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**PORT FREEPORT GETS GREENER GATEWAY
WITH ROAD LANDSCAPING UNDERTAKING**

FREEPORT, TX (July 15, 2009) - Roadways leading in and out of Port Freeport are getting a green makeover, providing a more attractive gateway for area motorists.

"The landscaping presents a much more appealing view of the Port," said Port Commission Chairman James F. Brown Jr., who provided impetus for the undertaking.

Port Freeport Director of Engineering David M. Knuckey said the first phase of the effort, with an early May start and mid-August completion date, entails elevated vegetation beds using landscaping blocks and planting of drought-resistant grasses on both sides of a 1,500-foot stretch of Navigation Boulevard from the Port main entrance to the State Highway 36 intersection. Houston-based Christison Landscape Systems, under a \$168,000 contract, is using low-profile greenery so that drivers entering and leaving the Port retain unobstructed sightlines.

The Port has entered into an Advance Funding Agreement for Local Voluntary Contributions to Transportation Improvement Projects with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) whereby the Port's expenditures can be used as a local match should TxDot grant funds become available in the future for additional landscaping work, Knuckey said."

A planned second-phase project calls for extension of landscaping for about a mile up State Highway 36, to the Brazos River Diversion Channel, while a third phase would follow Navigation Boulevard for a mile south of State Highway 36, to the storm protection levee.

Port Freeport currently ranks 16th among U.S. Ports in international cargo tonnage handled. With a current channel of 45-foot depth, soon to be widened and deepened, just 3 miles from open Gulf of Mexico waters, Port Freeport offers more than 7,500 acres for future development. Port Freeport serves its customers and stakeholders through development and marketing of competitive world-class navigational capabilities, technically advanced marine and multimodal terminal services and Port-related industrial facilities while achieving profits and creating jobs as a leading economic catalyst for the Texas Gulf Coast.

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