

# BELLE CHASSE BRIDGE AND TUNNEL REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

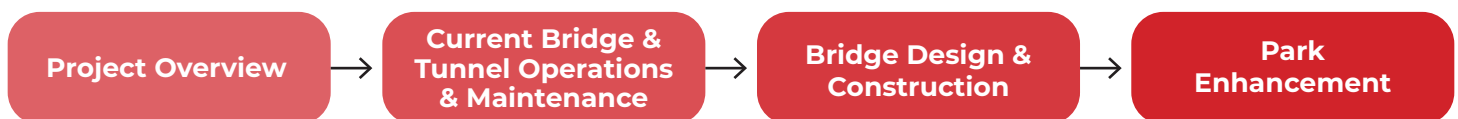
November 9 - 10 | 2021



## MEETING OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Belle Chasse Bridge and Tunnel Replacement Project Meeting. This will be an open house style meeting where the project team will provide an update on the current status of the project. Please use this program to navigate through the open house at your own pace. The project team is available to answer your questions and can be identified by their name tags.

## TONIGHT'S MEETING STATIONS



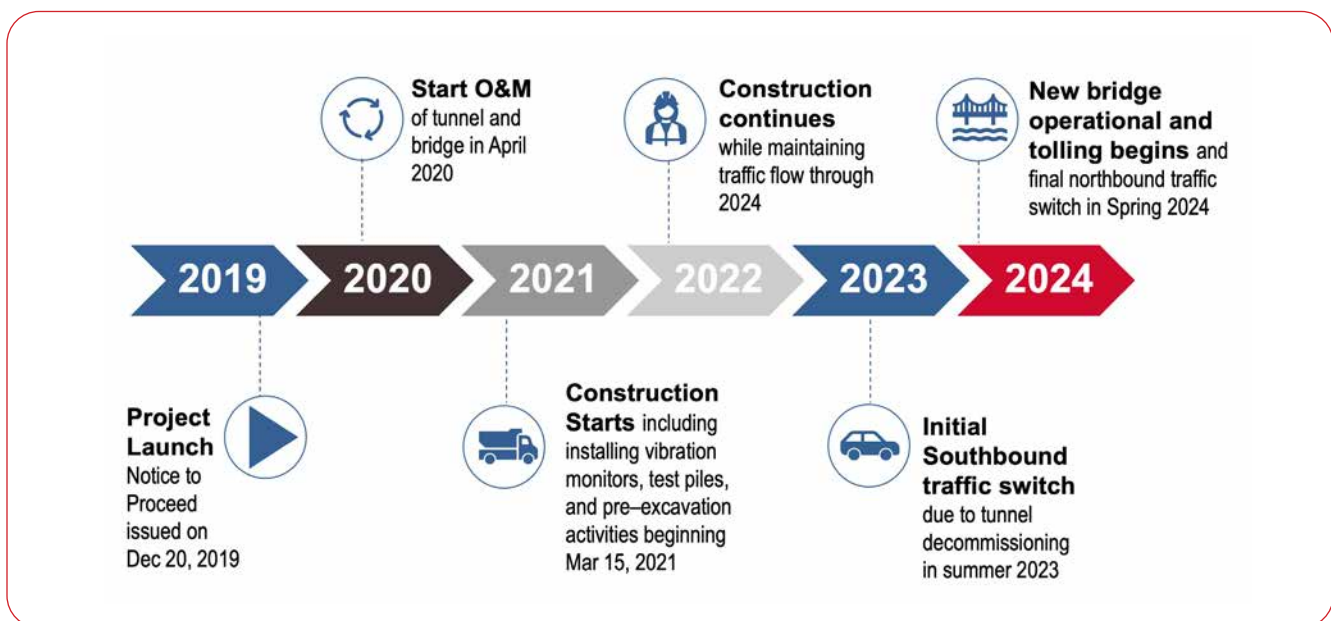
- ▶ **The Project Overview station** will provide information on the project timeline, safety measures, tolling, and the 30-year outlook for the bridge. This station will also have comment cards for you to provide your input on the project.
- ▶ **The Operations and Maintenance station** will present information regarding tunnel cleaning, routine bridge and tunnel maintenance, and the public notification process for work being done.
- ▶ **The Design and Construction station** will present information regarding the status of construction, upcoming work, and depictions of the work. Nearby residents and businesses may also sign up for separate email updates regarding the impact of construction on the immediate area.
- ▶ **The Park Enhancement station** will have information regarding the design elements of the relocated Veterans Park. The Veterans Park will be a scenic park with walking trails and plaques placed on the bridge support columns to honor our military veterans.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Belle Chasse Bridge and Belle Chasse Tunnel serve as the primary access points for the residents, businesses, and industries of western Plaquemines Parish. Both the bridge and tunnel are located on the LA 23 corridor, which has a current traffic volume in excess of 33,000 vehicles per day.

The tunnel began operating in 1956 and the movable bridge opened in 1968. These structures are near the end of their design life span. Currently, there is a need to replace unreliable and inefficient infrastructure due to frequent, costly, and unpredictable operations for repair and maintenance which impact the public's ability to travel.

In 2017, the Louisiana Joint Transportation Committee approved the use of a Public-Private Partnership (P3) to deliver the replacement project. This project is LADOTD's first P3 and is paving the way for this delivery method to be utilized on other state projects. Several public sources of funding were secured to execute the project.



