



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **FDOT's June 25 Updates on Roosevelt Bridge**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Today, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. visited the Roosevelt Bridge and received an update from the statewide team of bridge experts on site.\* The work on the northbound bridge continues in preparation for its re-opening sometime this weekend. No portion of the bridges will re-open until they are determined to be safe by the statewide team of bridge experts.

### **June 25 updates:**

Minor work that is needed prior to the re-opening of the northbound bridge to car traffic is ongoing and expected to continue to the weekend. Initial and second-level calculations have all indicated that once the minor work is completed, it will be safe for four lanes of car traffic (two in each direction) to traverse the northbound bridge beginning sometime this weekend. Upon re-opening, a 5-ton weight restriction will be necessary and the speed on the northbound bridge will be posted at 35mph. Emergency service vehicles including ambulances and fire trucks will be permitted. In addition, sport utility vehicles and pick-up trucks will also be permitted. Temporary traffic shift information will be provided over the next few days.

Testing and inspections of both bridges are continuing at this time. The department hopes to provide a timeline for re-opening the southbound bridge after tests and inspections are complete. Preliminary findings on the southbound bridge still indicate that a closure for an extensive period of time will be necessary.

The initial work to shore the southbound bridge has been completed, and work to install permanent supports for use during the bridge repairs is underway. Shoring efforts will continue, weather permitting. Once the shoring work under the southbound bridge is complete, the work to re-configure Dixie Highway, including the removal of existing curbs and sidewalks in some locations, will then begin. Upon completion of this re-configuration work, Dixie Highway is anticipated to re-open to all traffic. The final detour routes for all roadways will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

FDOT efforts also include:

- Continuing the re-configuration work on US-1, which included the removal of existing medians. Pavement and re-striping work has also begun.
- Sending samples to the FDOT laboratory in Gainesville to analyze the bridge materials and assist in identifying the cause of the issues.
- Monitoring the traffic on the detour routes and compiling recommendations to improve traffic flow.

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Finally, motorists traveling on Florida's Turnpike who are eligible to receive suspended tolls because of the Roosevelt detour, but do not have a SunPass transponder, MUST proceed as they typically would through the cash lane and obtain a paper ticket. When they exit the Turnpike, they must then give that ticket to the attendant so they will not be charged.

(\*Photos attributable to FDOT are attached.)

#### **Recent actions FDOT has taken in response to the Roosevelt Bridge:**

- **June 16**
  - During a routine biennial inspection period, and based upon feedback from local partners, FDOT inspectors found cracks on the southernmost span of the southbound Roosevelt Bridge. The Roosevelt Bridge is two separated bridges (three lanes each) over the St. Lucie River. In an abundance of caution, the Department closed the southbound bridge until a thorough safety inspection could be completed.
- **June 17**
  - Initial inspections of the northbound bridge identified areas of concern and the northbound bridge was also closed. FDOT immediately assembled a statewide team of bridge experts who began assessing the situation and performing a full structural review. The waterway and FEC railroad corridor remain unaffected. Motorists looking to cross the St. Lucie River on S.R. 707/Dixie Highway were instructed to follow detour signs. Law enforcement was also on-site providing assistance.
  - FDOT suspended tolls for traffic entering and exiting Florida's Turnpike between milepost 133 (Monterey Rd) and milepost 142 (Port St. Lucie Blvd) to facilitate the detour of traffic in and around the City of Stuart.
  - FDOT completed the initial interior visual and sounding inspection of the northbound and southbound portions of the Roosevelt Bridge. From there, experts began analyzing the results and completing a full structural review.
  - FDOT alerted the public there was no impact to marine traffic traveling underneath the Roosevelt Bridge.
- **June 18**
  - Bridge engineering experts arrived to assist in the full structural review and assessment of the Roosevelt Bridge. Experts include structures materials engineers from the FDOT Gainesville Materials Office, bridge engineering experts from the FDOT Central Office in Tallahassee, and consultant partners and contractors with expertise in bridge inspection, bridge analysis, materials testing, structures repair bridge shoring and construction. Ground penetrating radar equipment was used to check specific areas of the bridge, which were identified by bridge inspectors to allow FDOT to see inside the bridge deck to identify any potential corrosion areas.
  - FDOT began working on plans to support the southernmost span of the southbound bridge over Dixie Highway with the goal of safely opening Dixie Highway to traffic.
  - Inspections revealed the first span of the southbound bridge had severe corrosion causing the steel tendons that support the bridge to be severely deteriorated. FDOT advised road users that no individuals should be under, over or anywhere near this segment of the bridge and fenced off the entire area immediately.
  - The FDOT concrete inspection team used two "Snooper" trucks on Roosevelt Bridge to inspect the sides and underneath the bridge as part of a full structural review.
- **June 19**
  - Coordinated with local municipalities to adjust traffic signal timing and alleviate congestion due to the detour routes.

- Transported equipment used to support a portion of the first span of the southbound bridge. Crews worked throughout the night to get equipment in place as soon as possible.
- **June 20**
  - Began the installation of several towers that will be used to support a portion of the southbound bridge.
  - Continued to carefully drill into concrete to determine the locations of steel tendons to check for damage.
  - Brought in additional crew members and an additional snooper truck to inspect the exterior sides and bottom of the bridges.
  - Began the preparations on the northbound bridge to allow traffic in both directions.
- **June 21**
  - Coordinated with FEC to conduct an inspection of the underside of the bridge over the railroad tracks. Train speed was reduced to 10mph through the area.
  - Equipment, including light poles, was removed in order to allow for the shoring equipment to be installed.
  - Continued to carefully drill into concrete to determine the locations of steel tendons to check for damage.
  - Began the preparations on the northbound bridge to allow traffic in both directions.
  - Began the preparations on Dixie Highway to allow it open to traffic once a section of the first span of the southbound bridge is supported and safe.
- **June 22**
  - Continued to carefully drill into concrete to determine the locations of steel tendons to check for damage.
  - Continued the preparations on the northbound bridge to allow traffic in both directions.
  - Continued the preparations on Dixie Highway to allow it open to traffic once a section of the first span of the southbound bridge is supported and safe.
- **June 23**
  - Began re-configuration work, including removal of existing medians, on US-1.
  - Continued to carefully drill into concrete to determine the locations of steel tendons to check for damage.
  - Completed the preparations on the northbound bridge to allow traffic in both directions. FDOT striped the road for four lanes (two in each direction).
  - Continued the preparations on Dixie Highway to allow it open to traffic once a section of the first span of the southbound bridge is supported and safe.
  - Brought the FDOT load testing trucks to have them test actual loading on the northbound bridge and serve as a second level of verification in regard to load calculation.
- **June 24**
  - Completed testing, inspections, and bridge load capacity analysis on the northbound bridge.
  - Began minor work to be completed prior to the northbound bridge re-opening.
  - Continued the re-configuration work, including removal of existing medians, on US-1.
  - Continued inspection work on the southbound bridge.
  - Continued the preparations on Dixie Highway to allow it open to traffic once a section of the first span of the southbound bridge is supported and safe.

For additional real-time updates on the Roosevelt Bridge, follow FDOT District Four on social media:

- Twitter: [@MyFDOT\\_SEFL](https://twitter.com/MyFDOT_SEFL)
- Facebook: [@MyFDOTSEFL](https://www.facebook.com/MyFDOTSEFL)
- Instagram: [@myfdot\\_sefl](https://www.instagram.com/myfdot_sefl)

Members of the public wishing to receive these updates can also subscribe online by providing their email address on [fdot.gov/Roosevelt](http://fdot.gov/Roosevelt).

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