MDOT Maritime Update

House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Local Transportation

May 13, 2026

Michigan Department of Transportation

Michigan Maritime News

- Great Lakes St. Lawrence Gov. & Premiers (GSGP) Maritime Steering Committee 4/8-4/9
- Michigan Maritime Strategy Released 4/27
- Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) FY 2025 Announcements
  - Port of Monroe – $15M
  - City of Holland - $11.25M
- Maritime Legislative Policy Panel 4/28
- Inaugural Michigan Maritime Capital Day 4/29
- Council on Future Mobility & Electrification (CFME) Maritime Action Team

Messages From Industry

- Aging facilities & vessels in need of investment
- Cargo diversification opportunities
- Interest in resiliency & redundancy
- Workforce concerns
- Interest in cleaner technologies & fuels
- Federal Alignment Opportunities
  - U.S. Maritime Action Plan

Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Michigan Maritime & Port Facility Assistance Program 2024 Awarded Applications

- Port of Monroe – $1.5M for Container terminal
- Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority – $1.5M for Detroit-Wayne Mobility Innovation Terminal (DW-MIT)
- Verplank Dock Co. – $1M for dredging at confined disposal facility (CDF) for beneficial reuse
- City of Cheboygan – $500,000 for adding petroleum storage tank at Cheboygan marine terminal
- City of Sault Ste. Marie – $500,000 for Carbide Dock

MDOT Maritime Grant Program: Lessons Learned

What we've seen

- Strong statewide interest
- Diverse project types
- Public-private partnerships
- Demand 5x greater than 2024 awards
- Importance of matching federal opportunities

Why it matters

- Project readiness
- Safety & reliability
- Economic competitiveness
- Supply chain resiliency

Examples of Eligible/Strategic Investment Categories

- Port infrastructure & terminal modernization
- Dredging & harbor improvements
- Intermodal freight connectivity
- Cargo handling equipment
- Resiliency & security upgrades
- Sustainability & cleaner technologies
- Planning & federal grant match support

Michigan Maritime Strategy Implementation

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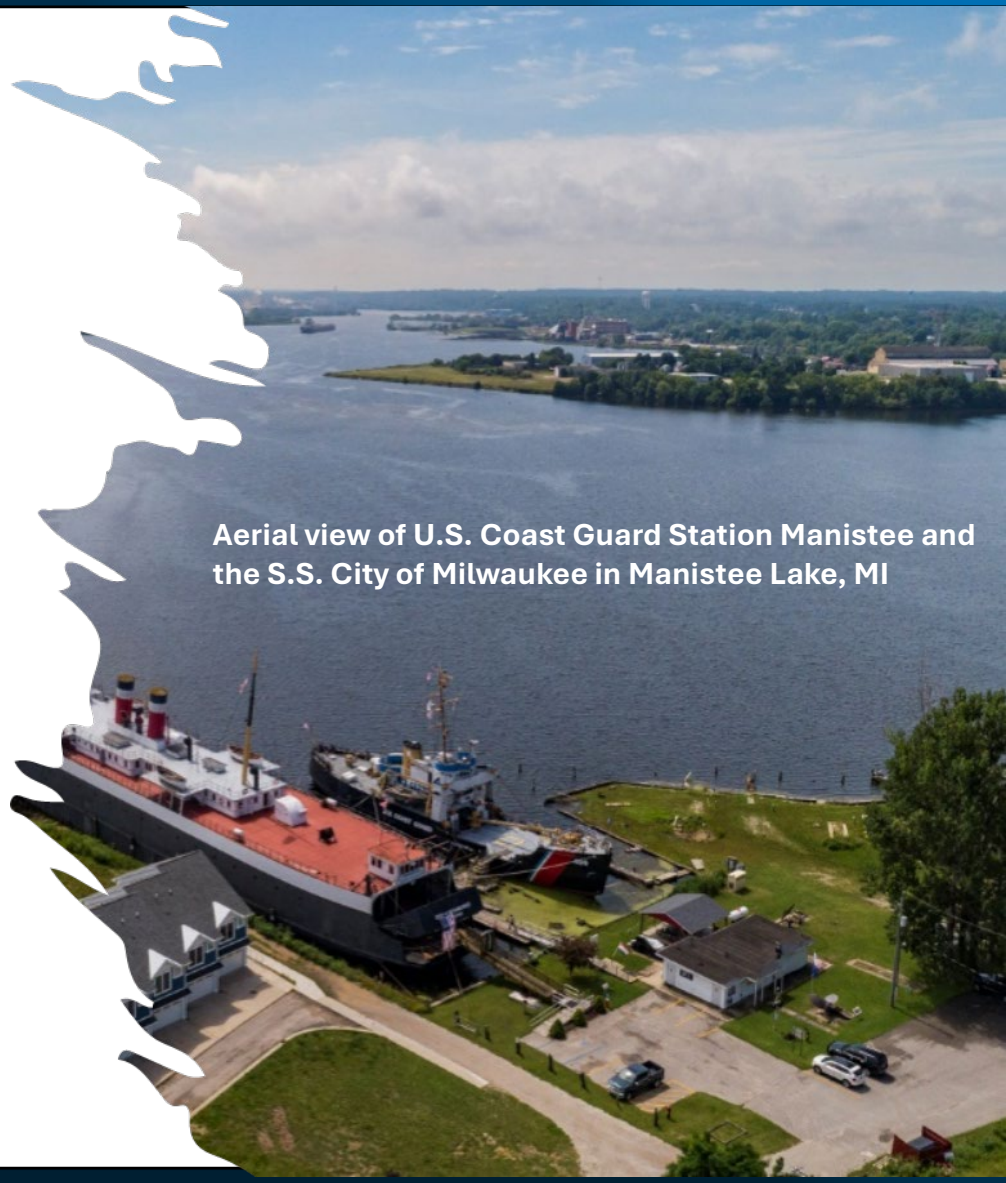
Maritime Strategy Areas of Focus for MDOT

