

# **Enhancing Logistics Through Multimodal Policy & Investment: Strategies for a Connected Future**

**Commissioner Julia Fisher Cormier  
Office of Multimodal Commerce**

# OFFICE OF MULTIMODAL COMMERCE

*Linking Louisiana's Businesses and Industries to Global Customers*

- Planning, programming, & outreach related to
  - Aviation
  - Freight and Passenger Rail
  - Commercial Trucking
  - Ports and Waterways



# Aviation

# Louisiana Airports

## 68 Public Airports

 Commercial Service (7)  
 General Aviation (61)

 Commercial Service  
 General Aviation  
 Interstate Highway  
 U.S. Highway



# Airport Construction & Development Priority Program

**Purpose** - for airport improvement needs to maintain safe and efficient airports service in the aviation network and to implement recommendations in the Louisiana Aviation System Plan

## **Requirements:**

- Demonstrable public benefit
- Foster Air Commerce and Economic Growth
- Minimum 10% match (TTF)

## **Typical Project Types:**

- Runway Safety Areas, Runway & Taxiway Pavement Preservation
- Airside Development & Improvement
- Maintenance and Repair Hangars, Fuel Systems, Aircraft Storage
- Planning, Engineering, and Design
- Multimodal Connectors
- Vertiport Development, Advanced Air Mobility

# Freight Rail

# Louisiana Rail Network

- 20 Railroads
  - 6 Class-1 Railroads
    - Annual revenues over \$504M
  - 14 Short Line Railroads
    - Annual Revenues less than \$504M
    - “First/Last Mile” railroads
- 2,667 miles of Mainline Track
  - 2,174 miles Class-1 Track
  - 497 miles Short Line Track
- Principal Commodities
  - Chemicals
  - Crude Oil & Petroleum Products
  - Coal
  - Farm Products
  - Pulp, Paper, Lumber, Wood
  - Food Products
  - Nonmetallic Minerals





# Short Line Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program

**Purpose** - for rail improvement needs to maintain efficient rail service on the rail network and to implement recommendations in the Louisiana Freight Mobility Plan and State Rail Plan

## **Requirements:**

- Demonstrable public benefit
- Minimum 50% match (non-TTF)

## **Typical Project Types:**

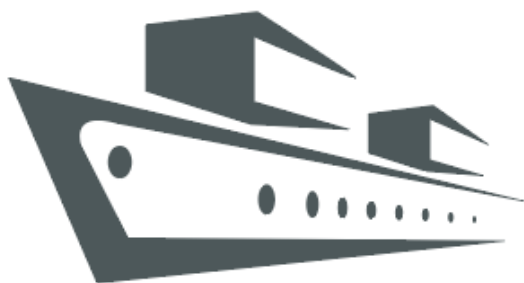
- Track, Signaling, Right-of-Way Preservation
- Rail Line Relocation and Improvement
- Highway-Rail Grade Crossings Improvements
- Planning, Engineering, and Design
- Multimodal Connectors



# Ports and Waterways

# Waterways

# Waterways



# 2,800

Miles of Navigable  
Waterways

2

Deep Draft Waterways

Mississippi & Calcasieu

27

Locks

3

Marine Highways

M-55 Mississippi River

M-49 Red/Atchafalaya

M-10 Gulf Intracoastal Waterway

# #2

# 500

million  
tons  
per year

## DID YOU KNOW?

Freight travels:

**30%**  
by water

**8%**  
by rail

**62%**  
by road

# Waterways: Marine Highways



<https://www.maritime.dot.gov/sites/marad.dot.gov/files/2023-08/U.S.%20Marine%20Highway%20Routes%20Map%20August%202023.pdf>

# Waterway Dredging and Deepening Priority Program

- Created 2017
- Primary goal of dredging and deepening waterways in the State
- Guidelines in development with no current funding



# Current Waterway Projects

- Mississippi River Deepening:
  - Deepen from 45 ft to 50 ft from Gulf of Mexico through the Port of Baton Rouge
- Houma Navigation Canal Deepening:
  - Deepen from 15 ft to 20 ft
- J. Bennett Johnston Waterway (Red River) Deepening:
  - Deepen from 9 ft to 12 ft
- Acadiana to Gulf of Mexico Access Channel
  - Deepen from 12 ft to 16 ft from the Gulf of Mexico to the Port of Iberia

**DOTD is the federally designated non-federal sponsor**

# Ports



# Louisiana Ports: 41 Port Authorities

## 31 Active Ports

- Developing Ports (10)
- Shallow Draft Ports (23)
- Deep Draft Ports (8)



# The Port Construction & Development Priority Program

- Objective:
  - Improve infrastructure of public ports
  - Foster economic growth
- Funded by the Transportation Trust Fund (\$39.4M):
  - Program limit per project \$15M at \$5M per year
  - Reimbursement is available
- Applications submitted quarterly
- Project Types:

— Warehouses	Wharf/Dock Upgrades
— Container Facility	Bulkheading
— Building Improvements	Access Roads & Rail Spurs

# **Louisiana is Positioned to Win**

## **Collaboration & Legislation**

# **Collaboration:**

## **State Agencies**

**LED, LDEQ, DOTD, DENR, Rural Dev**

**Cross representation on boards, joint efforts on strategic plans and master planning, use of other department resources to complement development**

## **Ports**

**5 LMR Joint Market Study**

**Hyundai Steel Plant-MultiPort effort**

**LPWIC Board Involvement**

# Legislation:

LPWIC: 2024 Regular Session HB971 Rep.Mark Wright

**Created to serve as an advocate for  
the state's ports and waterways investment interests**

## Goals/Directives

- Strategic plan
- Investment program for Major Port Development
- Attract international trade to the state's ports and waterways investments
- Set funding over all priorities for the development and growth of the state's ports and its water transportation system.

## Status

Quarterly Meetings

Priority Submissions under review for consideration of inclusion in Strategic Plan/Funding Effort

Merging of Transition Team Recommendations and other data driven reports to create the final strategic plan

# Strategies in Motion:

## DOTD Reorg

- LOOP/LOTA Addition to OMC
- Streamlined OMC operations

## Gov Landry Transition Team Recommendations

- Air Gap Sensors
- Cargo Study
- LPWIC

## LED Strategic Plan-7 sectors



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## **Louisiana's Time is NOW**

**Julia Fisher Cormier**

Commissioner, Office of Multimodal Commerce

[Julia.cormier@la.gov](mailto:Julia.cormier@la.gov)

Ph: (504) 339-5199



**[www.dotd.la.gov](http://www.dotd.la.gov)**