WELCOME!

Why Am I Here?

• Learn and ask questions about the proposed project
• Review purpose and need for project
• Review the proposed project alternatives
• Provide comments and feedback on the proposed project and alternatives
Alternative A

- Under this alternative, the project would not be built
- This option serves as a baseline to indicate the consequences if no action is taken

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Preliminary Decision: Carried forward for further analysis.
Alternative B

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Image: FM 457 Bridge Replacement Project
How Can I Stay Informed and Get Involved?

- Visit project website: www.txdot.gov and search “FM 457 bridge”
- Call or email project team 361-293-4347 Paul.Reitz@txdot.gov
- Participate in meetings throughout environmental study process
- Invite project team to meet with your group
Why a new bridge is needed on FM 457

The current FM 457 swing bridge in Sargent, Texas needs to be replaced because of its age and maintenance associated with its upkeep. TxDOT is proposing replacing the current swing bridge with a new, concrete “corkscrew bridge” that will span the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) to provide access to the south side of the GIWW. A corkscrew bridge is being considered because of the limited space along FM 457 combined with the height requirement for a replacement bridge to accommodate barge traffic through the GIWW. A new swing bridge is not being considered because of several factors including:

- Restricted access across the GIWW when the swing bridge is open to allow barge traffic to pass through
- Passing barge traffic requires a swing bridge to be open about 15 minutes
- Restricted access associated with a swing bridge could be problematic for emergency personal and others who need timely, reliable access across the bridge
- Maintenance for swing bridges is costly

Project Purpose

The purpose of the FM 457 bridge replacement project is to replace the dated, high-cost swing bridge with a new, concrete corkscrew bridge. The new bridge will provide reliable access across the GIWW by eliminating current wait times associated with barge traffic.

Project Timeline

A community open house was held in September 2013 to gather citizen feedback on the proposed project. As a result of that feedback, TxDOT has moved into the environmental study phase of the project is proposing three potential alternatives, for the FM 457 bridge.

Currently, TxDOT is requesting citizen feedback and comments on the three proposed alternatives. These alternatives include Alternative A, or the No Build alternative, Alternative B, and Alternative C which are shown here. Because citizen input is a key component, TxDOT will continue community outreach and public involvement throughout the environmental study.

A public hearing is anticipated mid-2015 to present TxDOT’s preferred project alternative.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:
Paul Reitz
TxDOT Yoakum Office
361-293-4347
Paul.Reitz@txdot.gov

www.txdot.gov
Search “FM 457 Bridge”
FM 457 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Public Meeting
March 6, 2014
WELCOME!

Why Am I Here?

• Learn and ask questions about the proposed project
• Review purpose and need for project
• Review the proposed project alternatives
• Provide comments and feedback on the proposed project and alternatives
Project Purpose and Need

What are we trying to do?
• Provide reliable access across the GIWW
• Provide a bridge that requires less upkeep and 24/7 staffing

What problems are we trying to address?
• Bridge has to be open for barge traffic
• Motorists have to wait to cross bridge
• Emergency response times can be delayed
• Current bridge is in need of major, costly repairs

FM 457 Bridge Replacement Project
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is Being Proposed?</th>
<th>The proposed project includes a corkscrew bridge with two lanes, one in each direction.</th>
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<td>Why a Corkscrew Bridge?</td>
<td>A corkscrew bridge best accommodates the limited space along FM 457 plus height requirements for new bridge.</td>
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Benefits of a Corkscrew Bridge

- Unrestricted vehicular flow across the GIWW
- Unrestricted boat and barge traffic
- Unrestricted emergency access across the GIWW
- Eliminate swing bridge maintenance costs
Environmental Factors

Resources considered in the Environmental Study include (but are not limited to):

- Floodplains
- Potential wetlands
- Vegetation
- Wildlife
- Land use
- Threatened and endangered species
- Aesthetic and visual resources
- Surface water
- Historic and archaeological resources
- Potential displacements to residents and businesses
- Social and community impacts
Existing Constraints

• Existing swing bridge is the only way on and off island

• Existing swing bridge is 234 feet long

• Existing swing bridge allows for 123.58 feet for barge span

• Existing bridge was designed for:
  • Average of 340 vehicles a day
  • 30 mph design speed
Road Design Considerations

- Designed for 30 mph speed
- Road width minimum of 32’ with 48’ width preferred
- Lane width of 12’
- Shoulder width 4’ with 12’ width preferred
- Flush 4’ median for large trucks
- Maximum grade of 7%
- Pedestrian and bicycle access
Bridge Design and Construction Considerations

- Need 73’ of vertical clearance over 225’ of GIWW
- Main span and support span length
- Limited footprint on island
- Potential storm surge and other environmental forces
- Corrosion protection for 75 to 100 year service life
- Few or no retaining walls
- Location for new substructure
- Aesthetics
- Access to residences and businesses
- Minimizing work in channel clearance zone
Potential Design Options

Spliced Girder Design

Segmental Design
### Alternative A – No Build

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## Alternative B

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**Preliminary Decision**: Carried forward for further analysis
Alternative B Main Unit

FM 457 Bridge Replacement Project
**Alternative C**

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**FM 457 Bridge Replacement Project**
Alternative C Main Unit

FM 457 Bridge Replacement Project
Main Unit Sections
Approach Span Section

PROPOSED FM 457 C

50'-0" Overall

25'-0"

1'-0"

10'

SHOULDER

12'

TRAVEL LANE

4'

MED

12'

TRAVEL LANE

10'

SHOULDER

1'-0"

T551 Rail (Typ)

2% Slope

PGL

2% Slope

FM 457 Bridge Replacement Project
Right of Way Acquisition and Relocation Assistance

Danny Jackson
TxDOT Right of Way Supervisor
512-832-7346
Danny.Jackson@txdot.gov

FM 457 Bridge Replacement Project
How Can I Make Comments?

- Speak during the comment period tonight
- Submit a written comment form tonight
- Mail, fax, email, or dropping off a written comment form to the information printed on the form

Please submit all comments by Monday, March 17, 2014
Ongoing Public Involvement

Project Schedule*

Preliminary Study Launched
March 2013

Initial Community Outreach
Aug – Sept 2013

Environmental Study Launched
January 2014

Public Meeting on Project
March 2014

Development of Environmental Document
2014 – 2015

Public Hearing on Project
Mid 2015

Environmental Decision Anticipated
Late 2015

* This project schedule and dates are preliminary and subject to change.
Next Steps

- Compile and consider community input from tonight’s public meeting
- Conduct additional meetings and community outreach
- Further analyze alternatives and develop environmental document
- Prepare Environmental Assessment document

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