

# **GUIDANCE FOR PART 1, CHAPTER 16**

**May 2026**

This document provides guidance for navigation coordination, including a sample Bridge Project Questionnaire and sample coordination letters.

[Bridge Project Questionnaire](#)

[USCG October 17, 2017 Letter](#)

[Sample Letter for Preliminary Determination of Navigational Clearance](#)



Commander  
Eighth Coast Guard District  
Hale Boggs Federal Building

500 Poydras St., Rm. 1313  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3310  
Staff Symbol: (dpb)  
Phone: (504 ) 671-2128  
[D8DBPALL@uscg.mil](mailto:D8DBPALL@uscg.mil)

### BRIDGE PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

Waterway Name  
Location  
County, State

Please provide the following information:

A. NAVIGATION DATA:

1. Name of Waterway: \_\_\_\_\_

1a. Mileage along waterway measured from mouth or confluence \_\_\_\_\_

1b. Tributary of: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Geographic Location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Road Number, City, County, State) and (**Latitude and Longitude in NAD 83 form**)

3. Township, section and range, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Tidally influenced at proposed bridge site? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ .  
Range of tide: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tidal data source: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Depth and width of waterway at proposed bridge site:

	Depths	Widths
At Mean High Tide	_____	_____.
At Mean Low Tide	_____	_____.

6. Character of present vessel traffic on waterway. If none, so state: None \_\_\_\_\_.  
Canoe \_\_\_\_\_ Rowboat \_\_\_\_\_ Small Motorboat \_\_\_\_\_ Cabin Cruiser \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Houseboat \_\_\_\_\_ Pontoon Boat \_\_\_\_\_ Sailboat .

6a. Provide vertical clearance requirement for largest vessel using the waterway:

6b. Provide photograph of each type of vessel using the waterway.

7. Are these waters used to transport interstate or foreign commerce?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 7a. Are these waters susceptible to use in their natural condition or by reasonable improvement as a means to support interstate or foreign commerce?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 7b. Any planned waterway improvements to permit larger vessels to navigate (to your knowledge)? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what are they? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Any natural or manmade obstructions, bridges, dams, weirs, etc. downstream or upstream? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 8a. If yes, provide upstream/downstream location with relation to the proposed bridge. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8b. If bridges are located upstream or downstream, provide vertical clearance at mean high water and mean low water and horizontal clearance normal to the axis of the channel. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8c. Provide a photograph of the bridge from the waterway showing channel spans.
9. Will the structure replace an existing bridge? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 9a. Provide permit number and issuing agencies of permits for bridge(s) to be replaced. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9b. Provide vertical clearance at mean high water and mean low water and horizontal clearance normal to the axis of the channel for the proposed bridge.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. List names and addresses of persons whose property adjoins bridge right-of-way.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. List names and addresses/location of marinas, marine repair facilities, public boat ramps, private piers/docks along the waterway within ½ mile of the bridge site.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Attach location map and plans for the proposed bridge; including vertical clearances above mean high water and mean low water and horizontal clearance normal to axis of the waterway.

13. Attach three (3) photographs taken at the proposed bridge site: one looking upstream, one looking downstream, and one looking along the alignment centerline across the bridge site.

Name of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of agent completing questionnaire: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of agent's firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Agent's telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address for correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE: MISSING INFORMATION AND REQUIRED SIGNATURES WILL  
DELAY PROCESSING**

Attachments: Location Map  
Bridge Plans  
Photographs

## USCG October 17, 2017 Letter

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
Eighth Coast Guard District  
Hale Boggs Federal Building

500 Poydras Street, Room 1313  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3310  
Staff Symbol: (dpb)  
Phone: (504) 671-2128  
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D8DPBALL@uscg.mil

165930  
October 17, 2017

Florida Department of Transportation  
District 3  
Highway 90 East  
Chipley, FL 32428

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

The Eighth Coast Guard District Bridge Branch is responsible for ensuring that bridge inspections, rehabilitations or maintenance projects do not alter drawbridge operations or impact navigation safety. We understand the need and often regulatory requirements to inspect and maintain bridges and that there are situations that require temporarily restricting drawbridge operations or temporarily changing bridge clearances to safely conduct work.

