



# VIRGIN ISLANDS PORT AUTHORITY

ST. THOMAS • ST. CROIX • ST. JOHN

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

---

**For Immediate Release**

July 18, 2019

**Contact:** Monifa Marrero-Brathwaite  
[info@viport.com](mailto:info@viport.com)

**Office of the Executive Director**

PO Box 1707, St. Thomas, VI 00803  
PO Box 1134, St. Croix, VI 00820  
Tel: (340) 774-1629 / 778-1012  
[www.viport.com](http://www.viport.com)

## **RED HOOK CUSTOMS BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION FORWARDED TO V.I. LEGISLATURE FOR FINAL LOCAL APPROVAL**

The long-awaited U.S. Customs and Border Protection Building at the Urman V. Fredericks Marine Terminal in Red Hook, St. Thomas is a step closer to becoming a reality. The Virgin Islands Port Authority's permit application to construct the new CBP facility was signed by both Governor Albert Bryan Jr. and Department of Planning and Natural Resources Commissioner Jean-Pierre Oriol this week. The document has been forwarded to Senate President Novelle E. Francis Jr. for review and approval by the V.I. Legislature. Legislative approval is required for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to ratify the permit.

VIPA's Major Coastal Zone Permit Application No. CZT-616 (L&W), which was approved by the V.I. Coastal Zone Management Commission, requests authorization to demolish an old pier at the UVF Marine Facility. VIPA will then build a 2,376-square-foot, two-story CBP building and a 4,040-foot pier. The project also involves dredging 36 yards of material. CBP agents at this new facility will process vessels and passengers arriving from foreign ports on the eastern end of St. Thomas. VIPA is prepared to put the project out to bid immediately after it receives USACE approval. The project is primarily funded via bond financing attained by VIPA in 2014.

**(more)**

---

Once this facility comes online, it will eliminate the need for residents and visitors arriving from the British Virgin Islands to stop in St. John to clear Customs before traveling to St. Thomas. This will significantly reduce travel time between the USVI and BVI. The UVF Marine Facility is VIPA's busiest ferry port and processes about 290,000 travelers between the USVI and the BVI annually.

Dowe thanked Governor Bryan and Commissioner Oriol who both quickly reviewed the permit application and approved the document within a matter of days. "VIPA will now work closely with the senators of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature to prioritize the approval of this essential port project," he said. Dowe also thanked the members of the CZM Commission and all VIPA's staff that provided the information for the processing of the permit application.

###

*The Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA) is an autonomous, self-sustaining government agency established in 1969 as the owner and manager of the United States Virgin Islands' airports and seaports. VIPA owns and manages 14 seaports, two airports, and surrounding properties. It is a critical arm of the USVI's economy that facilitates travel and commerce and fosters tourism and economic growth via its port activities. VIPA's mandate is to develop and maintain the ports of the USVI to accommodate the current and future demands of our users, and to provide safe port facilities.*