



# Rickenbacker Causeway Bear Cut Bridge

## Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

**APRIL 9, 2025**

**PUBLIC KICK-OFF  
MEETING**

Miami-Dade DTPW Project ID: 20230017  
Federal Aid Project No.: TBD  
FDOT ETDM No.: 14590



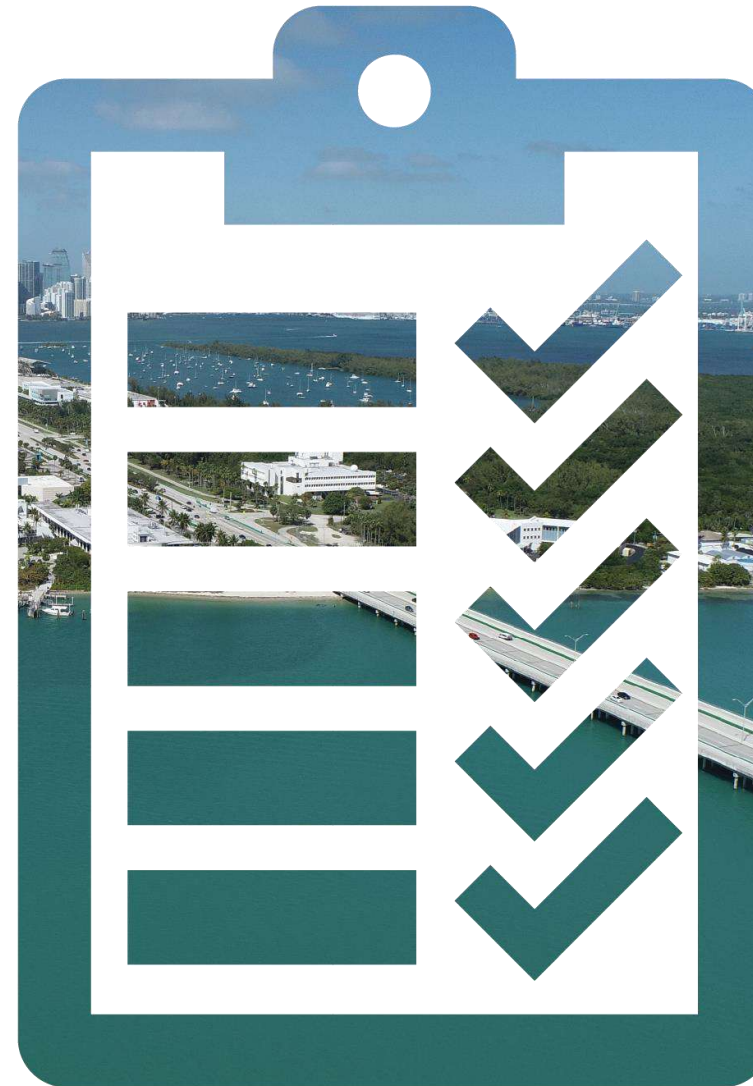
Presented By

Miami-Dade County Department of  
Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)



# Agenda

- ✓ Meeting Guidelines
- ✓ Team Introduction
- ✓ Project Information
- ✓ Q&A Session
- ✓ Contact Information





# Meeting Guidelines

- ✓ In an effort to maintain a safe and respectable forum, we ask that participants abide by the following guidelines during the designated Q&A portion.
- ✓ Your microphones will remain muted, unless it is your turn to speak.
- ✓ Raise hand to ask a question.
- ✓ When speaking, be mindful of background noises.
- ✓ Speaking time is limited to two minutes.



# Title VI Non-Discrimination Compliance

## Miami-Dade County

Complies with various Non-Discrimination Laws and Regulations, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

**Public participation at this Public Meeting is encouraged and solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.**

Persons wishing to express concerns about Title VI may do so by contacting:

**Nathaniel Surrancy**

[Nathaniel.Surrancy@miamidade.gov](mailto:Nathaniel.Surrancy@miamidade.gov)

786-469-5405

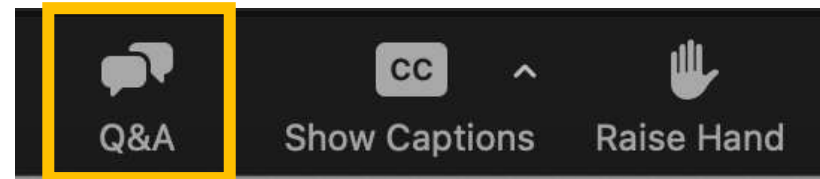
**Melissa Scott**

[Melissa.Scott@miamidade.gov](mailto:Melissa.Scott@miamidade.gov)

