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Port of Detroit's Nicholson Terminal and Dock Company Post Robust Increase in Seaway Shipments in 2006

The Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority's Nicholson Terminal and Dock Company registered more than 603,000 metric tons of international freight last year, posting a 60 percent increase over its 2005 navigation season performance.

The robust increase garnered the port and its terminal the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation's Robert Lewis Pacesetter tonnage award for standout performance in 2006. SLSDC Administrator Collister Johnson, Jr., traveled to Detroit during National Transportation Week to highlight maritime's role in helping move the Nation's cargo.

Steel slabs and general cargo--principally steel coil, blooms and billets--accounted for all the terminal's freight that moved through U.S.-Canadian Seaway locks from foreign shores. As the Nation's focal point for domestic automobile production, Detroit depends upon imported as well as American-made steel. Dozens of manufacturing and construction industries in the heavily industrialized Midwest also use imported steel in increasingly integrated markets.

"Motor City cars can't tool down America's highways without steel, and moving it through the Seaway reduces surface congestion, lowers air emissions, and cuts fuel usage," said Collister Johnson Jr., SLSDC Administrator.

Curtis Hertel, Sr., the Detroit port's Executive Director, concurred, praising port and terminal employees and management staff for expertise, commitment, and innovation.

"Every employee here contributed to Detroit winning its fifth Pacesetter award and Nicholson Terminal's first Seaway award for tonnage improvement," said Hertel. "Attracting and retaining business is a dynamic constantly changing: customers demand reliability, performance and competitive prices, and we work hard as a team to meet that goal daily."

Recognized throughout the Great Lakes Seaway System as a yardstick of freight performance, the Pacesetter is awarded annually by the SLSDC to U.S. Great Lakes ports and terminals posting increases in international tonnage shipped through the binational U.S.-Canadian waterway.

For the 2006 season seven other ports and four other terminals won the award.

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