

Whereas,

The Cow Key Channel Bridge construction will cause significant delays for workers, families, tourists and disrupt the lives of everyone in the Lower Keys.

It is in the city and county's best interests to reduce as much as possible the number of vehicles traveling over the bridge.

The Stock Island Express would greatly reduce the number of cars going over that bridge as a full bus can mean as many as 40 fewer cars on the road per trip.

The city needs to encourage as many people as possible to make use of the Stock Island Express.

Studies show that fare free buses are both faster and have significantly more riders.

Bus fares actually make up a negligible portion of transit operating costs and its collection significantly slows bus route times.

The only free fare bus in the city, the Duval Loop, carries more riders than all the other bus routes combined.

The workers who would be using the express certainly are as deserving of free bus service as our visitors who predominantly use the Duval Loop.

Therefore, the sustainability board formally recommends that the City Commission direct city staff to make the Stock Island Express be a fare free bus immediately.