

Corpus Christi Draft Categorical Exclusion



City of
Corpus
Christi

*Presented by
The Goodman Corporation
November 2013*

FTA Findings

For Corpus Christi Pedestrian-Transit Access Master Plan

FTA determines, in accordance with 23 CFR 771.116(c)(3), that the proposed pedestrian/transit streetscape improvements in Corpus Christi, Texas meet the criteria for a documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) in accordance with 23 CFR 771.117. The proposed project includes construction of pedestrian/transit improvements along various corridors to improve access to public transit and neighboring uses. The enclosed DCE document dated December 2013 provides sufficient environmental analysis for the proposed project and no further environmental analysis is required.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 36 CFT Part 800, FTA determines a ruling of “no adverse effect” is contingent upon further review of engineering drawings (currently unavailable as of the release of this document) by Texas SHPO. Grantee understands no construction activities will occur prior to early coordination and clearance by Texas SHPO.

FTA also determines that no parkland and wildlife refuges are either acquired or affected by the project. There is no actual or constructive use of a Section 4(f) resource pursuant to 23 CFR Sections 774.11 or 774.15, respectively.

PREPARED BY _____
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DATE: _____

APPROVED BY _____
FTA Representative

DATE: _____

DOCUMENTED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

This categorical exclusion has been prepared in accordance with 23 CFR Part 771.117(c)(3) relating to the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Corpus Christi Pedestrian-Transit Access Master Plan

December 2013

Grantee: City of Corpus Christi

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1. OVERVIEW

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has established three types of environmental reviews or “class of actions” required as part the National Environmental and Policy Act (NEPA) documentation process as follows¹:

- According to 23 CFR 771.117, **Categorical Exclusions** (Type 1, Type 2, and Programmatic) include actions that do not typically require relocation of businesses or residences, have no significant impacts to planned growth, land use, any natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resource, air, noise, water quality, travel patterns or do not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts.
- **Environmental Assessments** (CFR 771.119) are required when the significance of environmental impacts is not clearly established. The result is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or identification of potentially significant impacts requiring an Environmental Impact Statement.
- **Environmental Impact Statements** (CFR 771.123) require substantial technical analysis and public review to evaluate project alternatives, identify potential social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed project, and determine methods to mitigate these impacts. FTA will grant a Record of Decision (ROD) after successful completion of an EIS.

The proposed project evaluated in this document may qualify as a documented **Categorical Exclusion**. Results of technical analysis, research, and alternatives related to impacts of the proposed project are presented next.

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed project includes construction of streetscape improvements within a half mile of transit stops as provided by the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) guidelines (Figure 1: Project Location). Effected corridors include:

Table 1.1 SEA District Corridors	Limits
Belden Street	Concrete Street Amphitheater to Water St
Brewster Street	Sam Rankin St to the American Bank Center
W. Broadway Street	Burns St to IH-37
Chaparral Street	Harbor Dr to IH-37
Harbor Drive	Port Entrance to Mesquite St
Hirsch Street	N. Broadway St to Bayfront Science Park
Hughes Street	N. Broadway St to Chaparral St

¹ http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Transit_Facility_Checklist_for_Grantees--3-6-09_revi_5010_1D.pdf

Fitzgerald Street	N. Broadway to Shoreline Blvd
Mesquite Street	Harbor Dr to IH-37
Palo Alto Street	N. Broadway St to Shoreline Blvd
Port Avenue	Stroman Rd to N. Broadway St
Power Street	Concrete Street Amphitheater to Shoreline Blvd
Resaca Street	N. Broadway St to Shoreline Blvd
Sam Rankin Street	W. Broadway St to Port Ave
Tancahua Street	Port Ave to IH-37
Water Street	Resaca St to Belden St

Table 1.2 Downtown Corridors	Limits
Alameda Street	Ayers Street to Louisiana Avenue
Artesian Street	Leopard Street to Mestina Street
Chaparral Street	IH-37 to Coopers Alley
Coopers Alley	Mesquite Street to Shoreline Boulevard
Furman Avenue	Carancahua Street to Ocean Drive
Hancock Street	Carancahua Street to Water Street
Lawrence Street	Lower Broadway Street to Chaparral Street
Leopard Street	Staples Street to Upper Broadway Street
Lipan Street	Staples Street to Upper Broadway Street
Mestina Street	Staples Street to Artesian Street
Mesquite Street	IH-37 to Coopers Alley
Ocean Drive	Furman Avenue to Louisiana Avenue
Peoples Street	Lower Broadway Street to Chaparral Street
Schatzell Street	Lower Broadway Street to Shoreline Boulevard
Staples Street	Morgan Avenue to IH-37
Twigg Street	Lower Broadway Street to Shoreline Boulevard
Waco Street	Leopard Street to Mestina Street
Water Street	IH-37 Street to Coopers Alley

Table 1.3 North Beach Corridor	Limits
Beach Avenue	SH-181 to Beach Avenue Park
Breakwater Avenue	Surfside Blvd to N. Shoreline Blvd
Bridgeport Avenue	Surfside Blvd to N. Shoreline Blvd
Burleson Street	SH-181 to Burleson Beach Park
Coastal Avenue	Surfside Blvd to N. Shoreline Blvd
Elm Street	Surfside Blvd to Surfside Blvd
Golf Place	Surfside Blvd to Golf Place Beach Park
Gulf Breeze Boulevard	Beach Ave to Gulf Spray Ave
Gulf Spray Avenue	Surfside Blvd to Gulf Spray Park
N. Shoreline Boulevard	Pearl Ave to Coastal Ave

Surfside Park Boulevard	Surfside Blvd to Surfside Beach Park
Surfside-Timon Boulevard	Beach Ave to Elm St

An existing conditions inventory revealed poor or missing sidewalks, ADA ramps, physical barriers, and other access issues that are not suitable for pedestrians, transit users, and senior and/or disabled populations. The type of streetscape improvements to be constructed will vary on a block by block level according to need but may include one or more of the following:

- Implementing new or repairing sidewalks and curbs
- Installing ADA ramps
- Pedestrian lighting
- Landscaping
- Crosswalk stripping

2.1 PURPOSE OF PROJECT

The proposed project aims to improve access to public transit through implementation of streetscape improvements, such as sidewalks, driveways, curbs, landscaping, pedestrian lighting, ADA ramps, and crosswalks. Over the last decade cities have recognized the importance of re-designing places to promote walking and other sustainable modes such as cycling and public transportation. Since transit usage starts and ends by foot from a bus stop or terminal this investment will encourage increased ridership by improving the overall walking experience. Benefits will include a more cohesive pedestrian network for Corpus Christi (City) visitors and residents, a potential mode shift from auto to buses, improved air quality due to potential reduced auto use, and enhanced connectivity for low income, senior and disabled populations to employment, social services, recreation, shopping and other community uses.

