

BRIDGE FAQ SHEET

Loxahatchee River Bridge Project – Milepost 282.58

- **Jupiter, FL (Palm Beach Co)**
- **What is the timetable for construction on the bridge?**
 - Work began in December 2019 and will last through February 2022.
- **Is the bridge being rehabilitated or replaced?**
 - The girders, electrical and mechanical components are being replaced. This bridge is considered eligible as a contributing resource towards the linear FECR Historic District and Virgin Trains has met all state and federal guidelines for historic preservation of the district.
- **What work is being done to the bridge?**
 - All of the electrical and mechanical components that operate the bridge, including computers, sensors, motors, brakes, gears and generators will be replaced. All structural steel will be replaced. The existing concrete piers and the existing boat fender system will remain.
 - In cooperation with the Jupiter Inlet District, the contractor will be dredging span 4 to help with water depth in that span.
 - Work will include replacing the existing track and adding back the second track that was previously on the bridge from the Henry Flagler days.
- **What will the initial work consist of?**
 - Initial work will be to clear the approaches to the bridge and install a temporary work trestle (platform) on the west side of the railroad tracks north of the bridge for cranes and material to access the construction site.
 - Offsite fabrication of bridge components has already begun.
- **What is the timeframe for initial work and when will bridge demo work begin?**
 - Initial work will begin on the north side of the river between Riverside Dr. and the bridge to build a temporary track platform for moving cranes to the river. This work, including pile driving, is expected to take place the weeks of May 11 and May 18 during daytime hours.
 - Once the track platform is completed, a temporary river access work bridge will be installed to access the waters north and west of the bridge. This will take place throughout most of June. This will also include pile driving.
 - Once the river access bridge is completed, barges will be assembled in the water for the cranes. Barge assembly is expected to begin after July 4 and completed by the end of July.
 - Demolition work will begin on the south side of the bridge and continue north. It will include removing girders from the dormant and live sides of the bridge. This demolition will occur from August through the end of the year.
 - During the initial access and barge work, the channel will not be blocked to watercraft, however there may be short windows when the river traffic is interrupted for safety as heavy loads are swung into place with the cranes, plus a larger half-day channel outage to load the cranes onto the barges.



- Work on the bascule (lift) span and other work having substantial impact to watercraft is expected to begin in 2021 and will include coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard and local municipalities and residents.
- **How will we construct the bridge?**
 - First, a temporary trestle will be built along the northwest side of the bridge.
 - For Spans 1 and 3 thru 9, barges will be used to remove the existing girders and replace them with new girders atop the existing concrete piers.
 - For Span 2 (the bascule span or “drawbridge”), first the mechanical and electrical equipment will be removed from the bridge. During this, the existing span will be lifted in and out of place with a crane once or twice per day for boats. The replacement steel girders will be partially assembled on barges and then swapped out with the existing girders and similarly lifted in and out with cranes once or twice per day. This will be communicated in more detail through Notices to Mariners.
 - The remainder of the Span 2 girders will be installed in-place on the bridge, requiring a multi-day boating and train outage, then the new mechanical and electrical equipment attached and tested for movable operation.
- **What is the cost?**
 - The total cost of the bridge is approximately \$34M.
- **For more information contact:**
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