



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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## **FDOT's June 20 Updates on Roosevelt Bridge**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) continues to work with a statewide team of bridge experts to assess the situation at the Roosevelt Bridge. FDOT continues to post updates on its [fdot.gov/Roosevelt](http://fdot.gov/Roosevelt) webpage and social media accounts regularly.

FDOT Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. remains in constant communication with FDOT District Four Secretary Gerry O'Reilly and bridge inspection experts to monitor the ongoing situation.

### **June 20 updates:**

Testing and inspections of both bridges are continuing throughout the weekend and will last until at least Wednesday, June 24. The department hopes to provide a timeline for re-opening after this time. No portion of the bridges will re-open until they are determined to be safe by the statewide team of bridge experts.

FDOT has begun the installation of several towers that will be used to support a portion of the southbound bridge.\* Crews are working in 12-hour shifts, and shoring equipment will continue to be installed throughout the weekend to allow for a full structural review. Preliminary findings on the southbound bridge still indicate that a closure for an extensive period of time will be necessary.

Additionally, crews continue to send samples to the FDOT laboratory in Gainesville to review the bridge materials and help identify the cause of the issues.

FDOT efforts also include:

- Closely examining the interior of the northbound bridge and carefully drilling to determine the locations of steel tendons to check for damage.\*
- Bringing in additional crew members and an additional snooper truck to inspect the exterior sides and bottom of the bridges.
- Beginning the preparations on the northbound bridge to allow traffic in both directions, once the northbound bridge is deemed safe to traverse.

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.

(\*Images attributable to FDOT attached for reference.)

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

- **June 16**
  - During a routine biannual 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.

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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