

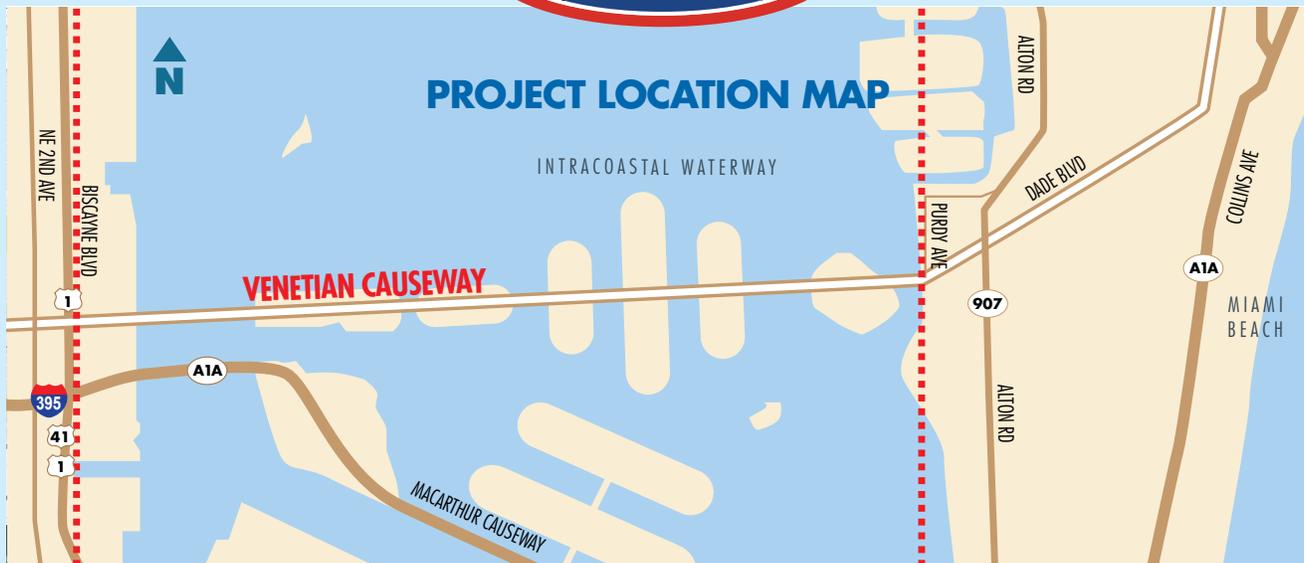


NEWSLETTER NO. 4 FEBRUARY 2015

# VENETIAN CAUSEWAY PD&E STUDY

FM NO. 422713-2-22-01

EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION DECISION MAKING NO. (ETDM): 12756



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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[www.fdotmiamidade.com/VenetianBridgeStudy](http://www.fdotmiamidade.com/VenetianBridgeStudy)

This newsletter is dedicated to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six's Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study to examine the potential replacement or rehabilitation of the twelve existing bridges that comprise the Venetian Causeway.

