U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration

Marine Highway M-5

Sponsors: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD)

Supporters: Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District/Port of Humboldt Bay, Port of Skagit County, WA, Skagit County Board of Commissioners, Town of La Conner, WA, and Swinomish Tribal Community.

Landside Route Served: Interstate-5

Route Description:
The M-5 Route includes the Pacific Ocean coastal waters, connecting commercial navigation channels, ports, and harbors from San Diego, CA, to the US-Canada border north of Seattle, WA. It spans Washington, Oregon, and California along the West Coast. It connects to the M-84 Route at Astoria, OR, and the M-580 Route at Oakland, CA.

Attributes:
This Route contains several areas identified by the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) as having considerable annual truck hours of delay, most notably in the urban areas of California, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, WA. U.S. DOT reports that Southern California and the Pacific Northwest are also plagued with freight rail congestion. Total domestic trade movements between the three States along the I-5 Route are expected to grow from 145 million tons per year to 366 million tons by 2030, exacerbating existing challenges.

Navigable coastal waters that parallel the entire I-5 Route, combined with numerous deep and safe rivers, bays, and ports, can help to accommodate some of this expected increase in traffic, reducing landside travel delays and greenhouse gas emissions along this essential freight route.