



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For more information contact:
John Valls, Marketing Manager
Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Office: 361.885.6158
Cell: 361.779.5646

JOE FULTON INTERNATIONAL TRADE CORRIDOR *ROAD TO OPPORTUNITY* OPENS FOR BUSINESS

(Corpus Christi, TX) --- The Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor officially opened for business today with a Texas-sized ribbon cutting. Dignitaries from around the country and state along with local officials were on hand to celebrate the completion of the \$55 million project with the ribbon cutting ceremony. Former Port Chairman and namesake of the corridor Mr. Joe Fulton marked the occasion along with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Commissioner Hope Andrade and former TxDOT Chairman David Laney as each sat passenger in separate tractor-trailers as they eased through the ceremonial ribbon to mark the official opening of the corridor.

Port of Corpus Christi Chairman Ruben Bonilla led the ceremonies and stated, "The Fulton Corridor represents a significant milestone at the Port of Corpus Christi as the most important infrastructure project since the completion of the Port's 45 foot channel project. Like Chairman Fulton, who has represented economic development and prosperity in the region for decades, the corridor will position the Port for economic expansion and vitality, a broader tax base and favorable job creation for generations to come. Chairman Fulton's legacy is synonymous with the beauty and splendor of Corpus Christi."

The Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor project (JFITC), on the north side of the Inner Harbor of the Port of Corpus Christi, consists of almost 12 miles of new and

existing roadway coupled with seven miles of new rail line. The project will provide an additional four miles of frontage and 630 acres along the ship channel for development and will improve access to existing property. The 630 acres offer one of the few remaining industrial sites in America served by a 45-foot deep channel and designated a State Strategic Investment Area with Franchise tax credits available for job creation, investment and research. The acreage also offers Foreign Trade Zone and Industrial District status, Renewal Community designation eligible for Enterprise Zone designation, and EPA air quality standards in full attainment. The Port led the \$55 million development partnership for this project, with funding also provided by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) and the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Service of this inter-modal transportation link is expected to bolster the region's international trade opportunities by providing infrastructure for facilities that utilize road, rail, and maritime services. Two other projects underway are integrally linked to The Fulton Corridor. TxDOT is completing the final design of a new \$28 million project which will provide new frontage roads, entrance and exit ramp improvements and a direct connector, which will substantially improve the corridor's connection with IH-37 on the west end of the Fulton Corridor. This project will be phased and handled as two projects, with the first phase scheduled in February 2008 and the second phase scheduled in August 2008. Both projects are scheduled for completion in mid-to-late 2009. On the east end, TxDOT is working on environmental clearance for improvements to the Harbor Bridge.

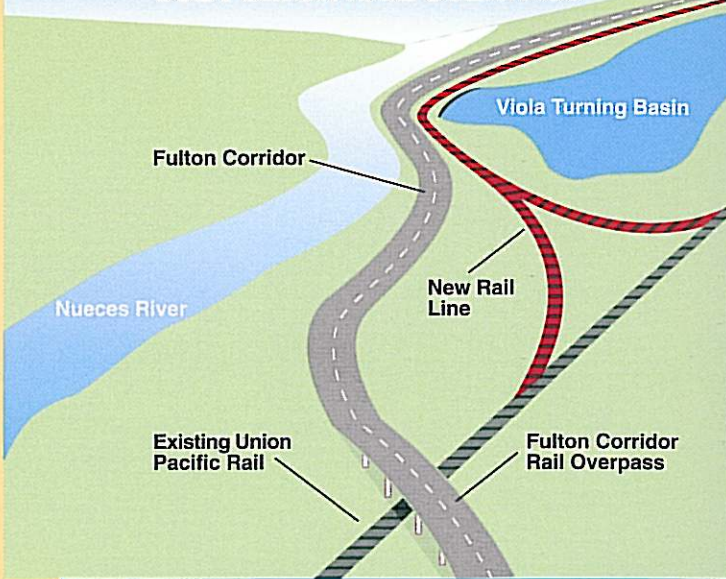
Please visit www.portofcorpuschristi.com for more information.

