



## **West Winterberry Bridge Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. How long will the bridge be closed?**

The situation at Winterberry Bridge has been evaluated by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) engineers, and they have determined the bridge is not at risk of collapsing. The City needs to make some technical modifications to provide counter-weighting to compensate for the compromised post-tensioning system, we can re-open the bridge early next week.

**2. Does the current bridge closure impact boating?**

Boating is not currently impacted by the bridge closure.

**3. How will traffic in the area be handled?**

Detour signs and closure signs have been posted around the Island. Marco Island Police Department is also working in the area to prevent traffic congestion. Residents should expect delays in that area and look for alternative routes before leaving home.

**4. When will the bridge replacement take place?**

FDOT is currently reviewing the design plans for the new bridge, and they have requested a time extension until Feb 15. Once the plans are approved and FDOT permits the project, the City will bid the project and award a contract to start reconstruction. We expect the contract to be awarded in April and construction to begin this summer.

**5. Was the FDOT inspection this week connected to the planned replacement project?**

No. All bridges on Marco Island are inspected annually and this was an annual safety inspection.

**6. Why is the City replacing the bridge?**

In 2020 City staff and City Council reviewed FDOT inspection reports indicating that the bridge was functionally obsolete and needed to be replaced. However, FDOT had given the bridge a score of 67 which allowed the bridge to stay open. Following these reports, City Council approved a contract to design a replacement bridge. The design is completed and under review by FDOT.

**7. How much will the bridge replacement cost?**

The total project cost is approximately \$3.5 million, with \$1.7 million in State funding and \$1.8 million in City funding. This project and the funding have already been approved by City Council.