

SAVANNAH HARBOR EXPANSION PROJECT (SHEP)



DEEPENS SAVANNAH RIVER TO 47 FEET

SAVES BUSINESSES \$174M PER YEAR

5.5 TO 1 BENEFIT-TO-COST RATIO

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One of the most important and productive civil works projects in the country, the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project will support jobs and commerce throughout the nation. The total economic impact of Georgia's deepwater ports is \$84 billion. The Georgia Ports Authority supports more than 369,000 jobs and approximately \$20.4 billion in personal income annually.

- After 15 years of study, all relevant governmental agencies have approved the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP), which will deepen the Savannah River to 47 feet at mean low water.
- In 2016, the Panama Canal expansion increases the maximum draft of vessels transiting to and from the U.S. East Coast from 39.5 feet to as much as 50 feet.
- SHEP will enable the port to more efficiently serve the larger vessels expected to call in greater numbers after the 2016 expansion of the Panama Canal.
- For every dollar spent on SHEP, 5.5 dollars will be returned in benefits to the nation, a Corps of Engineers study showed.
- Upon receiving final congressional approval, construction on the project began in 2014, with completion expected as early as 2020.
- The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project has received strong bipartisan support at both federal and state levels since its original authorization.
- Georgia has approved \$266 million in bonds toward the state's share of construction costs.

The Georgia Ports Authority connects the Southeast's economy to the markets of the world, generating opportunities for the entire region. As the decade's fastest growing and the fourth-busiest container port in the nation, the Port of Savannah was responsible for moving 8.2 percent of the U.S. containerized cargo volume and 10.3 percent of all U.S. containerized exports in CY2015.



Larger shipping vessels will mean lower costs per container, and for businesses — a savings of \$174 million a year.

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