

SPACE FLORIDA



Feasibility Phase FAQs: Florida Spaceport System Maritime Intermodal Transportation Study

1. What is the Florida Spaceport System Maritime Intermodal Transportation Study?

The Florida Spaceport System Maritime Intermodal Transportation Study feasibility phase represents a critical first step in addressing the burgeoning maritime needs of Florida's commercial space transportation sector. As the commercial space transportation industry's vertical launch cadence continues to evolve – an anticipated 300 to 500 percent increase, the demand for specialized maritime support, including transportation vessels and seaport access has emerged as a pivotal growth constraint. The objective of this of the study feasibility phase is to identify near- and long-term requirements of an aerospace industry dedicated wharf and support facilities.

2. Why is this study important for Florida's space transportation future?

The space transportation market is in its early stage but expanding rapidly, and the industry is projected to grow as the safety, reliability, and cost efficiency increases with potential to transition from mostly cargo to a broad mix with passenger transportation. All major ports in Florida typically only service cruise passengers and cargo operations. Florida's status as a quintamodal state provides an opportunity to redefine how we support space operations, just as sea, air, land and rail leverage modes of transportation to bolster the transport of goods and people.

While Port Canaveral currently plays a role in supporting the commercial space industry, it's clear that existing capacity is insufficient to meet the future needs of the space industry. With the industry's growth trajectory, our existing infrastructure is not equipped to handle the demand. This study isn't just about expanding docks or dredging channels; it's about envisioning a future where Florida's maritime capabilities seamlessly support the space transportation network.

The study lays the groundwork for a 50-year vision that anticipates the needs of today and the future. With extensive capital investments and the lengthy timelines required for such projects, planning now ensures that Florida remains at the forefront of space transportation innovation.

3. What are the near-term and long-term concepts?

Near-Term Recommended Concept – Within Middle Turning Basin

Recommendations include using existing infrastructure in the short term and significant

expansions of the Middle Turning Basin for long-term capacity enhancement. The near-term option would continue the use of Port Canaveral's north cargo berths in the West Turning Basin for transloading retrieved rocket components and docking as directed by the CPA Harbormaster. Projected Direct Cost: **\$220 million**

Long-Term Recommended Concept – Expansion of Middle Turning Basin to the North

The long-term option would involve a longer cut north through the Middle Turning Basin, ultimately expanding the basin to the north. This new basin would run parallel to the existing Banana River north-south shoreline along CCSFS property. Projected Direct Cost: **\$2.1 billion**

4. How long until implementation of both concepts?

Near-term is likely to be implemented over 5-10 years (Phases 1 & 2). Long-term concept is projected implemented over 10-50 years (Phases 3-7).

5. Who conducted this study, and who are the key stakeholders involved?

The study was completed by Space Florida in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation, and through close coordination with industry, NASA, the U.S. Space Force, Port Canaveral, and other stakeholders. AECOM was the engineering firm who led the analysis.

6. What are the next steps for implementation of the viable options?

Identify strategic federal funding opportunities to begin near-term and long-term improvements. Estimated long-term cost: \$2.1 billion (Near Term Phases 1 & 2 Cost: \$220 million; Long Term: Phases 3-7: \$1.9 billion)

Obtain stakeholder concurrence from landowners and establish Memorandum of Understanding with action items. Begin implementation phase. Work with federal partners to acquire necessary property for construction and identify potential governing and operations entity or entities. Conduct a statewide study to determine how other seaports can support the industry.

7. What are the next steps for environmental assessments?

A full environmental analysis will be conducted for the near- and long-term options in the next phase of the study.

8. How will the near-and long-term options affect maritime operations at Port Canaveral?

The goal is for these concepts to co-exist with port operation, just as other transportation hubs such as airports are a convergence of multi-modal systems. Space Florida will continue to work with all stakeholders to lead the implementation phase of the study.