

Alternate US 19 Corridor Studies

From Park Street North to Pinellas / Pasco County Line
Pinellas County | WPI Segment Nos. 435909-1 & 435909-2



PROJECT NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2



Visioning Workshops Seek Public Input

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7, in coordination with Forward Pinellas, is conducting a corridor planning study along Alternate US 19 (SR 595) from Park Street North to the Pinellas / Pasco County Line in Pinellas County – approximately 28.9 miles. The corridor is divided into two study segments, with the common boundary at Belleair Road as shown on the map at left. The Study teams are currently evaluating potential solutions for the corridor to establish a more walkable, bicycle-friendly, community environment.

FDOT has established an ongoing dialogue with the community. The Study teams have engaged with local agencies, elected officials, residents, and members of the traveling public via a Project Advisory Group (PAG), surveys, online Wikimapping tool, and a series of charrettes to help shape a Draft Vision for the corridor. You're invited to attend the Visioning Workshops on December 5th and / or December 7th to hear about the teams' preliminary findings and provide your input on the Corridor Vision. Please click here to register: <http://bit.ly/2hwn5Ka>

The Alternate US 19 Corridor Study is using FDOT's Complete Streets policy in coordination with its Context Classification System to showcase how Complete Streets approaches can shape a corridor. Please read on to learn more about these tools and how they are helping FDOT address the Purpose and Need for the Alternate US 19 Corridor.

Learn more about the project here:
www.fdotd7studies.com/altus19studies/

You're Invited to a Workshop!

Northern Corridor

Tuesday, December 5, 2017
6:00-8:00 PM
Hale Senior Activity Center
330 Douglas Avenue
Dunedin, FL 34698

Southern Corridor

Thursday, December 7, 2017
6:00-8:00 PM
Largo Central Park Performing Arts Center
Parkview Room
105 Central Park Drive
Largo, FL 33771

Please click here to register: <http://bit.ly/2hwn5Ka>

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Project Progress To Date

Defining the Project: FDOT's Context Classification System and Complete Streets

Complete Streets are defined as streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. FDOT adopted their Complete Streets policy in 2014 with a focus on designing a system that considers local land development patterns and built form.

In support of the Complete Streets policy, FDOT has also adopted a Context Classification system that broadly defines the various built environments existing in Florida. FDOT's context classification system describes the general characteristics of the land use, development patterns, and roadway connectivity along a roadway, providing cues as to the types of uses and user groups that will likely utilize the roadway. Learn more about Complete Streets and FDOT's context classification system here: www.fdot.gov/roadway/csi/default.shtm

Project Purpose and Need

Dual-Pronged Purpose:

- ▶ Address near-term multimodal transportation needs through context sensitive solutions; and
- ▶ Develop a long-term corridor vision that defines the goals and objectives and policy for enhanced integration of land use and transportation.

Transportation Needs Include:

- ▶ High number of pedestrian/bicycle crashes;
- ▶ Poor level of service at major intersections;
- ▶ Inadequate and substandard multimodal facilities; and
- ▶ Lack of connectivity and accessibility to transit.

Developing the Corridor Vision

FDOT is using a systematic approach to developing a vision for the corridor that focuses on building an informed consensus. The graphic below lays out the visioning process being used for this study and shows how the ultimate corridor Vision will help drive the short-term and long-term improvements that come out of this study.

The key question this process aims to answer is: What should Alternate US 19 look like 20+ years from now?

The following elements must be considered:

- ▶ Roadway Elements: Future needs, wants, desires;
- ▶ Design Elements: Streetscape/architectural styling; and
- ▶ Multimodal Elements: Transit/pedestrian/bicycle amenities.

The Corridor Vision Takes Form...

Guiding Principles

The ideas and information shared during the various public engagement activities to date are being used to define the Corridor Vision. The project survey resulted in 296 responses and 630 written comments which provided valuable insight into what you see as major issues and concerns. These results, along with input provided by the PAG and through other forums, are being used by the project team in support of developing the draft corridor vision. A list of the emergent themes from the comments received to date are shown to the right. These themes have been used to develop the draft set of Guiding Principles (shown below) that are being used to develop the Corridor Vision.

Emerging Themes

- ▶ Improve safety (intersections, multimodal)
- ▶ Trail safety and connections
- ▶ Unsafe driver/bicycle/pedestrian behavior
- ▶ Improve bicycle/pedestrian/transit amenities
- ▶ Improve connectivity across ALT 19 – particularly in downtown areas
- ▶ Multimodal connectivity
- ▶ Peak hour congestion
- ▶ Reroute some/truck traffic to alternate roadways
- ▶ Segment speeding
- ▶ Improved community identity/aesthetics

Draft Guiding Principles for the Alternate US 19 Study



MATCH the Character

Match future roadway improvements to the activities and character of the surrounding context.



ENHANCE the Networks

Using existing and future development to enhance the transportation networks and promote connectivity in the various downtowns.



