

Pedestrian Bridge Improvements US 41 over Caloosahatchee River Bridge from First Street to North Key Drive

Frequently Asked Questions

When will the bridge close and reopen?

The bridge will close the evening of Friday, May 31. The bridge will reopen on Monday, August 11, 2024.

Why is the bridge being closed?

This closure provides an opportunity for the project to finish a year ahead of schedule. Additionally, this will provide increased safety for the construction crews and traveling motorists.

What work will be done during the closure?

During the closure, crews will complete the construction of the single median barrier, install new guardrail along the east side of the northbound lanes, and work on the sidewalk on the west side of the southbound lanes.

What is the estimated completion date of the project now?

The project is estimated to finish early 2025, weather permitting.

Will there still be lane closures or full bridge closures after reopening?

After August 11, the bridge will reopen with nighttime bridge closures and daytime lane closures as needed.

What is the plan in the event of a hurricane?

In the event that there is a hurricane during the closure, the contractor has an established plan in place to open one lane of traffic in each direction (northbound and southbound) to allow for emergency evacuation.

What alternate routes should be used during this closure?

Motorists are encouraged to use different alternate routes depending on their commute. Routes available for travel are the Edison Bridge, Midpoint Bridge, Cape Coral Bridge, and I-75.

Reason for the project

To provide a safe means for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the Caloosahatchee River Bridge into downtown Fort Myers and North Fort Myers.

Background

FDOT completed a feasibility study in 2020 to determine the viability of adding a sidewalk to the existing bridge. A determination was made that the project was viable and received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Project Cost

\$25 million

Starting Date

April 2024

Improvements

This project is intended to improve pedestrian safety by modifying the existing bridge to accommodate an eight-foot sidewalk on the west side of the southbound bridge. This will be accomplished by installing new outside traffic railings, narrowing the lanes, connecting the two bridge decks in the center with a single median barrier, and restriping the lanes. There will also be a concrete barrier between the sidewalk and the connecting lane.

The sidewalk will connect to existing sidewalks north and south of the bridge structure to create safe access for pedestrians to cross.

Additionally, the current bridge lighting system will be replaced with new double-arm poles on the new median barrier.

