

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amanda Veliz, Public Affairs Manager
Phone: (979) 233-2667 ext. 4306
Email: veliz@portfreeport.com

PORT FREEPORT MARKS INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONE WITH RIBBON CUTTINGS SUPPORTING VELASCO CONTAINER TERMINAL EXPANSION

FREEPORT, TX (March 5, 2025) – Port Freeport marked a significant infrastructure milestone Thursday, February 26, with a ribbon-cutting celebrating the completion of multiple infrastructure projects supporting the continued expansion and connectivity of the Velasco Container Terminal, including Storage Area 5, the Terminal Access Project, and East 5th Street Reconstruction and Truck Queuing Project. The projects, partially funded through the Maritime Infrastructure Program, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Rider 37, and the TxDOT Seaport Connectivity Program, enhance access, increase operational capacity, and strengthen supply chain performance along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Port Commissioners, elected officials, TxDOT representatives, community leaders, and industry partners joined port leadership for ribbon-cutting ceremonies recognizing strategic investments totaling nearly \$30 million in completed TxDOT grant-supported improvements.

“The Commission is proud to celebrate investments that strengthen our transportation network and reinforce Port Freeport’s role as a key contributor to regional prosperity,” said Rob Giesecke, Chairman of the Port Freeport Commission. “These projects demonstrate what can be achieved through strong collaboration among state leadership, industry partners, and our community.”

“Port Freeport is a vital economic engine for Brazoria County. This \$21 million investment by the State of Texas will help the Port continue to thrive and attract even more jobs to our area,” said State Representative Cody Vasut.

In the 88th Session of the State Legislature, in an unprecedented action, \$200 million was appropriated for the Maritime Infrastructure Program to fund infrastructure “inside the gate”. The

Maritime Infrastructure Program accelerated the development of the 15-acre Storage Area 5, expanding terminal capacity and preparing the port for continued growth in containerized operations. Through the Seaport Connectivity Program, East 5th Street was reconstructed, and a truck queuing area was built to improve circulation and support safe, efficient cargo movement throughout the port complex. Additional Rider 37 improvements enhanced terminal access by reconstructing and widening certain roadways and strengthening connectivity between key facilities.

“Today reflects the power of partnership and thoughtful investment in infrastructure that supports Texas commerce,” said Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director and CEO of Port Freeport. “These projects enhance connectivity, strengthen safety, and position Port Freeport for continued growth while supporting jobs and economic opportunity across our region.”

Port Freeport leadership expressed appreciation to the State Legislature, the Texas Department of Transportation, project partners, and stakeholders whose collaboration helped bring the projects to completion. Together, the improvements enhance operational efficiency, increase throughput capability, and support the long-term expansion of the Velasco Container Terminal. As Port Freeport continues to advance infrastructure improvements across its facilities, strategic investments remain central to enhancing competitiveness, strengthening supply chain resilience, and preparing the port for sustained growth in global trade.

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranks nationally as 6th in chemicals, 14th in total foreign waterborne tonnage, and 26th in containers. A 2022 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 266,300 jobs and has a total economic output of \$157.3 billion. Port Freeport serves Alliera, Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products Partners, ExxonMobil, Freeport LNG, Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc., Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Linde, MEGlobal, NYK RORO, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallaum Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy, Volkswagen Group of America, and Vulcan Materials Company.

Port Freeport is committed to keeping the local community informed of our operation and results. If you have questions or comments about this article, please email or call Amanda Veliz, Public Affairs Manager.

- # # # -



PHOTO CUTLINE 1: Ribbon cutting marks completion of Area 5 at Port Freeport's Velasco Container Terminal, supported by maritime infrastructure grant investment.



PHOTO CUTLINE 2: Ribbon-cutting celebrates the completion of the Terminal Access Project, along with the East 5th Street Reconstruction and Truck Queuing Project at Port Freeport.