

Key Allegro Bridge FAQ



1. Why is the bridge important?

The current bridge was built in 1964 and is the only access on or off Key Allegro Island for approximately 807 homes.

2. What happened?

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey severely damaged the bulkhead on the northwest side of the bridge as well as accelerated damage to the bridge's sidewalk and railings and damaged other parts of the bridge. Temporary repairs were made to the bulkhead and engineering plans were completed for the sidewalk and railings while discussion began with state and federal officials about replacement of the entire bridge structure. Subsequent inspections by divers also identified scouring of bridge piers below the waterline.

City Council was scheduled to select a contractor for the sidewalk and railings at its June 26th meeting; however, the heavy rain event of June 18-21 caused the temporary bulkhead to fail, resulting in erosion and damage to the west headwall and a section of the westbound pavement.

3. Who has looked at the bridge?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), City of Rockport Public Works Department, and the City's bridge engineer (LJA Engineers), have all inspected the bridge multiple times since Harvey and especially in June.

4. Is the bridge safe?

The bridge can no longer carry the loads it once was able to but it is not in imminent danger of failure. With the minor changes described below, the bridge can continue to be used safely until a temporary solution is installed and a permanent replacement constructed.

5. What is the immediate plan?

The westbound lane will be closed and temporary traffic signals installed to control traffic on the remaining lane. Existing erosion and bulkhead damage will be repaired. TxDOT will establish a lower weight limit for vehicles, possibly resulting in some construction equipment not being able to come to Key Allegro until a temporary bridge is in place. Garbage trucks will begin their Monday route when they are empty, requiring customers to put their carts out earlier than normal. The Fire Department will keep two fire trucks on the island.

6. What is the long-term plan?

Prior to the recent damage, the Key Allegro bridge was expected to have several more years of life remaining. Design of the replacement structure has begun but it is likely that a permanent bridge may not be completed for a couple of years. A temporary bridge will be installed in the coming weeks, enabling the demolition of the current bridge.

7. Who will pay for the new bridge?

Because the bridge was damaged by storms, the cost of the replacement bridge is expected to be paid for by state and federal sources.

8. Who can I call if I have more questions?

Please contact the City of Rockport Public Works Department at (361) 790-1160 if you have additional questions.