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CONTRACT WITH PORT FREEPORT AND TxDOT ENHANCES SAFETY AND COMPETITIVE POSITION

FREEPORT, TX (AUGUST 29, 2013) – "Today in Austin, the Texas Department Of Transportation Commission approved a contract with Port Freeport to establish a truck corridor that will have positive effects for years to come," announces Glenn Carlson, Executive Director and CEO of Port Freeport. "This interlocal agreement will allow local industries to move cargo under a permit system. This will make us and our local partners more competitive in the global market place by allowing containers that were moving to Houston to be delivered here with more cargo inside," said Carlson. The permits are issued via internet through a system managed by ProMiles who are the current permit service partners with TxDOT. The fee of \$30.00 per permit load is very competitive when compared to drayage costs for trucking to Houston to make rail or water connections.

"This agreement is also beneficial because the maintenance costs for the local roads used are built into the permit price and go directly to TxDOT," said Chairman John Hoss. Several thousand trucks will eventually be removed from main arteries in the Brazosport Area, including Lake Jackson, Clute, Freeport and Oyster Creek to Houston, which enhances safety on highways by making regional trucks local. "Also, because these are container shipments, we believe maintenance on the entire system between here and Houston should be less over time," stated Hoss.

The port will begin offering local training seminars for truckers, shippers and liner service personnel free of charge in September. Once a carrier has set up their profile in the system, they can have an escrow account and the billing will work similar to the toll roads system. Local truckers can also pay via credit card.

"None of this would have been possible without the help of Representative Dennis Bonnen and Senator Joan Huffman's help on this issue. We thank them for their support and hard work to keep Brazoria County on the cutting edge of technology and competitiveness," said Carlson.

"As we move forward together with our local industry partners, we hope to continue to find ways by working together and enhance our regional competitiveness, investment and spur the creation of more jobs now and in the future," Carlson said.

Port Freeport is committed to keeping the local community informed of our operations and results. If you have questions or comments about this article, please email or call Glenn Carlson Executive Port Director/CEO at: carlson@portfreeport.com or 979-233-2667.

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