305-375-4531

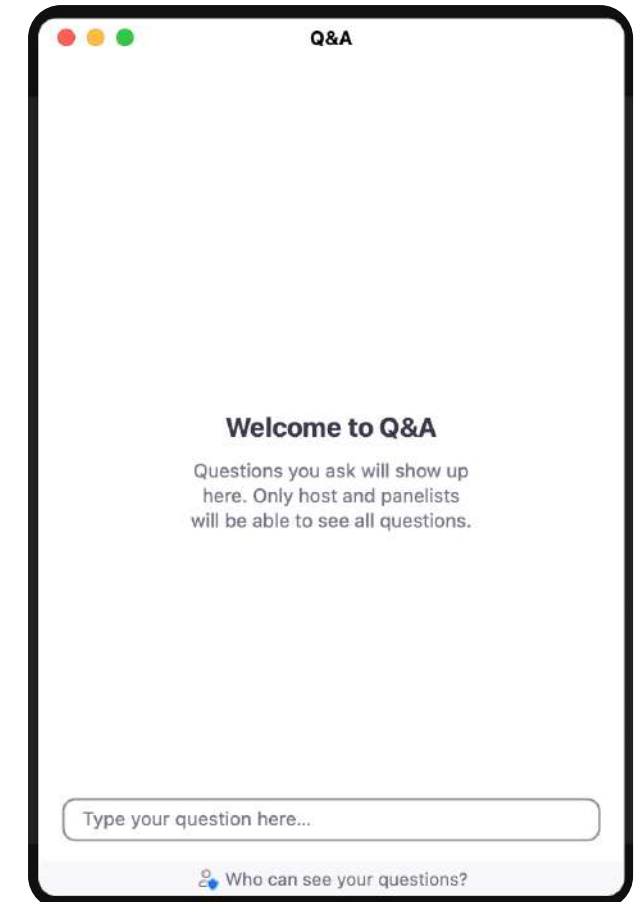
# Online Attendees

1. Type your questions in the **Q&A panel** on the **bottom toolbar**



2. During the verbal comment period:

- Click the **Raise Hand** button on **the bottom toolbar**
- Unmute your microphone when your name is called



# Dial-in Attendees

During the verbal comment period:

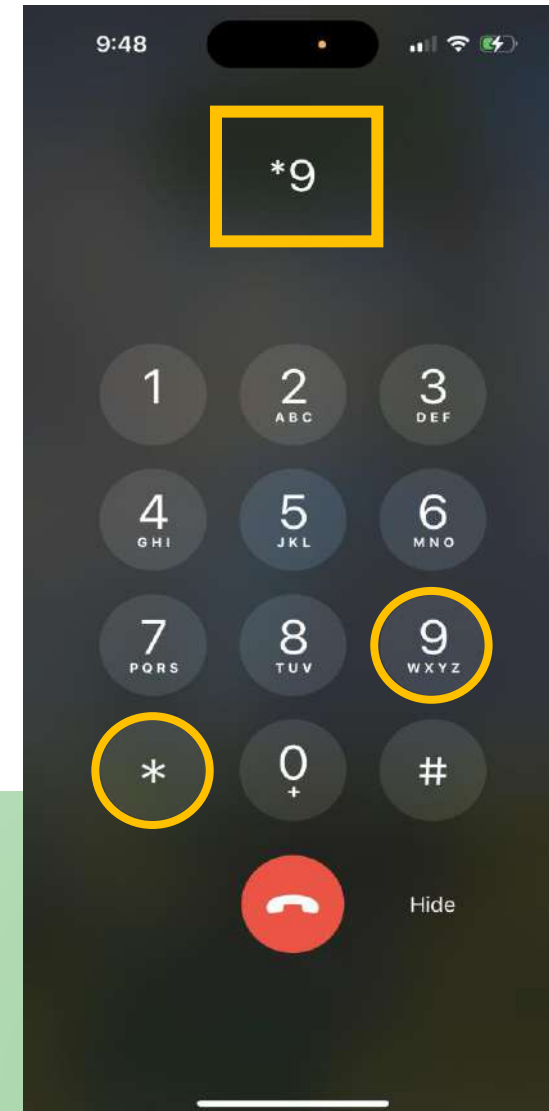
- Dial **\*9** to **raise** and **lower your hand**
- You will be alerted once you are unmuted and allowed to speak



If you are having technical difficulties, please contact:

e: [dsanjurjo@mrgmiami.com](mailto:dsanjurjo@mrgmiami.com)

