



## LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

**LTC No: 26-032**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** February 4, 2026  
**SUBJECT: Change in Operating Schedule of the SE 17 Street Bridge (E. Clay Shaw, Jr. Bridge)**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with an update on the SE 17 Street Bridge (E. Clay Shaw, Jr. Bridge) initiative to deviate from the normal drawbridge operating schedule. The temporary operational deviation was communicated to the City Commission on May 23, 2025, via Commission Memorandum No. 25-074 and LTC No. 25-257 published on December 2, 2025 (Attachments).

To help improve weekday traffic flow, the City requested that the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) consider permanent changes to the operating schedule of the SE 17 Street Bridge.

In response to the City's request, the USCG, via a letter to FDOT – District IV, authorized a temporary deviation to the drawbridge operating schedule to evaluate the potential for permanent changes to the schedule. The City collaborated with the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) and the owner of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, FDOT, to gain support for deviations to the operational schedule of the drawbridge.

The temporary deviation went into effect at 6 a.m. on June 2, 2025, and was initially intended to remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. on November 28, 2025. However, due to the recent federal government shutdown, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) was unable to complete its review within the designated evaluation period. Consequently, the temporary deviation has been extended until February 27, 2026.

The deviation eliminated bridge openings on weekdays (except Federal holidays) at 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. United States vessels and tugs with tows, upon proper signal, may pass through at any time.

We are excited to announce that USCG completed its evaluation, and that effective February 19, 2026, the temporary bridge operating schedule will become permanent, reducing the number of openings during morning and afternoon rush hour periods.

For further information, please contact Milos Majstorovic, PE, Director of Transportation and Mobility, at 954-828-5216 or [mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov)

Attachments:

1. Commission Memorandum No. 25-074
2. Letter to the Commission No. 25-257

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
City Manager's Office  
Department Directors



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 25-074**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

**DATE:** May 23, 2025

**SUBJECT: Temporary Deviation from the Operational Schedule of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (E. Clay Shaw, Jr. Bridge)**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update regarding a temporary deviation from the normal drawbridge operation schedule for the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (E. Clay Shaw, Jr. Bridge). The deviation will be in effect from June 2, 2025 through November 28, 2025.

Given concerns related to frequent drawbridge openings, heavy traffic volumes along SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street, and new traffic generators in the area which affect traffic flow along the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, City staff has aimed to find methods to balance the needs of marine and roadway traffic. As such, the City collaborated with the Marine Industries Association of South Florida and the bridge owner, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), to gain support for deviations to the operational schedule of the drawbridge.

On May 5, 2025, City staff submitted a request to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to consider permanently changing the schedule of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (Attachment 1). On May 22, 2025, the USCG responded to the City's request, via a letter to FDOT – District IV, and is authorizing a temporary deviation of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (Attachment 2).

The temporary deviation will be effective from 6 a.m. on June 2, 2025, through 11:59 p.m. on November 28, 2025. The deviation is eliminating the current bridge openings on weekdays (except Federal holidays) at 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. As is currently the case, United States vessels and tugs with tows, upon proper signal, will be passed through at any time.

This temporary deviation will be used to evaluate if a permanent change to the operational schedule of the drawbridge is needed. City staff anticipates that the operational deviation will improve vehicular throughput and reduce congestion along SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street during morning and afternoon peak hours, while not significantly affecting maritime traffic.

For further information, please contact Milos Majstorovic, Acting Director of Transportation and Mobility, at 954-828-5216 or [mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov)

Attachments:

1. May 5, 2025, letter to the USCG from the City of Fort Lauderdale
2. May 22, 2025, letter from the USCG to FDOT – District IV

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Acting City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
City Manager's Office  
Department Directors



May 5, 2025

Mr. Randall Overton  
Director of Bridge Program  
United States Coast Guard District 7  
909 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 432  
Miami, FL 33131

**Subject: Request for a Modification to the Schedule of SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street (Brooks Memorial) Bridge, Mile 1065.9 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

Dear Mr. Overton,

The purpose of this letter is to formally request that the United States Coast Guard (USCG) consider permanently changing the schedule of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street drawbridge, located in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Under the current schedule, the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street bridge opens on the hour and half-hour without established periods of lockdown. Frequent bridge openings combined with heavy traffic volumes along SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street of approximately 35,000 vehicles a day (according to Florida Department of Transportation data), adversely affect mobility and contribute to significant congestion along SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

With the upcoming opening of the Broward County Convention Center and number of other projects in the vicinity, traffic volumes in the area are expected to further increase. The City is working together with Broward County on improving traffic signalization along the corridor as well as improving transit options with the goal of reducing the number of vehicles, while simultaneously increasing person throughput, however, additional relief is needed.

