



PORT OF
GULFPORT
MISSISSIPPI

May 2025

USACE Deepening & Widening Project Status

- April 2023 - Feasibility study began for a 46' deep channel
- Summer 2024 - BCR was estimated in the 1.5-1.7 range
- Fall 2024 - BCR reduced due to newly released maintenance costs
- October 2024 - Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) meeting - BCR at 1.05
- March 2025 - BCR is 0.75 after TSP review

Cost Challenges

- 42% overall increase in project costs after draft report release
- Newly released vessel operating and channel maintenance cost estimates
- 10% office overhead increase for dredge construction (at least \$40 million)
- Multiple mobilizations and demobilizations
- Reviewers increasing costs based "on experience of current projects" even though Mobile is coming in under cost

Pending Analysis

- Benefit estimates for bulk and break-bulk
- Landside benefits of rail and trucking efficiencies not captured in TSP
- Ship simulation with portions of the channel at 350 and 375 ft wide instead of 400 feet wide
 - BCR at 350 ft. is approximately 1.1 and BCR at 375 is approximately .92
 - **Risk:** Ship simulation doesn't go well and pilots can't run the channel safely at a narrower width
- Removal of the costs of Cat Island restoration project if funded by MDEQ and RESTORE Act

Additional Ideas and Solutions Proposed to USACE

- Monetize beneficial re-use projects completed with material from this project and incorporate the value into the benefits of the project
 - Significant portions of Cat Island and Pelican Key would be re-nourished and create marshlands
- Re-calculate maintenance dredging costs in accordance with guidance from WSP memo
- Review based on Gulf Coast project costs (i.e. Mobile)

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