

## Longboat Key – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

### **1. How will this project improve traffic issues caused by Cortez Road and Coquina Beach?**

The focus of this study is the need to replace the existing Longboat Key Bridge and not capacity improvements. However, traffic will be evaluated for the limits of the study from North Shore Road to Coquina Park Entrance and intersection improvements may be proposed as needed. Traffic issues outside of the study limits will need to be addressed under a separate study.

### **2. Can the Longboat Key Bridge be repaired and what is the life span of the bridge?**

The Longboat Key Bridge was built in 1957 and reconstructed in 2005 and in 2020. Currently, per Florida Bridge Information website, the bridge is classified as Functionally Obsolete, Health index of 76.94 (out of 100) and Sufficiency Rating 43.6 (out of 100). Functional obsolescence is due to substandard shoulders and the traffic barriers. The following two indices are used to assess need for the bridge's repairs or replacement:

- Health Index less than 50 – the bridge needs to be immediately replaced. Health Index less than 85 generally indicates that some repairs are needed.
- Sufficiency Rating less than 80 – the bridge is candidate for consideration under the Federal Highway Administration Program (allocation of the federal funds) for replacement.

The bridges built in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century were designed for 50-year service life. Typically, after 50 years of service life, bridges need to undergo some major repairs (deck replacement, pile jacketing, bascule span reconstruction, etc.). It is estimated the bridge will need another major rehabilitation within 10 years.

### **3. Is the proposed Longboat Key Bridge going to be wider than the existing bridge?**

The proposed bridge will be wider than the existing bridge in order to provide safer accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians. However, additional travel lanes for vehicular capacity are not proposed.

### **4. If a fixed bridge becomes the preferred alternative, what will be the vertical clearance?**

A fixed bridge is being considered as a bridge replacement alternative. A fixed bridge alternative will maintain a 65-ft vertical clearance, at a minimum. A moveable bridge is also a viable alternative.

### **5. Will the proposed bridge be shifted to the east or west of the existing bridge?**

At this time, no decision has been made on the alignment of the proposed bridge. Alternatives are being developed and analyzed for potential alignments.

### **6. Are bicycle lanes and sidewalks being considered as part of the proposed improvements?**

Sidewalks and wide shoulders on the bridge which can be used for bicyclists are being evaluated to provide safer mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians.