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The purpose of this MOU is to declare a set of shared partnership principles to guide the Department of the Army and the public port authority members of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) in developing and maintaining the nation's port and harbor infrastructure. The Shared Principles expressed below are intended to create a high-trust culture between our organizations, where we work seamlessly, exchange information freely, and spend the public's money wisely.

The roles and responsibilities of the Department of the Army and public port authorities on harbor projects are set forth in numerous pieces of Federal, state and local legislation, regulation, and policy. Significantly, the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (WRDA'86) requires that public port authorities provide, among other things, half of the cost of feasibility studies and between 35 and 60 percent of the cost of construction for Congressionally authorized harbor navigation projects. WRDA'86 also permits non-Federal sponsors to undertake feasibility studies at full non-Federal expense or to contribute in-kind services in lieu of cash on Department of the Army-led projects. The full cost of Federal maintenance of harbor projects is funded by port and harbor users. On regulatory actions related to port and harbor projects, public port authorities provide information, contractor support, and/or direct funds to the Department of the Army.



