



**GREAT LAKES AND
ST. LAWRENCE**
CITIES INITIATIVE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cities Initiative Applauds Illinois and Michigan Budget Proposals to Protect the Great Lakes from Invasive Carp

Chicago, February 16, 2023 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative applauds Governor J.B. Pritzker of Illinois and Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan for their leadership in proposing a combined \$114 million in state funding to prevent invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes and causing significant damage to the ecological and economic health of our freshwater resources.

Illinois and Michigan are the non-federal sponsors of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project, a series of structural controls and non-structural measures that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has recommended be installed at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois, to hinder the upstream migration of invasive carp.

Governor Pritzker's proposed State Capital Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 includes \$50 million for the Illinois portion of the non-federal cost share for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project. Governor Whitmer's proposed Supplemental for FY 2023 includes \$64 million for the Michigan portion of the non-federal cost share.

"The Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project is absolutely essential to maintaining the ecological and economic well-being of shoreline communities across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin," said Mayor Billy McKinney of Zion, Illinois, who serves as Chair of the Cities Initiative. "As the mayor of a vibrant community on Lake Michigan's shoreline, I will do my part to encourage the two state legislatures to approve the proposed funding for the project."

The Cities Initiative calls on the Illinois General Assembly and the Michigan Legislature to approve the proposed funding for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project. Additionally, the Cities Initiative encourages the USACE to release an updated project cost estimate and looks forward to the USACE and Illinois signing the Project Partnership Agreement in order to unlock federal investments in the project and avoid unnecessary disruptions.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational organization led by a coalition of mayors working collaboratively to promote the environmental and socioeconomic health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin for the benefit of current and future generations. With more than 230-member municipalities, the Cities Initiative is the largest municipally-driven organization in the basin.

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