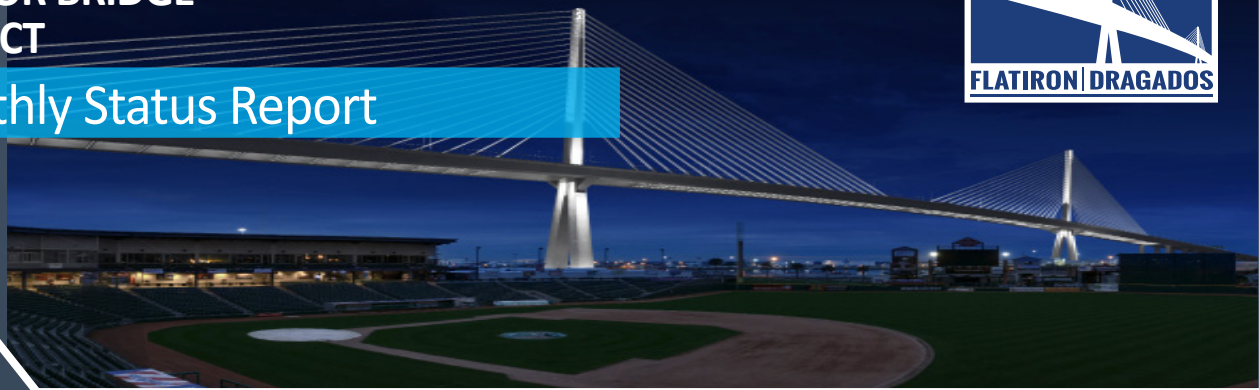


# US 181 HARBOR BRIDGE PROJECT

## Monthly Status Report



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May - June 2024

### Around the Harbor Bridge Project - Spring 2024

**Safety – Rescue Drill Training:** Harbor Bridge Replacement Project developer Flatiron/ Dragados recently collaborated with the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) and the Port of Corpus Christi (PCC) in a unified effort to perform rescue drills on various structures within the project limits. Planning and executing these exercises are crucial for ensuring that our emergency response teams are prepared for real-life incidents, enhancing the overall safety and responsiveness of our construction site.

The coordinated effort focused on the following rescue drill scenarios: 1) Corpus Christi Ship Channel beneath the South Pylon – The water rescue drill retrieved person(s) fallen from the bridge deck into the ship channel with a collective response and dispatched vessels from PCC Police and CCFD. 2) North Pylon bridge deck – The emergency rescue involved an injured individual on the bridge deck who was lowered via scaffolding (stairs) and without the use of an elevator or personnel crane basket. 3) South Approach bridge – The scenario focused on an unconscious person trapped inside a confined space where first responders gained access through a tunnel, implemented safety precautions, administered medical care, and extracted the patient through an access portal at Lake Street.

Simulated rescues were challenging and technical in nature, with an emphasis on safety and rescuer competency.

**Drainage – Salt Flat Channel:** The Salt Flat Channel runs from Leopard Street at SH 286 alongside the new US 181 alignment towards the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. As part of the project's drainage package, Flatiron/Dragados has nearly quadrupled the capacity of the upper portion of the channel to Broadway Street. Proof of the efficacy of the new channel is that the entire new interchange, while still under construction, remained open and operational during tropical storm Alberto last week.

Since the initial deepening and widening, countless truckloads with up to 338,252 cubic yards of slurry and sediment are being hauled away to build a much wider channel with deeper pools about five feet below sea level. The completed channel will be fortified with more than 25,000 tons of rock retaining walls, poured concrete slopes, huge concrete box culverts, and arch bridges to guide heavy rainwater away from the low-lying areas and help prevent roadway flooding. During the final stages of construction, articulated mats and grass seeding will be placed to prevent exposed earth erosion.

The improved Salt Flat Channel boasts a natural habitat for marine life with an aesthetic appeal where pedestrians on the Lake Street Bridge and commuters can enjoy viewing shorebirds from herons to roseate spoonbills feasting on fish that ebb in with the tides and spawn in the continuous deeper water pools that remain active during drought conditions.



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