



Texas Department of Transportation Corpus Christi District

U.S. 181 Harbor Bridge Project

Environmental Documentation and Schematic
Development

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

January 11, 2012



Welcome

John A. Casey, P.E.

District Engineer

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Harbor Bridge Project Manager

Texas Department of
Transportation

Corpus Christi District Office



Today's Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Explanation of ground rules
- Group discussion of mission of the Citizens' Advisory Committee
- Review/group discussion of Harbor Bridge Project history and current status
- Review/group discussion of project Need and Purpose
- Review/group discussion of project alternatives
- Discussion of alternatives analysis process
- Review of Project Timeline
- Group discussion of public involvement activities



CAC Ground Rules

- Facilitated open discussion among committee members and project team members. Everyone is encouraged to participate.
- To ensure that all committee members have an opportunity to speak, please be respectful of our time limits.
- Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting and will be given an opportunity to provide comments at the end of the meeting.



CAC Mission

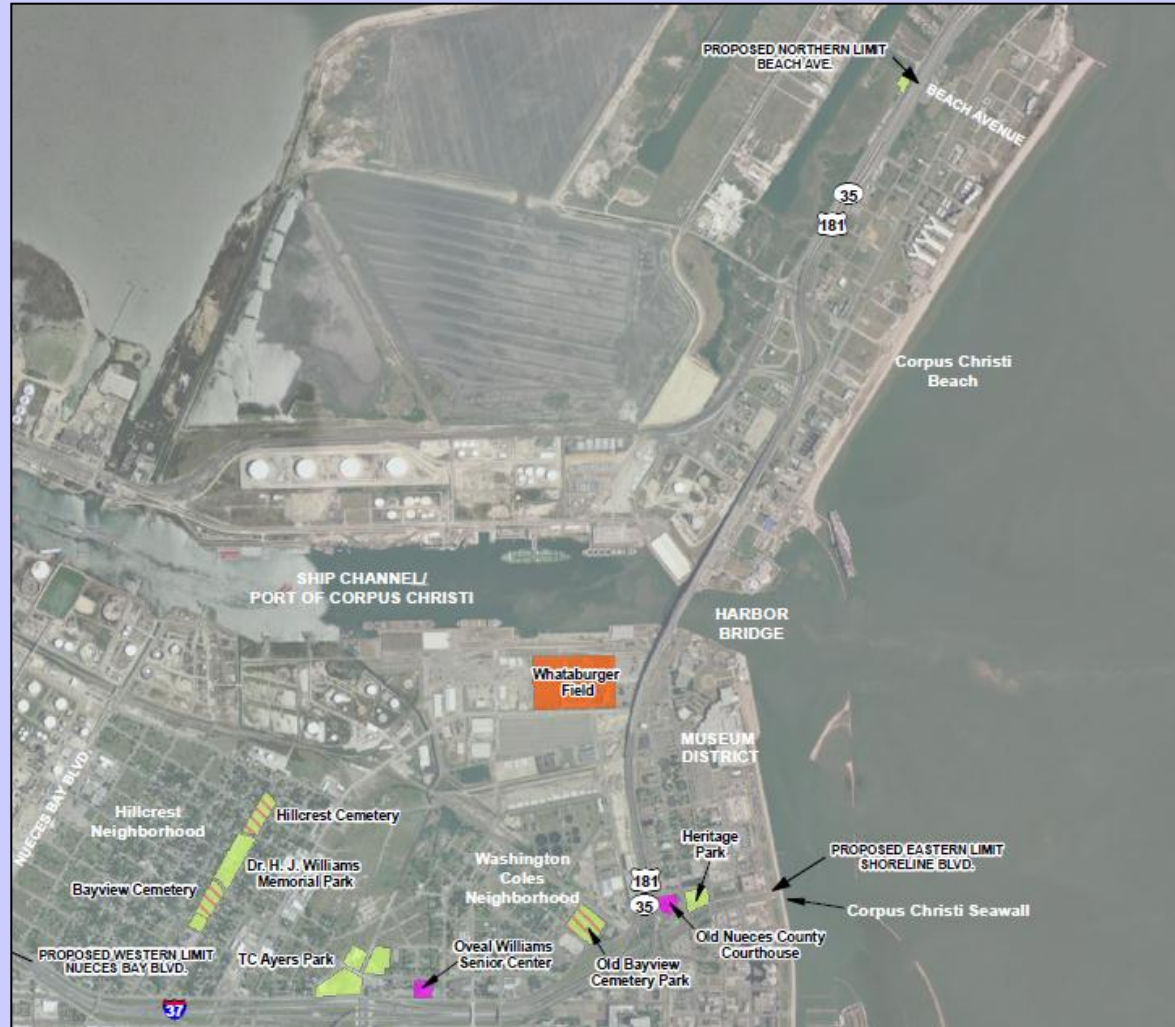
- To receive project team reports on the progress of the project in relationship to established schedules and project milestones.
- To promote public awareness and understanding of the project
- To advise TxDOT on the community's preferences regarding the project as well as the best approach for communicating with the public.

