



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Rock Island District

# BRANDON ROAD INTERBASIN PROJECT



QUARTERLY UPDATE

November 2023

## The PROJECT

Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois, has been identified as the critical pinch point where layered technologies could be used to prevent movement of invasive carp populations into the Great Lakes.

The Brandon Road Interbasin Project is a complex ecosystem protection effort designed to prevent upstream movement of invasive carp and other aquatic nuisance species into the Great Lakes from the Illinois Waterway. Construction is planned in three increments:

**Increment I:** (A) Automated Barge Clearing Deterrent, Leading Edge Bubble Deterrent, Leading Edge Acoustic Deterrent Array, Leading Edge Support Facilities, and Upstream Boat Launch (B) Site Prep, Channel Rock Excavation

**Increment II:** Electric Deterrent, Wide Acoustic Deterrent Array, Complete Control Building, Right Descending Bank Wall Connect to Lower Guidewall, Flushing Lock, Downstream Boat Launch

**Increment III:** Complete Engineered Channel

Non-structural measures, implemented in conjunction with other federal agencies, could include public education and outreach, monitoring, integrated pest management, manual or mechanical removal, and research and development.

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Senator Dick Durbin provides remarks to the media during a visit to Brandon Road Lock and Dam this summer.

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## Project Status Update

Since our last update, design activities have continued for Increment I-A of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project which includes a leading-edge bubble deterrent, leading-edge acoustic deterrent, automated barge clearing deterrent, support buildings, and an upstream boat launch. In late fall, the team officially reached a complete, 100 percent design for Increment I-A and a draft request for proposal was recently posted to [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) for review and consideration by the construction community. The team has now moved on to reviewing scoping, contracting strategies and market research for Increments I-B (Channel Rock Removal) and II (Engineered Channel).

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Mr. Michael Connor and Senator Dick Durbin visited the site in late August for a status update on the project, and to discuss anticipated timelines for construction and use of the \$226 million in federal funding appropriated for the project in the 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In September, Representative Lauren Underwood of Illinois also visited the site and was briefed on the status of the project as well as the Illinois Waterway Consolidated Lock Closures which allowed for critical repairs and maintenance of the site over the summer months.

Real estate coordination remains a focus for the project sponsor

as acquisition of the right descending bank downstream of the Brandon Road Lock is required for construction of the project. The state of Illinois is engaged in ongoing discussions with the property owner regarding property acquisition.

Over the past year, accelerated funding from the states of Illinois and Michigan has supported pre-construction engineering and design efforts. However a Project Partnership Agreement between the federal and non-federal partners will be needed for the \$226 million from the 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and \$47.8 million in 2023 federal appropriations to be used for construction of the project.



Lead Project Manager, Scott Whitney, from the USACE Rock Island District provides an overview of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project to Illinois Representative Lauren Underwood during her visit to the project site in September.

## CURRENT PROJECT SITE LAYOUT



## YOU'RE INVITED: Public Open House - December 5

The public is invited to attend an Open House, December 5, at the Clarion Hotel & Convention Center Joliet from 4-7 p.m. to review and discuss the detailed designs, construction strategies, and public water use considerations for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project (BRIP). This is a complex and innovative ecosystem restoration project being constructed to prevent the movement of aquatic nuisance species from the Illinois Waterway into the Great Lakes watershed. The project will be largely constructed in the downstream approach channel to the Brandon Road Lock with potential disruption to navigation and public access/use areas.

The public open house will be

conducted in two redundant sessions (4:00-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-7:00 p.m.). The public is welcome to attend either session or a virtual option is available for those unable to attend in-person. During the event, members of the project team will provide a short overview presentation followed by opportunity for public comment and four interactive workstations will be available for attendees to engage directly with study team members and discuss the project and considerations for access and use of the area during and after project construction.

A site tour at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam will be offered the following morning, December 6, from 9:30 a.m. until noon for those

interested in seeing the site. All questions, concerns, or suggestions brought forward by attendees are encouraged and will be addressed by the BRIP partnership team.

## Submit Comments Online Anytime

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its project partners are seeking public input. Comments regarding the Brandon Road Interbasin Project can be submitted online to the project team at anytime by visiting: <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Public-Comment-Form/> or scanning the QR code above with a mobile device.

Due to the complex nature of this project and its potential impacts to navigation and public access areas, it is vital that the project team gather input from the wide range of users of the Illinois Waterway. Comments submitted are fully confidential unless an email or phone number is provided.



## Completed EVENTS

 AUGUST 2023

Quarterly Update Webinar #6

 SEPTEMBER 2023

Virtual Navigation Workshop

## Upcoming EVENTS

 DECEMBER 2023

Public Open House and Site Visit

## Public Open House and Site Visit Details

### Open House

**Date & Time:** December 5, 4-7 p.m.

**Location:** Clarion Hotel & Convention Center Joliet, 411 S. Larkin Avenue, Building A, Joliet, IL, 60436

**Google Map Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8KCiEeiooYv4rz5H9>

**Virtual Option:** <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/BROpenHouse>, Dial: 1-844-800-2712 Enter Meeting Number: 199 338 6849, When asked to enter an attendee ID, enter #. Please enter your first and last name when logging in.

### Site Tour

**Date & Time:** December 6, 9:30 a.m. - noon

**Location:** Brandon Road Lock, 800 Brandon Rd, Joliet, IL 60436 - Parking area on left descending bank peninsula, east side of approach channel, near the lift bridge on downstream side of the Brandon Road Lock.

**Google Map Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/5PFAwRxpCKQ5juxd7>

## Stay CONNECTED



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