

Project Description

A. Project Location and Site History

Johns Pass is in southwest Pinellas County and connects Boca Ciega Bay to the Gulf of Mexico (Figure 1). The project area stretches approximately 241 linear feet in Johns Pass channel immediately east of the Gulf Boulevard Bridge (State Road 699) (Figure 2). FDEP Permit No. 0270453-001-JC, issued in 2010, suggests that maintenance dredging has occurred in the channel at Johns Pass. Since the mid-1990's to present, the City of Madeira Beach has experienced increased sedimentation along the northern side of the channel within Johns Pass. The sedimentation is likely attributed to alongshore sediment transport of sand moving north to south, which becomes entrained via tidal currents along the updrift bank of the inlet.



Figure 1. Project Location Map.



Figure 2. Proposed Dredge Area Location.

B. Proposed Activity

In order to mitigate for the sedimentation in north Johns Pass, it is the City's desire to dredge this area to restore access to adjacent marinas and remove the excess sediment from the Pass. The proposed dredge footprint is approximately 1.61 acres, shown in Figure 3. The buffer between the Gulf Boulevard Bridge and the dredge area will need further coordination between the City and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The dredge area extends approximately 107 feet seaward from the marina dock.

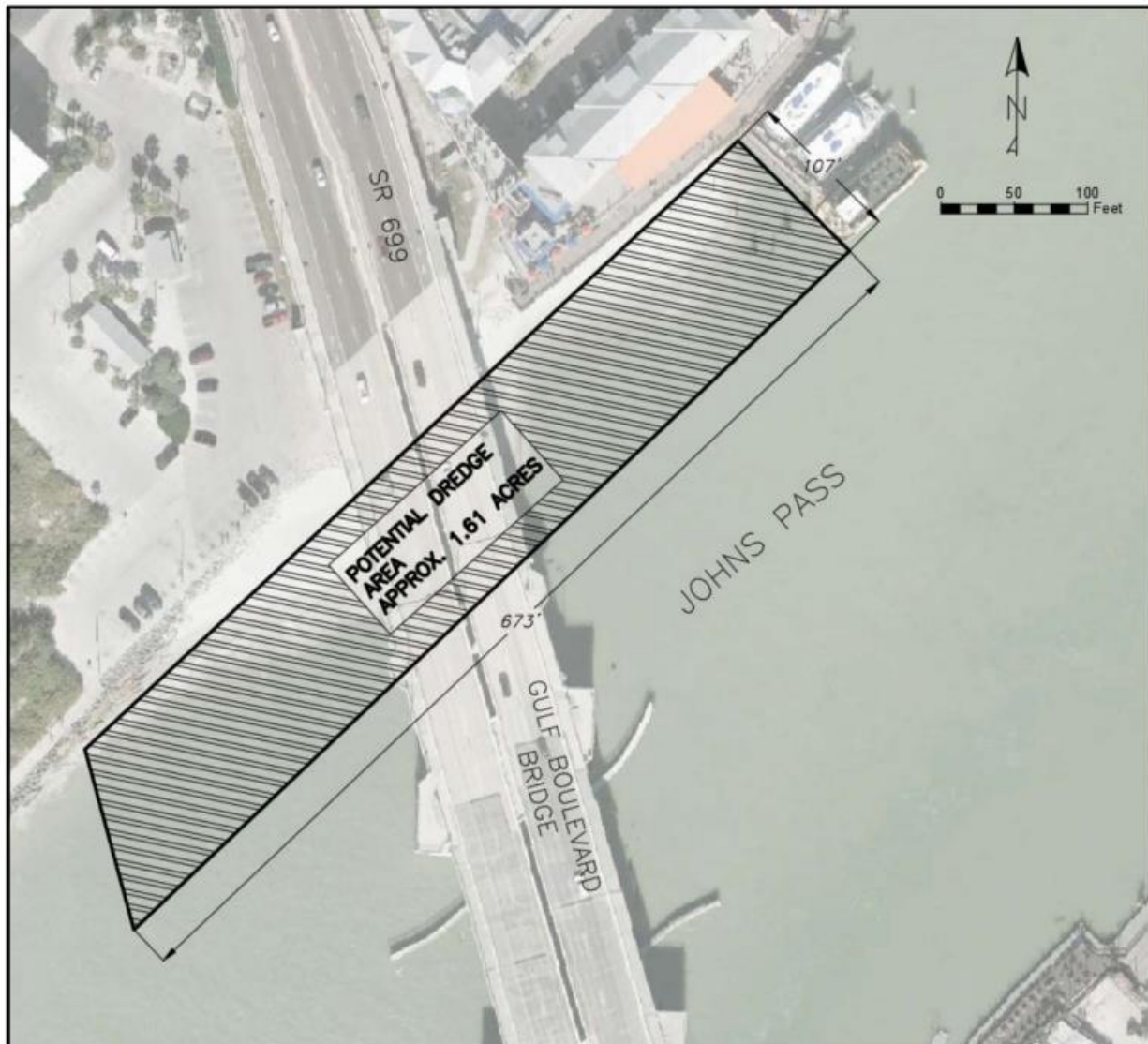


Figure 3. Proposed Dredge Area Dimensions.

C. Construction Methodology, Equipment, and Materials

The dredge and other construction vessels will access the site via either the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the east or the Gulf of Mexico to the west.

- Mechanical Dredge Methods:

Material may be dredged from the Johns Pass Channel utilizing mechanical dredge methods with a backhoe, long reach excavator, or clamshell dredge, and sealed barge.

- Hydraulic Dredge Methods:

Material may be dredged from the Johns Pass Channel utilizing hydraulic dredging methods with a cutterhead dredge. The dredge pipe will span from the cutterhead dredge to the spoil area and will be clearly marked. Continuous navigation access will be maintained for all vessels in the channel.

- Dredge Spoil:

Further coordination with the City and County is required to determine a location and compliance measures for the dredge spoil.

D. Environmental Setting

The proposed project area is located within the boundaries of the Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve and the Boca Ciega Bay Aquatic Preserve which are classified as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW).

E. Avoidance and Minimization Measures

All project construction will adhere to the *Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work* (FWC, 2011) and the *Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions* (NMFS, 2006).

F. Water Quality and Turbidity Control Measures

The Johns Pass Channel is located in an OFW. Due to currents and vessels navigating the waterway, turbidity curtains cannot be used around the active dredge area. Turbidity monitoring will be utilized to maintain water quality during dredging.

G. Construction Schedule

It is estimated that construction will take no longer than 45-60 days and will commence once all permits are received.

H. State Lands

According to the Pinellas County Property Appraiser the parcel adjacent to the proposed dredge area is owned by John's Pass Plaza LLC (Tax Parcel ID 15-31-15-58320-002-0050). No parcel is located on the proposed project area. The proposed project will require a proprietary authorization (easement) as it is located on state-owned submerged lands.

I. Archeological or Historic Sites

The SHPO will be contacted prior to submitting an FDEP permit application to determine if a CRAS will be required for the proposed project. The applicant will comply with any requirements determined by SHPO or the USACE.