

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Beckett Bridge (Riverside Drive/North Spring Boulevard) Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

From Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue Pinellas County, Florida

Pinellas County Project Number: PID 2161
FDOT Financial Project Number: 424385-1-28-01
FDOT Federal Aid Project Number: 424385-1-28-01

In accordance with Part 1, Chapter 11 of the Florida Department of Transportation *Project Development and Environment Manual*, this Public Involvement Program is submitted for approval.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____
Ann Venables, AICP
E.C. Driver & Associates, Inc.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Tony Hornik, P.E.
Pinellas County Project Manager

January 2012

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

Beckett Bridge (Riverside Drive/North Spring Boulevard) PD&E Study From Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue Pinellas County, Florida

This Public Involvement Program (PIP) complies with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) *Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual*, Part 1, Chapter 11, Section 339.155, Florida Statute, Executive Orders 11990 and 11988, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) 40 CFR Part 1500-1508, and 23 CFR 771.111.

The County recognizes that implementation of an effective PIP will increase public awareness and encourage public input during the PD&E process. The plan will be implemented to solicit input from, and provide information about the project to concerned citizens, local government, agencies, residents, business owners, commuters, mariners, special interest groups and other affected stakeholders. The overall goal of the plan is to help ensure that the study reflects the values and needs of the communities it is designed to benefit. The County is committed to conducting a PIP that provides opportunity for meaningful input from the potentially affected community.

This document describes the project team's approach to implementing an effective PIP in accordance with the guidelines and regulations referenced above. Specific techniques may be modified during the study if warranted. Contact lists are provided as guides for identifying the appropriate stakeholders. These lists will be modified as needed throughout the course of the Study.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Project Name: Beckett Bridge (Riverside Drive/North Spring Boulevard) PD&E Study from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue

FDOT Financial Project Number: 424385-1-28-01

FDOT Federal Aid Project Number: 424385-1-28-01

Pinellas County Contract Number: PID 2161

Project Limits: The project extends along Riverside Drive/North Spring Boulevard from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue in Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida, a distance of approximately 0.31 miles.

Proposed Activity: The proposed action consists of evaluating alternatives to remove, rehabilitate or replace the existing Beckett Bridge (Bridge No. 154000), a bascule (movable) bridge located in the City of Tarpon Springs in Pinellas County, Florida. The bridge carries Riverside Drive/North Spring Boulevard over Whitcomb Bayou connecting areas west and north of the Bayou to downtown Tarpon Springs.

A number of alternatives will be evaluated including the following:

- No-Build - Maintain Existing Bridge
- No-Build - Remove Existing Bridge (includes alternate routing of traffic)
- Rehabilitation of the Existing Bridge
- Replace with a new Movable Bridge
- Replace with a new Fixed Bridge

Alternate corridors for bridge location will not be required to be evaluated due to the extent of development in the vicinity of the existing bridge. Capacity improvements will not be considered. The project limits extend along Riverside Drive from Chesapeake Drive across Whitcomb Bayou to Forest Avenue in Pinellas County. The complete removal alternative will examine alternative traffic routes and potential impacts to the community and on traffic operations.

Class of Action: The Class of Action is anticipated to be a Type 2 Categorical Exclusion.

Project Location Map: See Attachment A.

Project Contact Information

For additional information regarding this project contact:

Tony Horrnik, P.E.
Project Manager, Pinellas County
440 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3640
thornik@co.pinellas.fl.us

Ann Venables, AICP
E.C. Driver & Associates, Project Manager
500 N. Westshore Blvd
Tampa, FL 33609
813-282-9886
ann_venables@ecdriver.com

Kirk Bogen, PE
FDOT District 7
PD&E Engineer/Project Liaison
11201 N. McKinley Drive/MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612
813-975-6448
Kirk.Bogen@dot.state.fl.us

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND NEED

Beckett Bridge (Bridge No. 154000) is a two-lane bascule (movable) bridge located in the City of Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida. The bridge carries Riverside Drive/North Spring Boulevard over Whitcomb Bayou connecting areas west and north of the Bayou to downtown Tarpon Springs. The bridge is also located on a popular route for access to Fred Howard Park, a Pinellas County park located approximately 3.1 miles west on the Gulf of Mexico. Riverside Drive/North Spring Boulevard is an extension of Tarpon Avenue, which is a designated evacuation route. The bridge is used as a hurricane evacuation route and provides access for residents along the coast to major north/south arterials including Alternate US 19 and US 19.

