

Stephanie Garcia

From: Town Clerk
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 10:10 AM
Subject: FW: Longboat Pass Bridge

FYI

From: james haft <jameshaft@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 8:46 AM
To: Town Clerk <TClerk@longboatkey.org>
Cc: Maureen Merrigan <maureenmerrigan@mac.com>; Paul Hylbert <paul.hylbert@kodiakbp.com>; Jeff Driver <driverjh@comcast.net>
Subject: Longboat Pass Bridge

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Dear Commissioners –

The Board of LBK North strongly opposes a 78 high fixed bridge for Longboat Pass. Our preference would be the lower bascule bridge option, but frankly any option, including no-build, would be preferable to giant fixed bridge.

Tal Saddique was at our LBK North meeting yesterday. He will support whatever bridge option that the Town and its residents favor.

To reiterate our concerns about the high fixed bridge option:

1. It will be vastly out of scale and would destroy the natural character of our scenic inlet, which at 1000 feet is much narrower than at John Ringling.
2. The height and slope will be challenging, and likely dangerous, to elderly pedestrians and bikers.
3. A fixed bridge will do little to alleviate north-end traffic problems. The traffic headaches are caused primarily by issues on Anna Maria: thousands of cars exiting Coquina lots, lack of right turn lanes, the Bridge Street roundabout, etc. When traffic is backed up onto LBK, a 5 minute bridge opening makes little difference as it takes over an hour to get to Cortez road.
4. At 78 feet, the Longboat Bridge would be the third highest in the State, after only the Sunshine Skyway and Jacksonville I-275 bridges. That's a podium we should not be on.

LBK North represents the 29 neighborhood and condominium association on the north end of the island. With the exception of a few people, no one on the north end wants to see a mega bridge in our community.

We are hopeful the Town commission will issue a strong letter to FDOT opposing a high fixed bridge. Together with support from our County and State representatives, we're hopeful that FDOT will be responsible to the concerns of our residents.

LBK North

Maureen Merrigan, Paul Hylbert, Jeff Driver and James Haft, co-chairs