



600 W. Interstate 2 | PHARR, TEXAS 78577-1231 | (956) 702-6000 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

September 3, 2020

Doug Blakemore  
Chief, Bridge Administration Branch  
Eighth Coast Guard District  
500 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
70130-3310

**Re: CSJ 0331-04-069 Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway Maintenance Project**

Dear Mr. Blakemore:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proposes to conduct maintenance repair work on the existing structures at the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway (QIMC) (Bridge ID Number: 21-031-0-0331-04-005) located on Park Road (PR) 100 in Cameron County, Texas. The QIMC is located approximately 21 miles south of the mouth of the Arroyo Colorado cut off in Cameron County, and 665.4 miles from the Harvey Canal Lock in Louisiana. The QIMC connects the cities of Port Isabel and South Padre Island. TxDOT owns and manages the QIMC which is approximately 2.4 miles long as it crosses Laguna Madre/Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) channel at mile point 665.4 and is located at:

Latitude (D/M/S): 26N 05' 11.25"

GPS LAT. (DEG.) 26.08645786

Longitude (D/M/S): 97W 10' 47.80"

GPS LONG (DEG.) 097.19794398

TxDOT's proposed plan is to conduct repairs and maintenance on several structures of the existing bridge for cathodic protection. The proposed maintenance project would be an in-kind replacement and includes the following work:

- Bridge Top & Under Deck Repair
- -Clean and Paint the middle steel beams
- -Installation of Cathodic Protection System on bridge substructure
- -Installing Remote Monitoring Cathodic Protection along the bridge over-hang
- -FRP Jacket Encapsulation of the on bents 34 to 37

The proposed maintenance work will occur from work barges throughout the length of the bridge. The bridge's existing horizontal clearance (275') and vertical clearance (73') will remain the same. The proposed work could limit a vessel's ability to navigate thru the GIWW under the QIMC during the proposed work schedule. Please reference the list of navigability obstructions.

- Channel Obstruction: During fender repairs a 40x40ft barge will be in the water
- Height Obstruction: During painting the height clearance will be affected
- Equipment: Barge, which will be properly lit if night work is needed

TxDOT will place a paint containment system below the bridge all work will be enclosed/ self-contained so that particulates will not enter into the air or water. All excess material would be hauled away and deposited in an upland site. Please reference the attached work plan. A notice to Mariners would be issued prior to the start of construction and after the project is complete

TxDOT would like to request concurrence from your office for the proposed QIMC maintenance repair project. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at (956) 702-6130 or James Lozano-Fuentes at (956)702-6230.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Robin Gelston*  
9B26BBA137CF452...

Robin Gelston  
TxDOT Pharr District  
Environmental Supervisor/Coordinator

**Attachment: Work Plan**



715 Wesley Avenue, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
www.southernrb.com Direct (727)940-5395 Fax (727)499-7158

August 19, 2020

Mr. Doug Blakemore  
Chief, Bridge Administration Branch  
Eighth Coast Guard District  
500 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Mr. Blakemore,

For the Bridge Repairs Project BR 2020(709) on the Queen Isabella Causeway in Cameron County, TX, the project specifics for the bridge repairs are as follows:

1. Administrative Information

- a. Bridge owner address
  - 1350 E. US Hwy 77 San Benito, Texas 78586
- b. Bridge type (fixed, draw), name and location
  - Fixed, Queen Isabella Causeway, PR 100, Cameron County, TX
- c. Waterway and waterway mile
  - Laguna Madre [26°45'N 97°25'W](#)
- d. Bridge vertical and horizontal clearance
  - +275'-0"
- e. Project manager name, phone number, email address
  - Carlos Ceballos Jr., P.E., (956) 399-5102, [Carlos.Ceballos@txdot.gov](mailto:Carlos.Ceballos@txdot.gov)
- f. Summary of project activities
  - Bridge Top & Under Deck Repair
  - Clean and Paint the middle steel beams
  - Installation of Cathodic Protection System on bridge substructure
  - Installing Remote monitoring Cathodic Protection along the bridge over-hang
  - FRP Jacket Encapsulation of the on bents 34 to 37
- g. Contractors or consultants designated to represent the bridge owner on the project (if any)
  - Southern Road & Bridge, LLC,
  - Project Manager – Ryan Finnie, (321) 501-3936, [RFinnie@SouthernRB.com](mailto:RFinnie@SouthernRB.com)

