

## Overview

The Galveston Causeway Railroad Bridge (GCRB) is the most dangerous place on the entire Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, from Brownsville to Florida. In 2001, the Coast Guard has declared it an unreasonable obstruction to navigation and set in motion plans to replace it with a wider bridge offering over 300' of clearance. The new bridge is under design and the best case estimate for completion of the new bridge is approximately 2011.

TXDOT plans to remove the fenderworks that protect all three bridges and facilitate barge transits through this tricky area as soon as the highway bridges are complete in late 2007, even though the GCRB will not be widened. This will greatly increase the risk to marine traffic, all the bridges, the general public and the environment pending completion of the new GCRB.

This rider continues the current maintenance by TXDOT of the fenderworks of the Galveston Causeway Bridge.

## Required Action

(1) On page \_\_\_ of the Department of Transportation's bill pattern, State Highway Funds in Strategy C.1.31, ~~Gulf Waterway Contracted Maintenance~~.

(2) On page \_\_\_ of the Department of Transportation's bill pattern, add the following rider:

\_\_\_\_. Galveston Causeway. Out of funds appropriated above in Strategy C.1.31, ~~Gulf Waterway Contracted Maintenance~~. State Highway Funds shall be used for the maintenance and preservation of the fenderworks at the Galveston Causeway. Any unexpended balances from this appropriation remaining as of August 31, 2007, are hereby appropriated in the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2008, for the same purpose.