

Summary of Comments Received During the Official Public Hearing Comment Period for the Beckett Bridge PD&E Study (January 29, 2014 to March 8, 2014)

An invitation letter, project fact sheet and public notice were mailed to approximately 1,200 property owners and other stakeholders three weeks prior to the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was held at the Tarpon Springs Yacht Club on February 26, 2014.

100 individuals signed in at the Public Hearing

6 individuals spoke at the Public Hearing

The Official Public Hearing Comment Period began the date that notifications/invitations for the Public Hearing were mailed to the public (January 29, 2014) and extended until 10 days after the Public Hearing (March 8, 2014) Comments received during the Official Public Hearing Comment Period included:

21 comment forms

1-email to Tony Horrnik from Mr. Faison

1 letter from Ms. Tarapani

Summary of Comments

19 – Supported Recommended Alternative

1 – Requested a new low-level fixed bridge

1 - Requested preservation of existing bridge

1 – Requested consideration of a fixed bridge or repair of existing bridge with the elimination of the “drawbridge functionality”.

Speakers at Public Hearing:

Five of the six speakers specifically stated that they supported the Recommended Alternative.

One objected and expressed desire for a low-level fixed bridge.

Comment Forms, Letters and Emails Received

14 individuals specifically supported Recommended Alternative

1 individual expanded on comments made at public hearing

2 individuals (Ms. Cyndi Tarapani and Mr. Robert Faison) objected to the Recommended Alternative

- Ms. Tarapani requested preservation of the existing bridge
- Mr. Faison requested consideration of a fixed bridge or repair of the existing bridge but eliminate the functionality of the drawbridge

4 individuals did not specifically state support for the Recommended Alternatives, but stated concerns or raised questions associated with the proposed replacement of the existing bridge.

Comments and Concerns Included:

Comments related to the Proposed Detour

- Is it possible to construct a temporary pedestrian bridge or provide a “ferry” for pedestrians during construction?
- Requested a temporary bridge during construction for vehicles and for emergency evacuation
- Suggested that construction techniques exist that could reduce detour time in half
- Requested detour signage that was clear to travelers, provided a specific detour signage plan
- Requested that roadways on the detour routes be repaired prior to closing the bridge

Comments related to the design/looks of the Recommended Alternative

- Requested design similar to existing, but wider with sidewalks and bike lanes as proposed.
- Requested that the new bridge be designed similar to existing historic bridge

Comments Related to Roadway and Drainage

- Spring Boulevard needs to be elevated because it floods during high tides during storms, preventing access to the bridge for evacuation.
- Requested that drainage improvements be made to the approach roadways.

Funding and Cost

- How will the bridge be funded?
- Will my property taxes be raised to pay for the bridge?

Other Comments

- Can future Commissioners change the status of the project since it will take several years to design?
- Boat access to the Bayou is needed for sanctuary during hurricanes.
- The new bridge should be “boat friendly” with bumpers that don’t obstruct the slips at the Tarpon Springs Yacht Club.
- A number of individuals expressed support for incorporating parts of the existing bridge into the new bridge.
- The existing speed bumps are not necessary. The speed bumps cause safety problems for two-wheel vehicles. Local police should enforce the speed limits.
- Are there plans to deepen or restore the channel?
- There is an active osprey nest near the site.
- Requested that boat owners be able to operate the movable span remotely to eliminate the need for County staff to open the bridge

Two individuals who own property immediately adjacent to the bridge expressed concerns about how the proposed project could affect their property.

Stephen Katsarelis, owner of the single family residence in the southeast corner of the bridge, across from the Yacht Club **supported the recommended alternative** but expressed the following concerns:

- Concerned about privacy of his pool and hot tub from the raised bridge
- Concerned about impacts to his privacy fence and hedge

- Concerned about safety – specifically speeding on wider bridge, stated that more effective speed bumps should be considered
- Requested additional information about contaminated sites mentioned in the public hearing presentation

Robert Faison, resident at 408 Riverside Drive, immediately adjacent to the bridge in the northwest quadrant, across from Bayshore Mobile Home Park, **objected to the Recommended Alternative.** Mr. Faison recommended that the County consider a fixed bridge or repair the existing bridge but eliminate “the draw bridge functionality”. He also expressed the following concerns about impacts from the Recommended Alternative:

Impacts from traffic noise from additional traffic

Impacts to view

Safety exiting residential driveway

Increase in traffic accidents

Impacts of Construction noise

Impacts to wood privacy fence

Impacts to his current access to the sidewalk on Riverside Drive

Ms. Tarapani , president of the Tarpon Springs Preservation Society, requested that the existing bridge be restored.

List of Individuals who Submitted Comments

Speakers at Public Hearing

Bill Joyce

Wendy Crosato

Stephen Katsarelis

Donald Goodrich

Dan Culo

Comment Forms

John Stamas

William Stamas

Bill Stamas

James Stamas

Anna Stamas

Adrienne Blakely

Mary Klimas Coburn

Kathryn Demos

Teresa DeWeerd

Dichtas (no first name)

Shawna Flanders

Carol Garnaut

Herzog
Barbara Hodges
Bill Joyce
Tim Keffalas
James Kolianos
Phyllis Kolianos
Dorothy Lee
R Scott Moorhead
L Plowright

Emails

Robert Faison
Cyndi Tarapani (emailed and mailed letter dated March 8, 2014)