With the intent of balancing the needs of marine and roadway traffic, City staff collaborated with the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) and the Florida Department of Transportation (bridge owner), to ensure both entities are supportive and do not object to changing the bridge schedule. On March 13, 2025, the City held a meeting with members of MIASF, and the USCG to learn more about the formal request process, share objectives, and gain feedback.

**Office of the City Manager**

101 NE Third Avenue, Suite 2100  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

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As a result of coordination and with the goal of ensuring the proper balance between the needs of marine and roadway traffic, the City is requesting that the USCG consider the following bridge schedule:

*The draw will open on the hour and half-hour, except Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays) from 6:50 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. and from 3:50 p.m. to 6:10 p.m., the draw need only open on the hour.*

***Note this recommendation represents a modification to the current bridge schedule consisting of opening on the hour (i.e. every 60 minutes) rather than the hour and half hour (i.e. every 30 minutes).***

We strongly believe that the proposed bridge schedule, if approved, will improve vehicular throughput and reduce congestion along SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street during morning and afternoon peak hours, while not significantly affecting the maritime traffic.

The City appreciates the USCG's consideration of this request. Milos Majstorovic, Acting Director of Transportation and Mobility Department, will serve as the City's representative on this initiative and can be reached at 954-828-5216 or via email at [mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov)

Sincerely,



Ben Rogers  
Acting Assistant City Manager

- c: Rickelle Williams, City Manager  
Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Acting Director  
Steve Braun, FDOT District 4 Secretary  
Paul Lampley, FDOT District 4 Director of Transportation Operations  
John Krane, FDOT District 4 Director of Transportation Development  
Jennifer N. Zercher, United States Coast Guard District 7 Bridge Management Specialist

**U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security**

**United States  
Coast Guard**



Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
Seventh District

909 S.E. 1st Avenue, Room 432  
Miami, FL 33131-3028  
Staff Symbol: (dpb)  
Phone: 571-607-5951  
Email: [jennifer.n.zercher@uscg.mil](mailto:jennifer.n.zercher@uscg.mil)

16593/2889  
May 22, 2025

FDOT – District IV  
Kelley Hall, PE  
Structures Maintenance Engineer  
3400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Delivered via email: [kelly.hall@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:kelly.hall@dot.state.fl.us)

Dear Ms. Hall:

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is authorized to temporary deviate from drawbridge operation regulation, 33 CFR 117.261(bb)(8), that governs the SE 17th Street (Brooks Memorial) Bridge, across the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AICW), mile 1065.9, at Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Under this temporary deviation, the SE 17th Street Bridge shall open on the hour and half-hour; except that from 6:50 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. and from 3:50 p.m. to 6:10 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, the drawbridge shall open once an hour at the top of the hour.

Public vessels of the United States and tugs with tows, upon proper signal, will be passed through anytime. Additionally, per 33 CFR 117.31(b), the drawtender shall take all reasonable measures to have the draw open, regardless of the operating schedule for

- Vessels in distress where a delay would endanger life or property.
- Commercial vessels engaged in rescue or emergency salvage operations; and
- Vessels seeking shelter from severe weather.

This temporary deviation is effective from 6 a.m. on June 2, 2025, through 11:59 p.m. on November 28, 2025.

The City of Fort Lauderdale requested the Coast Guard consider placing additional opening restrictions during weekday rush hour periods to assist with vehicle congestion. This deviation will test a change to the drawbridge operating schedule to determine whether a permanent change to the schedule is needed.

The U.S. Coast Guard will announce the temporary change to the bridge operating regulation via the Local Notice to Mariners and a Broadcast Notice to Mariners.

16593/2889  
May 22, 2025

A notice of temporary deviation from regulations, and request for comments will be published in the Federal Register. Comments may be submitted under docket number **USCG-2025-0464** using Federal Decision-Making Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. This test deviation will run simultaneously with a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), under the same name and docket number. Both documents can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov> and comments can be made to either document.

In accordance with the 2018 Coast Guard Authorization Act (P.L.115-288), Section 832 d.l. B, the bridge owner, FDOT, must notify the public by publishing notice of the temporary change to drawbridge operating schedule in a newspaper of general circulation in the place where the bridge is located. FDOT must also notify the office of transportation and law enforcement organization with jurisdiction over the roadway that abuts the approaches to the bridge. Please inform the local police agencies not to park their vehicles on the bridge structure.

This temporary deviation may not be changed or extended without written approval from the U.S. Coast Guard. This temporary deviation is conditional and may be withdrawn at any time if the U.S. Coast Guard determines that the safety of human life, the environment, or the needs of navigation become endangered.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the bridge must immediately return to its regular operating schedule at the end of the designated time-period. The imposition of civil penalties may result for failure to ensure that all requirements of this temporary deviation are followed in their entirety.

