



The City of Treasure Island, Florida
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NEWS RELEASE

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Treasure Island Causeway re-opens June 10th

TREASURE ISLAND - After a 158-day closure, two lanes of the new Treasure Island Causeway Bridge will open to traffic this Saturday, June 10th with a ribbon cutting, an antique car parade and refreshments, including special "no toll-house" cookies.

Local and regional officials will kick off the bridge-opening ceremony with remarks at the east end (the St. Petersburg side) of the bridge at 9am. "Sure, we'll all have to 'drive around' just one last time Saturday morning to get to the St. Pete side for the ceremony," said Treasure Island Public Information Officer Jeff Jensen. Coffee and refreshments, including "no-toll house" cookies will be served. Mayor Mary Maloof and the Treasure Island City Commission, with City Manager Ralph Stone, Public Works Director Don Hambidge, Johnson Bros. Corporation Project Manager John Meagher and E.C. Driver Design Engineer Jim Phillips, will then cut a red, white and blue balloon-festooned "gateway" signaling the start of the antique car parade.

The parade of antique cars, each car representing one decade since the first Treasure Island Causeway Bridge opened in 1939, will proceed westbound to Treasure Island. The bridge will not be open to two-way traffic during the parade.

Following the parade, the bridge will open to regular two-way traffic at 10am. Traffic will be controlled at both ends of the bridge by officers from both the Treasure Island and the St. Petersburg Police Departments. "We've built in some time immediately after the parade so crews can adjust and reposition some of the detour signs," said TI Public Works Director Don Hambidge. The 10 foot-wide bridge sidewalk will not be open for pedestrians on Saturday, Hambidge added, "as the guardrails need to be manufactured and installed along with the sidewalk lights and, most importantly, the pedestrian gates for the bascule span."

Closed since January 3rd of this year, the Treasure Island Causeway Bridge is the gateway between Treasure Island and the mainland. During the closure, drawbridge spans for the new north-side span were erected, electrical, mechanical and hydraulic systems were installed, and a state-of-the-art control system was connected. The old toll plaza was leveled and removed, forever.