

# **“The Transportation Challenges, Value, Needs and Opportunities for the Port of Pittsburgh Commission (PPC)”**

**Presented to the Senate Transportation Committee, by**

**Rex Woodward, Commissioner, Port of Pittsburgh Commission and**

**Representative of the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh to the PPC**

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Thank you Senator Rafferty and members of the Pennsylvania Senate Transportation Committee:

The Waterways Association and the Port of Pittsburgh Commission not only work together to leverage federal funding to maintain and improve the structural backbone of the waterways, but we are actively engaged in ways to improve the system as well. Because we are at the end of the system, we believe that we will benefit disproportionately to system wide improvements as well. After years of work, we have started to build a major non-structural improvement that will bring the waterways into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In order to realize the full potential of this project, we expect that we will need about \$2 million dollars to leverage \$10 million in federal funds and we will expect to be among the first to take advantage of the new PA PPP legislation, as soon as the regulations are finalized. We are very grateful for the support that the Commonwealth has provided so far and the support the recommendations from the Governor’s Transportation Finance Advisory Committee to enable similar projects in the future.

The project we are discussing is called the Wireless Waterway. It was developed in partnership with CMU. I am attaching an article that appeared today in Marine News that explains the project in detail. It will include a wireless broadband network (with the potential to cover the entire waterways), an interoperability test bed (which will remain in the Port of Pittsburgh) and a plan to build the system out with federal grants and earned revenues.

