

Memorandum

Date: June 10, 2021
To: Patrick Bateman, FDOT District 1
From: John Scarlatos, Scalar Consulting Group Inc.
Subject: SR 789 (Longboat Key) PD&E Study from North Shore Road to Coquina Park Entrance, FPID No. 436676-1-22-01
Public Kickoff Meeting Summary

The Public Kickoff Meeting for this project was provided as a hybrid format consisting of both an in-person component located at Harbourside Ballroom (3000 Harbourside Ballroom, Longboat Key, FL 34228) from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on March 23, 2021 as well as a virtual component hosted online at www.swflroads.com/sr789/longboatkey from March 16 to April 2, 2021. The in-person meeting consisted of an open house format to provide an opportunity for the public to review the proposed project, speak one-on-one with project team members, and voice their comments or concerns. The online component consisted of a series of documents available for public review, including a copy of the newsletter as well as a comment form and a questionnaire that could be filled out and submitted electronically or could be submitted by mail. Additionally, there is a link on the project website that allows citizens to submit comments without use of the comment form or questionnaire documents. Phone and email were also available for providing input.

Notification of the meeting and official comment period (March 16 to April 2, 2021) included an email to appointed and elected officials and agency representatives; a newsletter with questionnaire mailing to property owners; a display advertisement in the Longboat Observer, and Florida Administrative Register; advertisement on the project website and FDOT public notices webpage; and a press release. As attendees entered the in-person meeting, they were asked to sign in and were offered a newsletter (handout), comment form, and questionnaire. Comment forms were available throughout the meeting to be filled out and submitted onsite or mailed/mailed to FDOT District 1. Members of the project team were available to respond to individual questions. The following exhibits were displayed during the meeting:

- Welcome
- *Location Map
- *What is a PD&E Study
- *Project Process
- *Project Schedule
- *Project Funding
- *Ways to Comment
- *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
- Thank You

* Document was also displayed online for the virtual component of the meeting.

Attendees of the In-Person Meeting

The in-person meeting was attended by approximately 28 people, including 16 public citizens and 12 staff. Staff members of the project team that attended the in-person meeting include:

- Patrick Bateman, FDOT
- Jesse Moss, FDOT

- Jim Jacobsen, FDOT
- Richard Oujevolk, FDOT
- Aniruddha Gotmare, Scalar
- John Scarlatos, Scalar
- Katie Castor, Scalar
- Maria Missena, Scalar
- Kristin Caruso, Scalar
- Stephen Williams, Scalar
- Louis Sicon, Scalar
- Siobhan Gale, Atkins

Of the 16 public citizens that attended the in-person meeting, four were public officials or representatives including:

- George Spoll, the Mayor of Longboat Key;
- Isaac Brownman, a staff member from Longboat Key Public Works;
- Ken Schneier, a Town Commissioner; and
- Dave Sarvey, representing U.S. Congressman Vern Buchanan.

One (1) representative of the media attended the in-person meeting:

- Kane Kaiman – The Islander

All in-person meeting attendees were given the opportunity to provide verbal or written comments at the meeting or to provide hand-written or electronic comments within the comment period.

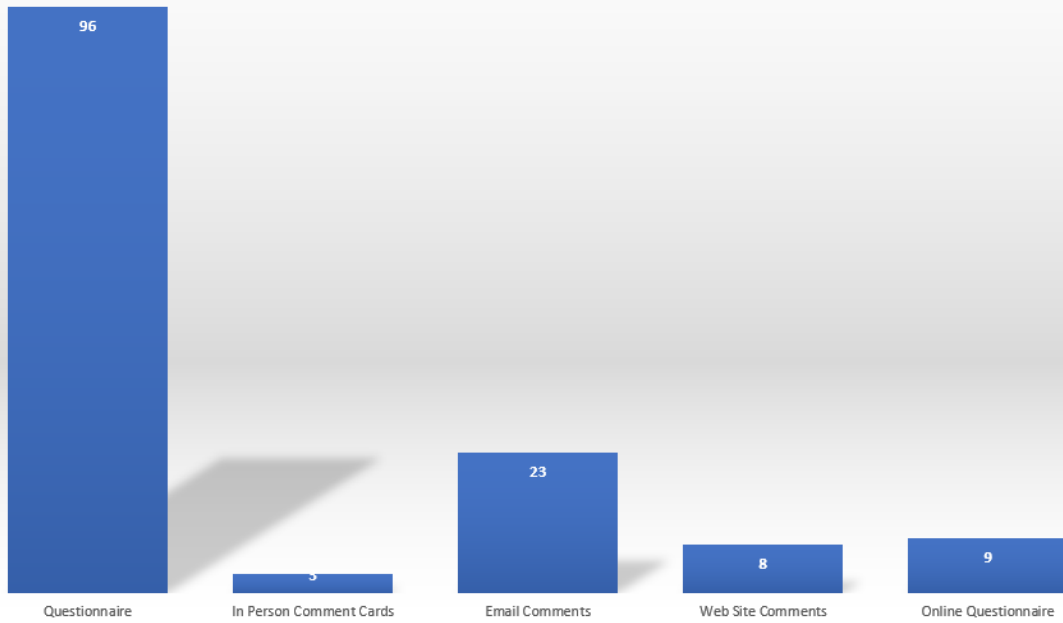
Summary of Public Concerns (In-Person and Virtual)

