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For Immediate Release

June 23, 2020

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FDOT's June 23 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 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 23 updates:

Testing and inspections of both bridges are continuing and will last until at least tomorrow. 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. Preliminary findings on the southbound bridge still indicate that a closure for an extensive period of time will be necessary.

FDOT crews continue to work in 12-hour shifts. The work to shore the southbound bridge is ongoing at this time. While the shoring efforts were delayed due to weather, it is anticipated to be completed as soon as possible, weather permitting. For reference, large steel plates have been positioned on Dixie Highway and towers to support a portion of the southbound bridge are being installed.

FDOT has also finalized plans that will temporarily re-configure Dixie Highway and US-1 north and south of the bridge. This re-configuration work, which may include removal of existing curbs, sidewalks, and medians in some locations, began this morning on US-1. Once the shoring work under the southbound bridge is complete, the work to re-configure Dixie Highway will then begin. Upon completion of this re-configuration work, Dixie Highway will be re-opened to traffic. The final detour routes for all roadways will be determined based upon the results of the ongoing inspections and will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

Additionally, crews continue to send samples to the FDOT laboratory in Gainesville to analyze the bridge materials and assist in identifying the cause of the issues.

FDOT efforts also include:

- Bringing the FDOT load testing trucks to have them available when needed. These trucks test actual loading on the northbound bridge and serve as a second level of verification in regard to load calculation.
- Completed preparations on the northbound bridge to allow traffic in both directions, once the northbound bridge is deemed safe to traverse. While the department has striped the road for

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potentially four lanes (two in each direction), FDOT anticipates that, when safe, the northbound bridge will first open to two lanes (one in each direction).

- Monitoring the traffic on the detour routes and compiling recommendations to improve traffic flow.

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.

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 snoopier 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.

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.

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