
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 8, 2026

DATE: 06.04.2026

TO: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

CC: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: KATERYNA THOMAS, GRANTS & CIP COORDINATOR
JIM RUDELLAT, HARBOR MASTER

SUBJECT: CONSIDER RESOLUTION R-060826-3 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE 90TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION, TEXAS PORT MISSION PLAN FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, HARBOR OF REFUGE PUBLIC DOCK IMPROVEMENTS

Background:

The City of Port Lavaca is seeking funding through the Texas Department of Transportation Maritime Infrastructure Program for improvements within the Harbor of Refuge (HOR). Staff have been discussing this project with the Port Commission and is on board to apply for this funding. The proposed project consists of constructing a heavy-duty asphalt pavement surface within the 100-foot-wide public dock area and constructing a roadway within the existing 40-foot right-of-way connecting the public dock to Mowen Street.

The Harbor of Refuge currently includes an existing concrete bulkhead extending nearly 1,000 feet along the waterfront. While the bulkhead remains in excellent condition, its utility is significantly limited due to the absence of a stabilized working surface capable of supporting cargo handling operations, vessel access, and transportation activities. Currently, the area adjacent to the bulkhead consists primarily of grass-covered ground that is unsuitable for heavy maritime cargo transfer and heavy vehicle traffic.

The proposed improvements will create a functional cargo handling and transportation area, allowing the bulkhead to support commercial maritime activities and generating opportunities for future tariff revenues.

The project represents a critical investment in the Harbor of Refuge's infrastructure and will enhance the City's ability to attract maritime-related business, support economic development, and maximize the utility of existing waterfront assets. By providing the necessary surface infrastructure to support cargo movement and vessel operations, the project will unlock the full potential of the Harbor of Refuge and support future industrial and commercial growth.

Financial Consideration:

The City is requesting grant funding through the TxDOT Maritime Infrastructure Program for the engineering design and construction of the proposed improvements. A match is not required but is strongly recommended for adequate scoring. We propose to utilize Ports & Harbors Funds to provide up to a 25% match, which is not expected to be greater than \$325,000 and could be budgeted for over the next couple of years.

Recommendation:

In this Resolution, Council is

- 1) authorizing the submittal of the application for funding;
- 2) commits to the 25% local match and to advance the project should is be selected for funding;
- 3) and that the City is willing and able to enter a funding agreement with TxDOT

Again, the Port Commission is in support of this application and staff recommends council approve this resolution. The application is still in the process of being completed and is due by 5 pm on June 15.

Attachments:

Project Map