HESCO baskets have previously been employed to block a gap in the levee system on Hwy. 11 north of Oak Harbor Blvd. from storm surge. This made it impossible to use Hwy. 11 as an evacuation route for residents of the area.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation, in partnership with St. Tammany Parish, will begin construction on an alternate evacuation route for areas south of Spartan Dr. in Slidell. This new route will be constructed alongside the existing highway as an emergency evacuation route on top of the existing levee.

How will this benefit the Oak Harbor/Eden Isles area? This new Emergency Evacuation Route will allow residents to have a safe, open evacuation route in the event that HESCO baskets are put into place on Hwy. 11. This is an interim measure until the design and construction of the elevation of Hwy. 11 is completed.

When will construction start/finish? Construction is set to begin by the end of July and is scheduled to be finished by the end of August 2013.

How will this affect my commute? This project will be completed alongside the existing highway. The impact to your commute should be minimal.

Will the new Emergency Evacuation Route be open for use during non-emergency times? No. The Emergency Evacuation Route is strictly for use in the event that Hwy. 11 is made impassable and will remain barricaded.

What are HESCO baskets? HESCO baskets are essentially portable containers with a heavy duty liner that can be filled with dirt and sand. These ‘baskets’ are used to build temporary barriers against storm surge.