The Partnership Process - Issue Resolution in Action

Presentation by
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Ports’ Objective

Improve Navigation Channels:
In a Timely Manner!!
The Corps’ Process

* Completes Recon
* Initiates Feasibility Study
  (Subject to Appropriations)
* Continues Feasibility Study
* Independent Peer Review
* CWRB Approval/Chief’s Report
* ASA (CW)/OMB Approval
* Congressional Authorization
* Congressional Appropriations (PED)
* Congressional Appropriations (Construction)
* PCA Negotiations
Assessment

* Corps Process Takes Too Long
* Feasibility Study Funding Constrained
* New Requirements Added
* Funding of PED Virtually Eliminated From the Budget
* Very Few New Starts
* Infrequent/Unpredictable Timing of WRDAs
Issue Resolution Suggestions

* Appeal to Corps HQ, ASA (CW) & OMB for higher GI Budget for studies & PED
* Consider Section 203 Studies by Ports
* Undertake certain studies as GRRs (treat as feasibility studies)
* Seek higher appropriations from Congress
* Assure timely Independent peer review
* Assure timely response to review comments
* Update EC 1105-2-409 that calls for completing recons and feasibility studies in 3 years
Ports’ Objective

Obtain Sufficient Federal Funds to Maintain Project Dimensions and Other Navigation Features
Corps Agrees - BUT ?
**Issues & Problems**

* Inadequate O&M Budget and Appropriations
* Higher Priority Given to Projects That the Corps Operates and Maintains
* Increasingly Difficult Problem as Projects Get Older
* Other Budget Priorities
* **Bottom Line: Insufficient Funds for Ports**
Issue Resolution Suggestions

* Section 2029 of WRDA 2007

  * AAPA and the Ports need to follow through to assure implementation

  • The Corps needs the Ports’ input before issuing policy guidance
Issue Resolution Suggestions (Cont’d)

• Section 2042 of WRDA 2007

  * Repeals Appropriations Act restrictions on the use of continuing contracts and very limited reprogramming

  * AAPA and the Ports need to appeal to the Appropriations Committees to:
    * Not reverse Section 2042 of WRDA 2007
    * Allow the Corps greater flexibility in reprogramming O&M funds
Issue Resolution Suggestions (Cont’d)

* Seek higher Appropriations for maintenance dredging

* Make Congress aware that the O&M funds available for dredging, are actually significantly lower than the amounts appropriated
Thank You