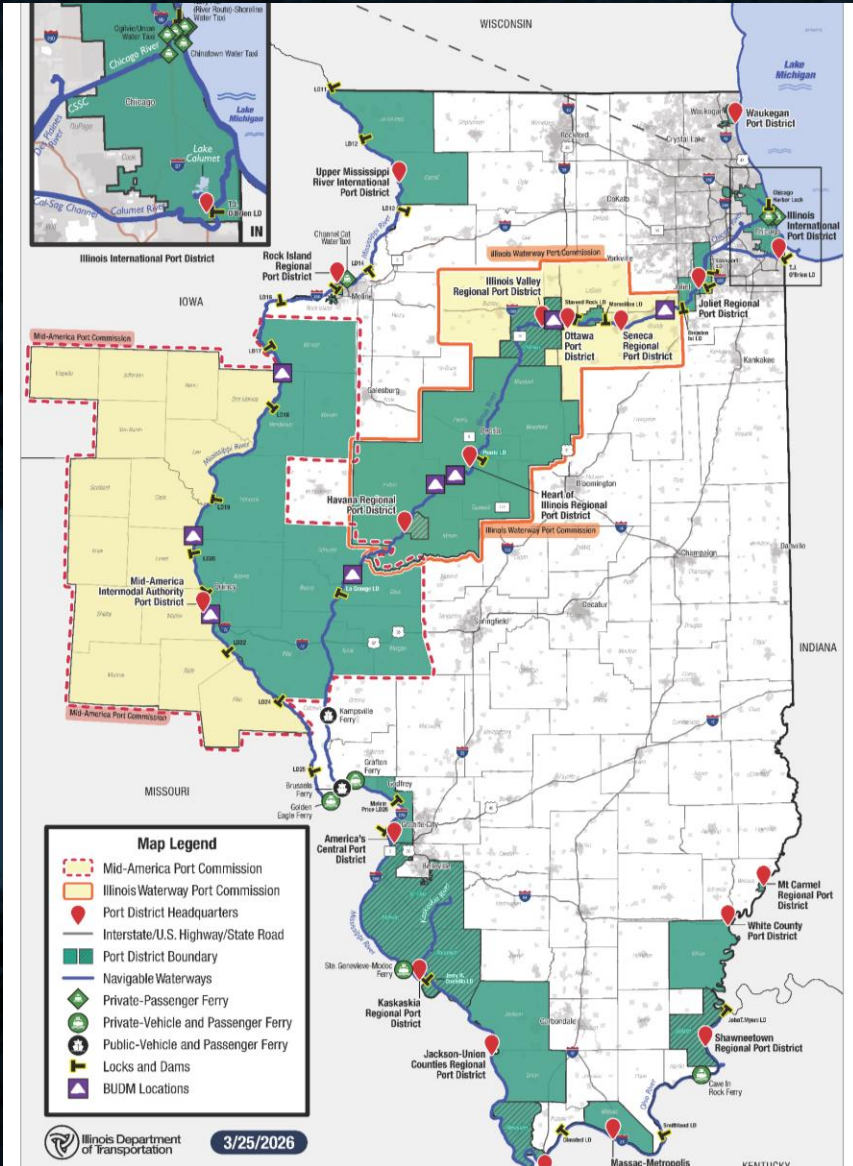


2026 CORN BELT PORTS & MID-AMERICA PORT COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING

ALL THINGS ILLINOIS MARINE TRANSPORTATION AND IDOT UPDATE



ILLINOIS MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM



- **LAKE MICHIGAN** (63 miles of coastline) - M-90
- **FOUR COMMERCIALLY NAVIGABLE RIVERS**
 - Mississippi River - M-35 Marine Highway Route Designation
 - Ohio River - M-70
 - Illinois River - M-55
 - Kaskaskia River - M-3

■ CHICAGO AREA WATERWAY SYSTEM

- Des Plaines River
- Chicago River (North and South)
- Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
- Calumet Sag Channel
- Little Calumet River
- Calumet River



ILLINOIS MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

- **1,118** miles of commercially navigable waterways
- **19** public port districts
- **2** port commissions
- **27** locks & dams
- More than **450** terminals (mostly private)
- **7** Automobile/Pedestrian Ferry Operations
- Water Taxis – Chicago & Quad Cities
- Great Lakes Cruises
- Mississippi River Cruises
- **1** Quad-City Seaplane Base



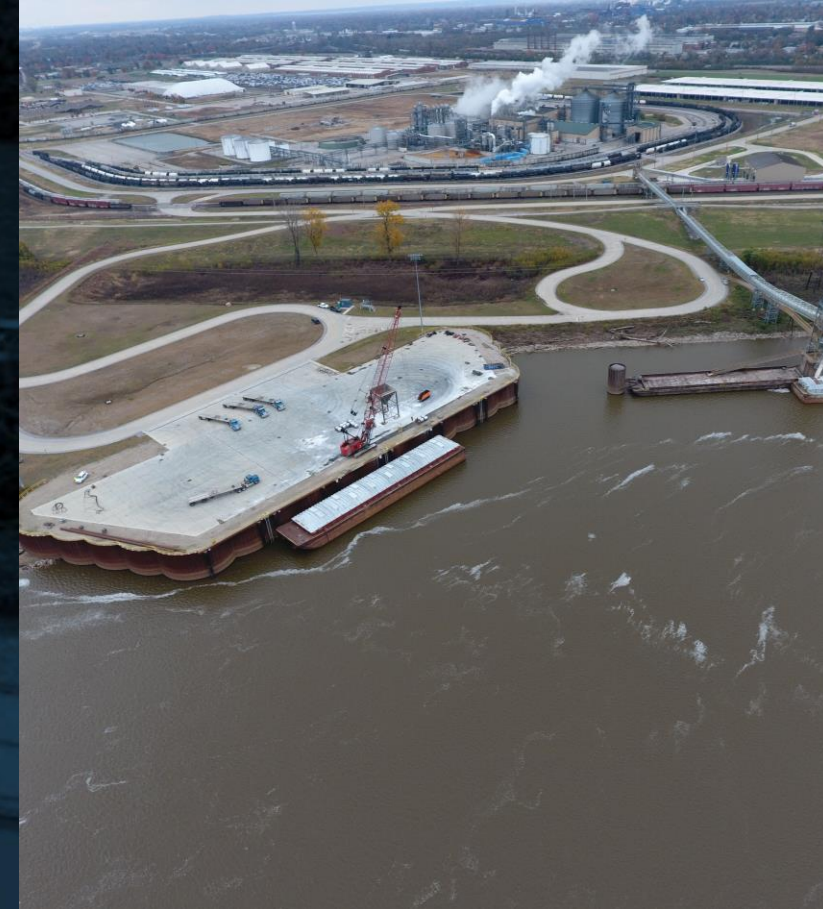
Kaskaskia Regional Port Terminal

What is a Port District?

- An Illinois port district is a special-purpose unit of local government created by the Illinois General Assembly to promote, develop, and manage waterway transportation, regional commerce, and economic development.
- **Port District Powers** (Not all Illinois port districts have the same powers)
 - Infrastructure and Property Development
 - Facility Management: Acquire, construct, operate, lease, and maintain port terminals, docks, seawalls, warehouses, and industrial parks.
 - Levee Maintenance: Build, repair, and maintain levees and flood protection structures.
 - Waterway and Navigation Regulation
 - Permitting: Issue permits for the construction of piers, bulkheads, breakwaters, and bridges within, over, or under navigable waters.
 - Navigation Control: Establish dock lines, restrict the height of natural/man-made objects, and regulate the speed, anchorage, and moorage of vessels.
 - Obstruction Removal: Prevent or remove obstructions, including the clearing of sunken wrecks and debris from navigable waterways.

ILLINOIS MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

- **Port District Powers Cont.**
 - Economic Development and Financial Tools
 - Bond Issuance: Issue general obligation or revenue bonds to fund port operations and capital improvements, secured by district revenues, fees, or leases.
 - Trade Zones: Apply to federal authorities for the right to establish and operate Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZs) and sub-zones to defer, reduce, or eliminate customs duties.
 - Police Powers and Governance
 - Ordinances: Pass ordinances, rules, and regulations necessary for executing the district's functions, carrying associated fines and penalties.
 - Policing: Enforce rules by employing and commissioning police officers to protect the district's physical property, adjacent waterways, and facilities.



America's Central Port (ACP) (Granite City, Illinois)

ILLINOIS MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

What is a Port?

