



FACT SHEET

RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY BEAR CUT BRIDGE

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY

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

Miami-Dade County SPD Project Number: E22-DTPW-03 | DTPW Project Number: 20230017

OVERVIEW

The Bear Cut Bridge, part of County Road 913/Rickenbacker Causeway, is a critical connection between the Village of Key Biscayne and Virginia Key within the City of Miami. As the only mainland access point for the Village of Key Biscayne and a designated emergency evacuation route, the bridge plays a vital role in regional transportation. This project, spanning 1.1 miles from Arthur Lamb Jr. Road to Crandon Marina Access Road, aims to evaluate potential rehabilitation and/or replacement options for the bridge.

This is a Miami-Dade - Department of Transportation and Public Works County project. Since Federal funding may be utilized in future phases of the project, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will provide technical assistance during the PD&E Study. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the Lead Federal agency and FDOT Office of Environmental Management will be approving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents on behalf of FHWA.

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the major rehabilitation and/or replacement of the existing Rickenbacker Causeway Bear Cut Bridge (Bridge No. 874544). No-build (repair), build, and rehabilitation alternatives will be evaluated during the PD&E study. In addition, alternate alignments parallel to the existing bridge, as well as alternate vertical alignments and structure types. Wider shoulders, and enhanced bicycle and pedestrian facilities are also to be considered with the improvements. The project will also include traffic operations and safety enhancements along the study corridor.

WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY

A PD&E Study is a step in the FDOT's transportation development process that Miami-Dade County will utilize. The study will guide the County in determining the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed roadway improvements. During the PD&E Study process, feasible alternatives are developed for bridge/roadway improvement projects. These "Build" alternatives are evaluated based on environmental, engineering, socioeconomic conditions, safety needs and public input. The need for additional right-of-way for stormwater and environmental mitigation will also be evaluated during the PD&E Study Phase. The "No Build" alternative is evaluated throughout the Study process and will serve as comparison to the "Build" alternatives. This "No Build" alternative leaves the existing bridge as it is with repairs and maintenance as required. If the Study results in a "Build" alternative being selected, the project may proceed to the next phase, which is the Design Phase. During the PD&E Phase, the preliminary engineering and documentation required for funding will be completed. This includes the review and analysis of potential impacts from the proposed project on the social, natural, physical, and cultural resources in the surrounding environment.

GET INVOLVED

Public involvement is an extremely important part of a PD&E Study to inform citizens about the project and provide interested persons an opportunity to be involved in the development of the project. 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 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, and executed by FHWA and FDOT. DTPW and FDOT encourage public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. There will be several opportunities to participate in public meetings and individual stakeholder discussions.

GOALS



PROVIDE BRIDGE REHABILITATION AND/OR REPLACEMENT



IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY



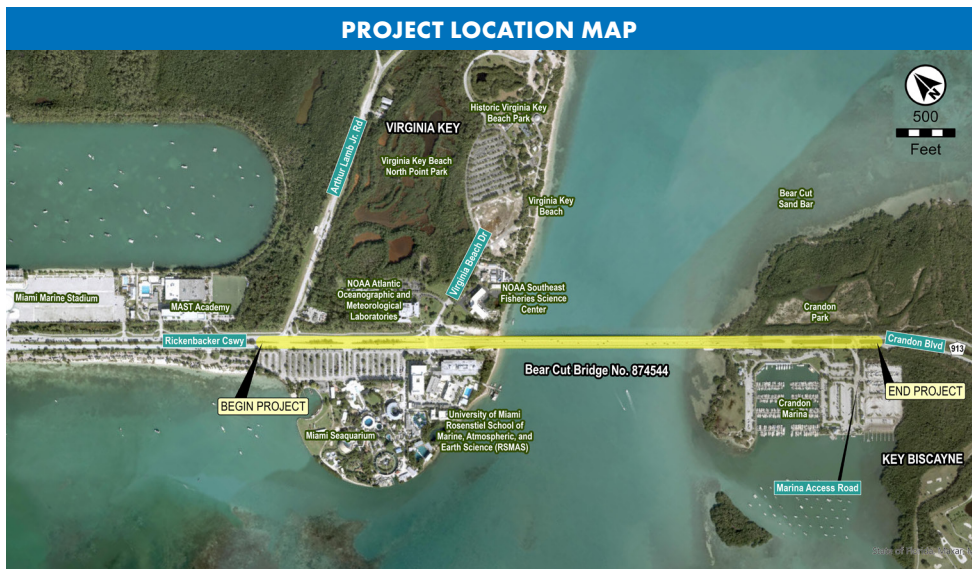
ENSURE SAFETY



PROVIDE TRANSIT, BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

SCHEDULE

The PD&E Study started in October 2024 and is expected to be completed by March 2027. The Design Phase will begin after the PD&E Study is completed. Public involvement will continue throughout the PD&E Study and the public is encouraged to participate in the development of this project.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information, visit: www.miamidade.gov/BearCutBridge

