

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
Seventh District

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Miami, FL 33132  
Staff Symbol: (dbp)  
Phone: 571-614-1005  
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02/06/2025

## PUBLIC NOTICE 02-25

All interested parties are herein notified that the Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, has received application materials dated January 27, 2025 from CSX Transportation for approval of location and plans for the replacement of a bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

**BRIDGE, WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** CSX Railroad Bridge across Etonia Creek/Rice Creek, mile point 0.8, near Palatka, Putnam County, Florida (29.700889, -81.661444).

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** CSX is requesting to remove regulation 33 CFR 117.324 to end the requirement that the bridge "shall open on signal if at least 24 hours of advance notice is given". This is considered a bridge replacement because the bridge is being converted from a moveable to a fixed bridge. No on-site work is to be conducted at this time.

### MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

The bridge will have clearances as described in the table below. These clearances are the same as current clearances over this section of the waterway at or near this mile. Vertical clearance is from low member elevation to mean high water.

	Vertical	Horizontal
<b>Existing (Movable)</b>	<b>Open- Unlimited Closed- 2.3'</b>	<b>Open – 40' Closed- 40'</b>
<b>Proposed (Fixed)</b>	<b>2.3'</b>	<b>40'</b>

**Datum:** NAVD88

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Coast Guard, as the lead Federal agency, has made a tentative determination that the bridge replacement warrants a categorical exclusion for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because it satisfies criteria for such actions listed in the USCG's NEPA Implementing Instructions and the Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01 (series). Documents are available for review online at [NAVCEN District 7](#) or at the above address, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Preliminary analysis indicates that the project would not result in adverse effects as described in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 due to the lack of on-site work.

The requirement for a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, for this project was waived by the Saint Johns River Water Management District on December 9, 2024. No wetland will be taken or affected by this project.

The bridge is located in the floodplain. The 100-year flood elevation is 5 feet, while elevation of the low member of the navigation span is 2.92'; elevations are referenced to NAVD88 datum. No fill material will be placed below MHW level for the construction of the bridge and approaches.

Due to the lack of on-site activities, the project will have no affect based on federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations such as the Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Act, National Historic Preservation Act, etc.).

### **SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:**

Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed navigation clearances, placement of a bridge protective system and other navigational safety issues, including need for clearance gauges and extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting. Other interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impacts to the environmental and navigation, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of the reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed work. Comments will be received for the record at the office of: Commander (dpb), Seventh Coast Guard District, 909 SE 1st Ave., Ste. 432, Miami, Florida 33131-3028 or via email at: Maxwell.C.Utter@uscg.mil, for a 30-day period from the date of this public notice. Comments received will be made part of the project administrative record.

Map of location and plans attached.

Maxwell Utter  
Bridge Management Specialist  
By direction of the Commander,  
United States Coast Guard Seventh District

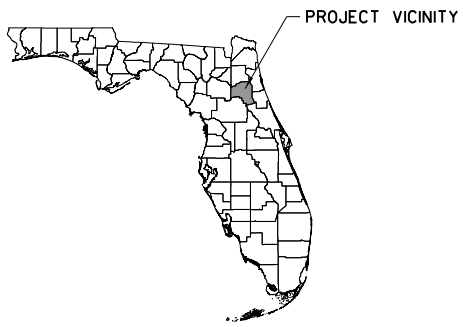


0 100 500  
SCALE IN FEET

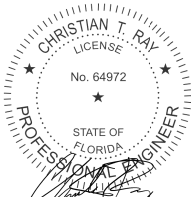
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

NOTES


1. PERMITTING ACTION - PERMANENTLY REMOVE THE REGULATION GOVERNING BRIDGE OPERATIONS, AT THE CSX CROSSING OVER RICE CREEK IN PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA FROM 33 CFR 117.324.
2. THERE ARE NO WILDLIFE AND WATERFOWL REFUGES OR HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT.
3. DIMENSIONS AND ELEVATIONS ARE BASED ON HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND MAY VARY IN THE FIELD.
4. DATUM FOR ELEVATIONS IS NAVD 88.



