



August 31, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE (02-23)

BRIDGE PERMIT APPLICATION TO REPLACE THE FIXED HIGHWAY SAM HOUSTON TOLLWAY EAST SHIP CHANNEL BRIDGE (A.K.A. BUFFALO BAYOU / JESSE H. JONES MEMORIAL BRIDGE) OVER HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL, MILE 40.0, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS WITH A NEW FIXED BRIDGE

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, has received application materials February 24, 2023 from the Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) for approval of the enclosed location and plans to replace the fixed highway Houston Ship Channel Bridge (a.k.a. Buffalo Bayou / Jesse H. Jones Memorial Bridge) over the Houston Ship Channel, Mile 40, Harris County, Texas with a new fixed highway bridge.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Houston Ship Channel, Mile 40, Harris County, Texas.

CHARACTER OF WORK: HCTRA received USCG Bridge Permit Amendment (6-16-8) on December 22, 2016, approving construction of replacement bridges across the Houston Ship Channel. Condition 8 of the permit amendment required commencement of construction prior to December 22, 2019, and completion of the project prior to December 22, 2024. The project is currently under construction, and a subsequent permit extension of time was approved for two years, with the permit expiring December 22, 2026.

The purpose of this permit amendment package is to request an additional extension of time until October 2030 and to include proposed design changes to the project as described below:

- Main span superstructure redesign over the channel (originally concrete segmental cable-stayed, now composite steel-concrete cable-stayed). Previously approved clearance according to 2016 plan sheet 5 are vertical clearance as 187.76 feet and horizontal clearance as 500 feet. Proposed plans show a vertical clearance 187.6 and horizontal of 530 feet.
- Addition of an attached shared use path (SUP) to the east side of the Northbound Sam Houston Tollway East and wind fairing on the west side of the Southbound Sam Houston Tollway East, increasing the total bridge footprint width over the navigable channel from 173'-7.75" to approx. 188'.
- Right of way (ROW) acquisition due to the addition of the SUP of 1.5 acres. Additionally, the proposed project would require 2.96 acres of temporary construction easement (TCE). This additional ROW and TCE would be located on the east side (northbound bridge) of the Sam Houston Tollway East. The majority of the SUP would be elevated and located above the new ROW.

The existing fixed highway bridge is a concrete box girder design with a main span of 750 feet. The proposed northbound and southbound (separate structures) bridges will each have a fixed cable-stayed main span of 1,320 feet. Total proposed bridge length is 11,140 feet. There is no change to the total proposed bridge length. Portions of the new southbound bridge are partially constructed, and construction is ongoing.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

The proposed replacement bridge will have clearances as described in the table below. These clearances are an increase from current clearances over this section of the waterway at or near this mile.

	Existing	Proposed
Vertical	175 feet above Mean High Water	187.6 feet above Mean High Water
Horizontal	500 feet	530 feet

Datum: NAVD88

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is the lead federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A Categorical Exclusion (CE) dated June 2015 was issued pursuant to NEPA as amended. The U.S. Coast Guard has tentatively determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact for the purposes of NEPA and plans to issue a CE for the project. Documents are available for review electronically, Monday through Friday by appointment from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., subject to building rules.

The original permit application received a waiver in May 2015 as no 404 permit was required at the time of application. The project is subsequently operating under a non-reporting Nationwide Permit 15 - U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges. Clean Water Act, Section 401 WQC of NWP 15 is conditionally certified by TCEQ in a letter dated December 18, 2020, if soil erosion and sediment controls under General Condition 12 are utilized. A letter was sent to TCEQ in November 2022 requesting verification of TCEQ 401 WQC via NWP15. Acknowledgement from TCEQ was received on December 15, 2022.

The bridge is located in the floodplain. Piers are outside of channel banks and should pose no hazard to navigation, including during 100-year flood events.

Elevations are referenced to NAVD88 datum.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Interested parties are requested to comment or express their views in writing on the proposed navigation clearances, placement of a bridge protection system and other navigational safety issues, including the need for clearance gauges.