2. Description of vessel types, numbers that use the waterway.

- Barges 40FT x 80FT
- Wooden Floats ranging from 4FT x 8FT to 8FT x 20FT
- Boats; 8FT x 43FT, 8FT x 30FT, Two 16FT long boats

3. General work plan that provides the following:

- a. Start and end dates of the project
  - 10/01/2020 to 4/30/2022
- b. Days of the week (ex. Mondays through Fridays) and times (ex. 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day) c. that work will take place
  - Monday thru Saturday 7 am to 7 pm
- d. Contact information for the person in charge of onsite construction activities
  - Project Manager – Ryan Finnie, (321) 501-3936, [RFinnie@SouthernRB.com](mailto:RFinnie@SouthernRB.com)
- e. Contact information for the person in charge of all waterborne activities
  - Project Manager – Ryan Finnie, (321) 501-3936, [RFinnie@SouthernRB.com](mailto:RFinnie@SouthernRB.com)
- f. A summary of construction, repair or rehabilitation activities
  - Bridge Top & Under Deck Repair
  - Clean and Paint the middle steel beams
  - Installation of Cathodic Protection System on bridge substructure
  - Installing Remote monitoring Cathodic Protection along the bridge over-hang
  - FRP Jacket Encapsulation of the on bents 34 to 37
- g. Description and dates of any project phases
  - PHASE 1A - BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS & JOINT REPLACEMENT (EASTBOUND DIRECTION - OUTSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 2A BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS & JOINT REPLACEMENT (EASTBOUND DIRECTION - INSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 3A - BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS & JOINT REPLACEMENT (WESTBOUND DIRECTION - INSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 4A - BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS & JOINT REPLACEMENT (WESTBOUND DIRECTION - OUTSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 1 B - SURFACE TREATMENT (EASTBOUND DIRECTION – OUTSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 2B - SURFACE TREATMENT (EASTBOUND DIRECTION – INSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 3B - SURFACE TREATMENT (WESTBOUND DIRECTION – INSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 4B - SURFACE TREATMENT (WESTBOUND DIRECTION – OUTSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 1C - MULTI-LAYER POLYMER OVERLAY (EASTBOUND DIRECTION – OUTSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 2C - MULTI-LAYER POLYMER OVERLAY (EASTBOUND DIRECTION – INSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 3C - MULTI-LAYER POLYMER OVERLAY (WESTBOUND DIRECTION – INSIDE)
  
  - PHASE 4C - MULTI-LAYER POLYMER OVERLAY <WESTBOUND DIRECTION – OUTSIDE)

4. Project activities that impact the bridge vertical clearance (ex. paint containment system, snooper truck)

a. The amount of reduction (measured in feet) to the vertical clearance  
- 3 FT

b. The dates and times of these activities

PHASE 1A

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| CONC STR REPAIR (DECK REP(PART DEPTH))  | 10/5/2020 to 11/6/2020 |
| CONC STR REPAIR (DECK REP (FULL DEPTH)) | 10/5/2020 to 11/6/2020 |
| CONC STR REPAIR (VERTICAL & OVER- HEAD) | 10/5/2020 to 11/6/2020 |
| CNC CRACK REPAIR (DISCRETE)(INJECT)     | 10/5/2020 to 11/6/2020 |
| BRIDGE JOINT REPLACEMENT (SEJ)          | 10/5/2020 to 11/6/2020 |

PHASE 2A

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| CONC STR REPAIR (DECK REP(PART DEPTH))  | 11/9/2020 to 12/4/2020 |
| CONC STR REPAIR (DECK REP (FULL DEPTH)) | 11/9/2020 to 12/4/2020 |
| CONC STR REPAIR (VERTICAL & OVER- HEAD) | 11/9/2020 to 12/4/2020 |
| CNC CRACK REPAIR (DISCRETE)(INJECT)     | 11/9/2020 to 12/4/2020 |
| BRIDGE JOINT REPLACEMENT (SEJ)          | 11/9/2020 to 12/4/2020 |