- System of terminals, infrastructure, and goods movement services across modes
- Focus on waterborne commerce as well as connectivity to rail and truck
- Nexus of public and private investment to create jobs and economic activity
- May also be an economic development engine linking the freight system with industrial land
- **There is a saying, “If you have seen one port, you have seen one port!”** The phrase means every port is entirely unique.



Waukegan Port

ILLINOIS MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Barges on the Inland Waterways

- The typical inland waterway hopper barge measures 195 feet in length, 35 feet in width, and 12 to 13 feet in height.
- One barge can transport the same volume as about 60 semitrucks, depending on the type of cargo.
- On the Illinois River, the size of the tow is limited to 15 barges due to the size of the current locks. However, on the lower Mississippi River, as many as 35 barges can be connected in a single tow.
- One inland waterway tanker barge can carry 27,500 barrels of liquid. One barrel is 42 U.S. Gallons. As such, a tanker barge can carry 1,155,000 gallons of cargo. This is equivalent to 46 rail cars or 144 tanker trucks.
- One container barge 200 ft. long and 70 ft. wide can carry 72 forty-foot containers or 144 twenty-foot containers.

ILLINOIS MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Rail and Truck Capacity

If a tow of 15 barges operating on the River is carrying a load of grain, the maximum load is 22,500 tons or 803,250 bushels of corn. If an unexpected water event, such as a low water event or an unexpected lock outage, occurs and that grain needs to get to New Orleans to be transferred to an ocean-going vessel for an overseas destination, how would it get there, and what impact would it have on freight transportation?

One alternative might be to use railroad hopper cars. Such a railcar can carry a maximum load of 100 tons. To transport the same amount of grain as a single tow with 15 barges, a total of 216 rail cars and 6 locomotives would be needed, and it would reach a length of 3 miles. This is equivalent to 2-1/4-unit trains, or 3 trains with 72 rail cars each.

Another alternative would be to load the grain into trucks. A large semitruck trailer can carry about 25 tons, so 900-1,000 trucks would be needed to deliver the same amount of corn to New Orleans. If these were spaced 250 ft apart, they would stretch over 50 miles.

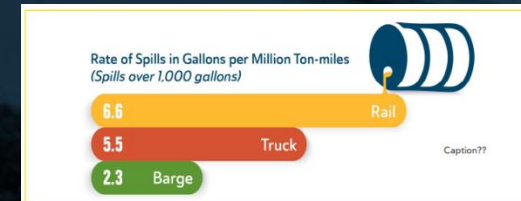
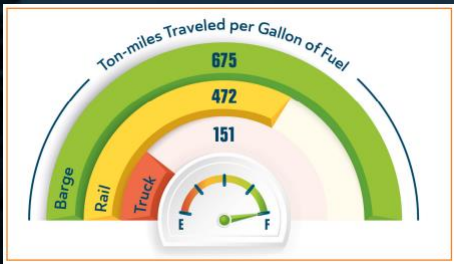
This indicates that a severe capacity problem could occur in our transportation system if suddenly no waterway routes were available to carry significant amounts of our grain and other commodities to market.

ILLINOIS MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Barges Efficiencies and Safety

