Sarasota County

WELCOME

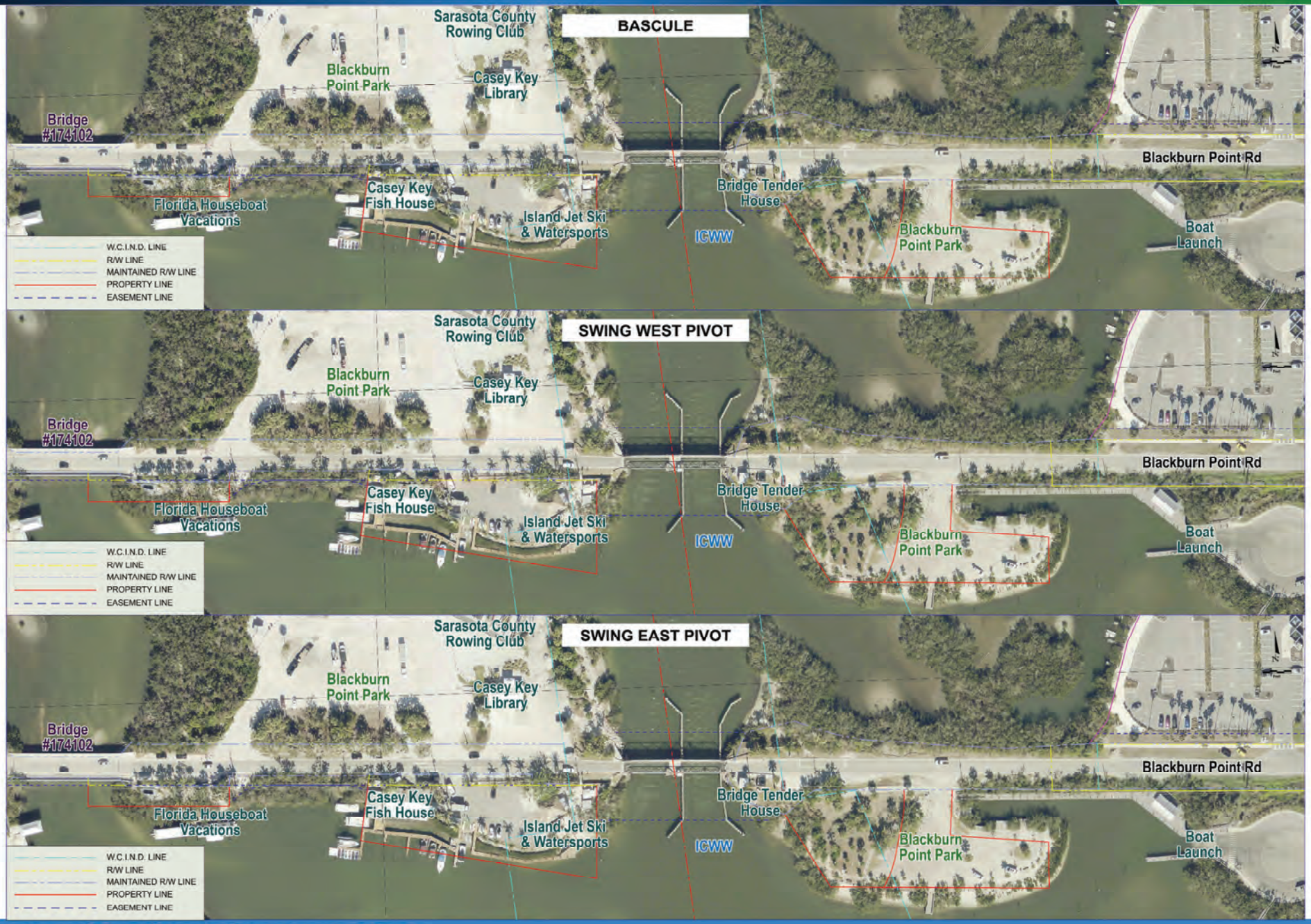
TO THE ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE BLACKBURN POINT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT STUDY

NORTH ALIGNMENT

Sarasota County

EXISTING ALIGNMENT

Sarasota County



EVALUATION MATRIX

Sarasota County

EVALUATION CRITERIA		NO BUILD	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ALTERNATIVE									
			WEST PIVOT SWING SPAN				EAST PIVOT SWING SPAN				BASCULE SPAN	
			NORTH ALIGNMENT		EXISTING ALIGNMENT		NORTH ALIGNMENT		EXISTING ALIGNMENT		NORTH ALIGNMENT		EXISTING ALIGNMENT	
Roadway/Bridge Issues														
Width of Vehicular Travel Lanes		10 feet	11 feet											
Shoulders		None	1.3 ft at curb minimum / 2.5' at traffic railing minimum											
Sidewalks		2'-2"	6' – South Side (Single-Lane and Single Sidewalk Options / 6' - Both Sides Two-Sidewalk Option)											
Meets Current Design Standards		No	Yes											
Structural Deficiencies Corrected		No	Yes											
Vertical/Horizontal Channel Clearance		9.5 feet / 51 feet	Vertical 14 to 16 ft / Horizontal 90 ft											
Bridge Openings		No Change	Estimated 40% to 60% Reduction in Bridge Openings											
Right of Way Issues														
Area Impacted Permanent	Area Impacted Temporary	None	0.3 acre	0.1 acre	0.0 acre	0.1 acre	0.3 acre	0.1acre	0.0 acre	0.1 acre	0.2 acre	0.1 acre	0.0 acre	0.1 acre
Relocations		None	None		None		None		None		None		None	
Overall Bridge Width		28 feet	33'-8" (Single-Lane Bridge) / 39'-2" (Two-Lane Bridge, Single Sidewalk) / 44'-8" (Two-Lane Bridge, Two Sidewalks)											
Environmental Issues														
Impacts to Historic Resources		No	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	
Wetlands Permanent	Wetlands Temporary	None	0.8 acre	0.0 acre	0.2 acre	0.6 acre	0.8 acre	0.0 acre	0.2 acre	0.6 acre	0.8 acre	0.0 acre	0.2 acre	0.6 acre
Parks/Recreation Permanent	Parks/Recreation Temporary	None	0.13 acre	0.00 acre	0.01 acre	0.08 acre	0.08 acre	0.00 acre	0.0 acre	0.08 acre	0.08 acre	0.00 acre	0.00 acre	0.08 acre
Protected Species and Habitat Involvement		None	High		High		High		High		High		High	
Visual Impacts - Permanent		None	Low		Low		Low		Low		Low		Low	
Noise Impacts (Permanent)		None	Low		Low		Low		Low		Low		Low	
Costs														
Total Project Costs[1]	Two Sidewalk Typical Section	See Structural Deficiencies Board for Details	$41 M		$56 M		$43 M		$57 M		$42 M		$45 M	
	Single Sidewalk Typical Section		$39 M		$54 M		$40 M		$54 M		$39 M		$40 M	
	Single-Lane Bridge		$36 M		$50 M		$37 M		$51 M		$36 M		$37 M	
Construction Impacts														
Detour Duration		N/A	1 week		2 weeks		1 week		2 weeks		1 week		2 weeks	
Noise Impacts (Construction)		None	Medium		Medium		Low		Low		Low		Low	
Total Construction Time		N/A	30 months		40 months		30 months		40 months		30 months		34 months	
Anticipated Service Life		10 years or less	75 years		75 years		75 years		75 years		75 years		75 years	

[1]Costs include demolition, roadway and bridge construction, mobilization, maintenance of traffic, aesthetic enhancements, engineering design, construction engineering inspection (CEI) and contingency. Costs do not include right-of-way.

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Sarasota County

Project Location Map

Project Limits Map

Historic Resource Process

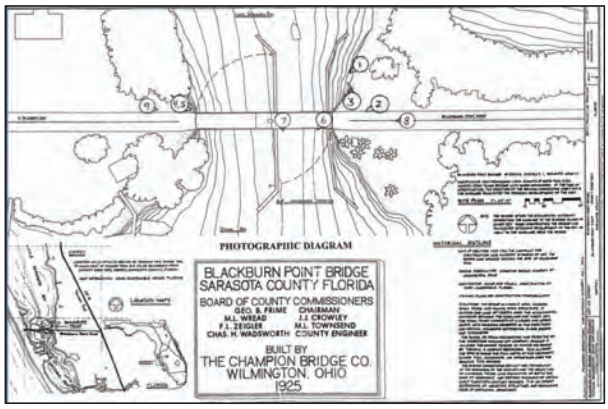
Sarasota County

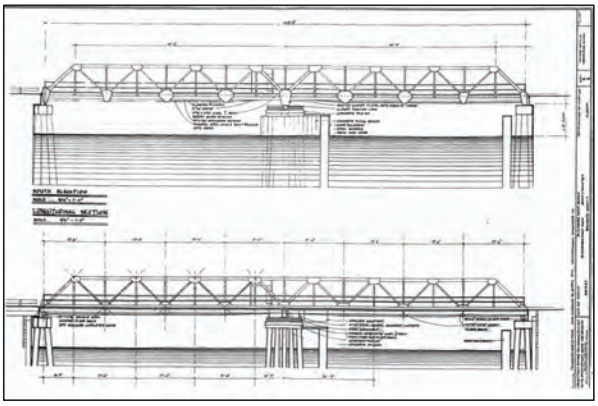
PD&E Process for Historic Resources:

- **The Project Development & Environment Study (PD&E) includes a Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS) to identify other cultural resources within the project limits to evaluate if other resources could be eligible for listing in the NRHP.**
- **The CRAS will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for concurrence.**
- **Because the bridge is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and is expected to be replaced, a Section 106 Case Study Report may be required depending on funding and permitting.**
- **Following the Case Study Report, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be prepared to outline mitigation measures; these measures will vary and will involve continued coordination and input from SHPO and local interested parties.**
- **If the bridge is replaced by the proposed project, Article IV of Chapter 66, Sarasota Code of Ordinances will be applied to ensure the bridge undergoes the proper procedures and mitigation.**
- **Under Section 66-117 of the Sarasota Code of Ordinances, a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application will be prepared and presented before the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) and eventually the Historical Commission by Public Works.**
- **HPB meeting will determine if the project is approved to move forward and will likely provide stipulations for mitigation.**
- **HPB and Historical Commission meetings are open to the public.**

Bridge History:

- **Constructed between 1925 and 1926 by the Champion Bridge Company.**
- **Listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) February 2001.**
- **Approved for local historic designation by the Board of County Commissioners, August 29, 2018, which placed the bridge on the Sarasota County Register of Historic Places.**
- **Bridge is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Engineering and is significant under Criterion C as an example of a Warren pony truss swing span bridge.**





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Honoring the Existing Bridge

Potential mitigation measures to offset the bridge replacement and preserve aspects of the historic bridge for which it is considered eligible for being listed include:

- **Erection of a county historical marker. A historical marker application will be prepared and submitted to the Historical Commission for review and approval.**
- **Salvaging parts of the bridge (specifically the truss) and locating them adjacent to a Historical Marker publicly accessible within the Blackburn Point Park area.**

View From Blackburn Point Road

View from Sidewalk on Park Side

Sarasota County

Bridge Types & Configurations Under Consideration

Single-leaf bascule on Existing Alignment

Single-leaf bascule on North Alignment

Bridge Types & Configurations Under Consideration

Bob-tailed swing span, pivot located east of channel - Existing Alignment

Bob-tailed swing span, pivot located west of channel - Existing Alignment

PD&E STUDY (NEPA) PROCESS

Sarasota County

The Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study is conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and includes:

- Purpose and Need
- Environmental Studies
- Alternatives Analysis
- Technical Reports
- Public Involvement
- Environmental Document Approval

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the project is to review alternatives to replace the Blackburn Point Bridge (Bridge No. 170064) on Blackburn Point Road (County Road (CR) 789) over the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Osprey, Sarasota County, Florida. The need for the project is based on the following criteria:

- Bridge Deficiencies
- Safety
- Modal Interrelationships

EXISTING CONDITIONS – STRUCTURAL DEFICIENCIES

Sarasota County

Structural conditions
- Steel truss corrosion
- Piling deterioration
- Fender system deterioration & impact damage

Mechanical conditions
- Substandard design
- Component wear and deterioration
- Outdated equipment well beyond service life

Electrical conditions
- Outdated equipment well beyond service life



Photographs representative of existing conditions of the swing bridge's main upper truss members

Bent Main Pinion Gear Shaft

Failing Timber Retaining Wall



Photographs representative of existing conditions of the swing bridge's main lower truss members

EXISTING CONDITIONS – STRUCTURAL DEFICIENCIES

Sarasota County

Prior Major Repairs:

1981 – Major Repairs (hit by barge)

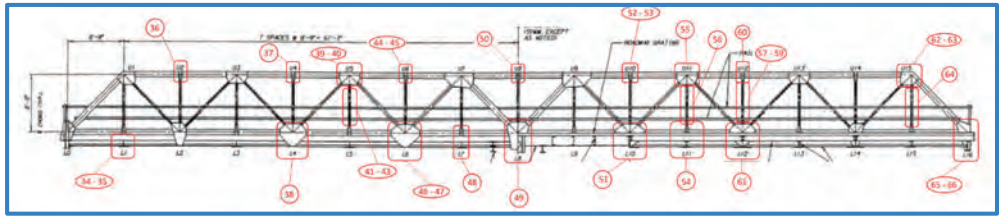
1987 – Major Repairs

1995 – Major Repairs

Ongoing Repairs:

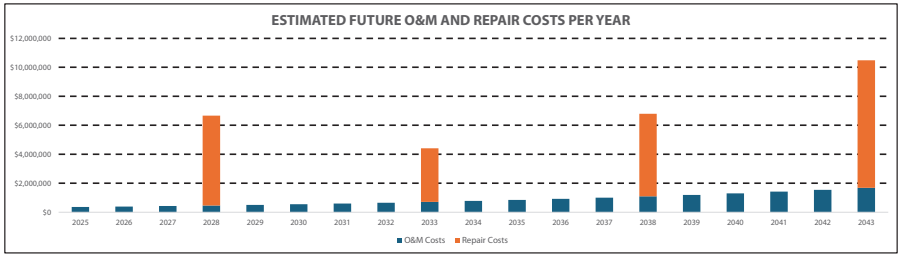
- Pinion shaft was replaced three (3) times in the past four (4) years
- Fender system repairs
- Structural repairs

Prior truss repairs exhibiting corrosive section loss



Note: Deteriorated truss members subjected to cyclical tension under truck loading are susceptible to fracture

HISTORY OF RECENT REPAIRS	
YEAR	**DESCRIPTION**
1997	Replaced manually-operated end toggles with electrically-operative actuator toggles
2006	Riprap and piling rehab
2009	New pivot bearing, new spider assembly, new upper and lower tracks, new rack, new pinion and shaft, new wheels, new elevator wheel assembly, new drive train assembly
2010	Placed 20 CY flowable fill behind SW timber wingwall
2011	Motor replaced
2012	Gusset plates replaced
2012	**Pinion shaft replacement emergency repair**
2014	End toggle replacements; live load shoes; pivot bearing shim
2016	Drive gear; Gusset plate and truss member retrofits
2019	Gusset plate retrofits ("cheese plates")
2019	Replace drag cables for center pivot
2019	Clean, paint and repair section loss in top chord gusset plates; replace deteriorated rivets
2019	NW quadrant slope protection
2019	**Fender repairs**
2020	Machinery stringer crack retrofitted
2020	Center bearing cover plate replaced
2020	**Fender repair due to boat impact**
2020	Stringer at rest pier 1 trimmed to avoid hitting steel nose plate on approach pavement
2021	Replace conduit system on fender
2021	Riprap at NW Wingwall
2022	Center bearing rehabilitated, new pinion shaft, floorbeam retrofits
2023	Repair grid deck welds
2024	**Pinion shaft emergency replacement (again) due to deformation. New limit switches.**
2025	**Pinion shaft emergency replacement (again) due to deformation**



Estimated Cost to Keep Bridge Operational Over the Next 20 years

NAVIGATION

Sarasota County

Marine Vulnerabilities:

Existing swing bridge and abutments are not capable of sustaining a direct vessel collision

The existing bridge low members are within the splash zone, subject to accelerated corrosion due to saltwater and salt laden air

Substandard Navigational Clearances:

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has determined that the existing navigational clearances are an unreasonable obstruction to navigation for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

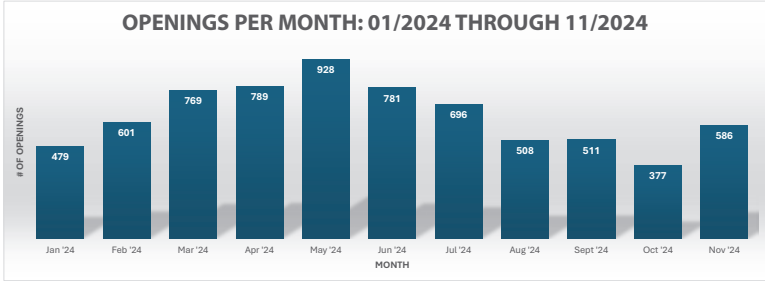
Existing Navigation Clearances:

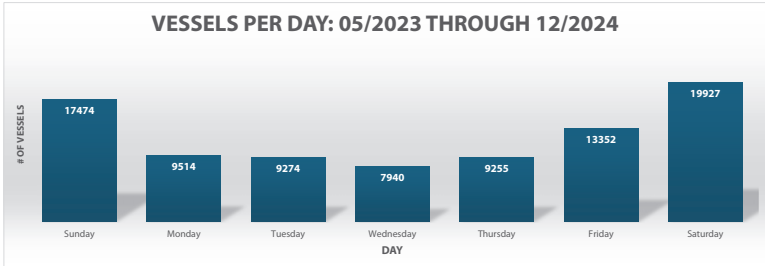
- Horizontal – 51 feet
- Vertical – 9.3 feet

USCG Guide Clearances (Gulf Intracoastal Waterway):

- Horizontal – 90 feet
- Vertical – 21 feet

Opportunity for Reduction in Bridge Openings with New Bridge





Effect of Increased Vertical Clearance on Bridge Openings				
Bridge Clearance	**12 Feet**	**14 Feet**	**16 Feet**	**21 Feet**
% Reduction in Openings	**31%**	**48%**	**62%**	**78%**

SAFETY

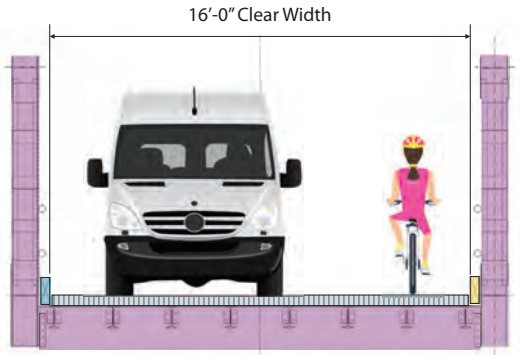
Sarasota County

Bridge Width Deficiencies:

Substandard clear roadway width of only one, 16-foot-wide travel lane

The bridge does not feature shoulders, sidewalks or bicycle lanes

Minimum required lane and shoulder widths prescribed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) are not met.



Existing Swing Span Section

Evacuation:

Existing bridge is important for evacuation during a storm event.

Blackburn Point Road between Casey Key and US 41 is a designated emergency evacuation route.

There is insufficient room available to pass a stalled vehicle on the bridge during an emergency.

Proposed improvements will increase bridge width to provide sufficient room for vehicles to pass a stalled vehicle on the bridge.

Trucks Crossing the Bridge

Bridge Railings:

Existing bridge railings do not meet current standards for pedestrians or bicyclists.

Existing bridge railings do not meet current geometric and crash testing safety standards for vehicles.

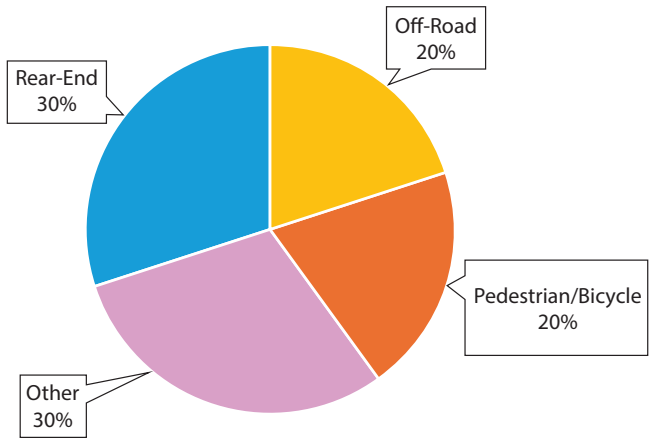
Proposed improvements will provide bridge railings and traffic gates that meet current safety standards for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.

Cyclists Crossing the Bridge

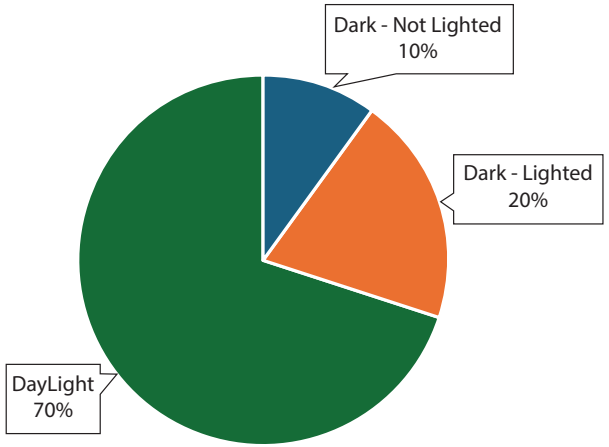
Existing Railing

CRASH LOCATIONS (2019-2024)

