



SR 5/US 1/Overseas Highway Seven Mile Bridge Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

Little Duck Key (just south of Mile Marker 40) to Knights Key (just north of Mile Marker 47)
Financial Management Number: 448207-1-22-01 | ETDM 14513

NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2024

The Seven Mile Bridge (No. 900101) is an iconic symbol of the Florida Keys and the state of Florida. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study along SR 5/US 1/Overseas Highway Seven Mile Bridge over the Moser Channel. The project study area extends from Little Duck Key (just south of Mile Marker 40) to Knights Key (just north of Mile Marker 47), approximately 7.5 miles, in the City of Marathon and Monroe County. The Seven Mile Bridge was constructed in 1982 and has undergone several rehabilitations over the years with the final rehabilitation scheduled for late 2025. SR 5/US 1/Overseas Highway is the only route in and out of the lower keys that carries traffic from Key West to the mainland, also serving as an emergency evacuation route.

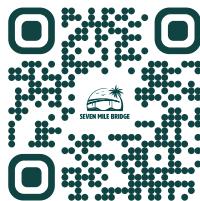
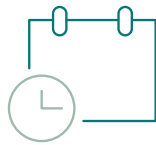
Join us

With the beginning of the PD&E study, FDOT is holding a kick-off meeting to introduce the public and local officials to the project and the study team. This will be the first of many engagement opportunities to learn about the project and share your feedback.

Topics covered at the Public Kick-off Meeting:

- *Study purpose and need*
- *Environmental and engineering considerations*
- *Project schedule*
- *Comments or input from attendees*

This meeting will be held in a hybrid format so attendees can participate in person or virtually or view the broadcast on MCTV/76. The same information will be presented and shared for both formats.



Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024
Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Marathon Government Center
2798 Overseas Highway, 2nd Floor
Marathon, FL 33050

Phone Option: call in by dialing (631) 992-3221;
access code: 751-806-642

Register for virtual Meeting:
www.bit.ly/SevenmileBridgePublicKickoffMeeting

This section of SR 5/US 1/Overseas Highway is included in the Federal Highway Administration's America's Byways Program as an All-American Road, connecting the Florida Keys to the mainland of Florida.

Fun Fact - The Seven Mile Bridge was constructed in 1982. At that time, it was the longest concrete box girder bridge in the U.S.

Why is this study needed?

The primary purpose for this project is to evaluate alternatives for the Seven Mile Bridge to improve:



Safety



Mobility for
all users



Structural
resiliency



Evacuation &
emergency
response

What is a PD&E study? Why is it needed?

The PD&E study involves a comprehensive evaluation of potential social, economic, cultural, and environmental effects associated with the proposed transportation improvements so that FDOT can reach a decision on the type, location, and conceptual design to meet the project's proposed purpose and need. FDOT evaluates transportation improvements, including a No-Build Alternative. A No-Build Alternative would maintain the bridge in its existing condition and serves as the baseline used to compare against the other alternatives developed for the study.

Why is a PD&E needed?

- To evaluate project feasibility and potential environmental impacts of the No-Build and other alternatives developed (natural, physical, social, and cultural resources)
- To comply with federal and state environmental laws
- To secure federal regulatory approval and federal funding

What does it involve?

- Public Input Opportunities to share feedback at the Public Kick-off Meeting, Alternatives Meeting, Public Hearing and www.SevenMileBridge.com
- Conducting preliminary engineering
- Evaluating options to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts
- Coordinating with federal, state, and local agencies as well as project stakeholders

Project Limits:

SR 5/US 1/Overseas Highway Seven Mile Bridge over the Moser Channel from just south of Mile Marker 40 (Little Duck Key) to just north of Mile Marker 47 (Knights Key), approximately 7.5 miles.



SEVEN MILE BRIDGE



The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by FDOT pursuant to 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FDOT.

