

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District
Hale Boggs Federal Building

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May 18, 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE (02-16)

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. COAST GUARD AND TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BRIDGE PERMIT APPLICATION TO REPLACE THE ELYSIAN STREET BRIDGE AND VIADUCT ACROSS THE BUFFALO BAYOU, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

All interested parties are notified that an application from Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) on behalf-of-the City of Houston has been received by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, for a Bridge Permit to replace an existing bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Buffalo Bayou at mile 4.9, from Commerce Street to Brooks Street, in Houston, Harris County, Texas.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant proposes to replace the existing fixed span Elysian Street Bridge and Viaduct with a four lane new fixed span bridge essentially the same alignment. The proposed bridge project will be constructed mostly within City of Houston's Right-of-Way. This proposed project will improve safety by upgrading roadway design to current Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) design standards, improving mobility within the corridor to accommodate current and future traffic demands.

The proposed replacement overall length is 3,764 feet from Commerce Street to Brooks Street. The total overall width proposed is 80.4 feet. There will be two 12-foot lanes, one 10-foot outside and one 4-foot inside shoulders having a total width of 40 feet in both directions. The proposed bridge piers will be placed outside the channel of Buffalo Bayou and no piers will be placed in the water. The existing bridge crossing Buffalo Bayou will be removed to two-feet below the mud line or to a depth deemed appropriate by the District Commander and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

TXDOT has indicated that the clearances provided by the replacement bridge meet the reasonable needs of navigation. Interested parties who believe that these clearances will adversely affect them should provide this office with information regarding their vessel's overall length, beam, draft, and height of the highest fixed point above the waterline. Estimated cost of bridge and approaches \$87,855,630.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

Existing:

Horizontal: 102.66 feet between fenders

Vertical: 35.92 feet above Mean High Water
National American Vertical Datum
(NAVD 88)

Proposed:

Horizontal: 120.66 feet clear channel

Vertical: 40.10 feet above MHW

The proposed bridge project is in a floodplain with a 100 year flood elevation of 29.28 feet, NAVD 88. Low steel chord elevation is above the floodplain. The estimated cost of the proposed project is \$87,855,630.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead federal agency for the project. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FHWA and the TXDOT the State of Texas' Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 was approved and signed on December 16, 2014. Under this MOU, FHWA has assigned and TXDOT has assumed all responsibilities for NEPA and consultation and coordination responsibilities with resource agencies for almost all federal aid funded highway projects in Texas. An Environmental Assessment (EA) dated July 2011 was submitted with the application, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by the lead federal agency was issued on February 2, 2012 by FHWA. Subsequent to that determination, the project has been Re-Evaluation and approved by FHWA on July 11, 2013, also prior to full NEPA assignment. The additional Right-of-Way acquisition needs resulting from the design modifications total 5.1714 acres. The temporary construction easements total 2.2163 acres. No business establishments or residences would be displaced. A third Re-Evaluation was signed by TXDOT on June 12, 2014 and received concurrence by FHWA on June 17, 2014. All NEPA approvals signed by FHWA prior to NEPA assignment remain fully valid. It has been determined that no substantial changes to the project have been made and the EA/FONSI remains valid.

Unless it is demonstrated through this public notice process that the potential exists for significant impacts, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) will adopt the bridge-related portion of the EA for the bridge related project and issue a FONSI determination that will become the final environmental document. Documents relative to the EA/FONSI determination will be available for review during the Public Notice process at the address indicated in the last paragraph of this notice, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. except federal holidays.

Texas Water Quality Certification is required. Concurrent with the processing of this application, the Texas Commission on Environment Quality (TCEQ) is reviewing this application under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 279.1-13 to determine if the work would comply with State Water Quality Standards. By virtue of an agreement between the U. S. Coast Guard and the TCEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on Water Quality Certification under such act. Any

comments concerning the application may be submitted to the Executive Director, Attention: 401 Coordinator, Water Quality Division (MC 150), P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. The public comment period extends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the public notice with a description of work is available for review in the TCEQ's Austin office. The complete application may be reviewed in the U. S. Coast Guard office. The TCEQ may conduct a public hearing to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for public hearing must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, and phone number of the person making the request; the application number or other recognizable reference to the application; a brief description of the interest of the requestor, or the persons represented by the requestor; and a brief description of how the application, if granted, would adversely affect such interest.