2.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No alternatives were considered. The proposed project is compatible with the City and the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) goals of improving mobility in Corpus Christi.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The Goodman Corporation, on behalf of the City of Corpus Christi has evaluated the proposed project for compliance with environmental laws and regulations. The environmental impact findings are described below and support a request for a categorical exclusion under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(3).

3.1 LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPLACEMENTS

Land acquisition will not be required. Construction will be limited to public ROW. The proposed action will not displace residences and/or businesses.

3.2 LAND USE AND ZONING

The affected project area is largely urban and highly developed. A majority of the corridors are commercial and retail. The corridors located in the SEA District are mainly industrial, commercial and entertainment. The North Beach area is residential with hotels and some commercial properties towards the Aquarium (Figure 2: Land Use Map). The proposed improvements will improve pedestrian access to several large parks, museums, governmental facilities, a convention center, retail and commercial sectors and historic sites throughout the study area. The proposed project is within public ROW and will not impact surrounding land uses.

Corpus Christi is widely known for its historic architecture and cultural resources. Previous preservation efforts include the Nueces County Courthouse, at the center of the inventory area. Other historic areas include the Broadway Bluff Improvements and Heritage Park a collection of well-preserved residences at the heart of the SEA District; these structures were relocated to this area during the 1980s, see *Attachment – Heritage Park History*. No historical structures or resources will be removed or altered as a result from the proposed pedestrian improvements. Refer to [Historic Properties](#) section for more information pertaining to particular properties.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

Corpus Christi is within a near-nonattainment region. The Corpus Christi area currently meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone. Fortunately, the proposed project is expected to benefit air quality in the region by supporting increased transit use, which will reduce the number of autos on the road. Therefore, impacts are considered generally not significant.

3.4 NOISE

Short-term noise impacts during construction will occur (refer to Construction section). However, ambient noise levels as a result of the proposed project will remain unchanged following construction.

3.5 WATER QUALITY

There are no surface water resources on the project site. The proposed action will not result in the direct or indirect introduction of pollutants/contaminants into any body of water. Existing surface drainage patterns will be maintained. A minimal increase in paved area is required to accommodate new sidewalks, driveways, curbs, and ramps however it is not significantly different from the existing pedestrian environment. Any construction-related impacts to water quality will be sufficiently managed by Best Management Practices (BMP). BMPs may include the use of storm water management controls.

3.6 FLOODING

In April of 2004 a cold front became stationary near Victoria and Alice causing a wave of showers and thunderstorms to inundate the Corpus Christi region. Much of the region saw 7-10 inches of rain that caused numerous streets and intersections to close throughout the city. This rain event set the record for average daily rainfall. According to FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps 4854940309C, 4854940308C, 4854940316C, 4854940320C for Nueces County, the project area does encroach on a 100-year and 500-year floodplains (Figure 4: Floodplain Map). Periodic natural events and conditions like these make encroachment within the 100-year floodplain unavoidable for most of Corpus Christi. The addition and/or replacement of streetscape elements however will not grossly modify the existing pattern of run-off or aggravate local flooding. No drainage structures will be altered or modified. The proposed project will not affect flood storage capacity. The impacts therefore are considered generally not significant.

3.7 WETLANDS

Based on review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory Mapper no wetland resources would be affected by the proposed project.² The nearest wetland resources are less than a 0.25 mile to the north and east towards Corpus Christi Bay and Port of Corpus Christi Ship Channel, respectively (Figure 5: Wetland Map). Therefore, no direct or indirect impacts to wetlands are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

² Source: <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>

3.8 NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS AND COASTAL ZONES

The proposed project is less than a 0.25 miles north and south of the Port of Corpus Christi Ship Channel and Corpus Christi Bay, respectively. The proposed project lies within the Corpus Christi area of the Texas Coastal Management Program (TCMP). TCMP objectives include improving the management of the coastal natural resource area and ensuring the long-term ecological and economic productivity of the coast. The goals and policies reflect Texas priorities in balancing resource protection with economic development and provide guidelines for coordinated management of the coast. A vast majority of Corpus Christi is in the Coastal Zone Boundary as determined by the TCMP (Figure 6: TCMP Map). The TCMP contains 21 policy categories and this proposed project would be included under Policy Category 16, Transportation. The project will comply with the policies as follows:

- Pollution prevention procedures will be used during construction to minimize or prevent any pollutants from entering coastal waters
- Project location in an extensively developed downtown area will preclude any direct impact by construction on coastal resources.
- As previously addressed, no wetlands will be affected.
- Construction will not require impounding or draining of coastal wetlands.
- There will be no impact on recreational uses of Coastal National Resource Areas.
- No U.S. Coast Guard or Corps of Engineers permits are required.

This project does not affect any sensitive resource areas protected by the TCMP and is not located close enough to any bodies of water to cause any usurpation of riparian rights granted by state or federal law. In conclusion, there would not be any impacts on navigable waterways and coastal zones.

3.9 ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

There are no ecologically sensitive areas or critical habitats located within or near the proposed project area. The proposed project area is highly developed with minimal natural features that require protection. There are 16 threatened, endangered, and/or rare species listed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service database (May 3, 2013) and 57 listed in the Texas Parks and Wildlife database (May 3, 2013) that may occur in Nueces County. Findings suggest the urban setting does not support a listed species' preferred habitat. However, specific measures to avoid destruction or modification of the critical habitat would be taken during construction to conserve any endangered or threatened species that may potentially be encountered. The complete list, preferred habitat and a determination if habitat is within the project area is shown in Table 1. Based on the project description, the Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program

does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species, or other fish and wildlife resources (Attachment – TWPD Comment Letter).

Amphibians				
Black-Spotted Newt <i>Notophthalmus meridionalis</i>	Found in wet or sometimes wet areas including: ditches, canals, arroyos.	This species is predominantly found along the Gulf Coast Plains south of the San Antonio River.		T
Sheep Frog <i>Hypopachus variolosus</i>	Predominately found in grasslands and savannas in moist areas in arid regions.	There are no naturally occurring grasslands or savannas within the study areas.	LE	E
Birds				
American Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Year-round resident and local breeder in west Texas; nests in tall cliff eyries; migrant across state from more northern breeding.	A breeding resident of Trans-Pecos region and may migrate through the planning area. However, its preferred habitat does not lie within the planning area.	DL	T
Artic Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>	Migrant throughout state from subspecies' far northern breeding range; winters along coast and farther south; occupies wide range of habitats during migration including urban, concentrations along coast and barrier islands; low-altitude migrant, stopovers at leading landscape edges such as lake shores, coastlines, and barrier islands.	These falcons are less likely to use the habitat within the planning area. In these settings, peregrines have adapted to the urban landscape, and take prey such as rock pigeons, European starlings, and other "urbanized" birds.	DL	
Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Largely coastal and near shore areas where it roosts and nests on islands and spoil banks.	Habitat is primarily coastal, which is not in the planning area. Species is rarely found inland.	DL	E
Eskimo Curlew <i>Numenius borealis</i>	Found in grasslands, pastures, plowed fields, and less frequently marshes and mudflats.	There are no naturally occurring grasslands, marshes or mudflats are found within the study areas.	LE	E
Mountain Plover <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Breeding: nests on high plains or short grass prairie, on ground in shallow depression. Nonbreeding: short grass plains and bare, dirt (plowed) fields; primarily insectivorous.	Mountain plover is a plains shorebird that winters in this part of Texas in the appropriate habitat. Wintering habitat includes very large open areas, even agricultural fields. Since this preferred habitat is not found within the planning area, the mountain plover is not found		

		within the study area.		
North Aplomado Falcon <i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Found in open country in open woodlands, savannas, barren areas, grassy plains and valleys scattered with mesquite and cacti and nests in old stick nests of other birds.	There are no naturally occurring grasslands or savannas within the study areas.		
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco Peregrinus</i>	Both subspecies migrate across the state from more northern breeding areas in US and Canada to winter along coast and farther south; subspecies is also a resident breeder in west Texas; the two subspecies' listing statuses differ, F.p. tundrius is no longer listed in Texas; but because the subspecies is not easily distinguishable at a distance, reference is generally made only to the species level; see subspecies for habitat.	This species is a breeding resident in west Texas and may migrate through the planning area. However, its preferred habitat does not lie within the planning area. F.p. tundrius is no longer listed in Texas.	DL	T
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Wintering migrant along Texas Gulf Coast beaches and bayside mud or salt flats.		E	E
Reddish Egret <i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Resides along the Texas Gulf Coast within brackish marshes, shallow salt ponds, and tidal flats; nests on the ground or in trees or bushes or on dry coastal islands in brushy thickets of yucca and prickly pear.	Preferred habitat near water, which not in the planning area.		T
Sennet's Hooded Oriole <i>Icterus cucullatus sennetti</i>	Builds nests within Spanish moss and feeds on invertebrates, fruits, and nectar; breeds from March to August.			

Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Formerly an uncommon breeder in the panhandle; potential migrant; winter along coast.	Prefers coast beaches and bayside mud or salt flats. Such habitat does not exist within planning area.		
Sooty Tern <i>Sterna fuscata</i>	Breeds from April to July and feeds on small fish and squid as it hovers over open water.			T
Southeastern Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus tenuirostris</i>	Wintering migrant along Texas Gulf Coast beaches and bayside mud or salt flats.	Previously extirpated, but now a rare but local breeder, prefers sandy beaches and tidal sand flats. Such habitat is not present within planning area.		
Sprague's Pipit <i>Anthus spragueii</i>	Only in Texas during migration and winter, mid- Sep to early Apr; short to medium distance, diurnal migrant; strongly tied to native upland prairie, can be locally common in coastal grasslands, uncommon to rare farther west; sensitive to patch size and avoids edges.	Migratory bird; prefers coastal and prairie areas.	C	
Texas Botteri's Sparrow <i>Aimophila botterii texana</i>	Found in grasslands, short-grass plains with scattered bushes or shrubs (sagebrush, mesquite, and yucca) and nests on the ground of low clump grasses.			T
Western Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>	Found in open grasslands: prairies, plains and savannas and sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation or airports; nests and roots in abandoned burrows.			
Western Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	Breeds in the Panhandle and potentially winters along the coast.			
White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	Prefers freshwater marshes, sloughs, and irrigated rice fields, but will attend brackish and saltwater habitats; nests in marshes, in low trees, on the ground in bulrushes or reeds, or	Large marsh areas or fields do not currently exist within the planning area for nesting. They have been in planning area foraging for food, but are not as common here due to lack of preferred habitat.		T

	on floating mats.			
White-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>	Near coast on prairies, cord grass flats, and scrub-live oak; further inland on prairies, mesquite and oak savannas, and mixed savanna-chaparral; breeding Mar-May.	Though these birds may be found in open areas near planning area, the preferred habitat of white-tailed hawks does not exist along bayous.		T
Whooping Crane <i>Crus americana</i>	Potential migrant via plains throughout most of state to coast; winters in coastal marshes of Aransas, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.	Species has been extirpated from the area. Planning area is unlikely stopover site as it migrates to and from its winter habitat along the central Texas coast.	LE	E
Wood Stork <i>Mycteria americana</i>	Forages in prairie ponds, flooded pastures or fields, ditches, and other shallow standing water, including salt-water; usually roosts communally in tall snags, sometimes in association with other wading birds (i.e., active heronries); breeds in Mexico.	Prefers large expanses of pastures, fields, wetlands, or mudflats (not present in planning area). May be transient, rare visitors to planning area, but in the absence of higher quality, larger expanses of preferred habitat, are not regular.		T
Fishes				
American Eel <i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	Found in coastal waterways below reservoirs to the gulf; spawns January to February in the ocean. Mostly found in aquatic habitats with access to ocean, muddy bottoms, still waters, large streams, and lakes.			
Opossum Pipefish <i>Microphis brachyurus</i>	Found in fresh or low saline waters; southern coastal areas			T
Smalltooth Sawfish <i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Found near the shore in muddy and sandy bottoms; sheltered bays, on shallow banks, and in estuaries or river mouths; locations vary in salinity and		LE	E

