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## Hopes for Luxurious Cruise Ships in Gallows Bay Still Alive Ahead of VIPA, USACE Meeting

VIPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to host public meeting regarding Schooner Bay Channel

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The determination of V.I. Port Authority Executive Director, Carlton Dowe to transform Gallows Bay into a bustling destination where tourists with deep pockets frequent after debarking their luxurious, small cruise ships to experience the island of St. Croix, has not wavered.

VIPA is set to host a joint public meeting with officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on January 9, 2024, with the primary agenda being the discussion of a feasibility study concerning the Schooner Bay Channel located in the Christiansted Harbor.

The meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport Terminal Cruise Lounge in St. Croix, according to VIPA.

The objective in this discussion is to explore the feasibility of dredging the Schooner Bay Channel, with the intention of providing berthing facilities for mini-cruise ships, passenger ferries, and luxury vessels in the Christiansted area. The project, once realized, aims to transform Christiansted into a destination for such vessels, offering new opportunities for tourism and commerce.

Notably, VIPA has already taken a significant step forward by signing a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement with USACE for this initiative, according to the Port Authority.

The focus of the meeting will revolve around the Schooner Bay Channel's potential transformation and its impact on the local economy and tourism industry. As discussions unfold, the outcome of this meeting could play a crucial role in determining the future of luxurious cruise ships and their presence in St. Croix. All interested parties and stakeholders are encouraged to attend and participate in this important dialogue.

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