

Dec. 2, 2010

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Myakka Bridge is expected to reopen by Christmas

Myakka Bridge is expected to reopen to traffic by Christmas, Dec. 25. Built in 1954, the bridge was closed to traffic on the evening of Nov. 19 for emergency repairs. The two-lane bridge over the Myakka River is located east of Interstate 75, about 2.1 miles south of Fruitville Road on Myakka Road.

The need for structural repairs was identified Nov. 18 during the biennial Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) inspection, which found that the bridge deck and beams have shifted on the bridge supports since the last inspection two years ago. It is not known whether the shift was gradual or has accelerated over the past several months, potentially leading to a complete failure. For the safety of the public, Sarasota County Mobility officials determined that the bridge should be closed to traffic while repairs are under way.

It is estimated that the repairs will extend the service life of the 56-year-old bridge by three to five years. The project is currently under design, with construction expected to start the week of Dec. 13 and conclude by Dec. 25. The cost of design, permitting and construction is estimated at less than \$200,000.

Kisinger Campo & Associates Corp. is providing engineering services. Cone & Graham Inc. is the construction firm.

Detour signs are posted. The traffic detours are:

- Eastbound: North on Verna Road, east on State Road 70, south on Sugar Bowl Road to Clay Gully Road
- Westbound: Clay Gully Road, north on Sugar Bowl Road, west on State Road 70 to Verna Road.

The Myakka State Park is accessible via Clark Road (State Road 72), a shorter route than traveling on State Road 70.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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