



Historic Bridge Adoption Information Packet

Brazoria County

Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 522

at the San Bernard River

March 2026

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Announcement

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) seeks adopters for the historic bridge detailed below for reuse according to federal transportation and historic preservation laws. The bridge is in Brazoria County, on FM 522 crossing San Bernard River.

Priority will be given to public entities seeking to reuse the bridge in a public or publicly visible space. Bridges available through this program are not suitable for vehicular service. All rehabilitation work must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

Interested parties may request additional information, indicate interest, or submit a reuse proposal by contacting:

- Daniel Ringo
- TxDOT Houston District
- 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77007
- Phone Number: 713-802-5230
- Email address: daniel.ringo@txdot.gov

Letters of interest and/or reuse proposals will be accepted until 5 p.m. on April 7, 2026.



Figure 1. FM 522 at San Bernard River Bridge, looking west-northwest.

Bridge Location

- County: Brazoria County
- Highway or Facility: FM 522
- Feature Crossed: San Bernard River
- Locational Information: <https://arcg.is/1XjWLv>

Bridge Information

- Bridge owner: TxDOT
- Main span type: Nine-span structure, with three prestressed concrete girder main spans and six pan-formed girder approach spans
- Main span length: 334 feet
- Roadway width: 29 feet
- Year built: 1957
- Builder: Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam, Incorporated (Inc.)

Historic Significance of the Bridge

The FM 522 bridge at the San Bernard River was originally constructed by Brazoria County with the engineering firm Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam, Inc., as the design engineer. It was added to the state system in 1962, when FM 522 was extended along the former county road right-of-way. The bridge is significant as an example of early use (pre-1960) of neoprene pads as bearing plates for superstructure members. Neoprene pads proved more economical, durable, and easier to maintain than previous bearing materials.

The FM 522 bridge at the San Bernard River is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C* in the area of Engineering at the state level of significance.

Condition Descriptions

Overall, the structure is in fair condition. Over its lifetime, the bridge has undergone several repairs, including the installation of metal bracing and embankment repairs. While these efforts have extended the bridge's usability, they do not address the underlying structural age and functional limitations. The structure is considered functionally obsolete due to its history of structural rehabilitation and its geometric deficiencies, specifically the bridge width not meeting current TxDOT standards.

Costs to convert the bridge for pedestrian use include building a foundation at the new location, new bridge rails, and the installation of a pedestrian walkway. Costs for the recipient will depend on distance to be moved and may be partially or fully covered by the State.

Bridge Photographs



Figure 2. FM 522 at San Bernard River Bridge, looking eastbound.



Figure 3. View of the fenders underneath the San Bernard River Bridge, looking eastbound.



Figure 4. Underneath the FM 522 at San Bernard River Bridge, looking eastbound.



Figure 5. Standing on the FM 522 at San Bernard River Bridge, looking eastbound.



Figure 6. View of FM 522 at San Bernard River Bridge, looking east.



Figure 7. Underneath the FM 522 at San Bernard River Bridge, looking northeast.