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## More federal money seen for Illinois River upgrades in Peoria area



Illinois River (25 News Now/Heart of Illinois ABC)

By Tyler Lopez

Published: Oct. 12, 2022 at 10:57 PM CDT | Updated: 24 hours ago

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EAST PEORIA (25 News Now) - The Illinois River is now classified as a port, meaning it's on a list for more federal government funding to infrastructure improvements.

The designation now has the Illinois River in the 10-county area through and surrounding Peoria ranked as the 42nd largest port in the U.S.

A large group gathered Wednesday at EastPort Marina in East Peoria for the Illinois Waterway Ports annual meeting. On the agenda was how best to acquire and use more tax dollars.

"It opens up or increases the opportunity for additional federal investment from a wide variety of sources, to actually flow into the region," said Robert Sinkler from the <u>Heart of Illinois Regional Port District</u>.

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The event's keynote speaker was State Sen. David Koehler (D-Peoria). Peoria Mayor Rita Ali and East Peoria Mayor John Kahl each gave opening addresses.

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