



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Charleston District

19 March 2024

Project Fact Sheet
Charleston Harbor, SC – Post-45
Charleston County, SC
P2#: 137921

Congressional District(s): Nancy Mace (SC-01)

Appropriation: Construction

Phase: Construction

Business Line: Navigation (NAV)

AUTHORITY

Section 1401, Water Resource Development Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-322)

LOCATION

Charleston Harbor is located about midway along South Carolina's Atlantic coastline and supports a vital mission in the defense of our nation as one of the nation's 17 strategic ports for national defense. Commercial tonnage as reported by the Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center for Fiscal Year 2020 was 1.8 million Twenty-foot Equivalent container Units (TEUs) of cargo, which ranks the South Carolina Ports Authority as eighth in the nation for container traffic. BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo, International Paper, Sonoco, Purdue, Fujifilm, Husqvarna, Honda, Samsung, Bosch, Dollar Tree, GE, Michelin, Continental Tire, Bridgestone, and Giti Tire are among the best-known businesses calling on South Carolina ports terminals in Charleston Harbor. Port operations facilitate 260,000 jobs across South Carolina and \$87 billion in economic activity each year.

DESCRIPTION

The non-federal sponsor, the South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA), requested a locally preferred plan (LPP) with a project depth of -52 feet MLLW, along with associated channel widening and turning basins. The plan authorized by Congress is the LPP. The authorized project cost of the fully funded General Navigation Features is \$548,892,000, with average annual benefits from the latest approved evaluation of \$169,627,000 and average annual costs of \$26,460,000. The benefit-to-cost ratio is 6.4 at 2.875%. The Federal share of the authorized project cost is approximately \$345,430,000 and the non-federal share is approximately \$203,462,000. The authorized project: (1) deepens the existing entrance channel from a project depth of -47 feet to -54 feet MLLW and extends it approximately three miles seaward; (2) deepens the inner lower harbor from an existing project depth of -45 feet to -52 feet MLLW from the entrance channel to the confluence of the Wando and Cooper Rivers, and about two miles up the Wando River to the Wando Welch Terminal and about three miles up to the Cooper River to the Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. Terminal; (3) deepens the inner upper harbor to a project depth of -48 feet MLLW over the five mile reach leading from the Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. Terminal to the North Charleston Terminal; (4) enlarges the existing turning basins at the Wando Welch, Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. and North Charleston Terminals; and (5) widens selected channel reaches.

STATUS

As of March 2024 - The Project was authorized for construction in December 2016. The Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) was executed in July 2017 and included provisions for the SCPA to advance the federal share, in addition to the non-federal share, for the purpose of constructing the Project. An amendment to the PPA was signed in February of 2020 stating that

funds received in the FY20 Appropriations Bill will be used to fully fund the project to completion. The USACE Charleston District received \$17,500,000 in the FY17 work plan for a new start construction project, \$49,000,000 in the FY18 work plan, and \$41,415,000 in the FY19 work plan. In FY20, Charleston District received \$138,040,000 in the FY20 Appropriations Bill, funding the project to completion. In FY23 and FY24, Charleston District received \$10,440,000 and \$25,000,000, respectively, in Congressionally Directed Spending for partial reimbursement to the SCPA for their advanced funding towards the federal cost share.

Dredging construction began March 2018 and was completed December 2022. Five contracts were executed with three dredging companies for \$514M of construction. \$26M of upland placement maintenance and improvement contracts were also awarded and completed.. Five-years of post-construction environmental monitoring began in 2023, concluding in 2028. Fiscal closeout of the project is expected in 2029.

SPONSOR

South Carolina Ports Authority

PROJECT MANAGER

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