

# Virtual Public Hearing – Acquisition of PA 41 Gulf Intercoastal Waterway (GIWW) Dredge Material Placement Area Parcel

Slide 1



Welcome to the TxDOT Maritime Division Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (commonly known as the GIWW) Dredge Material Placement Area (PA) 41 pre-recorded Virtual Public Hearing. TxDOT is proposing to acquire a parcel of land to use as a placement area for materials dredged from the GIWW in Galveston County, Texas.

## Slide 2




The slide features a blue header with the Texas Department of Transportation logo and the slogan "Connecting you with Texas". The main content is titled "Virtual Public Hearing Agenda" and lists six items: 1 | Welcome, 4 | Purpose and Need, 7 | TAC Requirements and Outreach, 9 | Project Location, Details and Key Facts, 11 | Timeline, and 14 | Public Comment Process. A portrait of Geir-Ellif Kalhagen is shown with a blue line pointing to his name and title: "Geir-Ellif Kalhagen, TxDOT Maritime Division Director and Public Hearing Officer". A small blue number "2" is in the bottom right corner.

My name is Lauren Macias-Cervantes and I would like to welcome you and also thank you for watching this virtual public hearing that was shared with the public starting on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025. I am a TxDOT Public Information Officer, but I am serving as your presenter on behalf of the Maritime Division.

We'll be covering the following areas:


- Public hearing purpose, project purpose and need;
- Texas Administrative Code (or TAC) requirements and outreach;
- Project location, details and key facts;
- Timeline;
- Public Comment Process; and finally: Adjournment – we'll conclude this video presentation.

## Slide 3

 Texas Department of Transportation Connecting you with Texas.

### Safety Minute – How to Drive Like a Texan

- Don't drive while emotions are high
- Know before you go
- Don't text and drive
- Don't speed
- Be the person who de-escalates a situation. That is someone's loved one in the other car.
- Be Kind and Courteous



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### **Now for our safety minute, How to Drive like a Texan.**

Living the values of “Drive like a Texan” doesn’t require heroic effort. It is not difficult or complicated. It’s simple and a great opportunity to demonstrate what it means to be a good Texan whenever you’re on the road.

- Remember that everyone else on the road has a family and loved ones.
- If you feel angry or anxious, take a couple of deep breaths, and keep your eyes on the road. Focus on where you’re headed instead of what’s happened to make you mad.
- Always know where you’re going BEFORE you start driving. Do not navigate while you drive. It’s dangerous and potentially deadly to you and every car around you.
- Phones are dangerous. Sometimes fatal. Never text while driving. Never watch a video.
- Speeding doesn’t work. It seldom gets you where you’re going much more quickly, and the potential for a bad outcome rises as you increase your speed.
- Courtesy and respect always beat impatience and anger, whether you’re on an expressway or in a parking lot. Be the person who de-escalates a situation.
- Always wave, “Thanks,” when someone lets you merge. People notice and appreciate it.

## Slide 4

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### Purpose of the Virtual Public Hearing

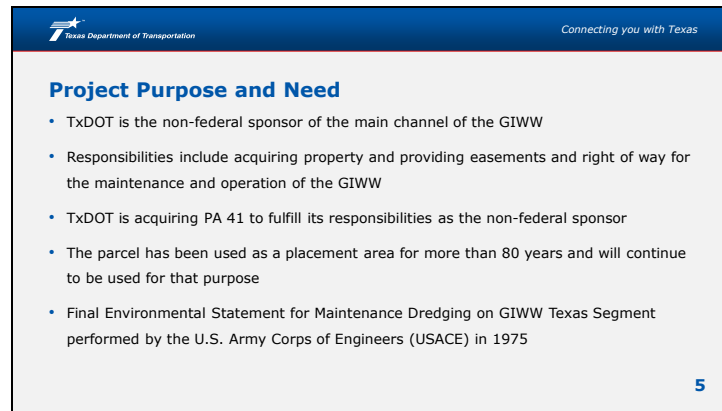
- **The purpose of the virtual public hearing is to provide information on the proposed acquisition of land to continue use as a placement area for materials dredged from the GIWW in Galveston County, Texas and to receive public comment.**



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## Slide 5



The slide features a blue header with the Texas Department of Transportation logo and the slogan "Connecting you with Texas". The main content is titled "Project Purpose and Need" and contains a bulleted list of five points. A small blue number "5" is located in the bottom right corner of the slide frame.