What is the Harbor Bridge Project?

- Proposed improvements to US 181 at the Harbor Bridge over the Corpus Christi Ship Channel.
- Project would extend from Beach Ave on US 181 to Morgan Ave on SH 286
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead Federal agency for project
- TxDOT is the joint lead agency



What is the Harbor Bridge Project?





Project History and Status

- 2001 – Harbor Bridge Project initiated
- 2003 – Feasibility Study completed
- 2004 – Environmental and schematic development initiated
- 2005 – First scoping meetings held
- 2007 – Project limits extended and second round of scoping meetings held



Project History and Status

- 2007 – The project put on hold due to lack of funding
- 2009 – Project reinitiated with new project limits
- 2010 – FHWA determined project should be developed under SAFTEA-LU
- 2011 – New Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS published

Need for Harbor Bridge Project

- Additional details were incorporated into the Need
- Safety Risks (Including Hurricane Evacuation)
 - Lack of shoulders
 - Steep vertical grades
 - Sharp horizontal curves
 - Non-standard ramp lengths and spacing
- Structural restriction to navigational access to the Port of Corpus Christi



Need for Harbor Bridge Project

- Increased difficulty in maintaining the structure's operability over the long-term
- Limited connection to local roadways
- Limited capacity to meet future traffic demands





Purpose of the Harbor Bridge Project

- **Mitigate geometric deficiencies for the highway, including the Harbor Bridge (reduce sharp curves and steep grades)** to improve safety for the travelling public including during hurricane evacuations
- **Reduce the structural restriction to navigational access at the Port of Corpus Christi (raise the bridge height)**, thereby promoting expansion and economic opportunity in the area
- **Maximize the long-term operation** of the Harbor Bridge structure
- **Improve the connectivity** to the local roadway system
- **Meet current standards for capacity on US 181, including the Harbor Bridge**, considering projected future traffic demand

Alternatives Under Consideration

Feasibility Study and Scoping Process – Six build alternatives (plus the No Build) are being considered:

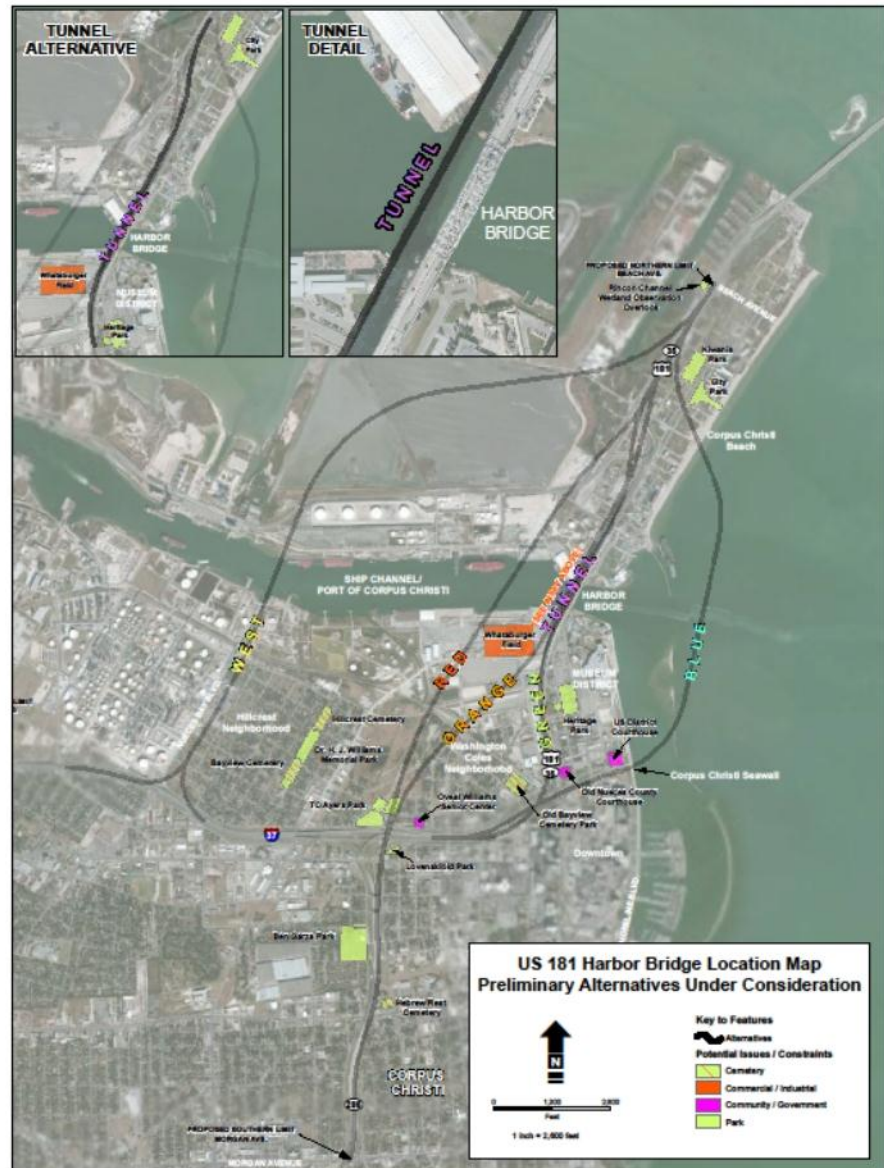
- Red Alternative
- Orange Alternative
- Green Alternative
- Blue Alternative
- Tunnel Alternative*
- West Alternative*