p: 786-239-8862



# Welcome



Commissioner Raquel Regalado  
Miami-Dade County  
Commission District 7

# Welcome



Stacy Miller

Director and CEO of DTPW  
Miami-Dade County



# Team Introduction



**Lin Li, P.E.**, Project Manager, *DTPW*



**Jeff V. Easley, P.E.**, Consultant Project Manager, *AtkinsRéalis*



**Ryan Fisher, P.E.**, Manager, Highway Bridge Engineering, *DTPW*

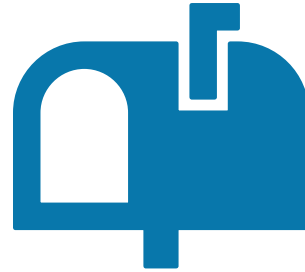


**Dayana Sanjurjo**, Public Engagement Consultant, *Media Relations Group, LLC*

# Public Notice



Florida Administrative Register



Property owner letters



Email to project contacts list



County website



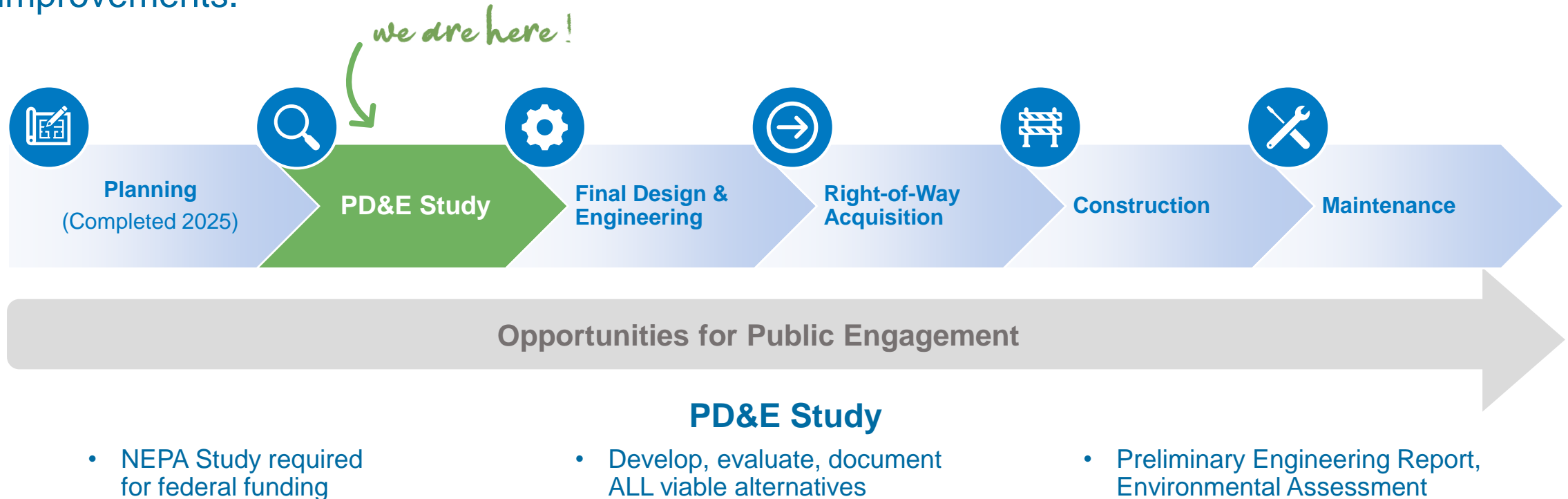
Newspapers



Social Media

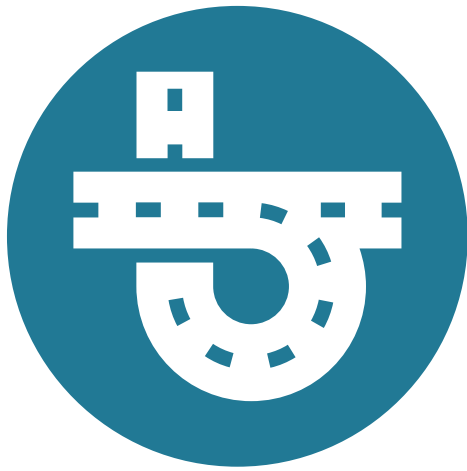
# What is a PD&E Study?

A **Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study** is a blending of engineering analysis, environmental analysis, and public involvement activities. The process is used by engineers and planners to determine the location and conceptual design of the preferred roadway improvements.



# PD&E Study Process

A Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study  
**is a process to analyze a transportation project**  
that consists of 3 elements:



## Engineering

Identify potential  
design solutions



## Environmental

Evaluate potential impacts to the social,  
cultural, natural, and physical environments



## Public Involvement

Seek public input



# Federal, State, and County Partnership

## FEDERAL – STATE PARTNERSHIP



FDOT's Office of Environmental  
Management as Lead Federal Agency

## STATE – COUNTY PARTNERSHIP



Interlocal Agreement to be completed  
between FDOT and Miami-Dade County

## U.S. COAST GUARD (USCG)



Cooperating Agency

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)



Participating Agency

## NEPA ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT

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

# Project Description

- Bear Cut Bridge / Bridge No. 874544 is part of the Rickenbacker Causeway.
- Involves the potential rehabilitation and/or replacement of the Bear Cut Bridge.
- Bridge connects Key Biscayne to Virginia Key.
- Project limits extend from Arthur Lamb, Jr. Road to Crandon Marina Access Road.
- Project length is 1.1 miles.





