



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting January 31, 2023

**DATE:** January 13, 2023  
**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager  
**FROM:** Daniel McGinn, AICP, Director of Planning  
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### Resolution for a Second Causeway to Padre Island

#### **CAPTION:**

Resolution urging the 88th Texas Legislature to support and prioritize the study, design, and construction of a second vehicular causeway to facilitate traffic to and from North Padre Island, Mustang Island, and the City of Port Aransas across the Laguna Madre to the mainland.

#### **SUMMARY:**

This resolution will aid State Representative Todd Hunter in working to add a second access to Padre Island to TxDOT's 10-year transportation plan, which will prioritize the planning and construction of this infrastructure.

#### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Corpus Christi MPO began looking at a possible second crossing to North Padre Island with the South Loop Transportation Study, which was completed in 1999. The study recommended a new loop around Corpus Christi to relieve congestion and provide secondary access to Padre Island. The recommended route was from US 77 north of Odem, proceeding south of Corpus Christi, and east to North Padre Island.

To further refine the work done within the South Loop Transportation Study, the MPO (with the coordination of the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, and San Patricio County) commissioned the Regional Parkway Mobility Corridor Feasibility Study, published in 2013. The purpose of the study was threefold:

- Reduce congestion and facilitate regional mobility, connectivity, and system linkages;
- Accommodate potential economic and population growth and address safety issues; and
- Provide an alternate hurricane evacuation route.

The study evaluated alternatives to narrow down the 52-mile corridor identified in the South Loop Transportation Study and divided it into seven (7) segments identified as Segments A through G, with Segment A being the second crossing to Padre Island.

The third and most recent study was the Regional Parkway Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study published in 2017. The purpose of this study was to further refine transportation needs and simplify the planning process by focusing on the alignment of Segments A and B identified in the 2013 Regional Parkway Mobility Corridor Feasibility Study.

In total, eight (8) alternative routes were considered in Segment A (Island Crossing), four (4) in Segment B (SH 286 to future Rodd Field Rd.), and three (3) for Rodd Field Road before selecting the preferred alternative or route. The preferred route was then adopted into the City of Corpus Christi Urban Transportation Plan.

The next step to move forward with the PEL would be to start the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2020-2045 currently identifies the NEPA process for Segment B and the Rodd Field Road extension to be a transportation need beyond the 10-year planning horizon.

The 2020-2045 MTP also estimates the cost of the NEPA process at \$2.27 million and the construction cost at \$84 million. The NEPA process and construction of Segment A are identified within the MTP but are on the unfunded needs list.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

None considered.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact at this time.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Agenda Memo – Second Causeway Resolution  
Presentation – Second Causeway Resolution