PHASE 3A

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| CONC STR REPAIR (DECK REP(PART DEPTH))  | 12/7/2020 to 12/20/2020 |
| CONC STR REPAIR (DECK REP (FULL DEPTH)) | 12/7/2020 to 12/20/2020 |
| CONC STR REPAIR (VERTICAL & OVER- HEAD) | 12/7/2020 to 12/20/2020 |
| CNC CRACK REPAIR (DISCRETE)(INJECT)     | 12/7/2020 to 12/20/2020 |
| BRIDGE JOINT REPLACEMENT (SEJ)          | 12/7/2020 to 12/20/2020 |

PHASE 4A

|   |          |           |
|---|----------|-----------|
| CONC STR REPAIR (DECK REP(PART DEPTH))  | 1/4/2021 | 1/17/2021 |
| CONC STR REPAIR (DECK REP (FULL DEPTH)) | 1/4/2021 | 1/17/2021 |
| CONC STR REPAIR (VERTICAL & OVER- HEAD) | 1/4/2021 | 1/17/2021 |
| CNC CRACK REPAIR (DISCRETE)(INJECT)     | 1/4/2021 | 1/17/2021 |
| BRIDGE JOINT REPLACEMENT (SEJ)          | 1/4/2021 | 1/17/2021 |

5. Project activities that impact the bridge horizontal clearance (ex. scaffolding, cofferdam)

a. The amount of reduction (measured in feet) to the horizontal clearance  
- 80 FT

b. The dates and times of these activities  
- 01/04/2020 to 03/26/2021

6. Project activities that will require the use of vessels, barges or waterborne platforms (ex. crane barge)

a. Names, type and size of each waterborne platform  
-Poseidon Deck Barges- Crane will be on the Barge

- b. General locations of waterborne platform during the activity (ex. deck barge located behind the bridge protection system, not in the main channel)
  - Poseidon Deck barges used for fender system repair from 01/04/2020 to 03/26/2020. This will be in the main channel hence reducing the horizontal clearance
  - Wooden floats and Poseidon barges will be used during the periods of 01/04/2020 to 04/30/2022
- c. Dates and times that each waterborne platform will be deployed
  - Wooden floats and Poseidon barges will be used during the periods of 01/04/2020 to 04/30/2022
  - Poseidon Deck barges used for fender system repair from 01/04/2020 to 03/26/2020. This will be in the main channel hence reducing the horizontal clearance
- d. Location of all waterborne platforms when they are not deployed or in use (end of each work day)
  - Barges and all vessels will be stored behind the bridge protection system( not in the main channel)
- e. Name of onsite vessel or person that can be contacted by other vessels to arrange passing movements through the bridge. Include contact radio frequency (s) and or phone number.
  - Ryan Finnie 321-501-3936
  - Radio Frequency channel 21

7. For drawbridges – N/A

- a. Current operating schedule
- b. Proposed operating schedule (specific dates, times)
- c. Bridge tender logs for previous 3 months

8. Any anticipated waterway restrictions or safety measures that are needed to support the project. A waterway restriction is defined to be any reduction of the bridges vertical or horizontal clearance. Vessels or barges working in the channel are considered to be a waterway restriction.

- Platform will be installed to facilitate the painting of steel beams. This will reduce the vertical clearance by a maximum of 2.5 feet.
- Horizontal clearance will be reduced by maximum of 80 feet when performing repairs on the fender system

9. Identification of alternate waterway routes that vessels could use during the project.

- Southern Road and Bridge will move to allow the bigger vessels to pass as long as we are given 45 minutes minimum advance notice

10. Steps taken by the bridge owner or designated party to inform the vessel operations, mariners or industries that use the waterway of requested waterway restrictions

- We have notified the USCG and local authorities of the project so they are able to make the proper arrangements and notify mariners, 7 AM to 7 PM, Monday - Saturday