



Virtual Public Hearing: PA 86E and PA 86F Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) Dredge Material Placement Area Parcels

TxDOT Maritime Division (MRD)

June 8, 2021

CSJ: 5500-00-033



June 8, 2021

Welcome to the TxDOT Maritime Division Placement Area (PA) 86E and PA 86F Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (commonly known as the GIWW) Dredge Material Placement pre-recorded Virtual Public Hearing. TxDOT is proposing to acquire two separate parcels of land to use as placement areas for materials dredged from the GIWW in Brazoria County, Texas.

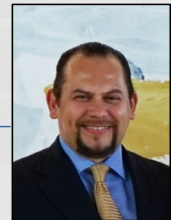
Virtual Public Hearing Agenda



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Geir-Eilif Kalhagen, TxDOT Maritime Division
Director and Public Hearing Officer



Octavio Saenz
TxDOT Presenter

My name is Octavio Saenz and I would like to welcome and also thank you for watching this virtual public hearing that was shared with the public starting on June 8, 2021. I am the Public Information Officer for the Pharr District, 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.

Virtual Public Hearing in Response to Public Health



TxDOT is conducting this virtual public hearing to minimize in-person contact.

This virtual public hearing provides the same information as an in-person hearing:

- Project information
- Process for submitting comments
- Key contacts

Share Facts About COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1

Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

FACT 2

Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19.

People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure.

FACT 3

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



FACT 4

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms
- AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

FACT 5

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Given the unique circumstance of the COVID-19 outbreak, along with our commitment to protecting public health during this national emergency, TxDOT is conducting this virtual public hearing to avoid in-person contact. At this time, the online format will be in lieu of an in-person public hearing.

The presentation will cover the same information the Maritime Division would have shared at an in-person public hearing. However, the comment process will be different and that will be explained shortly. All project information can be found on the TxDOT website.

Purpose of the Virtual Public Hearing



The purpose of the virtual public hearing is to provide information on the proposed acquisition of two separate parcels of land to use as placement areas for materials dredged from the GIWW in Brazoria County, Texas and to receive public comment.



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Project Need and Purpose



- 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 86E and PA 86F to fulfill its responsibilities as the non-federal sponsor
- Both parcels have been used as placement areas for more than 30 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

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.

These two parcels have been used as placement areas for more than 30 years. They 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 86E and 86F.

GIWW – Key Facts



- The GIWW stretches 1,100 miles from Florida to Brownsville, Texas
- The 379-mile segment in Texas connects 11 deep-draft and eight shallow-draft commercial ports and two 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 the road and reduces emissions

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 11 deep-draft and 13 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.

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.

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

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?tac_view=5&ti=43&pt=1&ch=2&sch=F&rl=Y](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_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

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

- 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 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

Public Involvement Outreach and Advertising



- TxDOT Website Posting
 - May 10, 2021
- *The Facts*, Brazoria County
 - English legal notice advertisement #1:
May 15, 2021
 - English and Spanish legal notice advertisement #2:
May 22, 2021
 - English legal notice advertisement #3:
May 29, 2021
- Texas Register Posting
 - May 28, 2021
- Property Owner Signature Required Notification
 - May 19, 2021

Virtual Public Hearing - Acquisition of PA 86E and PA 86F Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Dredge Material Placement Area Parcels

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Submit Your Comment

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Contact Us

Where: This will be a virtual public hearing via a pre-recorded video presentation. There will be no in-person public hearing.

When: The pre-recorded presentation will be available beginning Tuesday, June 8, 2021 by 10 a.m. Comments must be received on or before Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. to be considered part of the official virtual public hearing record.