**Project Purpose and Need**

- TxDOT is the non-federal sponsor of the main channel of the GIWW
- Responsibilities include acquiring property and providing easements and right of way for the maintenance and operation of the GIWW
- TxDOT is acquiring PA 41 to fulfill its responsibilities as the non-federal sponsor
- The parcel has been used as a placement area for more than 80 years and will continue to be used for that purpose
- Final Environmental Statement for Maintenance Dredging on GIWW Texas Segment performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1975

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In 1975, TxDOT was named the non-federal sponsor of the main channel of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. As the non-federal sponsor, TxDOT is responsible for acquiring property, and providing easements and right of way for the maintenance and operation of the GIWW. TxDOT is required to provide the real estate for the placement areas to accommodate the ongoing needs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging program.

TxDOT is acquiring the placement area to fulfill its responsibilities as the non-federal sponsor.

This parcel has been used as placement areas for more than 80 years and will continue to be used for that purpose.

The Army Corps performed an environmental review of the Texas Segment of the GIWW in 1975. No problems were found with Placement Area 41.

## Slide 6

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### GIWW – Key Facts




- The GIWW stretches 1,100 miles from Florida to Brownsville, Texas
- The 379-mile segment in Texas connects 12 deep-draft and 11 shallow-draft commercial ports and 2 recreational ports
- It is the third-busiest inland waterway in the U.S. and the Texas segment carried 80 million tons of cargo in 2018
- 92% of cargo is classified as petroleum or chemical products
- The GIWW helps reduce congestion on roads and reduces emissions

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We thought it would also be interesting to share some key facts about the importance of the GIWW:


- The GIWW stretches 1,100 miles from Florida to Brownsville, Texas;
- The 379-mile segment in Texas connects 12 deep-draft and 11 shallow-draft commercial ports;
- It is the third-busiest inland waterway in the U.S. and the Texas segment carried 80 million tons of cargo in 2018;
- 92 percent of cargo is classified as petroleum or chemical products; and finally
- The GIWW helps reduce congestion on the road and reduces emissions.

## Slide 7

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### Dredging Purpose

- Dredging is the removal of sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbors, and other bodies of water
- Dredging is a routine necessity in waterways because sedimentation — the natural process of sand and silt washing downstream — gradually fills channels and harbors
- The GIWW requires ongoing dredging to remove the sediment and maintain the proper depths for waterway traffic



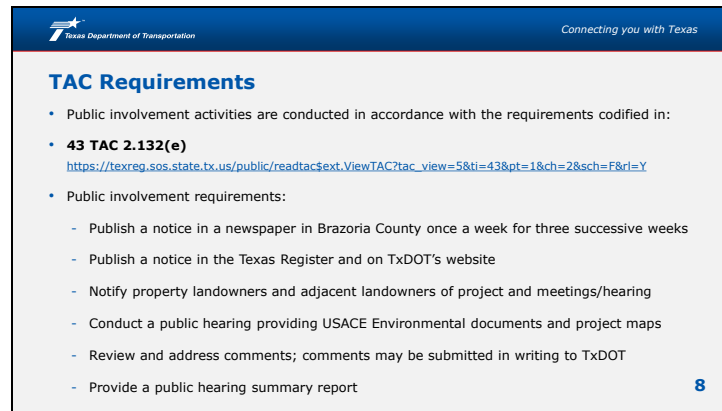
The project location provides a placement area for dredged materials; in this portion of the GIWW sediment builds up quickly, on average over two feet per year.

