

Memorandum



Date: May 6, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(2)
May 17, 2022

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor *Daniella Levine Cava*

Subject: Report Relating to the Directive to Provide the Project Plan for Prioritizing the Replacement of Bear Cut Bridge – Directive 220253

Executive Summary

This report, prepared by the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW), is being provided to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) in response to Resolution No. R-75-22, which was sponsored by Commissioner Regalado and adopted on January 19, 2022. The resolution directs the Administration to develop a plan to prioritize the replacement of Bear Cut Bridge. The plan shall include the use of all available federal infrastructure funds for such replacement.

Accordingly, DTPW staff has commenced identifying the necessary tasks required to complete the planning, preliminary engineering, design, permitting and construction for the replacement of Bear Cut Bridge. Currently, under the County’s capital budget, \$5,000,000 has been identified for the planning study phase of the project. No additional funding has been identified for the design and construction phases. The estimated total cost for the construction of the replacement bridge is \$90,000,000. If bridge replacement is selected, the construction duration is estimated to be 30 months from award of the design-build contract, anticipated to take place in Spring 2026.

Background/History

Bear Cut Bridge was constructed in 1944. In 1983, the existing bridge was widened from two to four lanes including sidewalks and shoulders as part of a rehabilitation and widening project. The scope of work encompassed new bridge lighting and structural components such as piles, caps, girders, deck, and roadway widening at both bridge approaches. In 2013, Bear Cut Bridge and the West Bridges, near the toll facilities, went through major rehabilitation which consisted of partial superstructure replacement for both bridges and superstructure widening at Bear Cut Bridge.

In 2021, DTPW’s Highway Bridge Engineering Division began a periodic maintenance design project to address common deficiencies of a bridge of this age found in the piles and columns of the bridge. Deficiencies to be addressed include delamination, cracks and spalls at the columns, pier caps, piles and pile caps, seawall bulkhead cap and panels, slope protection and beams. In addition, previous pile repairs, such as strengthening of the piles and corrosion protection, are being evaluated and repaired as well. This design is expected to be completed

in Spring 2023 with construction slated to begin for Winter 2023. DTPW deems it in the County’s best interest to prioritize planning the replacement rather than continued major rehabilitation and repair of the bridge.

Project Plan

The following tasks and schedule have been devised in order to implement and complete the replacement of Bear Cut Bridge:

- DTPW staff developed scope and cost estimate for planning phase of the project – completed March 2022
- DTPW develops for advertisement a Notice to Professional Consultants (NTPC) for Professional Services for a Project Development & Environmental Study (PD&E) – May 2022
- The Internal Services Department advertises and the Board awards a PD&E contract to the selected firm – January 2023
- Issue the PD&E Notice to Proceed – February 2023
- Complete the PD&E – Spring 2025 (this schedule may change based on the Class of Action determination)
- Finalize design-build criteria – Winter 2025
- Advertise RFP for design-build services – Spring 2025
- Advertise and award design-build contract – Spring 2026
- Construction project duration depends on selected alternative
 - If bridge replacement is selected, the construction duration is estimated to be 30 months
 - If major rehabilitation is selected, the construction duration is estimated to be 12 to 18 months

Project Funding

As mentioned, under the capital budget, \$5,000,000 has been identified for the planning study phase of the project. The estimated cost for the construction of the replacement bridge is \$90,000,000. No additional funding has been identified for the design and construction phases. Before the planning phase and National Environmental Policy Act requirements (NEPA) are finalized, additional funding sources will be identified, and grant opportunities will be sought. DTPW will engage FDOT during the NEPA process to identify available sources of State, Federal (FHWA) and discretionary grant funds eligible for the project based on the final determination of the preferred alternative selected as part of the funded planning study.

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Pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-65, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. Should you require additional information, please contact Eulois Cleckley, DTPW Director and CEO at (786) 469-5406.

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