



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No. 26-098

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: April 6, 2026
SUBJECT: **East Las Olas Boulevard Bridge Rehabilitation Project – Florida Department of Transportation Public Meeting and Construction Update**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide an update on the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) East Las Olas Boulevard Bridge Rehabilitation Project over the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW).

On December 3, 2024, FDOT presented a project update to the City Commission at a City Commission Conference Meeting (CAM #24-0808 (Attachment 1)). The project scope includes replacement of the existing open-grate deck with a new solid surface aluminum deck, painting of structural steel, replacement of electrical components and mechanical span locks, replacement of the navigation/marine fender system, renovation of the bridge tender house, and minor repaving at the bridge approaches. The total construction cost for the project is estimated at \$14.1 million and is fully funded by FDOT.

Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2026, with estimated completion in late 2027. City staff have been actively coordinating with FDOT on lane closures and the project schedule to mitigate traffic impacts including during major special events.

To minimize traffic impacts City staff and FDOT worked closely to develop an option that maintains bi-directional traffic operating across the bridge with a minimum of one (1) lane open to traffic in each direction during the bridge deck replacement period. Each side of the bridge is expected to take approximately three (3) months to complete, for a total of six (6) months. Pedestrian access will be maintained on one (1) side of the bridge during this time. Full closures of the bridge will occur nightly, Sunday through Thursday, from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. for fender system reconstruction, and traffic will be detoured during that time.

FDOT has committed to coordinating with emergency services on access and will provide advance notification prior to any closures or detours. Staff is also coordinating with FDOT for the concurrent Sunrise Boulevard bridge rehabilitation project to ensure the maximum

number of lanes on that corridor remain open during the Las Olas Boulevard bridge rehabilitation project.

FDOT is hosting a virtual public meeting and in-person construction open house on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 (Attachment 2). The virtual public meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with brief presentations and feedback sessions at 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The in-person construction open house will follow from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at ArtServe (1350 East Sunrise Boulevard), where project representatives will be available to discuss the project scope, schedule, and lane closure information.

FDOT will provide the City with weekly stakeholder updates and hold monthly status meetings throughout construction. Staff will continue to monitor the project and keep the City Commission informed of any significant developments.

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

Attachments:

1. CAM #24-0808
2. Meeting and Project Information

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



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING**

#24-0808

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: December 3, 2024

TITLE: Las Olas Intracoastal Bridge Rehabilitation Project – **(Commission
District 2)**

Background

The Florida Department of Transportation will present on the Las Olas Intracoastal Bridge Rehabilitation Project which is scheduled for construction in 2026.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – FDOT Presentation

Prepared by: Karen Warfel, Transportation Planning Division Manager,
Transportation and Mobility

Acting Department Director: Milos Majstorovic, MSCE, PE, Transportation and
Mobility



East Las Olas Boulevard over the Intracoastal Waterway Bridge Rehabilitation Project Financial Project ID: 449257-1-52-01



Introductions

Meet the Team



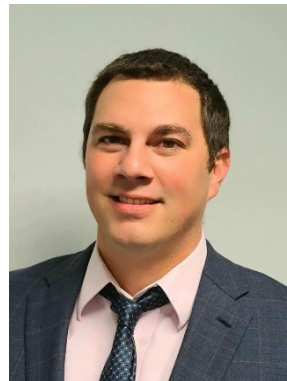
Thuc H. Le, P.E.
FDOT Project Manager
FDOT District Four



Josh Baimel, P.E.
Project Manager
Engineer-of-Record
JMT, Inc.



**John Danielsen,
P.E.**
Senior Structural
Engineer
Engineer-of-Record
HDR, Inc.



**Johan Aranda,
P.E.**
Deputy Project
Manager
JMT, Inc.

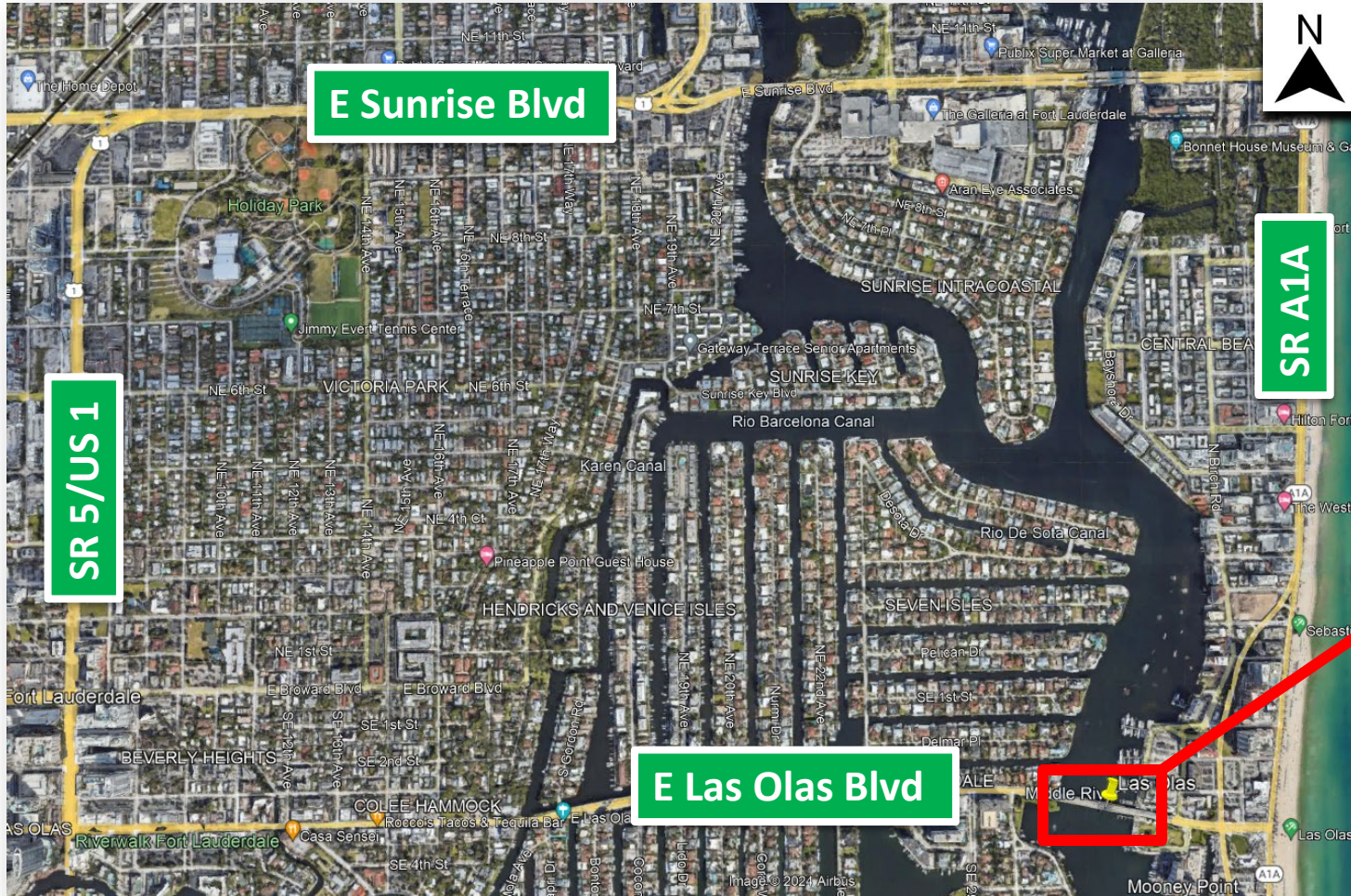


Agenda

- 1. Project Location and Overview**
- 2. Public Outreach and Communication**
- 3. Proposed Improvements**
- 4. Construction Impacts**
- 5. Project Benefits, Schedule, and Cost**
- 6. Contact Information and Q&A**

