



# SUMMARY

## Bridge Aesthetics Committee Meeting on May 27, 2021

Cortez Road (SR 684) from SR 789 (Gulf Drive) to 123<sup>rd</sup> Street West  
Bridge Replacement Design (Manatee County)  
FPID Number: 430204-2-52-01

**LOCATION** Virtual Meeting (via GoToMeeting)

**TIME** 10:00 am – 11:30 am

**ATTENDEES** ***Committee Members***  
Joe Adorna, Cortez Park (Cortez Park)  
Connie Morrow, Cortez resident and Bradenton Beach property owner  
Ann Marie Nicholas, Room with a Hue (Bradenton Beach)  
Bobby Woodson, Tide Tables Restaurant (Cortez)

***Others in Attendance***  
Gwen Woodson, Tide Tables Restaurant (Cortez)  
Kevin, Van Ostenbridge, Manatee County Commissioner – District #  
Anne Ferrado-Klemet  
Kane Kaiman, *The Islander*

***Project Team***  
Roxann Lake, Florida Department of Transportation (Project Manager)  
Doug Hershey, Lochner (Consultant Project Manager)  
Adrian Moon, WSP  
Rachel Rodgers, LA Design  
Laura Turner, Laura Turner Planning Services

**Unable to Attend** ***Committee Members***  
Jeff Vey, Bridgeport Condos (Bradenton Beach)  
Mayor John Chappie, Bradenton Beach  
Joe Rodgers, Seafood Shack (Cortez)  
Karen Bell, Tide Tables (Cortez)  
Michael Bazy, Bradenton Beach Marina  
Gloria Weir, Cortez Park (Cortez)  
David Galuszka

**PREPARED BY:** Laura Turner

**Date:** June 8, 2021

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is preparing design plans for the Cortez Road bridge replacement from SR 789 (Gulf Drive) in Bradenton Beach to 123<sup>rd</sup> Street West in Bradenton. The Bridge Aesthetics Committee (BAC) consists of community representatives from Cortez and Bradenton Beach, providing input on the bridge aesthetics. The group's eighth meeting was held on May 27, 2021. This is the final BAC meeting related to initial aesthetics input into the design project. The group may reconvene at a future time. This summary provides the highlights of that meeting discussion, which followed a PowerPoint presentation (slides

attached for reference).

In addition, this meeting was recorded and the video may be viewed by using this link:  
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#!/s/6c4d7b870b5c373c398b67c2a0784eed6347bcbf0c735ce324c901ba86dd84dc>

Roxann Lake, FDOT Project Manager, welcomed the group and introduced the project team and the BAC members in attendance. She also noted that she is available for one-on-one conversations at any time.

## **Agenda**

Following introductions, Adrian Moon reviewed the meeting agenda:

- Team and committee introductions;
- Recap of past BAC decisions;
- Eastern approach – area under structure;
- Finalize color palette;
- Pier Rustication and texture;
- MSE wall at approaches below 5 feet;
- Additional feedback from the community; and
- Next steps.

It was noted the BAC focuses only on the bridge aesthetics; input not related to aesthetics could be shared at the end of the meeting as time allowed. Likewise, non-BAC members had the opportunity to share comments at the end of the meeting.

## **Brief Recap of BAC Decisions (slides 3 through 9)**

Previous BAC selections were reviewed.

- Pier aesthetics and geometry: reviewed 9 options and selected 1 final
- Aesthetic lighting: outside faces only; subtle; LED color adjusted
- Rail concepts: reviewed 9 options and selected 1 final
- MSE wall: reviewed 7 options and selected 1 final
- Landscaping: lower level, natural groupings; use species native to coastal habitat
- Pedestrian and roadway lighting: selected lower level, decorative option
- Main span overlooks: selected rounded open overlook shape; no benches; panoramic plaques

## **Eastern Approach – Area Under Structure (slides 11 through 15)**

The area under the structure at the eastern approach was reviewed. It was noted that the new bridge will be offset from the existing bridge to the north. The project team wanted additional input from the BAC about how this area should be used. No decisions were made at this meeting. However, the greatest and best use of the area under the bridge will be an ongoing discussion during the design process.

