

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DISTRICT ONE  
 801 N BROADWAY AVENUE  
 BARTOW, FL 33830



La versión en español de este boletín está disponible en el sitio web del proyecto en el enlace “Documentos y Publicaciones”

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**SR 700 (US 98) (PEACE RIVER - FORT MEADE) AT BRIDGE #160064  
 (JOHN SINGLETARY BRIDGE)  
 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
 PUBLIC MEETING  
 LEARN. ASK. PARTICIPATE.**



**Date**  
 February 18, 2020

**Time**  
 5-7 PM Open House

**Location**  
 Fort Meade Mobile Home Park  
 Activity Center  
 1046 S.E. 2nd Street  
 Fort Meade, FL 33841

FDOT solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. People who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Cynthia Sykes, District One Title VI Coordinator, at (863) 519-2287, or e-mail at [cynthia.sykes@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:cynthia.sykes@dot.state.fl.us) at least seven days prior to the meeting.

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 FHWA and FDOT.

**SR 700 (US 98) (PEACE RIVER - FORT MEADE) AT  
 BRIDGE NUMBER 160064 (JOHN SINGLETARY BRIDGE)  
 FINANCIAL PROJECT ID NO. 434886-2-52-01 | FAP NO. D118-090-B  
 POLK COUNTY, FL**

**Newsletter 1** [www.swflroads.com/us98/johnsingletarybridge](http://www.swflroads.com/us98/johnsingletarybridge) **February 2020**

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**DESIGN PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, is hosting a public meeting as part of the design of the US 98/John Singletary Bridge in the City of Fort Meade. The public meeting will be held from 5-7 PM on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at the Fort Meade Mobile Home Park Activity Center, 1046 S.E. 2nd Street, Fort Meade, Florida 33841. At this open house meeting, FDOT will display information for review about the proposed bridge design. Attendees will be able to ask questions and provide comments to FDOT representatives in a one-on-one setting. In addition, forms will be available for written comments. FDOT is sending newsletters to persons owning property within at least 300 feet of either side of US 98 within the study limits. We encourage all interested people to attend and express their views regarding the project and information presented.



**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

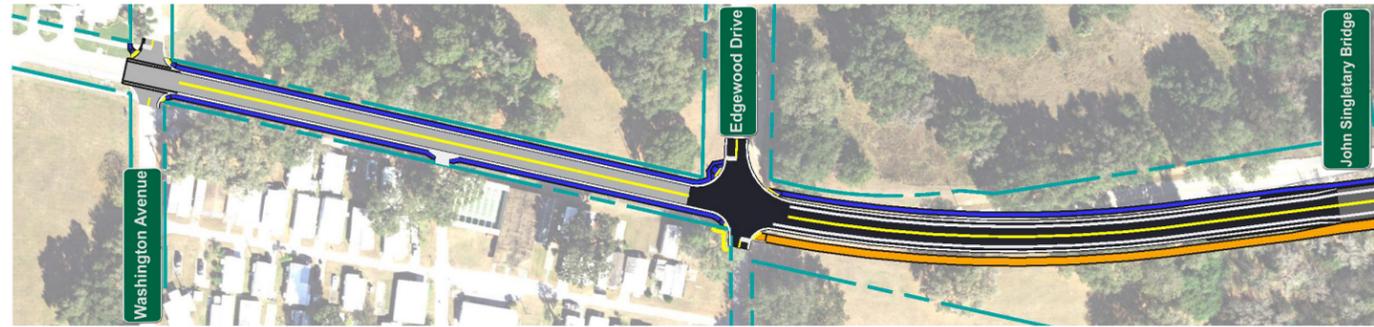
The FDOT, District One, is designing a replacement bridge to correct the deficiencies of the existing US 98/John Singletary Bridge over the Peace River, in Polk County. The project is within the City of Fort Meade. The new bridge will enhance safety conditions as well as movement/access across the Peace River for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.



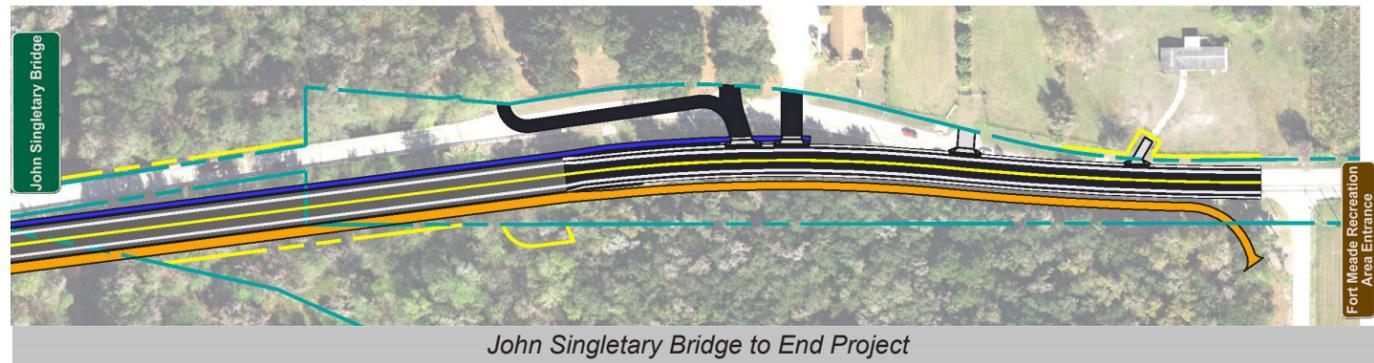
Project Location

## PROPOSED DESIGN

The FDOT conducted a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study between 2013 and 2018 to determine whether the US 98/John Singletary Bridge should remain or be replaced. The existing bridge is a significant historic bridge according to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. It was determined during the study that the bridge was obsolete. A bridge modified or built to the required current standards will allow for greater vehicle clearance through wider travel lanes, potentially reducing crashes. Further, the addition of bike lanes and sidewalks built to current standards will provide a buffer between pedestrians/bicyclists and vehicles thus modifying/ limiting opportunities for conflicts between pedestrians/bicyclists and vehicles.



