

An aerial photograph of a wide, calm river flowing through a dense forest. The trees on the right bank are in peak autumn foliage, showing vibrant yellows, oranges, and reds. A paved road with a white center line curves along the right bank, with a few cars visible. The left bank is mostly obscured by a dark purple gradient overlay. The sky is not visible, and the water reflects the surrounding greenery and sky.

The Upper Mississippi River: Why Stakeholder Engagement Matters

Presented by Brandon Phillips

Secretary, Upper Mississippi Waterway Association

The Upper Mississippi River is One System



- Commercial navigation



- Recreation and tourism



- Ecosystem restoration



- Local communities



- National supply chains

Why Navigation Still Matters



- MILLIONS OF TONS OF CARGO MOVE ON THE RIVER ANNUALLY



- RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION SUPPORTS AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING, AND ENERGY

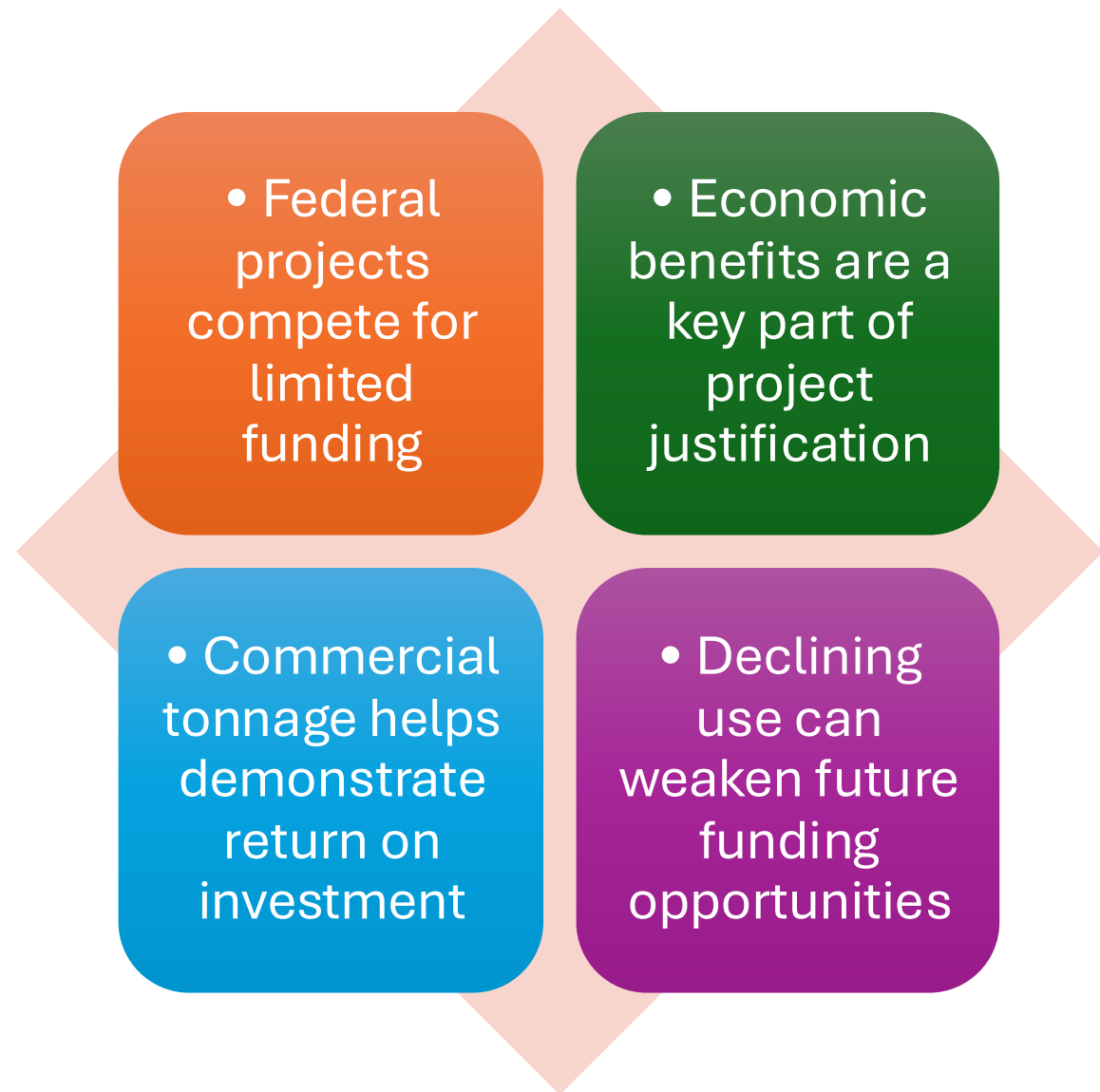


- WATER TRANSPORTATION REDUCES HIGHWAY CONGESTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE WEAR



- NAVIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE BENEFITS THE ENTIRE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Why Tonnage Matters



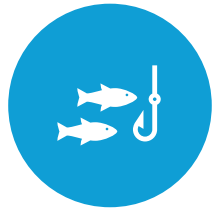
Beyond Navigation



HEALTHY RIVER
INFRASTRUCTURE
SUPPORTS:



- RECREATIONAL
BOATING



- FISHING AND
OUTDOOR
RECREATION



- TOURISM AND
LOCAL
BUSINESSES



- HABITAT
RESTORATION



- COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Why Stakeholder Voices Matter

Decisions are made by those who show up. Stakeholders include:



- Industry



- Ports



- Farmers



- Recreational
users



- Conservation
groups



- Local
governments



- Community
leaders

A Shared Responsibility

"The future of the Upper Mississippi River depends on all of us."

- Protect navigation
- Support ecosystem restoration
- Invest in infrastructure
- Promote recreation and tourism
- Engage with elected officials and agencies