# Project Location Map



# Project Overview

## BEAR CUT BRIDGE NO. 874544

- Originally constructed in 1944
- Ongoing extensive and costly repair projects
- Increasing costs to maintain

## BRIDGE WIDENING AND REPAIR PROJECTS

- 1983 Widened to add additional lanes
- 2014 Widened to add Shared Use Path on both sides
- 2025 Repairs
  - Deck repairs
  - Beam repairs
  - Foundation repairs
  - Fender repairs



*Bear Cut Bridge constructed in 1944*



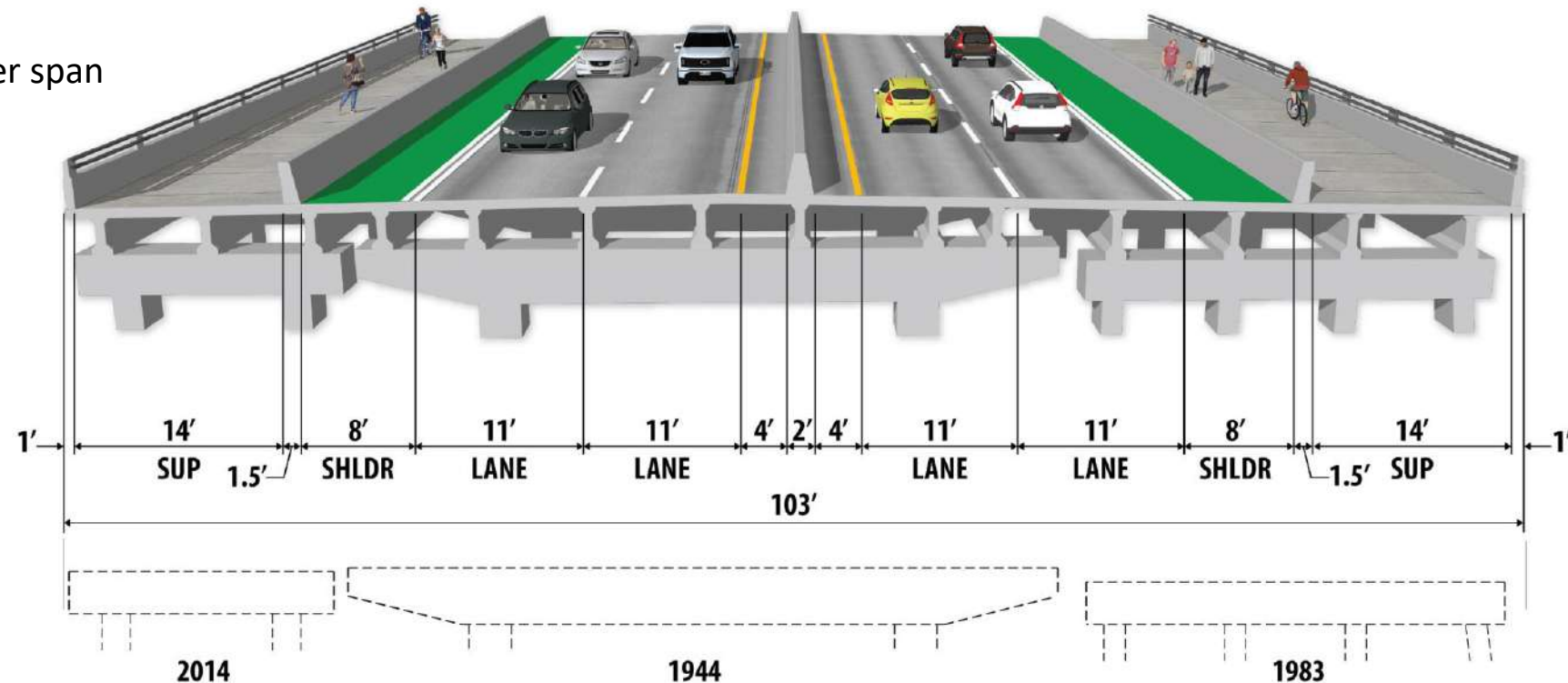
*Bear Cut Bridge present day*



# Project Overview

## EXISTING TYPICAL SECTION

- Length of Bridge – 2,098 feet
- Width of Bridge – 103 feet
- Bridge Spans – 39 spans at 51 feet per span
- Horizontal Clearance – 40 feet
- Vertical Clearance – 17 feet



# Project Purpose and Need

## PROJECT PURPOSE

- Address the structural degradation and substandard design elements of the existing Bear Cut Bridge

## PROJECT NEED

- Address bridge deficiencies
- Improve safety
- Improve emergency evacuation times

## RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY MASTER PLAN

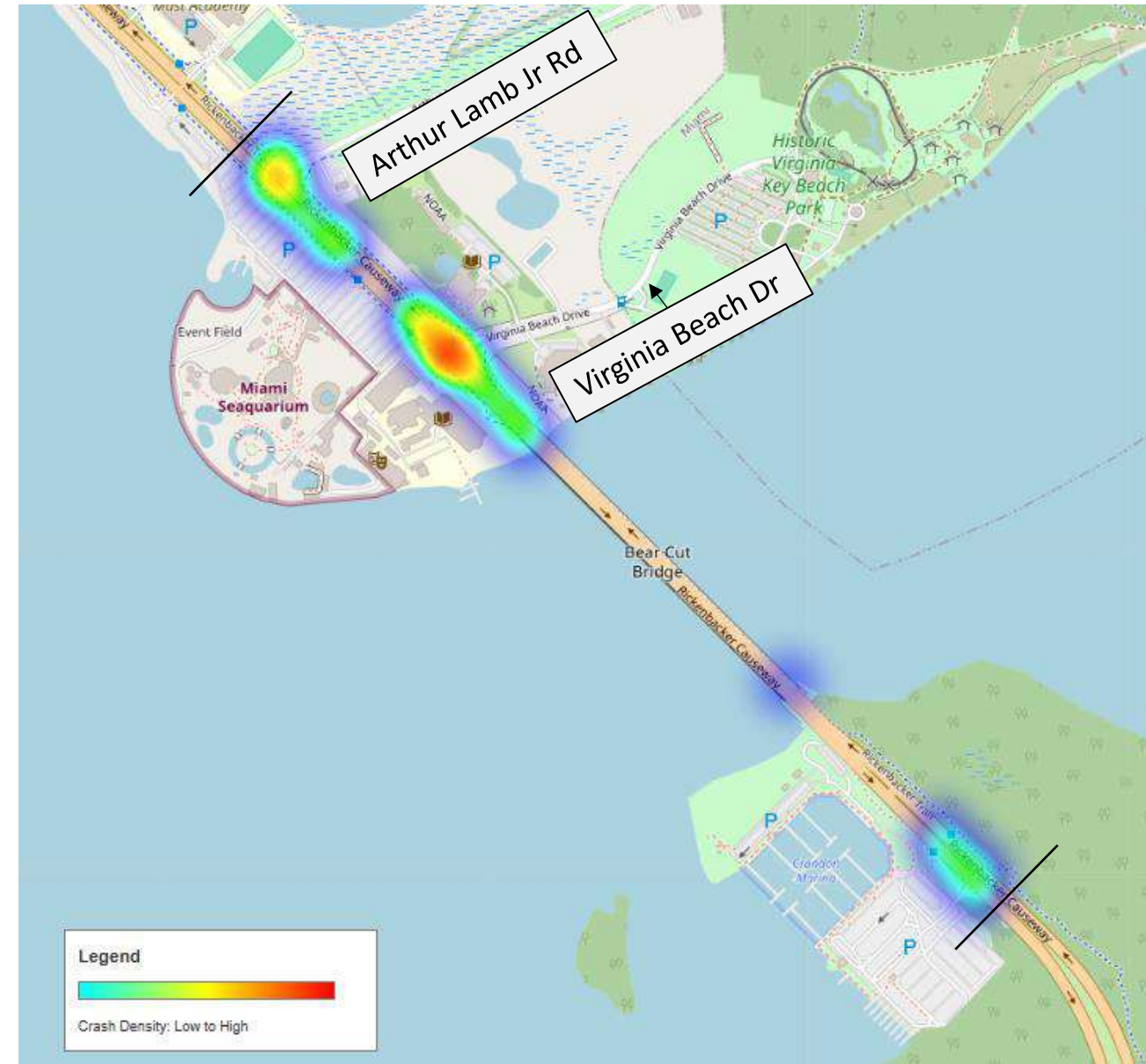
- Project is consistent with the Master Plan



# Project Area Crashes

## TRAFFIC CRASHES

- Total 69 crashes over 6 years
  - Rear End (32%)
  - Bicycle (26%)
  - Left Turn (19%)
  - Sideswipe (10%)
  - Other (13%)
- No Fatalities
- 3 Serious Injury Crashes
  - 2 at Arthur Lamb Jr Road
  - 1 at Virginia Beach Drive



Source: Crash Data from Signal4 Analytics (2019 – 2024)

# Project Area Crashes

## BIKE/PEDESTRIAN CRASHES

- 18 total bike crashes and 1 pedestrian crash
- Includes 1 bike crash on bridge
- Most crashes occurred at intersections



Source: Crash Data from Signal4 Analytics (2019 – 2024)



# Protected Species and Habitat Potential for Occurrence

Florida bonneted bat

Tricolored bat

West Indian manatee

Eastern black rail

Everglade snail kite

Piping plover

Wood stork

Florida burrowing owl

White-crowned pigeon

Roseate spoonbill

Little blue heron

American crocodile

Gopher tortoise

Eastern indigo snake

Green sea turtle

Hawksbill sea turtle

Leatherback sea turtle

Loggerhead sea turtle

Monarch butterfly

Giant manta ray

Nassau grouper

Smalltooth sawfish

Staghorn coral

Elkhorn coral

Boulder star coral

Mountainous star coral

Lobed star coral

Rough cactus coral

Queen conch

Protected plants



## REQUIRED SURVEYS

- ✓ Florida bonneted bat survey
- ✓ Benthic survey
- ✓ Terrestrial/Wetland survey

