



SUMMARY

Bridge Aesthetics Committee Meeting on January 20, 2021

Cortez Road (SR 684) from SR 789 (Gulf Drive) to 123rd 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***
Jeff Vey, Bridgeport Condos
Ann Marie Nicholas, Room with a Hue
Connie Morrow, Cortez resident and Bradenton Beach property owner

Project Team
Roxann Lake, Florida Department of Transportation (Project Manager)
Kaylene Johnson, Florida Department of Transportation
Doug Hershey, Lochner (Consultant Project Manager)
Adrian Moon, WSP
Laura Turner, Laura Turner Planning Services

Unable to Attend ***Committee Members***
Mayor John Chappie, Bradenton Beach
Joe Rodgers, Seafood Shack
Karen Bell, Tide Tables
Michael Bazzy, Bradenton Beach Marina
Joe Adoma, Cortez Park

PREPARED BY: Laura Turner

Date: January 28, 2021

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has begun design plans for the Cortez Road bridge replacement from SR 684 (Gulf Drive) in Bradenton Beach to 123rd 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 third meeting was held on January 20, 2021. 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/c970aa06b5e725b5041745b1ae0a562590d1c1634ff3b6386ca2313906d8df30>.

Roxann Lake, FDOT Project Manager, welcomed the group and noted that she is available for one-on-one conversations at any time

Agenda

Following introductions, Adrian Moon reviewed the meeting agenda:

- Summary of what the BAC shared at the last meeting;
- Overview of the pier options packet;
- Community input on the pier options;
- New feedback from the community; and
- Next steps.

Input from Meeting #2

- Preference for more historic pier alternatives
- Use of stone textures
- Incorporation of images or insignias
- Aesthetic lighting should be subtle, understated
- Keep fishing pier simple

Review of Pier Options

Before the BAC meeting, a set of pier options was sent to the BAC members for their review and review with their communities. Before the BAC discussion, Mr. Moon reviewed the option features, which are included in the presentation slides.

Concept A (Image 10)	Base with arches
Concept B (Image 11)	Architectural elements
Concept C (image 12)	More modern options
Concept D (Image 13)	Basic option, most economical
Concept E (image 14)	Reminiscent of historic bridges, includes textures
Concept F (Image 15)	Channel face, bulkier option, historic river crossings
Concept G (Image 16)	Red brick option, arch truss element
Concept H (Image 17)	Similar to Concept G, different color
Concept I (Image 18)	Greater diamond arch

It was also noted that each pier option can accommodate overlooks.

BAC Input on Pier Options

The BAC members shared their ideas on the pier options, including input from their respective communities.

Connie Morrow

- Likes Concept E
 - Double arches
 - Texture
 - Simplicity
- Likes Concept C
 - Clean, simple lines
 - Simplicity
- Noted that trees have been removed (not suitable for given climate) along Cortez Road and there is a planting plan running up to 75th Street

Jeff Vey

- Sent the pier options packet to all the residents (45); 7 or 8 responded; 4 or 5 active discussions with Jeff
- No bridge (Not In My Backyard); some didn't care
- Leaning toward Concept I, when looking at the bridge itself (and not context or setting)
- Liked other concepts when looking at the context/setting, similar to Connie's input
- Noted that the bridge should be closely tied to location; two distinct communities at each end of the bridge – Cortez (historic fishing village) and Bradenton Beach
- Priorities should be
 - Function first
 - Value engineering – don't spend a lot of money on silly stuff
 - Bridge should be understated and not massive; don't compete with natural surrounding
- Specific Concept Input from Bridgeport Condos
 - Concept A Doesn't obstruct the view, blah but nice bridge, simple, subtle, vertical adds interest, geometric look is okay
 - Concept B Obstructs view, calls attention to bridge, old city, London, no dolphins or boats, under train station
 - Concept C Minimal, needs texture at the base, simple, needs single pier cap, looks not as stable, didn't like squared off separate caps
 - Concept D okay, too rectangular, boring, industrial look, pier reminds of the Greek letter PI or a Chinese character, boring
 - Concept E Look at the bridge and not the water, layered wedding cake, somewhat over stated, base is too much but nice
 - Concept F Rectangular, too much mass, geometric blocks view, not beachy
 - Concept G Too much detail, takes away from natural beauty, No No No, old city
 - Concept H Pretty but somewhere else, not beachy, gaudy
 - Concept I Bridge not water, not at this location,
- Discussion with 3 individuals
 - Prefers simple concepts, like Image 3/Concept C (better if there is a solid pier cap instead of two)
 - Concept E (Image 5): have base a bit narrower with the texture of Concept C
 - Concept C (Image 3): pier cap looks like a seagull (wing span), understated, doesn't make you look at the bridge; make the base more textural (coquina mentioned)
 - Have understated lighting; should be subtle
 - 2 distinct communities
 - Bradenton Beach – palm trees, shells, sunset, earth
 - Cortez: fishing, boats, sunrise, birds[Opportunities to include design elements to reflect these two distinct communities: MSE walls at the bridge approaches and pedestrian railings]

Ann Marie Nicholas

- Talked to the Cortez community about the pier options
- More concerned about two other items
 - Ability to make turns out of the Cortez community in order to get onto Cortez Road and to the bridge[123rd Street is being extended into a “jug handle” configuration (not a roundabout) so to provide access to Cortez Road and to the bridge; plan sheet shows this new configuration; provide link to the documents previously completed for reference]

- Plantings in the medians; will there be palm trees?
[There will be no palm trees in the median for this project; in fact, there are no opportunities for landscaping for this project]
- Likes Concepts E, F, H, and I
- Didn't like Concepts A, B, C, D, G (too big)
- Concept E (Image 14), prefers more historic look to the bridge
- Concept G: does not like the red brick
 - Prefers a shell base; coquina base, variety of shells [can use a coquina-like pattern instead of the red brick; "artistic texture of shell shapes"]
 - Lighter grey color looks better
- Likes less pier; likes wrought iron accents

Joe Adoma (emailed comments)

- Likes Concept A (Image 19)

Questions

- How will the pier bases be kept clean? [footers are found on bridges throughout Florida and not unique to this concept; to prevent debris from collecting on the footers, they will be placed 1 foot above the high water elevation; for any questions about the bridge, a resident can call the FDOT PIO]
- Will there be the same number of spans as today? [There will be about 50% fewer piers than today; the existing bridge has 30 piers and the new bridge have 18 to 20 piers]
- Some of the options have overhanging; looks like the piers are "holding up the bridge" so that the bridge appears smaller than the piers; can the columns be extended around the end of the bridge? [yes, the columns can be extended up around the ends]
- Is the intersection at Gulf Drive being addressed; concerned about the traffic issues that exist today and how they will be addressed once the new bridge is in place? [Bridge design includes only a tie down just west of Gulf Drive with the addition of a turn lane; does not include this intersection; however, a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study is scheduled to begin after the bridge design project, which will focus on this intersection]
- Are there any other projects? [Project to the east of the bridge project was just completed and no others in the area; west end will have the PD&E study for the Gulf Drive intersection]

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

- Pare down the pier options (targeting three) by using this input, which will be shared at the next BAC meeting for a final decision
- Provide a link to the previously completed documents
- Next meeting will be from 10 am to noon on February 10, 2021 (virtually); information packet will be sent in advance of the meeting so the BAC members can review and share with their communities beforehand