



FOR IMMEDIATE (JOINT) RELEASE  
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## **RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE THE NEW HARBOR FERRY LANDING AT THE SOLOMON P. ORTIZ CENTER**

(Corpus Christi, TX) --- The Port of Corpus Christi in partnership with the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) will ribbon cut the Harbor Ferry Landing at the Ortiz Center at approximately 12:15 PM on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> to coincide with opening day of the Corpus Christi Hooks 2006 season.

The new Harbor Ferry Landing at the Ortiz Center will offer an additional stop of the current RTA Harbor Ferry route to also include the Art Museum Barge Dock, The Peoples Street T-Head and Texas State Aquarium. The ferry landing is a collaborative effort between the Texas Department of Transportation, The Federal Highway Administration, the CC Regional Transportation Authority and the Port of Corpus Christi. Architects on the project were Richter and Associates, which also designed the Ortiz Center and CCC Group, Inc. was the contractor of the facility. The Harbor Ferry Landing will include a dock, air-conditioned guard station and restrooms, an arbor, landscaping and newly paved parking lot.

“We are honored to dedicate the Harbor Ferry Landing at the Ortiz Center in partnership with the Corpus Christi RTA. The landing promotes the linkage to Corpus Christi Beach from the Port’s waterfront area. This is a fine example of the Port offering an affordable and unique

tourist and recreational activity for families,” said Ruben Bonilla, Chairman of the Port of Corpus Christi.

Both the local community and tourists look forward to and enjoy this unique form of transportation that operates from Memorial Day until Labor Day. The new Harbor Ferry Landing will expedite pleasurable ventures between the Solomon P. Ortiz Center, Heritage Park, Whataburger Field, American Bank Center, USS Lexington Museum, Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History and the Texas State Aquarium.

“The RTA is very excited to have the Ortiz Center as an additional stop on the current route which we expect will increase ridership and become a valuable transportation component of the Port’s waterfront area and Corpus Christi Beach,” said Roland Barrera, Chairman of the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority.

VIP Passengers on the Southside nearest the Ortiz Center will be picked up there starting at 11:30 a.m., on *Thursday, April 6, 2006*, then travel to the following Harbor Ferry Landings: The Peoples Street T-Head, Art Museum Barge Dock and the Texas State Aquarium where stakeholders will be picked up at a landing nearest their location. The Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau will have representatives at each location to welcome the ferry and escort stakeholders onto the vessel. Guests will be transported to the new Harbor Ferry Landing at the Solomon P. Ortiz Center for the ribbon cutting. Following the ribbon cutting, a hot dog lunch and sodas will be provided along with bus shuttle service.

**What: Harbor Ferry Landing at the Ortiz Center Ribbon Cutting**

**When: Thursday, April 6, 2006 at 11:30 AM**

**Where: Solomon P. Ortiz International Center**

Please visit [www.portofcorpuschristi.com](http://www.portofcorpuschristi.com) for more information.

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