



# **Texas Department of Transportation Corpus Christi District**

U.S. 181 Harbor Bridge Project

Environmental Documentation and Schematic  
Development

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

June 21, 2012



# Welcome

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Texas Department of  
Transportation

Corpus Christi District Office



# Today's Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Review of ground rules and TAC 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.



# TAC 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.

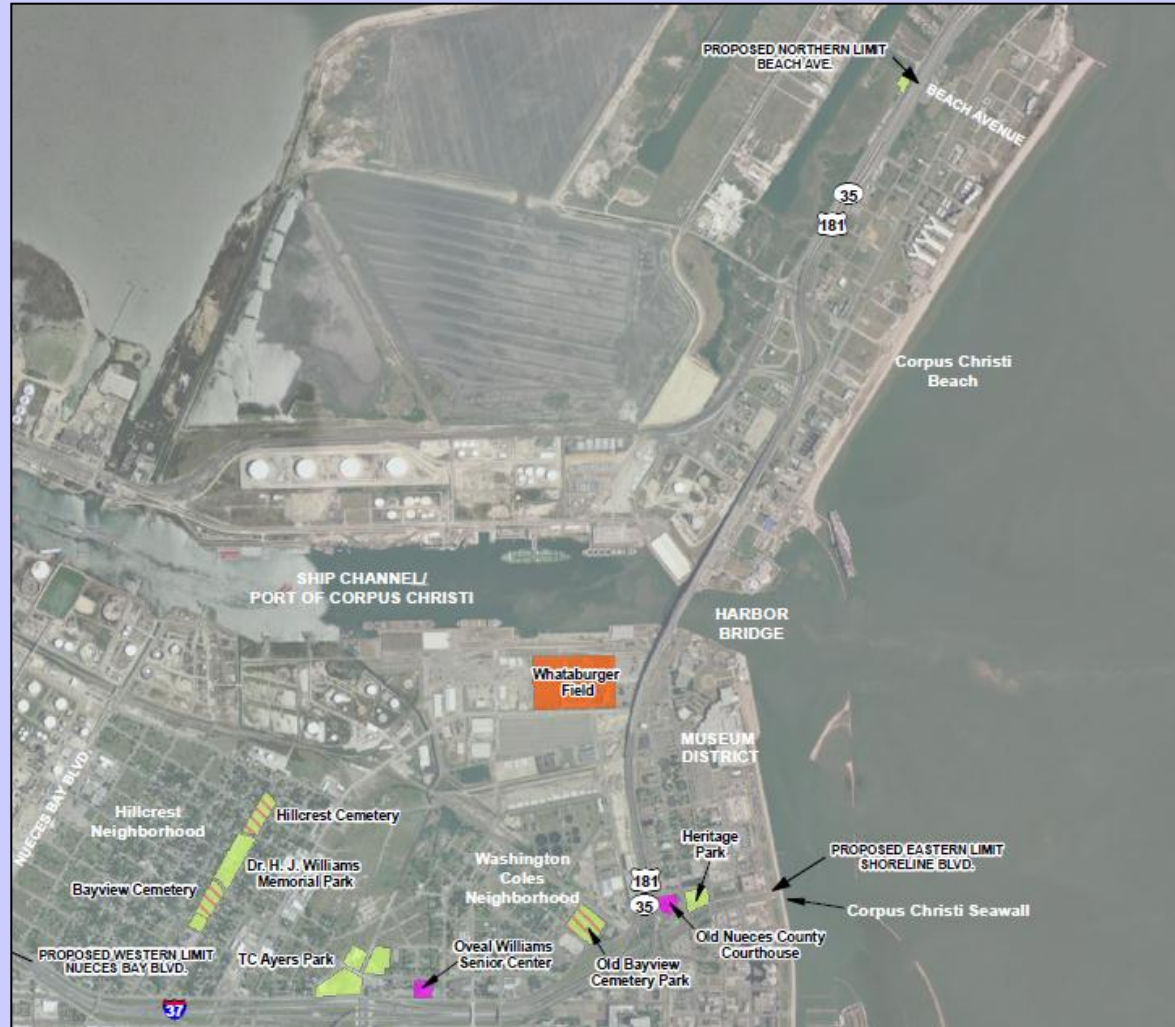
- To review/monitor environmental studies and engineering products, and provide feedback to TxDOT
- To promote public awareness and understanding of the Harbor Bridge Project
- To share information learned at TAC meetings with others in their field and bring back to TAC meetings any feedback received
- To assist TxDOT in identifying environmental impacts and mitigation strategies for those impacts.

# 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

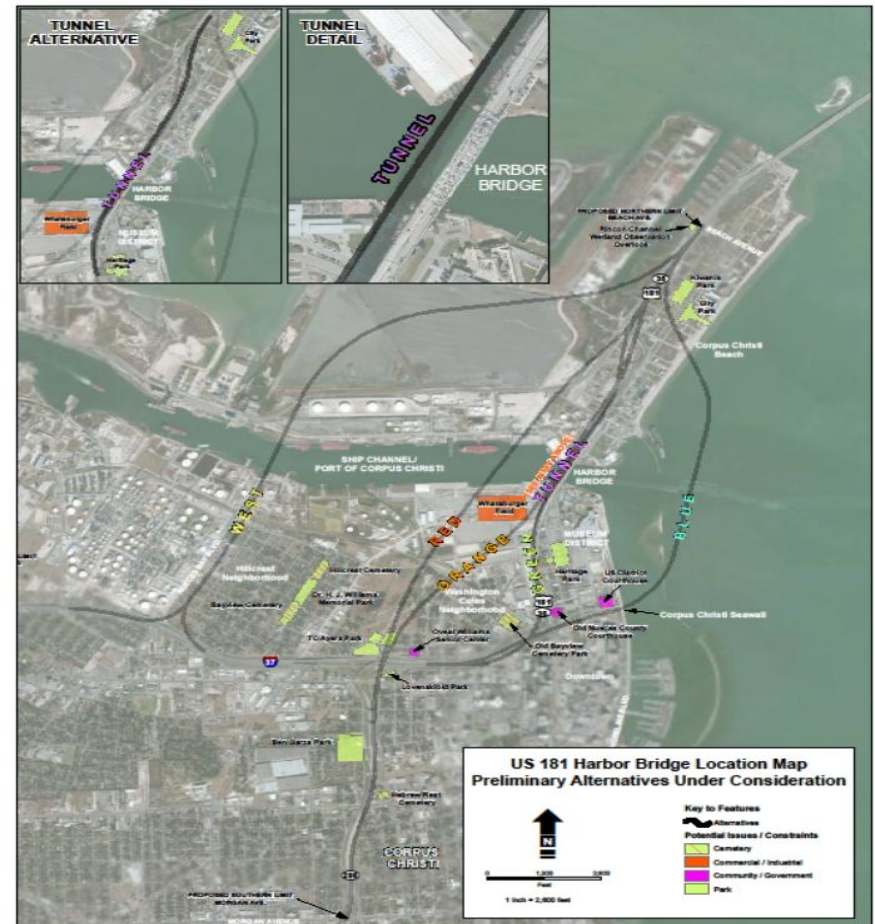


# Alternatives Under Consideration

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Comments



# Meeting Summary

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

Thank you for your participation