1. Project Location and Overview

Project Location



History of Las Olas Blvd Bridge Projects

Past Improvements:

- 2014 – Bridge painting, deck overlay, and barrier installed in front of sidewalks
- 1998 – **Bridge rehabilitation** (joints, handrail, roadway lighting, ladders and platforms, concrete wheel paths, generator, fender repair, control system, recon machinery, bulkhead, concrete repair, repair and replace structural steel, repaint structural steel)
- 1979 – **Bridge rehabilitation** (machinery and castings, ladders and platforms, repaint structural steel, replace electrical equipment)
- 1977 – Bridge repainted
- 1976 – Fender system replaced

Project Overview


Proposed Improvements:

- Replace old deck with new solid surface aluminum deck.
- Paint the movable bridge deck and fascia elements.
- Replace important electrical components and wiring.
- Replace the mechanical span locks which connect the two halves of the movable bridge deck when the bridge is in the “down” position.
- Replace the existing navigation/marine fenders in the waterway, including replacement of the timber piles and support beams.
- Renovate the bridge tender house.
- Minor repaving of the roadway at ends of the bridge and restore traffic monitoring site.


Project Length: 0.207 miles

2. Public Outreach and Communication

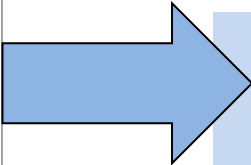
Summary of Public Outreach



Emails to City and stakeholders



Meetings with City and public



**Public Workshop (In-person and Virtual):
Held 11/14 @ 6PM at ArtServe Fort
Lauderdale**

**An additional informative public
meeting will be held prior to
construction**


**During construction: Weekly
stakeholder updates and monthly
status meetings with City**



Florida
Administrative
Register



Flyers to property
owners/tenants and
HOAs

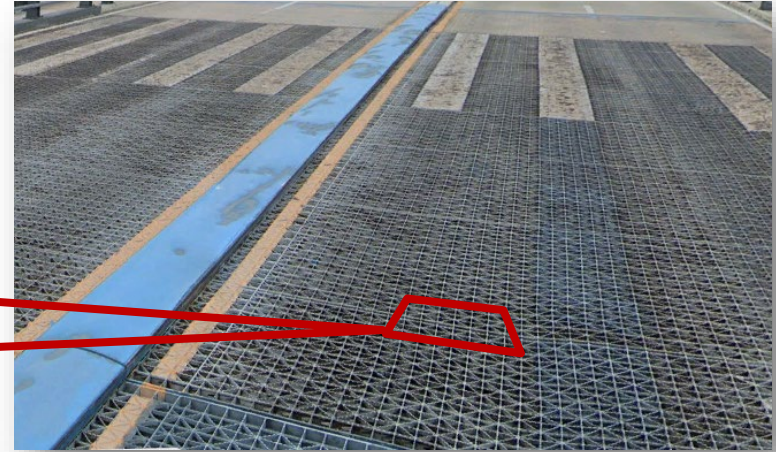
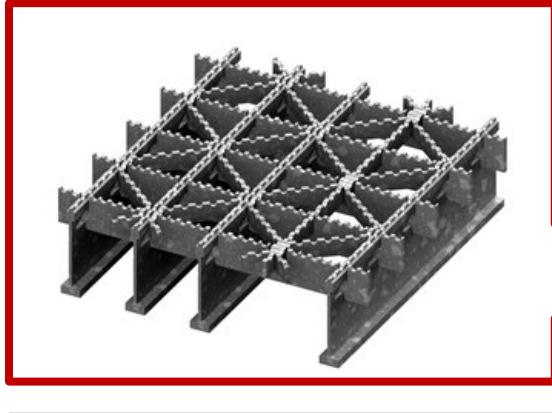


Social media and website
(www.tinyurl.com/elasolas)

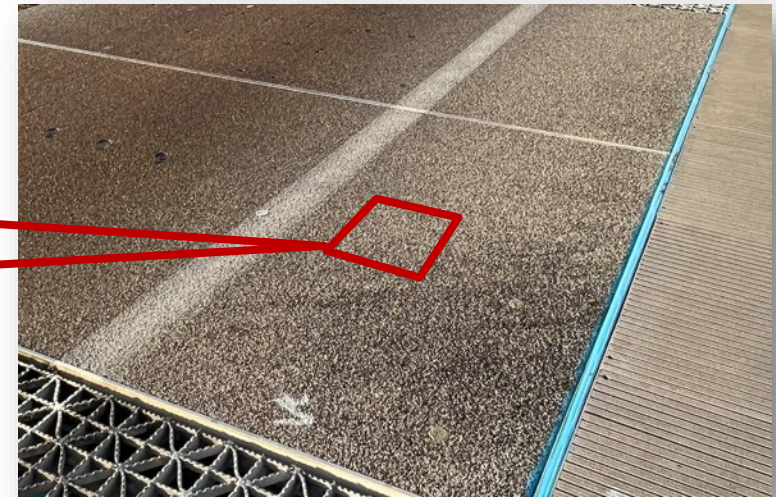
3. Proposed Improvements

Proposed Improvements

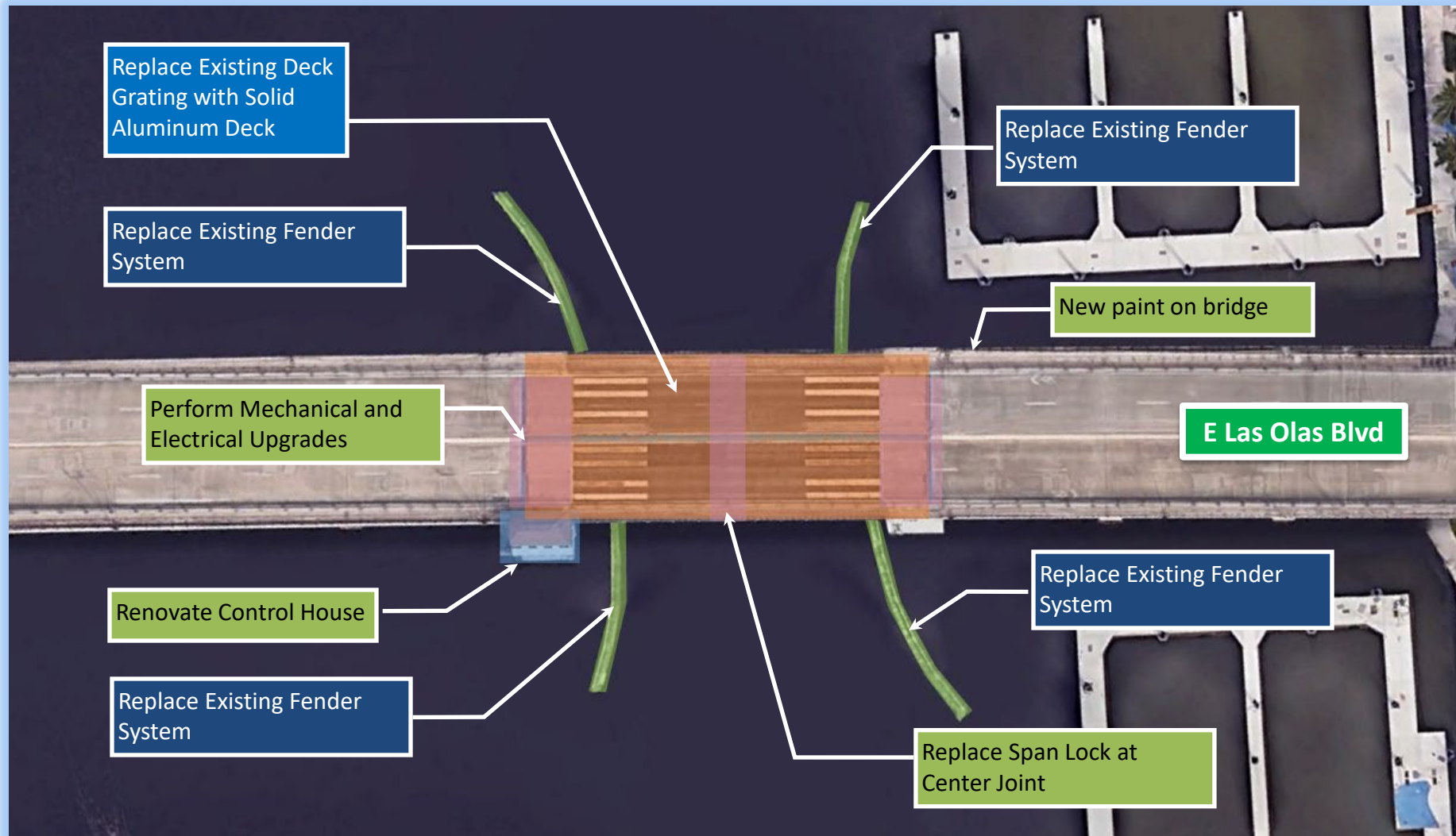
What does the bridge deck look like now?