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Let's also cover the purpose of dredging and why this process is necessary:

- Dredging is the removal of sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbors, and other bodies of water
- Dredging is a routine necessity in waterways because sedimentation — the natural process of sand and silt washing downstream—gradually fills channels and harbors
- The GIWW requires ongoing dredging to remove the sediment and maintain the proper depths for waterway traffic
- The project location provides a placement area for dredged materials; in this portion of the GIWW, sediment builds up quickly - on average over two feet per year

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**TAC Requirements**

- Public involvement activities are conducted in accordance with the requirements codified in:
- **43 TAC 2.132(e)**  
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?ac\\_view=5&ti=43&pt=1&ch=2&sch=F&rl=Y](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?ac_view=5&ti=43&pt=1&ch=2&sch=F&rl=Y)
- Public involvement requirements:
  - Publish a notice in a newspaper in Brazoria County once a week for three successive weeks
  - Publish a notice in the Texas Register and on TxDOT's website
  - Notify property landowners and adjacent landowners of project and meetings/hearing
  - Conduct a public hearing providing USACE Environmental documents and project maps
  - Review and address comments; comments may be submitted in writing to TxDOT
  - Provide a public hearing summary report

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TxDOT is required to conduct this public hearing in accordance with the Texas Administrative Code. As part of this public involvement activity, TxDOT must complete the following:

- Publish a notice in a newspaper in Galveston county once a week for three successive weeks
- Publish a notice in the Texas Register and on TxDOT's website
- Notify property landowners and adjacent landowners of project and meetings/hearing
- Conduct a public hearing providing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Environmental documents and project maps
- Review and address comments; comments may be submitted in writing to TxDOT
- Provide a public hearing summary report



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**Public Involvement Outreach and Advertising**

- TxDOT Website Posting
  - Nov. 13, 2024
- *The Daily News*, Galveston County
  - English legal notice advertisement #1: Nov. 13, 2024
  - Spanish legal notice advertisement: Nov. 20, 2024
  - English legal notice advertisement #2: Nov. 27, 2024
- Texas Register Posting
  - Dec. 6, 2024
- Property Owner Signature Required Notification
  - Dec. X, 2024


**Virtual Public Hearing**  
Virtual: Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, by 5 p.m. CT

USACE Environmental Documents are viewable on the online public hearing page at:  
<https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings/maritime/2025/acquisition-of-pa-012825.html>

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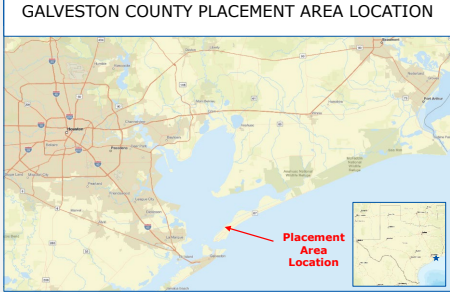
This provides some additional details about public outreach and advertising dates as well as access to the USACE Environmental Documents. [PAUSE FOR A FEW SECONDS FOR THE PUBLIC TO REVIEW]

## Slide 10

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### Project Location

**GALVESTON COUNTY PLACEMENT AREA LOCATION**




- TxDOT is acquiring the property to fulfill its responsibilities as the non-federal sponsor of the GIWW.
- The property has been used as a placement areas for over 80 years and will continue to be used for that purpose.
- Right of way and displacement requirements are not applicable for this acquisition.


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The property is located on Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County. To reiterate – the property has been used as a placement areas for over 80 years and will continue to be used for that purpose. Right of way and displacement requirements are not applicable for this acquisition.

## Slide 11

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### Project Details

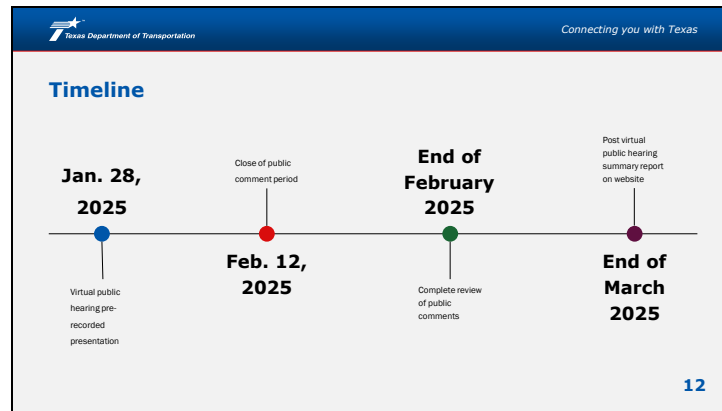


**PA 41 is a 255.881-acre parcel of land in the Samuel Parr Survey, Abstract Number 162 and Abraham Van Nordstrand Survey No. 203, Galveston County, Texas.**

