

RESOLUTION NO. 02-09-110

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA; REQUESTING THAT THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONDUCT FURTHER STUDIES ON THE OLD SEVEN MILE BRIDGE TO DETERMINE IF STATE IMPOSED WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ARE VALID; REQUESTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BEGIN PLANS TO RESTORE THE BRIDGE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Old Seven Mile Bridge (the "Bridge") is the only vehicular link to Pigeon Key; and

WHEREAS, the weight restrictions imposed by the Florida Department of Transportation (the "FDOT") on the Bridge prohibit the proper response of medical and fire rescue services to Pigeon Key, thus posing serious health, safety and welfare risks; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge is an historic landmark and is one of the City of Marathon's (the "City") most valued tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge is also one of the City's most valued recreational resource and is part of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail; and

WHEREAS, the weight restrictions imposed by the FDOT will restrict or prohibit the use of the Bridge as a natural spectator area for local boat races, as a tourist attraction and its use for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the lack of further preventative maintenance and structural repairs by the FDOT to the Bridge will eventually cause the Bridge to be closed; and

WHEREAS, the loss of the Bridge will have a significant negative impact on the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:


Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Studies on the Bridge. The City requests that the FDOT immediately conduct further studies on the Bridge to determine if the existing weight restrictions can be elevated.

Section 3. Restoration. The City requests that the FDOT, Monroe County and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and City begin immediate cooperative plans to restore the Bridge to a safe condition, capable of bearing weight loads consistent with the needs of Pigeon Key, past traffic load, its status as an historical landmark and tourist attraction, and its use for recreational purposes.


Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of September, 2002.



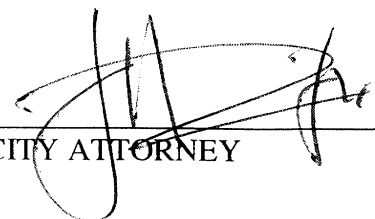
JOHN BARTUS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KATHERINE SELCHAO
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



CITY ATTORNEY