

# Houston Ship Channel Expansion

## Project 11

# History of Improvements

Timeline of significant projects over the channel's 100-plus year history



Steamship transiting Buffalo Bayou in mid 1800s

### Project 1 – 1853-1857

After the State of Texas appropriated \$46,000 Buffalo Bayou and Galveston Bay are first improved for navigational purposes

### Project 2 – 1870

First federal survey of channel was completed: the channel was at least 4 ft. deep and 70 ft. wide. First federal appropriations in 1872 and 1874; project cost was \$20,000



Channel professionally surveyed



Early construction of channel near Morgan's Point

### Project 3 – 1874

Charles Morgan entered into a contract with the Buffalo Bayou Ship Channel Company to build a private channel 9 ft. by 120 ft. from Galveston to Houston



Boaters in Galveston Bay in late 1800s

### Project 4 – 1875

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged a channel across Galveston Bay through Redfish Bar to the mouth of the San Jacinto River at 14.5 ft.



Cotton barge plying waterway

### Project 5 – 1897-1908

Federal project was 18.5 ft. deep by 100 ft. wide. The Turning Basin at the head of channel navigation was dredged

## Project 6 – 1912-1914

Official deep-water port: the Houston Ship Channel was officially opened for ocean going vessels on November 1914 and was dredged to 25 ft. deep and 150 ft. wide



Christening of deepened channel



Bustling channel (circa 1935)

## Project 7 – 1935

Deepened the entire channel to 32-34 ft. and widened at 400 ft. in Galveston Bay

## Project 8 – 1948

Project deepened the entire channel to 36 ft.



Dredging channel even deeper



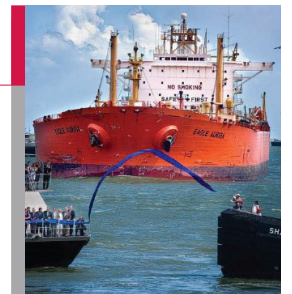
Port signage (circa 1958)

## Project 9 – 1958

Channel deepened to 40 ft.

## Project 10 – 1968-2005

Channel deepened to 45 ft. and 530 ft. wide through Galveston Bay. Environmental restoration projects constructed with dredged material



Ceremony for dredged channel



Houston Ship Channel today

## Project 11 – 2012-Present

Federal feasibility report of proposed improvements expected to be completed in May 2020, with Congressional authorization later that year. The Port Authority, Corps and industry are presently working on policies and agreements that could expedite the project to start construction early