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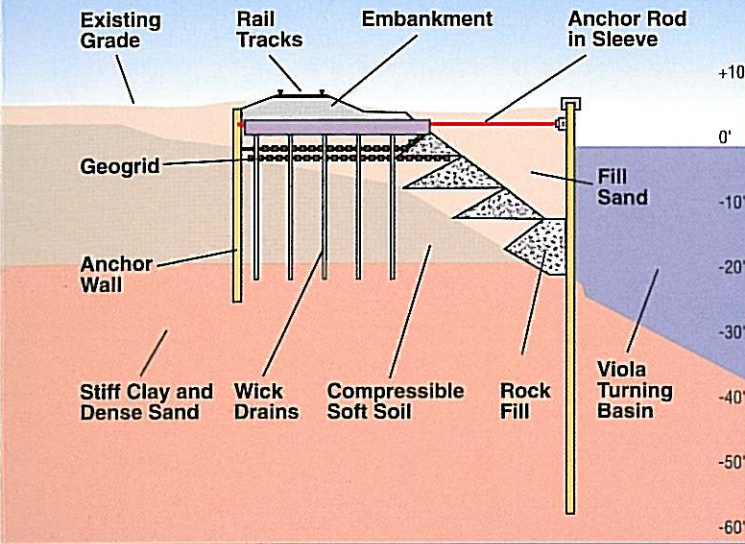
I-37 CARBON PLANT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS



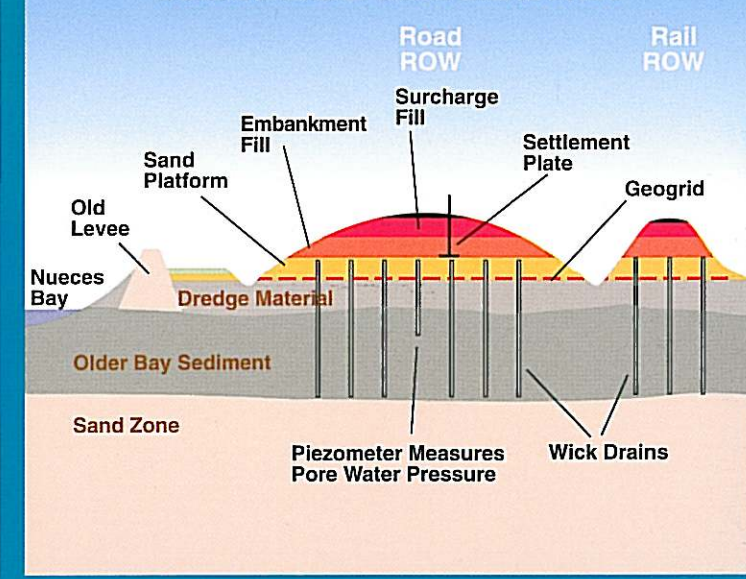
JOE FULTON RAIL OVERPASS



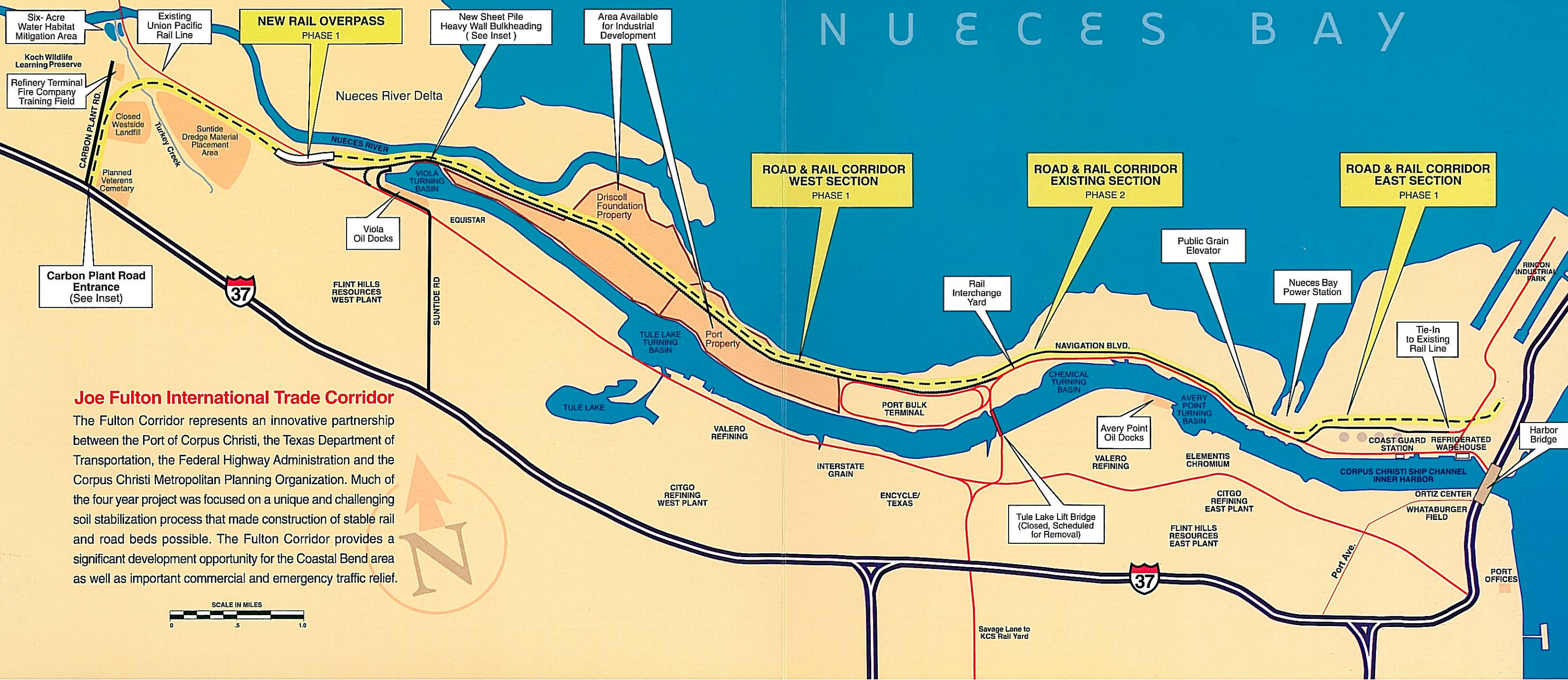
BULKHEAD AND ROAD BED CROSS SECTION



SOIL STABILIZATION MEASURES

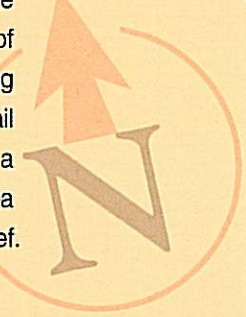
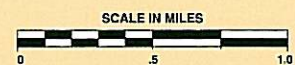


NUECES BAY



Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor

The Fulton Corridor represents an innovative partnership between the Port of Corpus Christi, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization. Much of the four year project was focused on a unique and challenging soil stabilization process that made construction of stable rail and road beds possible. The Fulton Corridor provides a significant development opportunity for the Coastal Bend area as well as important commercial and emergency traffic relief.



A corridor 15 years in the making



Workers involved in the construction of the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor stand on each side of the road as three tractor-trailers drive along a section of the corridor that overpasses rail lines before breaking through the barrier, which served as the ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the project Thursday. The nearly 12-mile stretch opens to the public today.

TIMELINE

Port of Corpus Christi staff begins conceptual planning 1992	Port sponsors feasibility study 1992-95	Project included in the Federal Highway Funding Bill 1996	Texas Department of Transportation-funded feasibility study 1997-99	Project renamed the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor, in honor of former port chairman 1999	Environmental permitting and engineering design 2000-04	Contracts awarded; ground-breaking 2004	Ribbon-cutting Oct. 18
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Sources: Port of Corpus Christi

