



Texas Department of Transportation Corpus Christi District

U.S. 181 Harbor Bridge Project

Environmental Documentation and Schematic
Development

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

June 21, 2012



Welcome

District Engineer

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Harbor Bridge Project Manager

Texas Department of
Transportation

Corpus Christi District Office



Today's Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Review of ground rules and CAC mission
- Review/group discussion of project Need and Purpose
- Review/group discussion of project alternatives analysis
- Review/group discussion of Harbor Bridge Project status
- Review/group discussion of community impact analysis activities
- Group discussion of public outreach activities including next public meeting
- Public comments
- Meeting summary and plans for next meeting.



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

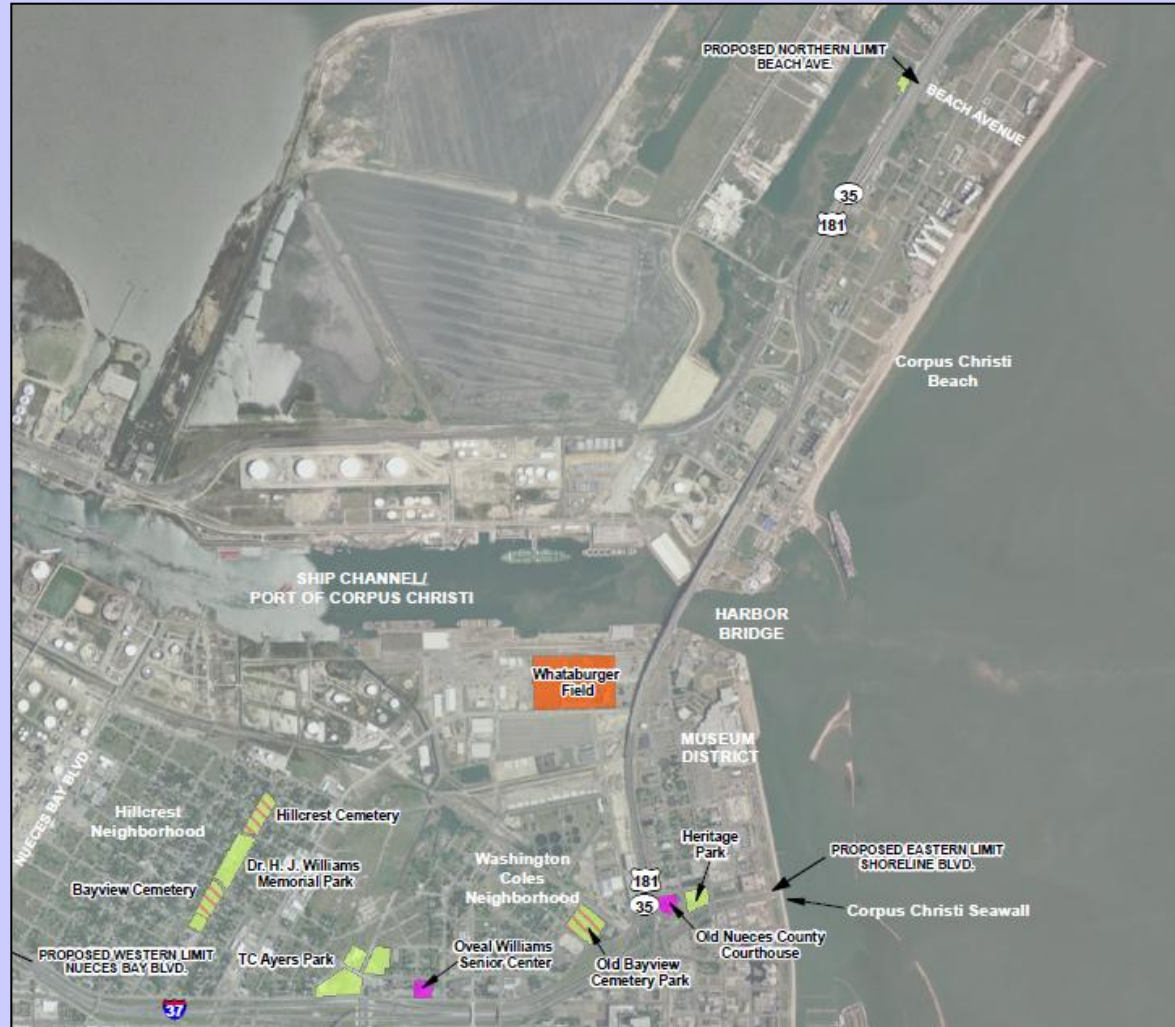
- To receive project team reports on the progress of the project in relationship to established schedules and project milestones.
- To promote public awareness and understanding of the project
- To inform TxDOT on the community's preferences regarding the project as well as the best approach for communicating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

What is the Harbor Bridge Project?

- Proposed improvements to US 181 at the Harbor Bridge at 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 Timeline

Feasibility Study
complete - 2003

2011 – New NOI
published

2011-2012
Scoping Process

First CAC
meeting - 2012

Purpose & Need
Finalized - 2012

2012 - Alternatives
analysis begins

Purpose and Need for Harbor Bridge Project

- Clear, well-justified purpose and need explains that expenditure of funds is necessary and worthwhile, and why impacts are acceptable based on project's importance.
- Purpose and need drives process for alternatives consideration, in-depth analysis, and ultimate selection.