The State of Texas has a Coastal Zone Management Program (CMP) and the proposed bridge project is located within the Texas CMP area. TXDOT has reviewed the proposed project for consistency with the Texas CMP goals and policies in accordance with the regulations of the Coastal Coordination Council and has determined that the project is consistent with the applicable Texas CMP goals and policies. TXDOT has applied to the Texas Coordination Council for concurrence that the project will be consistent with the Texas CMP goals and policies. An approved copy of CZM is required.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on April 17, 2013 between the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and TXDOT as the projects were reviewed internally by qualified TXDOT archeologists. These projects either do not warrant survey as a result of a low probability of encountering Archeological Historic Properties and State Archeological Landmarks, or the projects were inspected by survey or impact evaluation and do-not-warrant further work. As provided under the PA-TU, consultation with the Texas SHPO is not necessary for these undertaking. As provided under the MOU, the proposed projects do not require individual coordination with the THC.

In the event that unanticipated archeological deposits are encountered during construction, work in the immediate area will cease and TXDOT archeological staff will be contacted to initiate post-review discovery procedures under the provisions of the PA-TU and MOU.

There are no known occurrences of any endangered or threatened animal or plant species in the project area. This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management. It is not anticipated that this bridge permit action will have an impact on EFH. Should this proposed action be determined to have an impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries, the USCG's final determination, relative to the project impacts and the need for mitigation measures, will be subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS).

The TCEQ, Air Quality Division, is expected to furnish a statement that the project meets the requirements of the State Implementation Plan on Air Quality. Harris County has been determined to be in nonattainment status for 2015 for the following pollutants: 1-hour ozone (1979), 8-hour ozone (1997), and 8-hour ozone (2008).

Approximately 5 acres of additional Right-of-Way (ROW) would be required, resulting in the displacement of 11 residence or businesses, multiple utilities, and all properties identified are assumed full takings until they can be further assessed during actual ROW acquisition. The purchase of all ROW and all relocations would be done in accordance with the Procedures of Purchase of ROW and the provisions of the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. Soil disturbance would be minimized to ensure that invasive species would not establish in the ROW define by Executive Order 13112.

No prime and unique farmland, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers or wildlife management areas exist at the bridge site. No significant effects are anticipated on public utilities, fire protection or other emergency services. No impacts on threatened or endangered species are anticipated.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners and other interested parties are requested to submit comments on the proposed bridge project. Comments are solicited relative to the proposed navigational clearances, the possible need for a pier protection fender system, the possible need for clearance gauges on the bridge, the extent of nighttime traffic at the bridge site and other navigational safety issues. Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impact on minority and/or low income populations, if any, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of or opposition to the proposed work.

