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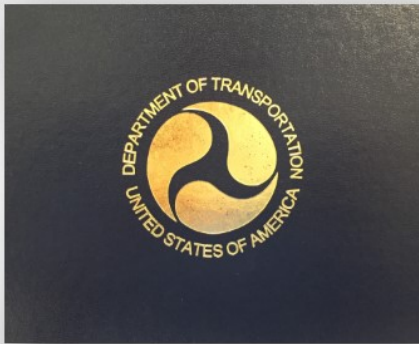
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**PORT FREEPORT RECEIVES M-69 DESIGNATION FROM MARAD**

**Freeport, TX (June 29, 2017)** - Port Freeport is pleased to announce the receipt of the America's Marine Highways Designation, M-69, from Maritime Administration (MARAD), an agency within the US. Department of Transportation. The Certificate of Project Designation signed by Elaine L. Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, was presented to Executive Staff during the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Port Commission Meeting. This important milestone will make it possible for barge carriers transiting between Port Houston and Port Freeport to convert container traffic, traditionally moved via trucks, to a barge service for various shippers and consignees.

The new marine route spans between Bayport and Barbour's Cut located in Houston and Velasco Terminal located in Freeport, Texas. Weekly barge service will also relieve highway congestion, improve passenger car safety, and lower truck emissions, as less trucks will have travel along SH 288 between Freeport and Houston.

For more information regarding Port Freeport services and facilities, contact Jason Miura, Director of Business & Economic Development.



**PHOTO CUTLINE: Port Freeport receives the America's Marine Highways Certificate of Project Designation.**

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