	temperatures; feed on a variety of fish species and crustaceans.			
Texas Pipefish <i>Syngnathus affinis</i>	Found in Corpus Christi Bay within sea grass beds.			
Insects				
Manfreda Giant-Skipper <i>Stallingsia maculosus</i>	Small and stout-bodied; feeds inside of leaf shelters and pupates in a cocoon made of leaves fastened together with silk.			
Mammals				
Maritime Pocket Gopher <i>Geomys personatus maritimus</i>	Found in deep sandy soils; feeds mostly from within burrow on roots and other plant parts (grasses). Ecologically important as a prey species and influencing soils and plant diversity.	Preferred habitat near water, which not in the planning area.		
Ocelot <i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	Found in dense chaparral thickets, mesquite thorn scrub and live oak mottes; avoids open areas; breeds and raises young from June to November.	The planning area is highly urbanized and does not support this species preferred habitat of areas with 75-95 canopy and isolated tracks of land greater than 75 acres.	LE	E
Plains Spotted Skunk <i>Spilogale putorius interrupta</i>	Prefers open fields, prairies, croplands, fence rows, farmyards, forest edges, woodlands; wooded, brushy areas, and tall grass prairie.	Tall grass prairie component of preferred habitat types not present near bayous. Open fields, woodland and forest edges are present. Species in decline and rare to absent in planning area.		T
Rafinesque's Bigeared Bat <i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Roosts in cavity trees of bottomland hardwoods, concrete culverts, and abandoned man-made structures.	Requires extensive bottomland hardwoods, and is not present in planning area.		
Red Wolf <i>Canis rufus</i>	Formerly known throughout eastern half of Texas in brushy, forested areas and coastal prairies.	Species considered extirpated from planning area.	LE	E
Southern Yellow Bat <i>Lasiurus ega</i>	Found in palm trees near Brownsville; providing them with daytime roosts; breeds in late winter.	The planning area is highly urbanized and does not support this species preferred habitat.		T

West Indian Manatee <i>Trichechus manatus</i>	Found in gulf and bay systems; aquatic herbivore.	The planning area will not encroach within the gulf or bay system.	LE	E
White-Nosed Coati <i>Nasua narica</i>	Found in woodlands, riparian corridors and canyons; transient from Mexico. Forages on ground and in trees; may be susceptible to hunting, trapping and pet trade.	The planning area is highly urbanized and does not support this species preferred habitat.		T
Reptiles				
Atlantic Hawksbill Sea Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Gulf and bay system; shallow waters especially rocky marine environments, such as coral reefs and jetties; feeds on sponges, jellyfish, sea urchins, molluscs, and crustaceans; nests from April to November.		LE	E
Green Sea Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Gulf and bay system; shallow water sea grass beds, open water between feeding and nesting areas, barrier island beaches; adults are herbivorous feeding on sea grass and seaweed; juveniles are omnivorous feeding initially on marine invertebrates.	Seaward habitat not applicable to planning area.	LT	T
Gulf Saltmarsh Snake <i>Nerodia Clarkii</i>	Saline flats, coastal bays, and brackish river mouths.	Seaward habitat not applicable to planning area.		
Keel Earless Lizard <i>Holbrookia propinqua</i>	Found in coastal dunes, barrier islands, and other sandy areas; eats insects and likely other small invertebrates; eggs laid underground from March to September.			
Kemp's Ridley sea turtle <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Gulf and bay system, adults stay within the shallow waters of Gulf of Mexico; feed primarily on crabs, snails, clams, other crustaceans and plants. Juveniles feed on sargassum and associated fauna; nests Apr to Aug.	Seaward habitat not applicable to planning area.	LE	E

Leatherback Sea Turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<p>Gulf and bay systems, and widest ranging open water reptile; omnivorous, shows preference for jellyfish; in US portion of its western Atlantic nesting territories, nesting season ranges from Mar. to Aug.</p>	<p>Seaward habitat not applicable to planning area.</p>	<p>LE</p>	<p>E</p>
Loggerhead Sea Turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i>	<p>Gulf and bay system primarily for juveniles; adults are most pelagic of sea turtles; omnivorous, shows preference for mollusks, crustaceans, and coral; nests Apr. to Nov.</p>	<p>Seaward habitat not applicable to planning area.</p>	<p>LT</p>	<p>T</p>
Spot-Tailed Earless Lizard <i>Holbrookia lacerata</i>	<p>Found in central and southern Texas and adjacent to Mexico, particularly open prairie and brush land and fairly flat areas free of vegetation or other obstructions including disturbed lands; eggs laid underground.</p>			
Texas Diamondback Terrapin <i>Malaclemys terrapin littoralis</i>	<p>Found in coastal marshes, tidal flats, coves, estuaries and lagoons behind barrier beaches; brackish and salt water environments; burrows into mud when inactive; may venture into lowlands at high tide.</p>	<p>The highly urbanized nature of the area probably precludes the existence of the species within the planning area.</p>		
Texas Horned Lizard <i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	<p>Open, arid, semi-arid regions with sparse vegetation, including grass, cactus, scattered brush, or scrubby trees; soil may vary in texture from sandy to rocky; burrows into soil, enters rodent nests. Hides under rock when inactive; breeds Mar. to Sep.</p>	<p>Habitat includes expanses of arid to semi-arid regions with sparse vegetation, which is not found in planning area. Considered extirpated from the area.</p>		<p>T</p>
Texas Indigo Snake	<p>Found south of the</p>	<p>The highly urbanized nature of the</p>		<p>T</p>

<i>Drymarchon melanurus erebennus</i>	Guadalupe River and Balcones Escarpment; preferred habitat of thorn bush-chaparral woodlands of south Texas, particularly riparian corridors. Can be found in suburban and irrigated croplands if not molested or indirectly poisoned; requires moist environment such as rodent burrows for shelters.	area probably precludes the existence of the species within the planning area; due to the limited foraging area.		
Texas Scarlet Snake <i>Cemophora coccinea lineri</i>	Found in mixed hardwood scrub on sandy soils; feeds on reptile eggs; active from April to September.	The planning area is highly urbanized and does not support this species preferred habitat.		T
Texas Tortoise <i>Gopherus berlandieri</i>	Found in open brush with grassy understory; open grass and bare ground are avoided. When inactive occupies shallow depressions at base of bush or cactus, sometimes in underground burrows or under objects; active from March to November; breeds from April to November.	Limited grasslands are found within the planning area; including species preferred food source.		T
Plants				
Buckley's Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia buckleyi</i>	Occurs on sandy loam or clay soils in grasslands or shrub lands underlain by the Beaumont Formation.	Limited grasslands are found within the planning area.		
Elmendorf's Onion <i>Allium elmendorfii</i>	Found in grasslands openings in oak woodlands on deep, loose, well-drained sands; Found on the Coastal Bend near Pleistocene barrier island ridges and Holocene Sand Sheet that support live oak woodlands; to the north it occurs in post oak-black hickory-live oak woodlands over Queen City and similar Eocene formations; Also found	The planning area is highly urbanized and does not support this species preferred habitat.		