Whitcomb Bayou connects to the Gulf of Mexico via the Anclote River to the north. Boats docked along Whitcomb, Spring and Minetta Bayous, and along artificial canals which connect to the southeastern portion of the Whitcomb Bayou, must pass under the Beckett Bridge to access the Gulf of Mexico. This is the only access to open water. The PD&E Study will evaluate alternatives for the removal, rehabilitation or replacement of the existing bridge.

Beckett Bridge was originally constructed in 1924 as a timber structure and was reconstructed as a concrete bridge in 1956. Major repairs were performed in 1979, 1998 and in 2011. The bridge is considered historic and is the only highway single-leaf rolling-lift bascule bridge remaining in Florida. The existing bridge typical section consists of one, 10-foot wide travel lane in each direction and 3-foot sidewalks on both sides of the bridge. The existing vertical clearance at the fenders is 6 feet. The tip of the bascule leaf overhangs the fender with the leaf fully raised and does not provide unlimited vertical clearance between the fenders. The existing horizontal clearance between the fenders is 25 feet.

The bridge is owned, operated and maintained by Pinellas County. There are no permanent bridge tenders. US Coast Guard drawbridge opening regulations (33CFR117.341) states that “The draw of the Beckett Bridge, mile 0.5, at Tarpon Springs, Florida shall open on signal if at least two hours notice is given.” Bridge openings/closings are handled by Pinellas County staff. The Beckett Bridge, designated as an emergency evacuation corridor, serves as an evacuation route for residents of the Whitcomb and Minetta Bayous. The bridge also provides access for emergency rescue vehicles, including police, ambulance and fire.

The bridge is considered functionally obsolete. This designation is based primarily on the substandard clear roadway width of only 24 feet. Minimum required lane and shoulder widths prescribed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Official (AASHTO) are not met. The typical section for the east and west approaches consist of one 12-foot wide through lane in each direction and five-foot wide sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. Separate bicycle lanes are not provided; both bicycles and pedestrians share the sidewalk.

According to recent (10/27/09) FDOT inspection reports, the existing bridge has an overall structure inventory and Appraisal Sufficiency Rating of 44.9 out of 100. (Sufficiency ratings are a method of evaluating highway bridges by calculating a numeric value between 0 and 100, indicative of bridge sufficiency to remain in service). Bridges with a sufficiency rating less than 50 are eligible for federal replacement funds.

The PD&E Study is included in the current FDOT Adopted Work Program. No state or federal funding is currently programmed for Design, Right-of-Way or Construction phases. Pinellas County plans to pursue federal funding for future phases.

III. PROJECT GOALS

The goals of the project include the following:

- To develop and evaluate alternatives for rehabilitation or replacement of the existing bridge, or permanent removal of the bridge which satisfy the

transportation need and minimize impacts to the natural, physical and social environment.

- To engage the general public and stakeholders during the PD&E process and solicit input regarding concerns, location and design and other issues associated with the proposed rehabilitation or replacement, or permanent removal of the existing bridge.
- To complete the PD&E process consistent with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines so that future phases will be eligible for federal funding.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF AGENCIES AND AFFECTED PUBLIC

A. Advanced Notification Package Recipients

The Advanced Notification (AN) Process was completed by FDOT as part of the Early Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process. A copy of the AN is attached to this PIP (Attachment B).

The following local, regional, state, or federal agencies having a concern in this project because of jurisdictional review or expressed interest were identified and were contacted via email by FDOT District Seven through the AN coordination process at the outset of the project in accordance with Part 1, Chapter 3 of the *PD&E Manual*.