What will it look like after construction?
(sample location shown)

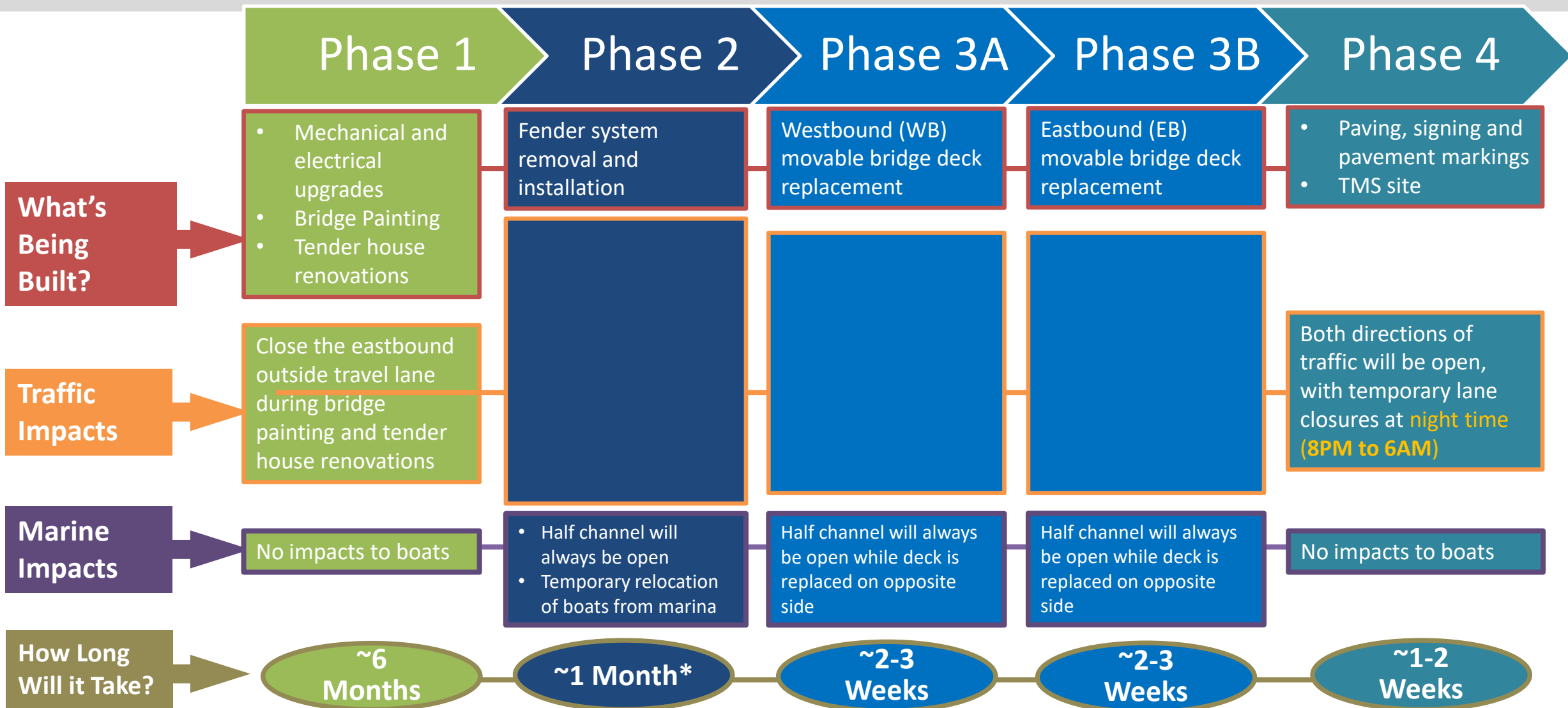


Summary of Proposed Improvements



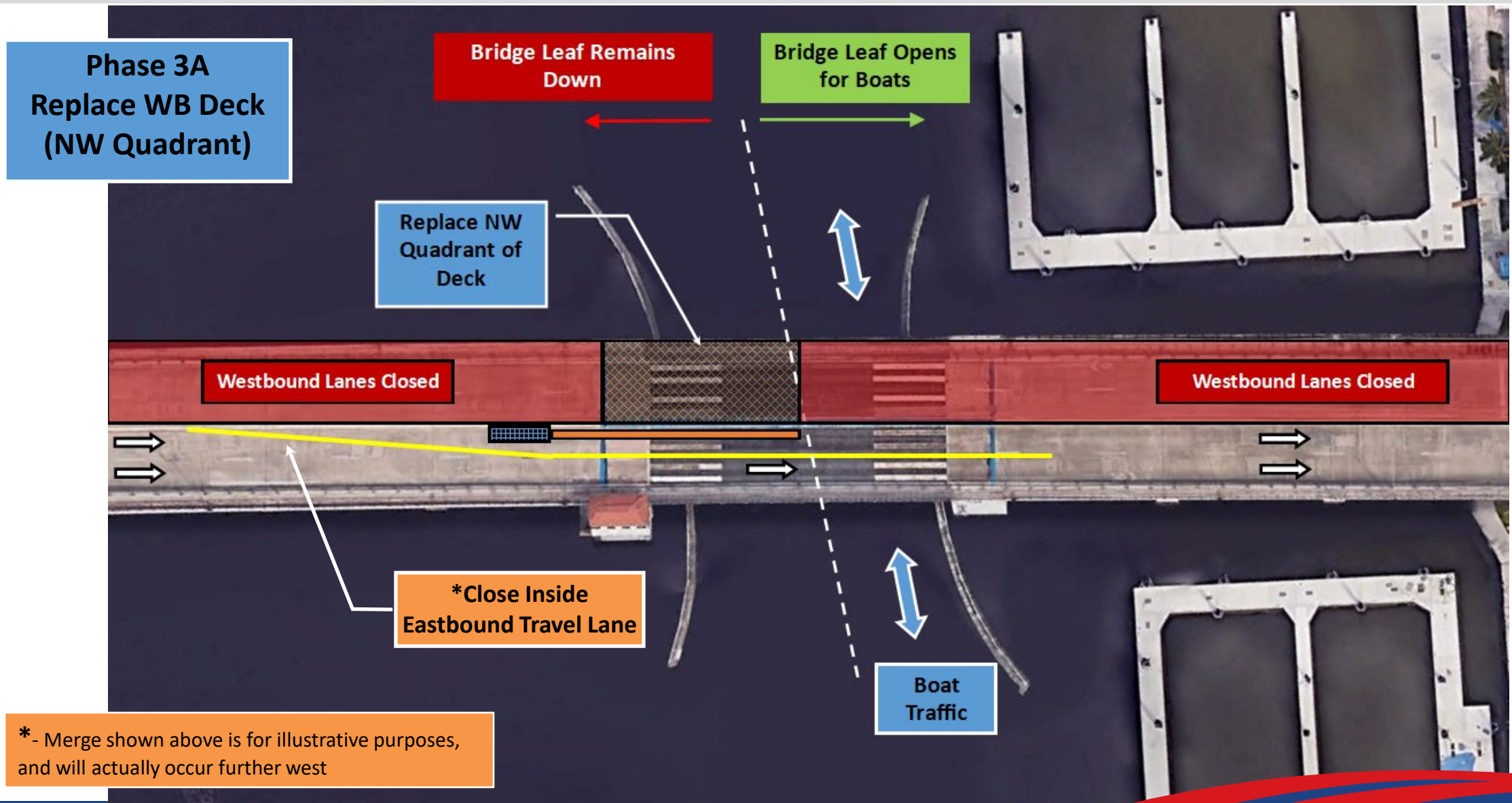
4. Construction Impacts

Duration and Phasing of Construction



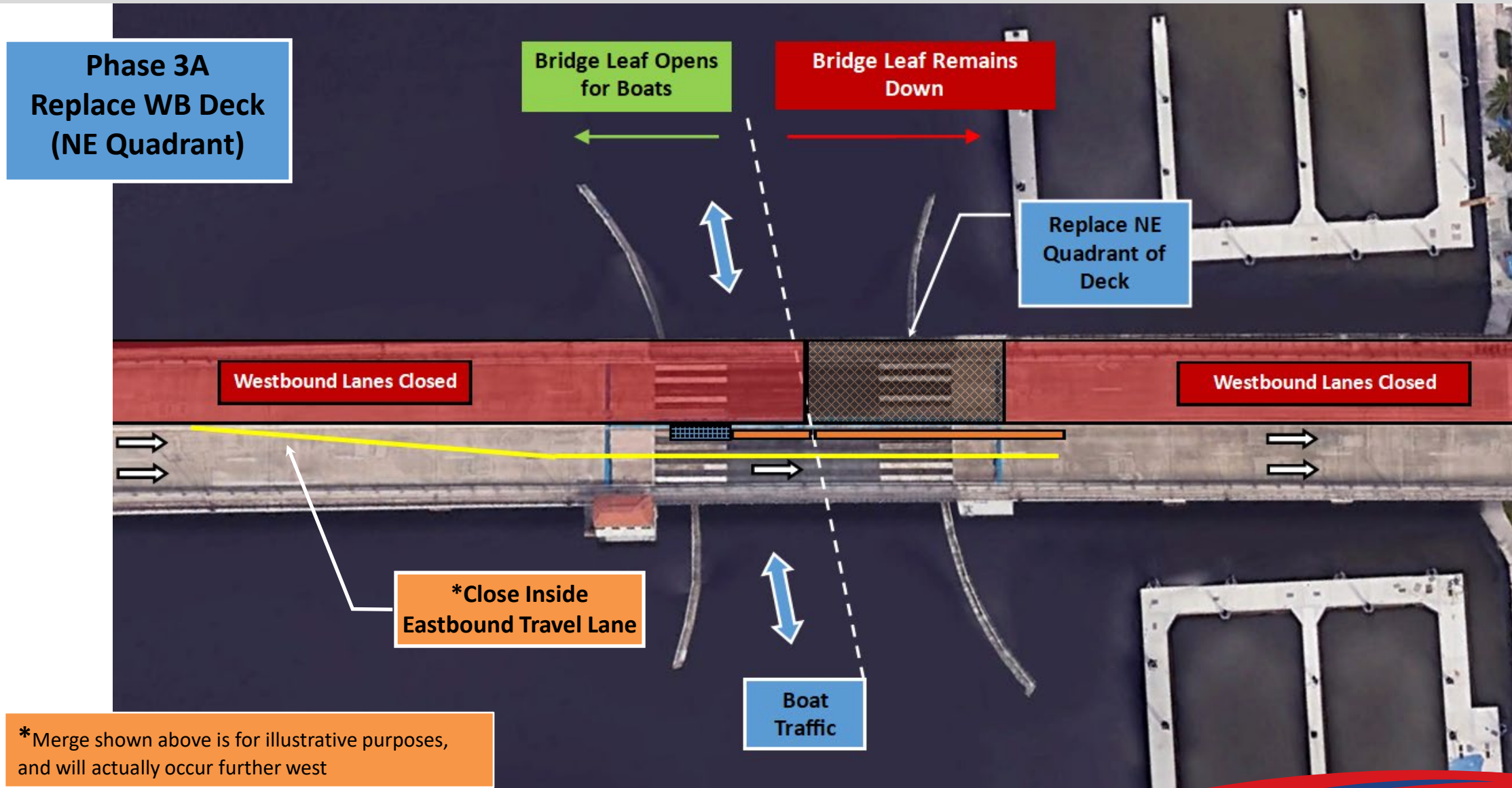
