



GIWW – Sabine River To High Island, 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: Reconnaissance



CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Hutchison and Cornyn (TX); Representatives Poe (TX-2) and Paul (TX-14)

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Texas Department of Transportation

BACKGROUND: The study area extends from the Sabine River to High Island and consists of approximately 50 miles of the Texas section of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) in Orange, Jefferson, Chambers, and Galveston Counties. The GIWW is a 12-foot deep by 125-foot wide channel and ties all of the deep-water ports of Texas to the Nation's inland waterway system. Existing commerce through this reach of the GIWW is estimated to be 25,000,000 tons annually. This reach of GIWW is highest traveled reach of waterway in Texas. Vessels carry 83% of nation's petrochemicals and large amounts of chemical and farm products. During winter months, extremely low tides and channel shoaling create a serious hazard to commercial traffic. Without full depth and width, users face increased chance for barge collisions and groundings.

Since the existing channel was completed in the 1940's, vessel sizes have changed and portions of the waterway have become difficult to navigate, adversely affecting vessel safety and economic efficiency.

Problems identified by users along this reach include bank erosion and shoaling near Pleasure Island and the McFaddin Marsh National Wildlife Refuge where valuable wetland acreage is lost each year. These areas are home to migratory and resident waterfowl and shorebirds and the loss of acreage will affect their habitat. Users along this reach have identified a number of hazardous bends and channel reaches that present significant safety problems.

The objectives are to reaffirm if there is a Federal interest in pursuing detailed analyses and solutions to these problems, and to develop the scope and cost of the feasibility study phase.

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STATUS: The study has never been initiated.

ISSUES: Problems identified by users along this reach include bank erosion and shoaling near Pleasure Island and the McFaddin Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Also identified are a number of hazardous bends and channel reaches that present safety problems.

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):</u>	<u>RECON</u>
Federal Cost Estimate	\$100,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	0
Total Project Cost	\$100,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	\$ 0
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	0
Allocation for FY 2012	0
President Budget FY 2013	0
Capability for FY 2013	100,000
Balance to Complete	\$100,000

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 complete a Reconnaissance Study (905b), prepare a Project Management Plan, and execute a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (\$100,000).

COMPLETION: With optimum funding, the study completion date is March 2014, which is 12 Months after initiation of the study.

For more information regarding the GIWW Sabine River to High Island study, TX 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.