# Protected Species and Habitats

## EFH Managed Species

- Shrimp
- Spiny lobster
- Snapper-grouper complex
- Coastal Migratory Pelagics
- Highly Migratory Species
- Stony corals & octocorals

## EFH Habitat

- Seagrass
- Hard Bottom and Coral Habitat
- Mangroves

## Critical Habitat

- West Indian manatee (USFWS)
- Nassau grouper (NMFS)
- Corals - staghorn, elkhorn, boulder star, lobed star, mountainous star & pillar (NMFS)
- Green sea turtle (Proposed – NMFS)

## Wetlands & Other Surface Waters

- Bear Cut
- Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve – Outstanding Florida Water and NOAA Protected Area
- NOAA Coastal Barrier Resource System – Virginia Beach and Crandon Park
- Sovereign Submerged Lands

## Other Considerations

- Potential sea turtle nesting beaches
- FWC wildlife lighting criteria



*AtkinsRéalis Dive Team*



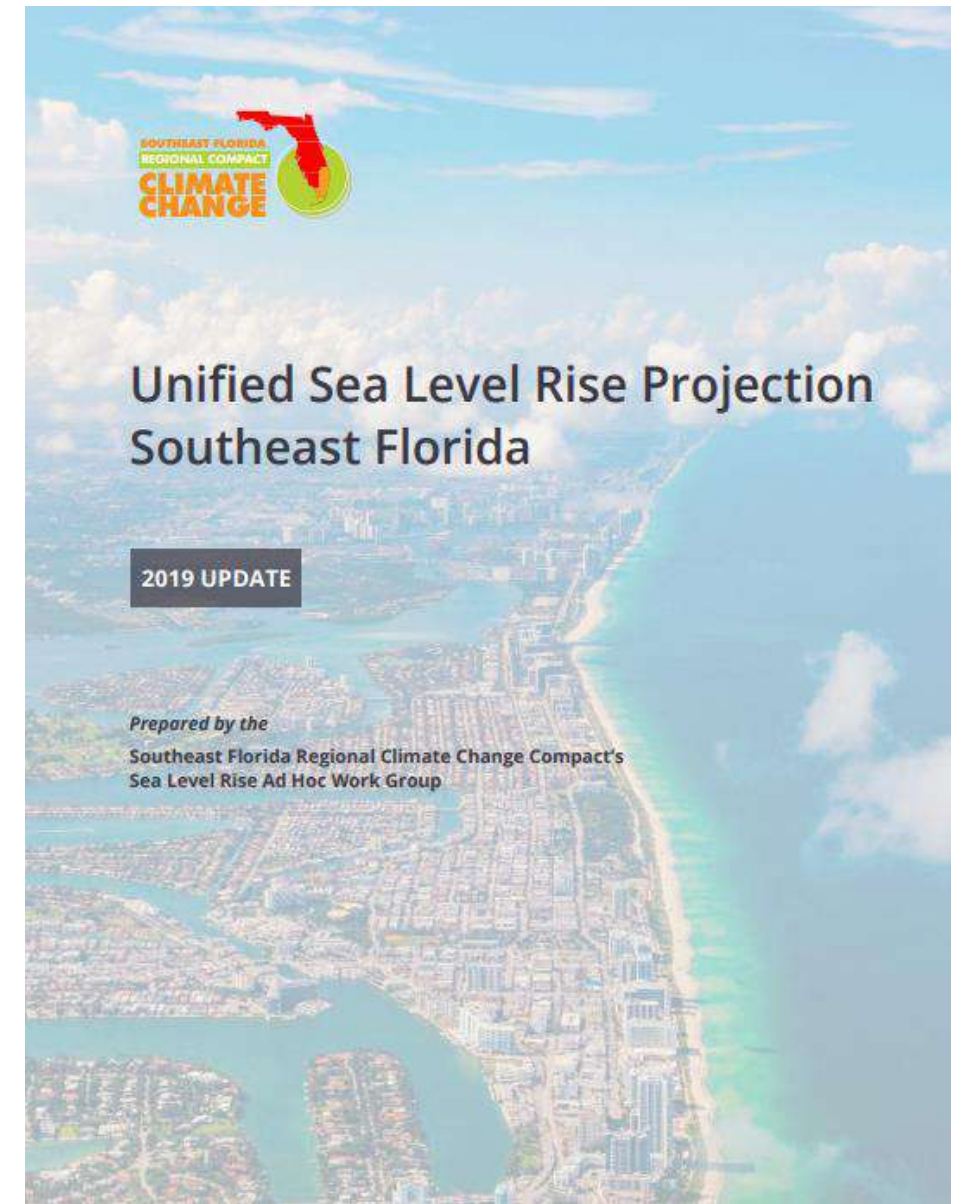
# Potential Cultural Resources

- Bear Cut Bridge / Bridge No. 874544 (DA17111)
  - Historic Bridge - Determined NRHP ineligible
- Rickenbacker Causeway (DA17112)
  - Linear Resource - Determined NRHP ineligible
- Virginia Key Beach Park (DA07007)
  - Historic District – NRHP listed
- Bathhouse / Restroom Building (DA08056)
  - Historic Structure - Not evaluated by the SHPO
- Crandon Boulevard – Designated as a State Historic Highway
- Additional historic-aged resource groups and structures to be evaluated.



