



The following verbal comments were presented by Jennifer Denson, PEP's Executive Director, on September 23, 2014, at ALDOT's Public Hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway widening project. Comments were limited to two minutes.

I am Jennifer Denson the Executive Director of Partners for Environmental Progress –known as PEP. In 2010, PEP endorsed building the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and the B Prime Route. After careful review of the Draft EIS, on behalf of the Board of Directors and members, I affirm our support for building the Bridge and *B Prime*.

PEP represents more than 200 industrial related companies, employing more than 22,000 local individuals committed to applying best environmental practices to business and community issues.

Our support for the Bridge stems in part from the negative environmental impacts of doing nothing. The Draft EIS states that the No Build Alternative will result in increased CO₂ emissions, additional wasted fuel and increased risks in the Central Mobile Business District for serious incidents or spills associated with trucks hauling hazardous materials.

The B Prime Route has the most overall positive economic, social and environmental impacts of all the alternatives. Careful planning and oversight during the Design, Engineering and Construction phases could minimize, mitigate or eliminate the potential minimal environmental impacts.

ALDOT recites in the Draft EIS that with the B Prime Route there will be little to no impact in the following areas:

- Floodplain values and flood risks;
- Current parks and Trails including the proposed Crepe Myrtle Trail;
- the Mobile River Delta;
- wild or scenic rivers; and
- Water quality.

Wetlands may be temporarily impacted but limited to the areas associated with the placement of piers to support the Bridge. Plus, Clean Water Act permit requirements for avoidance, minimization and mitigation plans will address any wetland impacts.

PEP supports environmentally friendly transportation choices, and we support the addition of a pedestrian /bike path on the Bridge.

Building the I-10 Mobile River Bridge along the B Prime Route is a win-win situation for the environment, the economy and the community all along the Gulf Coast.

"A Clean Environment is Good for Business"

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