



PRESS RELEASE

The City of Treasure Island, Florida
120 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, FL 33706 (727) 547-4575
cityhall@mytreasureisland.org
www.mytreasureisland.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Don Hambidge, PE, TI Public Works Director
727-547-4575 ext. 250

TREASURE ISLAND CAUSEWAY BRIDGE TO CLOSE 6 MONTHS BEGINNING JANUARY 3rd

TREASURE ISLAND (November 16, 2005) – The Treasure Island Causeway Bridge will close to vehicular traffic for six months beginning January 3rd, 2006, Treasure Island Public Works Director Don Hambidge, PE, announced November 15th. The bridge will be open to marine traffic; however, there may be times when only one leaf of the drawbridge is operational, Hambidge added.

Detour routes to and from Treasure Island during the bridge closure are the Madeira Beach Causeway to the north and the Corey Causeway in St. Pete Beach to the south.

Initially, the closure period was set between March and July 2006. "But the high-strength steel required for the north half of the drawbridge was re-directed to Iraq for armoring troop transports," said Hambidge. This delayed the shipment of the bridge steel by 2 ½ months and caused a rescheduling of most bridge construction components.

During January and February 2006, the existing bascule piers will be demolished by using small explosive charges designed to crack the concrete into mechanically removable, manageable reef-building blocks. "This way, we won't endanger marine species and can still achieve our demolition goals," said Hambidge. Fender pile driving will be done at this time. In March and April, the bascule counterweights will be constructed. The north span completion and installation of mechanical and electrical operational systems will be done during May and June.

When the first half of the new Treasure Island Causeway Bridge opens in July 2006, there will one lane of vehicular traffic in each direction and a new 10-foot wide pedestrian and bike path. Full completion of the \$50-million bridge is expected in late 2007.