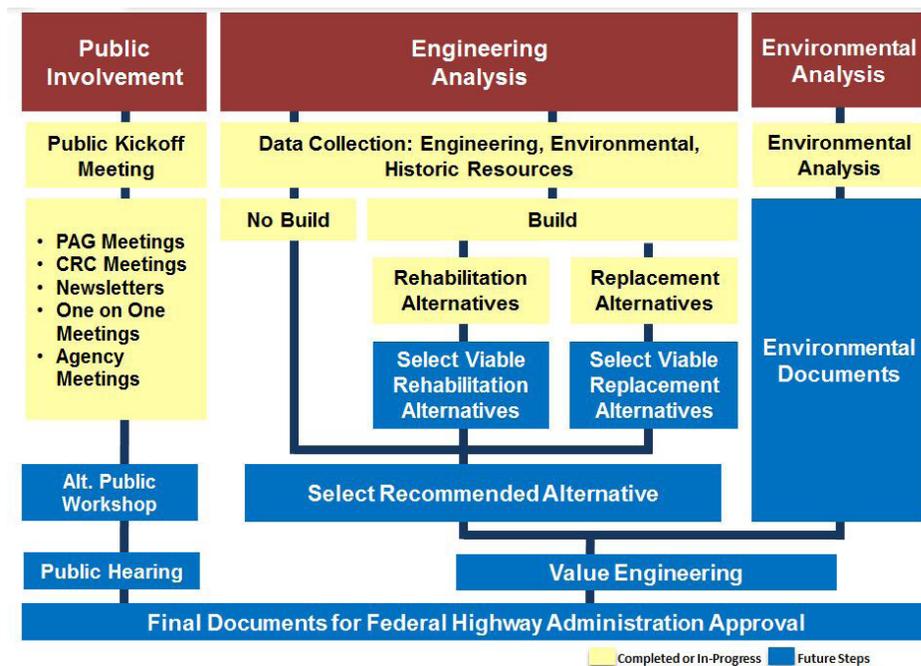
## Project Status

The Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study began in April 2014. There was a Public Kick-off Meeting held in June 2014, a Project Advisory Group (PAG)/Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting in September 2014, followed by a Cultural Resource Committee (CRC) Meeting also in September 2014. The presentations made at these meetings as well as other relevant project information can be found on the project website [www.fdotmiamidade.com/venetianbridgestudy](http://www.fdotmiamidade.com/venetianbridgestudy)

## PD&E Process

As illustrated in the PD&E Process diagram, the Study involves three main elements of work –

Public Involvement, Engineering Analysis, and Environmental Analysis. The boxes highlighted in yellow demonstrate the completed and current stage of the project.



### Summary:

1. Public Involvement - an extensive public involvement effort continues to provide information and gather input from the community.
2. Engineering Analysis – began with the No-Build Alternatives and has progressed to the evaluation of Build Alternatives - Rehabilitation and Replacement. Rehabilitation alternatives were first developed followed by replacement alternatives.
3. Environmental Analysis – investigating the impacts of the proposed improvements on the environment and the historic resources.

## Project Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting No. 2 Scheduled for February 24, 2015

The purpose of the PAG is to ensure that the range of stakeholder views regarding possible improvements to the Venetian Causeway is clearly understood and fully considered by the project team. The project team will be presenting the various alternatives being considered as part of the study and seek input from the attendees to help the project team address the issues and needs of the project. Some of the alternatives to be presented include:

1. No Build
2. Transportation System Management

The next meeting is the PAG has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 1000 Venetian Way, Clubhouse, Third Floor in Miami Beach.

3. Build Alternatives
  - a. Rehabilitation
  - b. Replacement
    - i. Typical Section Alternatives
    - ii. Railing Alternatives
    - iii. Fixed Bridge Alternatives
    - iv. Movable Bridge Alternatives

The presentation will address the ability of the alternatives to safely carry traffic, pedestrians and bicyclists. The possible impacts of the different alternatives on the environment, historic resources, aesthetics and the public will also be presented.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### 1. What is a PD&E Study?

A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is an important part of the transportation planning process and is conducted to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). During a PD&E study, FDOT determines the location and conceptual design of feasible alternatives for roadway or bridge improvements and analyzes their social, economic and environmental effects. Each PD&E Study conducted by FDOT includes a public involvement component which is aimed at soliciting feedback and input from business owners, residents and other stakeholders located in or near the area of a project. A No-Build Alternative, which considers leaving the bridges or roadways in their present state with routine maintenance, is a viable alternative considered throughout the study. A PD&E Study is finalized when the FHWA reviews the recommendations and provides a Location and Design Concept Acceptance (LDCA).

### 2. When will the FDOT PD&E Study be completed?

This FDOT PD&E Study is scheduled for completion in Summer 2017.

### 3. What happens when the FDOT PD&E Study is completed?

If the PD&E Study results in a Build Alternative being selected and depending on the available funds, the project may proceed to the Design Phase. The Design phase is then followed by the construction phase.

### 4. What are the estimated design and construction completion dates?

Design and construction are dependent on funding and are not scheduled to begin until completion of the PD&E Study.

### 5. Is FDOT replacing all of the bridges on the Venetian Causeway?

The FDOT PD&E study will examine the potential replacement or rehabilitation of the twelve existing bridges that comprise the Venetian Causeway. A No-Build Alternative, which considers leaving the bridges or roadways in their present state with routine maintenance, is a viable alternative considered throughout the study.

