

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
United States Coast Guard
Fifth Coast Guard District

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16591
26 JUN 2024

PRELIMINARY PUBLIC NOTICE D05PPN-08-2024

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District has received a proposal from the North Carolina Department of Transportation with plans for replacement of an existing highway drawbridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Cape Fear River, mile 26.8, at Wilmington, NC.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The proposed project is to replace the existing 0.57 mile long, 4-lane vertical lift drawbridge with a six-lane, high-rise, fixed bridge; or vertical lift drawbridge; on a new alignment approximately 150 feet south of the existing bridge. The purpose is to replace a structurally deficient bridge experiencing substantial deterioration, due to its age. The project is needed to accommodate the high growth area of New Hanover and Brunswick Counties and traffic increases that support the growing population.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Vertical Clearance:	Vertical Clearance:
Open – 135 feet above mean high water	Open – 135 feet above mean high water
Closed – 65 feet above mean high water	Closed – 65 feet above mean high water
Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel)	Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel)
350 feet between fenders	400 feet between fenders

North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88)

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to provide navigational information, such as the sizes and types of vessels presently owned and operated on the waterway and nature of navigation (including the extent of nighttime navigation) on the waterway. Mariners are requested to comment on the navigational clearances and need for bridge protective systems, clearance gauges, and navigational lighting on the proposed bridge. Please submit the attached response form.

Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed project. Comments will be received for the record at the office of Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 through **July 26, 2024**.

HAL R. PITTS
Bridge Program Manager
By direction

Attachments: (1) Response Form

US 17/76/421 (Cape Fear Memorial) Bridge
 Cape Fear River, mile 26.8,
 at Wilmington, NC.
Preliminary Public Notice D05PPN-08-2024
 Response Form

It is requested that anyone having an interest in this proposed project, from the standpoint of navigation, submit vessel information, comments, and recommendations on this form to the office of Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 by **July 26, 2024**.

Vessel Information	Please provide all requested information:
Vessel Type	
Use – <i>Commercial and/or Recreational</i>	
Vessel Height	
Draft	
Length	
Beam	
Tonnage	
Mooring Location	

Name (Optional): _____

Address (Optional): _____

Phone (Optional): _____

Comments and Recommendations: _____
