

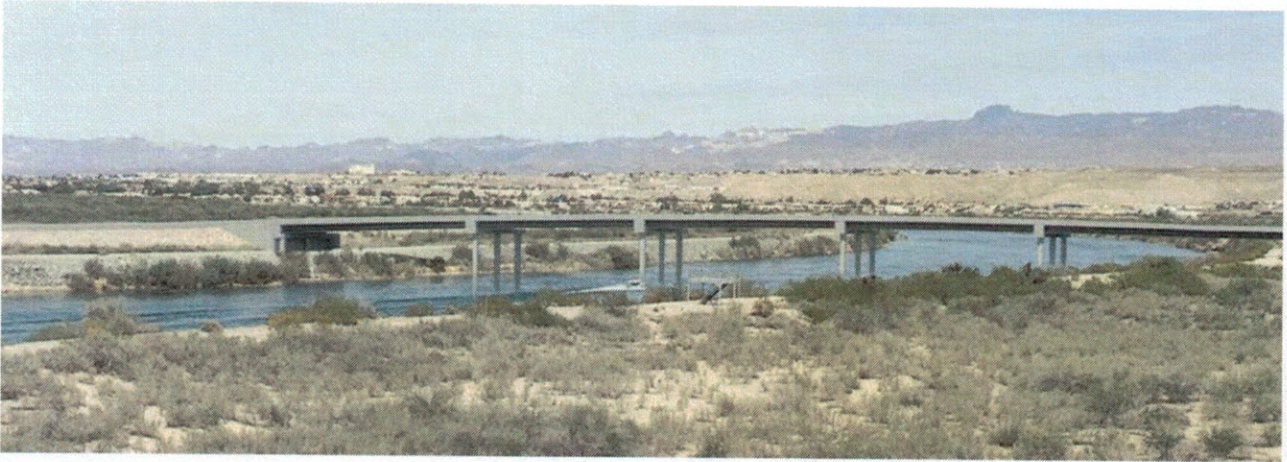
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FEATURED

Bridge construction set for 2019

The bidding process is expected to begin no later than January

By JENNIFER DENEVAN Laughlin Nevada Times 1 hr ago



An artist's rendering shows what the new bridge connecting Bullhead Parkway in Bullhead City to Needles Laughlin will look like once completed.

CITY OF BULLHEAD CITY/Contributed

LAUGHLIN — After decades in the making, a new bridge connecting Laughlin and Bullhead City is making progress.

The \$47 million project, funded by a federal grant and Clark County, is proposed to begin in April or May 2019, said Bob Leuck, Clark County deputy director of public works.

The cost includes roughly \$19 million already spent on environmental studies, he said. When the project was first conceived, the county had to go through what is called the National Environmental Policy Act. It's a federal law that requires similar projects to taken cultural, biological and environmental concerns into account, he continued.

The project began around 2006 with going through NEPA and finished around 2009 or 2010, Leuck recalled. It took a while to get the funding but they did get the clearance for the bridge, he added.

Clark County is still working on a few permits including one through the U.S. Coast Guard for working in the water, Leuck said. The Coast Guard will coordinate with several other entities to complete the permitting process, he continued.

Most of the project rests on Clark County's shoulders, he said. Approximately a half mile on the Arizona side is Bullhead City's responsibility, he said.

On the Nevada side, Clark County will construct three miles of road connecting the bridge to Needles Highway and the bridge, Leuck said. On the Arizona side, about a half-mile of road will be constructed to connect the bridge to Bullhead Parkway.

To the best of his knowledge, Leuck said Bullhead City is working to finalize some design plans for their portion of the project. They are also in the process of acquiring the piece of land from the state land department. That should be close to done if it's not already, he added.

Bullhead City is in the process of dealing with a title issue, Bullhead city manager Toby Cotter said. There are conflicting claims to a small triangular piece of land needed to complete the project.

The city will be condemning the property and has the right to do so, Cotter said.

Bullhead City will have to pay a damage claim but none of it that will stop the project from being able to move forward, he continued.

The bridge will be 724 feet long and will look a lot like the existing bridge that connects Highway 163 and Highway 95, Leuck said.

Leuck anticipates advertising for bids will begin in January.

Construction will likely begin about two to three months after the bidding process, Leuck said, putting the start date about April or May.

The project take approximately two years from start to finish, he said, because it is a large project with crews working in the water.

Crews will have to drill pile foundations into the bottom of the river, Leuck said.

It'll be neat to watch because not too many bridges are constructed from scratch anymore, he added.