	in Llano Uplift in wet pockets of granite loam; flowering March to May.			
Lila de los Llanos <i>Echeandia chandleri</i>	Most commonly encountered among shrubs or in grassy openings in subtropical thorn shrub lands on somewhat saline clays of lomas along Gulf Coast near mouth of Rio Grande; also observed in a few upland coastal prairie remnants on clay soils over the Beaumont Formation at inland sites well to the north and along railroad right-of-ways and cemeteries; flowering (May-) September-December, fruiting October-December.	The planning area is highly urbanized and does not support this species preferred habitat.		
Mexican Mud-Plantain <i>Heteranthera mexicana</i>	Found on wet clayey soils of resacas and ephemeral wetlands in South Texas and along margins of playas in the Panhandle; flowering June-December, only after sufficient rainfall.	Species preferred habitat is not within the planning area; highly urbanized.		
Plains Gumweed <i>Grindelia oolepis</i>	Found on coastal prairies on heavy clay (black land) soils, often in depressional areas, sometimes persisting in areas where management (mowing) may maintain or mimic natural prairie disturbance regimes; 'crawfish lands'; on nearly level Victoria clay, Edroy clay, claypan, possibly Greta within Orelia fine sandy loam over the			

	Beaumont Formation, and Harlingen clay; roadsides, railroad rights-of-ways, vacant lots in urban areas, cemeteries; flowering April-December.			
Slender Rushpea				
<i>Hoffmannseggia tenella</i>	Texas endemic; coastal prairie grasslands on level uplands and on gentle slopes along drainages, usually in areas of shorter or sparse vegetation; soils often described as Blackland clay, but at some of these sites soils are coarser textured and lighter in color than the typical heavy clay of the coastal prairies; flowering April-November.		LE	E
South Texas Ambrosia				
<i>Ambrosia cheiranthifolia</i>	Found on grasslands and mesquite-dominated shrub lands on various soils ranging from heavy clays to lighter textured sandy loams, mostly over the Beaumont Formation on the Coastal Plain; in modified unplowed sites such as railroad and highway right-of-ways, cemeteries, mowed fields, erosional areas along small creeks; flowering July-November.	Much of the area is highly urbanized and does not support the species preferred habitat.	LE	E
Texas Windmill-Grass	Texas endemic; sandy	Habitat is endemic to open,		

<i>Chloris texensis</i>	to sandy loam soils in relatively bare areas in coastal prairie grassland remnants, often on roadsides where regular mowing may mimic natural prairie fire regimes; flowering in fall.	sometimes barren prairies and grasslands. This habitat is not located within the planning area.		
Welder Machaeranthera <i>Psilactis heterocarpa</i>	Texas endemic; grasslands , varying from midgrass coastal prairies, and open mesquite-huisache woodlands on nearly level, gray to dark gray clayey to silty soils; known locations mapped on Victoria clay, Edroy clay, Dacosta sandy clay loam over Beaumont and Lissie formations; flowering September-November.	Much of the area is highly urbanized and does not support the species preferred habitat.		

LE = FEDERALLY THREATENED/ENDANGERED, E/T=STATE LISTED THREATENED/ENDANGERED, DL=FEDERALLY DELISTED, "BLANK"=RARE, BUT WITH NO REGULATORY LISTING STATUS

3.10 TRAFFIC AND PARKING

There is no traffic and parking impact expected from the proposed plan. All improvements will be limited to the public ROW. Expected transit usage will result in a net reduction of traffic.

3.11 ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND POTENTIAL FOR CONVERSION

The proposed project is expected to result in the conversion of energy by facilitating the conversion of some auto trips to pedestrian and transit trips. Pedestrian travel and mass transit are more energy efficient forms of transportation than travel via single occupant vehicle (SOV). Therefore, implementing the pedestrian infrastructure improvements proposed herein will result in a net reduction in energy consumption.

3.12 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

In-advance of determining the historical significance of each property identified along the project corridors several resources were consulted. First, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Atlas lists several Historical Markers and National Registered Properties within or near the project area (Figure 3: Historic Properties). However, no historical sites will be disturbed by

the improvements. After which, the City of Corpus Christi and Nueces County Appraisal District records were reviewed to identify properties 45 years or older. There were 171 properties identified due to their age and location to the proposed improvements. The existing conditions of those properties within the improvement area vary, additional details are provided in *Attachment – Survey Records*.

All streetscape improvements will be limited to the public ROW. No structures will be removed or altered as a result of the improvements. Most structures are set back from the curb and will not be directly impacted by the streetscape improvements. There are no architectural features such as unique lighting, pavers or fencing integrated in the pedestrian environment of historical significance. No improvements will encroach upon the historic Broadway Bluff that runs between Upper and Lower Broadway. All improvements will be on the opposing street and will not directly impact the historic significance of the Broadway Bluff Improvement. Several of the properties mentioned in *Attachment – Survey Records* are listed in the National Registry of Historic Properties in Texas. All efforts to conform to the Texas Historical Commission Streetscape Guidelines For Enhancement Projects will be taken to ensure that no historically significant sites would be adversely affected by the proposed project. Protection Notes for the removal of existing streetscape improvements can be found in the construction section. If buried or cultural materials are found within the project area during construction or disturbance activities, work would cease in the immediate area and the THC Archeology Division would be contacted. No public meetings have been held yet in support of the proposed project.

- National Register Properties
 - Britton-Evans House
 - Charlotte Sidbury House
 - Julius S. Lichtenstein
 - Nueces County Courthouse
 - Simon Gugenheim House
- Historical Markers
 - Artesian Park & Sulphur Well
 - Bayview Cemetery
 - Broadway Bluff Improvement
 - Captain Enrique Villarreal and Rincon del Oso Land Grant
 - Centennial House
 - Corpus Christi Caller-Times
 - Corpus Christi Cathedral
 - Corpus Christi Lighthouse
 - French - Galvan House
 - Grande - Grossman House
 - Guaranty Title Company

- Henry Lawrence Kinney
- Jalufka - Govatos House
- Julius S. Lichtenstein House
- Kinney's Trading Post
- Kovner - Bobys Homestead
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- Lone Star Fair
- LULAC
- McCampbell House
- Merriman House
- Nueces County Courthouse
- Nueces Hotel
- Thomas S. Parker
- Saint Patrick's Church
- Salt Mill
- Sidbury - Savage House
- Sidbury House
- Simon Gugenheim House

3.13 PARKLANDS

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 prohibits the use of any publicly-owned land, from parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or historical sites in transportation development projects unless certain conditions apply. There are several parks within the project area including: Gulfspray Park, Surfside Park, Kiwanis Park, Burleson Beach Park, Golf Place Beach Park, Artesian Park, Upper Broadway Park, Sherrill Park, McCaughan Park, Cole Park, Heritage Park, Brighton Park, Spohn Park, La Retama Park and the Broadway Bluff Improvement. No parklands or other Section 4(f) properties will be used in connection with the proposed project. All streetscape improvements will occur within the existing public right-of-way. The impacts therefore are considered generally not significant.

