

Saffo Beats Schedule on Barefoot Landing Swing Bridge



Photos courtesy of Saffo Contractors

By Charles Lange, Paint BidTracker

Seacor To Paint Transformers in Key West

Seacor Painting (Campbell, OH) secured a \$38,810 contract from the Key West Utility Board to clean and recoat surfaces of seven existing power transformers at various electric substations and power plants in the Key West, FL, area. The steel will be steam cleaned, pressure washed, hand and power tool cleaned or abrasive blast cleaned, and coated with a vinyl alkyd primer and a high-gloss silicone alkyd finish, or an approved equal system.

This month, we begin with a change from our usual Project Preview format to highlight a recently completed project.

The City of North Myrtle Beach (SC) awarded a contract of \$907,000 to Saffo Contractors, Inc. (Wilmington, NC) to rehabilitate the Barefoot Landing Bridge, a 300-foot-long swing bridge over the Intercoastal Waterway. The owner initially requested bids for full removal and recoating, but was forced to revise the scope due to budgetary constraints. The contract was re-advertised with full removal and recoating as the base bid plus an alternate for overcoating. Saffo, SSPC-QP 1- and QP 2-certified, was awarded the contract as the lowest bidder for the overcoating option.

The project was delayed from the originally planned spring 2011 start as a result of public and political concerns, because the structure is the primary access point to tourist destinations on an island. Saffo eventually received the notice to proceed working on November 14, 2011, with a completion date of February 13, 2012. Utilizing the encapsulation system in lieu of complete removal saved the owner close to \$1M.

The project schedule allotted 91 calendar

days for completion, including a 49-day window for a detour. The detour enabled Saffo to lock the bridge in the open position, with cribbing on each end for weight stabilization, eliminating the strain of maritime traffic.

The overcoating alternate included pressure washing the steel, followed by hand-tool and power-tool cleaning of corroded areas (SSPC-SP 2 and SP 3). The steel was coated with a moisture-cured polyurethane coating and a polyurethane gloss enamel finish, as manufactured by Superior Products International (Rust Grip encapsulating coating and Enamo Grip finish). Saffo used coated-airbag tarpaulins on the sides and top and filter fabric on the bottom of the required containment structure.

Saffo completed the project on January 17, 2012, earning \$54,000 through a \$2,000/day incentive for each day before the required deadline in mid-February.

"This was a very successful project and is a great budget-friendly alternative to full removal of lead-based coatings on structures where the lead primer is still well adhered," said Nicholas Saffo, Owner and President of Saffo.

And now, we return to our regularly scheduled Project Preview programming.