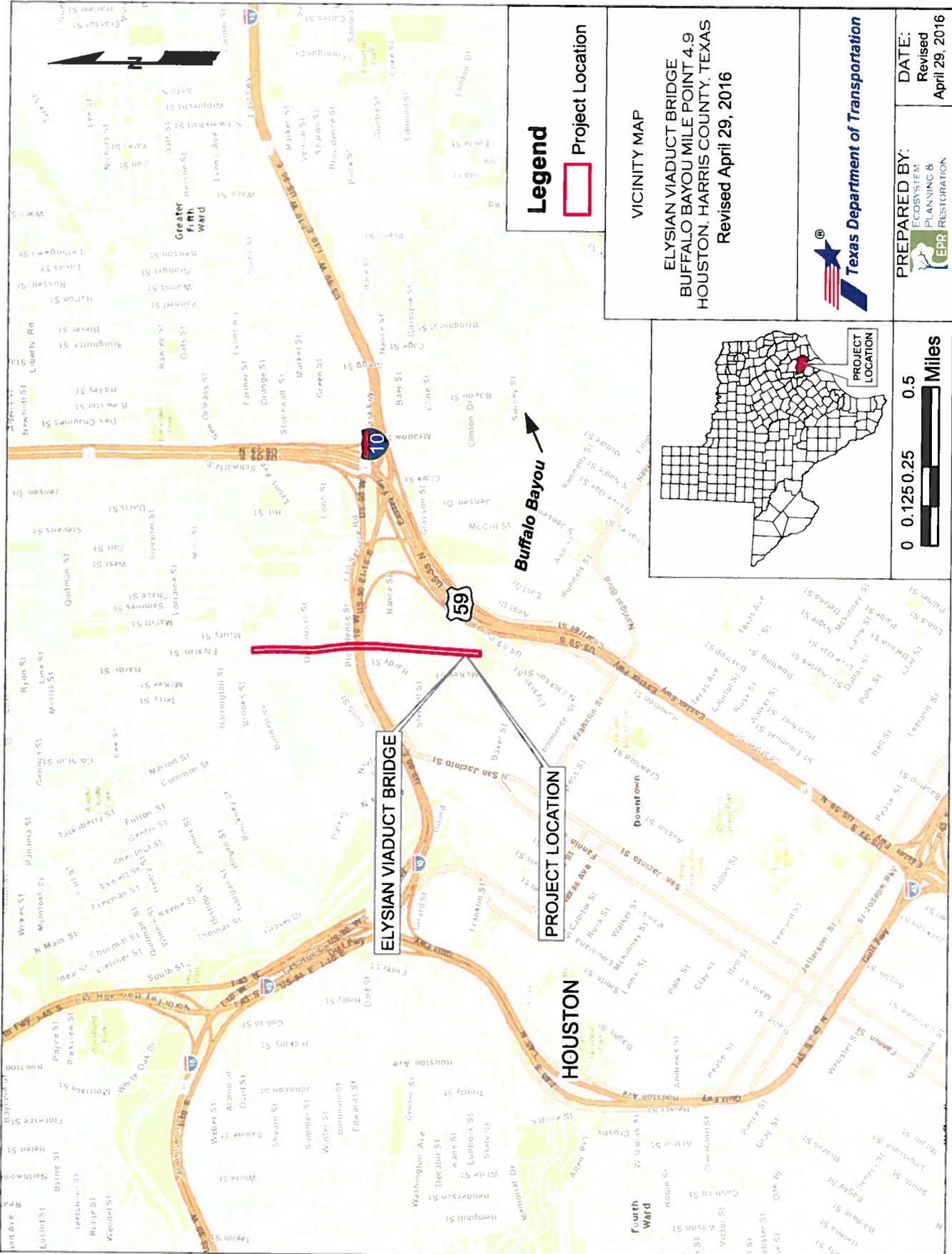
Comments will be received for the record at the Office of the Commander (dpb), Eighth Coast Guard District, 500 Poydras Street, Room 1313, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-3310, through June 21, 2016. These comments will be made part of the case record.

Map of location and plans attached.

//s//

DAVID M. FRANK
Chief, Bridge Branch
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction

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



ELYSIAN VIADUCT BRIDGE

PROJECT LOCATION

HOUSTON

Buffalo Bayou

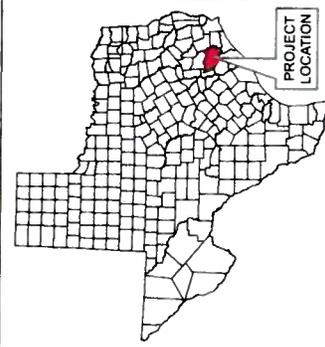
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Project Location