Seven Mile Bridge Facts:



BRIDGE LENGTH:

35,863-ft

Long bridge structure



SHOULDER:

Six-ft

Shoulders on both sides



TRAVEL LANES:

Two 12-ft

*Travel lanes
(one lane in each direction)*



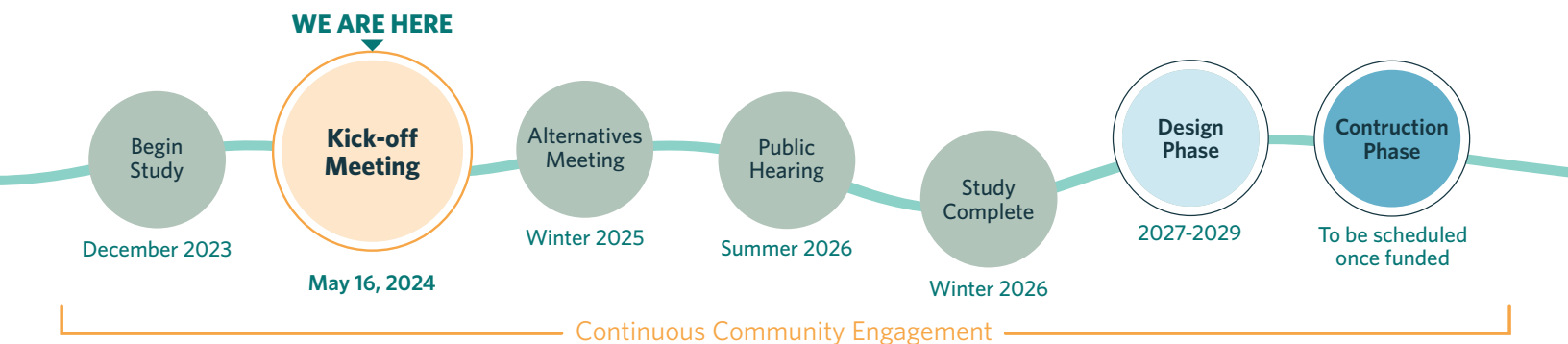
SIDEWALKS:

No sidewalks exist on either side of the bridge or on the approaches



Project Timeline

The PD&E Study started in December 2023 and is anticipated to be complete by December 2026. After completion of the PD&E phase, the preferred alternative will move to design, and bridge construction is anticipated to begin fall of 2030. The schedule is subject to change.



Community Engagement Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of engagement is to inform and educate stakeholders about the Seven Mile Bridge project and encourage participation in appropriate decisions. FDOT is dedicated to integrating the following goals and objectives into the community engagement process:

- ✓ **Educational, transparent, and solution-focused dialogue** – build awareness through regular and consistent communication.
- ✓ **Accessible, inclusive, and culturally responsive engagement** – provide equitable and accessible opportunities for the community and stakeholders to provide feedback throughout the PD&E process.
- ✓ **Seek community benefit and industry readiness** – Seek opportunities to identify and achieve direct transportation benefits for any underserved communities and create opportunities in the design and construction phases of the project.
- ✓ **Agency coordination, commitment, and alignment** – Engage and coordinate with other jurisdictions, county departments, and agencies to achieve informed community engagement and an outcomes-based project.



FDOT is committed to ensuring that the state's infrastructure serves residents, businesses, and visitors, to meet their needs now and in the future. Key areas include safety, resiliency, supply chain, technology, and workforce development.

Stay connected

Public involvement is a critical component of the PD&E Study process, and we encourage you to become and stay involved throughout the entire project. Please visit the project website often to get the most up-to-date information on the Seven Mile Bridge PD&E Study. Project meetings, workshops, and hearings are advertised on the webpage.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status.

Raul Quintela, P.E.

Project Manager

Florida Department of Transportation

Raul.Quintela@dot.state.fl.us

(305) 470-5271

Silvia Beltre, P.E.

Consultant Project

Manager, Ardurra

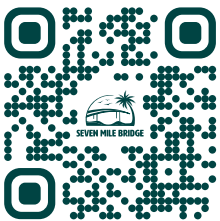
SBeltre@ardurra.com

Maurene Balmaseda

Community Outreach

Specialist, HDR

Maurene.Balmaseda@hdrinc.com



Scan here or visit
SevenMileBridge.com for
more project information.



To submit a comment or question, please visit:
www.bit.ly/SevenMileBridgeComments

Follow us on Social!



Follow us on Twitter/X
@MyFDOT_Miami



Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/MyFDOTMiami



Follow us on Instagram
@myfdot_miami



Subscribe on YouTube
@MyFDOTMiami