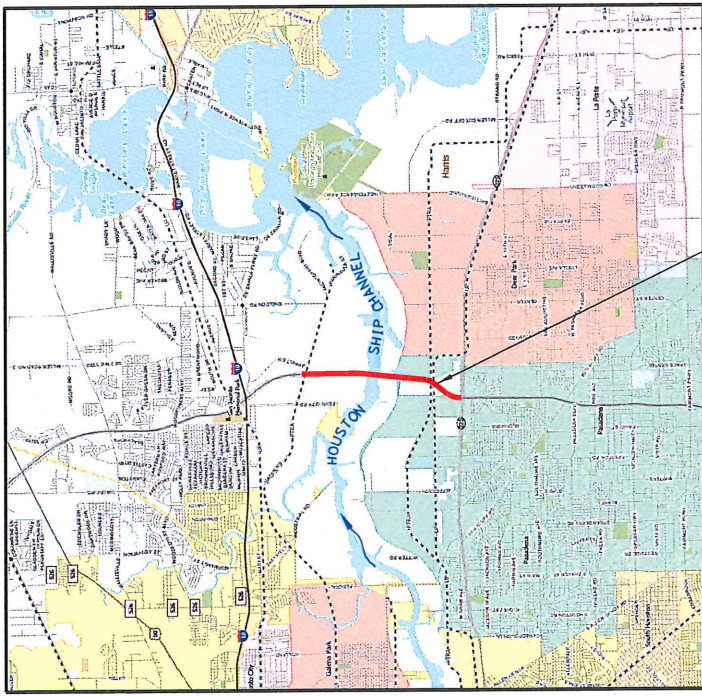
Interested parties are also requested to express their views on the proposed bridge project's possible environmental impacts, including impacts on minority and/or low income populations.

Comments will be received at the Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Administration Branch, at the address given in the letterhead through October 6, 2023. Plans of the proposed project are included in this public notice.

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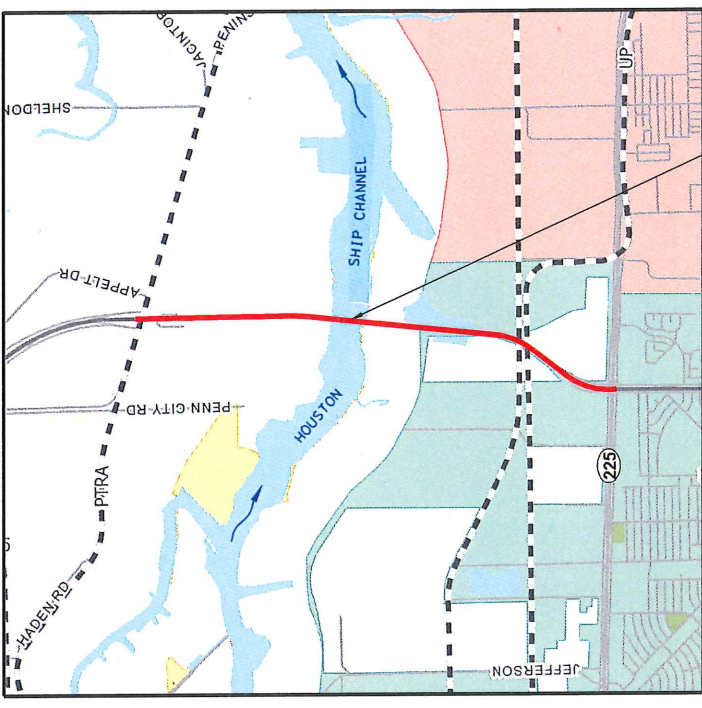
DOUG BLAKEMORE
Chief, Bridge Administration Branch
Eighth Coast Guard District
By direction of the District Commander

This is a web-searchable copy and is not the official, signed version; however, other than the signature being omitted, it is a duplicate of the official version



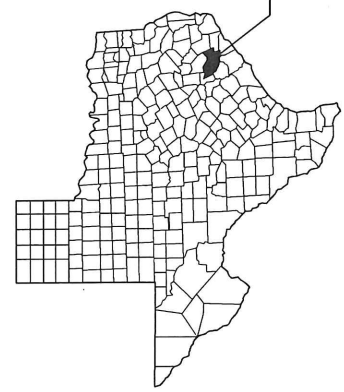
PROPOSED PROJECT

VICINITY MAP



PROPOSED BRIDGE
 (INCLUDES REMOVAL
 OF EXISTING BRIDGE)

LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION
 HOUSTON, TEXAS
 HARRIS COUNTY

STATE MAP

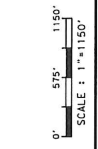
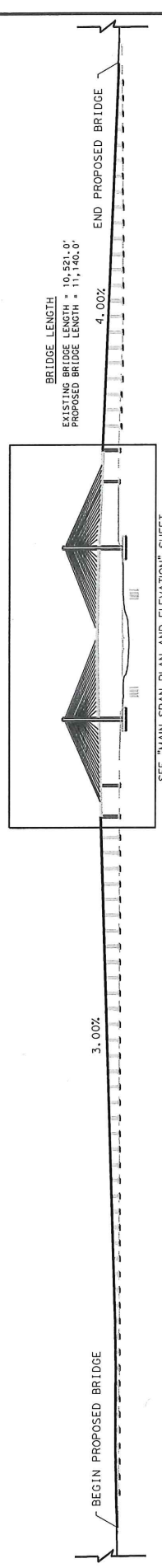
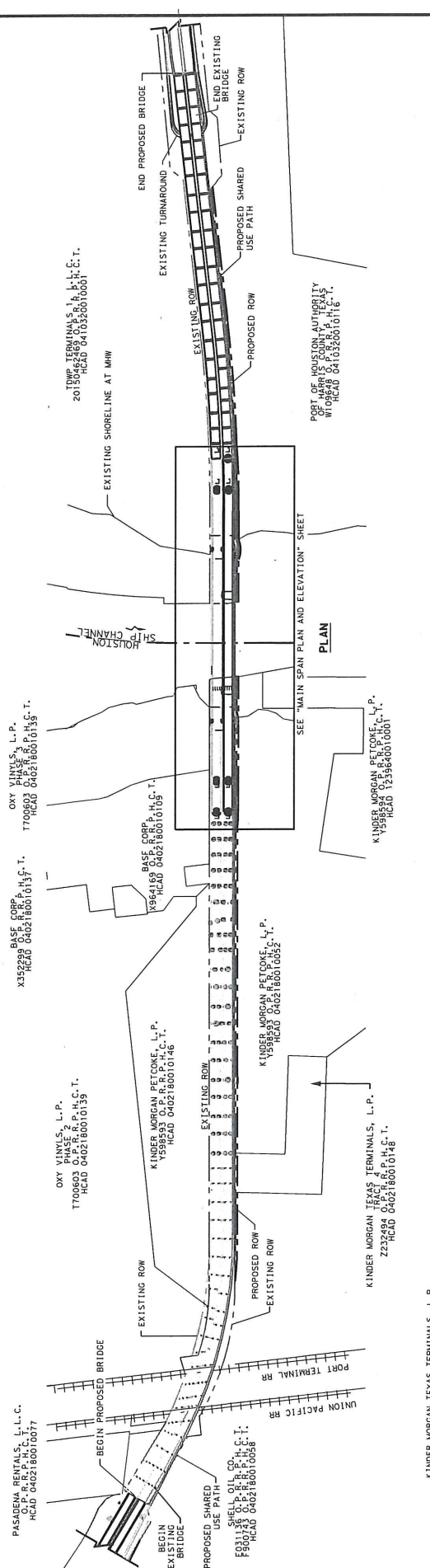


W. Bergman
COWI
 08/21/2023

TBPE FIRM REGISTRATION NO. F-16677

SAM HOUSTON TOLLWAY EAST
 SHIP CHANNEL BRIDGE
 OVER THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL, MILE 40
 LOCATED IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 APPLICATION BY
 HARRIS COUNTY TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY (HCTRA)
 AGENT: KENNY OZUNA, PE,
 HDR ENGINEERING, INC

VICINITY AND LOCATION MAP



- NOTES:
- HORIZONTAL CONTROLS SHOWN ARE BASED ON THE TEXAS COORDINATE SYSTEM, SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE, NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983
 - VERTICAL CONTROLS SHOWN ARE BASED ON THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM, 1988 (2001,TSARP)

