

Marine Highway M-146

Sponsor: Chambers County Galveston Bay

Supporters: Chambers County Improvement District No.1 and Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District

Landside Routes Served: I-10 and TX-146

Route Description:

The M-146 Marine Highway Route includes the navigable waters between the Cedar Crossing Industrial Park in Chambers County, Texas and the Port of Houston. The route is located in southeast Texas, along the Gulf of America on Galveston Bay. These commercially navigable waters provide a direct route from the Houston Ship channel to the Cedar Crossing Industrial Park, one of the largest industrial parks in the nation.

Attributes:

Traffic congestion is a major issue in the area, as both residential commuters and commercial long and short-haul vehicles utilize the roadways. Trucking companies serve many industry leaders with distribution centers in Chambers County such as Bayer, WalMart, Home Depot, ExxonMobil, and JSW.

The M-146 Marine Highway Route designation recognizes the importance of the waterway to these industries as an alternative to moving containers on the region's already congested road and railways. The regional industries already use barges to transport containers moved between the Port of Houston and distribution centers instead of by way of on-road trucks, and they plan to expand usage of the container-on-barge services to reduce traffic congestion, health and safety hazards, and greenhouse gas emissions in the area.

