



FM 457 Bridge Replacement Project

Citizen Comments

October 2013

The FM 457 swing bridge in Sargent, Texas is in need of replacement because of its age and the high maintenance costs associated with its upkeep. TxDOT is proposing to replace the swing bridge with a concrete bridge that would span the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to provide access for residents on the south side of the waterway. On September 26, 2013 an open house was held to solicit comments and feedback from citizens about this potential project. This document captures citizen comments received at the open house and during the comment period immediately following the open house.

Comment Number	Comment
1	Opposed unless steps to protect beach taken.
2	I love the idea for emergency responders and ingress/egress to the Island.
3	I think the red design is the best as the green version lies in a wetlands area. Some pilings will be in the water 100% of the time. I am willing to sell my 5 lots now as I want to move to another location. I cannot sell the property in the current situation. I am ready to sit down and discuss this at your convenience.
4	Please include an actual bike and/or walking lane on the bridge.
5	I am in favor for building a new bridge.
6	I support the concepts of a bridge across the GIWW.
7	Get this bridge built ASAP!!
8	The sooner the better! The bridge will be a plus for Sargent Beach.
9	New Bridge. Green.
10	I believe this bridge will benefit us.
11	We are very much in favor of either bridge design.
12	Prefer the design where no existing structures have to be demolished. Would like to see a detailed financial breakdown as to salaries, retirement, health costs and long term maintenance on the swing bridge as compared to cost of construction and maintenance of a stationary bridge.
13	Erosion of the beach is rapid. I take pride in the last swing bridge in Texas as a landmark. People on the island knew the problems of

	barge traffic. I feel the money will be well used elsewhere.
14	I have been here my whole life! And bridge for me is “nostalgic” it would not be the same for me. My request is to keep the “Swing Bridge”. Thanks! P.S. I have bicycled over that ICW for 40 years! Truly an enjoyable ride!!
15	It is a waste of money due to erosion and the fact that it is the only swing bridge in Texas. Also when they were building the retention wall they had trouble due to the fact there was no bottom and the granite just kept sinking. They even had to use a different system at different places to make the wall!
17	IMHO the green alternative bridge design would be my preference. The exit onto the beach roads would be better for traffic flow. Also, fewer buildings would be impacted.
18	Interesting project. Expensive. Increased property values on the island. After spending \$25 the drop off is weak and creates traffic bottleneck at the intersection on the island. It should find a way to parallel the beach vs. @ 90 degree and a short threshold to it.
20	Go for it. Spiral same side.
21	I think this is a wonderful project. This will help in many ways for many people.
22	Red Alternate.
23	Wait time is incredibly difficult especially since the nearest grocery store is almost 30 miles one way. Environmental impact is a great concern. We rescued a pelican “snipped” by the bridge a few days ago. Gulf Coast Conservation picked it up from our house. Emergency medical air pick up is only available over the bridge at the volunteer fire department.
24	This bridge is needed!
25	We are in favor of new bridge (457 bridge) to be built. We believe cost factors, convenience, and safety – emergency issues far outweigh any reasons for maintaining the current swing bridge.
26	I own a home on Sargent Island. I am in favor of replacing the swing bridge with a permanent bridge. The swing bridge is antiquated and dangerous to boaters and vehicles. It delays access to and from the island and must be closed very early in the event of a storm. It costs too much to maintain and does not allow for pedestrian or bicycle traffic. Please move to build a permanent bridge to the island.

27	We are in favor of the Red bridge drawing/proposal. The green drawing would have the ramp very close to our home. Either way, we would love to see the new bridge become a reality!
28	I am a property owner in Sargent Beach, close to the swing bridge. Save some money by have a “standard” straight approach to the cause way on the island side of the Intracoastal Waterway. Plenty of room and less overhead roadway required.
29	Keep the swing bridge in Sargent. 1) Maintains security, privacy, and reduces traffic on the island. 2) Timing of when the bridge is opened and closed is the problem. 3) Cost of a new bridge is way more than maintenance of the swing bridge.
30	We enjoy the Swing Bridge because it is so special to the islanders (people who have homes here). It forces us to slow down and enjoy the views. We also appreciate the fact that delays may discourage potential thieves who might like to break in and make a quick get-away. Easier access via a bridge will most certainly increase traffic on the island and result in the need for more law enforcement officers and patrols. Since this is the last swing bridge in Texas, please consider the historical value as well.