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Harbor Bridge Project 2024 Highlights and Progress

CABLE-STAYED BRIDGE (CSB) Total Bridge Unit: Completed construction of all 19 upper tower lifts for each tower to soar at a finished height of 540-feet tall. Finished lifting, placing, and post-tensioning all 688 typical main/back span segments to create northbound and southbound mainlanes, connected at the median with 84 delta frames from end to end of the CSB to the transitions at the connecting approach bridges. Each tower currently supports 344 segments and 42 delta frames. -Ten segments remain to be installed in early 2025 for the complex mid-span closure and belvedere lookout. Opaque white painting of all CSB concrete structures continued. 2024 transformed the Coastal Bend skyline to showcase an iconic new bridge that can be seen for miles, with anticipated opening in late spring of 2025.

PRECAST YARD: Cast remaining segments to complete all 2,651 CSB and approach bridge precast elements of the project. By December, 628 CSB span segments and delta frames had been delivered to the north and south pylons to complete the transport and offloading of all 2,651 superstructure segments from Robstown, Texas, to the project site. The milestone of safely completing and transporting each 85 to 140-ton segment exemplifies engineering precision and heavy-hauling carefully executed traffic-control plan success.

NORTH and SOUTH APPROACH BRIDGES: By early winter 2024, all structural elements of the approach bridges were complete, and the launching gantry crane was decommissioned at the south approach. Additional completed approach bridge packages: Poured US 181 approach slabs, followed by abutment paving and tie-ins. Traffic barrier: Slipformed T80HT high-impact, 50-inch tall concrete barrier wall with guardrail set on inside and outside lanes. Drainage: Dry-fitted and installed about 3,000 linear feet of 8-inch fiberglass pipe inside the approach spans. Illumination: Installed conduit for the median and shared use path (SUP) maintenance lighting. Bridge deck surface: Assembled expansion joints and began placing concrete for longitudinal closures at the CSB transitions. SUP: Hand-formed barrier wall and poured curb along the entrance ramps.

ROADWORK: *Milestones* -Opened extended IH 37 southbound frontage road and bridge for improved connectivity to northbound US 181 and the Staples Street Corridor, and a new ramp to connect northbound SH 286 commuters to the bayfront and uptown areas. Completed all structural elements of the two flyover ramps for US 181 to IH 37 connections and the southwest loop ramp to connect southbound US 181 towards the bayfront and uptown areas once the new bridge opens. Placed final surface paving along IH 37 frontage roads. Finished sign columns at Comanche St, Leopard St, and Stillman Ave. White opaque painting continued on all roadwork structures.

UTILITIES and DRAINAGE: Completed final adjustments to structures for drainage and wastewater packages at Howard St, Caldwell St, Lake St, Frank St, Winnebago St, Port Ave, Mestina St, and along IH 37 and US 181 frontage roads and ramps. Installed and adjusted to finish grade: Manholes, grates, outfalls with riprap liners, headwalls, and safety-end treatments around the South Interchange loop ramps and bridges. Poured curbs, gutters, and concrete-lined drainage inlets and ditches along frontage roads and side streets. Continued excavating the Salt Flat Channel for deeper tide pools and overall capacity and began excavating and pouring rip rap for three new retention ponds on North Beach to help displace tidal surface water.

ILLUMINATION: Installed about 55,000 linear feet of conduit and wire by trenching and boring methods and 35 ground boxes for project-wide illumination and intelligent traffic systems.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE: Removed Litter and Heavy Debris – 330 acres * Repaired Silt Fence – 11,000 feet * Maintained Signs – 900 each * Cleaned and Repaired Drain Inlets – 195 each * Repaired Potholes – 260 each * Swept – 385 miles * Mowed – 325 acres

