



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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### **FDOT's September 22 Updates on the Pensacola Bay Bridge Recovery Efforts**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) statewide team of bridge experts continues to inspect and assess the Pensacola Bay Bridge, including the substructure that is located underwater. The department understands how critical this facility is to the community and is also working to develop the repair plan necessary to restore the bridge back to a condition that will last for decades to come. These efforts are being done as quickly, but thoroughly, as possible and the exact timeline for completion of repairs remains unknown at this time.

Further preliminary inspection findings include (please refer to attached diagram for reference):

- At least four bridge piers have rotated as a result of barge impact, causing beam bearings to shift. Beam bearings that shift too much can result in an uneven level of stress on the span, potentially requiring additional repair work.
- At least one pier has suffered cracked pilings, which is the portion that extends underwater into the ground. FDOT continues to assess all piers to identify if any others have suffered cracks and will then determine a repair plan.
- No damage to arch section of the bridge deck has been detected at this time.

While FDOT's inspection work can certainly continue at other areas of the bridge, removing the contractor's barges from the bridge is necessary for FDOT to complete its full inspection. FDOT is working with the contractor and has requested that the contractor provide a timeline for the removal of the barges.

FDOT has an increased amount of crew members out inspecting the bridge due to the circumstances, but the conditions (wind and water clarity) are not favorable. For reference, a full inspection of this bridge under normal and favorable conditions can take up to three weeks.

As inspection efforts continue, FDOT will concurrently work to reconstruct the spans that need to be replaced and complete repairs that must be done before re-opening the bridge to traffic. Minor repairs that can be done while the bridge is open will be addressed and prioritized accordingly.

The bridge closure is still anticipated to be for an extended period of time. A more specific estimate and impacts to the current construction schedule will be known once the full

assessment and repair plan are determined. Once the situation is fully assessed, and damages are fully understood, appropriate parties will be held responsible for the repairs.

Motorists should continue to use all available detour routes, which include the Garcon Point Bridge and State Road 87. At this time, tolls on the Garcon Point Bridge have been suspended through 6 a.m., September 23.

Details on the detour routes, including graphics, FAQs, and regular updates can be found online at [fdot.gov/PensacolaBay](http://fdot.gov/PensacolaBay). Members of the public wishing to receive these updates can choose to subscribe by providing their email address on this website as well.

FDOT understands the contractor has dispatched a community outreach team and insurance claim specialists to assist impacted property owners. The contractor has asked property owners impacted by Skanska's barges or other equipment during Hurricane Sally to contact them at [pensacola@skanska.com](mailto:pensacola@skanska.com).

For additional real-time updates on the Pensacola Bay Bridge, follow FDOT District Three on social media:

- Twitter: [@MyFDOT\\_NWFL](https://twitter.com/MyFDOT_NWFL)
- Facebook: [@MyFDOTNWFL](https://www.facebook.com/MyFDOTNWFL)

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