



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

Little Duck Key (MP 8.649) to Knights Key (MP 16.202)

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 (Milepost 8.649) to Knights Key (Milepost 16.202), 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.

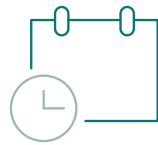
## Join us

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*

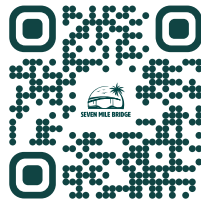
This meeting will be held in a hybrid format so attendees can participate in person or virtually or view the broadcast on MCTV/76. The same information will be presented and shared for both formats.



**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](http://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](http://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 Milepost 8.649 (Little Duck Key) to Milepost 16.202 (Knights Key), approximately 7.5 miles.



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*



**SHOULDERS:**  
**Six-ft**  
*paved shoulders on both sides (also function as undesignated bicycle lanes)*



**TRAVEL LANES:**  
**Two 12-ft**  
*travel lanes (one lane in each direction)*

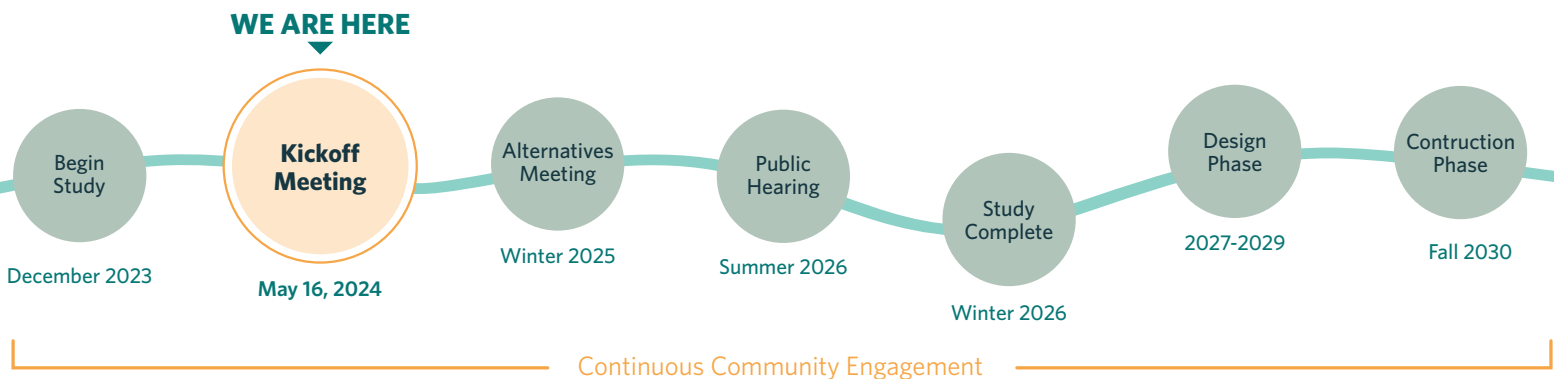


**SIDEWALKS:**  
*No sidewalks exist on either side of the bridge or on the approaches*



## 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.



*Community feedback is at the core of all we do. FDOT works with the public to balance their community vision with the community's transportation needs. This is routine on all our projects to ensure Florida's infrastructure is safe, resilient, and efficient for many years into the future.*

## 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.

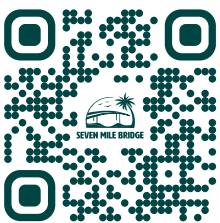
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Scan here or visit [SevenMileBridge.com](http://SevenMileBridge.com) for more project information.



To submit a comment or question, please visit:  
[www.bit.ly/SevenMileBridgeComments](http://www.bit.ly/SevenMileBridgeComments)

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