



Transportation and Sustainable Development

Goal: To promote sustainable, water resource-based economic activity and the use, development and maintenance of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence transportation system

What we did in 2002 to *restore the greatness:*

- Initiated a comparative analysis of alternate commercial transportation modes in the region
- Secured additional nonfederal funding for a new Soo Lock
- Initiated an assessment of the economic impacts of Great Lakes recreational boating
- Established parameters for a study of environmental “windows,” *i.e.*, times when dredging can be conducted with reduced or minimum impact
- Promoted beneficial use of dredged material as an alternative to disposal
- Directed a study of the effects of various land uses on water quality
- Advanced the goals of the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors via professional staff support
- Organized a meeting of high-level federal, state and provincial resource managers to address Great Lakes issues at the 2002 State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC)

Featured Projects

www.glc.org/about/programs/tsd.html

What we do

The Transportation and Sustainable Development Program recognizes the link between the environment and the economy, and uses sustainability as a guiding principle in its work on commercial and recreational navigation, land use and other resource-based economic activity. Contact: Steve Thorp, program manager, at sthorp@glc.org

Dredging in the Great Lakes

www.glc.org/dredging

Dredging is a critical component of the Great Lakes regional economy, where maritime transportation helps to offset the pollution, congestion and inefficiencies associated with surface transportation modes. When Great Lakes ports and harbors are properly dredged, ships can pick up and deliver more goods, reducing highway congestion, maintenance costs and the pressure to build more roads.

Through its role in providing professional staff for the Great Lakes Dredging Team, the Great Lakes Commission promotes dredging that both supports the regional economy and protects the environment. In 2002, the Commission:

- Worked with Congress to eliminate legal barriers to beneficial uses of dredged material and waterfront redevelopment;
- Explored ways to involve Canadian dredging interests;
- Helped promote alternatives to disposal of dredged material by encouraging environmentally safe, beneficial uses in upland environments; and
- Helped protect fish and aquatic habitat through the identification of “windows” when dredging effects are minimized.

Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org

Land reuse and preservation

The Great Lakes Commission recognizes the importance of land reuse and open space preservation, and has been active in promoting brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection.

In 2002, the Commission, with support from U.S. EPA and various stakeholder groups, organized a policy roundtable to advance brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection in Michigan. The Michigan roundtable was designed as a model which can be replicated in other states and provinces in pursuing their own brownfields-greenfields policies.

The January 2003 event brought together nearly 60 senior agency officials, legislative aides, and representatives of key organizations to set priorities and evaluate policy options related to brownfields redevelopment and greenfields protection. Key issues included the role of state leadership, reforming abandoned building policies, local and state planning, and comprehensive farmland protection. Contact: Victoria Pebbles, vpebbles@glc.org

Photos: Opposite, Duluth ship channel – Jerry Bielicki, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At left, Tarwas Point lighthouse – Joyce Daniels, Michigan Sea Grant

