



# GIWW Brazos River to Port O'Connor, Tx

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FACT SHEET as of February 6, 2012

**AUTHORIZATION:** Section 216 1970 Flood Control Act

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Navigation

**PROJECT PHASE:** Feasibility



**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators Hutchison and Cornyn (TX), and Representatives Paul (TX-14), Hinojosa (TX-15) and Farenthold (TX-27).

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Texas Department of Transportation

**BACKGROUND:** The study area includes approximately 72 miles of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) in Brazoria, Matagorda and Calhoun Counties, from the Brazos River near Freeport to Port O'Connor, Texas. Tonnage transported along this section of the GIWW totaled over 53 million tons in 2008, with petrochemicals as the major commodity shipped. This study will evaluate operational problems along this reach of the GIWW. An initial appraisal of the entire 423-mile Texas Section of the GIWW was completed in November 1989. Initial problems identified by users along this reach included difficulties navigating currents encountered as a result of river flows from the San Bernard; high shoaling at Jones Creek, bank erosion at miles 408-420 and 446-451, safety concerns and dangerous currents across Matagorda Bay (mile 454-473), and delays and one-way traffic at Caney Creek (mile 420).

Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Users have identified safety issues at the Matagorda Ship Channel crossing due to high shoaling rates and tidal currents. In order to expedite identifying a viable solution to these safety issues, the Matagorda Bay reach was studied separately as an interim to the overall feasibility study. The bank erosion at miles 408-420 and 446-451 and shoaling at Jones Creek have been removed from the study due to recent communication with the waterway users indicating there is not a navigation problem. The State of Texas is the non-Federal Sponsor of the GIWW and continues to maintain a high interest in the waterway because of the economic importance of the waterway to the State and their responsibility to provide dredged material disposal areas.

With the deepening of the Panama Canal and expected increase in worldwide waterborne trade, over 766 million tons are expected to be moving on Texas waterways by 2030. The GIWW is designated as part of the Nation's Inland Waterway System and qualifies for 50-50 cost sharing from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund for construction purposes. No feasibility cost sharing agreement is required, and all study costs are 100 percent Federal.

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**STATUS:** This project was not in the Fiscal Year 2011 President's budget.

**ISSUES:** Bend easing is required for the channel bends along Caney Creek (mile 420) to relieve one way traffic and resultant traffic delays to improve navigational safety and efficiencies.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):**

	<b><u>Feasibility</u></b>
Federal Cost Estimate	\$6,550,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	0
Total Project Cost	\$6,550,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	\$3,689,000
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	(1,000) <u>1/</u>
Allocation for FY 2012	0
President Budget FY 2013	0
Capability for FY 2013	650,000
Balance to Complete	\$2,861,000

1/ Funds in the amount of \$1,000 were transferred to the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Account to repair damages at projects impacted by the 2011 floods.

**SCHEDULE:**

FY 2012 Scheduled Work: Not in the President's FY2012 budget.

FY 2013 Budget: The study is not in the President's FY2013 budget. If funding is received it would be used to conduct an analysis to reaffirm Federal interest, update Project Management Plan (PMP) (\$100,000), identify and evaluate engineering alternatives (\$300,000) perform soil boring & geotechnical analysis, and hydro surveys (\$150,000), and complete the Real Estate plan and cultural resource assessment (\$100,000).

**COMPLETION:** With optimum funding, the project completion date is September 2014.

**For more information** regarding the GIWW Brazos River to Port O'Connor, TX study, contact Mr. Pete Perez, P.E. Deputy District Engineer, Chief Programs and Project Management Division at 409-766-3018 or Pete.G.Perez@usace.army.mil.



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