



LA 23: Belle Chasse Bridge & Tunnel (HBI)

Stage 1 Environmental Assessment (EA)

State Project No. H.004791

Federal Aid Project No. H004791

RPC Contract No. BCTunnel



Public Hearing

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 • 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Plaquemines Parish Auditorium

8398 Belle Chasse Highway (LA 23), Belle Chasse, LA

AGENDA

I. 5 – 6:00 PM

Open House – Review exhibits, speak with DOTD, RPC and consultant team members.

Anyone wishing to make a comment without addressing the audience or in writing may make a statement to the court reporter during this time period. Please limit your comments to no more than 3 minutes.

II. 6:00 – 6:30 PM

Project presentation

RPC and DOTD PowerPoint presentation

III. 6:30 PM

Public Comments

Members of the public will be given the opportunity to address all in attendance. As is customary at a Public Hearing, those comments will be recorded. Responses to comments will not be given during the Hearing, but will be addressed in writing on the project website and in the EA document.

Anyone wishing to speak must first fill out a comment card and bring it to the sign-in table at the entrance. Speakers will be called in the order that cards are turned in.

In order to allow everyone who wishes to speak the opportunity to do so, please limit comments to no more than 3 minutes.

IV. Adjourn

PLEASE make sure to record your attendance by signing in. Thanks!



LA 23: Belle Chasse Bridge & Tunnel (HBI) Environmental Assessment

State Project No. H.004791 Federal Aid Project No. H004791 RPC Contract No. BCTunnel



This Public Hearing will be held in public hearing format. The public is encouraged to review exhibits, ask questions of staff and leave comments with us tonight. Statements will also be accepted during the 10 day comment period following tonight's

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Project Introduction

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) are concluding an environmental assessment (EA) that identifies a preferred alternative for replacing the Judge Perez Bridge/Belle Chasse Tunnel crossing the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).

This Public Hearing provides an update on the EA and conceptual designs, while also giving the opportunity for public comments. The first hour open house period gives you a chance to review exhibits which describe the project and preferred alternative and speak with project staff members.

If you need more time to make comments on the information presented this evening, please return your comments on the form provided or via email no later than **10 days (December 10, 2018)** following this meeting.

All comments received and responses will become part of the EA document.

Project Study Area

The study area for the environmental assessment extends beyond the immediate bridge/tunnel:

- Behrman Hwy/Lapalco Blvd/ LA 428 in the northwest;
- Woodland Hwy (LA 406) in the southeast.
- Wall Blvd on the southwest;
- Existing residential and commercial development along LA 23 the northeast.

The review of potential impacts and effects have been confined to this general area.

Logical Termini for Environmental Assessment approved by FHWA on 10/16/12.



Project Purpose

- Improve transportation system linkage by improving the connectivity between Woodland Hwy. and Lapalco Blvd.
- Maintain and improve modal interrelationships between vehicular traffic on LA 23 and maritime traffic on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).

Project Need

- The existing tunnel (1956) and bridge (1968) are at the end of their life cycle and one or the other closes frequently for maintenance. Closure of either reduces vehicular traffic capacity by half.
- The center span of the existing bridge must also be raised to allow maritime traffic to pass, stopping the flow of northbound vehicular traffic.
- Current operating rules to maintain vehicular traffic flows on LA 23 during peak periods restrict maritime operations on the GIWW.

Project exhibits describe the analyses completed. In addition, these provide information on the preferred alternative. Please take a moment to review these items and feel free to ask questions of the project team.

Public Hearing Room Layout