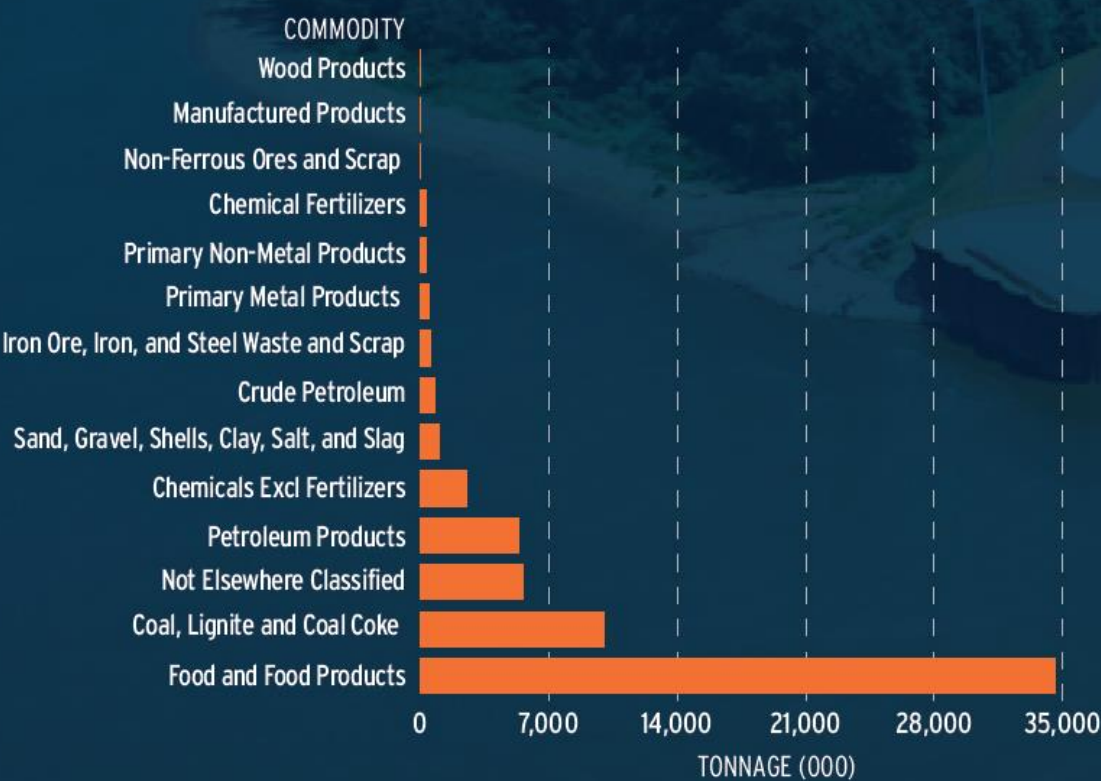
According to the National Waterways Foundation (NWF).

- A barge ton of cargo can travel 675 miles on a gallon of fuel. Trains can transport a ton of cargo 477 miles per gallon, while a truck can transport a ton of cargo 151 miles per gallon.
- For every 1 barge injury, there are 96 rail injuries and 1,145 tractor-trailer truck injuries.
- The rate of spills in gallons per million ton-miles (Spills over 1,000 gallons) for barge is 2.3, rail is 6.6, and truck is 5.5.
- The rate of tons of CO₂ per million ton-miles generated by barge is 15.1, rail 21.6, and truck 140.7. Trucks generate 832% more CO₂ than a typical barge tow.