Federal

- Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator
- Federal Highway Administration - ETAT Representative
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Mitigation Division Chief
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Federal Transit Administrator -ETAT Representative
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Regional Environmental Officer
- U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Chief
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - ETAT Representative
- U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- ETAT Representative
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch- ETAT Representative
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Superintendent Conservation Division- ETAT Representative
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Southern Region
- U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office - ETAT Representative
- Federal Aviation Administration, Airports District Office
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Environmental Health
- U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Trust Responsibilities
- U.S. Coast Guard Seventh District Commander–ETAT Representative

- U.S. Coast Guard, Seventh District Commander
- Florida Inland Navigation District
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - ETAT Representative
- U.S. Forest Service- ETAT Representative
- Federal Transit Administrator- ETAT Representative

Native American Indian Tribes

- Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

State

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection- ETAT Representative
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection - State Clearinghouse Florida Department of State - ETAT Representative
- Florida Department of Community Affairs- ETAT Representative
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services- ETAT Representative
- FDOT Environmental Management Office, Engineer/Manager
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – ETAT Representative

Regional

- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- Florida Water Management District - ETAT Representative
- National Marine Fisheries Service St. Petersburg Branch Office
- Pinellas County Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization

Pinellas County

- Pinellas County Commission Chairman, John Morroni
- Pinellas County Administrator, Robert S. LaSala
- Pinellas County Public Works Director, Peter Yauch

City of Tarpon Springs

- Mayor David O. Archie
- Public Works Director, Tom Funcheon
- Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce

Local Elected Appointed Officials

- United States Senator- District 11, Michael Fasano
- United States Representative, Congressional District 9, Gus Bilirakis

B. Additional Stakeholders to be Contacted During the PD&E Study

In addition to stakeholders contacted during the AN process, the following local, regional, state, or federal elected officials, agencies, government staff, and public interest groups will be contacted throughout the project as appropriate.

State Agencies

- Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven, LAP Coordinator
- Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven, Public Information Office, Public Information Director
- Florida Department of Transportation, Central Office, Central Environmental Management Office Manager
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Terry Gilbert
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Director of Policy and Stakeholder Concerns, MaryAnn Poole

Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Trust Responsibilities, Environmental Services Staff

Elected and Appointed Officials/Local Government Staff

Federal

United States Senate

- Senator William Clarence Nelson
- Senator Marco Rubio

State

Florida State House of Representatives

- Representative Peter Nehr, District 48

Pinellas County

- Commissioner, District 1, Neil Brickfield
- Commissioner, District 2, Norm Roche
- Commissioner, District 3, Nancy Bostock
- Commissioner, District 5, Karen Williams Seel
- Commission Vice-Chairman, District 7, Kenneth T. Welch
- Assistant County Administrator, Chief of Staff, Mark Woodard
- Assistant County Administrator, Maureen Freaney
- Assistant County Administrator, Carl Harness
- Environment and Infrastructure, Executive Director, John Wesley White
- Planning, Director, Larry Arrington
- Community Development, Director, Anthony Jones
- County Sheriff, Bob Gualtieri
- Emergency Management, Director, Sally Bishop
- School District, Transportation, Director, James McBride
- Parks and Conservation, Director, Paul Cozzie
- Public Safety Services, EMS Division Manager, Craig Hare
- Pinellas County MPO, Executive Director, Sarah Ward
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), Executive Director, Brad Miller
- Pinellas Planning Council, Michael Crawford, Interim Director
- Pinellas County, Fire Division Manager, Mike Cooksey

City of Tarpon Springs

- Vice-Mayor, Chris Alahouzos

- Commissioner, Susan Slattery
- Commissioner, Jeff Larsen
- Commissioner, Townsend Tarapani
- City Manager, Mark G. Lecouris
- City Clerk, Irene S. Jacobs
- Emergency Manager, Director, Richard C. Butcher
- Fire Chief, Richard C. Butcher
- Chief of Police, Robert P. Kochen
- Recreation Division, Supervisor, Margie Prichard
- Development Services, Director, Joseph A. DiPasqua
- Planning and Zoning, Director, Renea Vincent
- Beckett Bridge PD&E Study Liaison, Gary Schurman

Public Interest, Stakeholders and Neighborhood Groups

Public interest groups and other stakeholder groups having a direct or expressed interest in the project study will be identified and contacted by Pinellas County.

- Bayshore Mobile Home/RV Park, Owner, John Skiadas
- Whitcomb Place Homeowner Association, President, Regina Knudgard
- The Mooring Condominium Association, Office Manager, Irene Tsangaris
- Church on the Bayou Presbyterian Church, Office Manager
- Pinellas County School Board, Route & Safety Auditor, Mike Burke
- Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society, Tina Bucavalos
- Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce, President, Sue Thomas
- Tarpon Springs Yacht Club, Dockmaster, Brian Kramer
- Tarpon Bayou Center (Assisted Living Facility), Administrator, Tegan Monfort
- Serenity on the Bayou (Assisted Living Facility), Manager, Cindy Caroline

V. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The following techniques will be used to notify the public of the proposed transportation improvements and to solicit public input during the PD&E Study.

