

# Marine Highway M-V1

**Sponsor:** Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA)

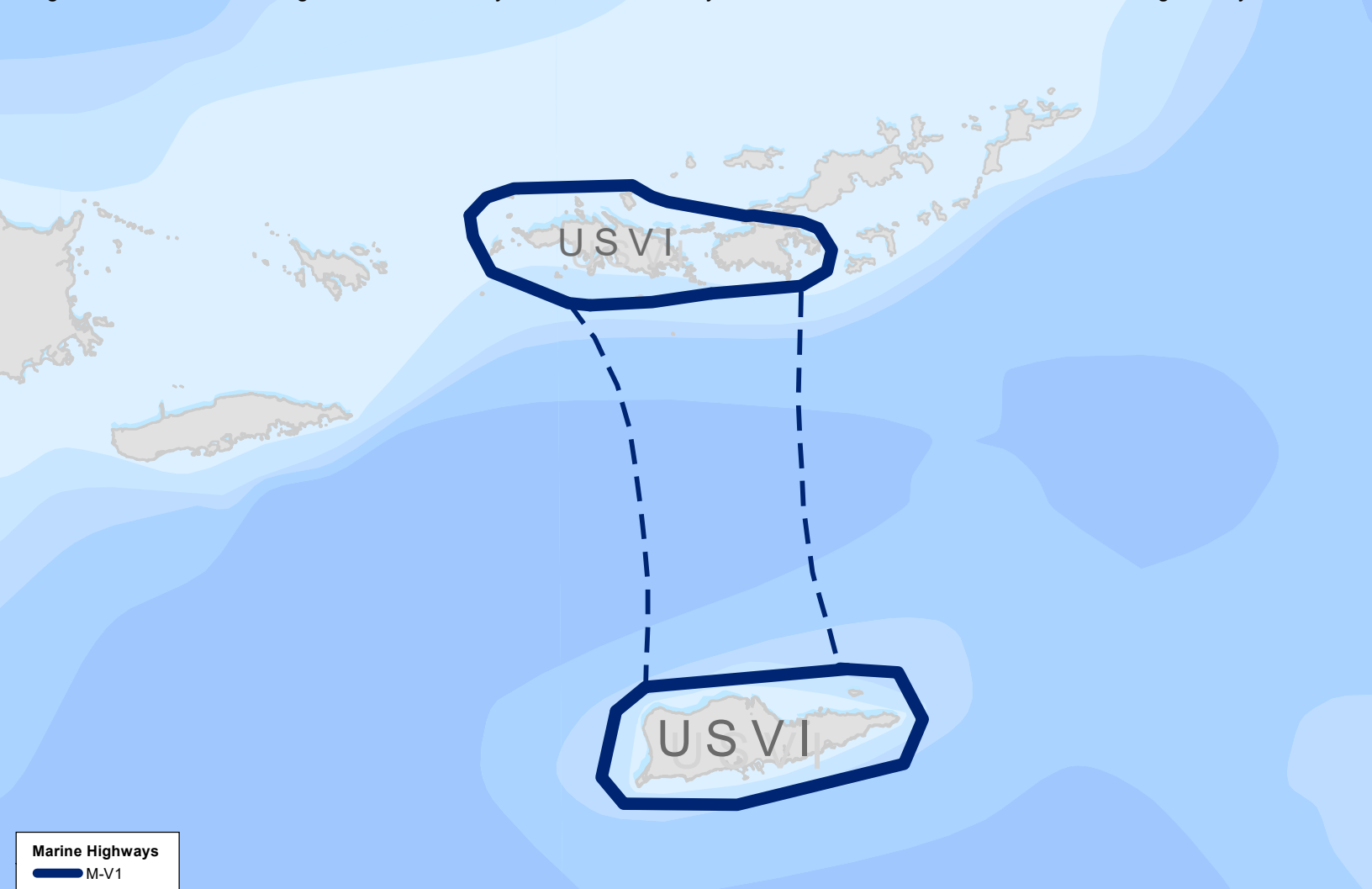
**Supporters:** Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands


**Landside Route Served:** The U.S. Virgin Islands is a United States Territory located in the Atlantic Ocean, about 40 miles east of Puerto Rico. The territory consists of three main islands: St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix. The main islands are served by public roadways and highways, but none connect to the U.S. mainland, or support surface transportation between or among the islands.

**Route Description:**

The proposed Marine Highway Route will be inclusive of all waterways and ocean channels used to transport goods, commodities, and services between the U.S. Virgin Islands. This consists of transportation to and around the major islands of St. John, St. Croix, Water Island, and all surrounding islets and cays.

**Attributes:** The Route Designation will have numerous positive long-term freight transportation benefits for the U.S., the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. VIPA's ports play a vital role in providing critical goods and services to the residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands. In the immediate aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria, the cargo ports played a critical role as the primary entry point for emergency response equipment, materials, and supplies. The Route Designation will provide strategic Federal support to an already existing freight network. The U.S. Virgin Islands' economy relies almost entirely on the inbound and outbound movement of goods by sea.



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Projection:  
NAD 1983 State Plane Puerto Rico Virgin Isl.

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

