

1. **Need for Project:** The need for improvement along the C.R. 578 corridor was established based on the evaluation of the following conditions:

- Current substandard traffic operations within the study area,
- The expected future traffic demands along the C.R. 578 corridor,
- The projected future socioeconomic growth in northwest Pasco and southwest Hernando Counties,
- Substandard vertical sight distances,
- Use as a designated evacuation route, and
- Lack of adequate bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

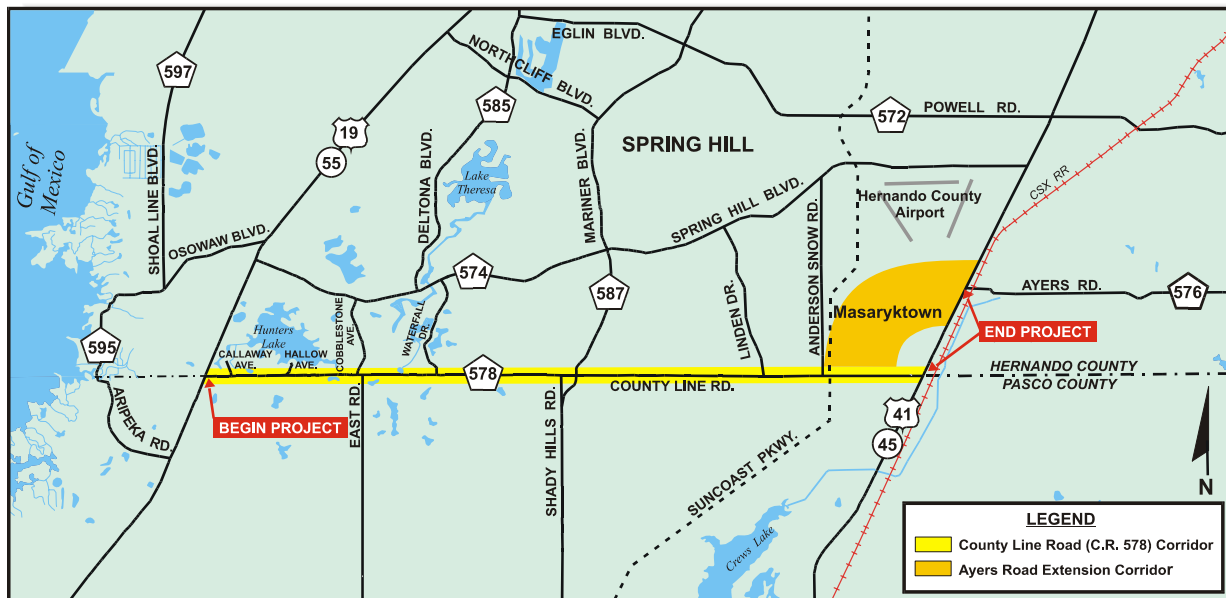
The portion of the project from U.S. 19 (S.R. 55) to Mariner Boulevard/Shady Hills Road is included in the Hernando County and Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) 2020 Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) and is recommended to be improved to a four-lane divided facility. The portion of C.R. 578 from Mariner Boulevard/Shady Hills Road to U.S. 41 (S.R. 45) is not currently included in either the Hernando County or Pasco County Comprehensive Plans or LRTPs. The Ayers Road Extension (C.R. 576), a proposed roadway connection on new alignment from C.R. 578/Suncoast Parkway to the vicinity of U.S. 41 and Ayers Road, is identified in the Hernando County 2010 Interim Plan as a two-lane facility and in the 2020 LRTP as a four-lane facility. The Ayers Road Extension is being proposed to provide continuous travel to the east of U.S. 41 and to provide improved access to the Hernando County Airport.

2. **Description of the Project:** C.R. 578 is an east/west facility with a functional classification of a major collector and is a county-maintained (off-state system) roadway. C.R. 578 is currently a two-lane rural roadway from U.S. 19 to Callaway Avenue and from Hallow Avenue to U.S. 41. From the vicinity of Callaway Avenue to Hallow Avenue, C.R. 578 has been expanded to a four-lane divided suburban facility with an open drainage system. The existing posted speed limit along C.R. 578 ranges from 40 mph to 55 mph. The existing right-of-way width ranges from 40 feet to 100 feet except at the Suncoast Parkway interchange where the right-of-way width is 230 feet.

