

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FM: 437422-1

Granger Bridge over Steinhatchee River No. 384096

1. Why is this bridge being replaced?

- a. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) inspects all bridges in the state of Florida to assess their health and condition. Based upon these inspections, a list is generated based on a formulaic approach that will rank bridges in need of replacement. This formula uses information such as the Average Daily Traffic (ADT), bridge load ratings, structural integrity, etc. The list is then used to prioritize bridge replacement projects to schedule them in the FDOT work program.

2. Will there be an impact to my residence?

- a. There are no relocations with the proposed alternative. Six parcels in the immediate proximity to the bridge will need to have an easement or an acquisition of a vacant portion of the property.

3. Can the bridge remain closed as it currently exists?

- a. Taylor county will no longer maintain the current bridge structure. As the bridge continues to deteriorate it will eventually be closed to all forms of traffic.

4. Will the existing bridge height be maintained?

- a. No, the new bridge structure will be raised from the current height. The increase of height above the water will be 4 feet, 2 inches.

5. How long will construction be?

- a. Construction will take approximately nine months to one year, barring no delays.

6. Who is funding this project?

- a. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) administers a program called the Highway Bridge Replacement & Rehabilitation (HBRRP), which allows for federal funds to replace bridges off the state highway system.

7. Who will be constructing the project?

- a. Taylor County will be leading the design and construction effort for this bridge replacement.

8. Who will be responsible for the maintenance after construction?

- a. Taylor County will be responsible for the maintenance of the bridge once completed.

9. Will Granger Drive also be improved with this project?

- a. The contractor will be required to refinish Granger Drive after completion of the bridge project. Granger Drive will remain unpaved.

10. What will change during construction?

- a. Granger Drive will be restored to a continuous loop before the bridge was closed.

11. Why can't you put the bridge back like it was?

- a. The bridge has been closed since 2019 due to significant deterioration of the bridge's substructure. The original bridge location has geometry and safety concerns that prohibit the bridge from being put back like it was.

12. Why can't you replace as a timber bridge?

- a. Timber bridge structures have a shorter lifespan than a concrete structure. FDOT builds structures that are designed with a lifespan of 75 years. Wooden structures would not typically meet this requirement.

13. Why spend \$3 million dollars when you can put in a wooden bridge?

- a. This price includes all the different phases or stages of this project. FDOT builds structures that are designed with a lifespan of 75 years, which will provide the community with a good investment for their future in the area.

14. Why can't you leave the bridge alone?

- a. The bridge has been closed since 2019. Taylor County and FDOT strive to provide a safe transportation system for their citizens. Based upon the inspections for this bridge a replacement is necessary.

15. Why only a 6' clearance?

- a. The height of the proposed bridge was a collaborative decision between FDOT and Taylor County. The proposed height of the bridge is the maximum that can be built while minimizing the impacts to the surrounding area.

16. Can you leave the old bridge as a fishing dock?

- a. No, the old bridge will need to be removed for construction of the proposed bridge.