**Port of the Future**

Restoring the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport and Developing the Port of the Future

The Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport has approved a revised master plan to rebuild and restore the damage to its facilities wrought in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina.

This plan is the result of a comprehensive initiative approved by Congress after Hurricane Katrina that aims to restore the Port and improve its resistance to storms.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the MSPA was the third busiest container port situated on the United States Gulf of Mexico. Peak capacities at other ports in the region, the expansion of the Panama Canal, and shifting international trade patterns all present opportunities which were considered when the master plan was adopted in October 2008.

We’re planning to rebuild in a way that will restore the Port to its competitive position in the maritime marketplace, provide hundreds of new jobs, and offer mitigation to the community from future storms once the Port is elevated to 25 feet.

The rebuilding of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport will continue to put operational berths back into service. Before Hurricane Katrina, the MSPA had 10 operational berths; nine of these are now operational.

The Port’s revitalization plan provides for more storage. Almost all of the Port’s 700,000 square feet of storage was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. Currently, only 400,000 square feet have been rebuilt, which leaves a need for more storage.

After the restoration, the Port will be able to pursue the return of cargo and carriers lost after Katrina.

Providing for future storm mitigation and restoring the Port to a competitive position in the market is our primary focus and takes precedence over all other developments.

For information about the Port’s master plan for restoration, to request a speaker, or to locate frequently asked questions and answers, visit [www.portofthefuture.com](http://www.portofthefuture.com). For general information about the Mississippi State Port Authority’s operations and facilities, visit [www.shipmspa.com](http://www.shipmspa.com).

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* Job benefits from a similar project. ** Economic benefits from a similar project.
Disaster Recovery: Port of Gulfport Restoration Program

**Target**

- **Restoration** - Provide funding to the Mississippi State Port Authority to restore maritime port facilities destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.
- **Protection** - Mitigate against future disasters.
- **Growth** - Maximize the potential of the Port to meet the market needs of the future.

**Major Milestones as of October 15, 2010**

- Selected program manager through competitive process.
- Initiated HUD compliance and reporting.
- Program manager vetted the MSPA ten year vision and provided new concept for the Port that meets the goals of HUD.
- Received HUD approval of amendment to the action plan documenting new concept - October 24, 2008.
- Signed sub-recipient agreement with MSPA.
- Transferred CH2MHILL program management to MSPA.
- MSPA has awarded contract for first project contingent on successful environmental assessment.
- Submitted completed environmental assessment for 15-day comment period.
- Emergency dredging of Gulfport Federal Navigation Channel to restore to pre-Katrina depth of 36 feet.
- Received a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) following a FEMA review, providing authorization to raise the Port to 25 feet above sea level.
- Department of Housing and Urban Development released first request of Community Development Block Grant funds.
- Notice to proceed issued for West Pier fill project.
- Commemorated start of West Pier fill project with July 9, 2009 ceremony.
- December 2009: Mobilized demolition of casino ramp
- Procurement process for engineering and contracting services began in March 2009; fifth round closed in February 2010.
- March 2010: Environmental permitting underway.
- October 2010: 60-acre fill project approximately 78% complete.

These organizations have issued letters or resolutions of support for the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport's revitalization plan, and more are forthcoming. (List current as of October 15, 2010.)

American Council of Engineering Companies of Mississippi
American Public Works Association, Mississippi Chapter
Area Development Partnership
AT&T Mississippi
City of Gulfport
City of Hattiesburg
City of Pass Christian
City of Wiggins
Coast Young Professionals
East Central Mississippi Economic Council
Economic Development Authority of Jones County
Entergy Mississippi
Greater Jackson Alliance
Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership
Gulf Coast Business Council
Gulfport Business Club
Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
Gulfport Main Street Association
Hancock Bank
Harrison County Board of Supervisors
Harrison County Council of Governments
Harrison County Development Commission
International Longshoremen Association, AFL-CIO, Local # 1303
Minority Contractors Association of Mississippi
Mississippi Economic Development Council
Mississippi Enterprise for Technology
Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance for Economic Development
Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Mississippi House of Representatives
Mississippi Main Street Association
Mississippi Manufacturers Association
Mississippi Power Company
Mississippi Road Builders’ Association
Mississippi Secretary of State
Mississippi State Senate
Mississippi State University
Mississippi World Trade Center
North Mississippi Industrial Development Association
Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Gulf Coast
Orange Grove/Lyman Chamber of Commerce
Ports America
Rankin First Economic Development Authority
Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District
Southwest Mississippi Partnership
Stone County Board of Supervisors
Stone County Economic Development Partnership
Sun Herald
Tennessee Valley Authority
University of Southern Mississippi
Whitney Bank
WLOX