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[Corps Top General, GPA's Curtis Foltz Discuss Harbor Expansion Progress](#) **[1]**

On 28 May, 2015



Georgia Ports Authority Executive Director Curtis Foltz, left, and Lt. General Thomas Bostick, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, give an update on the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project as cranes work a vessel, Thursday, May 29, 2015, at the Garden City Terminal near Savannah, Ga. The harbor deepening, currently in the construction phase, will deepen the shipping channel from 42 to 47 feet at mean low water. (Georgia Ports Authority/Stephen B. Morton)

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SAVANNAH, Ga. - Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, visited the Port of Savannah on Thursday, for an update on the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.

"The SHEP will create economic opportunity not only across Georgia, but throughout the Southeast," said Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal. "We're grateful for our federal partners and their efforts thus far and will continue to work with them to ensure that their commitment is fully funded and reflects the

importance of this project to the nation."

The harbor deepening, currently in the construction phase, will deepen the shipping channel from 42 to 47 feet at mean low water. This will allow today's larger, more efficient vessels to transit the channel with heavier loads and greater scheduling flexibility.

"This project demonstrates how the demand for commerce and the need for environmental stewardship can be accommodated in a single purpose," said Bostick. "The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project reinforces our commitment to a sustainable 21st century infrastructure that will strengthen the nation's economy and bolster global competitiveness, create jobs, reduce risk to people and communities, and help restore and sustain the environment. I'm happy to have the opportunity to meet personally with our partners to discuss this project. We are committed to working closely with GPA to complete SHEP."

Businesses and consumers across the nation are projected to save \$174 million a year through increased transportation efficiency. Each dollar invested in the SHEP will return \$5.50 to the economy.

Three major phases of the project are well under way. Archaeologists began diving Jan. 29 to recover the remains of the Confederate ironclad CSS Georgia. The historic Civil War ironclad rests 40 feet below the river's surface on the edge of the navigation channel. Scuttled by her crew in 1864 to prevent Union capture, the vessel has been at the bottom of the river since. The harbor deepening plan calls for data recovery, removal and conservation of this cultural resource.

On March 4, the contract to deepen the entrance channel was awarded to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock. The work for this contract represents about half of the channel deepening, increasing the depth of the channel in the Atlantic Ocean to 49 feet below mean sea level, and extending it an additional seven miles.

Bids for a Dissolved Oxygen System contract are currently under evaluation. Awarding of the contract is expected within the next few months. This system will ensure the river maintains necessary dissolved oxygen levels during hot, dry months when levels typically drop.

"The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project has seen major progress in the past few months, with the contract issued to deepen the 18-mile outer harbor to 40 feet, crews raising the CSS Georgia, and installation set to start for oxygen injection systems," said GPA Executive Director Curtis Foltz. "The Corps of Engineers has been a steadfast partner in the 15-year process leading up to construction, and we look forward to working with the Corps and our Washington delegation to bring this pivotal project to completion."

ABOUT Savannah District: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District plays a major role in water resource projects throughout the region. The District operates three hydroelectric dam and reservoir projects on the Savannah River (Hartwell, Richard B. Russell, and J. Strom Thurmond); maintains the federal shipping channels at the Savannah and Brunswick harbors; and processes Regulatory (stream/wetland) permits for development projects with the state of Georgia. The District also oversees a multi-million dollar military construction program at 11 Army and Air Force installations in Georgia and North Carolina. The District provides expertise across a wide range of disciplines - from engineering, architecture and design to construction, master planning and environmental services.

ABOUT Georgia Ports Authority: Georgia's deepwater ports and inland barge terminals support more than 369,000 jobs throughout the state annually and contribute \$20.4 billion in income, \$84.1 billion in revenue and \$2.3 billion in state and local taxes to Georgia's economy. The Port of Savannah was the second busiest U.S. container port for the export of American goods by tonnage in FY2011. It also handled 8.7 percent of the U.S. containerized cargo volume and 12.5 percent of all U.S. containerized exports in FY2011.



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