## **BAC Input**

- Bobby Woodson: would like more parking in this area; looks great
- Connie Morrow: likes the idea of the sidewalk; would like to include benches; need to make sure this roadway is wide enough to allow trucks pass each other and still be able to bicycle [each lane will be 11-foot wide which accommodates trucks; sidewalk will be

on the east side of the road; dedicated bike lanes adjacent to travel lanes underneath the bridge]

- Joe Adorna
  - have more parking where the trees are shown in the concept; spaces needed for Tide Tables
  - concerned about safety for residents next to the new sidewalk; would like to have a barrier or screening between the public sidewalk and the private residential property; landscaping between the sidewalk and the residential lots would be acceptable [already making adjustments to address this concern; moved the sidewalk further to the north (closer to the MSE wall); if utilities are located between the sidewalk and the residents, it may be difficult to add landscaping in this area; majority of Cortez Park's existing PVC fence is in FDOT right-of-way]
  - Slides show Avenue B and it should be Avenue A (northern most east/west road in Cortez Park)
  - Cortez Park keeps Avenue A closed so Tide Tables customers can't cut through Cortez Park (private streets)
- Ann Marie Nicholas: looks like wasted space; make sure this area's uses do not make it an attraction; favors more parking for Tide Tables

### **Finalize Color Palette** (slides 16 through 25))

The color palette for the bridge elements was reviewed. Colors were selected based on the color palette found in these communities. The blues and teals are tied to the water colors; tan hues are tied to the beach sand (darker shades for wet sand and lighter shades for dry sand). White and off-white are for accents. Color chips from Lowe's were mailed to BAC members since colors show up differently on each computer. The colors selected will be matched with equivalent colors from the 595b Federal Standard Color Book, which is used to specify color finishes for FDOT project.

### **Bridge**

Blues will be used for the railing; sand/tan colors will be used for the bridge and piers; and white/off-white will be used for accents.

#### ***BAC Input***

- Connie Morrow: prefers the darker shades of blue; leans toward more blue than teal
- Ann Marie Nicholas: leaning towards the lighter blues than the darker ones and prefers a little more green
- Joe Adorna: likes the colors shown on the slide; "Mid-ship" color chip

### **Piers and Structures**

The tan color palette was reviewed from darker shades to lighter ones.

#### ***BAC Input***

- Ann Marie Nicholas: likes all the different shades; doesn't like the gray tones; likes the darker shades; "Serene Tan" and "Simplified Beige" from the color chips
- Connie Morrow: agrees with Ann Marie Nicholas' selections; likes a pink undertone
- Joe Adorna: concurs with the Ann Marie Nicholas' selections (may be too much); also likes "Cloth and Stone" from the color chips

### **Pedestrian and Roadway Lighting Fixtures**

Previously, the BAC selected the decorative light poles over the standard ones. Black provides a lot of contrast. Jeff Vey had suggested that a brushed aluminum finish be used so the poles would seem to disappear.

#### ***BAC Input***

- Connie Morrow: okay with the decorative light pole with the brushed aluminum finish
- Ann Marie Nicholas: would like the poles to be the same color as the railing; silver color is too modern
- Joe Adorna: not the blue color; brush aluminum is okay; prefers tan palette that matches the bridge

### **Pier Rustication and Texture (slides 26 through 31)**

Past BAC discussion that it should be subtle and gaudy. Texture can be added, which will be noticed close up but not from a distance. The group needs to decide between a clean, flat finish or a crushed shell beach texture.

#### ***BAC Input***

- Connie Morrow: likes the rough texture for the uprise
- Ann Marie Nicholas: likes the texture; crushed shell
- Joe Adorna: likes the texture

### **Paneling – insets**

This is the treatment of the pier faces. The group needs to decide between a pendant on top or flat with coping.

#### ***BAC Input***

- Connie Morrow: likes the pendant and inset; also likes a simple look
- Ann Marie Nicholas: likes the insets and trim; likes contrast as shown; likes the cheek walls
- Joe Adorna: likes the pendant and inset

### **MSE Wall at Approaches Below 5 Feet (slide 32)**

It was noted that each MSE wall panel is 5 feet high. Typically, less than 5 feet in height, the MSE wall is switched to concrete face. The concrete face can have the same look for visual continuity.

