

Questions concerning proposed drawbridge on the Faciane canal

Operation

Please describe what you would consider your responsibility to be as drawbridge owner/operator for boats navigating the Faciane canal?

(Not answered)

1. What times and days will the drawbridge be manned?
Answer: The bridge will be automated. There will be four (4) up/down controls to either raise or lower the bridge. One on either side of the bridge for cars and one on either side of the bridge for boats. The boat controls shall be located on pilings, easily accessible for a boat operator to either lower or raise the bridge. The boat controls shall be located approximately fifty feet (50') on either side of the drawbridge
2. Will any notification be required to pass through the drawbridge?
Answer: No
3. If there is no boat to pass through the drawbridge or a car to pass over the bridge, what will be the position of the drawbridge? That is, what will be the normal position of the bridge if there is no traffic?
Answer: Normally, the bridge will stay in the drawn (up) position, however the normal time for the draw to fully open from the closed (down) position will be less than thirty (30)seconds.
4. If the draw on the bridge is down and a boat needs to pass, who will operate the drawbridge?
Answer: Please refer to Answer number one (1).
5. If the drawbridge is up and an emergency vehicle or another vehicle needs to pass over the bridge, how will the bridge be lowered?
Answer: Please refer to Answer number one (1),
6. Will there be a manned 24-hour phone number posted to contact a bridge tender to operate the draw for normal traffic or for emergencies?
Answer: There will be a 24-hour emergency number posted.
7. If electricity is out, such as during a hurricane, how will the bridge be raised or lowered?
Answer: There will be no back up electrical system provided. Any boats needing the bridge drawn during such emergencies will have to travel around the Island. An inconvenience of one and one half minutes longer.

8. Will there be a back-up system to operate the draw, if the primary system fails mechanically?
Answer: No
9. How will a vessel requiring more than 20' horizontal clearance reach North Shore Beach?
e.g. a catamaran sail boat or work barge
Answer: They will simply go around the Island.
10. If the draw breaks down, how will a deep draft boat requiring more than 5' 7" clearance reach North Shore Beach?
Answer: They will be able to go around the Island until the bridge is repaired.
11. If there is a change of ownership of the island or canal, who will maintain and operate the bridge?
Answer: The new owner.
12. Traditionally boats have used the backside of the island for a "safe harbor" in a hurricane. In the future, what will have priority - those seeking safe harbor or those who need to make passage around the island?
Answer: We will try to keep the passage around the Island open in such an emergency.

Financial

13. Who is liable for an accident caused by an operational failure of the drawbridge?
Answer: If in fact it is proven that the drawbridge caused the accident the owner would be responsible.
14. What insurance level will be carried to cover bridge accidents - particularly for accidents associated with an un-tendered drawbridge?
Answer: The insurance level, if any has not been determined.
15. Will a performance bond be made to assure financial security for bridge operation and maintenance?
Answer: No

Maintenance

16. How is maintenance of the bridge guaranteed in perpetuity?
Answer: The bridge shall be maintained by the Island owner to assure that the bridge will always operate to specifications.

17. What maintenance schedule will be used to assure the bridge is operational?

Answer: Please refer to Answer number 16.

18. Will maintenance be contracted or will it be provided by the bridge owner?

Answer: Who maintains the bridge shall be determined by the owner.

Design

19. Will the bridge be new or used ? If used, how old is it?

Answer: New

20. How will the draw mechanics work i.e. mechanical, hydraulic, electrical, manual?

Answer: The bridge shall be a hydraulically operated draw.

21. Will a certified engineering firm design the bridge and draw works? If yes, who will it be?

Answer: A professional company shall design the draw mechanics of the bridge.

22. Will the bridge meet parish engineering and roadway standards or will variances be requested? What variances will be requested?

Answer: The bridge will meet the parish standards for a privately owned and operated drawbridge.

23. Why is the drawbridge so close to the bank and not centered where traffic can pass most safely?

Answer: The old pilings just south of the bridge will be removed thereby creating a straight passage for boat traffic in either direction.

24. Why aren't fenders incorporated into the drawbridge?

Answer: There shall be fenders on either side of the bridge.

25. Will the drawbridge have lit navigation beacons?

Answer: No

26. What is the basis for the 20' horizontal clearance? (The Faciane canal can easily handle boat or barge beams of 40' work barges requiring greater than 20' routinely use the Faciane canal)

Answer: Please refer to Answer no. 9

27. Vertical clearance of the bridge will require many boats to depend on the draw. Can the bridge be elevated to 8 or 10 feet and still have a draw?

Answer: This will be taken into consideration.

28. Has a certified survey been conducted of the site?

Answer: No.

29. What construction material will be used for the bridge and draw?

Answer: Treated wood pilings, steel and aluminum.

30. What is the design load capacity of the bridge?

Answer: Design capacity = 20,000 lbs. per axle capacity with a 40,000 lbs. total.

31. What is the daily estimated traffic use? Boats and cars

Answer: A. Cars - Estimated 5 to 12 cars per day.
B. Boats - One to two boats per day.