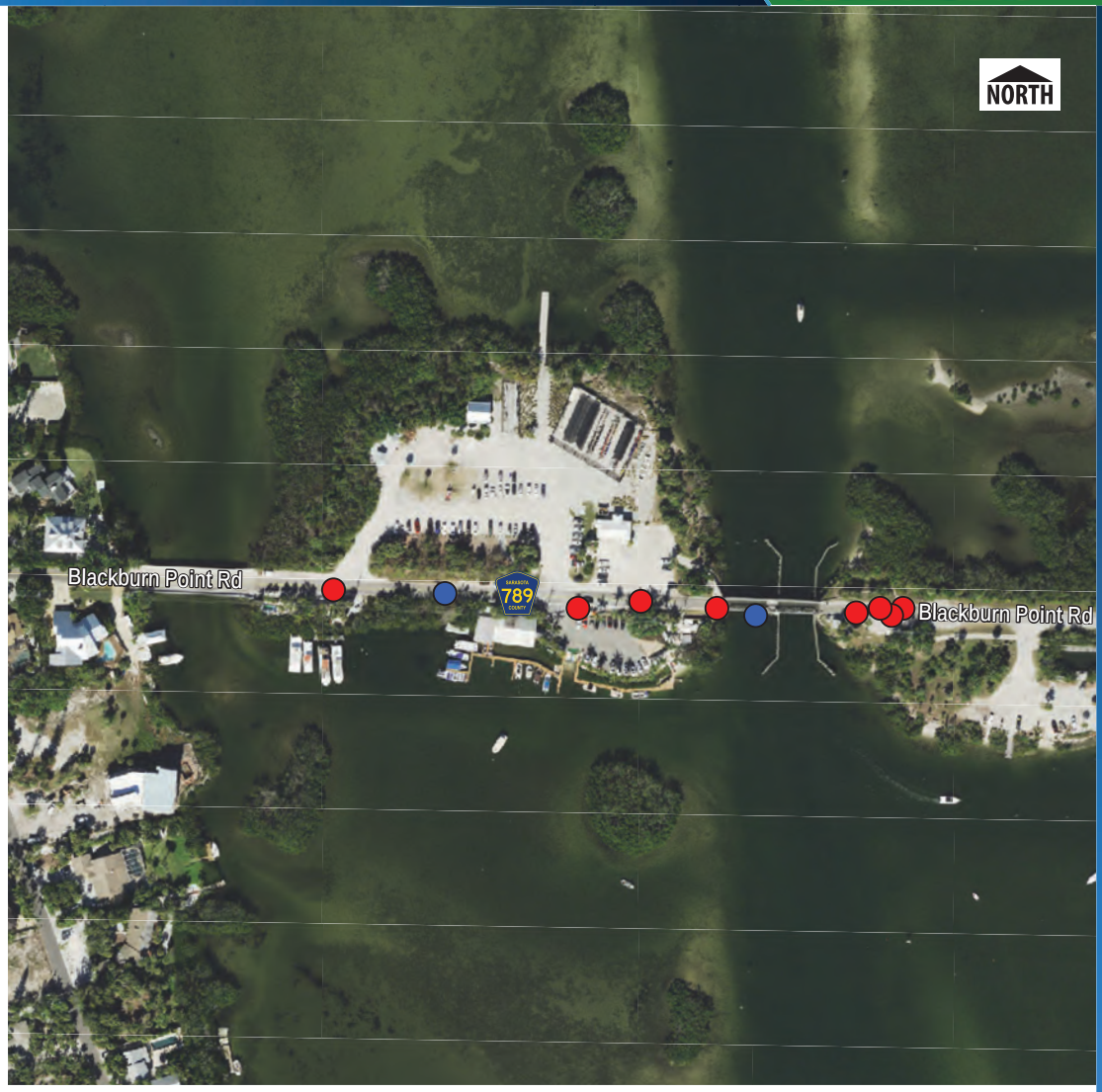
Sarasota County



Crash Summary by Crash Types



Crash Summary by Lighting Conditions



Pedestrian/Bicyclist Involved

Vehicular Crash

Sarasota County

Vehicular Traffic

Traffic Count Location	Count Date	Raw Traffic Counts
Blackburn Point Road at Swing Bridge	3/11/2025	3087
	3/12/2025	3120
	3/13/2025	3272
Blackburn Point Road - east of Casey Key Road	3/11/2025	2451
Blackburn Point Road - west of Woods Point Road	3/11/2025	4364

Bicycle & Pedestrian Counts

Bicycle / Pedestrian Count Location (7:00 am to 7:00 pm)	Count Date	Bicycle Counts	Pedestrian Counts
Blackburn Point Road Crosswalk at Blackburn Point Park (west of swing bridge)	3/11/2025	26	602
Blackburn Point Road Swing Bridge (crossing over the bridge)	3/11/2025	148	122
Blackburn Point Road Crosswalk at Casey Key Marina	3/11/2025	4	53