#### ***BAC Input***

- Connie Morrow: prefers the continuous look
- Ann Marie Nicholas: prefers the continuous look
- Joe Adorna: prefers the continuous look

### **Questions**

- Will trucks be able to make deliveries to Tide Tables once the new bridge is in place?
  - Wants to make sure that there will be enough vertical clearance for semi-trucks to make deliveries to Tide Tables [yes; minimum vertical clearance is 16.5 feet, the same for every bridge within the state of Florida]

- Will trucks be able to back out after deliveries are made at Tide Tables? [be able to pull straight in and then straight out; turning analysis can be done; Mr. Woodson should submit truck specs (Gold Coast Eagle and SYSCO) to Roxann Lake for the project team to use for the turning analysis]
- Delivery times vary; early day deliveries when possible
- At the eastern approach, will RVs be able to access Cortez Park and park in one of the six lots along the northern edge of Cortez Park? [a turning analysis can be done; Joe Adorna should provide Roxann Lake with vehicle specifications for the analysis]
- Is the extension of 127<sup>th</sup> Street West the only access to Tide Tables when coming from the east? [yes]
- How will Cortez Park be accessed if coming from the east? [using 125<sup>th</sup> Street West to Avenue C and Avenue D or using the jug handle to take 127<sup>th</sup> Street West under the bridge]
- Is there a location where project information and previous BAC meeting summaries can be reviewed? [Yes; visit the project website at [www.cortezbridge.com](http://www.cortezbridge.com); also includes documents from the PD&E study (work completed before the design phase)]
- A recent article mentioned a 3<sup>rd</sup> lane on the bridge; will this happen? [This potential was discussed at the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MPO Board to accommodate transit or bus service; the 44-foot median could accommodate but is not part of this bridge design project since there is no receiving lane on Gulf Drive; a separate PD&E Study will focus on Gulf Drive and will address this issue.]

## General Discussion

- The BAC members complimented the project team on this process. Pleased that the discussions remained focused on the aesthetics; wonderful process; willing to help in the future
- Would like the conversation to continue related to Cortez Park – RV parking and sidewalk location
- BAC volunteers were thanked for their contributions; would like to have a couple of BAC follow up meetings later in the design process
- Great process; BAC was able to reach consensus which will lead to a beautiful Cortez Bridge
- Found the meeting informative; will review prior meeting summaries and information

## Questions from Kane Kaiman (*The Islander*)

The following questions were asked and answered at the meeting.

- Is this the last BAC meeting? [as related to the initial decisions on aesthetics; BAC may reconvene later on to address specific issues]
- Can the Manatee Board of County Commissioners change the BAC decisions? [No; the BAC was authorized to make aesthetic decisions for the bridge; changes would occur only if something were not feasible to do; noted that the options shared were structurally and financially feasible]
- Will other players weigh in on the area under the bridge at the east approach? [yes; the FDOT right of way group will review this area and determine what can be done; it is anticipated that additional input will be solicited from area businesses before a final decision is made]

## **Project Contact**

All questions and comments about this project should be directed to Roxann Lake (FDOT Project Manager).

FDOT – District One Project Manager  
Roxann Lake, CPM  
Phone: 863-519-2990  
Email: Roxann.Lake@dot.state.fl.us

## **Action Items**

- Bobby Woodson will provide Roxann Lake with the dimensions of the delivery trucks (length, height, axel spacing, etc.) for input into turning analysis
- Joe Adorna will provide Roxann Lake with the dimensions of the RVs that park at Cortez Park for input into turning analysis

## **Topics for Continued Discussion and Consideration**

- At the bridge's eastern approach, the use of the area under the bridge (between Tide Tables and Annie's)
- Accessibility of large vehicles (delivery trucks and RVs) to/from Tide Tables and Cortez Park; including turning analysis to determine what will work in this area
- Visual treatment between Cortez Park residents (northern edge of community) and sidewalk
- Overall landscaping treatment

Attachment: Meeting #8 presentation slides