# Resilience

- Important for long-term success and viability of project.
- County Resolution R-451-14 requires sea level rise be considered during all project phases.
- Follows guidance from the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact.
- Leverages latest NOAA sea level rise projections.
- Potentially impacts design for:
  - Critical bridge elevations
  - Drainage features
  - Bridge scour protection
- Miami-Dade County Sustainable Buildings Program

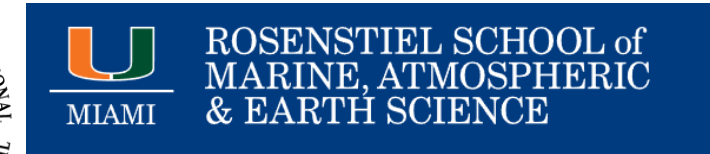




# Other Environmental Issues

## Community Features and Recreational Areas

- Mast Academy
- Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Sciences
- Miami Rowing and Watersports Center / Marine Stadium Marina
- Crandon Park and Boat Ramp
- Hobie Beach Park
- Miami Seaquarium
- Virginia Key Beach Park and Museum
- NOAA Miami Regional Library
- Marinas
- Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
- Rickenbacker Trail Corridor



## Other Sociocultural Considerations

- Aesthetics / Viewshed
- Mobility
- Hurricane Evacuation
- Connectivity of motorized and bicycle and pedestrian facilities