* 1 month for piles beneath bridge (detour at night); additional 1 2 months for remaining piles (bridge open to traffic)

Temp. Traffic Control During Deck Replacement



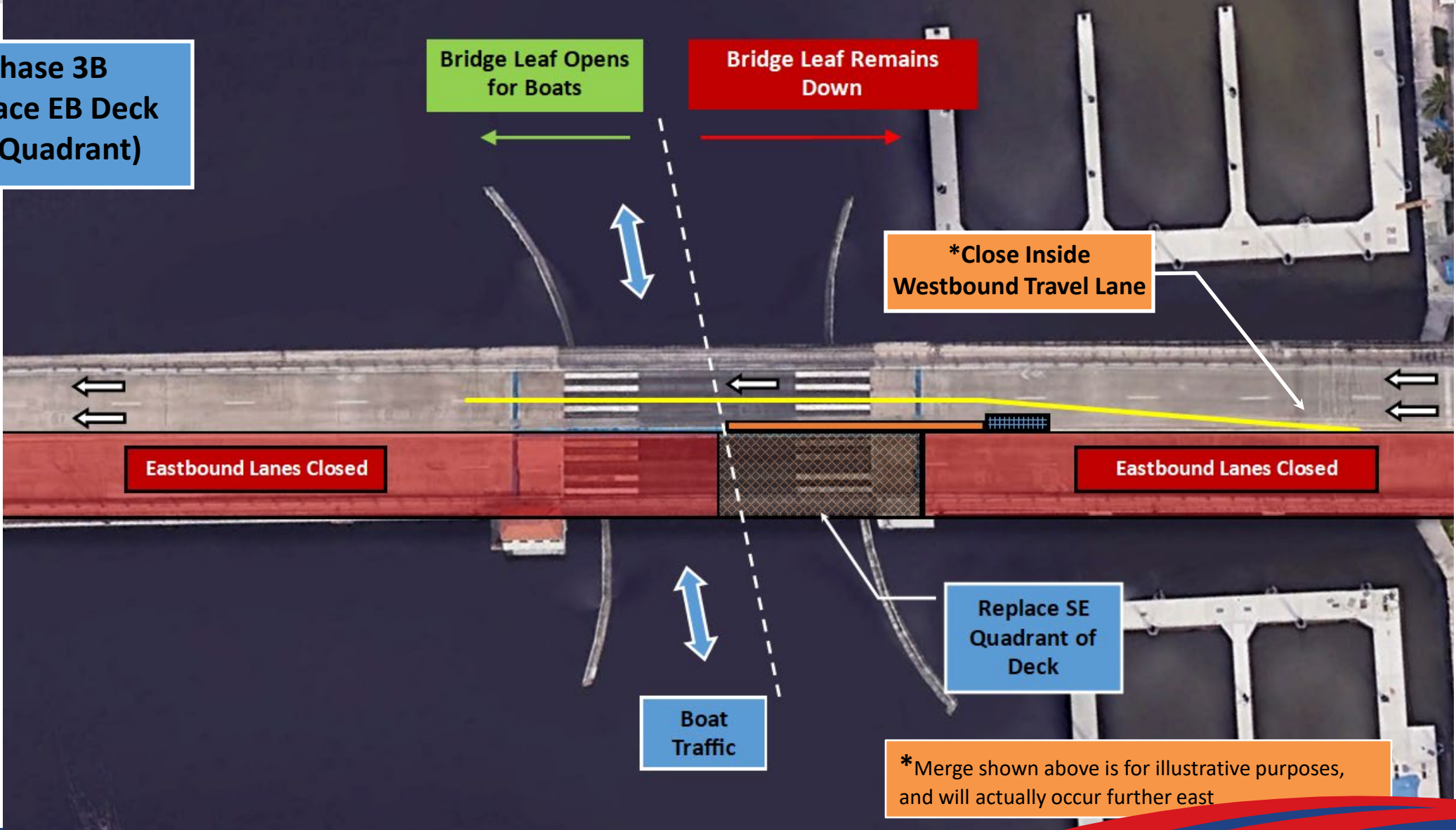
*- Merge shown above is for illustrative purposes, and will actually occur further west

