

Texas Transportation Commission Focuses on Maritime

The Commission will be traveling to Houston for the upcoming June Commission meeting. Look for additional activities highlighting the maritime industry in Texas that week.

Houston Ship Channel Tour

- Wednesday, June 25th, 8:15am at the Battleship Texas State Historic Site

Commission Workshop

- Wednesday, June 25th, 2:00pm at the Landry's Seafood Restaurant in Kemah, Texas

Commission Meeting

- Thursday, June 26th, 9:00am at the Bayport Cruise Terminal

For more details contact the Maritime Division

Next issue:

The GIWW Study
Texas Global Gateway Program

After A Year of Touring, It All Comes Down to the Final Report

The Texas Port Report, which is the first detailed inventory of port assets and the port community created by the state, is nearing completion. The report will be presented to the Transportation Commission on June 25, 2014 at the Commission Workshop in Kemah, Texas. For many ports, this was the first official visit by a Transportation Commissioner.

The contents of the report will assist readers with developing a baseline understanding of the volume and types of maritime cargoes being handled at Texas ports, the ports' existing infrastructure and the current needs and concerns among port administrators.

Each port is cataloged by amount of tonnage handled and type of cargo



handled. Additionally, the report contains a matrix of port assets, that includes channel depth, rail and road connectivity, equipment, etc.

Commissioner Moseley and TxDOT believe this report highlights the value of Texas' ports to the Texas economy which, in turn, will help identify opportunities for strategic investments for

Texas.

Although the tours revealed numerous items needing attention at various ports, the one thing they all have in common is the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). Look for TxDOT's extensive study on the GIWW to be released July 2014.

WRRDA 2014 Conference Report Agreement Passed

It's an exciting time for the port and maritime industries! Both the US House and Senate have approved the Water Resources Reform and Development Act and it's on its way to the President's desk for signature.

Several Texas

dredging project authorizations are included: The Sabine Neches Waterway Channel Improvement Project, the Freeport Harbor Improvement Project, and the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Project modification. Also included is a requirement for the US Army Corps of Engineers

(USACE) to perform an assessment of the GIWW, innovative financing programs such as WIFIA and the P3 Pilot Program, and USACE permit process streamlining.

This is good news for Texas ports and waterway operators.

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Calendar of Events

- ◆ **June 24th** - PAAC Meeting, 1 PM, Houston District Office
- ◆ **June 25th** - Port of Houston Tour/Maritime Workshop
- ◆ **June 26th** - Transportation Commission Mtg, 9 AM, Bayport Cruise Terminal, Port of Houston



Caney Creek Swing Bridge Replacement: New permanent structure to provide safer passage for waterway operators

TxDOT is proud to announce that the Sargent Swing Bridge, also known as the Caney Creek Bridge, is to be replaced with a concrete bridge that would span the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) and provide reliable access across the GIWW, linking the barrier island to the mainland. The current bridge is in need of replacement due to its age and high maintenance costs. The current design interrupts vehicular access and is a potential hazard to barge traffic. Just recently, the bridge was struck by a barge and had to be taken out of service.

“It’s a little sad to see the old bridge go” says Dan Harmon, Director of TxDOT Maritime, “because it is one of the only swing type bridges around anymore but the transportation demands of our times requires that



vehicle and barge traffic be uninterrupted and unrestricted.”

A new corkscrew type bridge is proposed to accommodate the limited amount of space and the height requirement. The project is just beginning preliminary environmental and design processes, which usually take a few years to complete. TxDOT held a citizen workshop in the fall of 2013 to get feedback from the community on preliminary design options and will continue to involve citizens during the environmental study process.

Texas Transportation Plan 2040 - Your Opinion Matters!

TxDOT is updating the state long range transportation plan and needs your input. Open houses will be held across the state in June, July and August.

Please attend and make sure maritime interests are included in the plan. Visit the website below for more information, a schedule of public meetings and an online survey.

<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/transportation-planning/statewide-plan.html>

Meet Our New Maritime Staff Members!

Matthew Mahoney Waterway Coordinator

Matthew Mahoney P.G., a coastal geologist with 30 years of professional experience, has been actively working on the Texas coast for the past 16 years with the Bureau of Economic Geology-Coastal Studies, Texas General Land Office-Coastal Resources, and in private consulting conducting coastal planning and restoration projects, dredging projects beneficial use projects, regional sediment management analysis, grant initiatives, and erosion/shoreline studies.

Michael Perez Port Coordinator

Michael Perez has 30 years of total maritime experience with 20 years of senior port administrative experience. His prior port experience includes having served as the Assistant Director of Trade Development for the Port of Tampa, Director of Maritime Marketing for the Port of Manatee-Florida, Director of Business Development for the Port of Corpus Christi-Texas, Port Director at the Port of St. Petersburg-Florida and Port Director for the Port of Harlingen, Texas.