A total of 139 responses (emailed comments, mailed questionnaires, online questionnaires, in person, and web site) were received during the comment period between March 16 and April 2, 2021. Of these, there were 105 completed questionnaires that filled out public concerns, 96 mailed and 9 online questionnaires. (many of the questionnaires contained completed check boxes but blank comment spaces). There were also 3 in-person submissions, 23 emailed comments, and 8 website comments. Of the 138 total responses, about 80 of them contain lengthy written comment. The following list provides a high-level overview of the concerns.

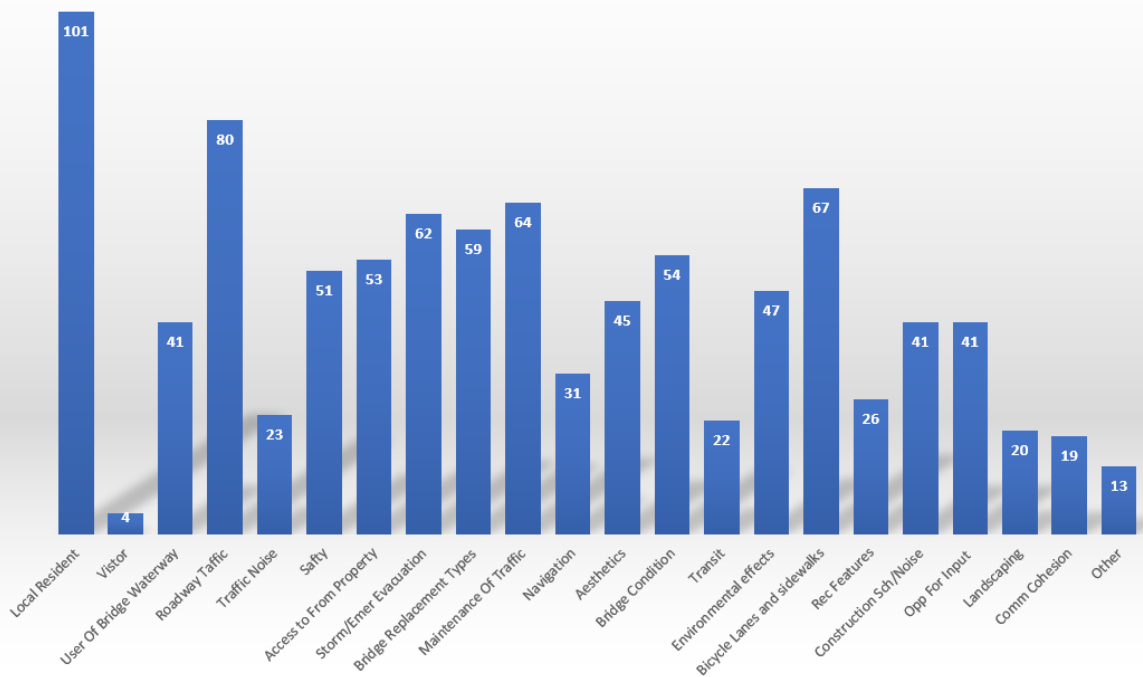
- **21 traffic concerns** – Coquina Beach traffic and the bottle neck of the Bridge Street circle in Bradenton Beach;
- **15 safety concerns** – bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the bridge, making sure proposed typical section contains bike/ped features;
- **11 bridge height concerns** – expressed concerns regarding the height of their boats and passage under a new bridge;
- **10 build supporters** – expressed support for some type of new bridge;
- **5 no-build supporters** – expressed negative comments about a new bridge such as wasting money or improvements not needed: and
- **18 specific concerns** – these comments were lengthy and requested specific items that cannot be grouped into any of the previous categories, such as noise, impact to nature, visible obstruction, privacy concerns, “no fishing” signs, ADA requirements (motorized wheelchair), and speeding issues.