## WHAT IS A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (P3)?

A public-private partnership (P3) is a contractual agreement between a public agency and private entity that provides greater private participation in the delivery and financing of a project compared to the traditional design-bid-build public procurement model. In a P3, public infrastructure uses private finance in a long-term partnering agreement.

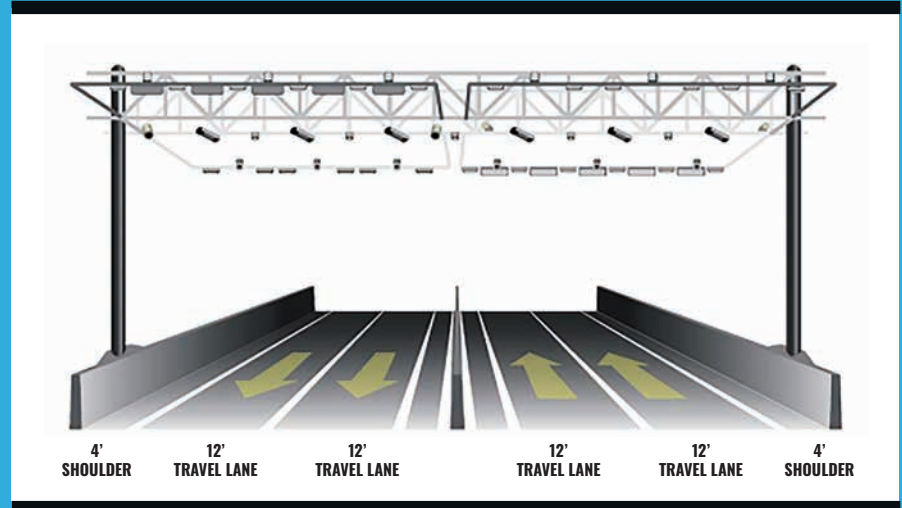
The Belle Chasse Bridge & Tunnel Replacement Project is a Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain P3 meaning the responsibilities for designing, building, financing, maintaining and operating are bundled together and transferred to private sector partners. DBFOM procurements provide project sponsors with cost and acceleration benefits and the added benefit of maintenance over a longer term. In addition, they transfer financial risk to the private sector partner and provide owners with access to new sources of financing, including private sector equity.



# TOLLING

Tolling is often used as a method of advancing construction of projects more quickly or for financing projects that would not be otherwise constructed.

## WHAT DOES TOLLING LOOK LIKE?



- No toll booths
- Mounted toll cameras above lanes
- No lifting of bridge for marine traffic
- Free Flow of Traffic at Full Speed - Does NOT require vehicles to slow down

## DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



**The bridge design is approximately 80% complete. Remaining design activities are:**

- Project right-of-way
- Utility relocation and installation
- Existing bridge and tunnel decommissioning plan

**Construction on the bridge is ongoing. Notable items include:**

- All 4 foundation test piles complete
- Survey and vibration monitors installed on tunnel and bridge
- Completed first of 2 major cofferdams for bridge foundations
- Installed steel pipe pile for first of 2 main bridge foundations
- Started footing and column concrete placement
- Started installing concrete pilings for foundations
- Started relocating utilities



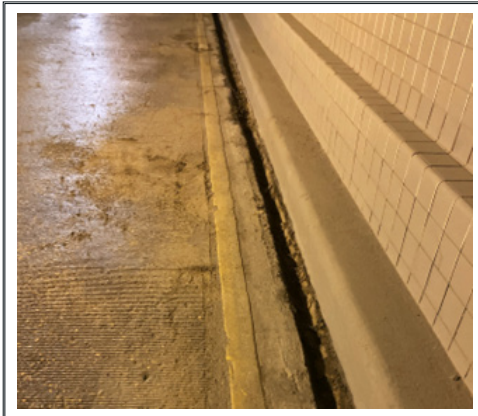
## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Tunnel cleanings are conducted monthly and close the southbound lane from 7pm on Wednesday until 5am on Thursday.

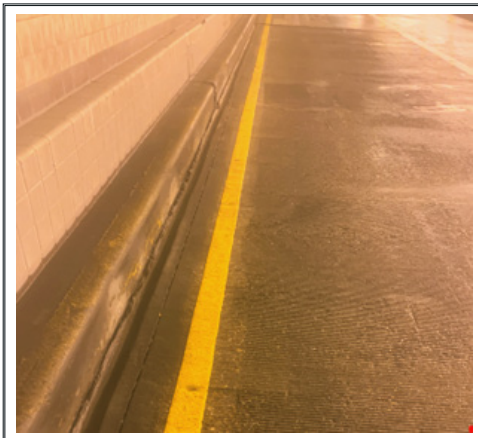
Upcoming cleanings are scheduled for:

- November 10th, 2021
- December 8th, 2021

Before



After



## PARK ENHANCEMENTS

Veterans Park will be a scenic greenspace themed to honor our military veterans with walking trails. The park will include plaques on the bridge support structure.

If you would like to provide comments regarding the project, you can either write them on a comment card and place it in the drop box or make them verbally at the Overview station.

Food has also been locally catered and is available at no cost in the back right corner of the venue.

**DISCLAIMER:** Please note that photographs and video footage taken during the open house meeting may be used by the project team in our publications, website, and social media. Please contact the event organizer if you have any concerns or wish to be exempted from this activity.

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