



BIWEEKLY UPDATE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Immediate Release:
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Contact:
USACE Public Affairs
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Mobile Harbor General Reevaluation Report

MOBILE, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (USACE), releases a biweekly update every other Wednesday on the current status of the Mobile Harbor General Reevaluation Report (GRR). Each update provides an overview of recent activities under the study, highlights upcoming milestones, and provides links to important changes on the project website. Please note that the last Biweekly Update was on November 2, 2017.

Current Updates:

- **Public Involvement:** The next scheduled public meeting will be held at the Convention Center in the evening of Thursday, February 22, 2018. The specific time of the meeting is currently being coordinated. This meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to get an update on the proposed project's status and interact with members of the project team. Focus group meetings were held December 8, 2017 and 13, 2017, with seafood interests on the Eastern Shore and on December 13, 2017, with environmental interest groups to gather information that will be used in the development of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- **Plan Formulation:** Based on preliminary costs and benefits developed thus far and coordinated within our vertical chain, the team initially identified modified channel dimensions of 50 feet deep with a five-mile widener of 500 feet located in the lower bay to consider for impact assessment. As the impact assessment and economic analysis has progressed it has become apparent that these dimensions may be reduced to provide an economically justified project.
- **Environmental:** Initial analysis of the benthic and fish samples collected last fall have been completed. Initial maps depicting the baseline for the wetlands, sea grasses, and oyster beds are complete. The initial salinity and other pertinent water quality tolerances for the aquatic resources of concern have been evaluated. Outputs from the modeling efforts are being applied to compare baseline with the future without project and future with project conditions to assess impacts on resources.
- **Economic:** The economic analysis of deepening the ship channel optimized at a 51 foot depth, however the study is moving forward with further analysis of the 48 to 50 foot depths. The economic analysis for channel widening continues with analysis of a three mile passing area in the lower bay. Our economic analysis includes benefits that are

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expected from the projected traffic increase resulting from the development of the new Walmart distribution center.

- **Engineering:** The hydrodynamic and salinity modeling for with project (i.e. deepening, passing lane, bend easing and turning basin expansion) and without project conditions is complete. Water quality and sediment transport modeling for the same with and without project scenarios are ongoing. The results of the modeling efforts are being utilized by the environmental team to determine possible effects. Analysis of impacts of ship wake are ongoing.

Public Involvement: As the study progresses, interested parties have several avenues in which they can receive updates on the project. Throughout the process, the Mobile District will host a series of public meetings and engagements. We will announce the dates, times and locations of future public engagements in news releases, on the project website, by Listserve, social media, biweekly updates and quarterly bulletins.

Listserves: If you wish to receive regular updates on the study, please sign up for the project Listserve at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-ProjectManagement/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/>

Public Comment: The Mobile District will continue to accept public comments on the study that will be added to the official record.

Comment by Email:
MobileHarborGRR@usace.army.mil.

Comment by U.S. Mail:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
ATTN: PD-F
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628

Comment by Public Meeting:
Dates, Times and Locations to be determined for future meetings

Note: All comments will be addressed at the appropriate time during the study.

To download the spring 2017 Mobile Harbor GRR Quarterly Newsletter visit:
<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Quarterly-Newsletter/>

To download the latest Public Involvement Strategy (PIMS) or other documents associated with the project visit the GRR Document library:
<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Mobile-Harbor-GRR-Downloads/>

For more information on the study visit the project website:

<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/>

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions visit:

<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/Mobile-Harbor-GRR/Frequently-Asked-Questions/>