

1. Administrative Details

**Proposal Name: Modifications to the Gulf Intracoastal Water Way,
Brazoria County, TX**

by Agency: Brazoria County

Locations: TX

Date Submitted: 09/17/2015

Confirmation Number: 02cf4d14-0787-43ce-a586-ed0fd855fadf

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
Section 7001.support letter.pdf	09/17/2015

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Brazoria County, Texas(Primary)	Brazoria County fully supports this study effort and is committed to maintaining the GIWW as a viable navigation resource to the nation. We look forward to partnering with USACE on this effort.

3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

Feasibility Study

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

It is proposed to modify the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) in Texas, pursuant to Sec 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, to address the impacts of relative sea level rise, coastal storm forces, and historical losses to adjacent coastal features, on waterway conditions and functions, with the purposes that adjacent coastal features provide: (1) shelter for resilient transit of commercial vessels on the waterway against waves and currents of the open Gulf of Mexico (GoM), and (2) a reduction to channel sedimentation from GoM open seas for sustainable maintenance into the future. The study would involve: describing waterway reaches that are most vulnerable to losses in GIWW resiliency and sustainability, identifying sediment resources regionally, with emphasis on renewable sources, for harvesting and restoration of degraded adjacent coastal features, with periodic maintenance of these features over the project life cycle on the intended purposes. Strategically, the recommended project modifications will also inform the comprehensive component of the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study.

Under 33 U.S.C. §2215 (a) (2), the cost sharing of feasibility studies does not apply to any water resources study primarily designed for the purposes of navigational improvements in the nature of channels on the Nation's system of inland waterways.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$30,000,000	\$0	\$30,000,000

Explanation (if necessary)

Under 33 U.S.C. §2215 (a) (2), the cost sharing of feasibility studies does not apply to any water resources study primarily designed for the purposes of navigational improvements in the nature of channels on the Nation's system of inland waterways.

The Inland Waterways Trust Fund would be responsible for construction costs associated with this study.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

Barge traffic through the Brazoria County section of the GIWW is estimate to provide over \$30 billion of economic activity to the nation each year. The proposed study would evaluate the resiliency of the waterway to future changes associated with sea level rise and the continued degradation of the channel barriers along the Gulf of Mexico. This degradation increases the risk to the citizens and industry throughout the county to hurricane storm surge. The loss of the channel barrier has also greatly increased salt water intrusion which is contributing to the loss of fresh water and brackish water wetlands and essential fish habitat. This study would help identify solutions that would enhance the navigability of the GIWW, increase resiliency and protect the citizens and critical habitat within the county.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

The leadership, citizens and industry groups of Brazoria County are committed to maintaining the GIWW as a viable navigation resource to the nation and would like to see this study funded to preserve the resiliency of the waterway and the GoM Coast.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

Section 7001.support letter.pdf

DONALD "DUDE" PAYNE
County Commissioner
Precinct 1



KELLI SMITH
Chief Administrator
Precinct 1

*Proudly serving the area of
Angleton, Clute, Freeport, Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, Liverpool, Oyster Creek, Richwood, Quintana & Surfside*

September 16, 2015

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CECW-CE
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000**

Subject: Section 7001 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA 2014) - Request for a Feasibility Study to Review Modifications of the Gulf Intracoastal Water Way, Brazoria County, TX

On behalf of Brazoria County, Texas, I wish to submit this proposal for a feasibility study to modify the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) in Texas, pursuant to Sec 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, to address the impacts of relative sea level rise, coastal storm forces, and historical losses to adjacent coastal features, on waterway conditions and functions.

Unimpeded navigation along the GIWW is critical component to the economic wellbeing of Brazoria County. Local industry such as Dow Chemical, BASF, Phillips 66 and Chevron depend on the GIWW to move finished product and feedstock stock throughout the Gulf Coast region. Recent storm events have significantly eroded the land barrier on the Gulf of Mexico side of the GIWW increasing the vulnerability of coastal residents and industry to storm surge and allowing uncontrolled salt water intrusion into our delicate bays and estuaries leading to loss of wetlands and fish habitat. This study would identify GIWW reaches that are most vulnerable, develop a restoration plan and identify potential locations for renewable sediment resources.

The county fully supports this study effort and is committed to maintaining the GIWW as a viable navigation resource to the nation. We look forward to partnering with USACE on this effort.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Donald "Dude" Payne, Commissioner
Brazoria County Precinct 1