A. Mass Media

The following mass media will be utilized to carry public notices, news releases, public service announcements, news items, and interviews as appropriate.

Newspapers

Tampa Bay Times
490 First Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
(727) 893-8111

The Suncoast News
6214 U.S. 19
New Port Richey, FL 34652
(727) 815-1000

Radio

WUSF Public Media
4202 East Fowler Avenue
TVB100
Tampa, FL 33620
(813) 974-8700

970 WFLA – Fox News Radio
4002 West Gandy Blvd
Tampa, FL 33611
(727) 461-9352

Television

Bay News 9
700 Carillon Parkway, Suite 9
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
(727) 329-2300

WTSP-TV 10
11450 Gandy Blvd.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
(727) 577-1010

In addition to working with the media, a number of other techniques will be used throughout the project development process to engage the general public and stakeholders. A brief description of these techniques is provided below.

B. News/Press Releases

News/press releases will be submitted to the County seven to ten days prior to each public meeting and Public Hearing if requested by the County.

C. Public Notices/Legal Display Ads

The Alternatives Public Meeting and the Public Hearing will be advertised in the local newspapers as required in the FDOT PD&E Manual. For the Public Hearing, a legal display advertisement will be published twice prior to the hearing. A display advertisement will be published at least once, approximately two to three weeks prior to the Alternatives Public Meeting. In addition, a legal display advertisement will be published once to announce Federal Location and Design Concept Acceptance (LDCA) at the end of the study.

Meeting announcements will also be included on the Project Website.

D. Project Website

A project website will be established during the PD&E Study. The website will be developed and hosted by County; EC Driver will provide initial content, 3-D models of alternatives evaluated and updates as needed. The website will provide general information about the project and the PD&E process. Notices of upcoming public meetings as well as information provided at the public meetings will be posted on the site. In addition, the website will be interactive and allow viewers to submit their comments and questions to the Project Manager via email.

E. Letters/Newsletters

Invitational and informational letters and newsletters will be distributed to elected and appointed officials, property owners/tenants, business owners/operators, and interested parties as feasible. It is anticipated that two newsletters will be distributed for this study.

- Newsletter #1 - mailed prior to the Alternatives Public Meeting - may serve as an invitation.
- Newsletter #2 – will be mailed prior to the Public Hearing - may be included in the notification/invitation letters.

Direct Mailing List

A direct mailing list will be established and updated for the life of the study. The list will be used to distribute project newsletters and for meeting invitations to affected property owners and other stakeholders. At a minimum, the following individuals/groups will be included:

- Those whose property lies, in whole or part, within at least 300 feet on either side of the centerline of each project alternative (Section 339.155 FS), as well as other local citizens who may be impacted by the construction of the project. (The extent of property owner mailing list will be approved by the County Project Manager.) Property owners will be identified using current County Property Appraiser's tax rolls.
- Pinellas County and City of Daytona Beach elected and appointed public officials and staff.
- Public and private groups, organizations, agencies, businesses or other stakeholders identified as potentially interested in the project, or that request to be placed on the mailing list for this project.
- State and Federal elected officials representing districts in the project vicinity.

F. Public Meetings

The following public meetings will be held to involve the public, local officials, and interested agencies in the project development process and to keep interested parties informed throughout the study.

Large Scale Public Meetings

- *Alternatives Public Meeting:* One Alternatives Public Meeting will be conducted to present alternative concepts considered during the study and to solicit input from the public and stakeholders. The format for this meeting will be informal. Graphics, informational display boards and a PowerPoint presentation will be available for viewing.
- *Public Hearing:* A formal public hearing, as required by Federal Regulations and State Law, will be held. The Public Hearing will include a formal presentation and opportunities for input from the public. A court reporter will be available to record statements from the public. In addition, the public will be provided an opportunity for public comment at a microphone at the meeting. An official transcript will be prepared by the court reporter. (See Section VIII of this document for more detailed information.)

Small Group Meetings:

If requested (or as appropriate), additional meetings will be held with the public, public agencies, or civic groups. The purpose of these meetings will be to keep the public informed about the project and specific location and design concepts considered during the study. In addition, input from attendees will be solicited and encouraged.