3.14 CONSTRUCTION

The proposed action will result in some minor short-term construction impacts. These can all be easily mitigated. Specific categories considered for potential construction impacts are as follows:

Noise - Noise related to construction can be a major factor resulting in annoyance. Although annoyance cannot be quantified, it is of major concern, as is evident from the complaints of groups and individuals in communities affected by construction projects. Construction hours would be controlled to minimize noise at nearby residences during the day and eliminate noise at night. Construction noise created by the proposed action may be caused by the following construction phases:

- Ground clearing,
- Excavation and grading; and
- Finishing, including grading and cleanup operations.

The noise from these phases of construction is a transient problem. The source activity is rarely in any one location for an extended period of time, and, depending upon the duration and complexity of the project, it may be considered a temporarily offensive noise source.

Control of construction noise levels can be achieved by the use of one or a combination of the following general methods:

- Installation of noise reduction devices on equipment;
- Enforcing operation time control;
- Use of alternative, quieter equipment; and
- Use of shielding or screening devices on or around equipment.

Where feasible, some or all of the above-mentioned abatement techniques will be used to reduce construction noise impacts on surrounding areas, especially residences.

Disruption of Utilities - No utilities would be affected except for minimal time to tie into electric.

Disposal of Debris and Soil - Excavated material will be disposed of at approved nearby sites or in conjunction with needs of other construction projects.

Water Quality and Run-off - Construction will not result in excessive erosion or introduction of sediments, wastewater, or chemicals into adjacent bodies of water. Requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's NPDES stormwater permitting program for construction will be followed.

Access and Disruption of Traffic - The proposed action will not require any long-term street or lane closures or other major interference with the traffic flow. All adjacent streets and alleys may encounter brief delays from equipment entering or leaving the site as well as during associated utility work. Primary construction will be on-site, out of traffic flows. No access to any land use will be disrupted.

Air Quality and Dust Control - Construction activity has short-term impacts on air quality. The only significant air quality impact from this construction project is generation of dust by clearing, grading, and hauling of materials. Particulates and dust control will be carefully monitored. Applicable mitigating measures to control particulates are the following:

- Use water or suitable chemical to control dust during clearing and grading;
- Cover dust-generating materials carried in open-bodied trucks;

- Control dust from unpaved surfaces used for access to construction sites and/or parking; and
- Clean streets as needed to remove soil tracked onto public roads during construction.

Safety and Security - All normal and reasonable contractor measures to promote safety during construction will be required. These will include the use of barriers, flaggers, securing of equipment after hours, and other measures commensurate with the level of activity and types of construction equipment to be used.

Disruption of Business - No nearby business will be disrupted during construction due to restriction of access or creation of inconveniences for patrons.

Protection of Historic Features - Where proposed work is in proximity to historic buildings or other structures (walls, canopies, retaining walls, fences), and planting beds, and vegetation/groundcover, follow the procedures listed below for demolition, protection, and construction.

- To minimize potential damage to historic structures and materials, contractor to saw cut existing sidewalk 8 to 12 inches away from the historic structure, canopy supports, fence, or retaining wall.
- Contractor to construct new sidewalk next to the saw cut edge with installation of expansion joint in between. If existing sidewalk is to be removed entirely, the remaining 8 to 12 inches next to the historic structure, canopy supports, material, fence, or retaining wall will be removed by hand. Expansion joint to be placed between historic structure, canopy support, material, fence, or retaining wall and new sidewalk.
- Contractor is responsible for preventing damage to historic structure, canopy supports and their awning, materials, fences, retaining walls, including garden elements (planting beds, plantings) during the entire construction project, especially during removal of existing pavement, curb, or sidewalk. During the saw cut and hand removal process, contractor will exercise utmost caution and will physically protect historic structure foundation, canopy supports, materials, elevations, entryways with decorative flooring, fences, retaining walls, and landscape elements.
- Contractor to repair or replace in kind, at his own expense, any historic materials damaged in the course of executing the work. Contractor is responsible for locating replacement source for historic materials damaged in the course of the work. Texas Historical Commission to be informed of damage and proposed repairs prior to execution of repair work.

3.15 AESTHETICS

The proposed project will not involve any remodeling, alteration or construction of structures. Physical changes will be limited to the pedestrian environment, resulting in a positive visual impact of the surrounding area. Improvements within historic districts will not result in any potential impact to locally and nationally designated features such as historic sidewalks, carriage steps, and brick curbs.

3.16 COMMUNITY DISRUPTION

The proposed action is fully compatible with land use, traffic, transit development, and other plans for the area. No displacements are required and the proposed project would not change the character of the area. No neighborhood would be split or community boundaries altered as a result of the proposed improvements. Service areas of community facilities would not be interrupted by this project. Existing patterns of circulation would not be disturbed. Cohesion of the community would not be altered by physical or psychological barriers of separation.

3.17 SAFETY AND SECURITY

The proposed improvements will be designed and built to provide safe access for all potential users. Evidence suggests that perception of safety is a key factor related to an individual's decision to walk. Improving the pedestrian environment will reduce fear and encourage walking levels, which will benefit other modes of transport such as bus.

3.18 SECONDARY DEVELOPMENT

The proposed project will be a contributor of synergy to Corpus Christi Transpiration Oriented Development planned for the northeast corner of Mestina St. and Staples St., but will not serve as a means of generating secondary growth.

3.19 CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL PLANS

The proposed project is consistent with the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Organization's 2010-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan that encourages development of convenient and safe sidewalks, street crossings, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities to serve local and regional transit facilities. Moreover, the coordination of transit and land use strategies that promote pedestrian connections will improve the quality life for area residents by providing a minimum level of access to social, work, welfare, and resource activities.

3.20 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

No hazardous sites were observed in the project area during this analysis. However, the Environmental Protection Agency keeps a comprehensive database about any facility, site, or place that is subject to environmental regulations or of environmental interest which are found within the project area (Figure 7: Potential Hazards).

3.21 SEISMIC HAZARD

According to a USGS Texas Seismic Hazard Map, Corpus Christi is in a region that has low potential for seismic activity³ (Figure 8: Seismic Hazard Map).

