

# Mid-America Port Commission

## Five-Year Strategic Plan

Adopted by the MAPC Board of Commissioner on July 17, 2023

**Mid-America Port Commission, located in the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River basins, exists to increase economic development in rural and underserved areas in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri through improved river infrastructure and increased use of the inland waterways.**

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The 2023 Mid-America Port Commission (MAPC) strategic plan communicates the commission's priorities and strategies over the next five years. The plan clarifies the commission's identity and purpose as a public entity authorized to work in 26 counties in – Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri.

The priorities and strategies of this document reflect on MAPC's mission, the conditions of the tri-state area, and the needs of our partners. Tri-state partners were asked to clarify MAPC's role and value to the region and to provide feedback on how the commission can best fulfill its role as a leading voice for infrastructure and economic development for the region.

The Strategic Plan has identified priorities for MAPC that will make the organization more visible on critical regional issues involving navigable waterways and associated economic development projects.

The commissioners are honored to lead MAPC and look forward to successful relationships and projects.

### MAPC BACKGROUND

The Mid-America Port Commission (MAPC) was born out of the 1997 Tri-State Summit meeting in Keokuk, Iowa. Recovering from the Great Flood of 1993 was at the top of the minds of leaders from western Illinois, southeast Iowa, and northeast Missouri when they committed to create a three-state multi-capable public organization centered on river, port, and economic development.

In 1999, the legislatures of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri adopted like-kind enabling legislation to create the Mid-America Port Commission. The compact was the first three-state agreement of its kind in the United States.

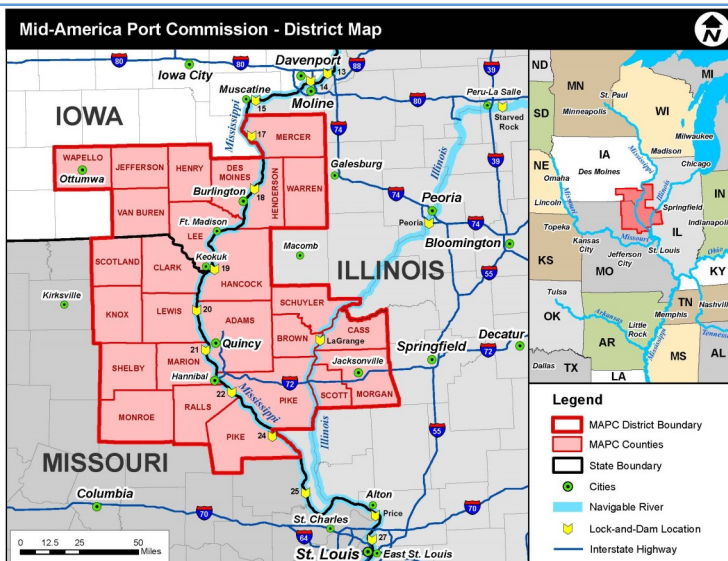
The MAPC board was formed in 1999 and resources from all three states and federal grants were secured for organizational startup and planning. The guiding study for port development locations was completed in 2001: Port Market Analysis and Site Selection Study, 2001 (*Rock Island District, US Army Corps of Engineers*)

Various market studies and port development master plans have been developed since 2001 with great progress made at the first site identified by the Mid-America Port Commission board south of Quincy, Illinois – the Mid-America Intermodal Port.

MAPC has supported multiple grants, plans, funding proposals, and business contacts to facilitate port development and waterway infrastructure improvement within the Mid-America Port Commission's 26 counties.

As the port development landscape has changed with skyrocketing construction costs, limited public funding, and a changing freight landscape, MAPC must continue to evaluate its purpose and strategy to fulfill its mission.

MAPC will strive to serve the interests of a region with the world's best inland navigation systems, the most productive farmland, a continental manufacturing hub, and incredibly diverse ecosystems contained in the Illinois River Waterway and Upper Mississippi River.



# MAPC AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

Connect MAPC with elected representatives and regulatory agencies decision makers.

Advocate for full funding of Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) on Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway.

Advocate for robust maintenance of the inland navigation system on Upper Mississippi and Illinois Waterway.

Advocate for port and intermodal development and expansion in the MAPC area.

Connect MAPC area with business opportunities.

Advocate for improved flood control structures.

## ADVOCACY GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**MAPC will use its three-state structure to strengthen its advocacy on high-priority issues such as NESP and navigable waterway maintenance.**

Develop position statements and materials on priority Areas of Focus.

Create a communications schedule with elected representatives and key officials from funding and regulatory agencies in the MAPC area.

Meet annually with partner organizations (economic development groups, utilities, ports, key employers), city councils, and county board of supervisors to build and maintain key relationships.

Update all public-facing communication materials consistent with strategic plan.

## CONNECTIONS GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**MAPC will connect with area elected representatives, port operators, port-related businesses, regulatory and funding agencies, and the public to advance MAPC priorities.**

Construct master contact database of MAPC area contacts.

Develop annual schedule of contacts with value-added information about MAPC priorities and their impact.

Evaluate and update the website to ensure it is timely, informational, and useful to the MAPC region.

## PORT DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION GOAL AND STRATEGIES

**MAPC will support and advocate for port development and expansion to increase economic opportunity in the area.**

Seek to understand each private and public port's opportunities, plans, and threats for expansion and efficient operation.

Utilize the combined political resources from Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri to leverage needed funding.

Communicate business connection willingness and ability to freight originators, area ports, and state and federal agencies.



Visit our website at: <https://midamericaport.com/locations/ports/>

## MAPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The MAPC Board is made up of 9 members representing the three states forming the MAPC service area (Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri). Each state governor appoints a commissioner with the other two appointed locally.

Commissioners include Blake E. Roderick, Chairman (IL); Douglas Aeilts, Vice Chairman (MO); Mike Norris, Secretary/Treasurer (IA); H.O. Brownback and Mike McLaughlin (IL); Denise Boyer and Shelley Oltmans (IA); and Norris Hinton and Kelly Waymon (MO). Commissioners Brownback, Norris, and Waymon are governor appointees. The other six commissioners are appointed by county boards or commissions in their respective states.