ORIGINAL SIGNED  
2-3-2025



CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO  
OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT

1	2/3/2025	FINAL
NO.	DATE	REVISIONS
		
525 W. Monroe St. Suite 1600 Chicago, IL 60661 (312) 251-3000		

**CSX**  
TRANSPORTATION

TAMPA DIVISION SANFORD DISTRICT

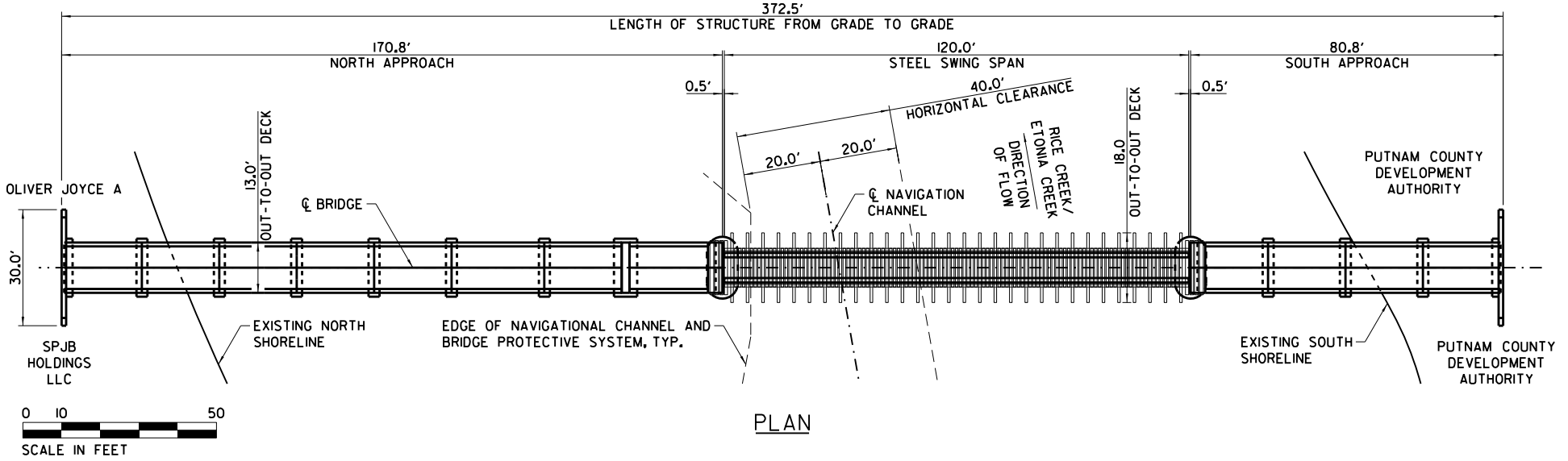
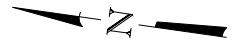
DESCRIPTION **CSX RR BRIDGE OVER RICE CREEK/  
ETONIA CREEK, BOSTWICK, PUTNAM COUNTY, FL**

