

Harsens Island Bridge Project



March 2021



Overview

- Harsens Island, Michigan is an island community at the north end of Lake St. Clair near Algonac, Michigan.
- Approximately 1,300 people reside on the island year round and approximately 5,000 people reside on the island in the summer.
- Currently, the only way to access Harsens Island is through a ferry service from the mainland.
- The St. Clair River ices over during the winter, making it difficult for the ferry to operate and sometimes close.
- By providing an alternative means of accessing the island that is not weather dependent, residents and emergency services would not have to worry about transportation to and from the island



Project Need

- The United States Coast Guard will no longer transport residents when the ferry is not in service.
- All emergency vehicles must enter and exit the island via the ferry, which costs valuable time in emergency situations, as there are very limited emergency services on the island.
- All school children attend school on the mainland in Algonac. When the ferry is not operating, students become stranded on the mainland, away from their parents, or on the island and cannot attend school.
- The addition, a bridge at this location would also facilitate traffic so that waiting times to reach the island no longer exist.

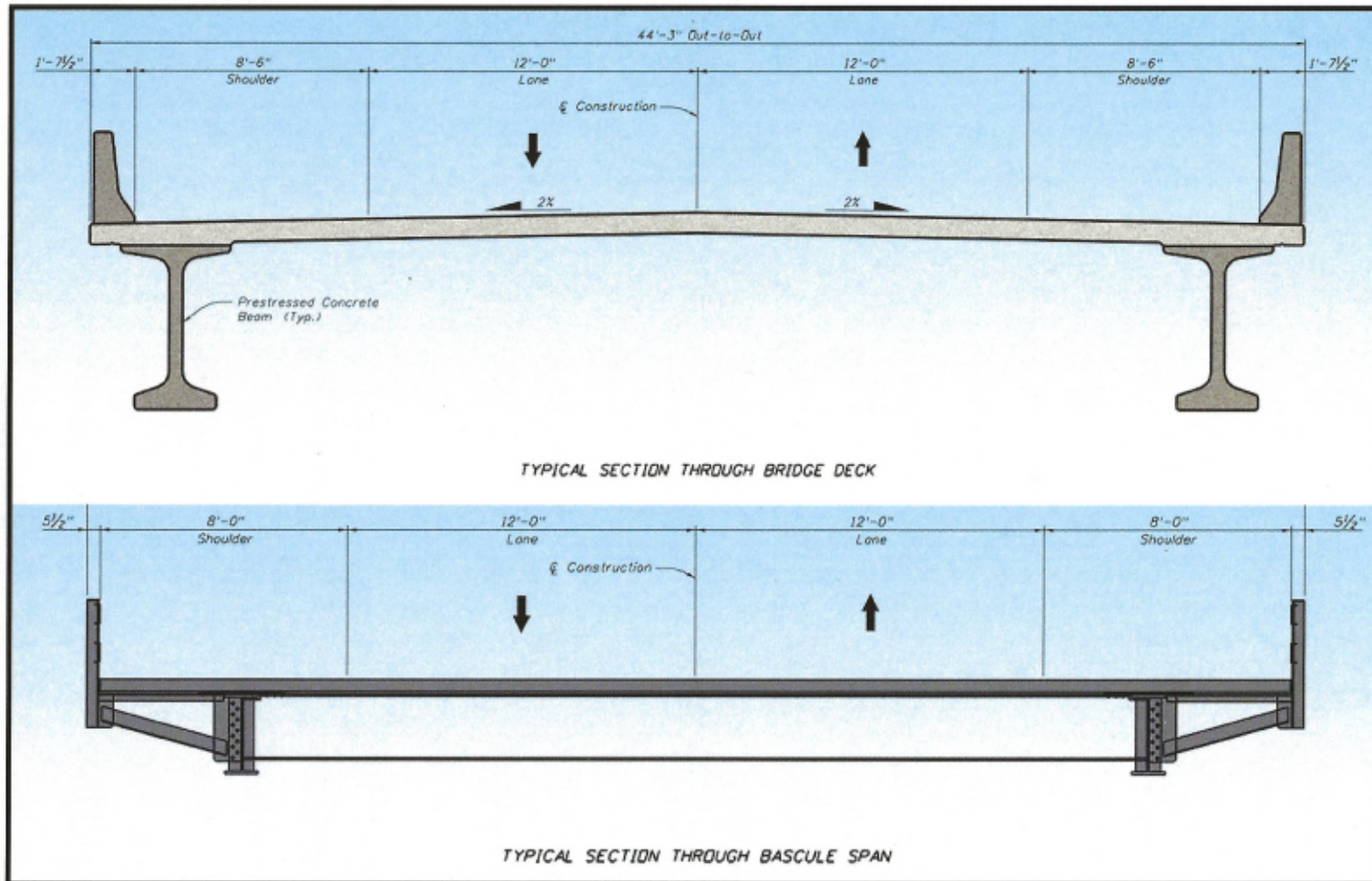


Project Location

- Quarter mile west of the existing ferry route
- Project will tie into M-29 (Point Tremble Road) in Algonac and North Channel Drive on Harsens Island
- Project includes a roundabout on M-29
- No changes will be made to North Channel Drive



Project Location



Project Renderings

Bridge in closed position



Bridge in open position



Project Background

The following environmentally related issues have been analyzed as part of State of Federal process:

- Land Use
- Parklands
- Coastal Zone Management
- Coastal Barrier Resources
- Protection of Wetlands
- Floodplain Impacts
- Stormwater Collection
- Ecosystems and Threatened and Endangered Species
- Clean Water Act
- National Historic Preservation Act and Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- Farmlands Protection Policy Act
- Clean Air Act
- Noise Control Act
- Neighborhoods, Relocations, and Environmental Justice
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Utilities



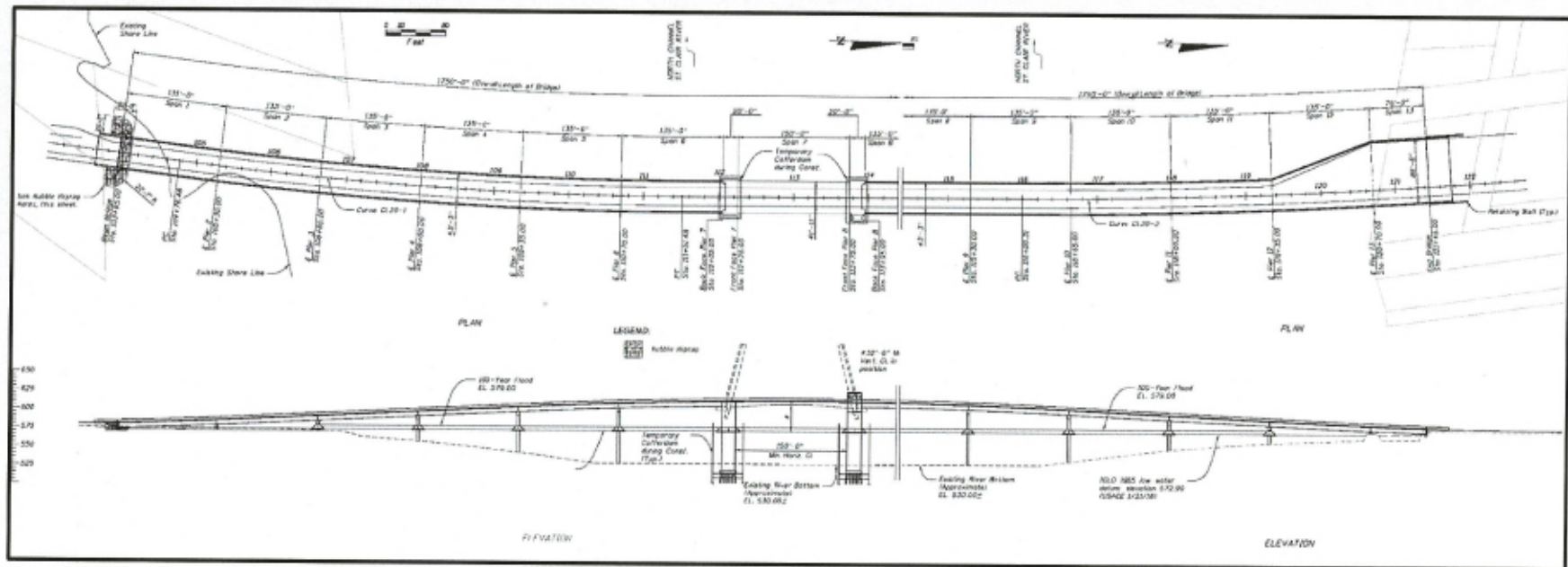
Species

- Surveys conducted in 2007 and again in June 2015
- Lake sturgeon
 - No suitable spawning habitat was recorded in video survey conducted
 - Likely occurrence of sturgeon within project limits
 - Possible construction impacts due to turbidity and vibration
- Northern madtom and mooneye
 - Reduce sedimentation within waterways through BMPs
 - Placement of potentially suitable habitat around the two trunnion piers once construction is finished
- Presence of other listed species not found
- No effect on other listed species
- Working with DNR and USFWS regarding species

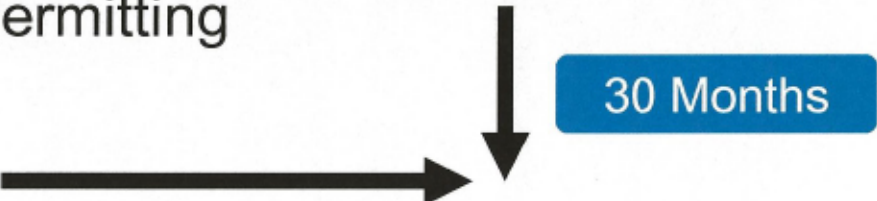


Piers

- St. Clair is a navigable waterway
- Project passes over high water mark
- 13-span bridge with 12 piers in the St. Clair River
- Hydraulic analysis showed piers will not alter the levels and flow in the St. Clair River and connected lakes and bays



Schedule for Implementation

- Feasibility Analysis
 - Alternatives Analysis
 - Environmental Assessment
 - Submit Permit Applications
 - Receive and Respond to Public Comments
 - Favorable Ruling in Administrative Law Court
 - Inclusion in SEMCOG Transportation Improvement Plan
 - Approval of Environmental Assessment (NEPA)
 - Engineering & Permitting
 - Construction
 - Open to Traffic
- 
- A horizontal arrow points from the text 'Open to Traffic' to a vertical arrow pointing downwards. This vertical arrow points to a blue rectangular box containing the text '30 Months'.

Project Background

We have been and are continuing to coordinate with the following key Regulatory Agencies and Authorities to develop feasible mitigation strategies for any environmental impacts that may be caused by the project;

- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lake & Energy (EGLE)
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Harsens Island Transportation Authority (HITA)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)