33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 117.35 (c) provides requirements to change drawbridge regulations and 33 CFR 114.10 establishes laws which are intended to prevent any interference with navigable waters of the United States whether by bridges, dams, dikes or other obstructions to navigation except by express permission of the United States.

Bridge maintenance, planned rehabilitations or repairs or inspections that require a temporary change to a drawbridge regulation, alter a bridge's clearances or impact navigation safety must be reported to the Coast Guard Bridge Branch before the beginning of work. Bridge owners should submit the below information by letter to the Eighth Coast Guard District Bridge Branch 60 days prior to the proposed date of work. Sixty days are needed to plan possible waterway restrictions or closures, temporarily change bridge operating schedules or coordinate navigation safety for projects that temporarily reduce the vertical or horizontal clearances of a bridge.

- Bridge owner project manager contact information: name, phone number, email address
- Name and contact information for any contractor or consultant designated to represent the bridge owner during the project (if any).
- Name, location, waterway name, waterway mile and type of bridge.
- Description of the proposed work.
- Dates and times of the proposed work.
- If the bridge is moveable - proposed temporary changes to the bridge operating schedule.
- If the bridge is fixed - proposed changes to temporary bridge clearances.
- The type and sizes of vessels or barges that will be used during the project (if any).
- Proposed locations in the waterway of vessels or barges used during the project.
- Proposed locations of any temporary anchorages needed during the project.
- Proposed location where vessels or barges will be secured after completion of work during the day or night.
- Other impacts to navigation and the navigation channel.
- Steps taken to reduce adverse impacts to navigation and the navigation channel.

165930  
October 17, 2017

Please contact me if you need additional information or would like to discuss these requirements. My contact information is: office phone number (504) 671-2127, cellular phone number (618) 225-7727, email [Douglas.A.Blakemore@uscg.mil](mailto:Douglas.A.Blakemore@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,

Doug Blakemore  
Chief Bridge Administration Branch  
U.S. Coast Guard  
By direction

## Sample Letter for Preliminary Determination of Navigational Clearance



Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
Seventh District

909 S. E. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (Rm 432)  
Miami, FL 33131  
Staff Symbol: (dpb)  
Phone: (305) 415-6736  
Fax: (305) 415-6763  
Email: randall.d.overton@uscg.mil

16590/2252  
January 13, 2017

Marlon J. Bizerra, P.E.  
District Environmental Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
801 N. Broadway Avenue  
Bartow, Florida 33830-3809

Dear Mr. Bizerra:

The Coast Guard has completed its review of the navigational needs study for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, between Manatee Avenue (SR-64), and Cortez Road W (SR 684). Based on our review we have made a preliminary determination that a minimum vertical clearance of 65 feet for fixed bridge structures on Manatee Avenue (SR-64), and Cortez Road W (SR 684) would be required to meet the reasonable needs of navigation on this stretch of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

In November 2016, the U.S. Coast Guard received a navigational needs study for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, between Manatee Avenue (SR-64), and Cortez Road W (SR 684). This report was prepared by Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RK&K) on behalf of the Florida Department of Transportation.

Based on our review of the navigational needs studies, the Coast Guard has made a preliminary determination that to provide for the reasonable needs of navigational on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, between Manatee Avenue (SR-64), and Cortez Road W (SR 684), a vertical clearance of at least 65 ft. is required for fixed bridge structures. Please note that this preliminary determination does not constitute an approval or final agency action. The Coast Guard can only make a final determination after processing a complete bridge permit application.

Please refer to the Coast Guard's Bridge Permit Application Guide located at [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg551/BPAG\\_Page.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg551/BPAG_Page.asp) to make application for a Coast Guard bridge permit. Please contact Mr. Randall Overton, (305)415-6736, with any questions. We look forward to working with FDOT and moving this project forward.

Sincerely,

RANDALL D. OVERTON  
Bridge Management Specialist  
U.S. Coast Guard

eCopy: Lieutenant Ashley Holm ([Ashley.E.Holm@uscg.mil](mailto:Ashley.E.Holm@uscg.mil)), Captain of the Port Office, St. Petersburg, FL