Strategy for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Maritime Transportation System

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Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers
Mission: To grow the region’s $5 trillion economy and protect the world’s largest system of surface fresh water

Chief Executives of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Québec and Wisconsin

Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Chair: Michigan Governor Rick Snyder
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Maritime System

The maritime system is a backbone of the region’s $5 trillion economy.
Governors’ and Premiers’ resolution launches Maritime Initiative

Creates Maritime Task Force

Goal to improve the system’s efficiency and competitiveness
2015 Leadership Summit

- Maritime System Inventory
- Regional Priorities
- Regional Maritime Entity
State/Provincial Maritime Asset Inventory

- Approximately 400 million tons of goods move through the region’s ports each year

- Directly responsible for more than 220,000 jobs and $14 billion in annual wages

- Generates $30 billion in annual business revenue
Regional Maritime Entity

- Created in June 2015; includes representatives from each State and Province
- Coordination with Advisory Committee
- Charged with developing regional maritime strategy built around the Governors’ and Premiers’ priorities
Regional Maritime Strategy Overview

- Objectives: double maritime trade, shrink the environmental impact of transportation, and support the region’s industrial core

- Collaborative process including government, industry, NGOs and other partners

- Policies, programs, and projects to grow the economy and create jobs
Regional Maritime Strategy Draft Themes

• Increasing efficiency and reducing costs
• Building new markets
• Growing economic activity around the maritime system
• Delivering results and managing for the future
Increasing Efficiency and Reducing Costs

- Locks
- Channels and Harbors
- Icebreaking
- Pilotage
- Efficiency and Environmental Performance
Building New Markets

- Season Optimization
- Short Sea Shipping
- Containers
- Passenger Travel and Cruising
- Domestic and International Marketing
Growing Economic Activity Around the MTS

• Leadership and Planning
• Ports and Terminals
• Investment
Delivering Results and Managing for the Future

- Talent and Workforce Development
- Governance
- Metrics to Evaluate System Performance
Draft Dredging Actions

- Eliminate $200 dredging backlog
- Address critical system chokepoints
  - Maintain St. Marys River to authorized depth
  - Analyze MTS system-wide bottlenecks
- Repair breakwalls and other nearshore infrastructure
- Analyze costs/benefits of providing two additional feet of navigational depth to the St. Marys River
Draft Dredging Actions

• Potential for deepening the shallow sides of the Middle Neebish Channel
• Opportunities for the States to participate in the project development process
• Pilot program to enable State(s) to manage dredging projects through a block grant or similar means
• Potential for P3 and multi-State collaborations
Other Federal Priorities

• Construction of new Soo Lock
• Expedite the movement of people and cargo across the US-Canada border
  • Implement CBP “open jaw” clearance system
  • Develop model facilities for cruise passengers
  • Evaluate pre-clearance for maritime cargo
• Convene a facilitated process to develop recommended pilotage changes
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