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**Subject:** RE: Bridges Lower Matecumbe

Good afternoon Caren, please see a response to your questions below. Thank you and feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) works diligently throughout the year to ensure all our bridges are in safe condition for public use through our bridge maintenance evaluation process. FDOT District Six manages the bridge repair and rehabilitation project in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties as required by Florida Statute 334.046(4)(a)(2), which outlines preservation standards for bridges. This program addresses routine maintenance and rehabilitation on bridges for which the Department has maintenance responsibilities.

FDOT performs regular maintenance on all bridges in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties and assigns each bridge a classification (poor, fair, etc.) based on their review.

Per Federal Highway Administration Guidelines, bridge conditions are determined using a scale 0-9 with 9 being the best.

- 7-9: Good or Excellent
- 5-6: Fair
- 0-4: Poor

All bridges are inspected and evaluated by FDOT Certified Bridge Inspectors and Florida Licensed Professional Engineers on a 2-year cycle at a minimum. Bridges rated poor are inspected more frequently. After every inspection, a bridge is evaluated and proper repairs or rehabilitations are programmed. Usually repairs are completed within a year from the evaluation and rehabilitations within 3 to 5 years since they need to follow a design phase.

Currently, there are 48 bridges in Monroe County and of those, 40 are considered to be in good or excellent condition; however, eight have been identified as being in either fair or poor condition. Both Bahia Honda bridges, Long Key Bridge, Channel 2 Bridge and Ohio Missouri Channel Bridge are in fair condition, while Cow Key Channel bridges and Tea Table Relief Bridge have been graded poor.

Work on bridges rated in fair and/or poor condition will begin soon. Plans to repair the Tea Table Relief Bridge is anticipated to occur in a few months. Construction is also tentatively scheduled in April 2010 for the Cow Key Channel bridges. Hurricane Irma repairs at both Bahia Honda bridges are also scheduled to begin within a few months, these bridges are currently undergoing engineering evaluations and bridge rehabilitations are tentatively scheduled to take place in the next few years.

Long Key Bridge rehabilitation was completed in May 2016 at a cost of \$12 million; however, there are repairs currently ongoing along with engineering evaluations for future rehabilitations. Channel 2 Bridge also underwent rehabilitation that was completed last year for \$1.8 million, and Ohio Missouri Channel Bridge was rehabilitated in January 2015 for \$2.5 million.

For the most part, bridge repairs and rehabilitations have little to no impact on traffic, except for the Cow Key Channel Bridges rehabilitation project. This project will require the replacement of three out of nine spans on each of the bridges. FDOT is working with the City of Key West and Monroe County to minimize the impact to the public throughout the course of this project.

In regards to embankments damaged by Hurricane Irma, the damages are not jeopardizing the conditions of the bridges.

For safety reasons, the public is not allowed any access to the bridge embankments.

Also, Lignumvitae Channel Bridge, located at Mile Marker 77.5, is scheduled for repairs in the summer due to Hurricane Irma damages.

It is the Department's mission to provide a safe transportation system for all users. Rest assured that all Department bridges within Monroe County are in sound condition and everyone should feel safe while using them.

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