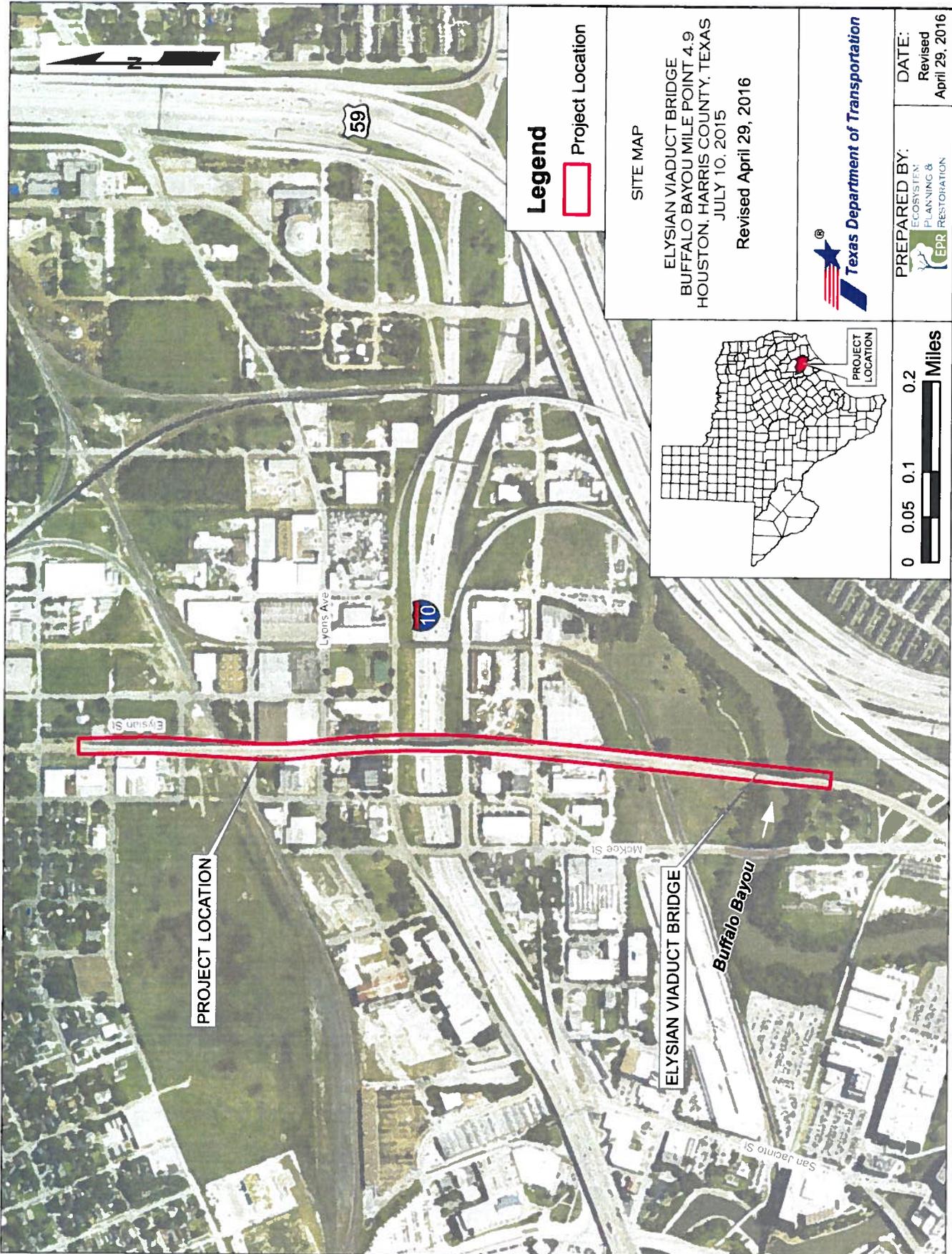
VICINITY MAP

**ELYSIAN VIADUCT BRIDGE
BUFFALO BAYOU MILE POINT 4.9
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Revised April 29, 2016**



PREPARED BY:
ECOSYSTEM
PLANNING &
REPAIR RESTORATION

DATE:
Revised
April 29, 2016



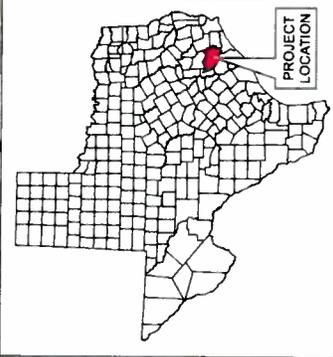
Legend
 Project Location

SITE MAP
 ELYSIAN VIADUCT BRIDGE
 BUFFALO BAYOU MILE POINT 4.9
 HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 JULY 10, 2015
 Revised April 29, 2016