3.22 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice refers to social equity in sharing the benefits and the burdens of specific projects or programs. Assessment of environmental justice arises from concerns that undesirable land uses and facilities might be placed in minority and/or low-income communities without regard to the consequences of these actions. The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Order on Environmental Justice addresses the low-income and minority as the following populations:

- **Low-income** – The number of households whose income is at, or below, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines
- **Minority** – All people of the following origins: African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Hispanic

Environmental justice guidance of the U.S. DOT states that agencies should consider the composition of the affected area to determine whether minority populations, low-income populations, or Indian tribes are present, and, if so, whether there may be disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on these populations. Minority and low-income data are available at the census tract level, which were used to examine the presence of low-income and minority populations in the study area. As shown in the previous section, over 9,000 people within the study area are considered a minority population. Within the study area, over 4,300 people live below the national poverty level. 530 people within the study do not have access to a vehicle.

Streetscape enhancements will improve the nexus to transit, especially for the transit-dependent population. The proposed action will occur within public ROW, will not require any relocation or displacement and therefore will not produce disproportionately high or adverse human, health, or environmental effects on low-income or minority populations in the area. In

³ <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/texas/hazards.php>

fact, the proposed project will improve accessibility to employment, social services, recreation, shopping and other community uses.

3.23 DIRECT/INDIRECT AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The proposed project would have no direct/indirect and cumulative effect on any natural, historic, and/or cultural resource or population. No residences or businesses would be displaced. Widespread changes to development patterns or local comprehensive plans would not occur.

