



# SUMMARY

## Bridge Aesthetics Committee Meeting on April 1, 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***  
Jeff Vey, Bridgeport Condos (Bradenton Beach)  
Joe Adorna, Cortez Park (Cortez)  
Connie Morrow, Cortez resident and Bradenton Beach property owner

***Others in Attendance***  
Kane Kaiman, *The Islander*

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

**Unable to Attend** ***Committee Members***  
Ann Marie Nicholas, Room with a Hue (Bradenton Beach)  
Mayor John Chappie, Bradenton Beach  
Joe Rodgers, Seafood Shack (Cortez)  
Karen Bell, Tide Tables (Cortez)  
Michael Bazzy, Bradenton Beach Marina  
Gloria Weir, Cortez Park (Cortez)  
Bobby Woodson, Tide Tables Restaurant (Cortez)  
David Galuszka

**PREPARED BY:** Laura Turner

**Date:** April 8, 2021

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is preparing design plans for the Cortez Road bridge replacement from SR 684 (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 sixth meeting was held on April 1, 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/e6039cd6ef45e91d7063edfb9197801f296c8c9ed1fcb164ec471c5db7f15c77>.

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;
- Review of BAC's previous work;
- BAC request for additional simulations;
- Refined Aesthetic lighting;
- Refined Decorative railing;
- MSE wall options and discussion;
- 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.

## **Review of Previous BAC Input (slides 4 through 7)**

Adrian Moon provided a quick review of the previous aesthetics discussed by the committee. It was noted that there are other issues associated with the bridge, separate from the aesthetics discussion. The BAC decisions on the bridge aesthetics will apply, regardless of the bridge's height.

The consensus building process has been interactive with the project team providing options for BAC discussion and feedback; refinements were made based on BAC input.

- Pier Aesthetics and Geometry – 9 options reviewed, narrowed down to 2 options, and then 1 final selection (see slide 4)
- Aesthetic Lighting – reviewed multiple colors and intensities followed by refinements; Committee consensus was to have color flexibility and have subtle lighting
- Initial Pedestrian Railing Options (slide 6) – 9 options reviewed, narrowed down to 2 options; final decision to be made at today's meeting; colors will be selected later when the final aesthetics package is reviewed (for consistent color palette)
- Introduction to MSE Walls – specific views and wall height reviewed at various locations; more in depth discussion at today's meeting

## **Additional Requested Simulations (slides 8 through 20)**

- Bridgeport Condos (slides 8 through 17)
  - Used survey data to identify specific views from Bridgeport (as noted in the slides); views from 2 buildings and the parking area next to the pool
  - Noted that sunrise will move throughout the year (at southernmost point, it will be above the marina buildings and at northernmost point, it will be left of the bridge)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> bridge span height will remain unchanged, regardless of bridge height

### ***BAC Input***

Jeff Vey

- Okay with the versions presented although would rather see sunrise than the bridge
- Describe the MSE wall at parking/pool location [it will be at grade to base of wall; little or no berm due to space constraints]
- Noted lots of utilities in this area
- Cortez Park (slides 18 through 20)
  - 2 perspectives: along the water (next to Tide Tables) and Avenue A at Central Avenue

### ***BAC Input***

- Connie Morrow - submitted an email with a request for additional perspectives in Cortez (looking north from Tide Tables and looking south from Annie's and Seafood Shack) and include a view from the canal (north side of Cortez at Annie's).
- Joe Adorna – also would like to see additional views from Tide Tables (parking lot facing the MSE wall); also where the road goes under the bridge

The project team will coordinate with Connie Morrow and Joe Adorna on a couple of additional views in Cortez. The project team is working on visuals that simulate the travel experience to and from the bridge. Since these visuals address a range of design elements (not just aesthetics), a separate meeting can be scheduled which would focus on these new perspective visuals.

### **Lighting Options (slides 21 through 29)**

The three options now under consideration are: all 3 faces, 2 inside faces, and 2 outside faces. The BAC consensus is for outside faces.

### ***BAC Input***

- Connie Morrow: prefers outside face; diminishes view of bridge
- Jeff Vey: prefers outside face; fits in with subtle lighting preference
- Consistent with earlier input from Ann Marie Nicholas

### **Pedestrian Railing Options (slide 30)**

The railing color will be selected later when the final aesthetics package is reviewed (for consistent color palette). The two options now under consideration are the wave pattern (horizontal strip along the top) and picket. The BAC consensus is for the wave pattern.

### ***BAC Input***

- Jeff Vey: either one is fine; the wave adds interest; colors – doesn't like white (too much contrast) and darker colors are okay (tend to blend in); black or blue will work
- Connie Morrow: likes the wave option; colors – white provides too much contrast in a negative way; likes blue color
- Joe Adorna: prefers the picket option

## MSE Wall Options (slides 32 through 47)

There are four locations for MSE walls: two at the west end of the bridge and two at the east end of the bridge. The walls are the transitions from where the bridge structure ends to the existing roadway. The options have subtle patterns, including sand, waves, and schools of fish. Patterns can either be painted or within the casting of the concrete panels. It was noted that the walls at Bridgeport will mostly be in the shade. The walls will be softened with landscaping, as much as possible and reflect what the community wants.

