Savannah State of the Port 2018

8 Million TEUs by 2028

- To keep up with the growing container trade, the GPA will spend nearly $2.5 billion over the next decade to increase Garden City Terminal’s annual capacity from 5.5 million twenty-foot equivalent container units to 8 million TEUs per year.
- By 2028, GPA will expand its ship-to-shore crane fleet from 30 to 42 cranes. This will include replacing the port’s older cranes, so the entire fleet will accommodate vessels greater than 14,000 TEUs.
- GPA will increase its container handling fleet from 146 rubber-tired gantry cranes to more than 210. Featuring the largest RTG fleet in North America will aid efficiency by serving the trucks that call on Garden City Terminal without congestion delays.
- Other projects to include gate and container storage expansions, berth improvements and off terminal road additions.

FY2018 Performance

- Georgia Ports Authority handled a record 4.2 million TEUs in Fiscal Year 2018, for an impressive 8.4% increase year-over-year, or 325,000 additional units.
- Intermodal rail lifts surged to 435,000, an increase of 16.1%, or more than 60,000 additional moves, another GPA record.
- Total cargo crossing docks in FY18 grew by 8%, or 2.6 million tons, to reach a record 36 million tons.
- Savannah’s cargo growth is outpacing the nation. For the past 10 years, the Port of Savannah has grown faster than any other major port in the U.S., achieving a compound annual growth rate of 4.5%. (National average among the top 10 U.S. container ports: 1.9%.) GPA moved 2.68 million TEUs over Garden City Terminal during FY2008. In FY2018, that number reached 4.2 million TEUs.

Industrial Development

- 29 port-related projects came to Georgia in FY2018, bringing more than $1 billion in investment and 4,741 jobs.
- Private investment will also play a role in Savannah’s growth. FY2018 saw record industrial real estate investment. Developers in the Savannah market added more than 6 million square feet of industrial space.
- Strong market demand has resulted in 9.75 million square feet currently under construction.

Mason Mega Rail

- Completion set for 2020.
- Project doubles the Port of Savannah’s rail lift capacity to 1 million containers per year.
- Features 180,000 feet of rail, 18 working tracks and the capability of building 10,000-foot unit trains on terminal.
• Unit trains (greater than 10,000 feet long) make direct service over greater distances more attractive to Savannah’s Class I railroads, CSX and Norfolk Southern. This will open new markets, spanning an arc of cities from Memphis to St. Louis, Chicago to Cincinnati.

• The project will cut rail time to the American Midwest by 24 hours, presenting a viable new option for manufacturers, shippers and supply chain professionals.

• Will allow GPA to bring all rail switching onto the terminal, avoiding the use of nearly two dozen rail crossings – including those on Ga. Highways 21 and 25 – for improved vehicle traffic flow.

• Customers will start to see results from the project by the fall of 2019, when Norfolk Southern will have the capability of building unit trains on terminal. By the end of Calendar Year 2019, CSX capacity will begin to expand, and by the fall of 2020, CSX will handle unit trains.

YES Program (Youth learning Equipment and Safety)

• GPA is hiring and training recent high school graduates, providing an entry point into a logistics career, and expanding GPA’s labor pool.

• YES participants will shadow experienced workers before beginning more formal training.

• At Garden City Terminal, YES hires will learn forklift and jockey truck operation. Training will include safety and readiness inspections for jockey trucks, radio and equipment use, and safe work practices. The program involves both hands-on and classroom instruction.

• At Ocean Terminal, YES trainees will learn warehouse operations and proper breakbulk cargo handling.

• First six participants hired through the program were referred to GPA by school administrators after taking classes and expressing interest in logistics as a career.

• YES participants will train for their eventual positions, how to handle finances and other life skills.

• Aimed at developing additional equipment operators, the training will take one year. Participants will be paid during the training period, with a pay increase upon completion of the training.

Economic Impact

• Georgia’s ports support 439,220 full- and part-time jobs across the state, according to a study released by the Selig Center for Economic Growth at UGA’s Terry College of Business.

• The latest figure is based on Fiscal Year 2017 impacts, and represents an increase of 70,000 jobs (up 19%) compared to the previous report covering FY2014.

• Georgia’s ports now account for 9% of total state employment, or one out of 11 jobs. Personal income derived from port-supported jobs totaled $25 billion statewide in FY2017.

• According to the report, authored by Dr. Jeffrey Humphreys, port activity accounted for 11% of Georgia’s total sales in FY2017, reaching $106 billion.

• Maritime trade amounts to $44 billion in state gross domestic product, or 8% of Georgia’s total GDP.

• Business conducted through the ports resulted in $5.9 billion in federal taxes, $1.4 billion in state taxes and $1.5 billion in local taxes, according to the report.