

Port of Galveston Receives \$1.6 Million in Federal Funds

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, marking a significant milestone in the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) ongoing port security efforts, in June announced the award of \$92.3 million in grants to 51 ports.

On June 17, 2002, the U.S. Maritime Administration advised the Port that the Port of Galveston's application for Federal funding for a Port Security Assessment Grant was approved by the Transportation Security Administration in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation for \$375,000.

A security consultant was retained and on August 20, the company began to conduct a comprehensive Port Safety and Security Assessment of the Port of Galveston's facilities.

Then on September 16, 2002, a second Grant Application was approved by the Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation the Maritime Administration in the amount of \$1,236,206 for physical security enhancements for the west-end of the Port of Galveston.

“We were absolutely delighted with the results of our effort to secure grants of federal funds for the Port of Galveston,” stated Donald L. Schattel, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. “Safety concerns are always of great importance to the Port and these funds will enable us to address these concerns in an area where security concerns need attention.”

The security-related improvements to the Port's West End will include the installation of fencing, lighting, and cameras as well as a new guard station.

"Because security is a high priority at the Port of Galveston, we are very appreciative of the Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation in recognizing our need and the importance in addressing these issues," stated Steve M. Cernak, Port Director. "Our Congressional delegation continues to communicate and work with us. There is an additional round of grant funds coming available and this is certainly is a high priority for port staff."