*new alternatives from 1st Scoping Meeting



US 181 Harbor Bridge Location Map





Summary of Preliminary Environmental Constraints

| US 181 – Preliminary Considerations | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----|--------|-------|------|------|--------|
| Constraints | | Alternative Constraints | | | | | | |
| | | No Build | Red | Orange | Green | Blue | West | Tunnel |
| Environmental | Environmental Justice neighborhoods | | X | X | X | X | X | x |
| | Wetlands, Ecology, and Threatened and Endangered Species | | | | | X | X | |
| | Hazardous materials | | X | X | X | | X | X |
| | Historic Resources | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Right-of-Way | Substantial Right-Of-Way | | X | X | | X | X | |
| | Impacts to Parks or Recreational Areas | | X | X | | X | | |
| | Impacts to Major Existing or Planned Developments | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Engineering | Safety Considerations | X | | | X | X | | X |
| | Design Standards | X | | | X | | | X |



Alternatives Analysis Methodology

- Methodology Further Developed
 - Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs) developed to evaluate whether a particular alternative meets the Need & Purpose
 - Each alternative will be evaluated against the Measures of Effectiveness
 - Alternatives may be eliminated from further evaluation if it is determined they do not satisfy the MOEs, and therefore the need and purpose of the proposed project
 - Alternatives that meet the Need & Purpose will be evaluated further



Coordination Plan

- A Coordination Plan facilitates and documents TxDOT's and FHWA's interaction with the public and agencies
- Encourages public/agency input to develop the Need & Purpose, Project Build Alternatives and methodology
- Revised Draft Coordination Plan available on our website

Harbor Bridge Timeline

Prepare Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) followed by Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD)

- Initiate project development with scoping meetings - 2011
- Develop alternatives and begin agency coordination - 2012
- Public Meeting – 2012 - 2013
- Prepare and review draft environmental document - 2012 - 2014
- Public Meeting – Design Guideline Workshop - 2013
- Public Hearing – 2014 - 2015
- Prepare and review final EIS – 2014 - 2016
- Public involvement throughout process

Harbor Bridge Timeline

- Environmental Clearance - ROD issued 2016 or as early as 2014
 - Considering Condensed FEIS
- Obtain permits and approvals – 2015 - 2017
- Prepare ROW Map and Acquire ROW – 2015 - 2017
- Develop construction plans – 2015 - 2017
- Start phase construction – 2017 - 2020





Public Involvement Activities

- Public scoping meetings
- Public meetings
- CAC and TAC meetings
- Project website
- Neighborhood/small group informal meetings
- Newsletters
- Project Timeline
- Others? Your ideas requested.



Public Involvement Opportunities to Share with Community

Stay involved in the Harbor Bridge Project by participating in the following:

- Follow the project online:
- Sign up to be on our mailing list
- Attend public meetings and public hearing
- Participate in small stakeholder meetings
- Read our newsletter
- Contact TxDOT Project Manager or Public Information Officer
 - Victor E. Vourcos, P.E. Phone: 361.808.2378
Victor.Vourcos@txdot.gov
 - Tom Tagliabue Phone 361.808.2481 Tom.tagliabue@txdot.gov



Public Comments



Meeting Summary

- Parking lot items
- Ideas for next meeting
- Thank you for your participation