Begin Project to John Singletary Bridge

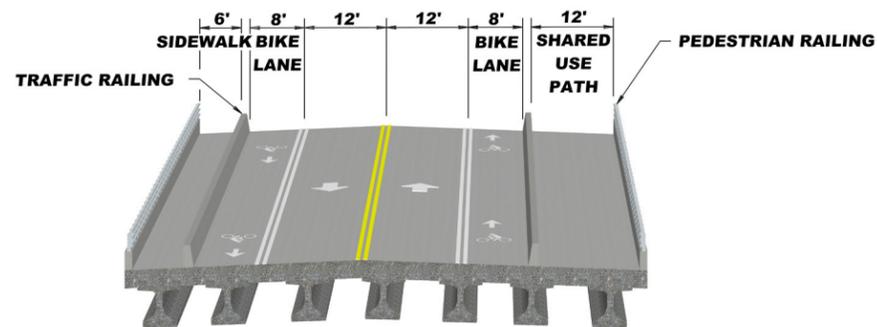


John Singletary Bridge to End Project

The proposed project will replace the existing Peace River Bridge and will improve connections for pedestrians and bicyclists between the City of Fort Meade and the Fort Meade Outdoor Recreation Area.

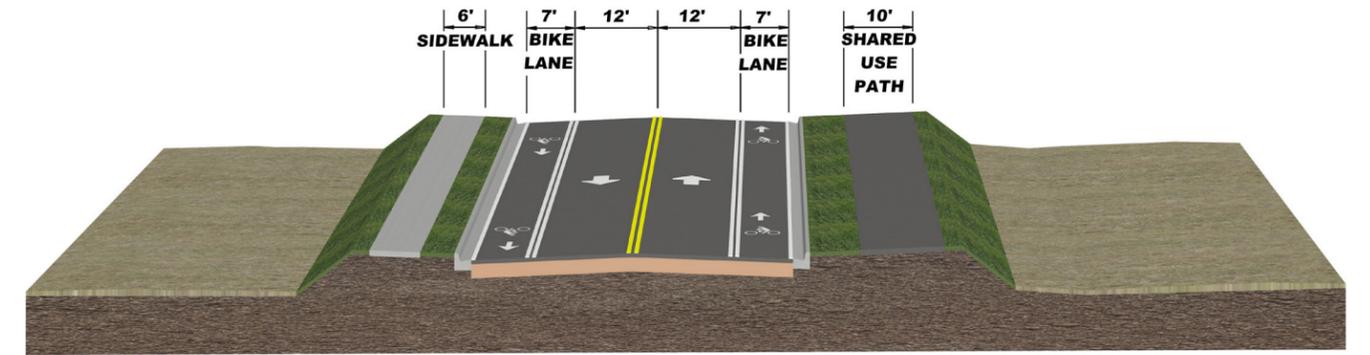
The proposed bridge will have 12-foot travel lanes, with 8-foot bike lanes, a 6-foot sidewalk separated by a traffic railing on the north side, and a 12-foot shared use path separated by a traffic railing on the south side. The roadway will be realigned to accommodate the proposed bridge configuration. The new bridge will be located south of the existing bridge so that it does not overlap the existing bridge.

Construction of the bridge will not require detours. Underneath the new bridge, wildlife shelves will be provided at both ends of the bridge. East of the bridge, the roadway profile elevation will be set to remain dry during high river stage or high rain events. A drainage system will collect stormwater from the roadway and discharge it into new ditches along both sides of US 98 east of Edgewood Drive.



Bridge Typical Section

The roadway typical section will consist of 12-foot travel lanes, 7-foot bike lanes, curb and gutter, a 6-foot concrete sidewalk on the north side, and a 10-foot shared use path on the south side. The existing corridor lighting west of the bridge will be maintained during construction and upgraded to comply with current standards. New lighting will be provided along the north side of the bridge. Additional improvements include adding a 6-foot wide sidewalk between Washington Avenue and Edgewood Drive to connect the proposed pedestrian improvements with the existing sidewalk that currently ends west of Washington Avenue.



Roadway Typical Section

## COMMITMENTS TO HISTORY

The FDOT has committed to the following steps regarding the existing bridge:

1. Document the existing bridge for posterity prior to demolition
2. Salvage the historic commemorative bridge plaque and existing bridge railings, to the greatest extent possible, for use elsewhere in the project
3. Assist with the development and funding of a panel educational exhibit to be installed near the bridge



The existing bridge railing is planned to be repurposed. The project will evaluate bridge railing alternatives for the new bridge to mimic the pattern of the current railings while maintaining safety standards.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### Project Website

[www.swflroads.com/us98/johnsingletarybridge](http://www.swflroads.com/us98/johnsingletarybridge)

The information presented at the public meeting will also be available on the project website following the meeting. Comments can be made on the website by clicking on the link "Get Involved" on the left side of the webpage.