Presentations to Local Officials:

Presentations may be made to Pinellas County and City of Tarpon Springs officials at key milestones during the study if deemed appropriate by the County. It is anticipated that

presentations will be made to the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and its subcommittees (e.g. Citizens, Technical and Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committees) prior to the Alternatives Public Meeting and the Public Hearing, or as directed by the County.

A kick-off presentation will be made to the County Commission early in the project to introduce the project and facilitate early coordination. Elected and appointed officials, ETAT representatives and agency representatives will be notified that the project is on the meeting agenda.

VI. PUBLIC OUTREACH SCHEDULE

	2012				2013	
	Jan-March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-March	April-June
Launch Website	*					
Elect. Officials/ Agency Meeting	*					
Newsletter #1			*			
Presentations to Local Officials		*				
Newsletter #2				*		
Alternatives Public Meeting			*			
Presentations to Local Officials			*			
Public Hearing				*		
LDCA Advertisement						*

VII. ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

All coordination efforts, including but not limited to the Advanced Notification, Alternative Public Workshop(s), Public Hearing, small group meetings, coordination with local officials and agencies etc., during the study will be documented as per *Part 2, Chapter 31* of the *PD&E Manual*. Documentation will include graphics displayed and handouts provided at meetings. In addition, all written comments, including e-mails, received from the public will be documented and considered part of the project record. Comments will be addressed as appropriate and responses will also be documented.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be conducted in compliance with the *PD&E Manual* and 23 CFR 771, Section 339.155, Florida Statutes (F.S).

Public Hearing Site: The Public Hearing will be held at an appropriate facility convenient to the study area.

Public Advertisement: A legal display advertisement will appear in the *St. Petersburg Times* twice (at least 21 days prior and no more than 30 days) prior to the Public Hearing, and repeated five to 12 days prior to the hearing date.

Tampa Bay Times
490 First Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
(727) 893-8111

- All advertisements to local newspapers will be sent via e-mail.
- A notarized “Proof of Publication” will be obtained for publications in local newspapers.

In addition, an announcement of the Public Hearing will be published in the *Florida Administrative Weekly* at least 21 days prior to the Public Hearing.

Letters of Invitation: Letters will be mailed to all property owners as required by Section 339.155, F.S. and to local elected and appointed government officials notifying them of the upcoming hearing. In addition, notification letters will be sent to everyone on the project mailing list.

Hearing Preparation: The hearing will be conducted by the Pinellas County Project Manager or his representative. A PowerPoint presentation, graphic displays, handouts, and comment forms will supplement the oral Public Hearing presentation. Information for public display will be reviewed by Pinellas County prior to the hearing.

Transcript: A certified (notarized) verbatim transcript of the Public Hearing will be developed to include written and oral comments received at the Public Hearing, and written comments received within 10 days following the hearing. All Public Hearing documentation (handouts, presentation, graphics, etc.) will be included with the transcript. The certified (notarized) transcript package will be forwarded to the Pinellas County and FDOT.

Documentation for Public Review: Documentation for public review will be placed on display 21 days prior to the Public Hearing. Public notice will be provided in the Public Hearing advertisement and by mailed invitation letters regarding the location of the study documents for public review. Documents to be provided will include at a minimum the draft PDSR (which includes the environmental document).

Title VI and Related Statutes: Notification of compliance with Title VI and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968, respectively, will be included in the Public Hearing presentation handout and signs. FDOT and/or County staff involved with the Title VI Program and the Relocation Assistance Program (which complies with Title VIII) will be available to address public questions if relocations are proposed

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance: FDOT’s intent to comply with ADA requirements during the public involvement program will be provided in the public

advertisements for the Public Hearing, invitation letters, newsletters and meeting materials. The selected site for the Public Hearing will meet ADA requirements.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOW-UP

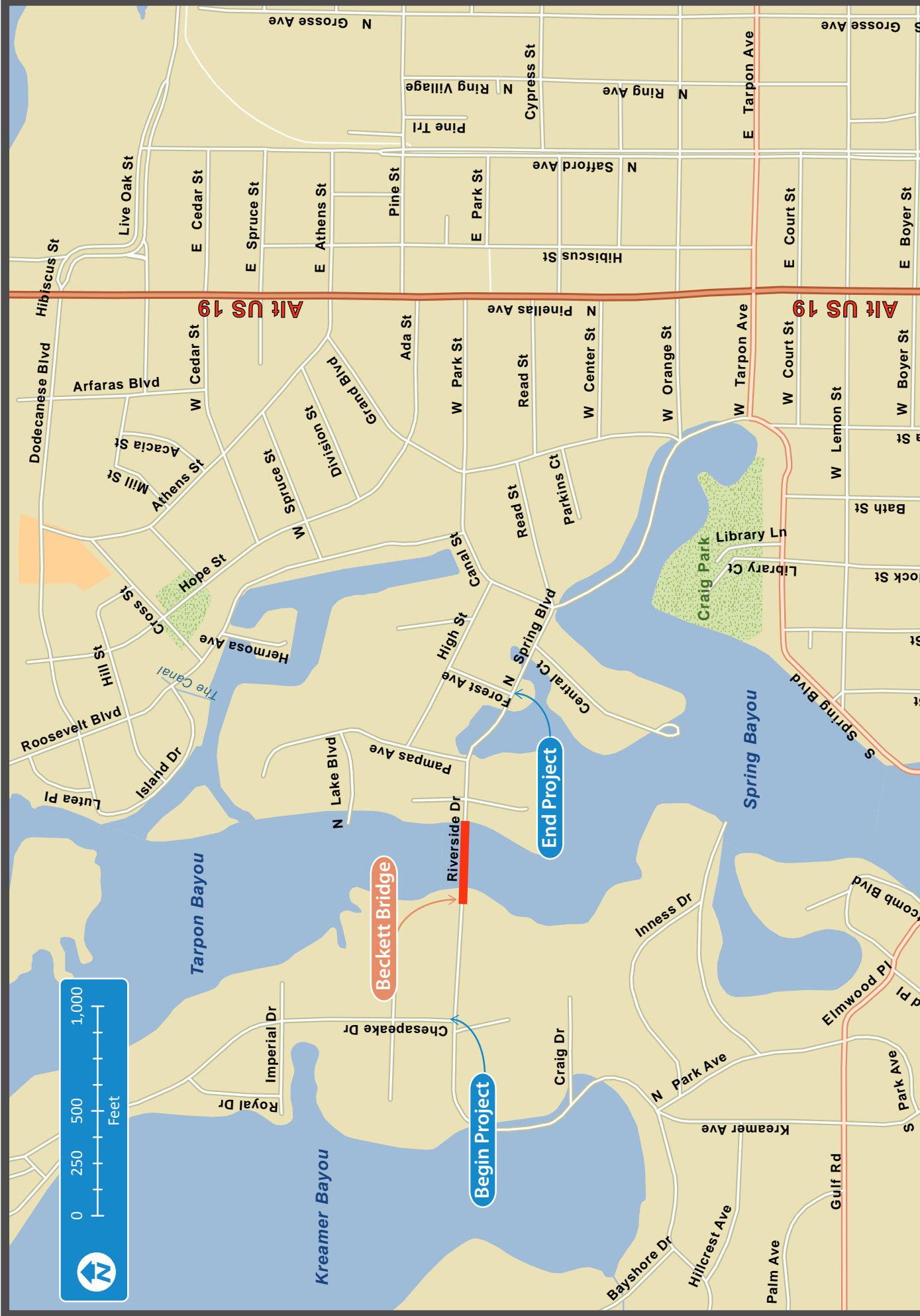
Public Hearing Debriefing: A Public Hearing Debriefing will be held with key project team members to identify all issues that require additional correspondence and/or development. This meeting will assign responsibility for the issues that need to be further addressed.

Responses to Questions and Comments: Questions and comments received from the public but not answered at the hearing will be fully addressed after the hearing in writing.

Public Hearing Transcript Package: A Transcript Package will be prepared in booklet form (with cover) containing verbatim transcript, an errata sheet detailing any transcript discrepancies, proof of hearing notification advertisements, sign-in sheets, Public Hearing Certification, all public comments received within 10 days after the Public Hearing, and other important comments and coordination efforts that influenced the outcome of the project.

X. EVALUATION OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

A public involvement evaluation process will be developed to assess the effectiveness of the public involvement efforts utilized throughout the PD&E Study. This process will include identification of the public involvement tools, establishment of performance measures, performance evaluations, and identification of improvement strategies.



