



Birmingham-Jefferson County Port Authority Receives ADECA Funds for Port Birmingham Warehouse Project

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. (April 27, 2022) — A grant awarded to the Birmingham-Jefferson County Port Authority will mean the opportunity to better serve the sensitive steel products market and diversify the commodity base at Port Birmingham.

The funds, awarded by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) as part of the Alabama Inland Port Infrastructure Program, will go toward building a 25,000 square-foot warehouse and making additional improvements targeted at bringing in additional commodities that require indoor storage to diversify the commodity mix moving in and out of Port Birmingham.

Birmingham-Jefferson County Port Authority Board Chairman Mike Swinson said, “We’re excited about growing the business at the port and increasing job opportunities for the citizens of Jefferson County.”

The project’s total investment will be \$1.9 million, with the Birmingham-Jefferson County Port Authority investing \$1.1 million and Watco investing the balance and providing the property.

“This project signifies a lot of work between a public and private entity to help develop additional transportation capacity and capability in the central Alabama region,” said Watco Vice President K.R. McKenzie. “We are excited to partner with the Birmingham-Jefferson County Port Authority.”

The multimodal port, located on the Black Warrior River at mile marker 397, offers five barge docks, 144 railcar spots, and a direct-to-truck barge station. The port provides rail access to three Class I railroads (BNSF, CSX and NS) with the capacity to handle the unit trains via Watco’s Birmingham Terminal Railway. These already strong features will be enhanced with the addition of indoor warehouse space. Rail and river access provide better options both economically and environmentally.

Groundbreaking on the warehouse is expected to begin this quarter with completion expected at year’s end.

About Watco

Watco is a leading transportation service and logistics company. Meeting customer needs on a day-to-day basis has enabled Watco to continually grow throughout our nearly 40-year history. Today, Watco provides transportation, material handling and warehousing, logistics, railcar repair, and design and development for customers throughout North America and Australia. For more information, visit www.watco.com.

Media Contacts

Tracie VanBecelaere | (620) 704-1288 | media@watco.com