

BRIDGE PERMIT PROCESSING PROCEDURE

The information provided below outlines the steps involved in processing a permit application from initial pre-application coordination to permit issuance or denial. The responsibility for processing all bridge permit applications is at the District Commander organizational level.

1. Pre-application meetings between the Coast Guard, the applicant and any other interested federal, state or local agencies, to include the NEPA scoping process and consultation.
2. Receipt of the application by the Coast Guard.
3. Coast Guard review process:
 - a. Within 30 days of receipt of the application, Coast Guard District sends letter to applicant requesting any additional information, if required;
 - b. When application received is considered complete, Coast Guard District prepares public notice, coordination letters and Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners;
 - c. Coast Guard issues public notice, coordination letters and Local Notice to Mariners;
 - d. Coast Guard review of comments:
 - 1) Applicant provided opportunity to respond to comments; and
 - 2) District holds scoping/coordination meetings and public hearings, if necessary.
 - e. Coast Guard findings and recommendations:
 - 1) Preparation of navigability documentation; and
 - 2) Preparation of environmental documentation.
4. Final Coast Guard agency action:
 - a. Coast Guard District action:
 - 1) Coast Guard District completes a full evaluation and prepares its Findings of Fact;
 - 2) Coast Guard District provides recommendation to issue or deny permit; and
 - 3) Coast Guard District either issues or denies a Coast Guard bridge permit. Bridge Program policy requires more complex permit applications, such as those which are highly controversial or which require an environmental assessment of environmental impact statement, be issued by Coast Guard Headquarters.
 - b. Coast Guard Headquarters final agency action:
 - 1) Review and full evaluation of proposed project (navigation and environmental); and
 - 2) Permit issuance or denial (as necessary).