

USMMA Campus Modernization: Full Speed Ahead

A Comprehensive Plan Developed by The Maritime Security Infrastructure Council to Modernize the United States Merchant Marine Academy

The Problem

After nearly 80 years of underinvestment and deterioration, the USMMA's physical plant pales when compared to the state-of-the-art infrastructure found at the other federal service academies. There can be no doubt that it requires a comprehensive modernization effort.

USMMA graduates make up more than 80 percent of the US Navy Strategic Sealift Officer Force. Without these service-committed mariners, the nation would have no viable – or reliable – source of trained, licensed officers to crew the vessels which move materiel, fuel, and supplies to foreign shores in wartime.

The USMMA campus remains essentially unchanged from its founding over 80 years ago. In addition to deteriorating buildings, the library, IT capacity, training labs and physical readiness resources are woefully inadequate. Midshipmen are living and learning in shockingly sub-standard conditions.

The Full Speed Ahead Plan

Full Speed Ahead is a multi-year, \$1.02B modernization plan that will upgrade the 80-year-old physical plant with new academic buildings, physical readiness and training facilities, midshipmen morale and welfare spaces, parking structures, faculty and senior staff housing, utilities and IT upgrades, improved campus security, and renovations of many existing buildings.

The Plan was created by The Maritime Security Infrastructure Council (MSIC), which is comprised of independent experts deeply concerned about the state of USMMA's campus infrastructure. It is designed to be accomplished while keeping the Academy 100% operational throughout and maintaining the highest standards of education and training of the Midshipmen.

The Plan calls for the management of a professional federal construction agent, such as the US Army Corps of Engineers, as previous efforts by MARAD's small public works staff have proven ineffective.

Policy Considerations and the Need for Congressional Leadership

The infrastructure required to provide USMMA midshipmen the specialized education and training they need to fulfill their mission has been ignored for decades. It is long past time for the USMMA campus to be made worthy of their commitment to serve our nation and thus imperative that the Full Speed Ahead Plan be authorized and funded by Congress.

The Full Speed Ahead Plan: Program Cost and Execution Timeline

Total USMMA Modernization Cost: \$1.02B*

New Construction		Facility Renovation & Upgrades	
Midshipmen Academic Center	\$111.7M	Samuels Hall Renovation Completion	\$8.8M
Midshipmen Academic Center Construction Preparation	\$4.3M	Campus Security and Waterfront Improvements	\$28.3M
Crowninshield Pier Replacement	\$31.7M	GIS and Upgrade Academy Utilities	\$95.4M
Midshipmen Activity Center	\$42.2M	Main Gate and Campus Security Upgrade	\$53.9M
Midshipmen Aquatic Readiness Center	\$65.6M	Bowditch Hall and Steamboat Road Improvements	\$76.4M
Midshipmen Leadership Development and Readiness Center	\$133.1M	Existing Building Renovations	\$94.8M
Parking Structures	\$50.7M		
Federal Maritime Center of Excellence	\$49.1M		
Senior Staff Housing	\$8.5M		
Faculty Housing	\$3.7M		
Waterfront Sailing Center	\$19.2M		
New Construction Subtotal			\$519.8M
Facility Renovation & Upgrades Subtotal			\$357.6M
Design			\$91.1M
Program Management			\$51.3M
Total Program Cost			\$1019.8M

Funding/Execution Timeline: 2025 – 2032**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	Total
Total Program Cost	\$54.2M	\$259.6M	\$223.2M	\$164.6M	\$128.2M	\$89.5M	\$100.5M		\$1019.8M
Design	\$44.9M	\$13.3M	\$5.5M	\$19.8M	\$7.6M				\$91.1M
Construction	\$8.8M	\$232.7M	\$205.6M	\$136.8M	\$113.9M	\$84.6M	\$95.0M		\$877.4M
Program Management	\$0.5M	\$13.6M	\$12.1M	\$8.0M	\$6.7M	\$4.9M	\$5.5M		\$51.3M

*Program cost rounded up to \$1.02B from \$1,019,800,000.

**Though the plan was developed by the Maritime Security Infrastructure Council to be executed within an aggressive 8-year timeframe, flexibility was built in to ensure it could be readily adapted to meet longer construction timelines and funding schedules, such as the \$100M over ten years budget/timeline referenced as feasible by USMMA officials in the Board of Visitors meeting held on December 11, 2023.