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Sarasota County

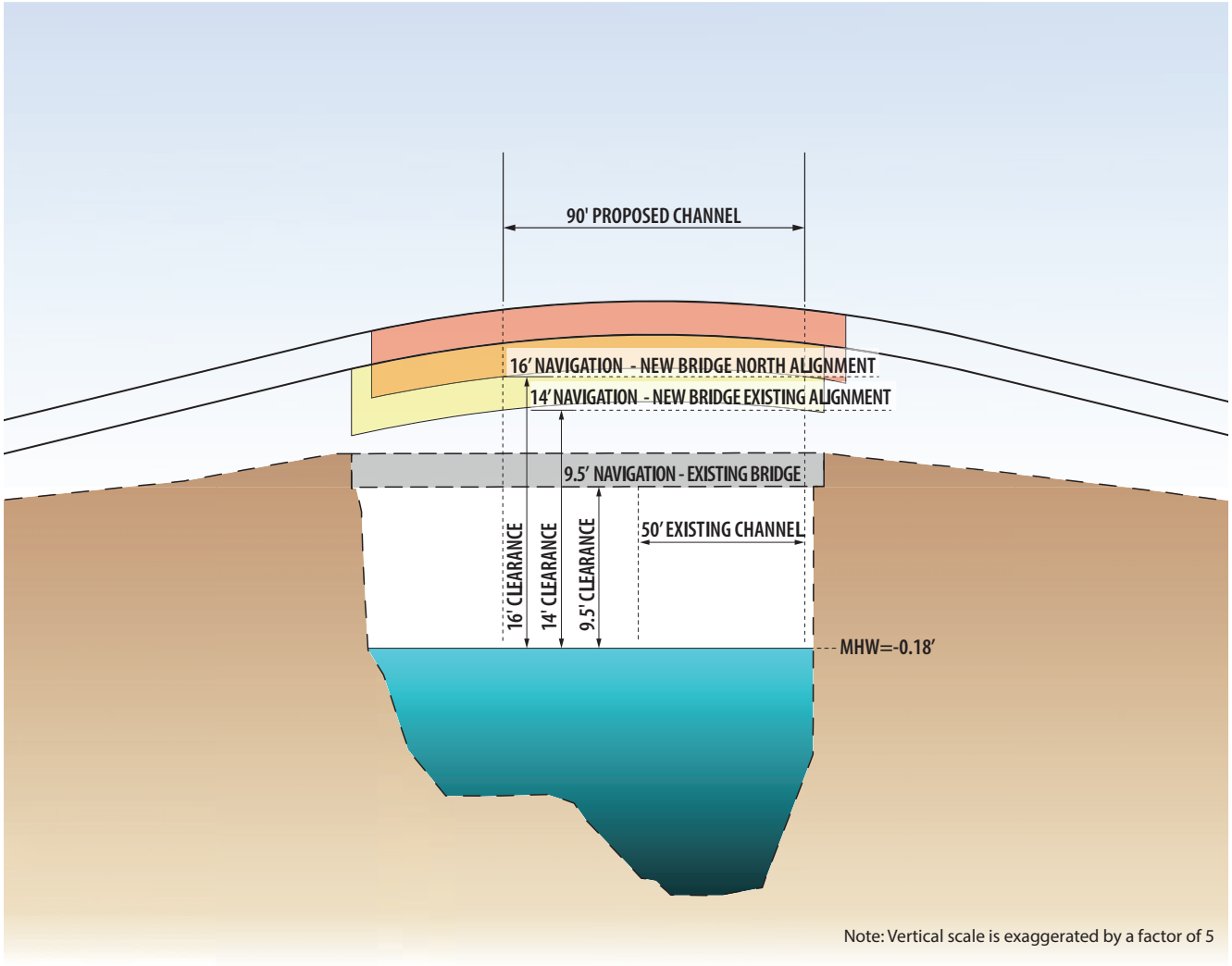
Environmental Protections of Project Area:

- Sarasota Bay is designated an Outstanding Florida Water
- Proposed Critical Habitat for green sea turtle
- Consultation Area for manatee and piping plover
- Designated Essential Fish Habitat
- Habitat for protected species including:
  Giant manta ray, smalltooth sawfish, Gulf sturgeon, bottlenose dolphin, green sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, wood stork, and red knot

PROFILES

Sarasota County

- Profiles options are limited by adjacent driveways
- Potential Clearances:
  - 16 feet navigation clearance on North Alignment
  - 14 feet navigation clearance on Existing Alignment



