

**Southern Blvd Bridge PD&E Study**  
Public Kick-Off Meeting, March 29, 2007

**Summary of Public Comments Received**  
*(written comment forms, e-mails and phone calls)*

A Public Kick-Off Meeting was held on March 29, 2007 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Sixty-eight persons signed in at the meeting. Comment forms were submitted by ten persons at the meeting. Five additional persons submitted comments via e-mail or by calling the Project Manager. All comments were reviewed and are summarized below.

**Concerns about Potential Impacts on West Side of Bridge**

- Concern that widening Southern Blvd approaching the bridge on the west side (in WPB) will eliminate or reduce the existing buffer between the Southbridge Condominiums and Southern Boulevard. There is an existing grassed swale adjacent to the condominium development on the north side of Southern Blvd.
- Concern that maintaining access to Flagler Drive from Southern Blvd during construction, or after the bridge is complete, will impact surrounding property,
- Concern that the design of the new bridge would encourage vagrancy under the bridge or in the immediate vicinity,
- Concern that the new bridge will impact the existing lift station located on the south side of the Flagler Drive/Southern Blvd intersection, or other recent public works project - including recent drainage improvements along Flagler Drive.,
- Concern that widening the bridge will increase traffic back-ups when the bridge is open and increased noise and air pollution,
- Concern that the proposed new bridge will negatively impact St. Catherine's Church property,
- Concern that widening the bridge will isolate portions of the community.

**General Concerns**

- Concern that the project team has estimated the time required to construct a new bridge prior to receiving construction bids on the project.
- Concern that a higher or wider bridge will negatively impact surrounding property values,
- Concern for the protection and preservation of the natural environment when designing and constructing the new bridge
- Concern that a higher bridge will impact the view and aesthetics of the area
- Concern about increased noise and air pollution during construction

### **Specific Requests on West Side of Bridge**

- Request that the bridge be as low and narrow as possible to reduce impacts to adjacent property,
- Request that the existing pedestrian signal at the intersection of Southern Blvd and Flagler Drive remain to serve pedestrians using the Flagler Walking Trail,
- Request that a left turn lane be constructed onto southbound Flagler Drive. from Southern Blvd,
- Request that a left turn lane not be constructed onto southbound Flagler Drive.,
- Request that no changes to the approach roadway at the intersection of Flagler Drive and Southern Blvd be approved.

### **Specific Request Involving the East Side of the Bridge**

- Request to improve the roundabout in the Town of Palm Beach to improve traffic flow
- Request to leave the roundabout in the Town of Palm Beach as it is now,

### **Specific Requests – General**

- Request that no additional lanes be added to the bridge,
- Request that the bridge be widened to three lanes with a “reversible” middle lane to accommodate peak traffic flow,
- Request not to build a tunnel because of potential impacts,
- Request that the replacement Flagler Memorial and Southern Boulevard Bridges are the same height as the Royal Park Bridge for boats,
- Request to organize an advisory committee which includes all stakeholders to meet monthly during the PD&E study.