

My name is Edward Gerulat. I live in the Ridgemoor subdivision. I am a retired Professional Civil Engineer, previously licensed in five states. I have had lead roles on multi-billion-dollar municipal projects in my 45 years as a consulting engineer.

I have concerns regarding the current plan to replace the Ridgemoor bridge. I concur with what my fellow Ridgemoor residents have stated. I further offer the following:

I have found on the internet that FDOT has limited experience in replacing two lane bridges, one lane at a time, with a finished bridge of two lanes, one lane in each direction. Apparently, a vast majority of FDOT's experience is to replace a two-lane bridge with a four-lane bridge, which should have been the approach with the Ridgemoor replacement bridge given that four lanes approach the bridge $\approx 400'$ from the east and $\approx 1800'$ from the west. I urge the Commissioners to have FDOT revisit the installation of two separate bridges.

According to the internet FDOT open data hub, the annual average daily traffic flow over the bridge was 7,900 in 2024. Traffic includes school buses full of children, fire trucks, dump trucks, garbage trucks, and other heavy equipment as well as commuters. As my fellow residents have expressed, safety, mainly timely access by first responders, is our greatest concern. Significant time delays would likely occur for first responders to pass over the single lane bridge controlled by unmanned automated signals with the possibility of facing oncoming traffic during rush hours. Daily commuters will face significant time delays during construction. We understand that a pedestrian walkway will be provided during construction, but when the north lane is removed use of the walkway on the south side will require crossing Ridgemoor Blvd twice since no sidewalk is on the southside. The current FDOT design does not require construction contractor guarantees that the bridge safely support the anticipated traffic volume throughout construction. I have worked on many infrastructure projects in my 45-year career and maintaining existing operations was a primary responsibility of the construction contractor with large penalties for non-compliance. Any one of us could be injured or worse if the one lane bridge failed while using the bridge. I urge the Commissioners to include large penalties in the construction contract if one lane on the bridge is not maintained at all times.

I have copies of my transcript for the Clerk and the Commissioners.

Thank you.