PREPARED BY:
 ECOSYSTEM
 PLANNING &
 EPR RESTORATION

DATE:
 Revised
 April 29, 2016



BEGIN BRIDGE

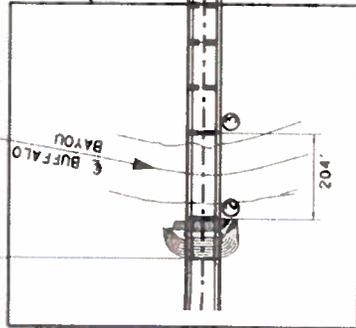
OVERALL BRIDGE LENGTH = 3164.00'

END BRIDGE

SEE BUFFALO BAYOU PLAN VIEW ON SHEET 5 OF 7 FOR DETAIL

PROPOSED BRIDGE COLUMNS

RAIL ROAD



COMPLETE BRIDGE PLAN VIEW



GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET

NOTE:

1. ELEVATIONS ARE BASED ON NAVD 1988 (2002 ADJ) TSARP.
2. THIS DESIGN MEETS AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS (AASHTO) STANDARDS



FIRM REGISTRATION NO. F-199

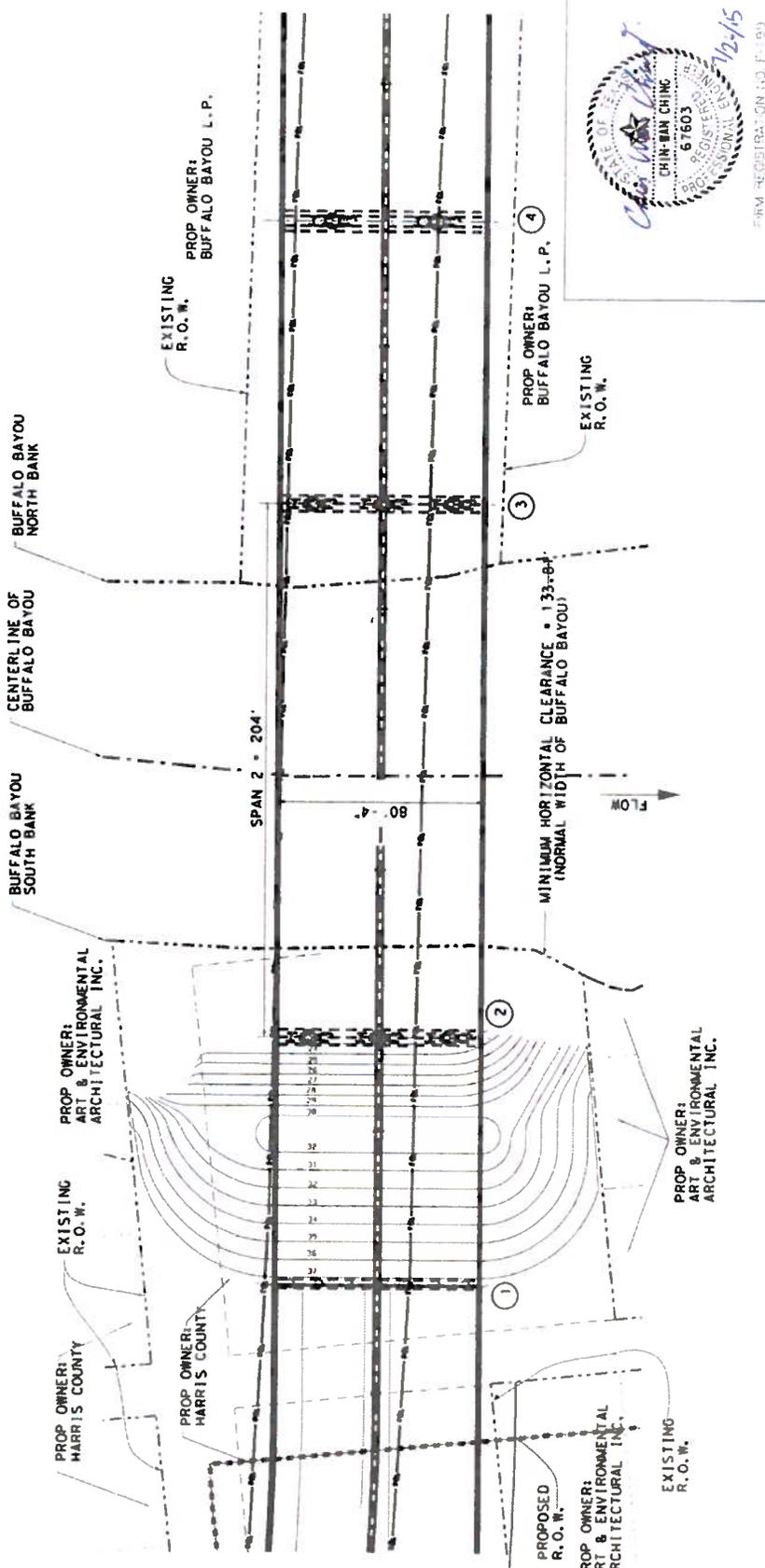
CLYDEBURN VIADUCT
 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
 BUFFALO BAYOU AT
 WILEY POINT 4.3
 HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Revised April 29, 2016