CELEBRATE the Unique Assets

Protect and integrate historic, cultural, and environmental elements found in the corridor in future plans and projects.



BALANCE User Needs

Create typical sections that balance the needs of all users and activities expected along the corridor.



INCREASE Safety

Use roadway improvements to increase level of safety for motorists, pedestrians, transit users, bicyclists, and freight haulers.

Overall Project Plan

The project is currently in the phase of synthesizing the information collected to arrive at a common vision (see asterisk below). What does this mean? As described above, FDOT and the project team, along with project stakeholders and the community, have assessed the purpose and need for the project, established a draft set of guiding principles and are developing the Vision for the corridor. Next, the project team will use the comments collected during the Visioning Workshops to refine the guiding principles that will be used throughout the remainder of the project to develop potential improvements for the corridor.



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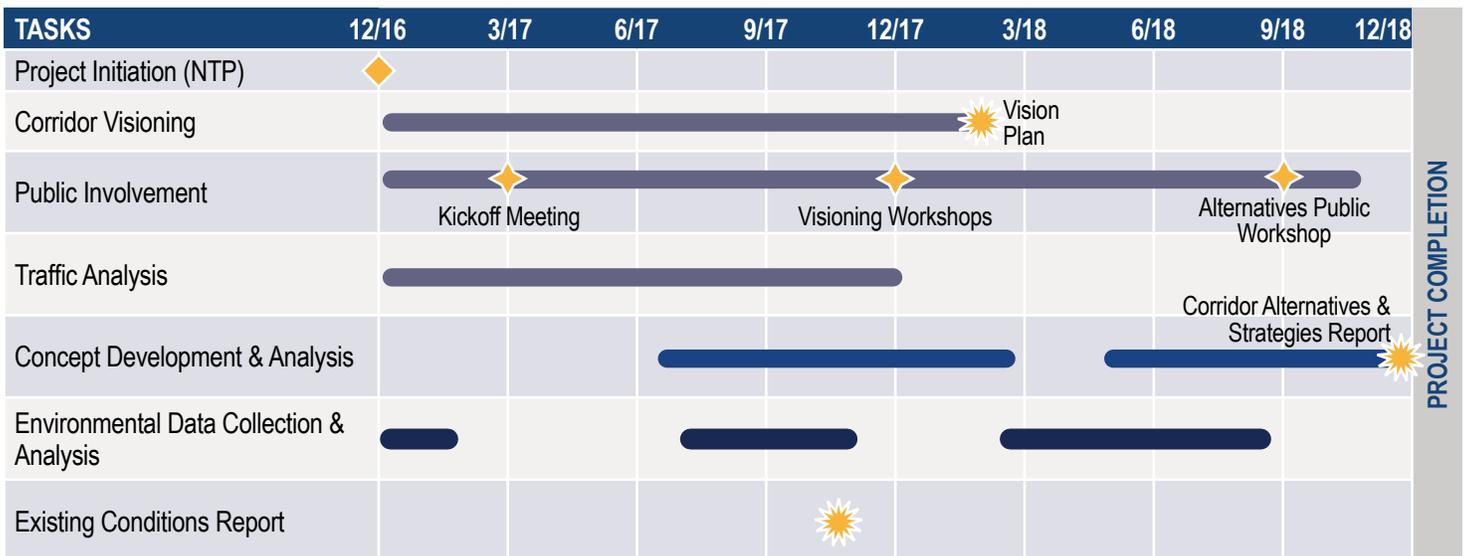
Join the Conversation!

www.fdotd7studies.com/altus19studies/

FDOT and the Study teams want to encourage an ongoing dialogue with the community throughout this project. You are invited to attend the upcoming Project Visioning Workshops on December 5th and 7th (see front page of this newsletter for more information). If you would like to participate in either workshop, please fill out the registration form: <http://bit.ly/2hwn5Ka>. You can also learn more about the project and sign up to be on the project distribution list by visiting: www.fdotd7studies.com/altus19studies/. The website will be active throughout the life of the project and includes additional opportunities to share your thoughts and recommendations for the Alternate US 19 Corridor such as:

- ▶ The Send Us Your Comments Page, available here: <http://www.fdotd7studies.com/altus19studies/send-us-your-comments/>; and
- ▶ The project WikiMapping Virtual Comment tool, where you can leave location-specific comments on a map of the corridor. Available here: <http://www.fdotd7studies.com/altus19studies/public-involvement/virtual-comment-tool/>.

Your input is needed to make this project a success, and we look forward to hearing from you. Please see the project schedule below for a preview of what is coming next for this important project.



Project Contacts

For more information or to comment, please contact:

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Next Steps

Immediate next steps for this project include:

- ▶ Complete Corridor Vision
- ▶ Develop Short-Term Improvement Alternatives
- ▶ Develop Long-Term Improvement Alternatives

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 dated December 14, 2016 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

Public 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 Christopher Speese, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (813) 975-6405 or (800) 226-7220.

Comuníquese Con Nosotros: 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.