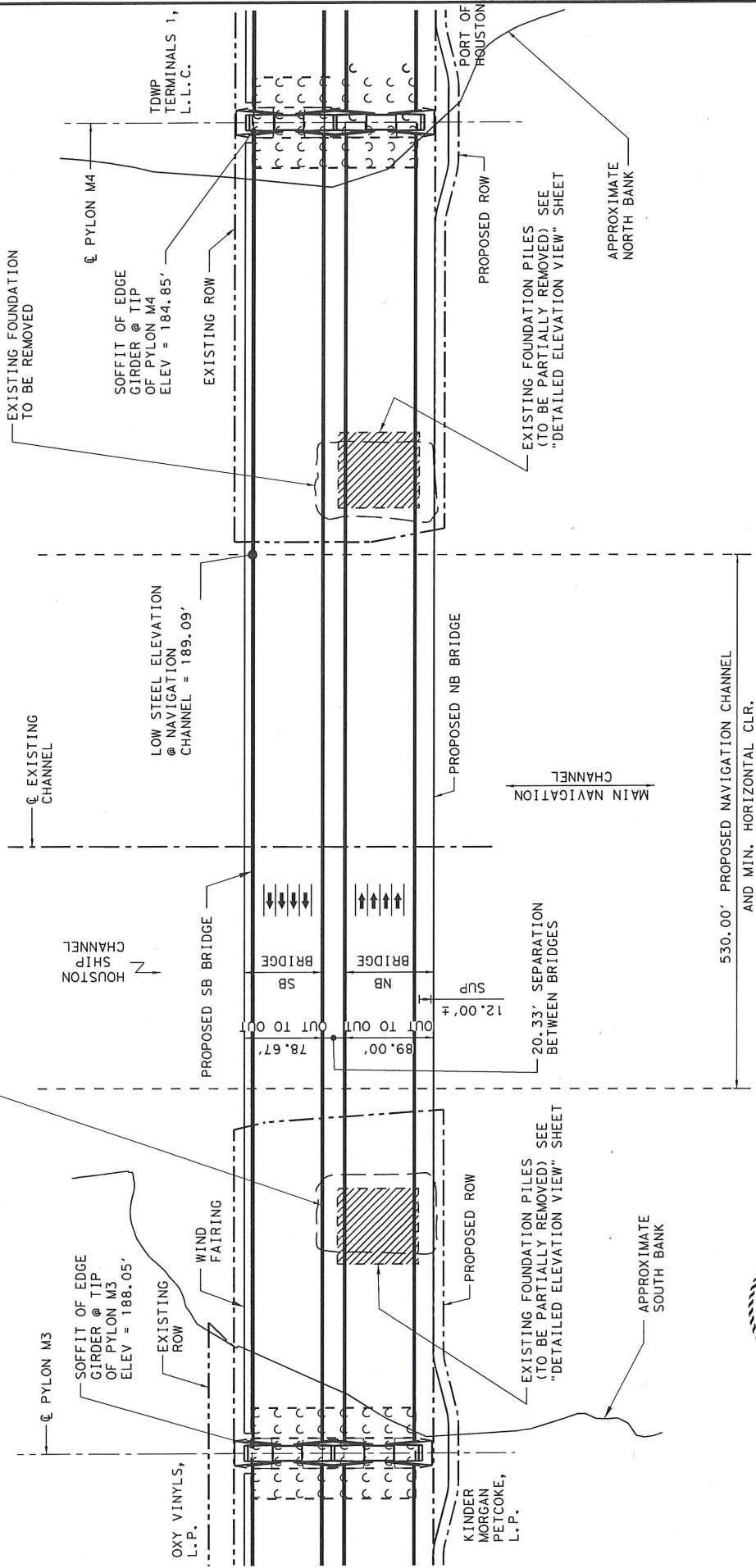


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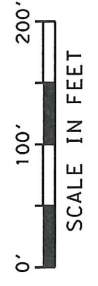
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SAM HOUSTON TOLLWAY EAST
 HOUSTON TOLLWAY BRIDGE
 THE HOUSTON TOLLWAY BRIDGE
 LOCATED IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 APPLICATION BY
 HARRIS COUNTY AUTHORITY (HCTRA)
 AGENT: KENNY OZUNA, HIDE ENGINEERING, INC.

MAIN BRIDGE & APPROACHES PLAN AND ELEVATION
 SHEET 2 OF 6
 FEBRUARY 2023



PLAN



SAM HOUSTON TOLLWAY EAST SHIP CHANNEL BRIDGE
 OVER THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL, MILE 40
 LOCATED IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 APPLICATION BY
 HARRIS COUNTY TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY (HCTRA)
 AGENT: KENNY OZUNA, HDR ENGINEERING, INC.