## BAC Input

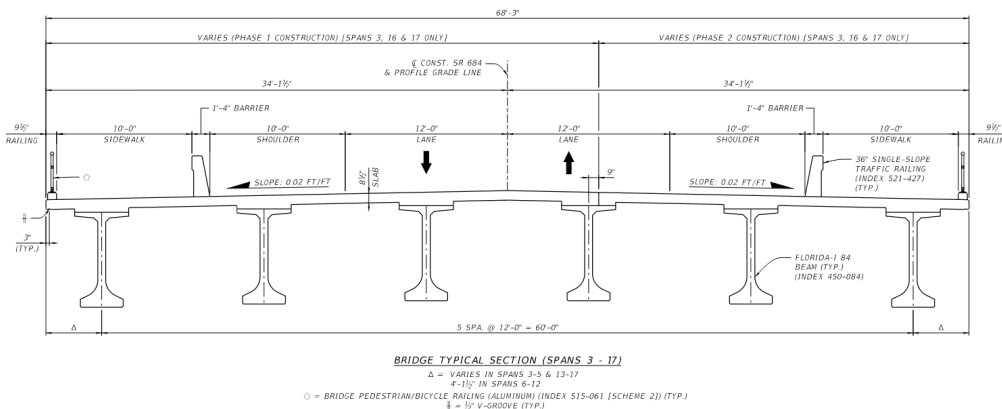
- Jeff Vey: doesn't like vertical stripes; prefers waves and schools of fish (slides 32, 33, and 36)
- Connie Morrow: doesn't like the big waves; prefers the thinner wave with schools of fish; have more sand than fish; more subtle design (slides 32, 33, and 36)
- Joe Adorna: likes the design on the top with lighter coloring on the bottom; most want "beachy" design on the wall; one with the large waves is too much; keep it subtle wave and school of fish at the top and bottom (slides 32 and 33; no community comments on slide 36)
- The project team will follow up with Ann Marie Nicholas for her input on the wall design.

## Discussion

- Are there additional maintenance issues if the images are painted rather than part of the concrete wall casting? [paint is made for Florida weather conditions and would resist sun, wind, etc.]
- Jeff Vey expressed an interest in having a photo embedded into the MSE wall, which would show what you'd see on the other side; understands that this may be expensive [another option for the wall images is to commission artists who create sand sculptures (part of the beach culture) to develop a concept for a spot on the wall; Adrian Moon will check on the viability of engaging an artist and completing the concept within the overall project schedule]

## General Discussion

- Please clarify the width of the bridge elements; difficult to determine from the railing perspective images. [12-foot travel lane, 10-foot shoulder, 32-inch high concrete wall (separates vehicles from sidewalk), 8-foot sidewalk and the outside rail]; a typical section with this information was sent to the group during the meeting (see below)



- Connie Morrow would like to see how access will work in the Cortez area, specifically from Avenues A and B and 126<sup>th</sup>, 127<sup>th</sup>, and 128<sup>th</sup> Streets [Project team can meet with the Cortez community separately within the next 30 days; Connie will send available dates to Roxann Lake]
- Jeff Vey will continue to work with Roxann Lake on a date for meeting with the Bridgeport Condo community; looks like the week of May 9<sup>th</sup> would be good

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

The following questions were asked and answered at the meeting.

- Clarification of the Cortez Park perspective
- Does the wall height change if the bridge's maximum height changes? [not on the western approach; but will vary on the eastern approach; noted that the navigational channel is not in the center so each side is affected differently]
- Where can I find visuals or graphics that compare the different bridge heights? [the PD&E study produced renderings which are found on [www.cortezbridge.com](http://www.cortezbridge.com)]
- How did you become a member of the BAC? [FDOT looked for community leaders and input from local communities; an array of individuals were contacted through emails, phone calls, and announcements at the Sarasota-Manatee MPO committee meetings; noted that BAC members were asked to share meeting information with their communities and return with that input and that interactive process has worked well in reaching consensus on bridge aesthetics]
- Where can the BAC meeting information (including the meeting video) be accessed? [will be posted on the project website which is being updated; estimated time for posting is in 2 weeks]
- Additional questions should be sent to Roxann Lake via email

### **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](mailto:Roxann.Lake@dot.state.fl.us)

### **Action Items**

- The project team will coordinate with Connie Morrow and Joe Adorna to identify additional views in Cortez.
- Adrian Moon will check on the viability of engaging an artist and completing the concept within the overall project schedule.
- The project team will follow up with Ann Marie Nicholas for her input on the wall design.
- Connie Morrow will contact Roxann Lake with potential meetings dates for separate discussion on how access will work in the Cortez community.
- Jeff Vey will work with Roxann Lake on scheduling a meeting with the Bridgeport community.
- A separate meeting can be scheduled to focus on the different viewing perspectives.
- Kane Kaiman will email Roxann Lake with a list of additional information questions.

- The date and time for the next BAC meeting will be determined and will be held virtually. An information packet will be sent in advance of the meeting so the BAC members can review and share with their communities beforehand

Attachment: Meeting #6 presentation slides