



REMARKS

**The Most Hon. Hubert A. Minnis, O.N, M.P.
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas**

Official Opening

New Roderick Newton Higgs Bridge

8th January, 2021

Spanish Wells, Eleuthera

11:00 a.m.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning.

I am happy to be with you this morning for the opening of the new Roderick Newton Higgs Bridge.

The bridge between Spanish Wells and Russell Island provides the only vehicular access between the two islands.

The old bridge was erected in 1992 after the original structure was destroyed during Hurricane Andrew.

Following inspections by staff at the Ministry of Public Works it was decided that the bridge had reached a condition where replacement was deemed critical.

Following a competitive tender exercise, a contract to replace the bridge was signed in June 2019.

The contract was awarded to Waugh Construction (Bahamas) Limited for the construction of the new bridge.

The amount of the contract was Two Million, Eight Hundred and Three Thousand, One Hundred and Two Dollars and Forty Cents (\$2,803,102.40).

Allow me to summarize the scope of works, which include: the construction of sheet piled abutments and wing wall, and the provision of a one hundred and sixty-two (162)

foot long by eighteen (18) foot-wide steel truss Arcow Road Bridge with footways provided on either side of the structure.

The Acrow modular kit bridge is manufactured with high-strength steel manufactured in the United States and galvanized to protect against corrosion.

The bridge is single span with no supports in the waterway. This eliminates the risk of future scour damage from the tidal currents and storm surge.

It should be noted that the pre-1992 bridge had supports in the water.

The scope of works also include:

- Construction of reinforced concrete approach slabs to both sides of the Bridge.
- Parapets to wing walls for safety reason.
- Road improvements in the vicinity of the bridge and the
- Construction of a temporary crossing utilizing a barge to allow traffic to cross the waterway.

There have been delays to the project as the contractor was severely affected from Hurricane Dorian with the company losing the majority of their equipment.

Also, the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 affected the time period for completion.

Further, during the construction phase, the existing bridge collapsed when a heavily loaded cement truck passed over the structure.

Thankfully, the contractor has worked tirelessly to overcome these challenges and accelerated the construction phase over the last few months.

The new abutments were completed in less than a month.

There was much interest when the modular bridge was assembled on the approach road and rolled into place from the northern side of the site.

The time for assembly and installation was only two (2) weeks.

Despite a number challenges with this project, it was with considerable satisfaction that the new bridge was opened to traffic in December 2020.

I am so happy that today, we can declare the new Roderick Newton Higgs Bridge officially open.

May God bless all who use this bridge, and may God bless you all.

Thank you and good morning.