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

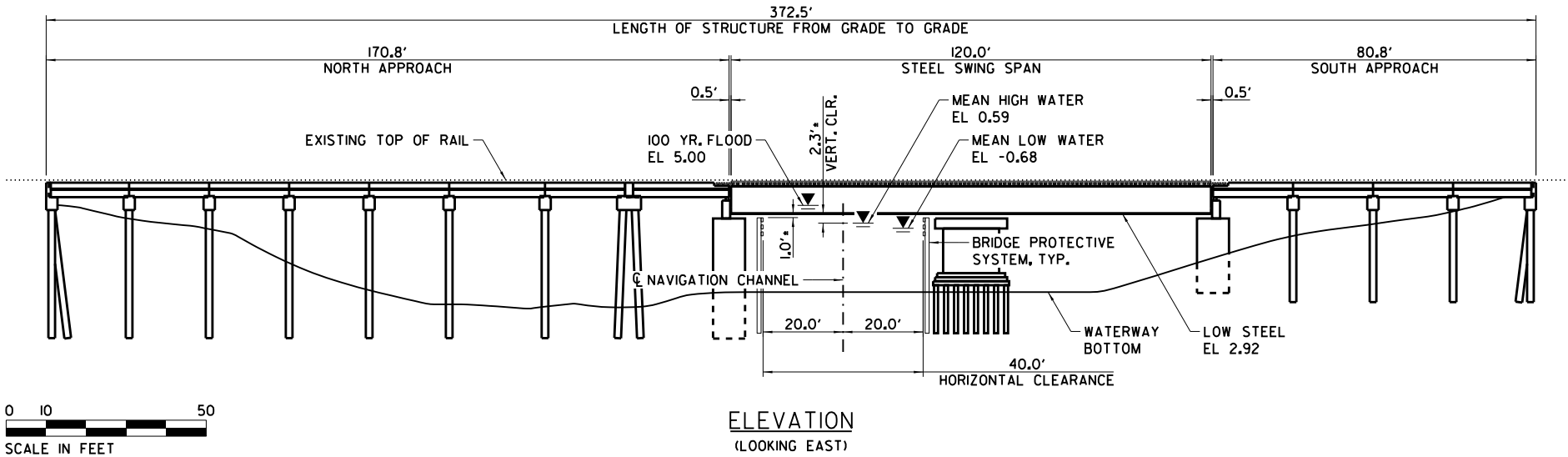
RIVER MILE **0.88**

MADE BY **RWS** DATE **01/15/2025** CHECKED BY **KJB**

SCALE **AS NOTED** DRAWING NO. **S-01**



PLAN

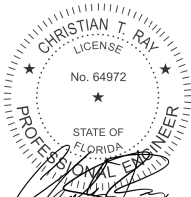


ELEVATION  
(LOOKING EAST)

NOTES

- 1. DIMENSIONS AND ELEVATIONS ARE BASED ON HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND MAY VARY IN THE FIELD.
- 2. DATUM FOR ELEVATIONS IS NAVD 88.

ORIGINAL SIGNED  
2-3-2025



CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT

1	2/3/2025	ISSUE FOR REVIEW
NO.	DATE	REVISIONS

**CSX**  
TRANSPORTATION  
TAMPA DIVISION SANFORD DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION **CSX RR BRIDGE OVER RICE CREEK/  
ETONIA CREEK, BOSTWICK, PUTNAM COUNTY, FL**