If you have any questions please contact USCG Sector Miami Waterways Division at (305) 535-4317, email [SectorMiamiWaterways@uscg.mil](mailto:SectorMiamiWaterways@uscg.mil) or my representative, Ms. Jennifer Zercher at (571) 607-5951 or email [Jennifer.N.Zercher@uscg.mil](mailto:Jennifer.N.Zercher@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



RANDALL D. OVERTON, MPA  
Director, District Bridge Program  
U.S. Coast Guard  
By direction

E-Copy: USCG Sector Miami, [SectorMiamiWaterways@uscg.mil](mailto:SectorMiamiWaterways@uscg.mil)  
City of Fort Lauderdale, [MMajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:MMajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov),  
[RickelleWilliams@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:RickelleWilliams@fortlauderdale.gov), [BRogers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:BRogers@fortlauderdale.gov)  
MIASF, [Patience@MIASF.org](mailto:Patience@MIASF.org)



## LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

**LTC No: 25-257**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission  
**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*  
**DATE:** December 2, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** **Temporary Deviation from the Operational Schedule of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (E. Clay Shaw, Jr. Bridge) - Update**

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The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with an update on the SE 17 Street Bridge (E. Clay Shaw, Jr. Bridge) initiative to temporarily deviate from the normal drawbridge operating schedule. The temporary operational deviation was communicated to the City Commission on May 23, 2025 via Commission Memorandum No. 25-074 (Attachment).

To help improve weekday traffic flow, the City requested that the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) consider permanent changes to the operating schedule of the SE 17 Street Bridge. In response to the City's request, the USCG, via a letter to FDOT – District IV, authorized a temporary deviation to the drawbridge operating schedule to evaluate the potential for permanent changes to the schedule. The City collaborated with the Marine Industries Association of South Florida and the owner of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, FDOT, to gain support for deviations to the operational schedule of the drawbridge.

The temporary deviation went into effect at 6 a.m. on June 2, 2025, and was to remain in place through 11:59 p.m. on November 28, 2025. The deviation eliminates the current bridge openings on weekdays (except Federal holidays) at 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. United States vessels and tugs with tows, upon proper signal, may pass through at any time.

Due to the recent federal government shutdown, the USCG was unable to continue with its review during the evaluation period and could not take steps to make adjustments through the federal rulemaking process. To overcome the challenges due to the shutdown, the USCG has extended the current temporary deviation through February 27, 2026. The extension to the temporary operational deviation schedule will allow the USCG to continue with its review and provide FDOT and the City with a final determination in December of this year.

For further information, please contact Milos Majstorovic, PE, Director of Transportation and Mobility, at 954-828-5216 or [mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov)

Attachment:

1. Commission Memorandum No. 25-074

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
City Manager's Office  
Department Directors



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No: 25-074**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

**DATE:** May 23, 2025

**SUBJECT: Temporary Deviation from the Operational Schedule of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (E. Clay Shaw, Jr. Bridge)**

---

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update regarding a temporary deviation from the normal drawbridge operation schedule for the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (E. Clay Shaw, Jr. Bridge). The deviation will be in effect from June 2, 2025 through November 28, 2025.

Given concerns related to frequent drawbridge openings, heavy traffic volumes along SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street, and new traffic generators in the area which affect traffic flow along the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, City staff has aimed to find methods to balance the needs of marine and roadway traffic. As such, the City collaborated with the Marine Industries Association of South Florida and the bridge owner, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), to gain support for deviations to the operational schedule of the drawbridge.

On May 5, 2025, City staff submitted a request to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to consider permanently changing the schedule of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (Attachment 1). On May 22, 2025, the USCG responded to the City's request, via a letter to FDOT – District IV, and is authorizing a temporary deviation of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (Attachment 2).

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Memorandum No. 25-074  
Page 2 of 2

For further information, please contact Milos Majstorovic, Acting Director of Transportation and Mobility, at 954-828-5216 or [mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov)

Attachments:

1. May 5, 2025, letter to the USCG from the City of Fort Lauderdale
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c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Acting City Attorney  
David R. Soloman, City Clerk  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
City Manager's Office  
Department Directors



# CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE



May 5, 2025

Mr. Randall Overton  
Director of Bridge Program  
United States Coast Guard District 7  
909 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 432  
Miami, FL 33131

**Subject: Request for a Modification to the Schedule of SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street (Brooks Memorial) Bridge, Mile 1065.9 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

Dear Mr. Overton,

The purpose of this letter is to formally request that the United States Coast Guard (USCG) consider permanently changing the schedule of the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street drawbridge, located in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Under the current schedule, the SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street bridge opens on the hour and half-hour without established periods of lockdown. Frequent bridge openings combined with heavy traffic volumes along SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street of approximately 35,000 vehicles a day (according to Florida Department of Transportation data), adversely affect mobility and contribute to significant congestion along SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

With the upcoming opening of the Broward County Convention Center and number of other projects in the vicinity, traffic volumes in the area are expected to further increase. The City is working together with Broward County on improving traffic signalization along the corridor as well as improving transit options with the goal of reducing the number of vehicles, while simultaneously increasing person throughput, however, additional relief is needed.

