



news

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What Does The Future Hold For The Harbor Bridge?

(CORPUS CHRISTI) – The long-term future of the Harbor Bridge, which opened in 1959, will be discussed at a public scoping meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Corpus Christi District Office — Training Center, 1701 South Padre Island Drive.

Participants are invited to an Open House from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. to review maps, documents, and talk with TxDOT, its consultant and other interested parties. TxDOT staff will give a presentation from 6:30 – 7 p.m. The public comment session will be from 7 – 8 p.m.

The public scoping meeting is a required step in the environmental process, which will result in the publication of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that examines the options and the social, economic, community and environmental impacts of a project on the community. The August 9 public scoping meeting is an opportunity for local residents to review preliminary information on the project and to help TxDOT identify possible alternatives.

The proposed US 181 Harbor Bridge replacement is based on several needs: safety concerns, lack of capacity (need for additional travel lanes), connectivity to local roadways, and increasing traffic demand. In addition to these needs, the bridge's existing structure also has deficiencies, including high maintenance costs and navigational restrictions. The current 2.25 mile long bridge structure averages 45,000-50,000 vehicles per day.

The project limits are from US 181 and Beach Avenue to SH 286 (Crosstown Expressway) between Morgan Avenue and Baldwin Boulevard. The new project limits total approximately 4.5 miles in length from north to south along US 181 and SH 286.

A website to gather public feedback on the proposed project has been established – www.ccharborbridgeproject.com. A link is available through the TxDOT Corpus Christi District at: www.dot.state.tx.us/local_information/corpus_christi_district (click on “Project Studies”).

For more information about the public scoping meeting, please contact Victor E. Vourcos, P.E., Advance Project Development Engineer, TxDOT - Corpus Christi District, by phone at 361-808-2378 or by e-mail at victor.vourcos@txdot.gov.

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TxDOT's six goals:

Prepare for the future
Maintain the transportation system
Work with our partners to identify funding strategies

Enhance safety
Relieve congestion
Enhance connectivity