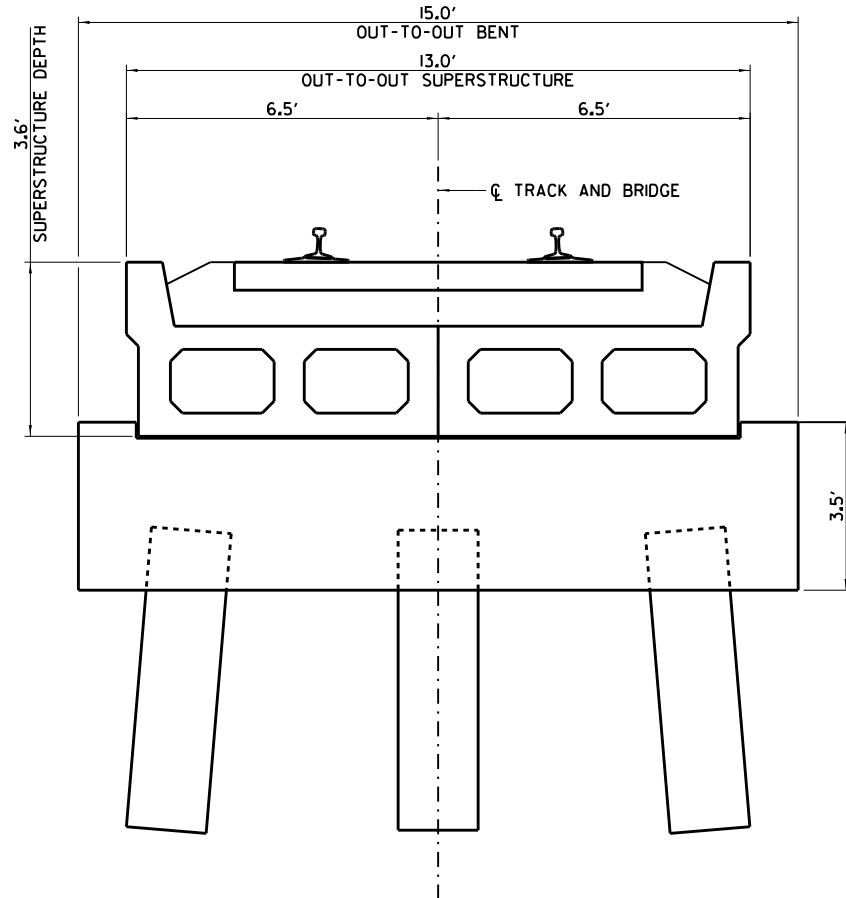
PLAN AND ELEVATION

RIVER MILE **0.88**

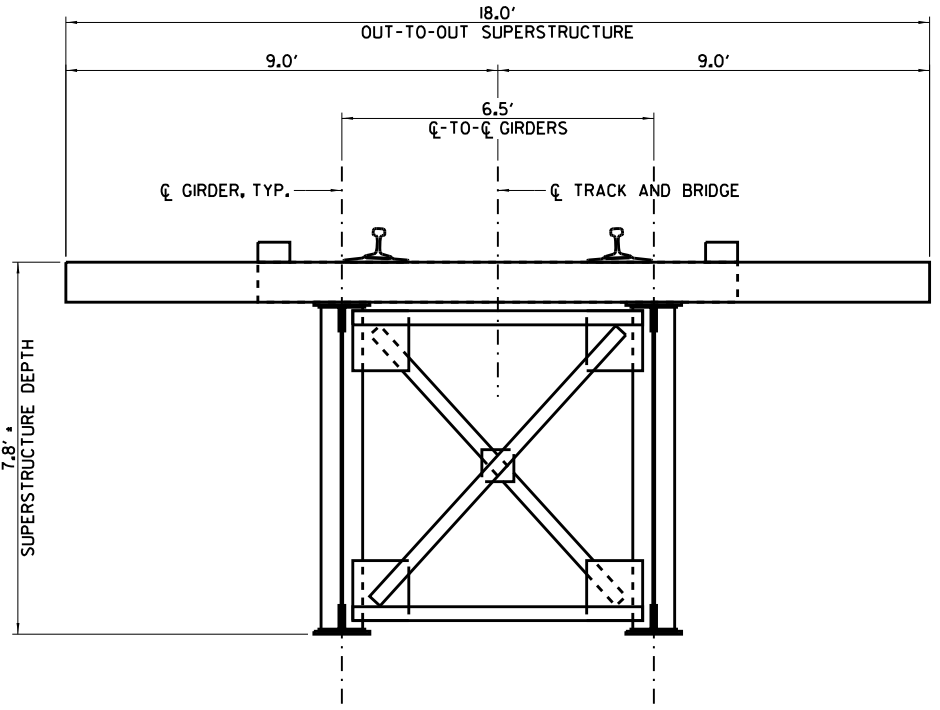
MADE BY **RWS** DATE **01/15/2025** CHECKED BY **KJB**

SCALE **AS NOTED** DRAWING NO. **S-02**





**TYPICAL SECTION - APPROACH SPANS**  
(3-PILE BENT LOCATION SHOWN)



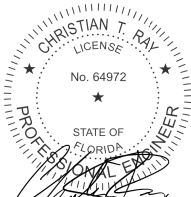
**TYPICAL SECTION - SWING SPAN**  
(MID SPAN LOCATION SHOWN)



**NOTES**

1. RAILINGS ON SWING SPAN NOT SHOWN.
2. DIMENSIONS AND ELEVATIONS ARE BASED ON HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND MAY VARY IN THE FIELD.
3. DATUM FOR ELEVATIONS IS NAVD 88.

ORIGINAL SIGNED  
2-3-2025



CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT

SHEET 3 OF 3

1	2/3/2025	ISSUE FOR REVIEW
NO.	DATE	REVISIONS

**CSX**  
TRANSPORTATION  
TAMPA DIVISION SANFORD DISTRICT  
DESCRIPTION CSX RR BRIDGE OVER RICE CREEK/  
ETONIA CREEK, BOSTWICK, PUTNAM COUNTY, FL  
TYPICAL SECTION

RIVER MILE **0.88**  
MADE BY **RWS** DATE **01/15/2025** CHECKED BY **KJB**  
SCALE **AS NOTED** DRAWING NO. **S-03**