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**Office of the City Manager**

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As a result of coordination and with the goal of ensuring the proper balance between the needs of marine and roadway traffic, the City is requesting that the USCG consider the following bridge schedule:

*The draw will open on the hour and half-hour, except Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays) from 6:50 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. and from 3:50 p.m. to 6:10 p.m., the draw need only open on the hour.*

***Note this recommendation represents a modification to the current bridge schedule consisting of opening on the hour (i.e. every 60 minutes) rather than the hour and half hour (i.e. every 30 minutes).***

We strongly believe that the proposed bridge schedule, if approved, will improve vehicular throughput and reduce congestion along SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street during morning and afternoon peak hours, while not significantly affecting the maritime traffic.

The City appreciates the USCG's consideration of this request. Milos Majstorovic, Acting Director of Transportation and Mobility Department, will serve as the City's representative on this initiative and can be reached at 954-828-5216 or via email at [mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov)

Sincerely,



Ben Rogers  
Acting Assistant City Manager

- c: Rickelle Williams, City Manager  
Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Acting Director  
Steve Braun, FDOT District 4 Secretary  
Paul Lampley, FDOT District 4 Director of Transportation Operations  
John Krane, FDOT District 4 Director of Transportation Development  
Jennifer N. Zercher, United States Coast Guard District 7 Bridge Management Specialist

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
Seventh District

909 S.E. 1st Avenue, Room 432  
Miami, FL 33131-3028  
Staff Symbol: (dpb)  
Phone: 571-607-5951  
Email: [jennifer.n.zercher@uscg.mil](mailto:jennifer.n.zercher@uscg.mil)

16593/2889  
May 22, 2025

FDOT – District IV  
Kelley Hall, PE  
Structures Maintenance Engineer  
3400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Delivered via email: [kelley.hall@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:kelley.hall@dot.state.fl.us)

Dear Ms. Hall:

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is authorized to temporary deviate from drawbridge operation regulation, 33 CFR 117.261(bb)(8), that governs the SE 17th Street (Brooks Memorial) Bridge, across the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AICW), mile 1065.9, at Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Under this temporary deviation, the SE 17th Street Bridge shall open on the hour and half-hour; except that from 6:50 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. and from 3:50 p.m. to 6:10 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, the drawbridge shall open once an hour at the top of the hour.

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The City of Fort Lauderdale requested the Coast Guard consider placing additional opening restrictions during weekday rush hour periods to assist with vehicle congestion. This deviation will test a change to the drawbridge operating schedule to determine whether a permanent change to the schedule is needed.

The U.S. Coast Guard will announce the temporary change to the bridge operating regulation via the Local Notice to Mariners and a Broadcast Notice to Mariners.

Commission Memo 25-074  
Attachment Two  
Page 2 of 2  
RE: SE 17th Street Bridge

16593/2889  
May 22, 2025

A notice of temporary deviation from regulations, and request for comments will be published in the Federal Register. Comments may be submitted under docket number **USCG-2025-0464** using Federal Decision-Making Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. This test deviation will run simultaneously with a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), under the same name and docket number. Both documents can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov> and comments can be made to either document.

In accordance with the 2018 Coast Guard Authorization Act (P.L.115-288), Section 832 d.l. B, the bridge owner, FDOT, must notify the public by publishing notice of the temporary change to drawbridge operating schedule in a newspaper of general circulation in the place where the bridge is located. FDOT must also notify the office of transportation and law enforcement organization with jurisdiction over the roadway that abuts the approaches to the bridge. Please inform the local police agencies not to park their vehicles on the bridge structure.

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In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the bridge must immediately return to its regular operating schedule at the end of the designated time-period. The imposition of civil penalties may result for failure to ensure that all requirements of this temporary deviation are followed in their entirety.

If you have any questions please contact USCG Sector Miami Waterways Division at (305) 535-4317, email [SectorMiamiWaterways@uscg.mil](mailto:SectorMiamiWaterways@uscg.mil) or my representative, Ms. Jennifer Zercher at (571) 607-5951 or email [Jennifer.N.Zercher@uscg.mil](mailto:Jennifer.N.Zercher@uscg.mil).

Sincerely,



RANDALL D. OVERTON, MPA  
Director, District Bridge Program  
U.S. Coast Guard  
By direction

E-Copy: USCG Sector Miami, [SectorMiamiWaterways@uscg.mil](mailto:SectorMiamiWaterways@uscg.mil)  
City of Fort Lauderdale, [MMajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:MMajstorovic@fortlauderdale.gov),  
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