

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District
Hale Boggs Federal Building

500 Poydras Street, Room 1313
New Orleans, LA 70130-3310
Staff Symbol: (dpb)
Phone: (504) 671-2128
Fax: (504) 671-2133

Email: D8DPBALL@uscg.mil

June 15, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE (01-20)

All interested parties are notified that an application dated March 16, 2020 been received from LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT (LADOTD) by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, for approval of location and plans for modification of the existing highway dual fixed bridges over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Tchefuncte River, mile 10.5, at Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

CHARACTER OF WORK: LADOTD proposes to modify the existing Eastbound and Westbound Interstate 12 (I-12) dual fixed highway bridges by increasing the inside and outside lanes from 2-travel lanes to 3-travel lanes in each direction including the bridge approaches to improve capacity and safety while supporting regional growth. Both horizontal and vertical clearances will remain the same. The project proposes to remove the existing bridge protection system (fenders) using the same navigational clearance alignments. The proposed project is to remove the existing fender system two feet below the mudline in accordance with the Scenic River Permit #1100 issued March 11, 2020.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

Existing:

North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88) (Existing and Proposed bridges)

Horizontal: 76 feet for the navigation channel width

Vertical: 29.94 feet above Mean High Water (MHW), elevation 4.40 feet

There will no changes to the horizontal or vertical clearances for the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and LADOTD are the lead federal agencies, has made a tentative determination that the proposed project is a Categorical Exclusion for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). FHWA concurred by signature of June 25, 2019, by an FHWA representative on LADOTD Categorical Exclusion (CE) Determination findings dated May 23, 2019. Unless significant impacts for the purposes of NEPA demonstrates through this Public Notice process, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) will issue a CE as the final environmental documentation, which satisfies the criteria for such action listed in the USCG's implementation instructions. The USCG's permitting action will be limited to the bridge and its approaches. Environmental documents are available for review during the Public Notice process at the address above

through the date indicated in the last paragraph of this notice, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except federal holidays

The proposed bridge project is located in the floodplain. The 100-year flood level is 11.70 feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). The low steel elevation of the bridge is 34.34 feet. The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 6, Mitigation Division issued a Notice/Environmental Consultation that the Community Floodplain Administrator be contacted for the review and possible permit requirements for this project,. A response is required from St. Tammany Parish's Flood Administrator to ensure that appropriate permits are obtained.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a Nationwide Permit 23, MVN 2016-01527-MS dated February 19, 2020, along with an enclosed Memorandum for Record and associated special conditions dated February 12, 2020. State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Services letter dated April 17, 2017 referenced Water Quality Certification 19629-02 under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for those NWP's that will result in a discharge in the State of Louisiana as of March 19, 2017.

The proposed project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program area. The project qualified for a general permit, which constitutes the State of Louisiana's concurrence that the activity is consistent with the enforceable policies.

The applicant will be required to coordinate with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), for review of the project for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). This notice initiates the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. It is not anticipated that this bridge permit amendment action will have an impact on EFH. Should this proposed action be determined to have an impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries, the Coast Guard's final determination, relative to the project impacts and the need for mitigation measures, will be subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

A letter dated June 7, 2017 from LADOTD sent to the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to determine if any historic properties, including archaeological sites or standing structures eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places are located within or adjacent to the proposed Area of Potential Effect. A concurrence signature signed by SHPO dated June 9, 2017 stated that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historic properties and no objection to the implementation of the project. An updated SHPO concurrence dated February 7, 2019 was provided by letter dated January 15, 2019, with no objection to the implementation of the project.

No relocations of businesses or residences are required by this action. No cultural resources or archaeological sites, prime and unique farmland, parklands, recreational areas, wildlife refuges exist at the bridge site. No significant effects on public utilities, fire protection, or other emergency services are anticipated as a result of this bridge permit amendment action. No additional Right-of-Way will be needed. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 letter dated April 3, 2019 to LADOTD addressed the Southern Hills aquifer system is located within the proposed project area and should not have an adverse effect on the quality of the ground water underlying the project site. It relates to the EPA's authority pursuant to Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners and other interested parties are requested to submit comments on the proposed modified plans for this bridge project. Comments are solicited relative to navigational clearances, the possible need for pier protection caused by the proposed removal of the protective system, the possible need for clearance gauges and other navigational safety issues. Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its 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 project.

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 July 15, 2020. The usual 30-day comment period is in place and comments that are received will be made part of the case record.

Map of location and plans are attached.

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Douglas M. Blakemore
Chief, Bridge Administration Branch
By direction of the Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District

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



- ⊙ 150 FT UPSTREAM DEPTH = 38.90 FT
- ⊠ 100 FT UPSTREAM DEPTH = 36.60 FT
- △ 100 FT DOWNSTREAM DEPTH = 32.85 FT
- ⊕ 150 FT DOWNSTREAM DEPTH = 31.40 FT

EXISTING BRIDGE TO REMAIN

PROPOSED BRIDGE WIDENING

RESIDENCE GWEN B. FLORES
4609 HESSMER AVE.
METARIE, LA 70002

TCHEFUNCTE RIVER

EXISTING STRUCTURE TO BE WIDENED
STR. NUMBER: 625204540407972

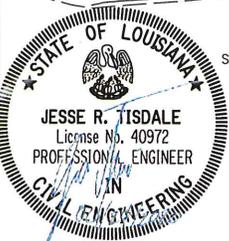
65' SPAN 13 111' SPAN 14 65' SPAN 15

FENDER SYSTEM TO BE REMOVED

EXISTING STRUCTURE TO BE WIDENED
STR. NUMBER: 625204540407961

EDGE OF RIVER

EDGE OF RIVER



PLAN VIEW

(FINAL CONDITION)

1411' TOTAL BRIDGE LENGTH

RESIDENCE MR. & MRS. DAVID O BURCKELL
69115 RIVER BEND DR.
COVINGTON, LA 70433

65' SPAN 13 111' SPAN 14 65' SPAN 15



EXIST. GROUND

M.L.W. ELEV. = 0.30'

M.H.W. ELEV. = 4.40'

FENDER SYSTEM TO BE REMOVED

FENDER SYSTEM TO BE REMOVED

65' SPAN 13 111' SPAN 14 65' SPAN 15

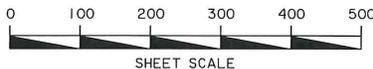
29.94' VERTICAL CLEARANCE TO M.H.W. ELEV.
76' HORIZ. CLEARANCE FENDERS

NOTES

1. ELEVATION VIEW SHOWING SPANS FOR THE I-12 TCHEFUNCTE RIVER BRIDGES
2. PROPOSED WATERWAY BOTTOM CONTOUR IS SAME AS EXISTING.
3. BOTH EXISTING BRIDGES TO BE WIDENED, EACH BRIDGE TO BE WIDENED 23.875' TO THE INSIDE, AND 7.625' TO THE OUTSIDE.
4. WATER DEPTHS PROVIDED AT 50 FT INTERVALS. DEPTH IS MEASURED AT LOCATIONS SHOWN FROM RIVER BOTTOM TO MEAN HIGH WATER ELEV.

ELEVATION

(FINAL CONDITION)

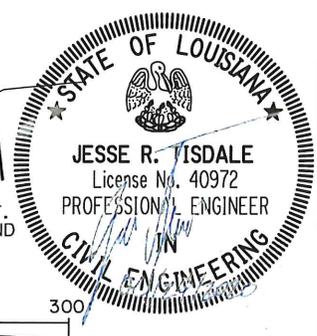
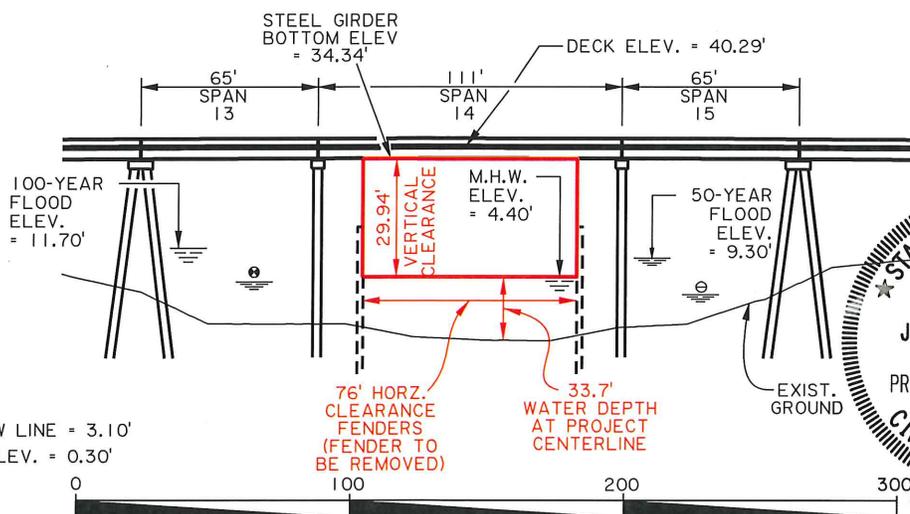
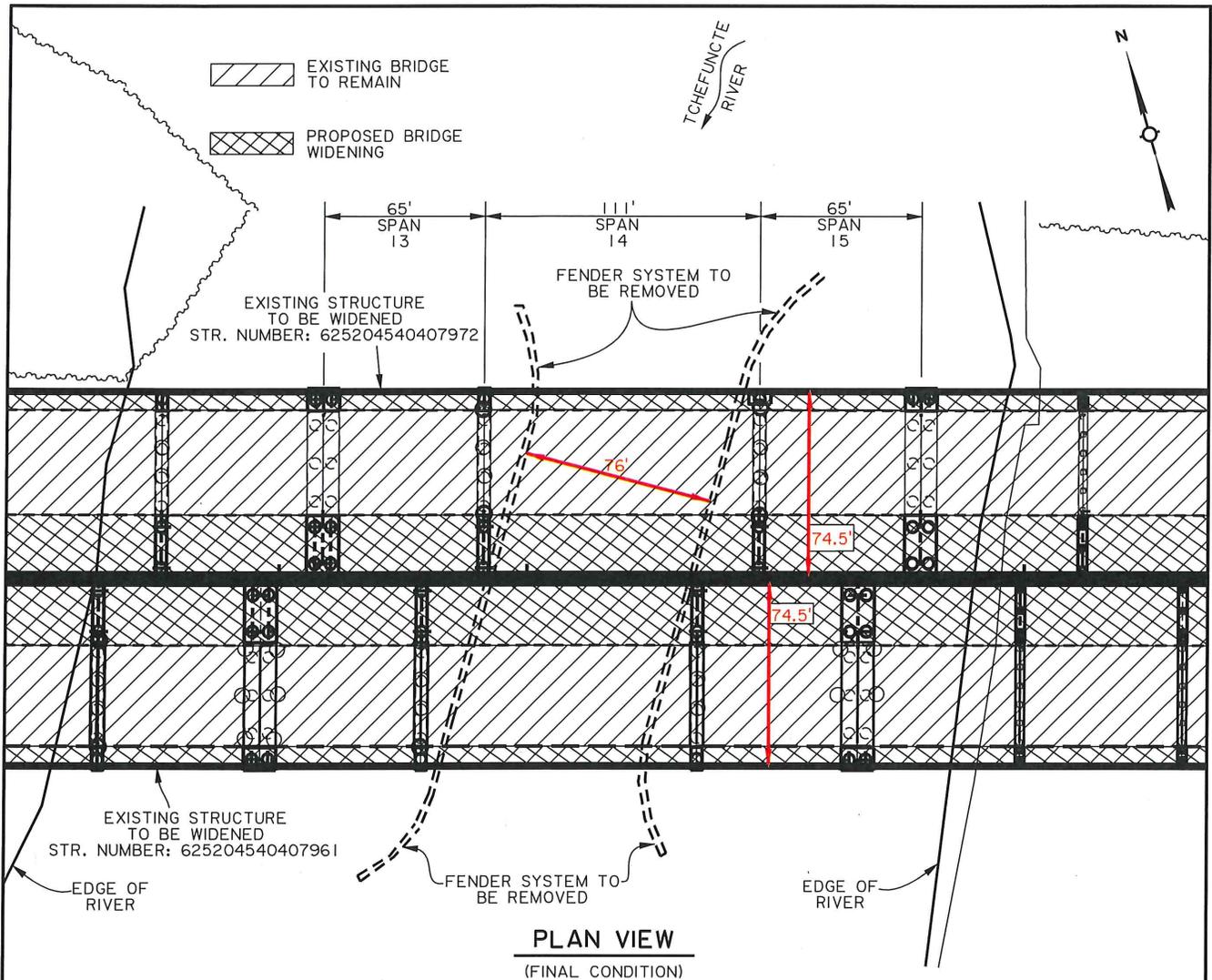


DATUM: NAVD 88

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

STATE PROJECT NO. H.013866
I-12: TCHEFUNCTE RIVER BRIDGE
COVINGTON ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA
RIVER MILE = 10.8

DATE: 03/13/2020
REVISED: 04/24/2020



NOTES

1. ELEVATION VIEW SHOWING THE SPANS OVER THE TCHEFUNCTE RIVER AND THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL CLEARANCES.
2. WATER DEPTH AT CENTERLINE IS MEASURED FROM CHANNEL BOTTOM TO MEAN HIGH WATER ELEVATION.
3. PROPOSED WATERWAY BOTTOM CONTOUR IS THE SAME AS EXISTING
4. VERTICAL CLEARANCE SHOWN IS MINIMUM CLEARANCE IN CHANNEL. VERTICAL CLEARANCE IS MEASURED FROM M.H.W. TO BOTTOM OF EXTERIOR GIRDER OVER THE CHANNEL.

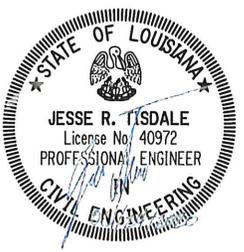
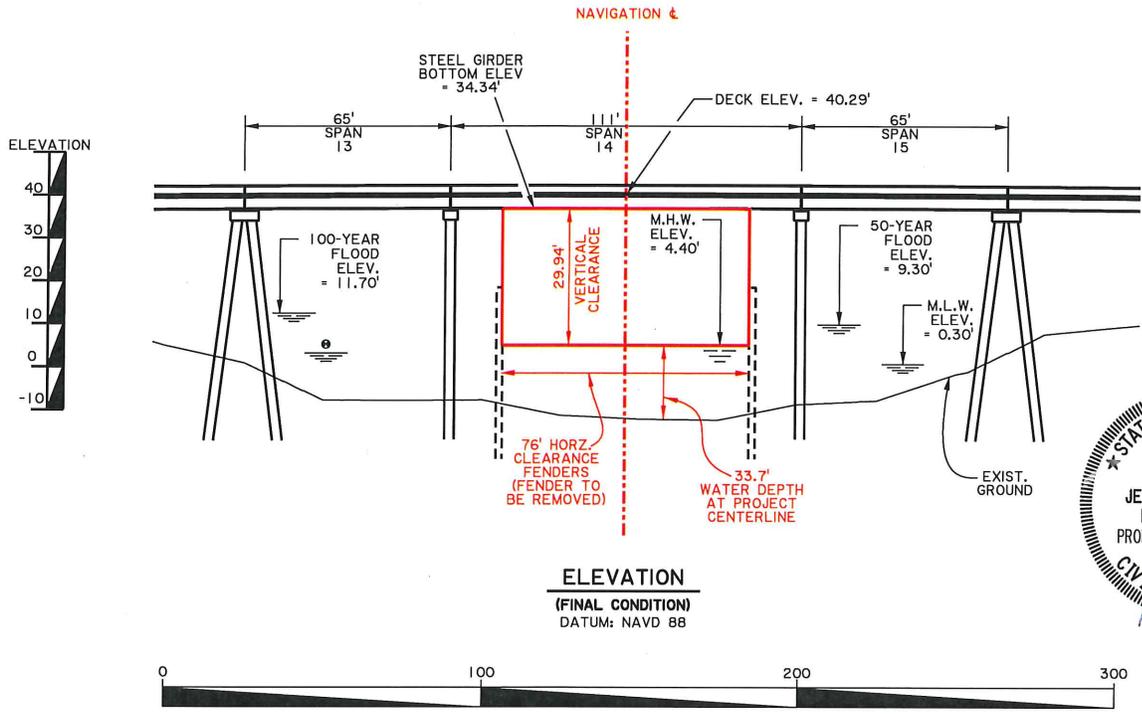
ELEVATION
(FINAL CONDITION)