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This map shows a little greater detail on the specific location of the parcel area. PA 41 is a parcel of land spanning 255.881-acres in the Samuel Parr Survey, Abstract Number 162 and Abraham Van Nordstrand Survey No. 203, Galveston County, Texas, near the GIWW. An abstract number refers to land assigned a number by the General Land Office of Texas. The abstract number is unique to the county.


## Slide 12




The process and timeline of this virtual public hearing includes:


- The pre-recorded virtual public hearing presentation will be posted on [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) on Jan. 28, 2025;
- The comment period closes on Feb. 12, 2025; and
- By the end of February 2025, TxDOT will complete a review of public comments.
- The virtual public hearing summary report will be posted on the TxDOT website by the end of March.

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### How to Submit Your Written Comments

- **Email:** [Ray.Newby@txdot.gov](mailto:Ray.Newby@txdot.gov)
- **Mail:**  
Ray Newby, Waterways Program Coordinator  
TxDOT Stassney Campus  
6320 E. Stassney Drive  
Austin, Texas 78744
- **Submit Online:**
  - Visit [txdot.gov](http://txdot.gov) and search "PA 41 Virtual Public Hearing"
  - Then click 



*Comments must be received or postmarked by Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, to be included in the Virtual Public Hearing summary report*

<https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings/maritime/2025/acquisition-of-pa-012825.html> 13

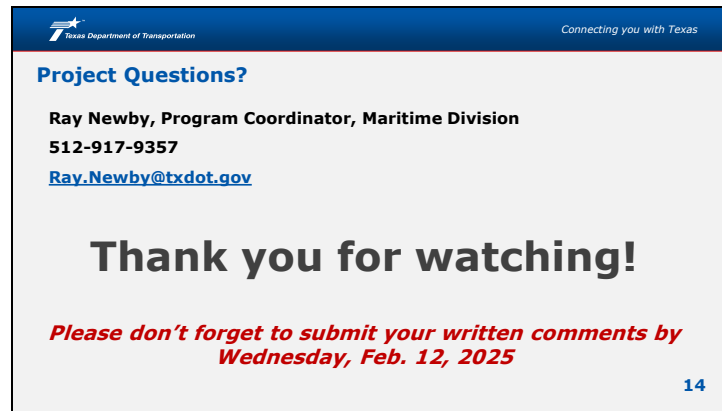
TxDOT is encouraging written comments. Comments must be received or postmarked by Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, to be included in the Virtual Public Hearing summary report. You can submit written comments in the following ways:


- Email your comments to: [ray.newby@txdot.gov](mailto:ray.newby@txdot.gov)
- Mail your comments to: Ray Newby, Waterways Program Coordinator at the Texas Department of Transportation Stassney Campus, 6230 E. Stassney Drive, Austin, Texas 78744
- Submit your comments online:
  - Visit [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)
  - In the "Search TxDOT" box in the upper-right hand corner, enter: PA 41 Virtual Public Hearing
  - Click on the "Submit Your Comments" button at the top right of the page, or click on the Email link at the bottom of the page

Again - Most importantly: Please be sure to submit your written comments no later than Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, to be included in the virtual public hearing summary report. This report will be posted to the TxDOT website within the next few months.

We appreciate your understanding with this comment process.

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**Project Questions?**

**Ray Newby, Program Coordinator, Maritime Division**  
**512-917-9357**  
[Ray.Newby@txdot.gov](mailto:Ray.Newby@txdot.gov)

**Thank you for watching!**

*Please don't forget to submit your written comments by  
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025*

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If you have any questions about this project, please don't hesitate to contact TxDOT. The phone number is listed here.

Thank you for watching! Please don't forget to submit your written comments by Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025.