Alternative Financing Evaluation

- 2019 Iowa DOT study
  - Objective: Develop range of viable investment alternatives to enhance Upper Mississippi inland waterway infrastructure
  - Examined three upgrade scenarios of various scales

- Recommendation #1
  - Use State-Federal contributed funds agreement to implement the Micro Efficiency Upgrade scenario of a mooring cell at L&D 14 (LeClaire, IA).
Micro Efficiency Upgrade

What is a mooring cell?
- Facility for tows approaching a L&D to moor (tie off) while waiting for the lock to be available
- Typically located adjacent to main navigation channel
- Constructed of sheet-piling driven into a circular cell and filled with earth and/or concrete
- Without mooring facility, towboats must ground barges, tie off to bankline trees, or maintain engine power

Benefits
- Improved lock approach times
- Reduced environmental impacts
- Improved operational safety
- Replicability (i.e., other state DOTs)
Economic Benefits

• USACE Mooring Cell Working Group identified top priority locations: L&D 14 lower pool was #1
  • Waiting area currently 3.6 miles downstream
  • Proposed mooring cell location would be only 1.4 miles downstream (2.2 mile difference)

• 2.2 mile difference = estimated 217 hours (9 days) time savings per navigation year

• Micro Upgrade scenario yielded benefit-cost ratio (3.52)
Funding

• Cost and funding proposal
  • $2 million for L&D 14 lower pool site
  • Iowa DOT contributed funds agreement with USACE

• Status
  • As of August, agreement language has been reviewed by USACE and Iowa DOT legal staff

• Next steps
  • Confirm payment approach and finalize agreement
Questions?

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