

Article Overview

The Taino Bridge on Grand Bahama Island has faced structural weaknesses and delayed maintenance, prompting restoration efforts and temporary measures to ensure safe passage.

Structural Concerns and Safety Risks

The Taino Bridge serves as a critical crossing for both pedestrians and vehicles while supporting essential utilities, including water mains and electrical conduits for Grand Bahama Utility Company and Grand Bahama Power Company . Over time, the bridge's integrity has been questioned due to deterioration and insufficient upkeep, raising safety concerns for residents and businesses south of the bridge . Legal advocates have highlighted that the bridge's condition represents a "litmus test" of the Grand Bahama Port Authority's ability to maintain infrastructure under the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, citing risks to safe passage and property value .

Restoration and Temporary Measures

Restoration efforts are being led by Lucaya Service Company (LUSCO) and Tamarind Development Company, with Bahamas Hot Mix (BHM) contracted for reconstruction . Key steps include:

- o Utility Relocation: Water and power lines in the bridge's central median are being moved to minimize service disruption .
- o Temporary Causeway: A limestone causeway is planned alongside the deteriorating bridge to maintain access for residents and businesses during reconstruction .
- o Construction Planning: Engineering designs and bid processes have been completed, with work scheduled to commence once utility relocation is finalized .

Administrative Oversight and Public Concerns

Critics have raised concerns about the timeliness and transparency of the restoration, noting that prior warnings about the bridge's questionable integrity were issued over a year ago . The temporary causeway's impact on canal water flow and riparian rights has also been highlighted, emphasizing the need to preserve safe navigation and property values for canal-front properties .

Summary

The Taino Bridge's weaknesses stem from long-term neglect and structural deterioration, necessitating a coordinated restoration effort. While temporary measures like a limestone causeway aim to maintain access, ongoing monitoring and careful utility relocation are essential to ensure public safety and minimize disruption.



Bahamas Weakness Bridge

The project also underscores broader concerns about infrastructure management and accountability in Grand Bahama.

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Bahamas Weakness Bridge

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