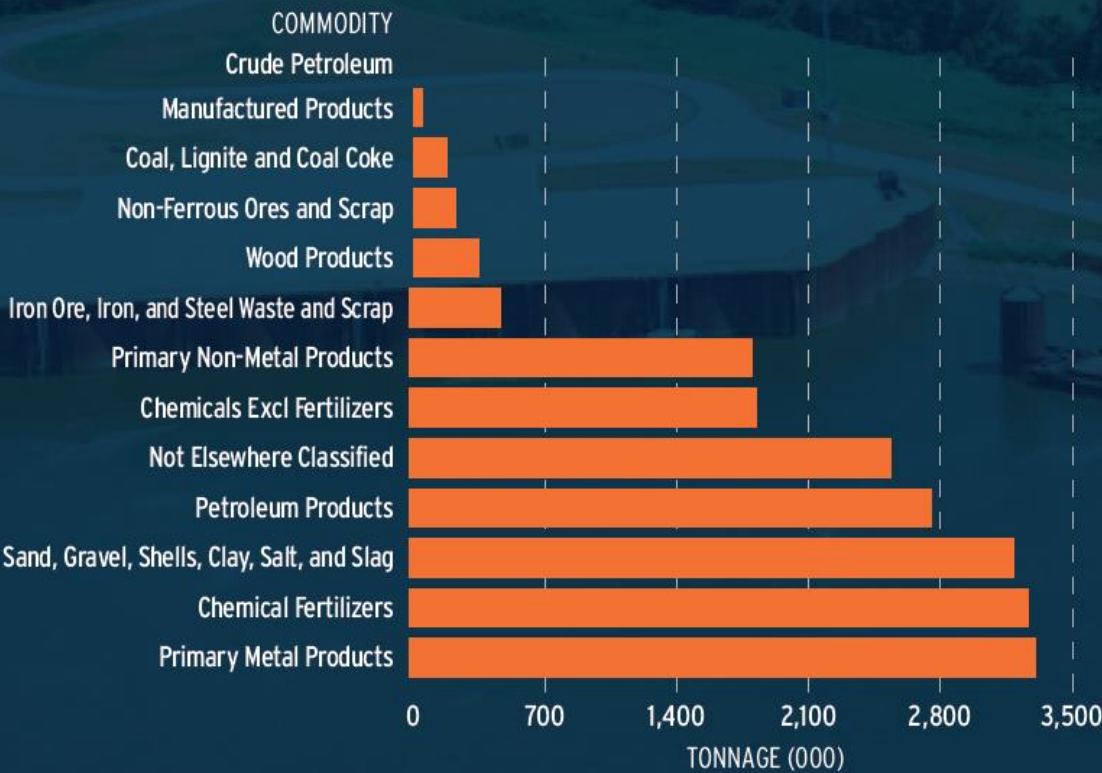
TOP ILLINOIS INBOUND/OUTBOUND VOLUMES IN MILLIONS OF TONS

FIGURE 4.5 Outbound Commodity Shipments in 2017 in Thousands of Tons



Source: Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics and WSP Analysis

FIGURE 4.6 Inbound Commodity Shipments in 2017 in Thousands of Tons



Source: Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics and WSP Analysis

THE ECONOMY OF THE IMTS GENERATES:

\$36 Billion
IN ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$10.5 Billion
IN WORKER INCOME

\$17.4 Billion
IN GROSS STATE PRODUCT

SUPPORTS
166,628
JOBS

\$2.9 Billion
IN FEDERAL, STATE
AND LOCAL TAXES

4%
OF GROSS
STATE PRODUCT



THE IMTS MOVES:

90.6 million tons
of freight

7% of all
statewide freight
traffic



FREIGHT TONNAGE

Declined **16%** in three
years due to loss of
outbound coal traffic

ILLINOIS WATERBORNE TONNAGE

Forecasted to grow **5%**
by 2045

TOP ILLINOIS INBOUND/OUTBOUND VOLUMES IN MILLIONS OF TONS

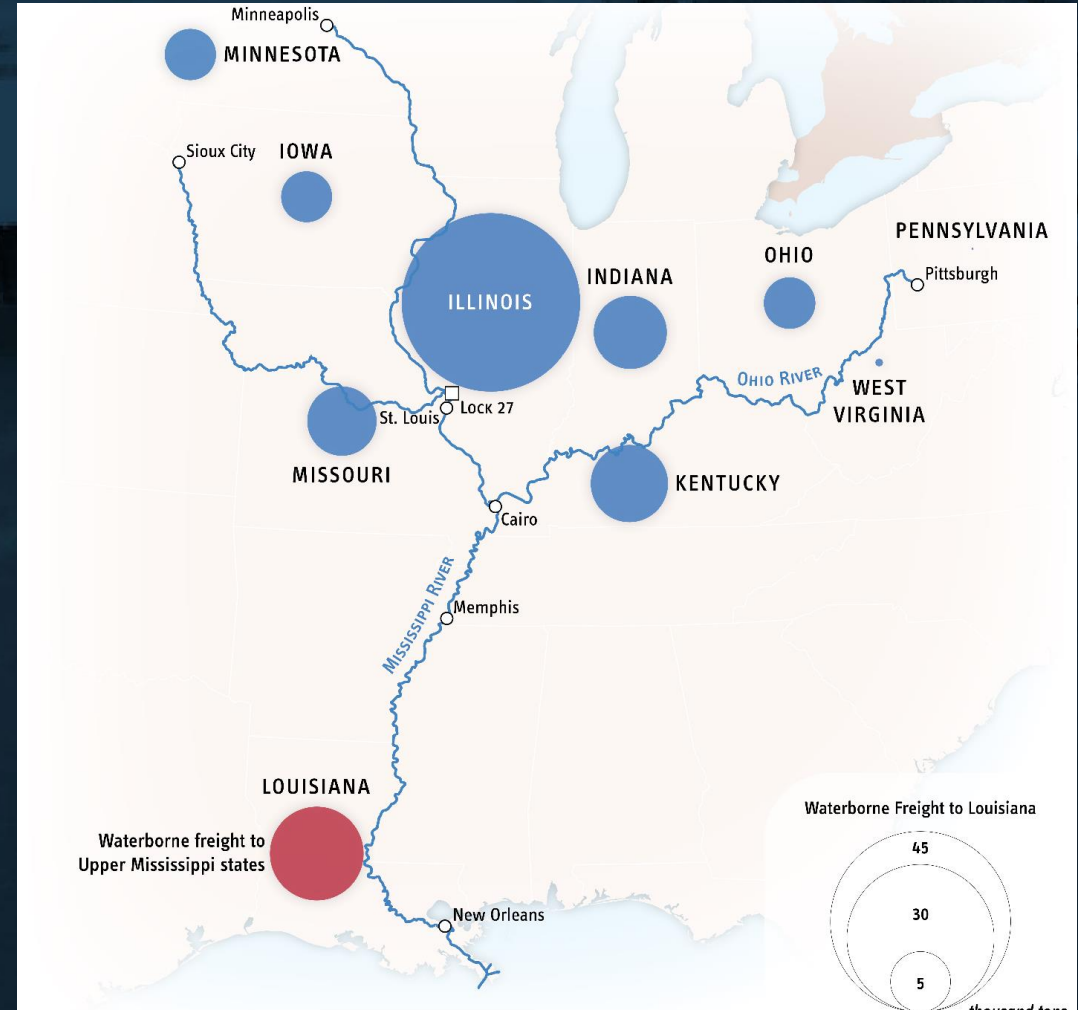
IN 2022:

- Illinois carried the most freight tonnage by river to Louisiana –**57% of the total tonnage**.
- Cereal grain accounted for 45 percent of the total tonnage from Illinois to Louisiana, and other agricultural products accounted for 28 percent.
- The river carried 97 percent of the cereal grain between Illinois and Louisiana.

OTHER STATES' CONTRIBUTION:

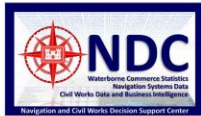
- Missouri 8.6%
- Kentucky 10.7%

Annual Report 2024 - Port Performance Freight Statistics, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. DOT, January 2024



The U.S. Coastal and Inland Navigation System

2023 Transportation Facts & Information



Navigation and Civil Works
Decision Support Center
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Ranking, Port District, Tonnage

#43 Mid-America Port, IA, IL, & MO: 11 M Tons
#49 Illinois International PD: 9 M Tons
#57 Joliet Regional PD: 7.6 M Tons
#66 Kaskaskia Regional PD: 7.0 M Tons
#67 Southwest Regional PD: 6.7 M Tons
#74 Americas Central PD: 5.1 M Tons
#82 Illinois Valley Regional PD: 4.0 M Tons
#85 Jackson-Union PD: 3.5 M Tons
#86 Massac-Metropolis PD: 3.5 M Tons
#90 Heart of Illinois Regional PD: 3.4 M Tons
#125 Havana Regional PD: 1.9 M Tons
#149 Shawneetown Regional PD: 1.0 M Tons
#150 Alexander-Cairo PD: 1.0 M Tons

Illinois Waterway Ports: 11.8 M Tons
Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois: 6.4 M Tons

Illinois is ranked 11th among the 44 states and territories listed.

NEW STATE PORT PROGRAM FUNDING

104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2025 and 2026. HB0111. Section 15. The sum of \$20,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the Road Fund to the Department of Transportation for assistance to Illinois' Public Ports.

Potential Use of Port Funding

3-Year Consultant Services Task Order Contract for Phase I/II Engineering Services.

Support Matching Funds for Federal Maritime Grants, such as PIDP, and other Federal Grants.

Illinois Marine Transportation System Plan - Economic Impact Analysis.

Port Master Plans/Feasibility Studies.

Operational Funds for Illinois Public Ports Districts - *Personnel, Maintenance, Equipment, Administration, and Marketing

Port Capital Development Projects and Port Assistance Grants.

Total Port Program (\$20 M)

RESOURCES

ILLINOIS MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WEBSITE

[Illinois Marine Transportation System Plan & Economic Impact Analysis Study \(Web Version\)](#)

REBUILD ILLINOIS – ILLINOIS PORT FACILITIES CAPITOL INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM

[Illinois Port Facilities Capital Investment Grant Program - Guidance Documents](#)

AWARDS

[Port Facilities Capital Investment Grant Program Awards](#)

ILLINOIS COMPETITIVE FREIGHT PROGRAM

[Illinois Competitive Freight Program Website](#)

AWARDS

[Illinois Competitive Freight Program 2023 Awards](#)

STATEWIDE PLANNING & RESEARCH PROGRAM

[Statewide Planning & Research Website](#)

AWARDS

[Statewide Planning & Research Program 2025 Project Awards](#)

THANK YOU!



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