

Quality Partnership Initiative (QPI) Update

Harbors and Navigation Committee
American Association of Port Authorities
July 25, 2011

QPI Bottom Line

- Change the “game”
- Strengthen our partnership

QPI Baltimore Meeting – February 2011

- Attended by Port and USACE members and leaders
- Examined 5 successful projects and identified common elements of success
- Developed action plan to address challenges holding back other successes

Challenges

- Authorities,
- Communication and Collaboration,
- Deep Draft Navigation Planning Center of Expertise (DDNPCX),
- Funding,
- Permits, and
- Reducing study time.

Authorities Needed

- Contributed Funds for studies
- Advanced funds for studies
- Amending Section 203 to eliminate “on its own” and to allow funding to be given to Corps to do key work.
- Clear guidance and policy on sponsor led activities, i.e., accelerated, contributed and advanced funds.

Near Term Actions (30 TO 60 Days)

- Share the principles in the AAPA-ASA(CW) Memorandum of Understanding and AAPA-Corps Partnership Agreement.
- Develop a project team award for improving partnership culture and call for nominations.
- Provide a clear and cogent explanation on why contributed and advanced funds cannot be used on construction projects (ER 1165-2-131).
- Allow local sponsors to be “contractors” to Corps for CG O&M projects.

Mid-term Actions (within next year)

- Prioritize improving and maintaining deep draft projects to support the President's national export initiative and job creation by allocating greater funding during the budget process towards navigation projects and the Deep Draft Navigation Planning Center of Expertise (DDNPCX).
- Strengthen the DDNPCX to concentrate on economics and regular interaction with industry.
- Identify institutional and policy constraints to improve working relationships and identify whether this is an organizational problem, lack of leadership, or lack of staff experience.

Mid-term Actions (within next year), cont.

- Work together to determine consistent guidance interpretations of reimbursements.
- Reduced Study Time – Vertical team and local sponsor work together to establish ground rules applicable to a feasibility study at the beginning of the process – adhere to those ground rules throughout process.

Long-term actions (within 2-3 years)

- Change HMTF to put funds towards maintenance of deep draft channels.
- Reduce study time—speed up review and approvals at higher HQ.
- Evaluate the planning process and identify issues for resolution.
- Insure district planners and PMs are properly trained and mentored.
- Address and solve how 203/204 can be viable options to speed up project delivery.
- Permits—increase Planning and Regulatory coordination, evaluate issuing permit when project is authorized for 10-year timeframe

Long-term actions (within 2-3 years), cont.

- Need Authorities for:
 - Contributed Funds for studies
 - Advanced funds for studies
 - Amending Section 203 to eliminate “on its own” and to allow funding to be given to Corps to do key work.
 - Clear guidance and policy on sponsor led activities, i.e., accelerated, contributed and advanced funds.

Strengthen the Partnership

- Focus on what we CAN do together – especially in this time of constraints
 - Participate in Action Plan Workgroups.
 - Nominate teams for the Quality Partnership award when the criteria are published.

Timing

- Establish Action Plan Workgroups not later than mid-August 2011.
- Begin Workgroup tasks in September 2011.
 - Prioritize actions
 - Develop schedule for priority actions
 - Begin work on priority actions
- Report progress at first quarter 2012 QPI meeting.

Volunteer for a Workgroup

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