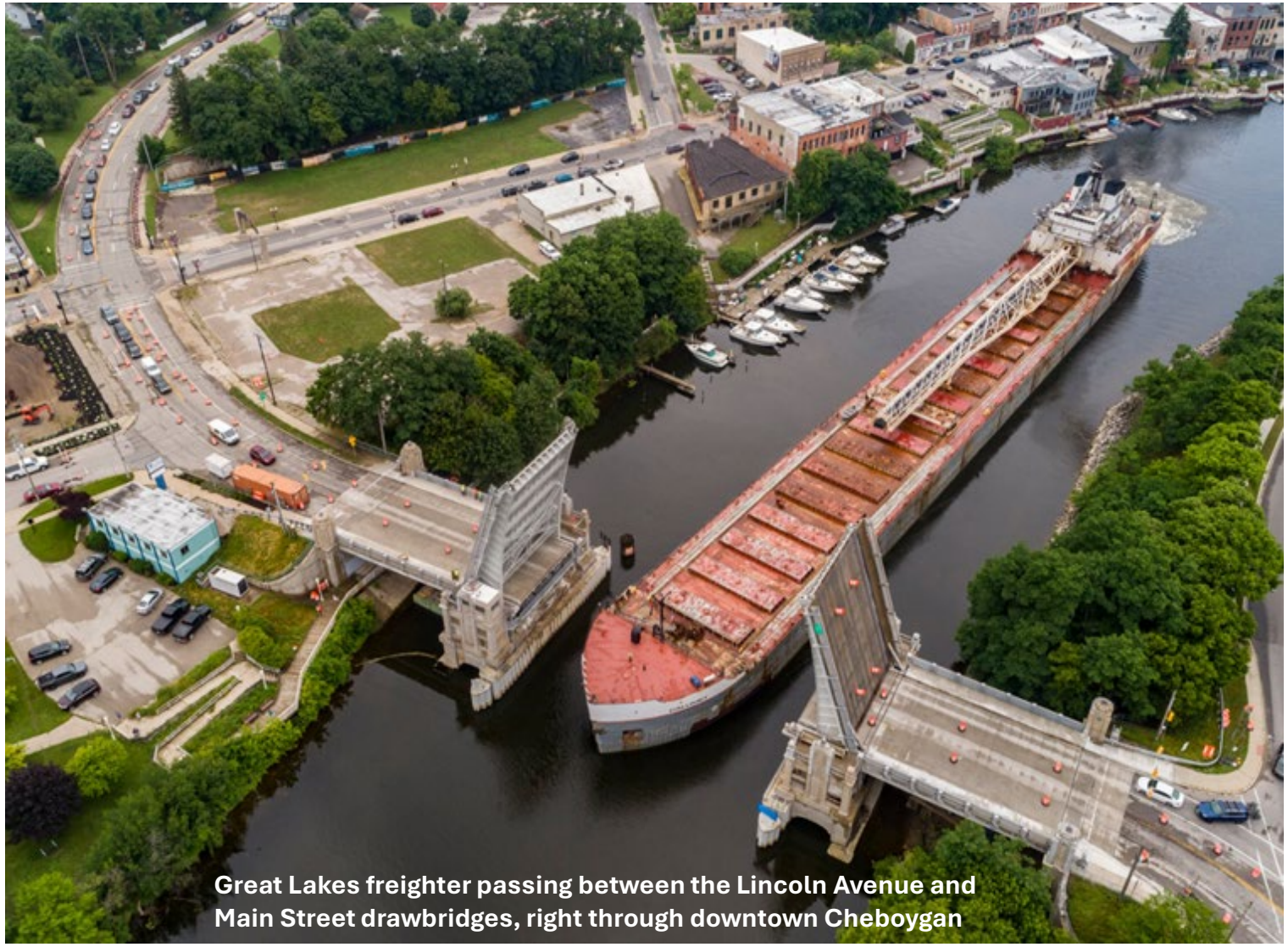
- Identifying & addressing port infrastructure priorities
- Improving coordination across agencies
- Invest in first and last-mile connections at ports
- Informing long-range planning
- Freight, maritime & logistics optimization studies
- Enhancing data & maritime system visibility
- Supporting economic development discussions

Partnership Opportunities to Support the Maritime System

- Stakeholder coordination
- Federal grant navigation
- Data & planning support
- Interagency coordination
- Industry engagement
- Technical assistance



Aerial view of U.S. Coast Guard Station Manistee and the S.S. City of Milwaukee in Manistee Lake, MI



Great Lakes freighter passing between the Lincoln Avenue and Main Street drawbridges, right through downtown Cheboygan

Questions?

Elisha Wulff
Freight Policy Specialist
wulffe@michigan.gov
517-243-3620

Michigan Department of Transportation
Asset Management and Policy Division