



HARBOR BRIDGE PROJECT COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2024

The following notes are the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) summary of the meeting and are not designed to be an exact representation of proceedings. The Responses to questions posed during the meeting included in this document may be abbreviated and not constitute the full and appropriate responses for individuals' situations. Community Advisory Board (CAB) members and the public should contact the appropriate agency for complete and personalized answers to their questions.

Opening

Kim Amy, TxDOT liaison to the CAB, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. CAB chair Lamont Taylor led a moment of prayer. The meeting was held in person at the Oveal Williams Senior Center. Kim provided an overview of the meeting agenda and what to expect.

Flatiron/Dragados LLC Construction Update

Lynn Allison, Public Information Officer (PIO) at Flatiron/Dragados LLC (FDLLC), provided an update on project construction activities.

- The 12th set of stays is scheduled to be installed today (8/15/24) on the South pylon, with the connection to the back span pier to follow.
- The 12th set of stays will be installed on the North pylon later this week, followed by the connection to the back span pier later this month.
- All the stay cables are on schedule to be fully installed by the end of the year.
- The final bridge segment is on track to be set in place by the beginning of the year.
- Once the final segment is in place, roadwork finishes will commence, including the installation of illumination and esthetic features.
- Lynn Allison informed the CAB that she provides weekly project updates on the HBP Facebook page.
- Later in August, the final layer of asphalt on the frontage roads will be painted.
- The traffic lights have been installed at Nueces Bay Boulevard.
- The realignment of 286 will begin soon. The exit ramp to Commanche Street from northbound 286 will be closed, with traffic redirected to the exit ramp for Antelope and Staples Street.
- The majority of roadworks construction is scheduled to take place this fall.
- Excavation of the salt flat channel is ongoing.
- The concrete work for the 18 bridge decks has been completed.
- 25,000 tons of retaining walls have been brought in to improve drainage in the Leopard Street area, extending towards the ship channel.
- Mowing and weed control are ongoing from the heavy rains received in July.
- Substructures, including approach bridges, retaining walls, and panels, are currently being painted.
- Guardrails are being installed on the approach bridges.
- The precast yard only has three segments remaining to be cast.
- There are 300 segments remaining to be transported to both the North and South sides of the project.



Questions from the CAB:

- CAB member asked why the left lane on Martin Luther King Drive isn't open.
 - Lynn Allison – That will be a part of the realignment, starting next week. The turnaround at Port Avenue will open, along with a new frontage road and bridge on the south side of I-37. This will connect Port Avenue to I-37 to Staples Street. You will be able to exit Staples Street and make a U-turn at Port Avenue. The barrels and cones will be removed by then.
- CAB member pointed out that flooding has occurred on Martin Luther King Drive, Kennedy and Lexington Avenues, which was not present before the project began.
 - Lynn Allison – This issue will be amended when the final surface layer is laid.
- CAB member: The left lane on Leopard Street is open, but not all lanes on Port Avenue are. Why is that?
 - Lynn Allison – That is not in our construction limits, that is a city-maintained area.
- CAB member asked who she should contact if someone is injured and explained her neighbor was injured in her neighborhood.
 - Lynn Allison – You should file a police report. If it was in our construction zone, CCPD would make us aware. Please feel free to also contact my office so I can provide you with a third person claim form.
- CAB member inquired about a traffic light at Port Avenue.
 - Lynn Allison – The light at Port Avenue will be installed once all the segments have been moved through the area. There is currently a stop sign there in its place.
- CAB chair asked when the walkway going down Broadway Street to Port Avenue will be open.
 - Lynn Allison – Not until the end of the project.
- CAB chair asked why they should have to wait that long to get access, and whether it will be open at the end of phase two, or after the decommission of the old bridge.
 - Lynn Allison – That area is currently used for heavy material transport, so it is a commuter safety issue. I will have to check on the timeframe for opening access.
- CAB chair noted there seems to be no activity in this area. He pointed out you can easily bypass the roadblock with a bike or on foot. He emphasized that the community should have access to drive back and forth, arguing that there is no reason to have this area closed.
 - Lynn Allison – The only answer I can provide is due to commuter safety, but I will look into this further.
- CAB member – I heard there will be a permanent street closure by the Port of Corpus Christi. Someone informed me that it will affect Broadway, Port and Nueces. There is no other way around that area if that section is closed.
 - Lynn Allison – You have more information than I do. I will consult with our Port liaison.

CAB members discuss the status of DN Leathers Tile Mural:

- Kim Amy opened the discussion by providing a background on the DN Leather tile mural. She updated the group, stating that the tiles are being safely stored by the Corpus Christi Housing Authority until they are reconstructed at the new location. Although a new location has not been decided, Kim asked the CAB to begin these discussions to gather input.
- The CAB chair stated a CAB mural sub-committee would be formed. He urged the subcommittee to work with both TxDOT and Flatiron Dragados, LLC to ensure there are murals and esthetic treatments starting at Coles High School, extending to HJ Williams Park, and everything in between. The CAB chair would like to see any canvas utilized to depict the neighborhood history.



- The CAB chair also plans to form a CAB Business Development sub-committee to oversee the preservation and reconciliation of businesses affected by the HBP.

Concerns from the CAB:

- Large industrial trucks have been observed driving through residential streets and ignoring posted signs. Although it could not be determined if these trucks are affiliated with HBP, the CAB is requesting additional signage and increased police presence to monitor the area.
- Grass around the road medians and access roads is dying due to treatment with Roundup. The CAB is requesting that Roundup not be used, as it is a poisonous chemical.
 - Kim Amy requested the exact locations of where the spraying is occurring to determine who is doing it. If it is part of the city maintenance plan, she will relay this message to the city.
- The lack of lighting in the Hillcrest community was highlighted as an ongoing issue. It was noted that much of the lighting had been provided by homes in the area that have now been demolished.

Public Comments and Questions:

- No questions comments from the public.

Comments from the CAB Chair

- The CAB chair highlighted racial injustices within the community and urged fellow CAB members to advocate for both their community and the African American community.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.