

# INNER HARBOR NAVIGATION CANAL (IHNC) LOCK REPLACEMENT STUDY

## INLAND WATERWAYS USERS BOARD MEETING NO. 103

COL Cullen Jones  
Commander, New Orleans District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
August 2024

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# INNER HARBOR NAVIGATION CANAL LOCK REPLACEMENT STUDY



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## KEY MESSAGE:

- Preparing a legally resilient report that will satisfy court injunction and meet policy requirements.
- Providing transparent communication to the public on recent design changes and incorporation of community feedback.
- Leveraging partnership and engagement with IWUB to utilize Construction funds to complete cost and economic update.
- Collaborating with sister Federal Agencies, to ensure thorough consideration of the needs of the surrounding communities.

## RECENT TIMELINE OF EVENTS



## CURRENT EFFORTS:

Updated Design and Construction Sequence  
Community Impact Mitigation Plan  
Traffic Mitigation Plan  
HTRW Analysis (deferred to design)  
Amended Memorandum of Agreement



## UPCOMING MILESTONES:

**Feb 2025** Public Review of Draft Report

**Aug 2025** Completion of Director's Report





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## Updated Design and Construction Sequence



### Construction Phasing Minimizes Impacts

- Years 1-2**
  1. Install Outer Wall of Cofferdam at New Lock Site
  2. Dredge Bypass Channel\*
  3. Install Remainder of Cofferdam
- Years 2-5**
  4. Unwater New Lock Site
  5. Construct New Lock
  6. Remove Cofferdam and Backfill
- Years 6-10**
  7. Construct Flood Walls and Levee
  8. Construct New St. Claude Avenue Bridge\*\*
  9. Demolish Existing Lock and Bridge\*\*

\*USACE will address any dredge material that is unfit to cast back into the existing waterways.

\*\*The new St. Claude Avenue Bridge will be built before demolishing the existing bridge. The St. Claude Avenue Bridge will remain open during construction.

## Traffic Impacts and Mitigation Plan

### TRAFFIC IMPACTS WITH NEW LOCK ARE LIMITED



Existing curfews for bridge openings will be maintained with the new lock:  
6:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  
3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.



The new St. Claude Avenue Bridge will be built before demolishing the existing bridge. The St. Claude Avenue Bridge will remain open during construction with short-term closures that would be messaged to the public.



Maximum wait time sitting in traffic is currently 7-10 minutes for all bridges and would remain the same with the new lock.



Average number of bridge openings per day:

Florida Avenue Bridge:  
Current: 23.2 openings  
With New Lock: 17 openings

Claiborne Avenue Bridge:  
Current: 4.5 openings  
With New Lock: 8.6 openings  
Openings are seasonal and dependent on river level changes

St. Claude Avenue Bridge:  
Current: 23.2 openings  
With New Lock: 17 openings

## Community Opportunity Plan of Action



## What we heard

Need for Homeowner Assistance/  
Affordable Housing

Provide Small Business  
Assistance

Create an outdoor  
play area/splash pad

## Recent Engagements



STAFFDEL Visit



EPA Regional Director Visit

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

## Additional Points of Contact at New Orleans District

Chief, Projects and Restoration Branch: Jennifer Vititoe [Jennifer.M.Vititoe@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jennifer.M.Vititoe@usace.army.mil)

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