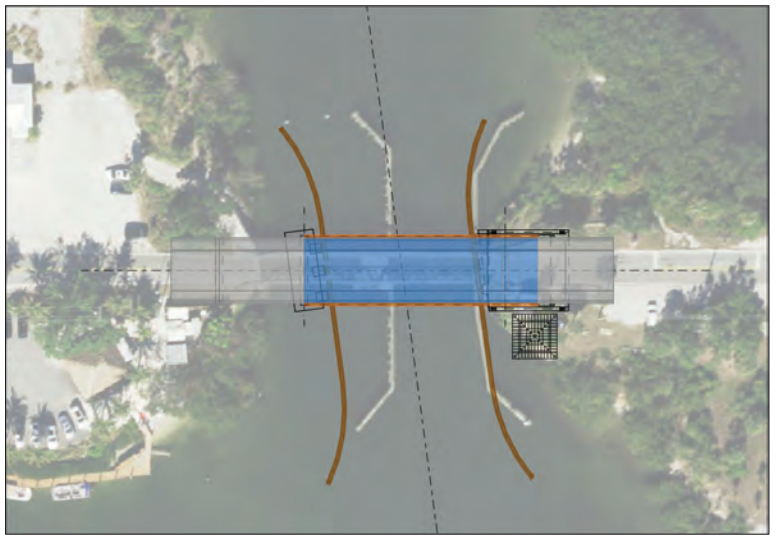
BRIDGE TYPES – BASCULE BRIDGE

Sarasota County

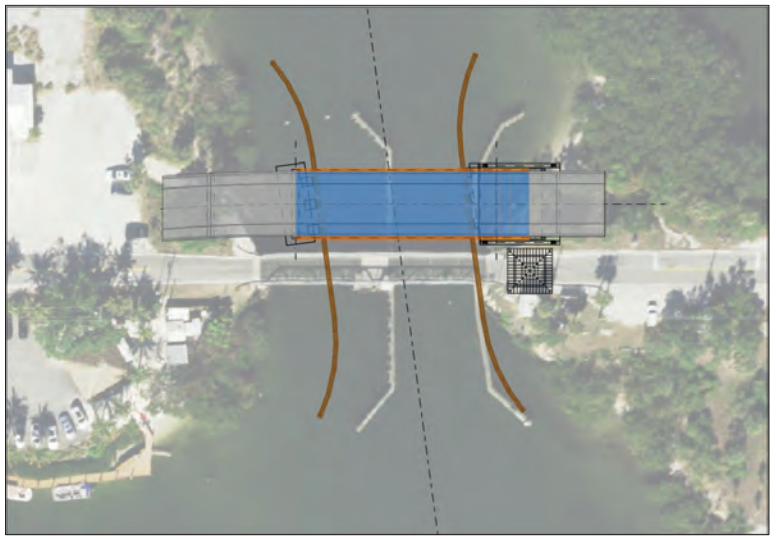
Bascule Bridge

- **Rotates about a horizontal axis and translates at the same time**
  - Smallest movable span length
- **Rolling Lift Type with Overhead Counterweight**
  - Maximum clearance above the water
  - Resiliency:
    - Most durable with operating machinery located above the splash zone
    - Machinery is easily accessible without going below deck
- **Counterweight and machinery located on the east abutment**
  - Minimizes impacts to Blackburn Park
  - Requires rest pier in the waterway
- **Can be constructed to the north then slid to the existing alignment after existing bridge is removed – this avoids a temporary bridge**

Span Motion Diagram



On Existing Alignment



On New Alignment to the North

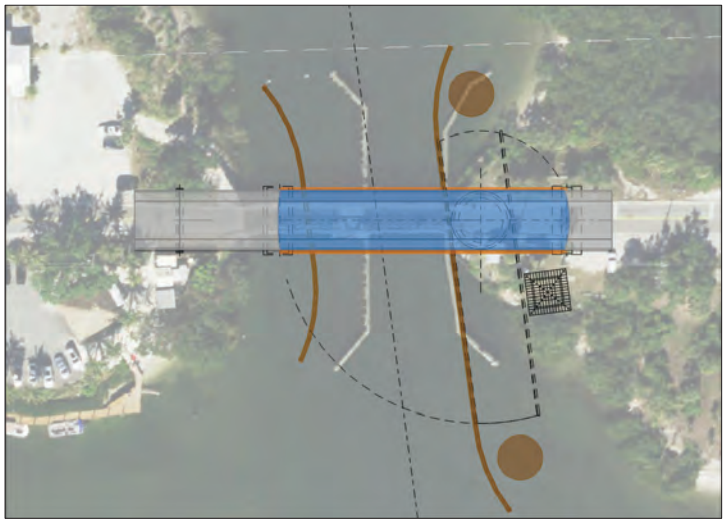
BRIDGE TYPES – SWING BRIDGE (PIVOT ON THE EAST)

Sarasota County

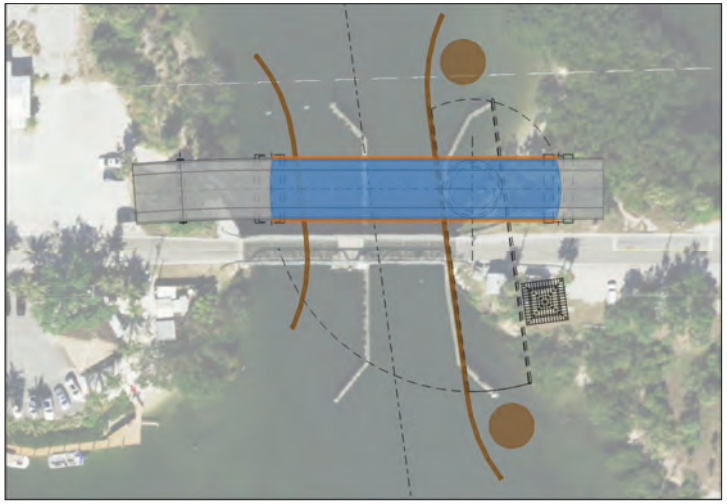
Swing Bridge with Pivot Located East of the Channel

- **Bob-tailed configuration (long span over channel, shorter back span) reduces movable span length**
- **East pivot minimizes impacts to Blackburn Pt. Park**
- **East pivot results in swing span over land**
  - Pushes control house back from channel restricting bridge operator's view off the channel
- **Resiliency:**
  - Pivot machinery is below deck level
    - Close to splash zone – exposed to salt air
    - Difficult to access for maintenance
- **Requires large fender system to protect swing span from vessel impact when open**
- **Construction challenges:**
  - Requires a temporary bridge to construct on the existing alignment

