



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 24-058

Date: April 2, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

Re: **South Ocean Drive Bridge Replacement Project**

The South Ocean Drive bridge replacement project is scheduled to start on April 12, 2024. The start date was originally planned for February 2024, but was delayed at the request of the neighborhood to mitigate “in-season” concerns. The project will completely close the bridge for approximately one year and the maintenance of traffic plan has been approved by the technical reviewers including Police, Fire, Transportation & Mobility, and Public Works.

Ben Rogers is serving as the project champion and has been working closely with the Harbour Inlet and Breakwater Homeowners Associations (HOA) to mitigate any potential impacts. The HOAs have strongly communicated their desire to protect the quality of life of the residents during the construction period and shared concerns about neighborhood access, emergency services, transit and deliveries, traffic signalization, pedestrian safety, traffic calming, and coordination with the Pier 66 project. City staff are taking proactive measures such as installing speed cushions throughout the neighborhood and working with partner agencies on larger initiatives such as traffic signal timing.

The project team held a pre-construction public meeting on March 13, 2024, at St. Sebastian church. The meeting had over 150 attendees and included presentations from the Fire Chief, Transportation & Mobility Director, Public Works Chief Engineer, Public Works Project Managers, and the contractor, Interstate Construction, LLC. The meeting highlighted the anticipated neighborhood impacts, addressed previously relayed concerns, and allowed the public to submit written comments, questions, and concerns. The collective feedback was utilized to create a project specific webpage (<https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/departments-i-z/transportation-and-mobility/transportation-division/programs-policies-and-initiatives/south-ocean-drive-bridge-surtax-project>).

Over the past month, City staff have received additional community feedback. A primary concern is to further evaluate roadway options into and out of the neighborhood. Specifically, the request is creating an additional ingress and egress option by reopening

Marietta Drive, which was closed to vehicular thru traffic decades ago. The Harbour Inlet HOA Board opposes the reopening of Marietta Drive for security and safety purposes.

A traffic study was completed in 2019 which indicated that the current roadways are sufficient for the volume of traffic and that emergency vehicles can navigate through the local streets and roundabouts. However, City staff understand the neighbor concerns and are taking proactive actions to be prepared should there be a need to remove the existing median to open Marietta Drive. City staff are drafting a scope of work, collecting cost estimates, and coordinating with the Florida Department of Transportation. In addition, the project team is coordinating police presence and traffic monitors during the initial weeks of the project. The team will actively monitor the construction period conditions and take action to mitigate the impacts if, and when, deemed necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Rogers, Director of Transportation and Mobility at brogers@fortlauderdale.gov.

Attachment: Pre-Construction Public Meeting Flyer

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

South Ocean Drive Bridge

Pre-Construction Public Meeting

PUBLIC MEETING

The South Ocean Drive Bridge, deemed structurally deficient by FDOT, is set to be completely replaced in 2024. **Construction is scheduled to begin April 12** and the duration of the project is expected to take one year. During that time, the bridge will be fully closed and not passable, with established vehicle and pedestrian detour routes.

Improving infrastructure is a priority of the City Commission, and the City of Fort Lauderdale is committed to this goal. We invite the community to a public meeting where neighbors can meet the contractor, understand project sequencing and impacts, and share feedback.

WHAT: Pre-Construction Public Meeting

WHEN: Wednesday, March 13, at 6 - 7 p.m.

WHERE: St. Sebastian Church, 2000 Marietta Dr.

BACKGROUND

The South Ocean Drive Bridge, located between Mayan Drive and Marion Drive, was built in 1952 and rehabilitated in 1968. The city found that repairing the 80-foot-long bridge was not cost-effective, creating the need for a complete replacement.

The demolition and reconstruction of the bridge is estimated to cost approximately \$4.5 million. The design plans take future sea level rise into account, as well as accommodations for larger boats.

We appreciate the community's patience during this bridge replacement project, and we encourage you to attend the public meeting to learn more and ask questions.



For more information, please call (954) 828-8000.

If you would like this publication in an alternate format, please call (954) 828-4755 or email strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov.