



Memorandum

Date: April 4, 2024

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | Assessment of MARAD's Risk Management and Oversight of the Port Infrastructure Development Program's IJJA-Funded Grants | Project No. 24B3003S000 | Maritime Administration

From: David Pouliott *David Pouliott*
Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits

To: Maritime Administrator

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Maritime Administration (MARAD) is responsible for improving the U.S. marine transportation system to meet the Nation's economic, environmental, and security needs. As part of its broad mission, MARAD administers and oversees the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). This program provides discretionary grants on a competitive basis to projects intended to improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the movement of goods into, out of, around, or within a port.

In fiscal years 2019 through 2022, PIDP received an average of \$245 million per year through appropriation acts.¹ In 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) greatly increased PIDP funding, providing \$450 million for each of the 5 fiscal years beginning in fiscal year 2022. Given the heightened risks associated with administering a Federal grant program that receives a substantial increase in funding, we are initiating this audit. Accordingly, our audit objective is to assess MARAD's risk management and oversight of the PIDP's IIJA-funded grants.

We plan to begin this audit immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our work at DOT Headquarters in Washington, DC, with MARAD and other sites as needed. If you have any questions, please contact me or Tony Wysocki, Program Director.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
MARAD Audit Liaison, MAR-252

¹ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, Public Law Number (Pub. L. No.) 116-6 (2019); Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Pub. L. No. 116-94 (2019); Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (2020); Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-103 (2022).