

PORT BIENVILLE RAIL STUDY ENVIRONMENT IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

PURPOSE

“Evaluate the feasibility and environmental impacts associated with constructing a new freight railroad to connect Port Bienville Industrial Park to Norfolk Southern Railroad in Nicholson, MS”

PROJECT HISTORY

- Hancock County Ports & Harbor Commission secured a Federal Railroad Administration Grant for the Port Bienville Rail Study in 2007
- FRA is the lead Federal Agency overseeing the project
- Mississippi Department of Transportation is Contracting Agency and manages the study
- Feasibility Study was completed in 2013
- Notice of Intent issued in June 2015

PROJECT FACTS

- Approximately 24 miles in length
- Crosses over I-10 and I-59
- Majority of the project lies within the Stennis Space Center Acoustical Buffer
- No building impacts anticipated
- Cost is approximately \$100 million



FEASIBILITY STUDY FINDINGS

A new rail connection to Norfolk Southern would provide existing business:

- Access to dual Class 1 rail service
- Improved transit times and reliability of deliveries

“Dual Class 1 rail access would enable Hancock & Pearl River Counties to attract new industries that require this level of rail service”

ECONOMIC DRIVERS

(Rail transport in the two counties)

- Value of commodities shipped by rail: \$1 billion
- 543,000 carload tons/year
- Goods are primarily polymers and plastics
- 70% of plastic-related freight moves through Port Bienville Shortline Railroad
- Service impacts from single Class 1 Rail Carrier
- The need for Dual Class 1 rail service for existing and potential customers
- Expansion of client base and market opportunities.

SUBMIT COMMENTS TO:

**Rhea Vincent, Environmental Division
Mississippi DOT**

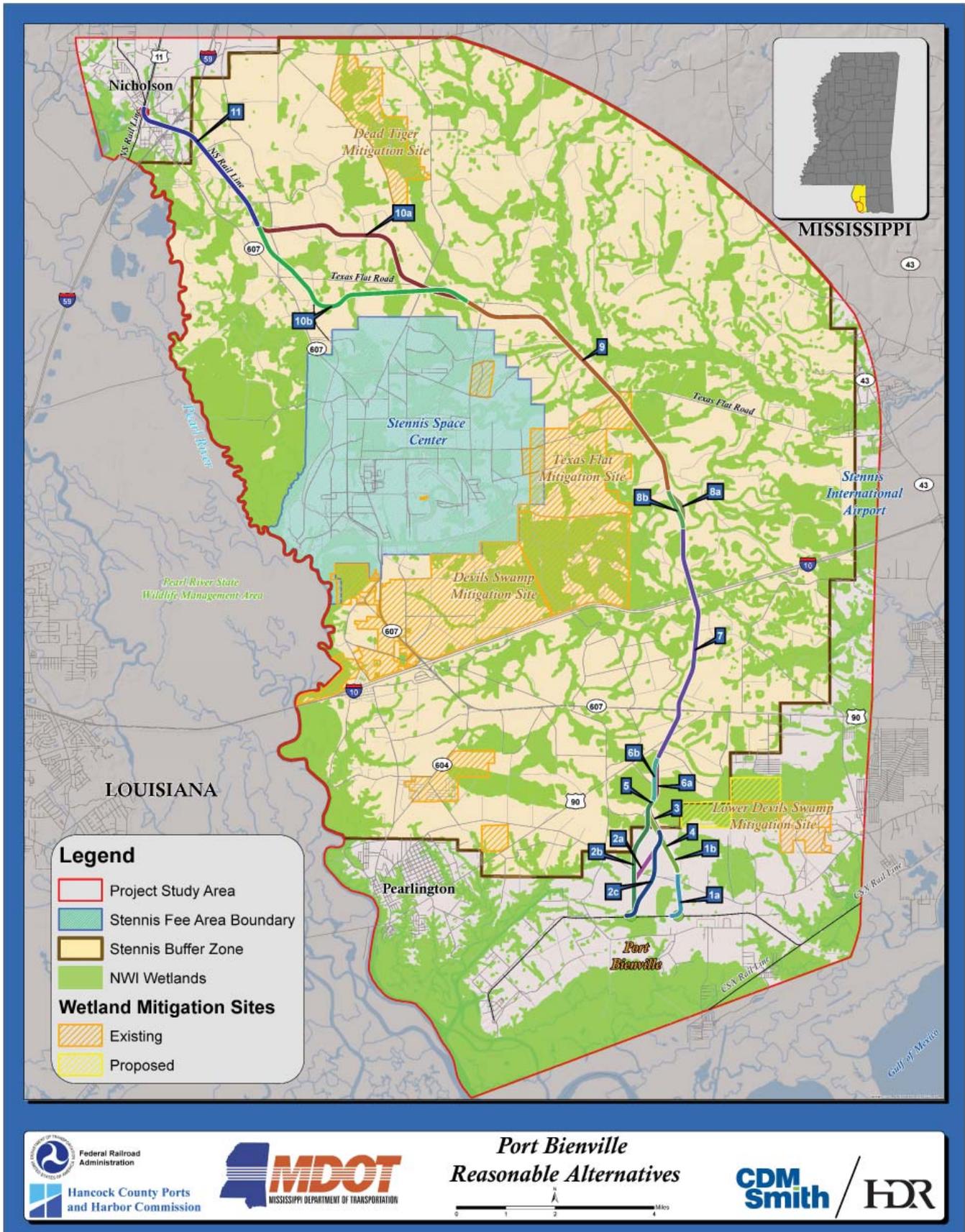
PO Box 1850

Jackson, Ms 39215-1850

601-359-7920

environmentalcomments@mdot.state.ms.us

PROPOSED RAIL SEGMENTS IDENTIFIED IN FEASIBILITY STUDY



ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFO:

Port Bienville Rail Feasibility Study <http://sp.mdot.ms.gov/Environmental/Pages/Projects.aspx>