Public safety is the Corps of Engineers’ top priority. Congress has fully authorized and funded the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for southeast Louisiana. The $14.45 billion HSDRRS includes five parishes and consists of 350 miles of levees and floodwalls; 73 non-Federal pumping stations; 3 canal closure structures with pumps; and 4 gated outlets.

Project Summary
The Causeway risk reduction feature began in 2010 and is located at the southern entrance of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge approach on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain in Jefferson Parish. The structural features built by the Corps reduce the risk associated with a storm surge that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year, or a 100-year storm surge. Commuter and local traffic in the area has been impacted by the construction of this risk reduction feature. The Corps planned phased construction in order to ensure two open lanes of traffic in each direction during peak hours. The total construction of the Causeway risk reduction project is approximately $43 million.

Project Features
The Causeway project consists of a concrete floodwall with a top elevation of approximately 15 feet. Tie-ins link this feature with the Jefferson Parish Lakefront levee reaches. To provide continuous access to the Causeway Bridge, the project includes construction of an elevated road and bridge over the floodwall. The roadway ramp over the floodwall stretches from the Causeway peninsula to north of Sixth St. in Metairie.

Project Status
The Causeway risk reduction project has features in place to defend against the 100-year storm; however construction at the Causeway will continue through summer 2013.
In the first phase of construction, the Causeway travel lanes were detoured into the median.

In the second phase of construction, Causeway travel lanes were detoured onto the newly constructed elevated lanes.

Construction of the new T-wall and bridge will continue through summer 2013.