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## Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Shares Plans for Cow Key Channel Bridge Rehabilitation Project

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*Miami, FL* – On Friday, October 19, The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Six, met with City of Key West and Monroe County Officials to present plans for reducing traffic impacts and construction time during the Cow Key Channel Bridge Rehabilitation Project, currently under design and scheduled to begin construction in April 2020.

District Six Secretary James Wolfe and the project team presented a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Plan that maintains two outbound and one inbound lane of traffic during construction. The plans include Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) to reduce construction time to 370 days and a half-million-dollar incentive for the contractor to complete the project in 250 days. A traffic study, currently underway, will determine if other measures can be used to minimize construction impacts.

“As we develop project plans, we always consider ways to minimize construction impacts,” said District Six Secretary James Wolfe, P.E. “Maintaining traffic in and out of the city is essential for emergency services, businesses, residents and millions of annual visitors and will continue working with local officials as we finalize these plans.”

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).