Project Location

Data Source: Florida Geographic Data Library

Beckett Bridge PD&E Study
 Pinellas County Project #: PID 2161 | FDOT FPN #: 424385-1-28-01
 Federal Aid Project #: 424385-1-28-01

Attachment A

Attachment B

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Nancy Bostock
Neil Brickfield
Calvin D. Harris
Susan Latvala
John Morrioni
Karen Williams Seel
Kenneth T. Welch



October 6, 2010

Ms. Lauren P. Milligan
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

**RE: Advance Notification
Beckett Bascule Bridge Project PD&E Study
ETDM # 13040
Riverside Drive from Chesapeake Drive to Forest Avenue
Financial Project ID Number: 424385-1-28-01
Pinellas County, Florida**

Dear Ms. Milligan:

We are sending this Advance Notification (AN) Package to your office for distribution to State agencies that conduct Federal consistency reviews (consistency reviewers) in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act and Presidential **Executive Order 12372**. We are also distributing the AN Package to local and Federal agencies. Although we will request specific comments during the permitting process, we are asking that permitting and permit reviewing agencies (consistency reviewers) review the attached information and provide us with their comments.

This is a Federal-aid action and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7, in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration, will determine what type of environmental documentation will be necessary. The determination will be based upon the selected consultant environmental evaluations and comments from other agencies. Please provide a consistency review for this project in accordance with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program.

In addition, please review the project's consistency, to the maximum extent feasible, with the approved Comprehensive Plan of the local government to comply with **Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes**.

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
440 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756
Phone: (727) 464-3251
Website: www.pinellascounty.org



Ms. Milligan
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FDOT District Seven is submitting this project through the Programming Screen of the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Environmental Screening Tool (EST) in coordination with this AN Package. The project is listed as **ETDM # 13040 – Beckett Bascule Bridge Project**. Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) members should review this project on the ETDM website. Non-ETAT agencies can review this project at the public access website located at: <http://etdmpub.fla-etat.org/>.

We are looking forward to receiving your comments on the project. Consistency reviewers have 45 days from the Programming Screen Notification to provide their comments. Once you have received their comments, you will supply a summary and consistency determination for your agency within 60 days of the Programming Screen Notification. If you need more review time, send a written request for an extension to our office within the initial 60 days comment period.

Your comments should be addressed to:

Robert C. Meador
Division Manger
Department of Public Works
Pinellas County
440 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Your expeditious handling of this notice will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Meador
Division Manger

RCM/ddf
Attachments

ADVANCE NOTIFICATION MAILING LIST

cc:
Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration – **ETAT Representative**
Federal Emergency Management Agency-Mitigation Division, Chief
Federal Railroad Administration
Federal Transit Administrator – **ETAT Representative**
U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Department of the Interior-U.S. Geological Survey, Chief

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - **ETAT Representative**
U.S. Department of Interior-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - **ETAT Representative**
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Regulatory Branch - **ETAT Representative**
U.S. Department of Commerce-National Marine Fisheries Service- Southeast
U.S. Department of Commerce-National Marine Fisheries Service - Southeast Regional
Superintendent Conservation Division - **ETAT Representative**
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Southern Region
U.S. Department of Interior – National Park Service – Southeast Regional Office – **ETAT
Representative**
Federal Aviation Administration, Airports District Office
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-National Center for Environmental Health
U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Trust Responsibilities
U.S. Coast Guard – Seventh District – Commander (oan) – **ETAT Representative**
Florida Inland Navigation District
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - **ETAT Representative**
U.S. Forest Service – **ETAT Representative**
Florida Department of Environmental Protection - **ETAT Representative**
Florida Department of Environmental Protection – **State Clearinghouse**
Florida Department of State - **ETAT Representative**
Florida Department of Community Affairs - **ETAT Representative**
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - **ETAT Representative**
Federal Transit Administrator - **ETAT Representative**
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Southwest Florida Water Management District - **ETAT Representative**
National Marine Fisheries Service St. Petersburg Branch Office
FDOT Environmental Management Office, Engineer/Manager
Pinellas County Commission Chairperson
Pinellas County Administrator
Pinellas County Public Works Director
City of Tarpon Springs Mayor
City of Tarpon Springs Public Works Director
Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce
Pinellas County Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
Michael Fasano– United States Senator - District 11
Gus Bilirakis – United States Representative – Congressional District 9