



*A Resolution Submitted by the Cities of North Chicago, Waukegan and Zion, IL*



**URGING IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ADVANCE THE BRANDON ROAD INTERBASIN PROJECT AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE CARP INTO THE GREAT LAKES**

May 2024

WHEREAS the continued migration of invasive carp up the Illinois River poses a serious threat to the Great Lakes and their tributaries, endangering aquatic ecosystems, the freshwater-based industries, coastal recreation and the growth of a regional blue economy.

AND WHEREAS Illinois' 63-mile stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline is among our most valuable natural and economic resources, providing drinking water for 7 million Illinois residents, supporting a tourism industry that brings 20 million people to the shoreline each year and fostering recreation that generates \$3.2 billion annually and supports 33,000 jobs.

AND WHEREAS the Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army recommended the Brandon Road Interbasin Project to the U.S. Congress in May 2019 as a crucial last line of defense against the upstream migration of invasive carp, including the installation of a series of structural controls at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois.

AND WHEREAS the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 authorized the construction of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, contingent on the signing of a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as the federal sponsor and the State of Illinois as the non-federal sponsor.

AND WHEREAS Illinois demonstrated initial support for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project by signing the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) Agreement in December 2020 and contributing a combined total of \$10.1 million with the State of Michigan towards the PED phase.

AND WHEREAS WRDA 2022 increased to 90 percent the federal cost share for the construction phase of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, leaving the non-federal sponsor responsible for the remaining 10 percent.

AND WHEREAS, in March 2023, USACE released a new estimate for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project, putting the total cost at \$1.15 billion, an increase of \$131.4 million from the previous estimate.

AND WHEREAS both Illinois and Michigan have appropriated significant state funding – a combined \$114 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 – towards the 10 percent non-federal cost-share requirement for the construction phase.

AND WHEREAS Congress has provided substantial federal funding to move the project through the initial stages of construction, including \$225.84 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and an additional \$47.88 million in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY23, yet this funding cannot be accessed until the PPA is signed.

AND WHEREAS, on March 11, 2024, Governor J.B. Pritzker of Illinois sent a letter to Michael Connor, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Army, to propose the signing of an incremental PPA.

AND WHEREAS a comprehensive PPA is necessary to advance the Brandon Road Interbasin Project without intermittent delays that will increase the risk of invasive carp spreading into the Great Lakes, threatening the ecological and economic vitality of our precious freshwater resources.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative membership passed a resolution, offered by the City of North Chicago, Illinois, in June 2023, urging USACE and the Illinois to sign the PPA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- Illinois and USACE must actively negotiate a prompt resolution to the current impasse, concluding with the signing of a comprehensive PPA that will advance the Brandon Road Interbasin Project in its entirety
- Congress should authorize a 100 percent federal cost share for operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement (OMRR&R) for the Brandon Road Interbasin Project in the WRDA 2024, given the national and binational importance of preventing the spread of invasive carp into the Great Lakes and the uncertain costs of OMRR&R in perpetuity
- Illinois and Michigan should continue to inform other Great Lakes states and local elected officials about the status of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project and how they may support efforts to protect the Great Lakes from invasive carp

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: Governor Pritzker; Assistant Secretary Connor; Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan and select members of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee and the Great Lakes Task Force.