the wild and wonderful world of cybersecurity, protecting your company's devices and assets has to come from all levels, including regular maintenance and cleaning.

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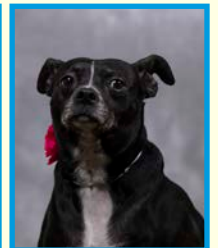
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GOOD THINGS FLOW FROM HERE

