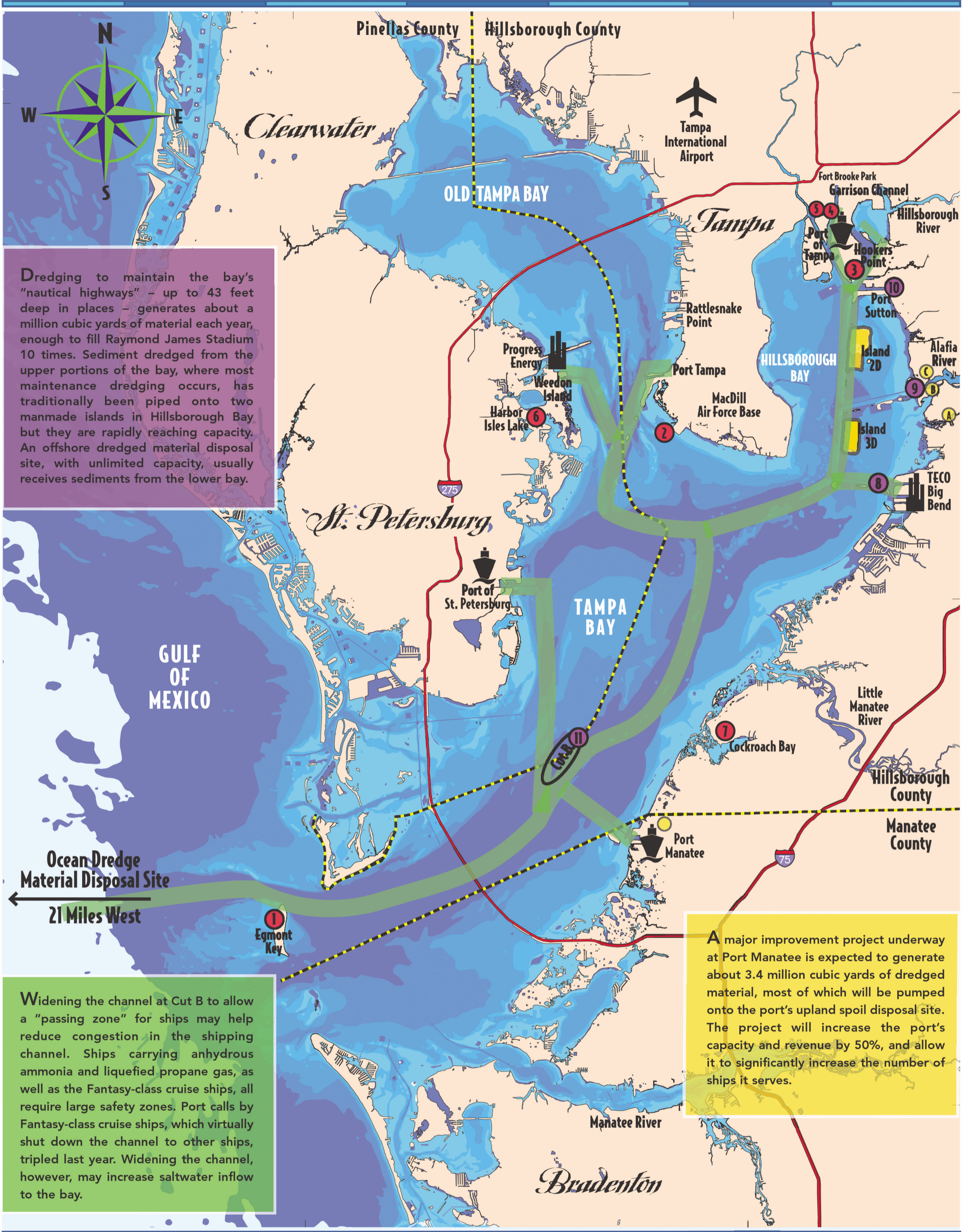


# Tampa Bay



Dredging to maintain the bay's "nautical highways" – up to 43 feet deep in places – generates about a million cubic yards of material each year, enough to fill Raymond James Stadium 10 times. Sediment dredged from the upper portions of the bay, where most maintenance dredging occurs, has traditionally been piped onto two manmade islands in Hillsborough Bay but they are rapidly reaching capacity. An offshore dredged material disposal site, with unlimited capacity, usually receives sediments from the lower bay.

Widening the channel at Cut B to allow a "passing zone" for ships may help reduce congestion in the shipping channel. Ships carrying anhydrous ammonia and liquefied propane gas, as well as the Fantasy-class cruise ships, all require large safety zones. Port calls by Fantasy-class cruise ships, which virtually shut down the channel to other ships, tripled last year. Widening the channel, however, may increase saltwater inflow to the bay.

A major improvement project underway at Port Manatee is expected to generate about 3.4 million cubic yards of dredged material, most of which will be pumped onto the port's upland spoil disposal site. The project will increase the port's capacity and revenue by 50%, and allow it to significantly increase the number of ships it serves.

## BENEFICIAL USES OF DREDGED MATERIAL

LOCATION	DATE	AMOUNT
1. Egmont Key	2000	600,000 cubic yards from Bayboro Harbor to retard erosion and protect the historically valuable gun battery on the island
2. Dredge hole off MacDill Air Force Base	2001	400,000 cubic yards from channel maintenance projects to partially fill a 76-acre hole so seagrasses can grow
3. Hooker's Point	2001	300,000 cubic yards from Ybor Turning Basin to create land for additional wharfs and berthing areas
4. Garrison Channel	2001	150,000 cubic yards from Ybor Turning Basin to fill the channel to about 12 feet deep and restore underwater habitat
5. Fort Brooke Park	2001	10,000 cubic yards from the Ybor Turning Basin to construct a small wetlands area
6. Harbor Isles Lake	2003	300,000 cubic yards from maintenance dredging to partially fill former borrow pit in a residential community
7. Leisey shell pits/ Cockroach Bay, proposed	2003	200,000 cubic yards of sediment from maintenance dredging in the Alafia River is expected to be placed there later this year to create habitat. Funding for an additional 300,000 cubic yards from the Port Manatee expansion is being finalized.

## PROPOSED DREDGING PROJECTS

LOCATION	DATE	AMOUNT
8. Big Bend Channel	TBD	4.6 million cubic yards
9. Alafia River	TBD	5.5 million cubic yards
10. Port Sutton	TBD	500,000 cubic yards
11. Cut B widening	TBD	1.5-2.8 million cubic yards

\* figures do not include ongoing maintenance dredging, which generates nearly a million cubic yards of sediment each year.

### LEGEND

- Spoil Placement Sites
- Spoil Placement for Beneficial Uses
- Shipping Channel
- Proposed Dredging Projects
- County Borders
- Power Plant
- Airport
- Port