DETAILED PLAN VIEW

SHEET 4 OF 6

FEBRUARY 2023



McHenry
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 08/21/2023

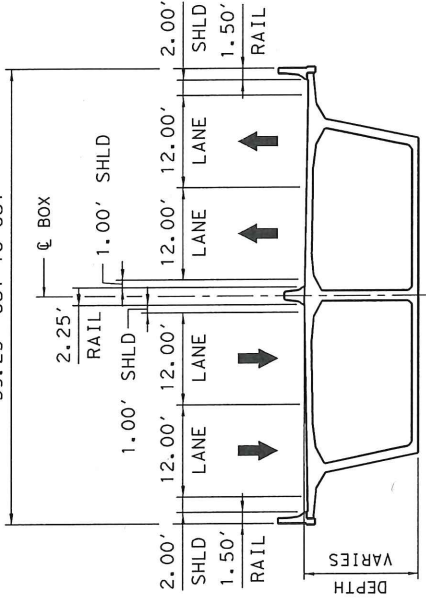
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NOTES:
 1. ELEVATIONS SHOWN ON THESE DRAWINGS ARE REFERENCED TO NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM 1988 (NAVD88).

PROPOSED ROW VARIES 210.00' TO 235.00'

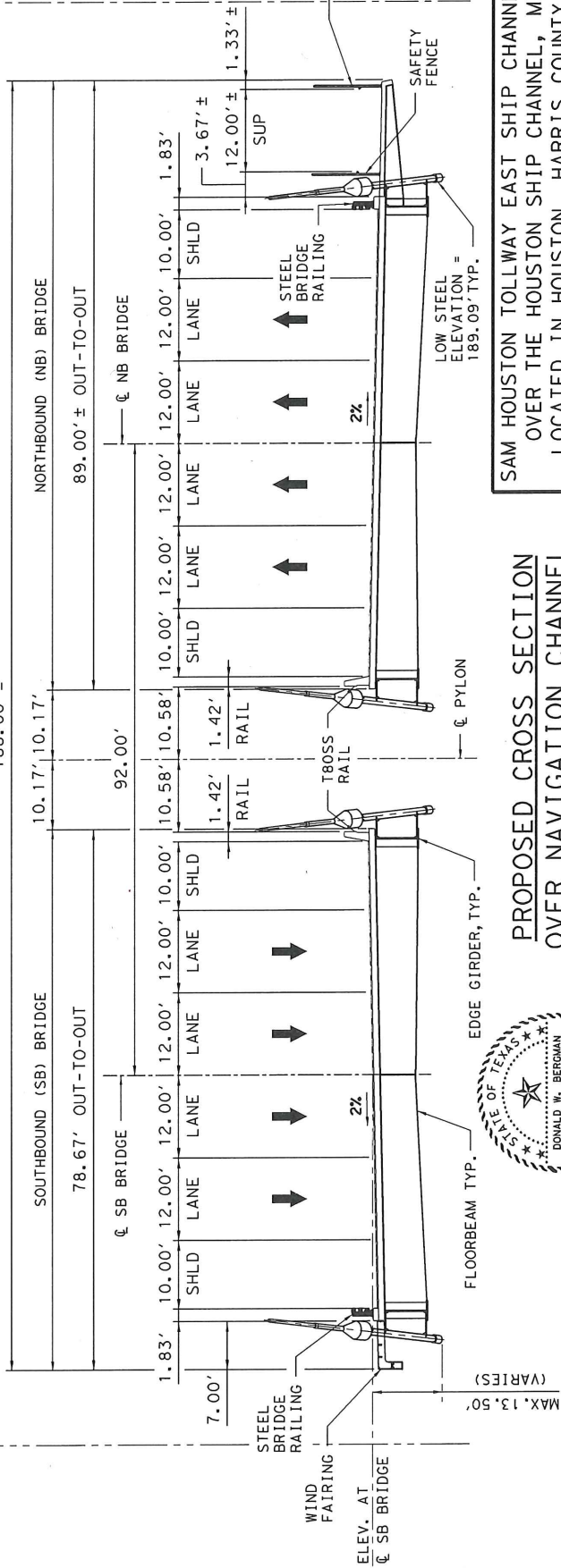
EXISTING ROW VARIES 200.00' TO 225.00'

59.25' OUT-TO-OUT



EXISTING

188.00' ±



PROPOSED CROSS SECTION OVER NAVIGATION CHANNEL
 (CROSS SECTION AT OTHER LOCATIONS SIMILAR, CROSS SECTION AT PYLON WIDER)



WCherry
COWI
08/21/2023

TBPE FIRM REGISTRATION No. F-16677



SAM HOUSTON TOLLWAY EAST SHIP CHANNEL BRIDGE OVER THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL, MILE 40 LOCATED IN HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

APPLICATION BY HARRIS COUNTY TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY (HCTRA) AGENT: KENNY OZUNA, HDR ENGINEERING, INC.

TYPICAL SECTIONS

SHEET 6 OF 6

FEBRUARY 2023