The Florida Department of Transportation is conducting a PD&E Study which will evaluate improvement options along the C.R. 578 corridor from the vicinity of U.S. 19 to the vicinity of U.S. 41 in Pasco and Hernando Counties, a distance of approximately 11.0 miles, as shown in Figure 1. The proposed Ayers Road Extension (C.R. 576), a segment of roadway on new alignment, is being evaluated from the vicinity of the Suncoast Parkway to the vicinity of U.S. 41 and Ayers Road, for a distance of approximately 2.8 miles.

The project is located within Sections 1 through 6 of Township 24 South, Range 17 East and Sections 1 through 6 of Township 24 South, Range 18 East in Pasco County. In Hernando County, the project is located within Sections 31 through 36 of Township 23 South, Range 17 East; Sections 25, 26, 31 through 36 of Township 23 South, Range 18 East; and Section 30 of Township 23 South, Range 19 East.

**FIGURE 1
 PROJECT LOCATION MAP**



3. Environmental Information:

- a. Land Uses: Primary land uses along C.R. 578 include numerous residential subdivisions, individual residences, commercial development, the Spring Hill Regional Hospital, the Suncoast Elementary School, the Hernando County Airport, and numerous religious facilities.
- b. Wetlands: There are numerous small wetlands close to or adjoining the existing right-of-way, primarily along the 3-mile segment of C.R. 578 east of U.S. 19. These wetlands are mainly small sandhill lakes and marshes that have greatly fluctuating water levels due to rainfall conditions. They are normally isolated but may connect in a regional network during periods of high rainfall. However, few are

- f. Aquatic Preserves: Not Applicable
- g. Coastal Zone Consistency Determination Required: Yes No
- h. Cultural Resources: A Cultural Resources Assessment Survey will be conducted as part of the PD&E study process in accordance with the FDOT PD&E Manual. A preliminary examination of the project area was conducted and approximately 30 to 40 notable and potentially eligible historic resources were identified. These sites will be further investigated to determine their eligibility. The project improvements will be thoroughly coordinated with the State Division of Historical Resources.
- i. Coastal Barrier Resources: Not applicable
- j. Contamination: A detailed contamination inventory, evaluation, and risk assessment (Contamination Screening Evaluation) will be conducted as part of the PD&E Study process in accordance with the FDOT PD&E Manual to identify potential hazardous materials and petroleum-contaminated sites. Based on preliminary investigations, eight (8) potential petroleum-related sites and sixteen (16) potential contamination/hazardous-material-related sites have been inventoried within the study corridor. These sites will be further investigated to determine the contamination potential for prior (historical) or existing contamination.
- k. Other topics or comments: None.

4. **Navigable Waterway Crossing?**: Yes No

5. **Permits Required**: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
404 Permit

Southwest Florida Water Management District:
Environmental Resource Permit

anticipated to be directly affected by construction. The existing right-of-way (ROW) is located at the fringe of three small ponds or marshes, which are approximately 3 to 5 acres each. It is anticipated that less than 1 acre of wetlands would be directly affected.

- c. Floodplains: Examination of FEMA Community Panel Numbers 120230-0020C, 120230-0050C, 120230-0075C, 120110-270B, 120110-300B, and 120110-352B indicates that relatively small portions of the C.R. 578 right-of-way encroach upon the 100-year flood zone. These flood zone encroachment locations are as follows:
1. Approximately 900 feet of C.R. 578 from U.S. 41 to approximately 350 feet west of Marianna Street is shown as being in Flood Zone A on FEMA Panel Number 120230-0075C.
 2. Approximately 900 feet of C.R. 578 located between Beach Drive and Kelly Road is shown on FEMA Panel Number 120230-0050C as being in Flood Zone A.

The proposed roadway improvements should not support incompatible floodplain development since the improvements are primarily related to existing level of service deficiencies and are in accordance with the applicable County Comprehensive Plans.

There are no regulated floodways located within the project limits.

- d. Wildlife and Habitat: Based on field reviews of the site, the primary natural habitat adjacent to the project area is dry scrub dominated by such species as scrub live oak, live oak, turkey oak, sand pine, blue jack oak, and other species common within scrub communities.

The wetlands and nearby shallow lakes and sandhill forests along the western half of the project area have been reported as used, probably extensively, by numerous federal and state listed species, including the American alligator, little blue heron, limpkin, snowy egret, tricolored heron, white ibis, wood stork, and Florida sandhill crane.

Any impacts to protected species will be evaluated during the PD&E study process in accordance with the FDOT PD&E Manual, and the results of the evaluation will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Coordination with these agencies will include the identification of critical habitat for the protected species being evaluated.