Figure 1: Project Location



Figure 2: City of Corpus Christi Land Use, 2013

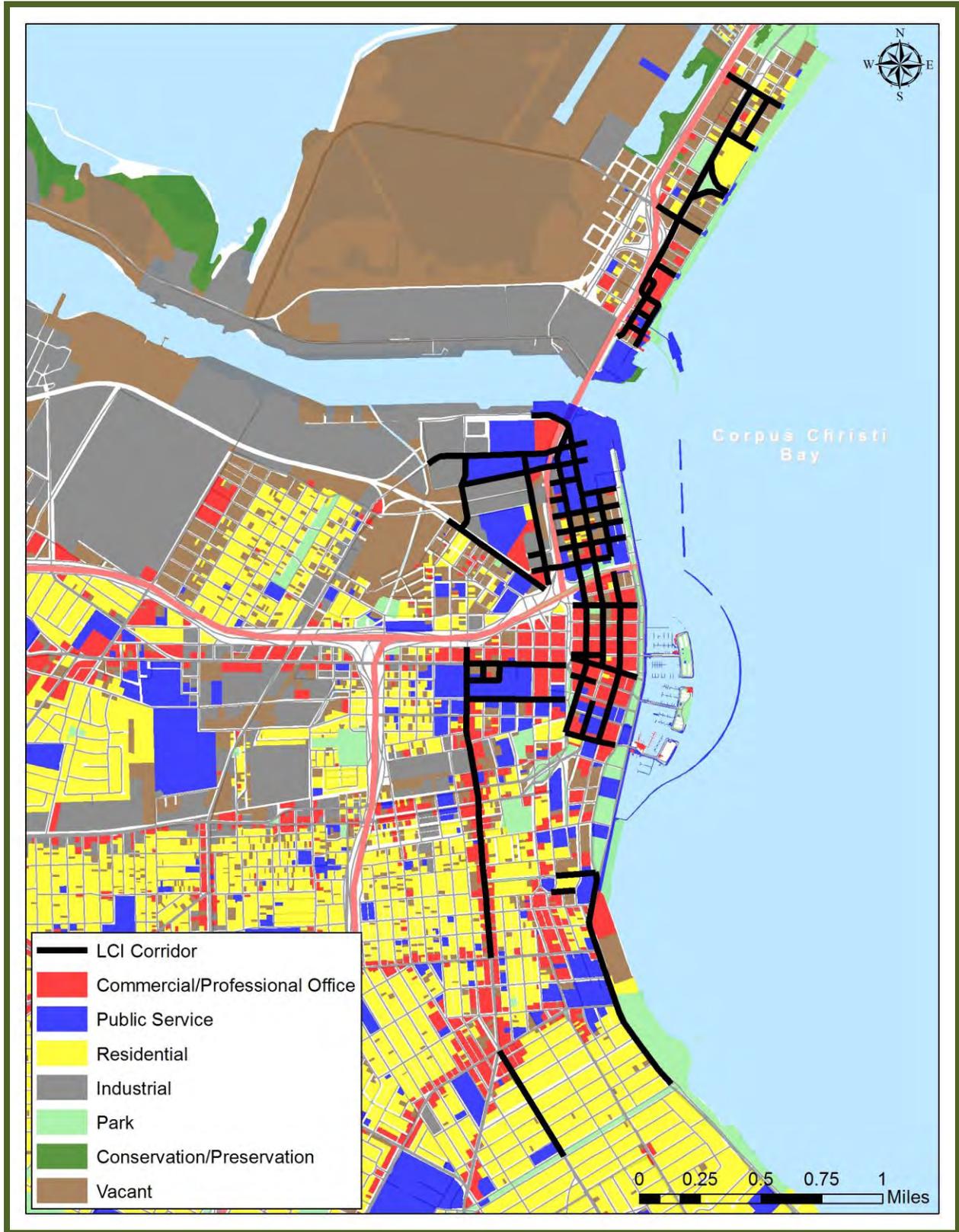


Figure 3: Historic Properties



Figure 4: FEMA Flood Risk

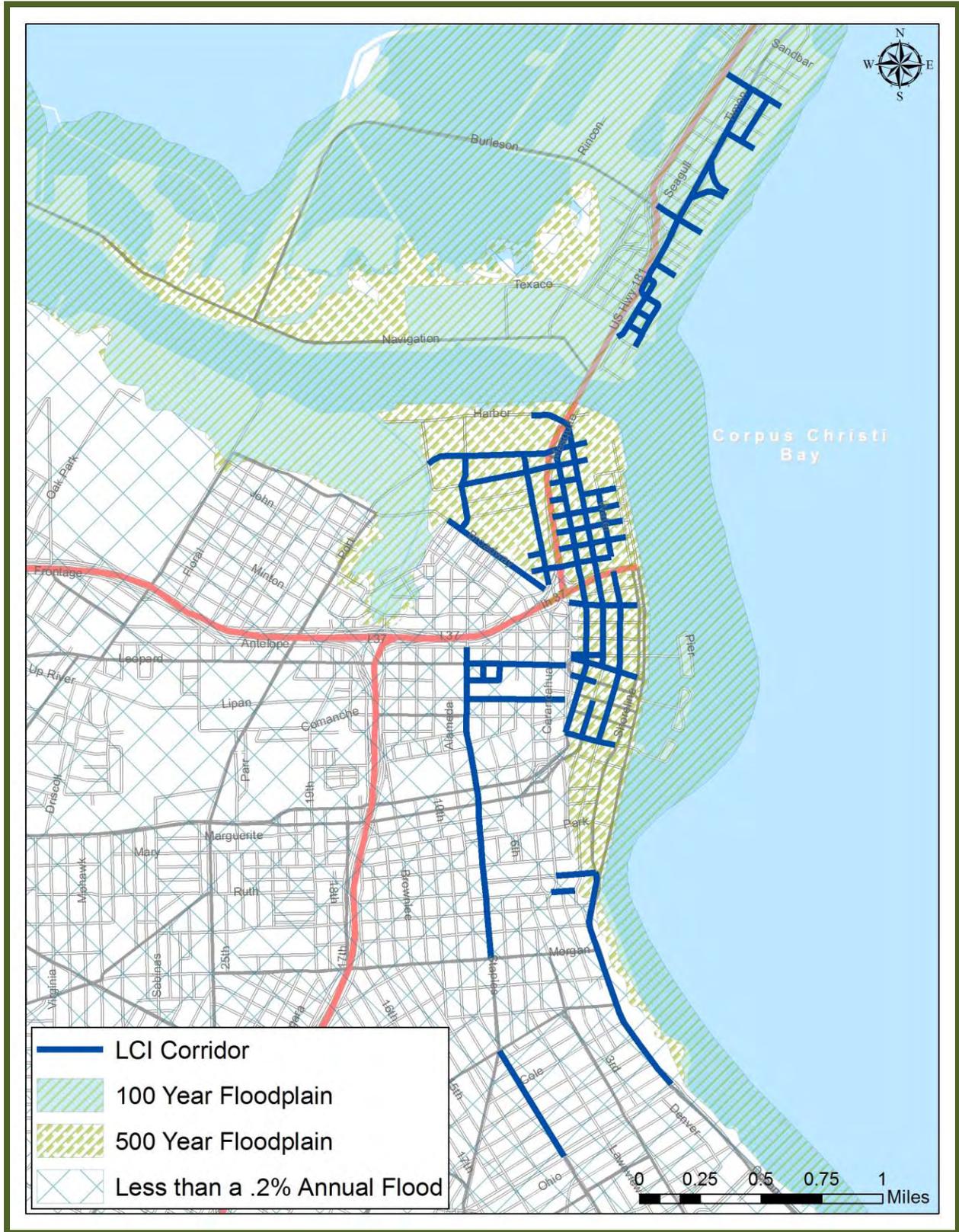


Figure 5: US Fish and Wildlife Service - Wetlands Inventory



Figure 6: Texas Coastal Management Program

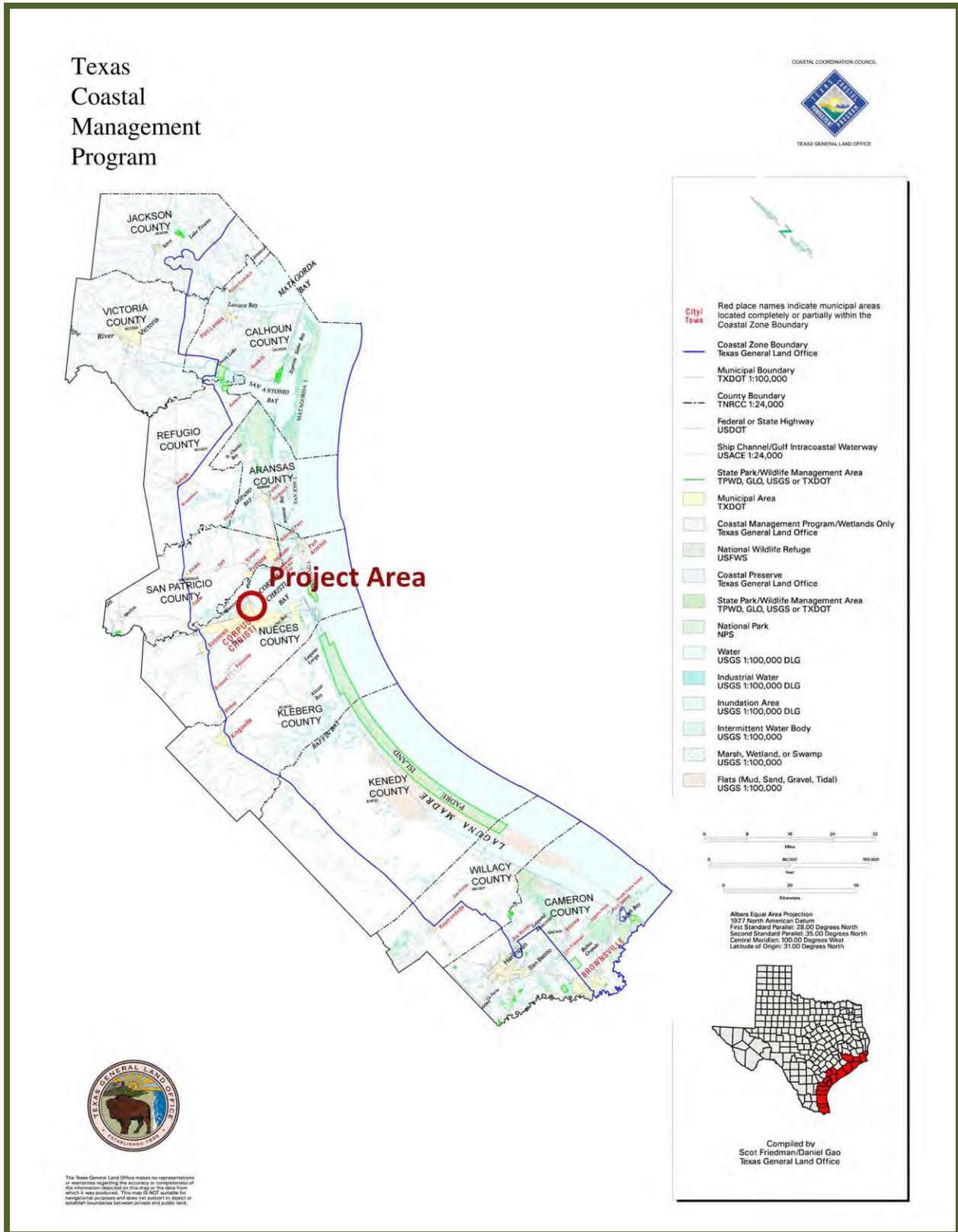


Figure 7: Potential Hazards



Figure 8: Seismic Hazard Map

