

WJZ Ch .13

<http://news.yahoo.com/video/baltimorewjz13-15750602/port-of-baltimore-gets-new-boarding-bridge-24868350>

BALTIMORE (WJZ) — A new state-of-the-art passenger boarding bridge was unveiled at the Port of Baltimore Monday, kicking off a five-day cruise to Bermuda. Mary Bubala reports boarding a luxury cruise ship in Baltimore wasn't always a luxury.

"Kind of a rough gangplank before, rough," said passenger Karen Nicodemus. "You had to be careful of your footing."

But the Port of Baltimore is now showing off its new state-of-the-art boarding bridge. The glass-enclosed walkway includes heating and air conditioning, year-round climate control.

"This looks much easier. I don't think I will be stepping and falling," Nicodemus said.

The new boarding bridge is over 470 feet long. Passengers are provided uninterrupted cover from the time they enter the cruise terminal until they board the ship.

"Until today, our passengers boarded a ship using an open-air gangway, which today wouldn't be so bad but think about it in January and February and especially the couple of harsh winters we've had or all of those days it was 90 degrees last summer," said Maryland Transportation Secretary Beverley Swaim-Staley.

It's compatible with all the ships that cruise out of our port and, for those who have walked through it, there's no looking back.

"I have personally used the passenger bridge and it is light years away from the old gangway, which resembled something from Pirates of the Caribbean," said Scott Babus. "The passenger bridge represents a bridge to the future, one filled with possibilities. Hopefully one day, we will have a second pier so we can welcome other cruise lines year-round or seasonally."

A record 112 cruises will leave Baltimore's port this year, carrying more than 200,000 passengers. Nearly every cruise that departs is at 100% capacity.

BALTIMORE SUN

Port's new bridge bets on gains in cruising

\$2.9 million device shields passengers from elements

By Michael Dresser, The Baltimore Sun

6:23 PM EDT, April 11, 2011

For Baltimore, with its soaring ambition to be the top cruise port in the Mid-Atlantic, those last few steps from the terminal to the ship were a bummer.

Passengers boarding the floating pleasure palace for which they were paying big bucks first had to cross a 40-year-old gangway that, in the words of travel agent Scott Bobus, "resembled something from 'Pirates of the Caribbean.'" After walking through whatever weather Maryland decided to throw at them, passengers would then enter the ship through the equivalent of a hotel's service entrance.

Not anymore. The passengers who boarded Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas at the South Locust Point cruise terminal on Monday entered the ship via a gleaming new passenger bridge, custom-built in Spain for \$2.9 million. Enclosed, heated or air-conditioned, the bridge led directly into the glitzy seaborne hotel's "lobby."

As the cruise-bound throng boarded, state officials celebrated the newest in a series of improvements intended to turn Baltimore into a first-class cruise port. It was the first day of official use for the new boarding bridge, which had been undergoing testing for three weeks.

"What this says is we're very serious about making this a premier cruise terminal," said Maryland Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley.

The new boarding bridge serves the same function as the piers that lead from the boarding gates at an airport onto jetliners — only it's much bigger. The new bridge, built by TEAM of Barcelona, measures 471 feet in a series of gently graded ramps that comply with federal disabilities law. The walkway telescopes in order to precisely reach the ship's gateway portal.

Port officials concede the bridge wasn't cheap, but they insist it will more than earn its purchase price. David Thomas, director of port operations, said the bridge is expected to last for at least 20 years. And if the port does nothing more in future years than match its expected 112 cruises this year, the bridge will serve more than 2,200 cruises and 4.6 million passengers.

Baltimore has come a long way as a departure point for cruises in what was until recently largely an industrial port. Only six years ago, cruise traffic was limited to the few dozen cruise ships that would call each year between the spring and fall to

pick up passengers from a shed amid the containers at the Dundalk Marine Terminal.

But since 2006, passengers have boarded at the new terminal at South Locust Point, where the gargantuan ships are easily visible to motorists passing on Interstate 95. The business began to take off here in 2009, when Royal Caribbean and Carnival — drawn in part by the easy access from I-95 — went to a year-round cruise schedule.

The number of ships calling at Baltimore has grown each year since then, and port officials are confident the business will continue to expand. Swaim-Staley said the cruise business brings an estimated \$90 million in economic activity to the region each year.

"The sky's the limit in terms of what we can continue to do here," Swaim-Staley said. "We benefit from an ideal location."

Richard Powers, the Maryland Port Administration's director of marketing, said other cruise lines approached him at a recent trade show to discuss adding Baltimore to their schedules. Meanwhile, Powers said, Baltimore's chief Mid-Atlantic rivals for cruises have been lagging, with Philadelphia getting out of the business and Norfolk, Va., too far from large population centers to draw many passengers.

Now, Powers said, port officials believe they might have to build a second cruise terminal — perhaps at the underused North Locust Point — as South Locust Point approaches its capacity.

But until then, passengers will reach their ships via the new bridge, which was shipped to Baltimore for assembly this winter.

