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## VIPA Inviting Public to Participate in Meeting Regarding Crown Bay Cargo Facility as \$21 Million Project is Slated to Commence Early 2023

Business / **Published On December 13, 2022 06:12 AM /**

Staff Consortium **December 13, 2022**

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**The Crown Bay Cargo Facility. By. TAFARI NELSON, VIPA ENGINEER.**

The V.I. Port Authority is inviting the public to a meeting at 3 p.m. on Monday, December 19 to discuss upcoming improvements to the Crown Bay Cargo Facility on St. Thomas.

The meeting will be held in the VIPA conference room in the Administrative Building at 8074 Lindbergh Bay, St. Thomas, and at the VIPA conference room on the second floor of the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport Terminal on St. Croix. The meeting will also be available via Microsoft Teams by sending a request for a meeting invitation to [info@viport.com](mailto:info@viport.com) or calling (340) 774-1629 ext. 6640.

At the public meeting, VIPA Director of Engineering Preston Beyer will present information about the upcoming improvements to the facility scheduled to begin during the first quarter of 2023. Amy Dempsey, president of BioImpact, Inc. will also report on environmental findings collected during her assessment conducted on behalf of VIPA.

The U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) awarded the U.S. Virgin Islands \$21,869,260 for the reconstruction and modernization of cargo handling and storage infrastructure at the Crown Bay Cargo Facility on St. Thomas in October 2020. The project includes bulkhead rehabilitation, concrete apron restoration, reconstruction of three cargo storage areas, and security improvements including lighting, fencing, and fire protection. The expansion, which is located in an Opportunity Zone, will facilitate more efficient cargo movement both into and out of St. Thomas.

VIPA said the receipt of the grant was unprecedented, with VIPA Executive Director Carlton Dowe commenting that the funding will allow much-needed improvements to the facility.

"The \$21.9 million grant from MARAD is allowing us to make major improvements to the Crown Bay Cargo Facility, which is now over 40 years old and in dire need of repair," he said. "This facility is the bread and butter of the St. Thomas/St. John district as it is where we receive most of the items we use and consume daily. When completed, this will position the Crown Bay cargo port as a prime facility for transshipment throughout the eastern and southern Caribbean." Director Dowe also thanked the Bryan/Roach Administration, which assisted VIPA by lobbying federal officials for funding for this project, and Tropical Shipping, Crowley, and RAM Consulting Services in Jacksonville; FL who partnered with VIPA's staff to submit the information required to obtain the grant."