Temp. Traffic Control During Deck Replacement



Temp. Traffic Control During Deck Replacement

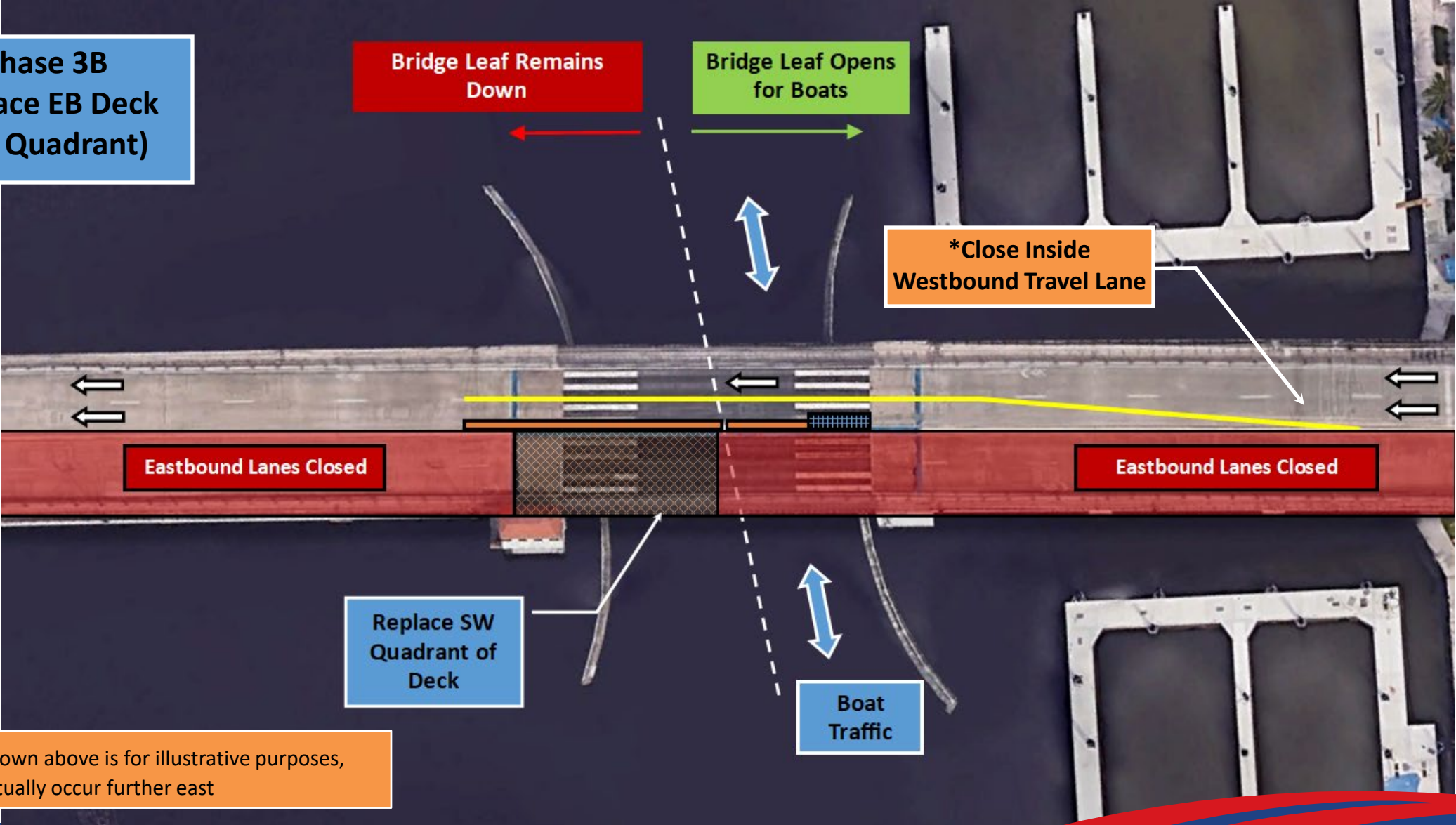
Phase 3B
Replace EB Deck
(SE Quadrant)



*Merge shown above is for illustrative purposes, and will actually occur further east

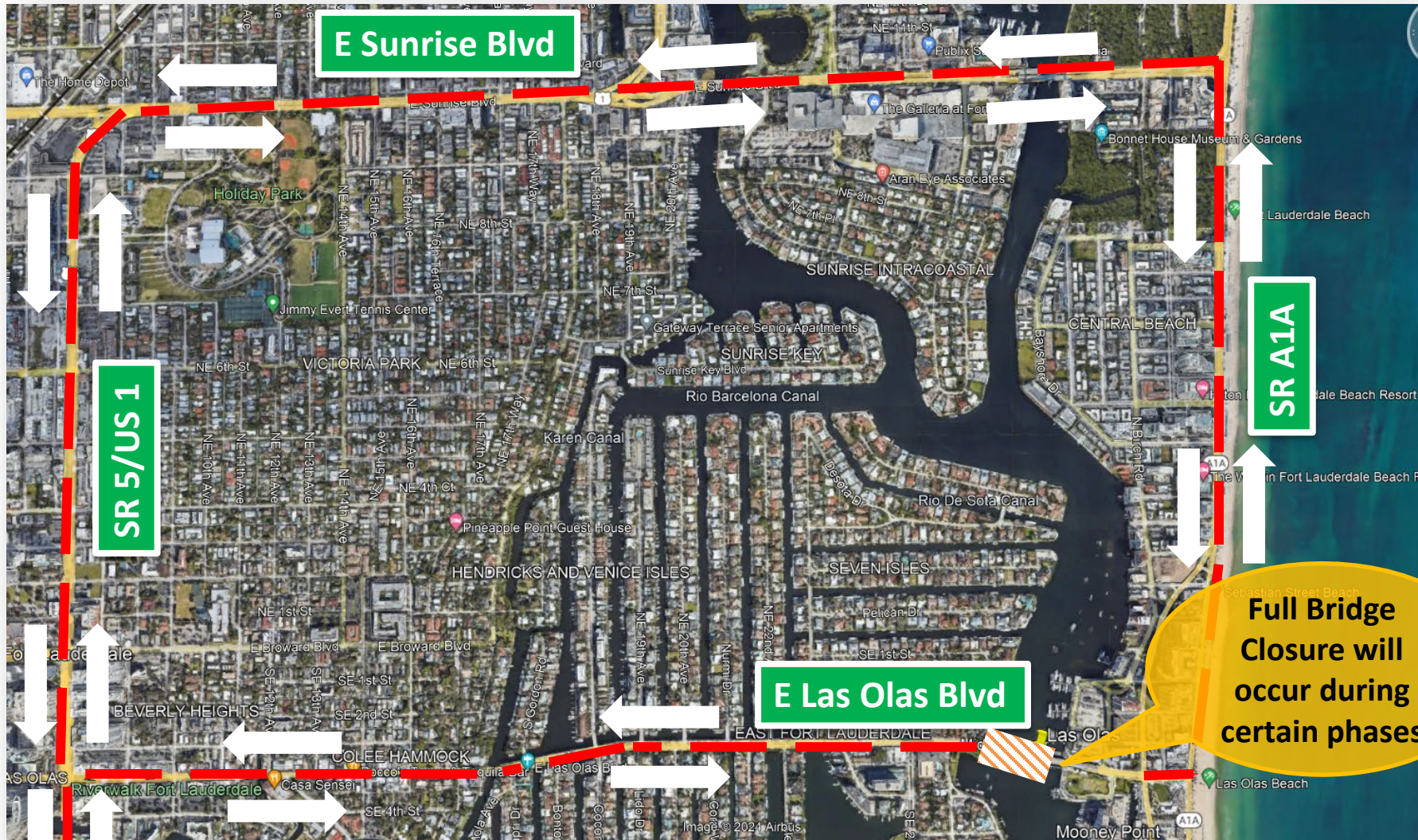
Temp. Traffic Control During Deck Replacement

