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Tish Burgher, 305-470-5349  
[Tish.Burgher@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Tish.Burgher@dot.state.fl.us)

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## FDOT Studies Options for Cow Key Channel Bridge Rehabilitation

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*Miami, FL* – In response to comments and concerns raised by local officials, businesses and residents, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Six, is conducting a Traffic Study and reviewing all possible options to minimize traffic impacts during the planned rehabilitation of Cow Key Channel Bridge in to Key West.

“The Cow Key Channel Bridge is critical for transporting people and goods in and out of Key West,” said Jim Wolfe, FDOT District Six Secretary. “FDOT is responsible for maintaining the bridge, but we also understand that maintaining traffic in and out of the city is essential for emergency services, businesses, residents and millions of annual visitors. We are exploring all potential options and will present these to local officials on Friday, October 19.”

The Project Team met with City and County officials to discuss the project on September 14 and held a public meeting in Key West on September 20. The result of these meetings was a commitment by FDOT to look at all possible options, including construction duration, maintenance of vehicular traffic, signal timing and bike and pedestrian traffic, to minimize potential impacts during the rehabilitation project.

The project is a necessary preventative maintenance measure to ensure the bridge remains structurally stable and open to truck traffic. It is also an important mitigation measure for emergency events. As seen during Hurricane Irma, hardened infrastructure is an important component to ensure a timely, smooth, and effective response effort. The design phase is expected to be completed in January 2019 with construction expected to begin in February 2020 and be completed by June 2021.

For more information about the Cow Key Channel Bridge Rehabilitation Project please call FDOT’s Public Information Office at 305-470-5349 or contact Community Outreach Specialist Rodolfo Roman at 305-470-5477. Information about this and other FDOT District Six projects can be found on [fdotmiamidade.com](http://fdotmiamidade.com).

Drivers are encouraged to call 511 before they travel or log on to [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com) to get real-time traffic and lane closure information. FDOT reminds drivers that distracted driving endangers drivers, passengers and bystanders and Florida law bans texting while driving. Help keep our roadways safer. When you’re behind the wheel, just “Put it Down.”