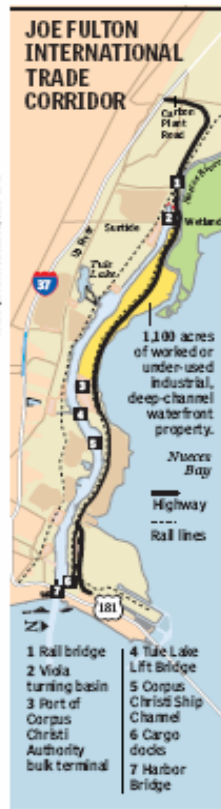
TRADE CORRIDOR FACTS

- Connects Corpus Christi Beach to Carbon Plant Road and Interstate 37 on the north side of the Inner Harbor
- Phase I was completed six months ahead of schedule this month. A second layer of asphalt and 1.1 miles of track should be completed by the end of the year.
- Phase II, a 2.25-mile stretch of existing road and rail, is expected in two years
- Allows access to about 1,100 acres of undeveloped, waterfront property
- Original estimate \$36.5 million
- Total cost about \$86 million
- Opens to the public today

Sources: Port of Corpus Christi; Texas Department of Transportation



Port of Corpus Christi Chairman Ruben Bonilla (left) presents Joe Fulton with a road sign during Thursday's celebration of the opening of the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor.



Fulton corridor will open Now land can be developed, port says

By Fanny S. Chirinos
October 17, 2007

CORPUS CHRISTI — A dream of Port of Corpus Christi commissioners more than 15 years ago will become an achievement Friday when the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor opens to the public. A ribbon-cutting will be Thursday morning.

The 11.8-mile road and rail project has cost the port more than \$51 million and adds an alternate route for vehicles and rail lines wanting access to the north side of the Inner Harbor, where 1,000 acres of previously inaccessible land await development.

Prior to the corridor, vehicles relied on the Harbor Bridge and the Tule Lake Lift Bridge,

which also was used by railcars. Neither gave access to that 1,000 acres.

The bridge was raised to allow ships to pass, but safety concerns limited the use of the bridge last year and ceased its use last month. It will remain in the raised position until it is removed, said John LaRue, the port's executive director.

The corridor runs from U.S. Highway 181 along the north side of the Inner Harbor to Carbon Plant Road, where it connects to Interstate Highway 37.

Although the corridor is accessible to both vehicles and

railcars, it is not complete. The east end of the corridor still is under construction, said Dave Michaelsen, the port's chief engineer.

What remains to be done on the east end is the placement of the second course of asphalt and about 1.1 miles of rail track, Michaelsen said. Completion of the east end work is expected by the end of the year.

Also yet to be finished is Phase II of the project, a \$5 million rebuilding of 2.25 miles of Navigation Boulevard from the lift bridge to the interstate. That completion is expected in a couple of years.

The portion of the project that is finished was not scheduled for

completion until March 2008. Issues with the lift bridge accelerated rail construction, Michaelsen said. Tracks along the corridor opened to railcars on Sept. 15, when the lift bridge ceased operations.

The corridor gives access to 1,000 acres of waterfront property that the port could not develop otherwise, LaRue said. Port officials are in discussions with three companies wanting to develop the property.

"Back in the 1990s, (the port) looked at how we could expand business and accumulate sites," LaRue said. "This is the first project we could finish that would give us both. Whether these three companies locate here or not, that acreage is now

available and that means more jobs, business and money for the area."

LaRue also sees the corridor as a safer and more cost-effective way for cars to cross the harbor. He said replacing the lift bridge, which has had wear-and-tear issues, would have cost about \$75 million.

Recent accidents on the Harbor Bridge have caused considerable disruption and the Fulton road provides a consistent flow for traffic without bridge issues, he said.

"Had the lift bridge malfunctioned, we would have had to have blown up the bridge and removed it once it was in the water," LaRue said. "It would have disrupted industries along the harbor for about 30 days and caused millions of dollars in lost revenue.

"Sure, you probably are adding 10 minutes to your trip in some cases, but would anyone be willing to pay \$75 million to replace the bridge and disrupt industry operations?"



Birds take flight as a large truck traveling down the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor nears Burlison Street on Tuesday. The 11.8-mile corridor opens to the public Friday, with a ribbon-cutting set for Thursday morning.