

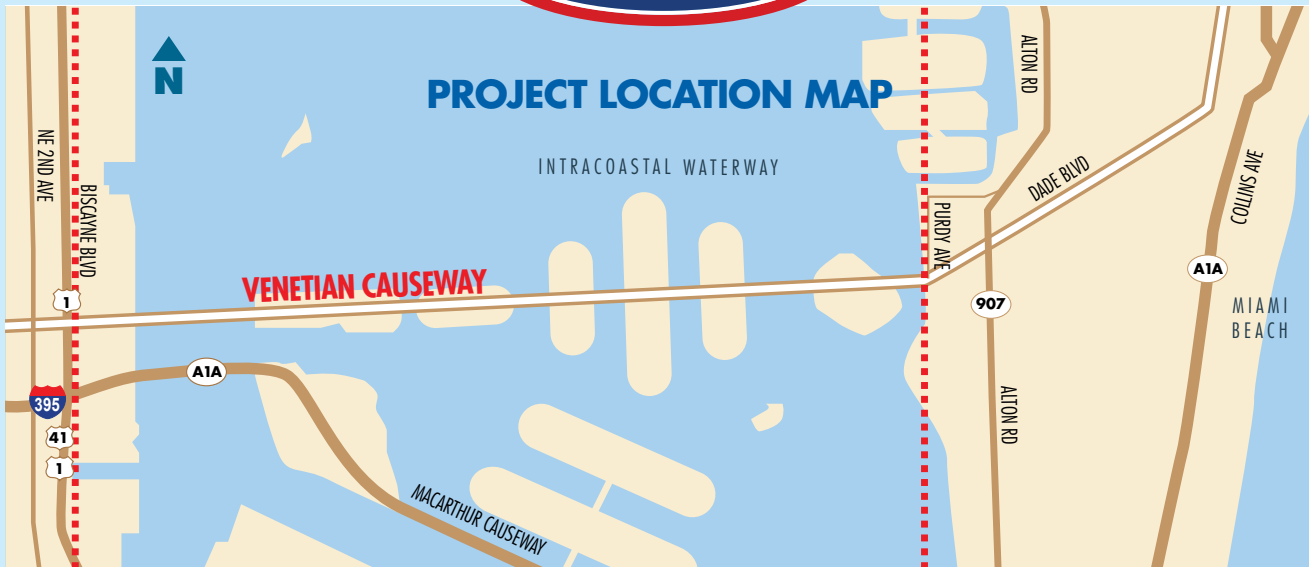


NEWSLETTER NO. 7 MAY 2017

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

This newsletter is dedicated to project public outreach activities for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study to examine the potential replacement or rehabilitation of the twelve existing bridges that comprise the Venetian Causeway.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed project is to address identified structural and functional deficiencies of the twelve existing bridges (ten low-level fixed spans and two movable bascules) through potential alternatives such as no build, replacement or rehabilitation.

PROJECT STATUS

In October 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) agreed the Venetian Causeway project is eligible to proceed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was willing to be the federal lead agency. Further coordination with the FHWA determined that the appropriate Class of Action for the project would be an Environmental Assessment (EA). In November 2016, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) submitted the documentation for an EA Class of Action and it has since been approved. This approval allows the project team to continue moving the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study forward.

Effective 12/14/2016 - Pursuant to 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) 327, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has assumed Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for highway projects on the State Highway System (SHS) and Local Agency Program (LAP) projects off the SHS. In general, FDOT's assumption includes all highway and roadway projects in Florida whose source of federal funding comes from FHWA or which constitute a federal action through FHWA. This includes responsibilities for environmental review, interagency consultation and other regulatory compliance-related actions pertaining to the review or approval of NEPA projects. Therefore, whereas FHWA was previously identified as the Lead Federal Agency, this function is now served by FDOT with approval authority resting in the Office of Environmental Management (OEM).



PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP (PAG) MEETING NO. 4



Date:

May 16, 2017

Time:

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location:

1000 Venetian Way Condominiums
(Clubhouse, Third Floor)
1000 Venetian Way Miami Beach, FL 33139



During the meeting we will:

1. Discuss the project's Class of Action Determination - Environmental Assessment.
2. Re-examine Alternative 6 – High Level Fixed Bridge as replacement for the east bascule bridge.
3. Present the alternatives being considered for additional study
4. Present the next steps for the project.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives that were developed for the project have been evaluated based on the ability of each to meet the project needs. The alternatives included No-Build and Build Alternatives. The Build Alternatives included rehabilitation or replacement.

The alternatives shown in the table, have been selected for additional study:

ALTERNATIVE	DESCRIPTION
NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVES	
1	Do Nothing – The bridges remain as is with routine maintenance only.
2	Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSM&O) – The bridges remain as is with routine maintenance only. Transit and other operational improvements would be made to facilitate transportation along the corridor.
BUILD ALTERNATIVES - REHABILITATION	
4	Fixed Bridge Rehabilitation with Beam Strengthening - Rehabilitation of the fixed bridges to improve safety and load carrying capacity. Includes beam strengthening to achieve a higher load carrying capacity.
M1	Bascule Bridge Rehabilitation – Rehabilitation of the eastern movable bridge to improve safety and achieve a higher load carrying capacity.
BUILD ALTERNATIVES - REPLACEMENT	
Typical Sections – The replacement of the bridges would require that a new typical section be selected along with the railing type.	
T1	Venetian Railing – This railing replicates the existing railing on the bridges, but may not satisfy the current standards for railings.
FIXED ALTERNATIVES The replacement of the bridges would require that the structural system for the fixed bridges be selected.	
6	High Level Fixed Bridge – This alternative replaces the movable bridges with a high-level bridge that maintains navigational traffic.
7	Arched Beams – This alternative provides low-level bridges, replicates the arched beams and maintains the look of the existing bridges.
Movable Bridge Alternatives – The replacement of the eastern movable bridge would require that the movable bridge type be selected.	
M4	Double Leaf Bascule Bridge – The existing bridge would be replaced in kind.



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. Hong Benitez, P.E., at 305-470-5219 or in writing at the Florida Department of Transportation, District Six, 1000 NW 111 Avenue, Room 6111-A, Miami, Florida 33172 or be-mail at hong.benitez@dot.state.fl.us.

Para Preguntas en Español

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o si simplemente desea más información sobre este proyecto, favor de ponerse en contacto con la Señora Tasha Cunningham, al teléfono (305) 335-8466 o por correo electrónico a tasha@publicinvolvement.com

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

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