Texas Department of Transportation
Corpus Christi District

U.S. 181 Harbor Bridge Project
Environmental Documentation and Schematic Development
Public Scoping Meeting

August 9, 2011
Welcome

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Corpus Christi District Office
Tonight’s Agenda

- 5:30 - 6:30 PM - Open House
- 6:30 PM - Presentation
- 7:00 PM - Public Comment Session
- 8:00 PM - Adjourn
Tonight’s Presentation

- Introductions
- Why a scoping meeting?
- Project phases
- History of Harbor Bridge Project
- Need for the Project
- Current project alternatives
- New project development process
- Environmental and public involvement process
- Project timeline
Why a Scoping Meeting?

- To provide information on the current status of Harbor Bridge project
- To explain environmental, public involvement and engineering design processes
- To listen to your comments
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
Project Phases

- Feasibility Study – Completed in 2003
- Environmental process and schematic development – Now reinitiated
- Public involvement continuous throughout project development
- Environmental documentation approved
- Right-of-Way mapping/acquisition
- Preparation of detailed construction plan
- Construction
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 new procedures
- 2011 – New Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement published
- Tonight is the initiation of a new scoping process
Summary of Feasibility Study

- Determined purpose and need for improved Harbor Bridge
- Looked at feasibility of various corridors
- Considered input from the public and other stakeholders
- Identified and evaluated corridors for Harbor Bridge
Feasibility Study
Harbor Bridge Corridors
Summary of Feasibility Study

- **Red Corridor** received the highest ranking

- However, **All** corridors, including the No-Build, to be considered during the current EIS process
Need for Harbor Bridge Improvement

- Safety issues and roadway deficiencies
  - Steep vertical grades
  - Lack of shoulders
  - Sharp horizontal curves
- Connectivity to local streets
- Enhanced navigation and economic development of the Port of Corpus Christi
- High maintenance costs
- Hurricane evacuation
The four alternatives (plus the No Build) brought forward from the Feasibility Study are shown on the next slide:

- Red Alternative
- Orange Alternative
- Green Alternative
- Blue Alternative

The intent of the project is to replace the existing bridge.
US 181 Harbor Bridge Location Map
Current Alternatives - Preliminary Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Issue for Alternative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Build</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice Neighborhoods</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands, Ecology, and Threatened/Endangered Species</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazardous Material Sites</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic Resources including Existing Bridge</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Substantial Right-of-Way Needed</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impacts to Parks or Recreation Areas</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impacts to Major Existing or Planned Developments</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Considerations</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design Standards</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Cost*</td>
<td>None</td>
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</tbody>
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*All costs are preliminary based on current available engineering in order to provide an order of magnitude estimate.
New Project Development Process

• Project will be developed under SAFETEA-LU
  – Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users,” Federal transportation bill enacted on August 10, 2005

• What does this mean?
  – Requires preparation of a Coordination Plan
  – Input from the public, federal and state agencies
New Project Development Process

• What is a Coordination Plan?
  – A plan to facilitate and document TxDOT’s interaction with the public and agencies
  – Informs the public and agencies of how the Coordination Plan will be coordinated and revised
  – The Coordination Plan will promote an efficient and streamlined process
  – Encourages the public and agency participation in the project development including the Need & Purpose and Project Build Alternatives
Alternative Evaluation Process

- Evaluation criteria developed for all alternatives
- Criteria fall into three categories:
  - Environmental/Public Involvement Issues
  - Traffic/Planning
  - Engineering
- Each alternative will be evaluated and ranked
- The evaluation and rankings will be shown at the public meeting and the public hearing
Harbor Bridge Timeline

Prepare Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) followed by 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
- Prepare and review final environmental document – 2014 - 2017
- Public involvement throughout process
- Environmental Clearance - ROD issued 2017 or as early as 2014
Harbor Bridge Timeline

- 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 Opportunities

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

- Public scoping meetings (today and later this year)
- Follow the project online: www.ccharborbridgeproject.com
- Sign up to be on our mailing list (tonight or on the website)
- Attend public meetings and public hearing
- Participate in small stakeholder meetings
- Read our newsletter
- Participate in the Citizens’ Advisory Committee
- Contact TxDOT Project Manager or Public Information Officer