Next Steps

Thank you for your continued input and interest in this important project. As presented at the Alternatives Workshop in September 2018, and summarized in this newsletter, FDOT has identified the priority improvements along the Alternate US 19 Corridor based on the Corridor Vision and FDOT’s Context Classification system. Now that the Alternate US 19 Corridor Studies are wrapping up, FDOT will work with Forward Pinellas to prioritize the proposed short- and long-term improvements and identify which of the improvements will move forward in the project development process. FDOT will present the proposed improvements from the Studies to the Forward Pinellas Board in early 2019. The implementation timeline for each improvement may vary based on project priority, location, complexity, and anticipated impact. Some projects may move straight into design or be included in ongoing design projects; others – particularly those that require right-of-way acquisition – may need to be further analyzed for potential environmental, social, and economic impacts.

While this will be the final newsletter associated with the Alternate US 19 Corridor Studies, the project website will remain active and will be updated periodically to share information about which projects will be moving forward, and their respective implementation schedules. FDOT will work with Forward Pinellas to prioritize and set a schedule for implementing the proposed improvements in upcoming fiscal years (FY 2020 at the earliest).

PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Study Wrapping Up

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7, in coordination with Forward Pinellas, is in the final stages of the corridor planning studies along Alternate US 19 (SR 595) from Park Street North to the Pinellas / Pasco County Line in Pinellas County. The approximately 28.9-mile corridor is divided into two study segments, with the common boundary at Belleair Road, as shown on the map on the next page. The intent of the study is to identify potential solutions for the corridor that will encourage multimodal travel options and establish a more walkable, bicycle-friendly, and transit-oriented community and environment.

FDOT has established an ongoing dialogue with the community to talk about this important study. The Study teams have engaged local agencies, elected officials, residents, and members of the traveling public through a Project Advisory Group (PAG), the project website, surveys, online Wikimapping tool, and a series of public workshops. The input received has helped to define the guiding principles which shaped the corridor Vision and assisted in the development of proposed short- and long-term improvements for the corridor.

A Corridor Studies Alternatives Public Workshop was held on September 19, 2018 at the Hale Senior Activity Center in Dunedin. At this meeting the Study teams presented a summary of the studies findings and requested input from attendees on the proposed improvements. Attendees were asked to approve or disapprove the various concepts using smiley- or sad-faced stickers. Over 110 members of the public attended the workshop. Comments received included both support and dislike for roundabouts, the need for additional crosswalks in certain areas, the need for reduced speed limits in certain areas, and general support for lane repurposing (restriping to accommodate bike lanes, etc.). A graphic of the proposed improvements along the corridor is included on the inside pages of the newsletter.

The presentation, proposed alternatives roll plots, and other materials on display at the workshop can be found at: www.fdot7studies.com/19studies/public-involve-ment/alternatives-workshop

Thank You for Your Participation!

FDOT District 7, Forward Pinellas, and the Study teams would like to thank you for your participation in this important study. The input received throughout the study process has provided valuable insight to the issues being experienced along the Alternate US 19 corridor.

The Study teams are currently finalizing the Corridor Alternatives and Strategies Report (CASR). The CASR will outline a series of goals and objectives and identify a range of multi-modal solutions to address the mobility needs along the corridor within a context that reflects the long-term vision for the study corridor. The report will recommend specific short- and long-term strategies that guide future development within the corridor, as well as specific improvements that can be advanced in the near term through local agency participation and/or by FDOT through Resurfacing, Restoration, Rehabilitation projects, safety projects, or traffic operations signal re-timing projects. FDOT will work with Forward Pinellas to prioritize and implement the proposed improvements. Please check the project website for updates.

www.fdot7studies.com/altus19studies/
To date, FDOT and the project team, along with project stakeholders and the community, have assessed the purpose and need for the project, established the guiding principles, developed the Vision for the corridor, and have identified potential improvements for the corridor. The project team is currently refining the potential short- and long-term improvements and preparing the final documentation – the Corridor Alternatives and Strategies Report – for submittal at the conclusion of the study.

This illustration provides a sample of proposed improvements. A full slate of proposed improvements is available on the project website: www.fdotd7studies.com/altus19studies/
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The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. FDOT participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation service (free of charge) should contact Alex Henry, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (813) 975-6405.

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For more information or to comment, please contact:

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Comuniqué Con Nuestros: Nos importa mucho la opinión del público sobre el proyecto. Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información, por favor comuníquese con nosotros. Nuestro representante, Señora Lilliam Escalera, 813-975-6445, Departamento de Transportación de Florida, 11201 N. McKinley Dr., Tampa, FL 33612, lilliam.escalera@dot.state.fl.us.

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