

ROAD REPAIR & NAVIGATION CHANNEL DREDGING

Preliminary cost estimates for the repair of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) eligible roads and bridges sustained as a result of Hurricane Gustav total \$127 million. Federal-aid highway damage estimates are about \$119 million. While funding to address these damages is authorized under current law, the backlog associated with these needs may prevent the restoration or threaten the integrity of this critical infrastructure. To repair this critical infrastructure, \$119 million would be needed for Louisiana (Gustav - \$53 million; Ike - \$66 million) through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief program.

In addition, emergency funds are needed for the Corps of Engineers to dredge critical navigation channels that were impacted by the hurricanes. The Mississippi River, Atchafalaya River, Calcasieu Ship Channel and other critical waterways are vital to the country's energy supply and maritime commerce affecting nearly every state. For example, seven and a half percent of the United States' daily oil consumption is produced along the Calcasieu Ship Channel. Lake Charles is the home of the fourth largest refinery in the United States and one-third of the nation's strategic oil reserve is stored in salt domes around the ship channel.

Hurricanes Gustav and Ike have caused the channels to become silted up, thus reducing the depth that is required for vessels to navigate. If the vessels cannot navigate the channel due to inadequate depth, the cargo cannot be delivered to industry. In this event, the shipper has to off-load the cargo onto smaller vessels or off-load cargo to temporary barges to lighten the load and thus reduce the draft of the vessel. This is tremendously expensive and leads to higher costs of production.

Navigation Channel Dredging Assessment

Calcasieu River Ship Channel	\$40M
Mississippi River, BR to Gulf	\$80M
Ms. River, Outlets at Venice	\$15M
Bayou Lafourche	\$15M
Houma Navigation Canal	\$13M
Atchafalaya River	\$7.5M
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway	\$14M
Mermantau River	\$5.5M
Freshwater Bayou	\$5M
Teche-Vermilion Rivers	\$3M
Bayou Segnette	\$3M
Tangipahoa River	\$3M
Total	\$204 M