

## Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project at Davis Bayou, Mississippi District Gulf Islands National Seashore

### Phase IV Proposed Early Restoration Project

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project at Davis Bayou includes roadway enhancements as a means of addressing loss of recreational use on Department of the Interior lands in the five Gulf States affected by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

Two roads run through the Davis Bayou area of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Park Road and Robert McGhee Road are both two-lane roads that have no paved shoulders. The first mile of Park Road was constructed over 30 years ago in an existing residential area of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. It serves as the primary access to the William M. Colmer Visitor Center. Traffic on Park Road has increased significantly over the last 20 years as approximately 10,000 additional residents have moved into the vicinity.

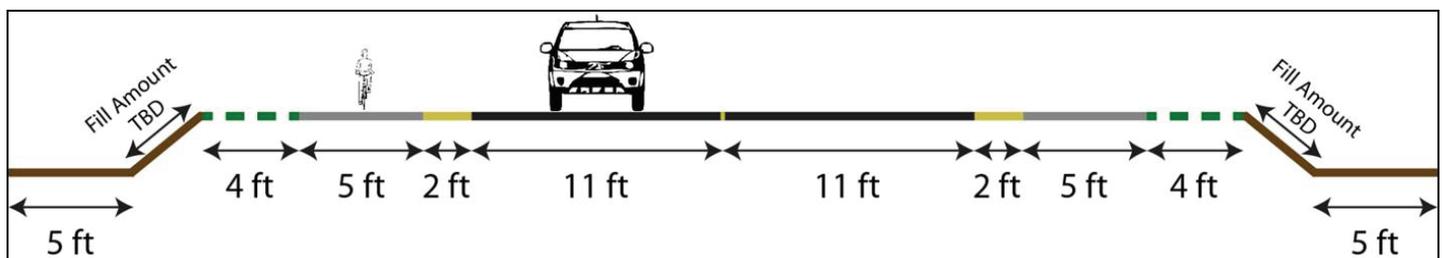
Members of the public – including day users, overnight campers, and commuters – use this road as walking, jogging, bicycling, and motor vehicle traffic routes. Simultaneous use of the roads by all user groups results in congested traffic and difficult conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.



Vicinity Map Gulf Islands National Seashore, Davis Bayou Unit

The proposed project would widen portions of Park Road to provide multiple-use lanes and separating buffers. Along 2.17 miles of Park the existing 22-foot wide roadway would be augmented by 2-foot wide buffers flanked by 5-foot wide multiple use lanes. The outside edge of the multiple use lanes would be bordered by 4-foot un-paved shoulders. Five feet of additional clearing is planned and retaining walls would be constructed in areas where the road is elevated. The project also involves constructing a new park entrance sign and two traffic-calming medians, and moving an existing sign.

ESTIMATED COST: \$6,996,751



Proposed Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project at Davis Bayou, Mississippi District, Gulf Islands National Seashore, cross-section of typical roadway improvement

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