

BSI Canal Committee 2/10/2025

As I'm sure most are aware, work has started on Lock widening and is scheduled to continue for the next few months. I've been getting a lot of questions so I thought I would publish the most often asked ones.

First, let me start by saying that the contract gives the contractor (Kelly Brothers) the right to close lock access during normal work hours. This is defined as from 7am to 12 noon, and 1pm to 5pm, Monday, through Friday. They are to keep the Lock open before 7am, from 12pm to 1pm and after 5pm, and on weekends. So, I would suggest planning trips through the Lock with that in mind.

Second, they, like most contractors, will be working with the Lock closed at times, and other times with the Lock open. I strongly suggest that if you would like to pass during normal work hours --- drive, walk, bike over to the Lock and see what is going on. If you see people working, ask what their plans are and the possibility of getting your boat through. Things may change between your visit and potential boat passage—so understand that they cannot take responsibility for hourly deviations and you may need to turn around until after work hours, but this seems to hold the greatest possibility of passing during work hours.

Most asked questions:

- Why is the Lock widening work happening at the height of the tourist (snowbird) season—couldn't they wait until summer?
 - We first started working on this way back in 2015, and it has taken this long to bring it to fruition. There are multiple permits, in place that have time limits, and negotiations with the contractor to obtain the best possible price, and overall shortest construction schedule, this is the result.
- We have seen the published schedule, but can we get a more “detailed” schedule, that would show work on a daily (and hourly) basis.
 - I have tried several times to get a daily schedule, which would offer this level of detail, but the contractor has resisted this level of detail, and for a number of reasons. It seems most significant among them is they will perform to the published schedule, but there are any number of reasons that daily schedules will see deviations, such as weather, equipment breakdowns, personnel issues, just to name a few. From their perspective, a resident wanting to pass the lock based on a daily schedule -- and was prevented from passing, would “raise a ruckus”

- Can we call them on marine channel 13 to find out if the lock is open or closed? Is there a phone number I can call to see what is going on at a specific time.
 - I've been told, that although they may have a marine radio with them -- they are not required to monitor, since this work is not on a main navigation channel.
 - The Project Manager is Jake Kinner 239-482-7300 x-230. You can call him and maybe he can give you some update. I don't know, but I hate to bother him too much, since this could lead to him not responding to further phone calls.
- I drove over to the lock during normal work hours and nothing was going on? Which is different from their published schedule??
 - Within the terms of the contract, the contractor has the right to execute the work as they deem appropriate.
- How long is this going to go on?
 - According to the contract, they can take until early June, but based on their schedule, they expect to have the lock opened by early May. Of course, this is contingent upon weather, equipment, site conditions and personnel – all of which will have an effect on their progress and final completion.

As previously mentioned, I am asking for your help and understanding during construction, I honestly believe the job will go quicker and better with our total and full support.

And—as always---calm seas, warm breezes, and plenty two-handed fish--

Rick Daugherty, Chairman, BSI Canal Committee