Phase 3B
Replace EB Deck
(SW Quadrant)

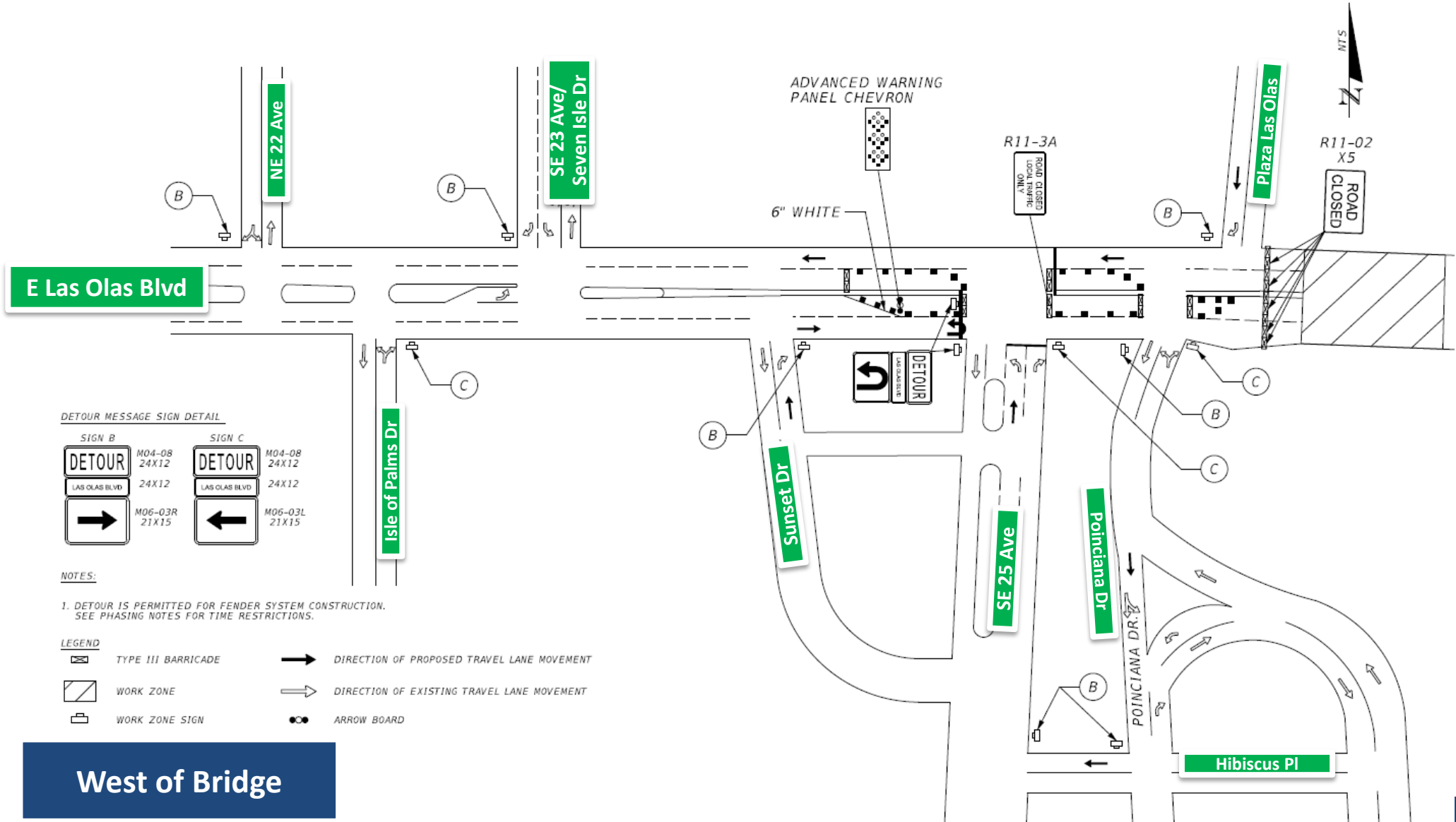


*Merge shown above is for illustrative purposes, and will actually occur further east

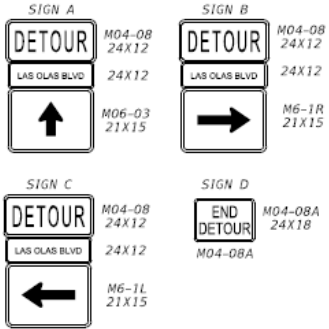
Temporary Traffic Control Plan (Detour)



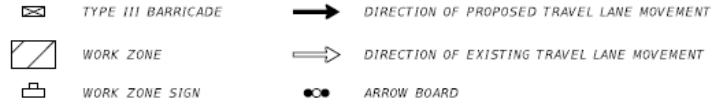
Temporary Traffic Control Plan (Local Traffic)



