Replace Belle Chasse Tunnel & Bridge
Stage 1 Environmental Assessment
State Project No. 700-38-0108 • H.004791 • Federal Aid Project No. DE-3806(500) • RPC Contract No. BCTunnel

Public Information Meeting
Tuesday, February 26, 2013 • Belle Chasse Auditorium
INTRODUCTION

The environmental process has been initiated and comments from the public or stakeholder agencies on potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project are welcomed and encouraged.

• This presentation will play on a loop during the meeting. Please feel free to watch it anytime.

• Project team members are situated at the exhibits to answer your questions.

• Comments can be submitted verbally or in writing. Please make sure to provide your name and address for the record.
PURPOSE & NEED

PURPOSE:

• Improve access to Plaquemines Parish for daily & evacuation traffic with a reliable & efficient GIWW crossing
• Improve GIWW navigation by reducing marine vehicle delay
• Support opportunities for industrial growth
• Comply with fiscal constraint objectives
• Improve efficiency with lower Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs

NEED:

• Traffic stoppage on LA 23 as a result of 10 regular daily vessel openings @ 10 min each
• Eliminate unscheduled maintenance & repair closures for both bridge & tunnel
• Improve vehicular & vessel hurricane evacuation capacity, efficiency & reliability
This project has been the subject of previous study

June 1996
Initial feasibility study to identify and evaluate alternatives for a new crossing of the GIWW in Belle Chasse

Plaquemines Parish Government and LDOTD (State Project No. 716-38-0001)

July 2009
A Stage 0 Feasibility Study to identify and evaluate alternatives for replacing the existing LA 23 bridge/tunnel crossing in Belle Chasse

Plaquemines Parish Government, NO Regional Planning Commission and LDOTD (State Project No. 700-38-0108 and FAP No. DE-3806 (500))

Copies of these studies are available for in-meeting review
PROJECT AREA AND LOGICAL TERMINI

**Project Area**

Bayou Barriere CC

NAS/JRB New Orleans

**Project Start:** Lapalco Blvd
Behrman Hwy (LA 428)

**Project End:** Woodland Hwy (LA 406) (Lartigue St)

Graphic Source: Burk Kleinpeter, Inc., 2012
An Environmental Assessment is a study during which the following tasks are performed:

- Define purpose and need for project;
- Describe area to be affected;
- Develop feasible measures to be taken to address purpose and need (at least two, including No-Build Alternative);
- Evaluate build alternative;
- Describe relative impacts to the study area;
- Select a preferred alternative and summarize impacts;
- Document all work including public participation.
**BUILD ALTERNATIVES**

1. **100 ft. Fixed High-Rise Bridge**
   - 1.05 miles long, 5% grade
   - No delays for vehicular or marine traffic.
   - No bridge tender or mechanical equipment.
   - Highest number of potential displacements.
   - Requires some local street closures & re-routing.

2. **70 ft. Movable Bridge**
   - 0.8 miles long, <5% grade
   - Limited openings to marine traffic – 0.2 / day
   - Bridge tender openings made by appointment. Mechanical equipment is needed for bridge.
   - Requires some potential displacements, local street closures & re-routing.

3. **60 ft. Movable Bridge**
   - 0.75 miles long, <5% grade
   - Some openings to marine traffic – 0.9 / day
   - Bridge tender and mechanical equipment are needed.
   - Requires lowest potential number of displacements and street closures.

**+ NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVES MUST BE EVALUATED**

Conceptual layouts for each Build Alternative can be examined in-depth on the exhibit tables.
BRIDGE ALTERNATIVES

**High-Level Fixed**

**Bascule Span**

**Vertical Lift Span**

Information for each bridge type can be examined in-depth on the exhibit tables.
LOOKING WEST
CROSS SECTION OF BASCULE PIER SHOWN;
VERTICAL LIFT SPAN SIMILAR
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative</th>
<th>Potential Residential Relocations</th>
<th>Potential Business Relocations</th>
<th>Local Road Closures</th>
<th>Natural Environment</th>
<th>Manmade Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Build Alternative #1 100 Ft. Fixed Bridge</td>
<td>3 to 6 Sites</td>
<td>2 to 9 Sites</td>
<td>7 roads closed</td>
<td>2 additional canal crossings</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build Alternative #2a/b 70 Ft. Moveable Bridge</td>
<td>0 Sites</td>
<td>3 to 8 Sites</td>
<td>4 roads closed</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build Alternative #3a/b 60 Ft. Moveable Bridge</td>
<td>0 Sites</td>
<td>0 to 4 Sites</td>
<td>2 roads closed</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY** and subject to update – Items as shown based upon initial concepts with adjustments in this information anticipated as a result of refinements to a selected alternative within the ongoing Stage 1 Environmental Study. Information was obtained from the *Replace Belle Chasse Tunnel and Bridge Stage 0 Feasibility Study* (State Project 700-38-0108), July 2009.
## Initial Cost Estimate

### Preliminary – Not Final

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alt 1:</strong> 100 Ft. Fixed Bridge</td>
<td>$201.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alt 2a:</strong> 70 Ft. Bascule Bridge</td>
<td>$189.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alt 2b:</strong> 70 Ft. Vertical Lift Bridge</td>
<td>$197.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alt 3a:</strong> 60 Ft. Bascule Bridge</td>
<td>$170.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alt 3b:</strong> 60 Ft. Vertical Lift Bridge</td>
<td>$179.2 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate for Planning Purposes Only.** Costs include removal of the existing lift bridge and closure of the existing tunnel. Cost estimates reflect refinements to project alternatives made as a result of the analysis of alternatives included in the ongoing Stage 1 Environmental Study. Cost estimates incorporate a 20% Contingency factor, as well as utilize LDOTD unit costs based upon bid tabulations and general trend averages. **As of January 17, 2013.**
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please view project information on the web at: bellechassestudy.org

Email comments to TunnelBridge@bkiusa.com

This contact information is included on the project information sheet.
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