PROJECT NO. SHEET 3 OF 7
 SHEET NO.

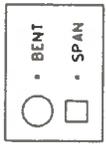
STATE	DISTRICT	COUNTY
TEXAS	12	HARRIS
CONTROL	SECTION	JOB
3312	01	008, B7C, ROADWAY
		ROADWAY PROJECT
		ARCHITECT



BUFFALO BAYOU PLAN VIEW



GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET



- NOTE:
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 - THIS DESIGN MEETS AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS (AASHTO) STANDARDS



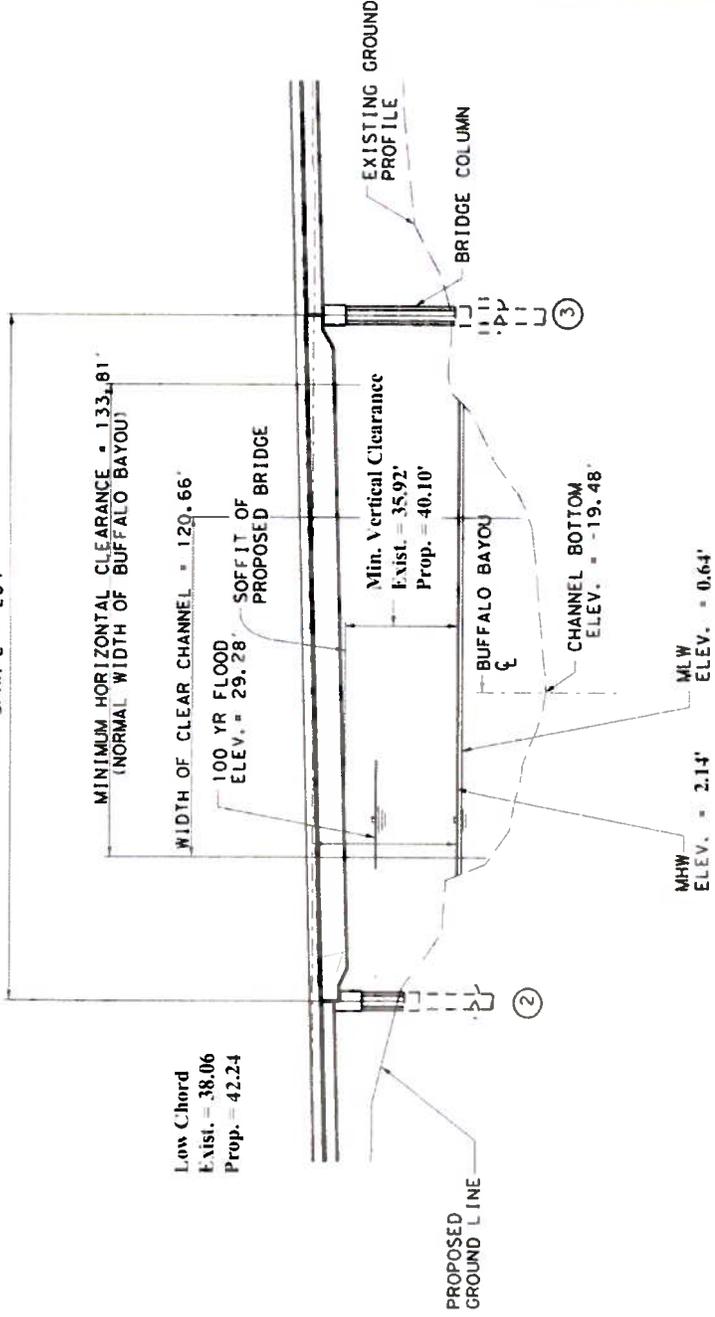
ELYSIAN VIADUCT
 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
 BUFFALO BAYOU AT
 MILK POINT 4.9
 HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Revised April 29, 2016

Texas Department of Transportation		PROJECT NO. 5 OF 7	
SHEET NO. 7		COUNTY HARRIS	
STATE TEXAS	DISTRICT 12	SECTION 01	JOB ROADWAY
CONTROL 3312		01	ELYSIAN VIADUCT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT



SPAN 2 = 204'



BUFFALO BAYOU ELEVATION VIEW

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FIRM REGISTRATION NO. F-1189

ELYSIAN VIADUCT
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
BUFFALO BAYOU AT
MILE POINT 4.9
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

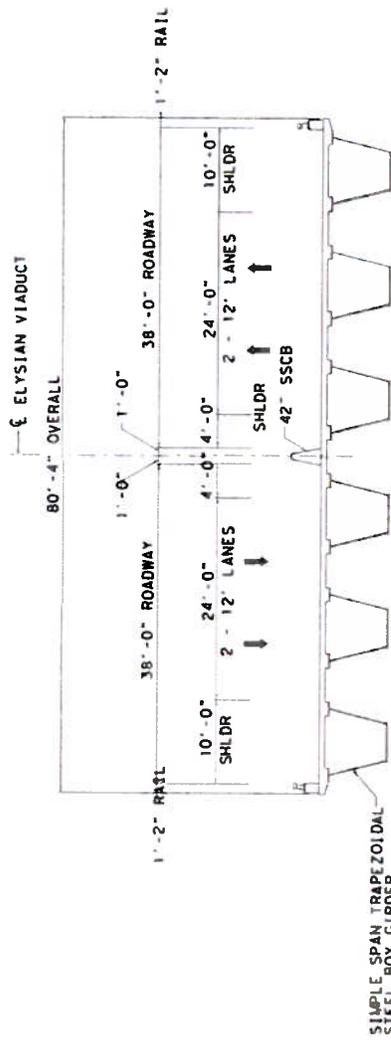
Revised April 29, 2016



Texas Department of Transportation

SHEET 6 OF 7

FIRM TEXAS DIVISION	PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO.
STATE	DISTRICT	COUNTY
TEXAS	12	HARRIS
CONTROL	SECTION	JOB
33.2	01	009, etc.
		ROADWAY
		EXISTING BRIDGE



**PROPOSED TYPICAL BRIDGE SECTION
OVER BUFFALO BAYOU SPAN**



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FIRM REGISTRATION NO. F-199

ELYSIAN VIADUCT
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
BUFFALO BAYOU AT
MILE POINT 4.0
HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Revised April 29, 2016



Texas Department of Transportation

STATE	DISTRICT	COUNTY
TEXAS	12	HARRIS
CONTROL	SECTION	JOB
3312	01	008.6TC
PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO.	
	7 OF 7	