DETOUR MESSAGE SIGN DETAIL

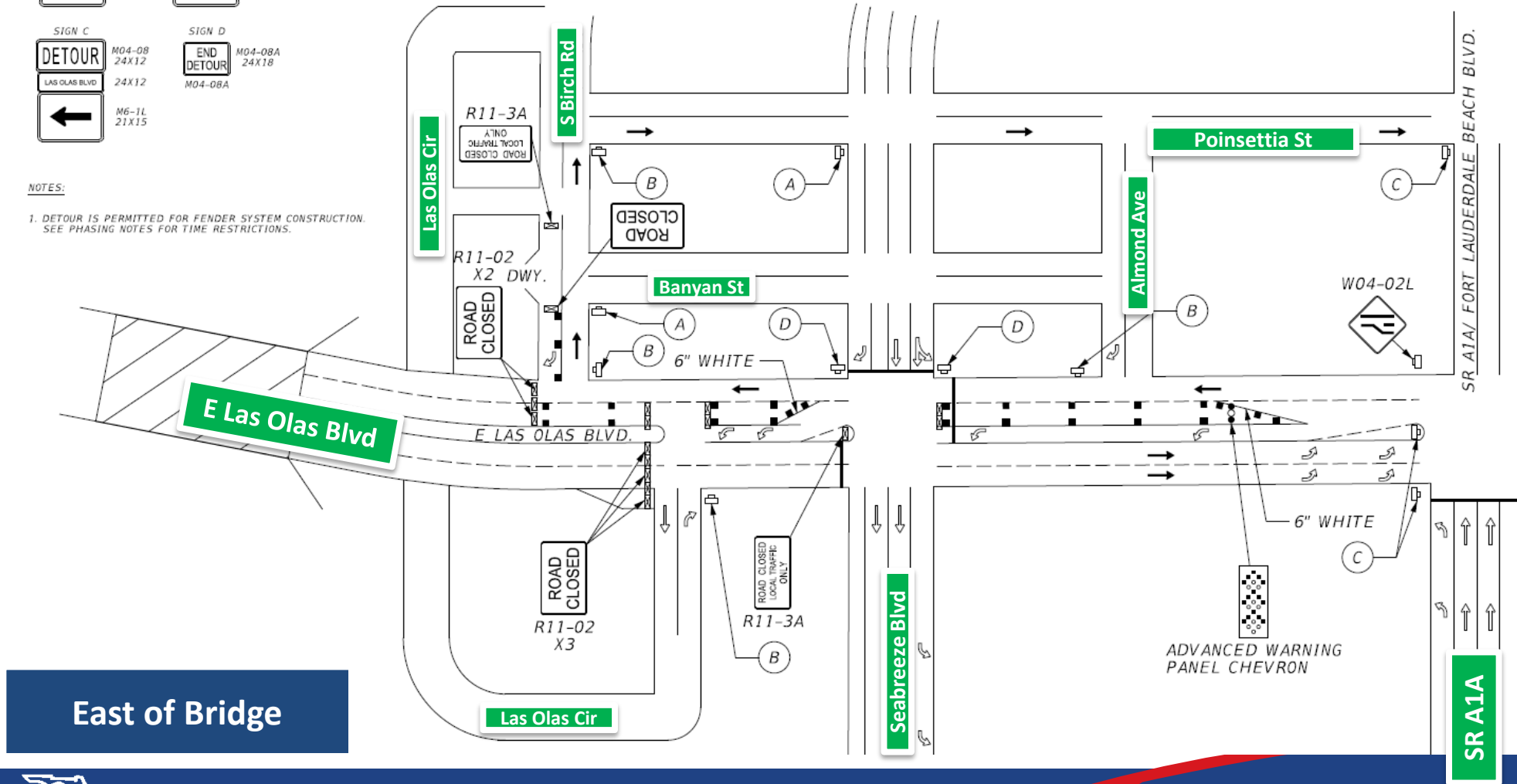


LEGEND



NOTES:

1. DETOUR IS PERMITTED FOR FENDER SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION.
SEE PHASING NOTES FOR TIME RESTRICTIONS.



East of Bridge

Additional Temporary Traffic Control Plan Concerns

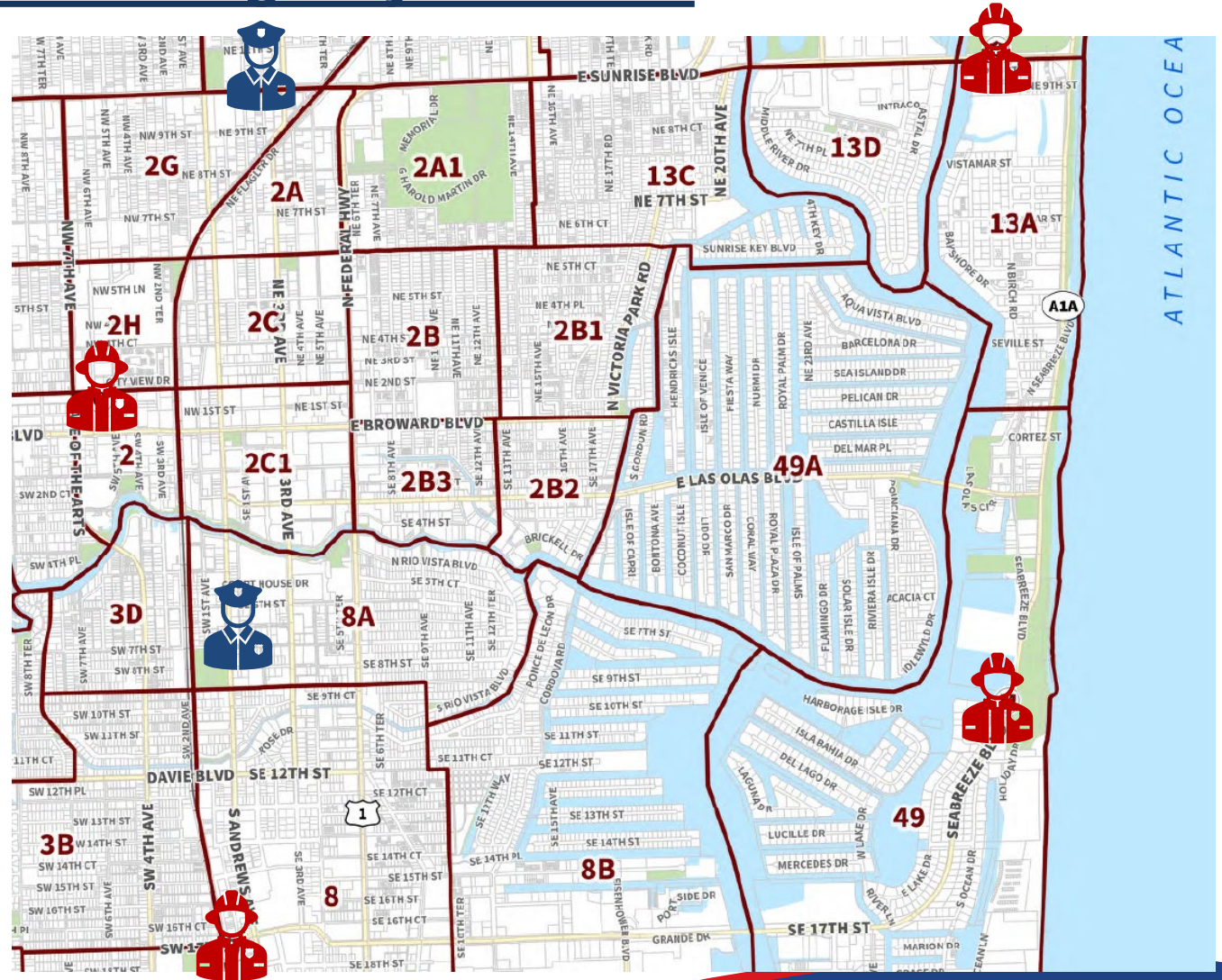
Minimizing Delays/Impacts to Everyday Travel:

- No bridge closures during “**major**” events (ex. Boat Show, Air Show, Spring Break) coordinated with the City of Fort Lauderdale
- Using partial detours instead of full bridge closure during deck replacement
 - Maintains pedestrian access by keeping one sidewalk open
 - Helps reduce travel times/burden by keeping one direction of traffic open
- **SMART** Work Zone collaboration (ex. adjustment of signal timing as needed along detour routes; providing/updating **advanced traveler information**)
- Coordinating with concurrent bridge project on Sunrise Blvd to ensure all lanes on Sunrise Blvd bridge are open during Las Olas Blvd bridge closure/detour
- Modification to the draw bridge operation schedule (opening times and durations) will be coordinated with the **United States Coast Guard** to mitigate traffic delays

Additional Temporary Traffic Control Plan Concerns

Addressing Response Times for Emergency Vehicles:

Advanced notification/
coordination with fire and
police prior to detours and
closures



5. Project Benefits, Schedule, and Cost

Key Benefits of this Project

Electrical, Mechanical, Painting, and Tender House:

- Add “**redundancy**” to operating machinery (ex. dual motors)
- New span lock (at center opening joint) will **eliminate banging sounds** between the spans
- New windows, doors, bathroom, and **painted exterior at tender house**
- New paint provides an **aesthetically appealing protective barrier**

