



**PORTCORPUS CHRISTI®**

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**- NEWS RELEASE -**

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## **Port of Corpus Christi Completes Milestone Ship Channel Improvement Project, Reinforcing U.S. as Leader in Energy Exports**

**Corpus Christi, TX, USA** – The Port of Corpus Christi hosted federal, state and local leaders at a historic event celebrating the forthcoming completion of a milestone national infrastructure project, which increased the depth of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel to 54 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

The unprecedented four-phase Channel Improvement Project (CIP) was conceived more than three decades ago as a massive undertaking to enhance navigational infrastructure – ultimately deepening the ship channel from 47 to 54 feet MLLW and widening it from 400 to 530 feet with additional barge shelves – to accommodate the growing demand for larger vessels needed by Port customers.

Jointly funded by Congress and the Port of Corpus Christi, with significant support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and private marine companies, the CIP is a testament to the importance of public-private partnerships in advancing critical infrastructure initiatives.

“This accomplishment is only possible because of the steadfast support and cooperation of our non-federal partner, the Port of Corpus Christi,” said **Col. Rhett Blackmon, the Commander for the USACE Galveston District**. “Along with the Port, stakeholders like the Texas General Land Office and the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program advocate for the communities we serve. In collaboration, we were able to deliver one of the largest beneficial use projects in the history of our district.”

Construction on the transformative \$625 million initiative commenced in 2017. The newly expanded waterway facilitates safe, navigable commerce for larger vessels and two-way traffic, enabling more efficient transport of crude oil, liquefied natural gas and other commodities. Annual transportation cost savings are estimated to exceed \$200 million.

“My fellow Commissioners and I are grateful to the Administrations and Congressional delegations who supported this initiative, as well as the Port of Corpus Christi staff – past and present – who worked diligently to make this vision a reality. The Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project unlocks a new era of economic growth for both the Coastal Bend and the nation,” said **David Engel, Chairman of the Port of Corpus Christi Commission**. “This commitment represents what can be achieved when we work toward a common goal: driving prosperity at home and strengthening America’s leadership in the evolving global market.”

The proximity of the Port to major production fields – Eagle Ford Shale and the Permian Basin – as well as the promise of enhanced navigational infrastructure has attracted more than \$65 billion

**Port of Corpus Christi | CIP Project Completion**  
**Press Release – June 2, 2025**  
**Page 2**

in commercial investments to the Coastal Bend in the past decade. Port of Corpus Christi customers and Port related activities generate more than 95,000 jobs throughout Texas.

The Port of Corpus Christi is recognized as the largest United States crude oil export gateway and the third largest in the world, moving more than 2.4 million barrels per day of crude oil to points outside the U.S. The Port is also the second largest U.S. gateway for liquefied natural gas exports and moves a wide variety of other goods both inbound and outbound.

**About Port Corpus Christi**

*As a leader in U.S. energy export gateways and a major economic engine of Texas and the nation, the Port of Corpus Christi is the third largest port in the United States in total waterborne tonnage. Strategically located on the western Gulf Coast with a 39-mile, 54-foot (MLLW) deep channel, the Port of Corpus Christi is a major gateway to international and domestic maritime commerce. The Port of Corpus Christi has excellent railroad and highway network connectivity via three North American Class-1 railroads and two major interstate highways. [www.portofcc.com](http://www.portofcc.com)*

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