



Michigan City Harbor, IN

Harbor Features

- The harbor is located in Michigan City, Indiana in LaPorte County, Indiana
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Acts of 1836, 1870, 1899, 1905, 1927 & 1935. Section 107 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1960. Section 123 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1970, Water Resources Development Acts 1986 and 1996
- Authorized navigation channel depths are 14 feet in the harbor entrance, 12 feet in the outer harbor, 10 feet in turning basin No. 1, 10 feet in Trail Creek from turning basin No. 1 to turning basin No. 2, and 6 feet in Trail Creek from turning basin No. 2 to E. Street
- Harbor structures consist of 2,304 linear feet of timber crib breakwaters, a west pier 835 feet long, and an east pier 2,276 feet long
- The federal navigation channel within the harbor and Trail Creek is 2 miles long.
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

Project Requirements

- A substantial loss in navigation depth in the outer harbor and entrance channel was identified in 2018, prompting a letter of concern from the USCG. Funds were reprogrammed to dredge approximately 45,000 cubic yards from the federal channel in September 2019. The October 2020 condition survey identified the dredging backlog as approximately 67,000 cubic yards. Workplan funds were received and dredging is planned for award in FY21. With lake levels cycling lower, a similar amount of shoaling is anticipated annually.
- Trail Creek was last dredged in 2002; material was placed in a landfill that was closing.



- Dredging typically is needed on a 6- to 8-year cycle. However, the Trail Creek sediment is of poor quality, which has hindered efforts to dredge the channel and increased the cost substantially. Not all of the material is suitable for beneficial reuse, and disposal arrangements must be identified. Until a disposal site is identified, this portion will not be dredged.
- The detached breakwater is the primary shield for safe vessel passage into and out of the harbor. Its condition is poor, and the concrete cap is progressively collapsing due to the timber crib deterioration beneath. Segments of the concrete cap are dislodged periodically during storm events.
- Repairs to the east pier and phase 1 of the outer breakwater were completed in 2020.
- Phase 2 of the outer breakwater repairs are scheduled for completion in 2022.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- The USCG Station Michigan City serves all vessels in southern Lake Michigan. The station has been compelled to relocate operations previously due to shoaling in the outer harbor.
- The port is critical to the economic vitality of Michigan City. Due to recreational boating, the harbor generates minimally 118 jobs, \$3.2M in labor income and \$5.3M in value added to the local economy.

Transportation Importance

➤ The USCG maintains law enforcement and search & rescue vessels within the port. The USCG needs access to and from the port to conduct its Homeland Security missions on Lake Michigan.

➤ The harbor is the safe refuge on southern Lake Michigan for recreational boats because its detached breakwater provides protection for vessels entering the harbor. There are transient berths, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, electricity, sewage pump-out, and launching.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, 2021, and 2022
Michigan City Harbor, IN - Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

Work Package	FY20 Requirement	FY20 Appropriation	FY21 Requirement	FY21 Appropriation	FY22 Requirement	FY22 President’s Budget
Real Estate Management	10	0	14	10	10	10
Maintenance Dredging Approach and Entrance Channel – Primary Work Package	990	0	1,113	0	943	0
Maintenance Dredging – Trail Creek	0	0	716	0	0	0
Structural Repairs – Outer Breakwater Repairs (Contract)	4,000	4,000	0	0	3,979	0
TOTAL	5,000	4,000	1,843	10	4,932	10

Congressional Interests

- Representative Frank Mrvan D-IN-1
- Senator Todd Young R-IN
- Senator Mike Braun R-IN