

10. PELICAN ISLAND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Policy Council (TPC) approved \$26.3M in Surface Transportation Block Grant (Category 7) funding in the 2018 Call for Projects to reconstruct the 60-year-old Pelican Island Bridge. The funding supports construction of a new location bridge, which will replace the current bridge as well as construct the two-lane approach roadway from West of Bradner to the new Pelican Island Bridge. The project is currently scheduled to let in 2029. The Pelican Island Bridge is the only connection between Galveston Island and Pelican Island and is currently owned, operated, and maintained by the Galveston Navigation District. Upon its completion, the City of Galveston will own, operate, and maintain the new location bridge and associated roadway facilities.

In addition to TPC funding, the project has \$45M in Federal Bridge Replacement Program funds, which includes \$5M match from the Texas Department of Transportation, \$7.5M in Rider 37 state funds from the Texas Legislature and TxDOT funding for costs to design and provide construction engineering services for this off-system facility. The project also has \$36.2M from local transportation partners. Portions of the funding from local transportation partners will provide match for the Federal Bridge Replacement Program and Rider 37 funds.

The TxDOT Houston District has calculated the cost-benefit ratio (CBR) for the project using current cost estimate and the project has a CBR of 2.06. The project is nearing 60% design completion and currently has a funding gap of \$205.8M which includes inflationary cost impacts until construction bids are received. The Pelican Island Bridge is an off-system facility. The cost to replace the bridge is more than the bridge owner and other local transportation partners can support beyond current local funding commitments.

The TPC is asked to consider supporting the funding gap of \$205.8M including using TDCs as the match plus assuming full responsibility for all future cost overruns. The TPC is also being asked to consider supporting the use of TDCs as the match on the previously approved \$26.3M.

CURRENT SITUATION

Galveston area local governments and the Texas Department of Transportation - Houston District have indicated that this project is an infrastructure and economic priority for the region. City of Galveston Councilmember Marie Robb and TxDOT Houston District Deputy District Engineer Varuna Singh presented this information about the importance of this project and its remaining funding need to the TPC in February.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information only.