

VENICE

Sarasota County approves \$9.4M project to rehabilitate Manasota Beach Road bridge



Christian Casale

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Sept. 16, 2025, 4:01 a.m. ET

Sarasota County is preparing a major rehabilitation project for the Manasota Beach Road drawbridge, which hasn't seen a major touch-up in over two decades.

The project is set to cost \$9,428,688 – 64% of that will be footed by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, \$2,980,000 from the **Resilient** SRQ program's federal hurricane recovery dollars, and the rest will come from Sarasota County's infrastructure surtax.

Final designs are estimated to be completed by September 2026, according to a county spokesperson, with construction to be done by the end of 2028.

The effects and impact that construction will have on traffic typically aren't known until designs are completed, a county spokesperson said.

More: [Fate of historic 'Flying Bridge' to Casey Key discussed at Sarasota County public meeting](#)

Carolyn Eastwood, the county's director of capital projects, wrote in a memo to County Administrator Jonathan Lewis that the repairs will extend the bridge's service life and prepare it for sea level rise.

“Because this bridge is one of only two connecting Manasota Key to the mainland, it serves as an essential evacuation route for the nearly 3,000 residents of Manasota Key and thousands of daily visitors, including beachgoers and short-term renters,” Eastwood wrote.

The bridge was built in 1964 and was most recently rehabilitated in 2002.

The tender house on the drawbridge sustained some damage from the 2024 storm season, but the overall rehabilitation was planned prior to that.

Christian Casale covers local government for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. Email him at ccasale@gannett.com or christiancasale@protonmail.com

Related: [Sarasota County OKs \\$15M Manasota Beach Road plan pushed by mega-developer Pat Neal](#)

