

Submission Date (<i>select from calendar</i>): 2/20/2026
Lead Recipient/Grant Number : University of Arkansas / 69A3552348331
Principal Investigator Institution (<i>select drop down</i>): University of New Orleans
Center Name : Maritime Transportation Research and Education Center
Research Priority : Preserving the Existing Transportation System
Principal Investigator(s) with ORCID(s) and Contact Information : Bethany Stich 0000-0003-2534-3248 2000 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 40118 bstich@uno.edu 662-312-0048
Project Partners : Violet Community Organization, Port of New Orleans
Project Type (<i>select drop down</i>): Applied Research
Project Research Topic Type (<i>select drop down</i>): Resilient Maritime Infrastructure
Transportation Modes Involved (<i>check all that apply</i>): ☒ Waterway ☒ Road ☒ Rail ☐ Pipeline ☐ Other
Total Funding Requested (\$) : 198,750 Federal Funding Requested (\$) : \$132,500
% of Total for Tech Transfer (%) : \$9,937.50 Non-Federal Match Requested (\$) : \$66,250
Project Start and End Dates (<i>month/day/year to month/day/year</i>): 4/20/2026 - 7/20/2027
Project Title : Louisiana International Terminal and the Violet Community: A Development Study & Project Implementation Support Framework
Project Abstract (Brief Description) : As the Port of New Orleans moves forward with \$1.2 billion in investments for the development of the Louisiana International Terminal and associated road and rail improvements in St. Bernard Parish's Violet community, this three-phase project engages transportation industry stakeholders and the Violet, Louisiana community to identify the need for education and workforce development, local infrastructure improvements and capital project opportunities to support future community and economic developments within the area. This research seeks to determine how to mitigate impacts and optimize community benefit whenever a new billion-dollar maritime project is constructed, using Violet as a case study.
USDOT Priorities : Section left blank until USDOT's new priorities and RD&T strategic goals are available in Spring 2026
Outputs (results of the work performed) : The expected output will be a replicable method for communities affected by freight-based infrastructure changes including but not limited to asset inventory, activity forecast, capital development plans, and education and workforce strategies. The project will support development of a scalable framework and tools to guide other communities in planning and implementing major freight and maritime projects. Most importantly, the research will yield actionable recommendations to improve the freight system, its workforce and the communities impacted by supply chain realities.
Outcomes/Impacts : The findings from the research will enable freight stakeholders to work with the communities in which they operate. Creating a model framework for needs assessment and identification of relevant, impactful community benefits will support other communities in successfully implementing infrastructure projects. With over \$17 billion of port infrastructure projects set to begin under BIL, providing industry and community stakeholders with a plan for mutual benefit is critical.
Technology Transfer Activities : The technology transfer activities for this report will include disseminating research findings through community meetings, policy briefs, stakeholder workshops, and presentations for transportation agencies, port authorities, and private freight and logistics firms. Specifically, the research team will produce actionable recommendations for Violet, St. Bernard Parish, and/or the State of Louisiana,

as well as a generalized guide to effective community collaboration during planning and project delivery. These activities aim to translate research into practical applications and policy frameworks that can be adopted by both public- and private-sector actors.

Final Research Report: Upon completion of the project, provide a URL link to final report will be provided

Project Deliverables: ☒ PI agrees to submit all deliverables within 4 weeks of the project end date.

Data Management Plan (DMP): ☒ PI has reviewed and agrees to adhere to MarTREC DMP. Proposed project DMP must be submitted with this form.

USDOT Approval Date: 5/1/26