Don Mesecher, TEAM's project director for North America, said the bridge is a unique design because in Baltimore — unlike other ports — cruise passengers begin boarding from ground level. He said the bridge is designed so that it remains in place even as the ship rises and falls with the tide. Mounted on wheels, it can be moved up or down the pier, though it is expected to stay mostly in the same place at the end of a covered walkway.

Thomas said the new bridge was custom-built to the specifications of Baltimore's port. He said it can be used in winds of up to 50 mph. The old gangway had to be detached from the ships when winds reached 25 mph.

"We think we can handle any ship that's going to be here," Thomas said.

ABC 2 NEWS

Port gets state-of-the-art boarding bridge

Posted: 04/11/2011

PORT OF BALTIMORE - Cruise passengers sailing from the Port of Baltimore will now be walking onto their ship through the new state-of-the-art boarding bridge.

The bridge made its official debut today at the beginning of a five-day sailing of Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas to Bermuda.

The new bridge is an enclosed walkway between the terminal and the ship, and includes heating and air conditioning, and is able to withstand winds and flexible enough to accommodate different size ships.

"Governor Martin O'Malley's wise investment in the Port of Baltimore continues to pay dividends," said Maryland Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. "Our goal is to provide customers with a first class cruise experience from departure to return. By investing in our cruise facilities we are delivering on that commitment. This new passenger boarding bridge will add another positive element to the overall cruise experience that our customers will enjoy at the Port of Baltimore."

The \$2.9 million bridge was made by TEAM of Barcelona, Spain.

The bridge measures 471 feet in length, is ADA compliant and is built to withstand winds of up to 90 miles per hour.

In 2011 the Port of Baltimore will have a record number of cruises with 112.

In 2010, a record of 210,549 people sailed on a then-record of 91 cruises from the terminal. Story picked up on marylandstatenews.net and 101.9 Lite Fm Radio

Cruise~community.com

Cruise Maryland Terminal inaugurates new TEAM PBB

Beverley Swaim-Staley, secretary of transportation of the State of Maryland and James J. White, executive director of the Maryland Port Administration officially inaugurated TEAM's Passenger Boarding Bridge at the Cruise Maryland Terminal in Baltimore, yesterday.

The official debut of TEAM's KRONUS PBB coincided with the start of a five-day sailing of Royal Caribbean International's Enchantment of the Seas from Baltimore to Bermuda.

TEAM was contracted for the design and delivery of a mobile PBB in July 2010 by the Maryland Port Administration after winning a competitive tender process.

The KRONUS with Mobile Walkway Module has been uniquely designed for the Port of Baltimore. This air-conditioned and ADA (Americans With Disabilities) compliant PBB enables embarkation of cruise guests from quay level to the cruise ship and vice versa. The Mobile Walkway Module is composed of fixed ramps in enclosed tunnels sections and is connected with the three telescopic tunnels of the KRONUS via a Rotunda, an invention that has been filed for patent by TEAM.

In 2011, the Port of Baltimore is expecting a record 112 cruises by Carnival Pride and Enchantment of the Seas. The Carnival Cruise Lines' vessel will sail to the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Caribbean while the Royal Caribbean ship sails to New England/Canada, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and the Caribbean. In 2010, 91 cruises and 210,549 passengers sailed from the Cruise Maryland Terminal.

TEAM has installed 13 PBBs at US cruise terminals at the following ports: Baltimore, Miami, New York, Mobile, Norfolk, San Diego and San Juan.

Cruise Industry News

New Boarding Bridge for Port of Baltimore

Tuesday, 12 April 2011

Cruise passengers sailing from the Port of Baltimore will now board their ship by walking through a state-of-the-art passenger boarding bridge that made its official debut today at the beginning of a five-day sailing of Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas to Bermuda. The new boarding bridge, an enclosed walkway between the cruise terminal and the ship, includes heating and air conditioning, an ability to withstand high winds, and is mobile and flexible enough to accommodate different sized cruise ships.

"Governor Martin O'Malley's wise investment in the Port of Baltimore continues to pay dividends," said Maryland Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. "Our goal is to provide customers with a first class cruise experience from departure to return. By investing in our cruise facilities we are delivering on that commitment. This new passenger boarding bridge will add another positive element to the overall cruise experience that our customers will enjoy at the Port of Baltimore."

The \$2.9 million boarding bridge was manufactured by TEAM of Barcelona, Spain. The unique design includes the walkway superstructure being connected by a rotunda including telescopic walkway tunnels. It measures 471 feet in length, is ADA compliant and is built to withstand wind gusts up to 90 miles per hour. With the boarding bridge, passengers will now be provided uninterrupted cover from the time they enter the cruise terminal until they board the ship. Heating and air conditioning will ensure passengers are comfortable regardless of what season they sail.

In 2011 the Port of Baltimore will have a record 112 cruises served by the Carnival Pride and Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas. The Carnival Pride will sail to the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Caribbean while Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas sails to New England/Canada, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and the Caribbean.

In 2010, a record 210,549 people sailed on a then-record 91 cruises from the Cruise Maryland Terminal.