

Quality Partnership Initiative
American Association of Port Authorities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Communication/Collaboration Best Practices

Port Name: Port of Houston Authority

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Best Practice: Fed/Non-fed Vertical Team Coordination

Purpose:

The channel improvement team took an integrated team approach to task management and problem identification through routine calls involving Dist through HQ, and Agency department to Executive Director levels.

Explanation:

The Section 204 channel improvement projects proposed by the Port Authority involved non-federal planning and special Corps support (contracted economic analysis and Section 408 permitting) that required policy guidance concurrent with execution

Examples of Results:

Policy requirements for navigation projects were modified through direct coordination and concurrence at all levels; technical requirements and schedule changes were similarly worked to maintain or expedite work.

Why this Process is Important to the Port and the Corps:

Corps planning processes are changing rapidly, and the role of non-federal sponsors is increasing (funding, project lead, etc). This commitment of enact this process streamlined decisions, saved months of time and miscommunication. It became a very useful tool that all levels relied upon; it fostered a greater sense of trust, and held the team's feet to the fire.