## Water Quality Contamination Noise

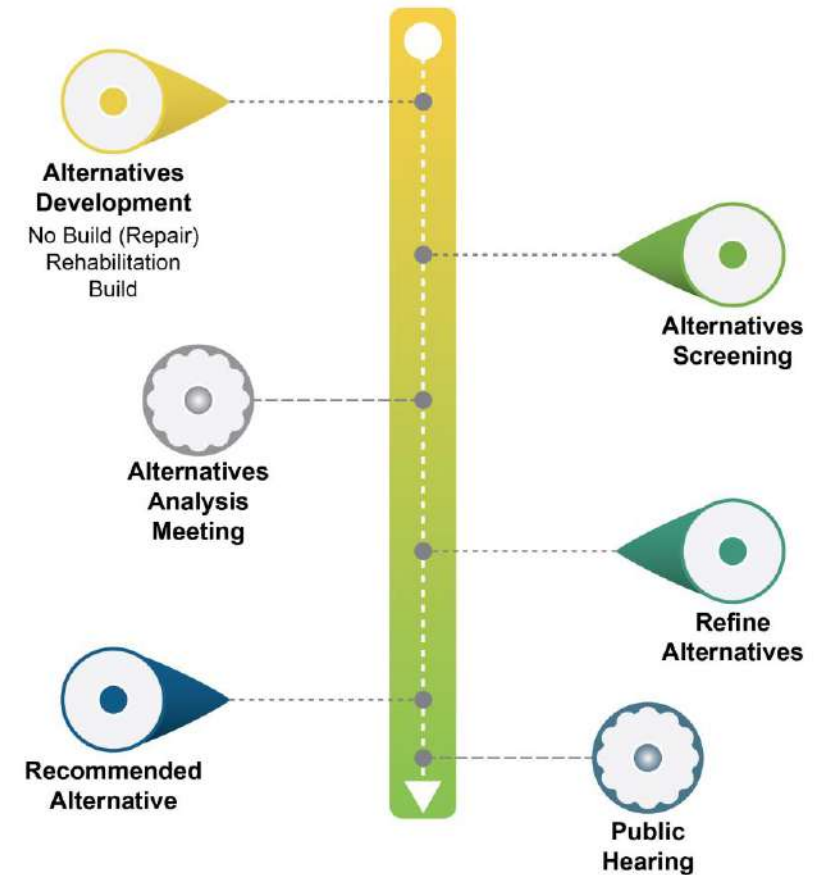


# Alternatives to be Considered

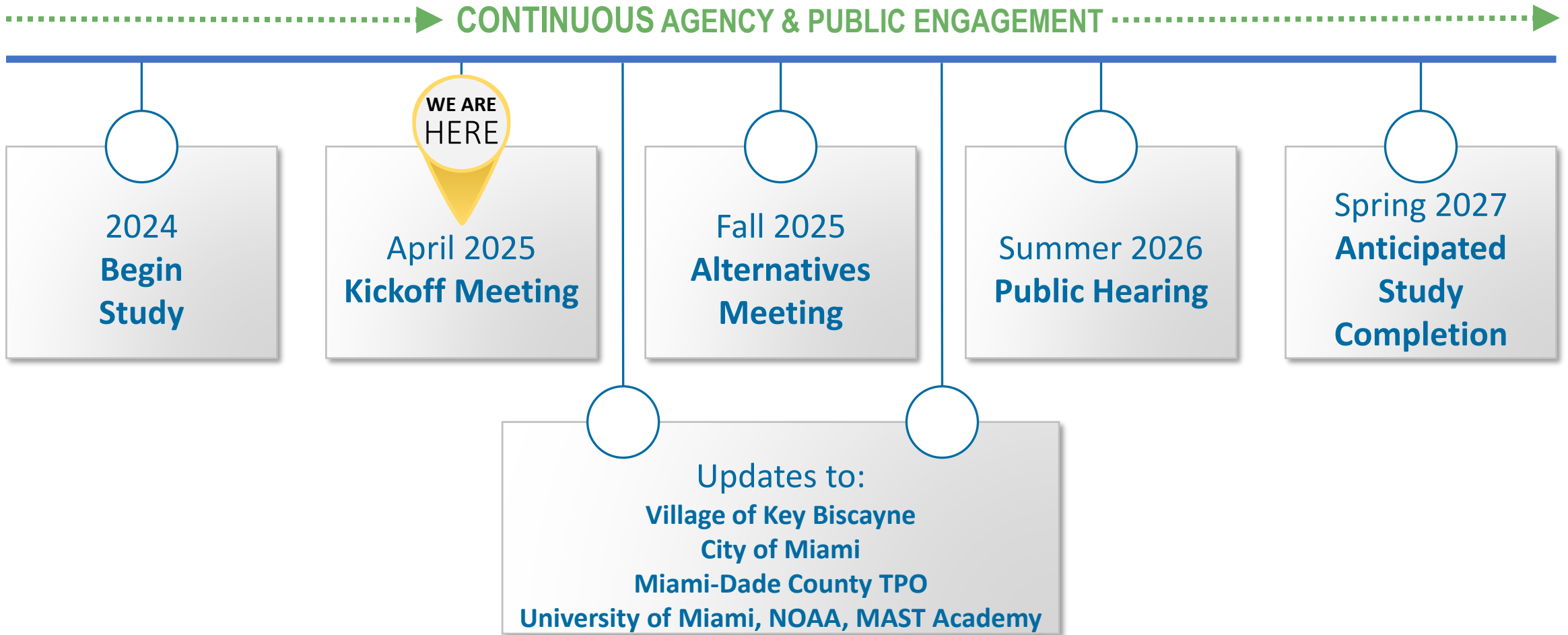
## ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

- Understand project goals and objectives
- Understand project constraints
- Identify evaluation criteria
- Develop alternatives
- Develop evaluation matrix
- Screen alternative against project criteria
- Hold Alternatives Public Meeting
- Refine alternatives
- Recommend alternative
- Hold Public Hearing

### Alternative Evaluation Process



# Public Engagement Schedule



# Q&A Session

## REMINDERS:

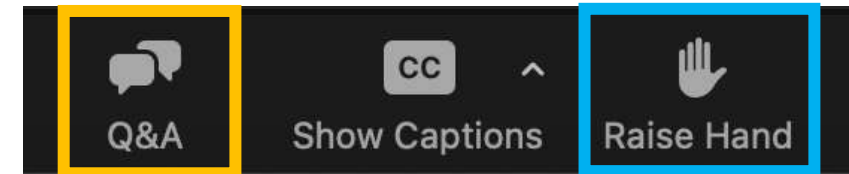
- Speaking time is limited to two minutes per speaker.
- Raise hand to ask a question – if dialing in, press \*9.
- When speaking, be mindful of background noises.





# Q&A Session

## Zoom Webinar Toolbar for Online Attendees



Select **Q&A** to type your comments or questions during the meeting. Written questions/comments will be addressed first followed by an opportunity for attendees to make a verbal comment.

Click the **Raise Hand** button on the bottom toolbar. Unmute your microphone when your name is called.

Stay Muted

Unmute



# Public Comments and Contact Information



**MAIL**



**E-MAIL**



**COMMENT  
FORM**



**PROJECT  
WEBSITE**

Media Relations  
Group, LLC

Attn: **Dayana Sanjurjo**

14707 South Dixie Hwy, Suite 404  
Palmetto Bay, Florida 33176  
(786) 280-6645

***[BearCutBridge@miamidade.gov](mailto:BearCutBridge@miamidade.gov)***

Submit a comment  
form tonight or by  
mail

[https://www.miamidade.gov/  
global/transportation/public-  
works/bear-cut-bridge-  
project.page](https://www.miamidade.gov/global/transportation/public-works/bear-cut-bridge-project.page)

Please submit your comments by **April 23, 2025.**



# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



## RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY **BEAR CUT BRIDGE** **PD&E STUDY**

*From Arthur Lamb Jr. Road to Crandon Marina  
Access Road*