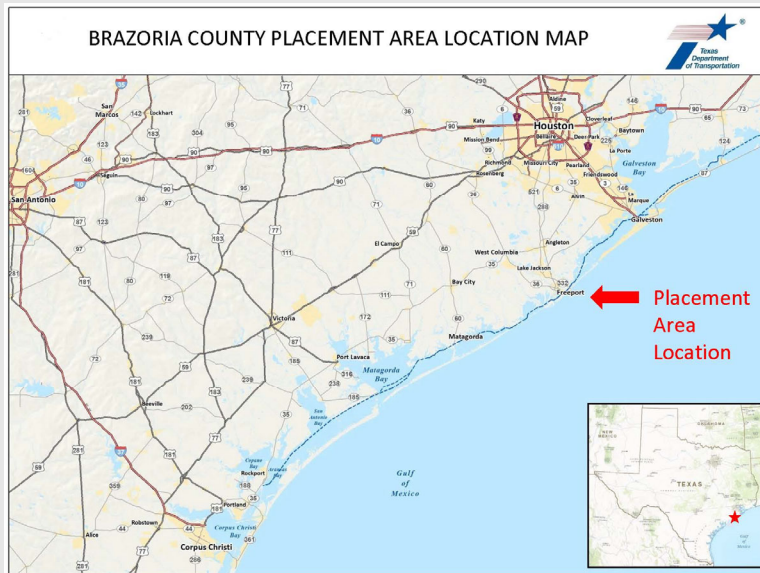
Purpose: TxDOT is proposing to acquire two separate parcels of land to use as placement areas for materials dredged from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) in Brazoria County, Texas. This notice advises the public that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing on the proposed project.

USACE Environmental Documents are viewable on the online public hearing page at:

www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/maritime/062221.html

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]

Project Location



- TxDOT is acquiring the properties to fulfill its responsibilities as the non-federal sponsor of the GIWW
- Both properties have been used as placement areas for more than 30 years and will continue to be used for that purpose
- Right of way and displacement requirements are not applicable for this acquisition

The project location of the two properties are located in Brazoria County. To reiterate – both properties have been used as placement areas for over 30 years and will continue to be used for that purpose. Right of way and displacement requirements are not applicable for this acquisition.

Project Details



- PA 86E is a parcel of land spanning 102.66 acres out of the H. R Barrow Survey Abstract Number 653, Brazoria County, Texas near the GIWW
- PA 86F is a parcel of land spanning 22.55 acres out of the D. Gilliland Survey Abstract Number 195, Brazoria County, Texas near the GIWW

This map shows a little greater detail on the specific locations of these two parcel areas. PA 86E is a parcel of land spanning 102.66 acres out of the H. R Barrow Survey Abstract Number 653 in Brazoria 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. PA 86F is a parcel of land spanning 22.55 acres out of the D. Gilliland Survey Abstract Number 195 in Brazoria County, Texas also near the GIWW.

Virtual Public Hearing Process Timeline



- June 8, 2021: Virtual public hearing pre-recorded presentation
- June 22, 2021: Close of public comment period
- End of June 2021: Complete review of public comments
- Late Summer 2021: Complete virtual public hearing summary report

The process and timeline of this virtual public hearing includes:

- The pre-recorded virtual public hearing presentation will be posted on www.txdot.gov on June 8, 2021;
- The comment period closes on June 22, 2021; and
- By the end of June, TxDOT will complete a review of public comments.

The virtual public hearing summary report will be posted on the TxDOT website by late summer of 2021.

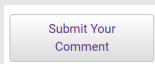
How to Submit Your Written Comments



1. **Email:**
Matthew.Mahoney@txdot.gov

2. **Mail:**
Matthew Mahoney, Program Coordinator
TxDOT Riverside Campus
118 E. Riverside Drive
Austin, Texas 78704

3. **Submit Online:**
» Visit www.txdot.gov
In the upper right-hand
Search box enter:
PA 86E and PA 86F Virtual Public Hearing
» Then click:



**Comments must be received or postmarked
by Tuesday, June 22, 2021, to be included in
the Virtual Public Hearing summary report**

**Submit Your
Comments Button**

Virtual Public Hearing - Acquisition of PA 86E and PA 86F
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Dredge Material Placement Area
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www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings/maritime/062221.html

TxDOT is encouraging written comments. Comments must be received or postmarked by Tuesday, June 22, 2021, to be included in the Virtual Public Hearing summary report. You can submit written comments in the following ways:

1. Email your comments to: matthew.Mahoney@txdot.gov [PRONOUNCED: MA-HO-NEE]
2. Mail your comments to: Matthew Mahoney, Program Coordinator at the Texas Department of Transportation Riverside Campus, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704
3. Submit your comments online:
 1. Visit www.txdot.gov
 2. In the “Search TxDOT” box in the upper-right hand corner, enter: PA 86E and PA 86F Virtual Public Hearing
 3. 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 Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 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.

Project Questions?



- Matthew Mahoney, Program Coordinator, Maritime Division
(512) 486-5630
Matthew.Mahoney@txdot.gov

Thank you for watching!

*Please don't forget to submit your written comments by
Tuesday, June 22, 2021*

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 Tuesday, June 22, 2021.