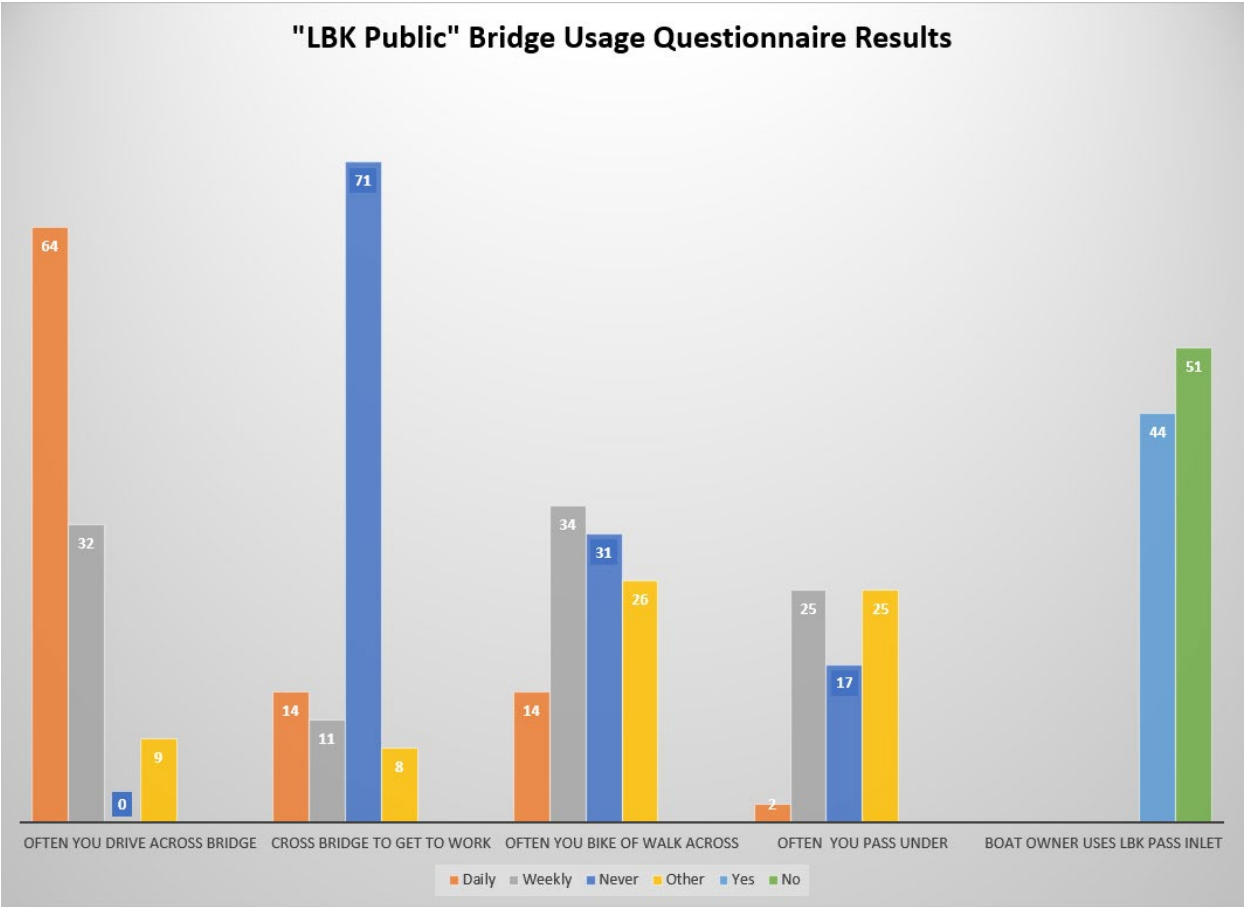
The following graphic provides visualization of the comment categories.

LBK Comment Delivery Type



"LBK Public" Interest Questionnaires Results





Conclusion

Based on analysis of the comments and questionnaire responses, it appears that the primary public concern is vehicular traffic, second is safety, and third is bridge height in relation to boat traffic. Specifically, major items of concern include alleviating traffic on and adjacent to the bridge, ensuring bicyclist and pedestrian safety, and maintaining/providing access through the pass for tall boats. There did not appear to be a large volume of citizens that were not in favor of construction of a new bridge.