DATUM: NAVD 88

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

STATE PROJECT NO. H.O13866
I-12: TCHEFUNCTE RIVER BRIDGE
COVINGTON ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA
RIVER MILE = 10.8

DATE: 03/13/2020
REVISED: 04/24/2020



ELEVATION
(FINAL CONDITION)
DATUM: NAVD 88



• 2% FLOW LINE = 3.10'
DEPTH OF WATER AT LOW WATER = 29.60'
MEASURED FROM LOWEST POINT OF CHANNEL
TO M.L.W. ELEVATION

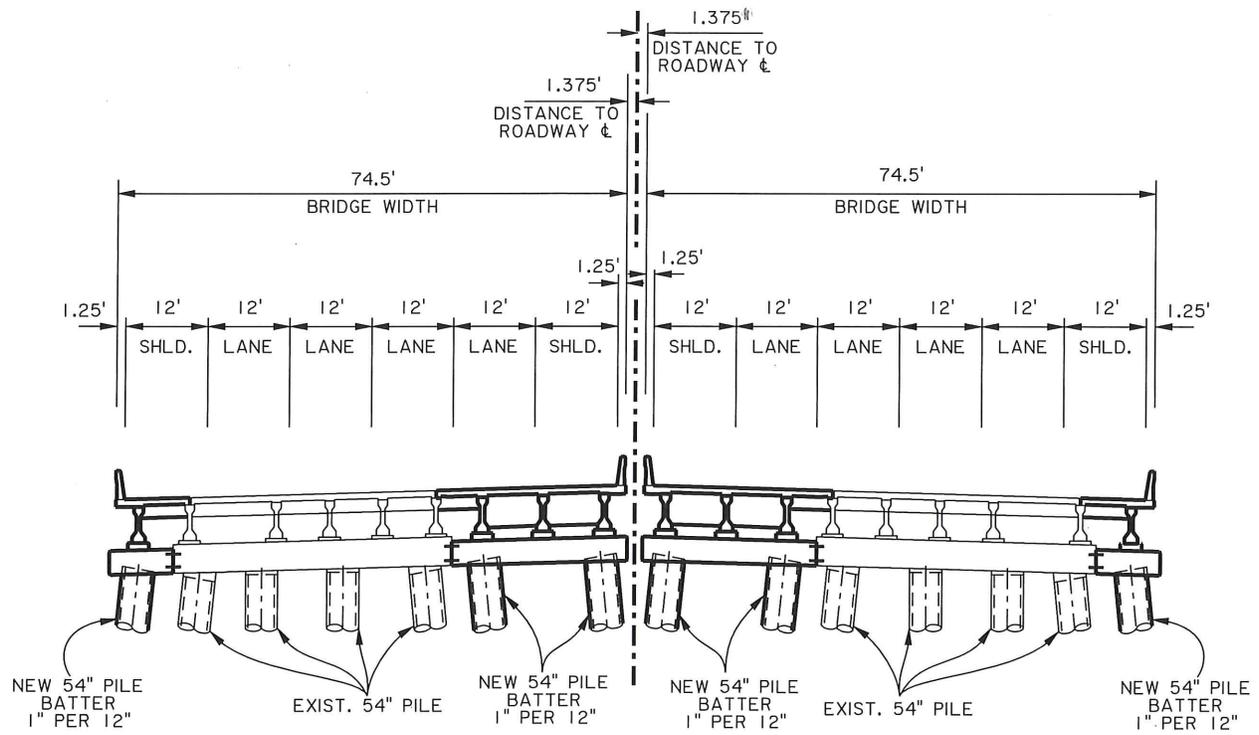
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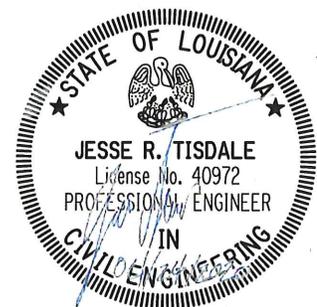
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BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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BRIDGE TYPICAL SECTION
 AT EXISTING FENDER SYSTEM LOCATION
 N.T.S.



STATE OF LOUISIANA
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 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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SHEET 5 OF 5