Need for Harbor Bridge Project

To maintain long-term operation of the Harbor Bridge

- Corrosion of bridge steel and continued deterioration
- Harbor Bridge is “fracture critical”
- Increased difficulty and costs associated with maintaining the structure over the long-term



Need for Harbor Bridge Project

To minimize safety risks caused by design deficiencies

- Lack of shoulders on Harbor Bridge/US 181
- Steep grade on bridge and “s” curves on north/south ends of bridge
- US 181 southbound (south of bridge) does not meet current design standards
- Ramp lengths do not providing adequate acceleration/deceleration space
- Hurricane evacuation routes are prone congestion



Objectives of the Harbor Bridge Project

- Objectives fall under Project Needs
 - Used to evaluate alternatives during EIS process
 - Provide transportation infrastructure to expand economic opportunity
 - Consider connection between the bridge/US 181 and local roadways
 - Consider ability to meet future traffic demands on US 181

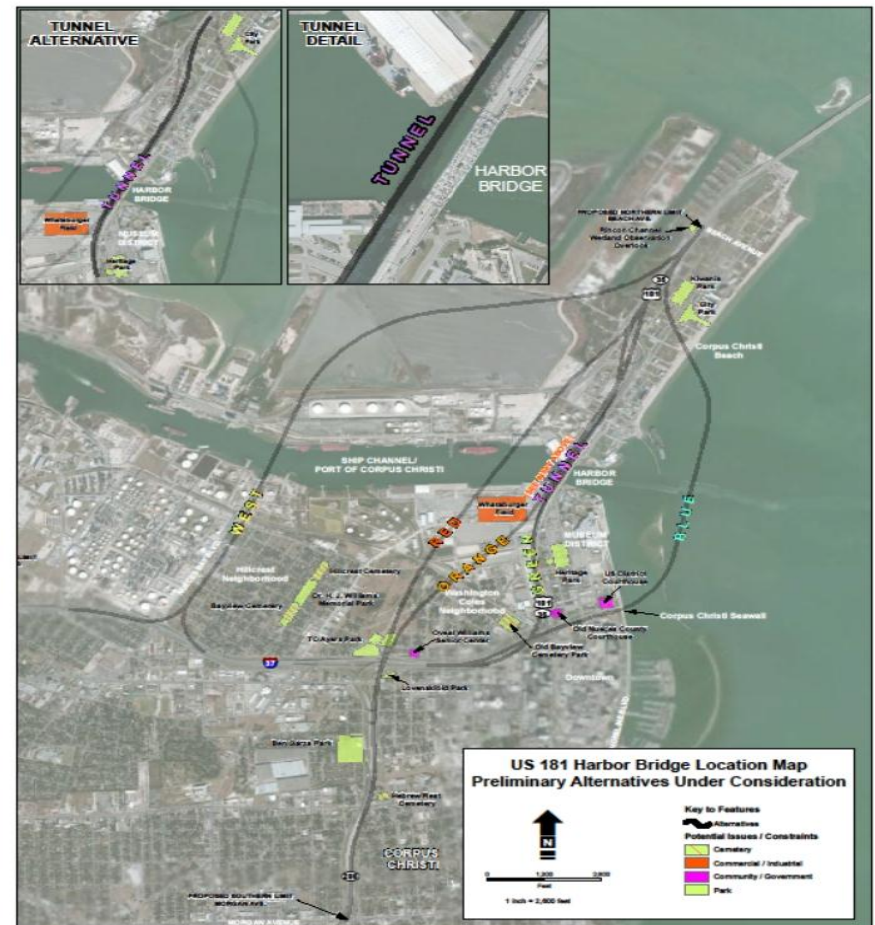


Alternatives Under Consideration

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





Scoping Process Now Complete

- TxDOT/FHWA have refined Purpose and Need
- Six alternatives have been evaluated to see if they meet Purpose and Need
- Four reasonable alternatives (plus the no-build) will be carried forward for analysis in the EIS

Harbor Bridge Project Reasonable Alternatives





Harbor Bridge Project Reasonable Alternatives

- Tunnel alternative eliminated from further consideration because:
 - It did not meet the safety need for the project
 - Does not meet TxDOT's standard for appropriate hurricane evacuation routes for the Corpus Christi Area
- Blue alternative eliminated from further consideration because:
 - It did not meet the safety need for the project
 - Does not meet TxDOT's standard for appropriate hurricane evacuation routes for the Corpus Christi Area



Status of Harbor Bridge Project Activities

Environmental Impact Statement underway: What would be affected if we build this project?

Data collection taking place for potential impacts to:

- Land use
- Ecology
- Socioeconomics of project area
- Neighborhoods and communities
- Air quality
- Hazardous materials
- Historic resources
- Impacts to parks or recreational areas
- Impacts to major existing or planned developments



Community Impact Assessment

- What effect would proposed project have on local communities?
- Important aspect of EIS analysis
- Process for evaluating the effects of proposed transportation projects on a community and the quality of life.



Community Impact Assessment

- Planned activities for assessing community impact in project area
 - Outreach plan for interacting with community groups and individuals
 - Evaluation of census and other socioeconomic data
 - Questionnaires
 - Small group meetings in neighborhood locations this summer and fall
 - Your input is important for addressing community concerns and issues



Coming Up Next on Harbor Bridge Project

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

- CAC and Technical Advisory Group (TAC) meetings – 2012 - 2014
- Public Meeting – 2012
- 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

Public Involvement Activities

- Public meetings
- CAC and TAC meetings
- Project website
- Newsletters
- Neighborhood/small group informal meetings
- 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
 - Public Information. Phone 361.808.2481



Public Comments



Meeting Summary

- Parking lot items
- Topics/information needs for next meeting?
- Meeting times/locations?

Thank you for your participation