Span Motion Diagram



Pivot east of channel, existing alignment



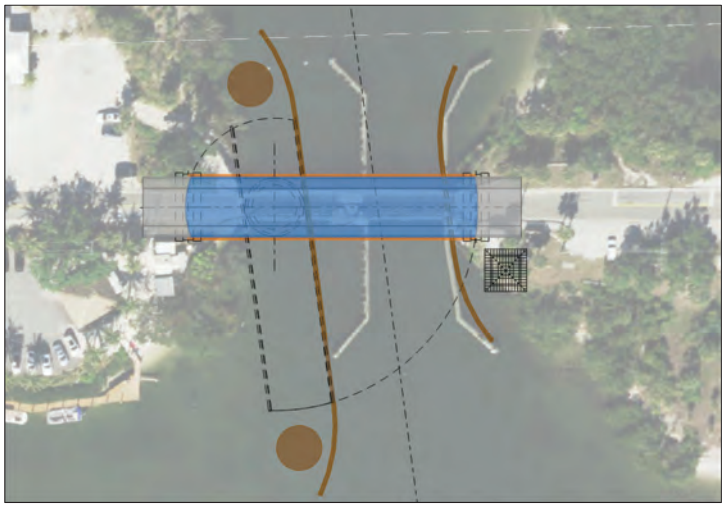
Pivot east of channel, north alignment

BRIDGE TYPES – SWING BRIDGE (PIVOT ON THE WEST)

Sarasota County

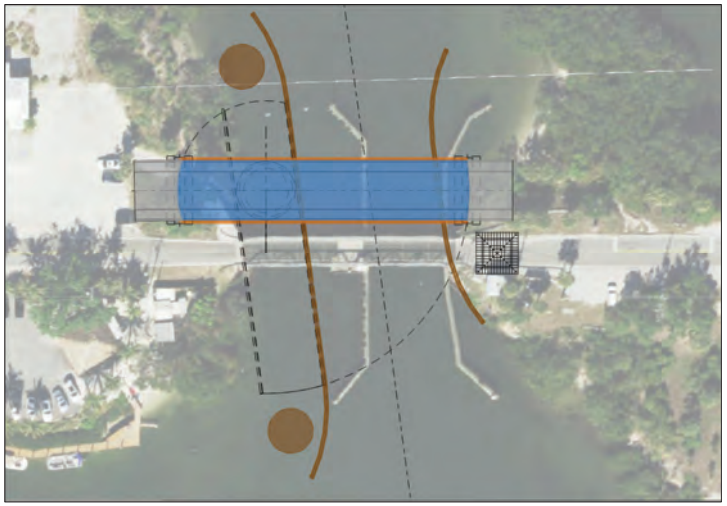
Swing Bridge with the Pivot Located West of the Channel

- **Bob-tailed configuration (long span over channel, shorter back span) reduces movable span length**
- **West pivot increases impacts to Blackburn Pt. Park**
- **Resiliency:**
  - Pivot machinery is below deck level
    - Close to splash zone – exposed to salt air
    - Difficult to access for maintenance
- **Requires large fender system to protect swing span from vessel impact when open**
- **Construction challenges:**
  - Requires a temporary bridge to construct on the existing alignment



Pivot west of channel, existing alignment

Span Motion Diagram



Pivot west of channel, north alignment

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Sarasota County

PD&E Study Project Schedule

NOTES:

- Local residents and stakeholders will receive an invitation to attend public meetings
- Final design will follow selection of a preferred alternative at the Public Hearing

PROJECT CONTACT

Sarasota County

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Sarasota County Capital Projects
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Sarasota, FL 34240
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941.861.5000

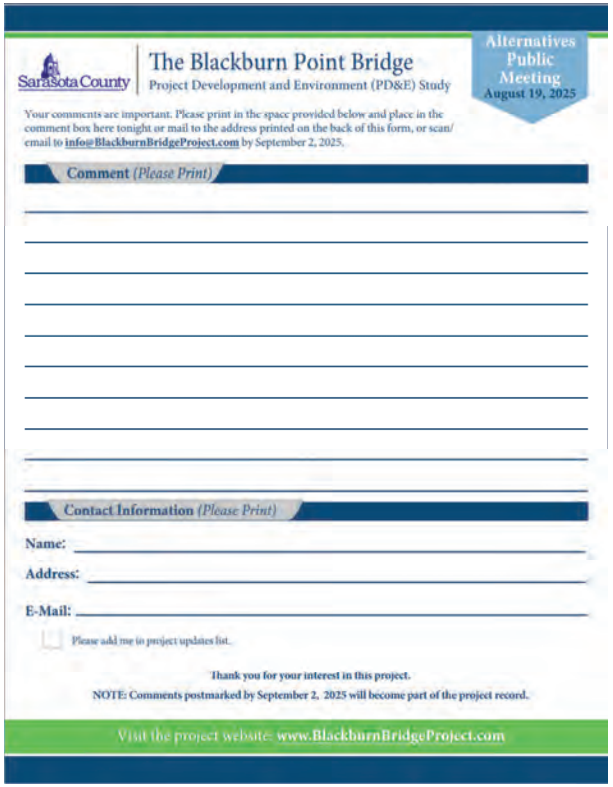
OR

Visit the project website at:

www.BlackburnBridgeProject.com

HOW TO COMMENT

Sarasota County



Sarasota County | The Blackburn Point Bridge
Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

Alternatives Public Meeting
August 19, 2025

Your comments are important. Please print in the space provided below and place in the comment box here tonight or mail to the address printed on the back of this form, or scan/email to info@BlackburnBridgeProject.com by September 2, 2025.

Comment *(Please Print)*

Contact Information *(Please Print)*

Name:

Address:

E-Mail:

Please add me to project updates list.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

NOTE: Comments postmarked by September 2, 2025 will become part of the project record.

Visit the project website: www.BlackburnBridgeProject.com

Please provide your comments by September 2, 2025

Drop the comment form into the comment box at this meeting

OR

Send comments by mail, phone or email to:

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