



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



June 2023

*A Resolution Submitted by the City of North Chicago*



### **Protecting the Great Lakes from Invasive Carp**

WHEREAS an established presence of invasive carp would threaten the ecological and economic health of the Great Lakes and their tributaries by imperiling native fish populations while undermining industries and disrupting recreation that depends on these freshwater resources.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has long been dedicated to protecting the Great Lakes from invasive carp, with this issue remaining a top priority for shoreline communities across the Great Lakes.

AND WHEREAS the Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army submitted to the U.S. Congress in May 2019 a report recommending the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, including the installation of a series of structural controls by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois, in order to hinder the upstream migration of invasive carp from the Mississippi River Basin into the Great Lakes.

AND WHEREAS the State of Illinois as the non-federal sponsor signed the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) Agreement with USACE in December 2020, with the PED phase of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project expected to be complete in 2023.

AND WHEREAS the State of Illinois and the State of Michigan contributed a combined total of \$10.1 million to the PED phase – or 35 percent of the estimated price tag of \$28.9 million – consistent with standard cost-share requirements.

AND WHEREAS the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 authorized the construction of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, contingent on USACE and the State of Illinois signing a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA).

AND WHEREAS the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law in November 2021, provided \$225.84 million for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, which would fund the final stages of the PED phase and the initial stages of the construction phase. The U.S. Congress provided an additional \$47.88 million for the project in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

AND WHEREAS USACE and the State of Illinois must sign the PPA to unlock the federal funding provided by the IIJA and recent congressional appropriations, as well as avoid project disruptions.

AND WHEREAS WRDA 2022, signed into law in December 2022, increased to 90 percent the federal cost share for construction of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, with the non-federal sponsor – the State of Illinois – responsible for the remaining 10 percent.

AND WHEREAS, in February 2023, Governor J.B. Pritzker of Illinois and Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan proposed a combined \$114 million in non-federal funding for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project. Specifically, Governor Pritzker’s proposed State Capital Budget for FY 2024 includes \$50 million and Governor Whitmer’s proposed Supplemental for FY 2023 includes \$64 million.

AND WHEREAS, in March 2023, USACE released a new estimate for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, putting the total cost at \$1.15 billion, an increase of \$131.4 million or 12.9 percent from the previous estimate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Illinois General Assembly and the Michigan Legislature should approve the non-federal funding for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project proposed by Governor Pritzker and Governor Whitmer, respectively.
- The State of Illinois and USACE should expeditiously sign the PPA for the construction of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project while actively exploring all possible arrangements to avoid disruption in federally-supported efforts to prevent invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes.
- The State of Illinois and the State of Michigan should continue to inform other Great Lakes states and local elected officials about the status of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project and how they may support all efforts to protect the Great Lakes from invasive carp.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: Governor J.B. Pritzker of Illinois; Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan; USACE leadership; and the Great Lakes Task Force and relevant committees in the U.S. Congress.