

RESOLUTION NO. 88 - 76

WHEREAS, the Palm Valley Bridge, a fifty year old bascule bridge with nine (9) foot vertical clearance, is located at approximately statute mile 755.8 on the intercoastal waterway in St. Johns County, Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Palm Valley Bridge, is currently owned, operated, and maintained by the Federal government through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and

WHEREAS, the Palm Valley Bridge is the last such bridge under Federal jurisdiction in the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Palm Valley Bridge is of substandard width for safe passage of vehicular traffic in both directions, and the deck construction is substandard and poses a danger to oncoming vehicles, and

WHEREAS, the Palm Valley Bridge load limit has been reduced from the customary load limit of 40 tons Gross for a type 3-3 unit to 15 tons, and the bulk of commercial traffic must use the Vilano Bridge, some sixteen (16) miles to the south or Butler Boulevard, approximately ten (10) miles north, and

WHEREAS, the Palm Valley Bridge traffic volumes on peak days exceeds 10,000 vehicles per day, far exceeding the safe capacity of the bridge, and

WHEREAS, the Palm Valley Bridge is the primary evacuation route for the Ponte Vedra - Palm Valley Area, and the alternate routes will be at capacity during such an emergency

NOW THEREFORE, St. Johns County requests it's Congressional delegation to introduce the attached resolution to the House of Representatives' Committee on Public Works and Transportation to initiate the replacement program for the bridge. St. Johns County is willing to take over ownership, operation, and maintenance of the high rise structure after completion by the Corps of Engineers. The County is also willing to act as the project sponsor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22nd day of March,  
1988 by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By Lawrence O. Hartley  
Its Chairman

ATTEST: CARL "BUD" MARKEL, CLERK

By Anna M. McDonald  
Deputy Clerk

DRAFT RESOLUTION  
PALM VALLEY BRIDGE, FLORIDA

Resolved by the Committee on Public Works and transportation of the House of Representatives, United States, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors is hereby requested to review the report on the Intracoastal Waterway, Jacksonville to Miami, published in House Document No. 740/79/2 with a view to determining whether modifications are advisable at this time, with particular reference to Federal operation and maintenance of the Palm Valley Bridge, Florida specified in the Permanent Appropriation Repeal Act of 26 June 1934, and to replacing the bridge and transferring ownership, operation, and maintenance to local interests.