

# Marine Highway M-49



**Sponsor:** Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

**Supporters:** NE Louisiana Economic Development Foundation, Rapides Area Planning Commission, the Port of Morgan City, Natchitoches Parish, Port of New Orleans, Port of Greater Baton Rouge, Port of Krotz Springs, and the Caddo/Bossier Port Commission.

**Landside Route Served:** Interstate-49



**Route Description:**

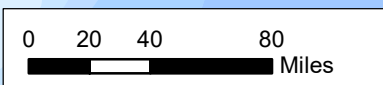
The M-49 Route includes the Atchafalaya River, the J. Bennett Johnson Waterway, and connecting commercial navigation channels, ports, and harbors. It spans southwest Louisiana from Morgan City, LA, to Shreveport along US Highway 90 and Interstate 49. It connects to the M-10 Route at MorganCity.

**Attributes:**

This Route serves four South Louisiana ports, including Port Fourchon, Port of West St. Mary, Morgan City, and the Terrebonne Port Commission (Houma), transporting significant volumes of freight along the landside route. From 2000 to 2006, the Route experienced a 19 percent increase in vehicle traffic, of which approximately 20 percent was truck traffic, clearly indicating an upward trend in freight and congestion. The J. Bennett Johnston Waterway (formerly known as the Red River Waterway) moved 9.1 million short tons (7.5 billion ton-miles) of freight in 2007, demonstrating the Route's potential capacity for waterborne goods movement. However, neither the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway nor Bayou Teche currently have container or trailer marine services. A more efficient freight distribution system could have significant benefits to the region.

**Marine Highways**

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Projection:  
NAD 1983 State Plane N. Louisiana

Data Sources:

1. International Boundaries: IPUMS (<https://international.ipums.org/international/gis.shtml>)
2. Bathymetry data: Michael Baker International
3. Marine Highways: MARAD/DOT