

I-75 LaPlaisance Virtual Public Meeting
Public Meeting #1 – July 28, 2020
MDOT’s Responses to Unanswered Questions
Additional Attendee Comments

Bridge Opening

- 1. Is the bridge going to open with weight restrictions?*

The bridge reopened Sept. 3, 2020, with a 30-ton weight limit.

- 2. Did you say northbound traffic is open on the bridge in Stage2?*

Because the new bridge is proposed to be constructed off the alignment of the existing bridge (the new bridge is proposed to be constructed to the west of the existing), one lane is proposed to be maintained over the existing LaPlaisance Road bridge during Stages 1 and 2.

Also during Stages 1 and 2, construction of the new LaPlaisance Road bridge over I-75 will begin along with construction of the roundabout on the north side of I-75, in addition to miscellaneous ramp and LaPlaisance Road work.

Starting with Stage 3, the LaPlaisance Road bridge over I-75 is proposed to be closed to all traffic, which is when construction of the roundabout to the south will begin and all other ramp, road and bridge work will continue until it is complete through Stage 4.

- 3. Can the bridge possibly get reopened with metered traffic in both directions?*

In discussions with the City of Monroe, Monroe Township, and Monroe Township Emergency Services, we determined that keeping the major movements open at the interchange (into the city) was the preferred option for reopening. Monroe Township Emergency Services were agreeable to using their flashers and sirens to cross the bridge in the opposite direction of traffic in the event they need to access Bolles Harbor.

- 4. You mentioned having one northbound lane open on LaPlaisance Road. Right now, the bridge is completely closed. When might that lane be opened, and with what weight limit?*

The bridge reopened Sept. 3, 2020, with a 30-ton weight limit.

- 5. What is the timeline for the other LaPlaisance Road bridge? It seems to be deteriorating faster now that the other bridge is closed*

MDOT is planning to add this bridge into the Five-Year Transportation Plan to be let along with the I-75 road project planned from Otter Creek Road to LaPlaisance Road.

- 6. Did you say northbound traffic is open on the bridge in Stage 2?*

Please see question #2 above.

Other Bridge(s)

7. *Has the south LaPlaisance bridge been looked at to be sure that it is safe?*

Yes. This bridge was recently looked at in detail when it was scoped this year.

8. *The south Otter Creek bridge is in poor condition. What happens if that fails during this period? Alternatively, is that bridge intended to be repaired?*

The southbound I-75 bridge over Otter Creek is scheduled to be replaced in 2022.

9. *Have you driven on the northbound I-75 Exit 9 ramp? It's so bad.*

This is S. Otter Creek Road, which is not part of the LaPlaisance Road and I-75 interchange reconstruction project. However, reconstruction of this ramp, along with the Otter Creek and I-75 interchange and mainline I-75, is proposed to start in 2022.

Operations

10. *Why not have the northbound I-75 exit ramp go directly to the east roundabout rather than having to drive through a four-way intersection, then, if heading northwest on LaPlaisance Road, making a left turn, then having to drive through the east roundabout?*

The northbound I-75 exit ramp to LaPlaisance Road is proposed to be realigned and connected with the proposed roundabout on the south side of I-75 when this segment of I-75 is reconstructed in the future. Based on the current design, this northbound exit ramp is proposed to be reconstructed from the east side of the bridge over the LaPlaisance Creek to the terminal with LaPlaisance Road. This will avoid reconstruction of the LaPlaisance Creek bridge and accommodates the grade changes at LaPlaisance Road.

The reasoning behind waiting to realign this ramp with the new roundabout is that this realignment would require reconstructing and widening the I-75 bridge over LaPlaisance Creek. This bridge would have to tie in with the current horizontal and vertical alignments, and when I-75 is reconstructed through this area, the horizontal and vertical alignments are likely to be modified, thus requiring this same bridge to be reconstructed within a few years. With the currently plan, both LaPlaisance Creek bridges (I-75 and the northbound exit ramp over LaPlaisance Creek) will not be touched as part of this project. Also, limited impacts are anticipated on I-75 traffic through this area as the majority of the work will occur while maintaining existing I-75 lanes (outside of bridge demolition and beam erecting procedures). Also, MDOT will eliminate one structure from their inventory (the northbound exit ramp over LaPlaisance Creek) in the future when the northbound exit ramp is realigned.

11. Has the sight distance been reviewed when going over the bridge? I assume the raised grade and close location of roundabouts could make sight distance a bit tricky.

Yes, the sight distance going over the bridge from both northbound and southbound LaPlaisance Road has been reviewed and is in conformance with current MDOT standards. Additionally, sight distance at each ramp as vehicles enter the proposed roundabouts has been reviewed and is in conformance with current MDOT standards. Maximum roadway and roundabout grades have been adhered to as part of the design process.

12. I joined the meeting a few minutes late so you may have covered this earlier. Will there be any access for one lane of vehicles at a time over the existing bridge during the construction of the new bridge?

Because the new bridge is proposed to be constructed off the alignment of the existing bridge (the new bridge is proposed to be constructed to the west of the existing), one lane is proposed to be maintained over the existing LaPlaisance Road bridge during Stages 1 and 2.

Also during Stages 1 and 2, construction of the new LaPlaisance Road bridge over I-75 will begin, along with construction of the roundabout on the north side of I-75, in addition to miscellaneous ramp and LaPlaisance Road work.

Starting with Stage 3, the LaPlaisance Road bridge over I-75 is proposed to be closed to all traffic, which is when construction of the roundabout to the south will begin, and all other ramp, road and bridge work will continue until it is complete through Stage 4.

13. Only westbound traffic will be able to cross the bridge? What about eastbound traffic? (I joined the meeting a few minutes late so you may have covered this earlier. Will there be any access for one lane of vehicles at a time over the existing bridge during the construction of the new bridge?)

The eastbound (or traffic traveling south along LaPlaisance Road) is proposed to be detoured. For traffic looking to access northbound or southbound I-75, the detour is proposed to use M-125 (S. Dixie Highway) and S. Otter Creek Road. For traffic looking to access LaPlaisance Road south of I-75, the detour is proposed to use M-125 (S. Dixie Highway) and LaPlaisance Road.