



TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

Incorporated November 14, 1955

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March 23, 2026

The Honorable Jamie Driggers, Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
801 N. Broadway Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830

DRAFT

Re: Longboat Pass Bridge Replacement

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Congratulations on your new position, and thank you for the positive coordination and interactions between FDOT District 1 and the town of Longboat Key. The Town looks forward to a continued partnership.

As you are aware, the Longboat Pass Bridge is one of two access bridges to the island. These bridges serve as the front door to our community, setting the tone for the island's quality and character for residents, visitors, business owners, and service providers alike. We understand that FDOT recently held two public meetings to discuss the long-awaited results of the PD&E study that began in June 2020.

While the Town acknowledges the substantial cost differential in the high fixed span bridge versus other, lower-level bascule bridges, as well as the vehicular and boating traffic benefit by creating a freer flow condition, it is difficult for the Town to imagine the magnitude of the fixed-span bridge.

On June 28, 2024, Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier submitted correspondence on behalf of the Town to your predecessor, Mr. LK Nandam, outlining the Town Commission's position on the bridge alternatives. We believe this position also reflects the views of many Town residents, particularly those at the north end of the island. The correspondence is attached for your reference, and the major points include the following:

- The bridge will be higher than the Ringling Bridge, with significant grades affecting the many walkers and bikers who utilize the bridge for a healthy lifestyle and to get to island areas to the north.
- The high fixed span would appear to be out of character for the north end of Longboat Key, which is not a community with high rises and hotels. For decades, Longboat has been connected by modest drawbridges.

The Town of Longboat Key values the strong working relationship it has maintained with FDOT over the years and looks forward to continuing that partnership under your leadership. Ensuring that the bridge reflects the character and needs of the communities it connects remains a

priority for the Town. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Longboat Pass Bridge.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Town Administration offices if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Attachment:
June 28, 2024 Correspondence