

2023-2033 Port Master Plan Summary

- OHPA will not expand the Port of Fernandina's current footprint beyond its current boundaries.
- OHPA will not pursue efforts to deepen the Federal Channel beyond its current depth.
- OHPA will sell the residential parcels located along Dade Street for future residential construction. The revenues received from the sale will be used by OHPA for other activities at the Port, or elsewhere, for the benefit of Nassau County residents.
- Primary access to the Port will remain along Dade Street. OHPA will not pursue other alternative access roads such as Escambia Street.
- OHPA will reinvest in its existing terminal facilities to ensure their long-term use.
- OHPA will identify and secure resources to protect the Terminal from future flooding.
- OHPA will work with US Customs and Border Protection to meet its facility requirements.
- OHPA will focus the Port of Fernandina on continuing to grow its breakbulk cargo, including the construction of additional covered storage facilities, while maintaining its container service to Bermuda. OHPA will also work with the Terminal Operator to explore other cargo segments that represent opportunities for additional growth and diversification. OHPA will require the Operator to prepare a material safety, handling and transportation plan for review and approval by the OHPA Board prior to initiating any new service.
- OHPA will pursue additional port-of-call cruise ships, focusing on the small ship luxury market, to provide additional economic benefit to the Community as well as a much-needed revenue source for OHPA activities. OHPA will work with the cruise lines to disperse visitors around the Island to take advantage of the well-developed tourism infrastructure that is already in place and to reduce the stress on Downtown. Primary transportation routes to and from the Port will be Front Street for Downtown visitors and Dade Street to Eighth Street for all other visitors.

- OHPA will work with private landowners and the City of Fernandina Beach to improve the Front Street corridor while helping to protect the working waterfront, to include potential public/private and public/public partnerships.
- OHPA will continue its commitment to open communication with the city, County, and its residents and businesses.
- OHPA will continue to coordinate with all economic development entities in Nassau County and Southeast Georgia, to create opportunities for future job growth for the benefit of Nassau County.
- OHPA will work with its Terminal Operator to pursue opportunities to expand its inland port facility activity in order to increase the productivity of the Port of Fernandina.
- OHPA will continue to pursue marine highway opportunities to reduce traffic impacts and to benefit the adjoining mill operations.
- OHPA will continue to look for opportunities to utilize rail for the transport of cargo to and from the Port of Fernandina.
- OHPA will look for opportunities in Nassau County to use its revenue bonding capabilities to finance or refinance works, undertakings, improvements, facilities, or projects throughout the County.