New Solid Aluminum Deck:

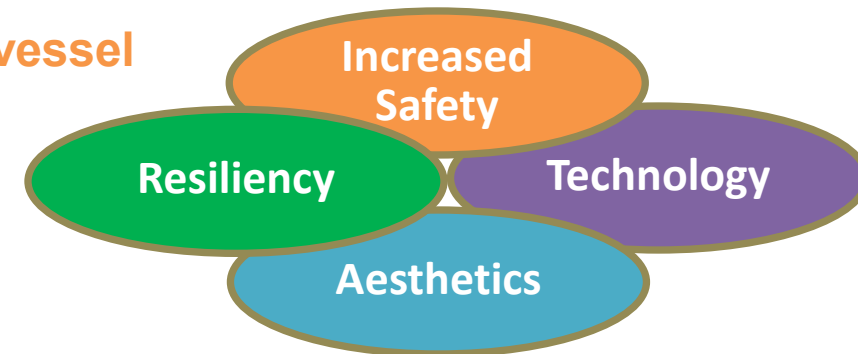
- Employ **Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC)** – prefabricating deck, installing while assembled
- Solid deck provides **reduced road noise**, **better rideability for bicyclists**, and is more **resilient (non-corrosive)** and **aesthetic**

New Fender System:

- **Resilient** fiber-reinforced polymer, **better at absorbing energy from vessel impacts**
- Durable, easy to maintain, and environmentally friendly
- **Reduced noise during pile installation**

Paving, Striping, Signing and Traffic Monitoring Site (TMS):

- **Safety** and **aesthetic** enhancements (ex. new asphalt, two-tone lane stripes)
- New **vehicle detection loops** and pull boxes at TMS



Project Schedule and Cost

- **Estimated Construction Start: Spring 2026**
- **Estimated Construction End: Spring 2027**
- **Estimated Construction Cost: \$12 million**



How Long Will These Improvements Last?

- Machinery – 25 years
- Paint – 10 years
- New Solid Deck and Fender System – Lifetime of bridge

6. Contact Information and Q&A

Contact Information

If you have additional questions, please contact
FDOT Project Manager Thuc H. Le, P.E. at:

Thuc.Le@dot.state.fl.us



3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309



(954) 777-4552 or
Toll Free: (866) 336-8435; Ext. 4552







Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

March 30, 2026

Dear Elected Official:

RE: Virtual Public Meeting and In-Person Construction Open House
East Las Olas Boulevard Bridge Rehabilitation Project
East Las Olas Boulevard Bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW)
In the City of Fort Lauderdale; Broward County, FL
Financial Project ID Number: 449257-1-52-01

On behalf of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), you and your staff are invited to attend a Virtual and In-Person Construction Open House to learn about the East Las Olas Boulevard Bridge Rehabilitation Project. Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2026.

The Virtual Public Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 8, 2026**, from **5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Please use the following link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/vpm-lasolasbridge>. Participants may also join the online meeting by dialing: +1 (646) 760-2034, access code: 764 885 629#. A brief presentation followed by questions and comments from the public will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and again from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Questions and comments may be submitted via the online chat or with the raise hand feature for the project team to address directly.

The In-Person Construction Open House is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 8, 2026**, from **6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at **ArtServe at 1350 East Sunrise Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304**. This meeting will have an informal open house format with project representatives available to answer questions and provide assistance at any time during the meeting.

Notices are being sent to all property owners and tenants within the construction corridor and to other public officials, regulatory agencies, organizations, and individuals who expressed interest in the project. Attached is a copy of the project information flyer.

Community feedback is at the core of all we do. FDOT works with the public to balance their community vision with the community's transportation needs. This is routine on all our projects to ensure Florida's infrastructure is safe, resilient, and efficient for many years into the future.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the FDOT Broward Operations Construction Engineer, Christian Rojas, P.E., at (954) 958-7633 or via email at christian.rojas@dot.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Steve Braun

86FB79A8F1EE4EE...
Steven C. Braun, P.E.
District 4 Secretary

SB:cr

Attachment: Project Information Flyer



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INVITES YOU TO A VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING AND IN-PERSON CONSTRUCTION OPEN HOUSE

East Las Olas Boulevard Bridge Rehabilitation Project Over the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW)
In the City of Fort Lauderdale
Broward County, FL
Financial Project ID Numbers: 449257-1-52-01

EAST LAS OLAS BOULEVARD BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) invites the community to a Virtual Public Meeting and In-Person Construction Open House regarding the upcoming East Las Olas Boulevard Bridge Rehabilitation Project in the city of Fort Lauderdale. This project aims to enhance the safety, resiliency, and longevity of the infrastructure for our communities. Please see below for detailed meeting information.

Construction Cost: \$14.1 Million

Construction Start: May 2026

Estimated Completion: Late 2027

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

- Replacing the old deck with a new solid surface aluminum deck.
- Painting the structural steel.
- Replacing electrical components and wiring.
- Replacing the mechanical span locks, which connect the two leaves of the movable bridge deck when the bridge is in the "down" position.
- Replacing the existing navigation/marine fenders in the waterway, including replacement of the timber piles and support beams.
- Renovating the bridge tender house.
- Minor repaving of the roadway at ends of the bridge.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS

- Long term lane closures will be in place during deck replacement operations. One lane in each direction will be maintained on one side of the bridge. Each side is expected to last approximately three months (6 months total).
- Pedestrian traffic will be maintained on the side of the bridge opposite active construction, and access to all properties on both sides of the bridge will always be maintained.
- Full closures of the bridge will occur nightly, Sunday through Thursday, from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. for fender system reconstruction. Traffic will be detoured.
- Single lane closures will occur nightly, Sunday through Thursday from 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., as needed.
- The outside eastbound lane along Las Olas Boulevard will be closed continuously during painting operations.
- Additional information about lane closures and pedestrian impacts will be provided in the weekly traffic report distributed by FDOT and can be viewed using the following link: [FDOT Broward County Construction Projects \(d4fdot.com\)](https://www.flhwy.com/d4fdot.com).

MARINE IMPACTS

- Marine vessel traffic will be maintained with temporary closure on half the channel during fender construction.
- Modification to the draw bridge operation schedule will be coordinated with the United States Coast Guard.

JOIN US AT THE CONSTRUCTION OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

**Virtual Public Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please use the following link or QR code to register:

*****tinyurl.com/vpm-lasolasbridge

You may also call in at:

Phone number: +1 (646) 760-2034

Phone Conference ID: 764 885 629#

- Presentations will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- Question and Answer sessions will follow each presentation.

In-Person Construction Open House

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

ArtServe

1350 East Sunrise Boulevard

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

- Project personnel will be available to review the project scope and schedule, lane closure information, and address questions one-on-one.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Jesus Sarmiento, P.E. — FDOT Construction Project Manager
jesus.sarmiento@dot.state.fl.us or (954) 218-1465

Greg Spelios, P.E. — Project Administrator
gspelios@pinnaclecei.com or (305) 321-7772

Rebecca Guerrero — Community Outreach Specialist
rguerrero@pinnaclecei.com or (754) 444-0093

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

X/Instagram: @MyFDOT_SEFL

Facebook: @MyFDOTSEFL

Website: www.d4fdot.com



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MISSION STATEMENT

The Florida Department of Transportation's mission is to provide a safe statewide transportation system that promotes the efficient movement of people and goods, supports the state's economic competitiveness, prioritizes Florida's environment and natural resources, and preserves the quality of life and connectedness of the state's communities.

Please contact the Community Outreach Specialist, Rebecca Guerrero, to be added to project email notification lists. If special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or translation services (free of charge) are needed, please contact the Construction Project Manager, Jesus Sarmiento, P.E., at least seven (7) days prior to the Virtual Public Meeting. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Para información y preguntas en Español, por favor llame al (954) 777-4302.