



# Port Development Funding and Freight Planning Updates

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# MnDOT's Role in Ports and Waterways



## Ports and Waterways

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### About

Minnesota's marine freight system - including river and lake ports, commercially navigable waterways and related infrastructure - plays a vital role in the state's multimodal freight transportation system, and in the economic competitiveness of Minnesota's communities. The Mississippi River provides access to river ports to the south and the Gulf of Mexico via New Orleans; the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway provides access to other ports along the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean.

Three ports on Lake Superior and four ports on 195 miles of the Mississippi River system provide essential transportation connections and access to national and international markets. MnDOT is identifying opportunities, challenges and strategies to improve movement along this marine freight system.



In 2016, Minnesota shipped over 7 million tons of grain down the Mississippi River.

# MnDOT's Role, Part I – Port Development Assistance Program

- **Grant program established in 1994 (MN Stat. 457A, MN Admin Rules 8895):**
  - Expediting the movement of commodities and passengers on the commercial navigation system;
  - Promoting economic development in and around ports and harbors in the state;
  - Provides grants to public port authorities for the improvement of infrastructure;
  - Project examples: roadway and rail access, terminal upgrades, dock wall reconstruction, limited dredging.
- **Program has received \$54 million since 1996**
  - Primarily to public port authorities
  - 2020 appropriation of \$14 MM was the most ever received

# Recent Projects

- **Duluth Seaway Port Authority (\$2,272,562)**
  - Berth 10 Rehabilitation – provides additional vessel mooring and storage area
- **St. Paul Port Authority (\$1,818,050)**
  - Direct Barge-Rail-Truck Transload Facility – rail spur extension, rehab a connecting rail spur and pave a reinforced loading/unloading pad
- **Wabasha Port Authority (\$454,876)**
  - Barge Terminal - new barge terminal, including dredging of access channel and placement of the dredge cut material on site to raise elevation to create five- acre terminal pad and access road
- **Winona Port Authority (\$454,512)**
  - Stormwater Project - new paved drives, retention ponds and reinforced concrete piping and inlets designed to direct stormwater to retention ponds.

# Freight Planning Updates

- State Freight Plan
- State Rail Plan
- Ports and Waterways Plan

# Thank you!

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