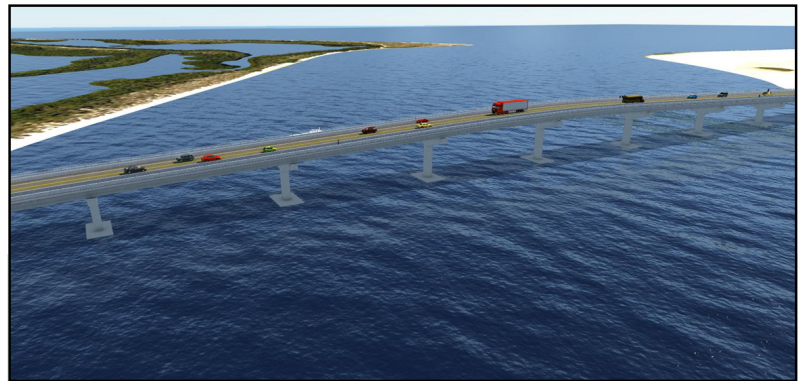


You're Invited

The Lee County Department of Transportation (DOT) invites you to the Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study Hybrid Public Hearing on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at the Bay Oaks Recreation Center, 2731 Oak Street, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931. You may attend in person or join online at 6 p.m. (see information on back) for the formal hearing. The in-person hearing option begins with an open house at 5 p.m. and follows with a formal presentation and public comment period at 6 p.m. People attending the hearing can review project displays and speak one-on-one with project team members. These materials will also be available online for those people who attend virtually. Written statements or exhibits submitted at the public hearing, emailed, or mailed and postmarked by Thursday, February 11, 2021, will become part of the official hearing transcript.

About the Project

Completed in 1965, the Big Carlos Pass Bridge spans Big Carlos Pass, connecting the Town of Fort Myers Beach with the City of Bonita Springs. The need for the project is based on a number of deficiencies of the existing bridge resulting from age and long-term exposure to the aggressive saltwater environment. As one of only two bridges serving the chain of islands forming Estero Bay, the Big Carlos Pass Bridge is a critically important infrastructure asset that must be maintained, making this project a high priority for both the County and the Metropolitan Planning Organization.



60' vertical clearance fixed bridge – Gulf side

The study focused on the bridge and roadway approaches from approximately Estrellita Drive south to the entrance of Lovers Key State Park, a distance of about 0.6 miles. The project team developed and evaluated several alternatives including the no-build rehabilitation alternative, a new low-level drawbridge and a high-level fixed bridge. On January 18, 2018, Lee County DOT held an alternatives public meeting to present alternatives for rehabilitating or replacing the bridge.

On December 18, 2018, the Lee Board of County Commissioners approved the fixed span bridge on the Gulf side of the existing bridge as the preferred build alternative to move forward in the PD&E Study. Lee County DOT will present the preferred alternative and the no-build rehabilitation alternative at the public hearing. The no-build rehabilitation alternative will remain a viable option throughout the remainder of this study.

Project information and graphics showing the proposed improvements will be available for public viewing at two locations from January 4, 2021 to February 18 2021. The location will be the Fort Myers Beach Public Library at 2755 Estero Blvd, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931. The library is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday; closed on Sunday. The second location is at the Lee County DOT office located at 1500 Monroe Street, third floor, Fort Myers, Florida 33901. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. These project documents are also available online at the project website.

What's Next?

After the hearing, final documentation will be submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for approval. Upon FDOT acceptance, the project will advance to the design and construction phases as funding allows. The study must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) in order to qualify for state and federal funding assistance.

► **Please follow the CDC guidelines, wear a mask and socially distance while attending.**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lee County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs, or activities. To request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a reasonable modification to participate, contact Joan LaGuardia, (239) 533-2314, Florida Relay Service 711, or jlaguardia@leegov.com. Accommodation will be provided at no cost to the requestor. Requests should be made at least five business days in advance.



Lee County Department of Transportation
c/o Cella Molnar
1631 Hendry Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901



Join Us for a Hybrid Public Hearing

on Thursday, January 28, 2021

We Encourage You To Join The Hybrid Public Hearing

Online:

1. Go to www.BigCarlosBridgeProject.com
2. Or visit
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8289569317499715596>
Webinar ID: 270-471-611
3. When registering for the GoToWebinar, the browser requirements for attendees are either Chrome or Firefox - Internet Explorer (IE) will not work
4. Click to start and join
5. If you prefer to use your phone rather than your computer audio, you must select "Use Telephone" after joining the webinar and call in using the numbers below:
United States: +1 (914) 614-3221 | Access Code: 330-660-833

Contact Us

We encourage you to participate in the Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study Hybrid Public Hearing. If you have questions or comments regarding the project, please contact:

Kris Cella
Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc.
Public Information Consultant
1631 Hendry Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Telephone: (239) 337-1071
KCella@cella.cc

www.BigCarlosBridgeProject.com

Hearing location: Online and in person at:
Bay Oaks Recreation
2731 Oak Street, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Comments taken online through GoToWebinar will be given the same weight as comments provided at the hearing or sent via mail or email. Directions for how to submit a comment through the GoTo Meeting online portion of the hearing will be provided on the website. This public hearing was advertised consistent with federal and state requirements, Section 335.199, F.S. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. 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 December 14, 2016 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.