
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 12, 2025

DATE: 05.11.2025

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: GLO CMP CYCLE 31 GOMESA Grant Application for Public Access Boardwalk at Smith Harbor

Background:

There are two funding sources for the Coastal Management Grant Program (CMP): NOAA-funding or Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) funding. I had a long conversation with GLO last Thursday and we decided that this project would better fit as an application under the GOMESA program Projects of Special Merit (PSM) instead of NOAA. With the NOAA funding program, realistically the earliest we could bid on the project would be October 2029! I thought that was ridiculous and considered not applying at all, but it was explained to me that the GOMESA funding can go much faster since it's State, not Federal funding.

So, I would like to consider moving forward with an application for engineering AND construction for this Smith Harbor Boardwalk project. The application is due June 4. If successful, we will receive a conditional Intent to Fund notification in August after which we will work with GLO on a workplan and budget narrative with a final funding confirmation sometime between March and June of 2026. We will then have 3 years to complete the project. The conceptual design was completed as part of the USCE permitting process, so it won't take long to prepare a construction bid package. Since NOAA is not involved, approval of the plans by GLO will be much faster.

Below is the Project Cost estimate. The City would need to commit to a 40% match, or \$200,550. I would plan on submitting an application to the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust for this match amount in October.

| Item No. | Description | Est. Qty | Unit | Unit Price | Total Price |
|-------------------------|--|----------|------|------------|-------------|
| Smith Harbor Boardwalk | | | | | |
| 1. | Mobilization, Insurance/Bonds | 1 | LS | \$30,000 | \$ 30,000 |
| 2. | Construction Staking | 1 | LS | \$5,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| 3. | Timber Boardwalk 10' wide with FLO THRU deck and timber piling/handrails | 375 | LF | \$1,025 | \$384,375 |
| Sub-total | | | | | \$419,375 |
| 4. | Contingency – 10% | | | | \$ 42,000 |
| TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST | | | | | \$461,375 |
| 5. | Engineering & Surveying | | | | \$ 40,000 |
| TOTAL PROJECT COST | | | | | \$501,375 |

The GLO doesn't require a resolution from Council to apply for this funding, but obviously staff needs Council's approval to potentially commit these matching dollars, and a signed resolution can only help with the scoring of the grant application. .

Below is a summary of the current, proposed and future projects associated with the Downtown Waterfront Area and how they all tie together in the Master Plan:

1. The Living Shoreline Breakwater – GLO CDBG-MIT Coastal Resiliency Funding: See attached 70% Submittal Site Plan. The project will construct a rock breakwater south of the Bayfront Peninsula to protect the shoreline and a oyster reef breakwater to the north of the Veterans Memorial to protect the wetlands area. This project is waiting on USCOE permit approval. We are engaging help from Michael Cloud's office and Senator Coryn and Cruz to move this along.
2. City of Port Lavaca Shoreline Cleanup – RESTORE grant funding: This project will remove what remains of the deteriorated metal barges in the bay just east of Smit Harbor. This project is waiting for USCE and TCEQ clearance to begin the bid process.
3. Nautical Landing Boat Ramp -Breakwater Repair – TPWL Boating Access grant funding with City matching funds. A construction contract has been awarded to Derrick Construction and work should begin this month.
4. Downtown Waterfront Public Access Improvement – Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust Grant funding with City matching funds. This project is in engineering design and will include improvements to the parking lot behind Nautical Landings, some bulkheading and 3 courtesy boat slips with a fishing/crabbing dock at the northwest corner of Smith Harbor as well as a 10 ft wide shared use path from the crosswalk at Bayfront Park to the northwest corner of Smith Harbor.
5. With the bid package for the above Downtown Waterfront Public Access Improvement project, we are considering including an Alternative Add bid to construct additional bulkheading on the north end of Smith Harbor as shown on the USCE permit drawing such that Poor Boy Bait can be relocated to the east about 130 feet. If it is believed that funds are available in the Ports & Harbors Funds to do this work, we will work with the Port Commission to include it in the bid package.
6. THIS potential GLO CMP grant project to extend the 10 ft wide shared use path from the edge of the crabbing dock that will be constructed to the south corner of Smith Harbor. As you recall, the City has a 30 ft wide access easement behind Evelyns Seafood Market & gift shop, which wouldn't provide enough width to place a 10 ft wide path within this 30 feet. By building a boardwalk on the waterside of the seawall to become part of a future walk/bike path loop, we aren't encroaching any into this vehicular access easement.
7. FUTURE projects: Once the additional bulkhead is built and Poor Boy Bait is relocated, we will be ready to construct the parking and turnaround improvements shown in one of the exhibits I provided to you in the packet with the original memo.
8. FUTURE: Once the material that was dredged from and deposited around Smith Harbor is moved as part of the Living Shoreline project, then we will be ready to apply for recreational funding to complete improvements to Smith Harbor as shown on the Waterfront Master Plan. I have looked and the seawall is still visible for some distance south of where the currently proposed CMP project will stop, so a continuation of this boardwalk can go on to the south and transition into paths and boardwalks in and around the wetlands to complete a walk/bike path loop with observations points as shown in the Masterplan.
9. FUTURE: Improvements to the roadway along the along the seawall – most likely one-way from north to south.

Below is the draft plan to apply for Matagorda Bay Mitigation funding which I shared with you in my weekly update last Friday:

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- The \$200,000 match for the TPWL trails grant (or \$500,00 if we are awarded the grant) We will find out by the end of May.
 - \$158,000 match for the Lighthouse Beach Phase 2 CEPRA project
 - Possibly \$200,00 match for this CMP-GOMESA project
 - Possibly one bay outfall litter-catcher project to see how it does before doing others.
- If Council members have other suggestions for applications, let me know.