### 6. What environmental measures have been considered to prevent foreign materials from entering the Bay during construction?

The project is located within the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve and is designated as an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW). Therefore, the contractor will be required to utilize a series of tarps, floating platforms and barges with sides to ensure no construction materials enter the Bay. Turbidity barriers will be used to encapsulate any foundation work. A containment system will be used to encase each bridge during paint removal (i.e. sandblasting) and application of new paint. The bridges will be tested for asbestos containing materials during the study to ensure the appropriate containment and disposal of materials is used during construction.

### 7. Is it possible to provide traffic railings that are shorter in height to provide a better view for the users and drivers of the Venetian Causeway?

Traffic railing alternatives will be examined during the PD&E Study. The railings alternatives will satisfy the current standards for traffic, pedestrian and bike safety which specify minimum heights.

### 8. What can we do to voice our specific concerns as the affected residents of the facility?

The public can share their thoughts and concerns regarding this PD&E Study by:

#### Contacting the Project Manager

Dat Huynh, P.E.

305-470-5217

dat.huynh@dot.state.fl.us

#### Submitting a comment through the project website

[www.fdotmiamidade.com/venetianbridgestudy](http://www.fdotmiamidade.com/venetianbridgestudy)

### 9. What is the difference between the Westernmost Bridge Emergency Repair Project and the FDOT PD&E Study?

The Westernmost Bridge Emergency Repair Project is being conducted by Miami-Dade County and involves the replacement of approximately 730 feet of the West Venetian Bascule Bridge on the Venetian Causeway. The PD&E Study is being conducted by FDOT to examine the potential replacement or rehabilitation of the twelve existing bridges along the causeway.

### 10. In reference to the Miami-Dade County project on Venetian, is Miami-Dade County closing the west bridge for the entire duration of the project?

#### For information on this project, please contact:

Gayle Love

Public Information Officer

loveg@miamidade.gov

305-514-6607

### 11. Is the FDOT coordinating with Miami-Dade County regarding the upcoming emergency bridge repair project to prevent any issues during the construction process?

FDOT has been coordinating the PD&E Study with Miami-Dade County.

### 12. Where can we go to get the latest updates on the PD&E Study?

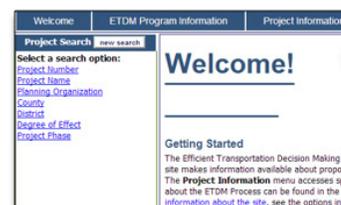
#### Project webpage –Updates posted weekly

[www.fdotmiamidade.com/venetianbridgestudy](http://www.fdotmiamidade.com/venetianbridgestudy)

#### Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM)

<https://etdmpub.fl.a-etat.org/est/>

1. Click on Project Number on left hand menu
2. Type in 12756
3. Click "Go" or press Enter



## Anticipated Project Schedule



### LEGEND:

<b>CRC:</b>	Cultural Resource Committee
<b>MTG:</b>	Meeting
<b>PAG:</b>	Project Advisory Group
<b>LDCA:</b>	Location Design Concept Acceptance

## VENETIAN CAUSEWAY EMERGENCY BRIDGE REPAIR PROJECT (MIAMI-DADE COUNTY)

### Para Preguntas en Español

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea mas información sobre este proyecto, por favor póngase en contacto con la señora **Maria Porrata**, al teléfono (786) 228-3519 o por correo electrónico a [maria.porrata@cg-mgs.com](mailto:maria.porrata@cg-mgs.com)

### For more information on the Venetian Causeway PD&E Study please contact:

#### **Dat Huynh, P.E.**

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Florida Department of Transportation – District Six Adam Leigh Cann Building

1000 NW 111th Avenue, Room 6251 • Miami, Florida 33172

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You can also find information about the project online by visiting <http://fdotmiamidade.com/venetianbridgestudy>.

### Non-Discrimination Laws and Regulations

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Ms. Eman Gomaa, P.E., at 305-470-5219 or in writing at the Florida Department of Transportation, District Six, 1000 NW 111 Avenue, Room 6111, Miami, Florida 33172 or by email at [eman.gomaa@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:eman.gomaa@dot.state.fl.us).