- e. Outstanding Florida Waters: Not Applicable

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		2. DATE SUBMITTED 3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE 4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY 	Applicant Identifier WPI Segment No. 257298 1 State Application Identifier Federal Identifier														
5. APPLICANT INFORMATION																	
Legal Name: Florida Department of Transportation		Organizational Unit: Office of Design															
Address (give city, county, state, and zip code): 605 Suwannee Street Tallahassee, Leon Florida 32399-0450		Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code) Jeraldo Comellas, Jr., P.E. (813) 975-6000															
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): [5][9] ---- [6][0][0][1][8][7][4]		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box) A															
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter (s) in box(es): <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration Other (Specify) _____		A. Stage B. County C. Municipal D. Township E. Interstate F. Intermunicipal G. Special District H. Independent School District I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning J. Private University K. Indian Tribe L. Individual M. Profit Organization N. Other (Specify): _____															
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: [2][0] [2][0][5] TITLE Highway Planning and Construction		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. Department of Transportation															
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (cities, counties, states, etc.): Pasco and Hernando Counties, Florida		11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANTS PROJECT: Financial Project Number: 257298 1 22 01 FAP Number: 7822 001 S County Line Road (C.R. 578) PD&E Study Pasco and Hernando Counties, Florida															
13. PROPOSED PROJECT: Start Date: 08/25/99 Ending Date: 02/25/02		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF: a. Applicant b. Project: Congressional District 10															
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">a. Federal</td> <td style="width: 30%;">\$ 1.35 M*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Applicant</td> <td>\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. State</td> <td>\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Local</td> <td>\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. Other</td> <td>\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f. Program Income</td> <td>\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g. TOTAL</td> <td>\$ 1.35 M*</td> </tr> </table>		a. Federal	\$ 1.35 M*	b. Applicant	\$ 0.00	c. State	\$ 0.00	d. Local	\$ 0.00	e. Other	\$ 0.00	f. Program Income	\$ 0.00	g. TOTAL	\$ 1.35 M*	16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS 7 a. YES. PRE-APPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE _____ b. No. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372 <input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW	
a. Federal	\$ 1.35 M*																
b. Applicant	\$ 0.00																
c. State	\$ 0.00																
d. Local	\$ 0.00																
e. Other	\$ 0.00																
f. Program Income	\$ 0.00																
g. TOTAL	\$ 1.35 M*																
17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes" attach and explanation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No																	
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.																	
a. Typed Name of Authorized Representative Jeraldo Comellas, Jr., P.E.		b. Title District EMO Engineer	c. Telephone Number (813) 975-6000														
d. Signature of Authorized Representative		e. Date Signed															

**ADVANCE NOTIFICATION
MAILING LIST**

FEDERAL

Mr. James E. St. John, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
227 North Bronough Street, Room 2015
M.S. 29
Tallahassee, FL 32301-2015

Mr. John Hankins, Jr., Regional Administrator
Region IV
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Atlanta Federal Center
100 Alabama Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

Chief
Natural Hazards Branch
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1371 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30309

Mr. Michael Bentzien, Supervisor
Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of Interior
6620 South Point Drive South, Suite 310
Jacksonville, FL 32216-0912

Director
Office of Economic Analysis (RRP-32)
Federal Railroad Administration
400 Seventh Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Director
Eastern States Office
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Interior
411 Briarwood Drive, Suite 404
Jackson, MS 39206

Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-3309

Mr. Terry Rice, District Engineer
Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32201-4970

Chief - Review Unit
Environmental Affairs Program, M.S. 423
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Department of Interior, Room 2D318
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 22092-9998

Airports District Office
Federal Aviation Administration
5950 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 400
Orlando, FL 32822

Center for Environmental Health and Injury Control
Centers for Disease Control
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Special Programs Group, M.S. F-29
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Southeast Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
100 Alabama Street, 1924 Building
Atlanta, GA 30303

**ADVANCE NOTIFICATION
MAILING LIST**

STATE

Mr. Bradley J. Hartman, Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Office of Environmental Service
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Ms. Deborah Getzoff, Director
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest District
3804 Coconut Palm Drive
Tampa, FL 33619

Ms. Janet Matthews, State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Department of State
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Federal-Aid Programs Coordinator
Florida Department of Transportation
M.S. 35
605 Suwanee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Mr. Leroy Irwin, Manager
Environmental Management Office
Florida Department of Transportation
M.S. 37
602 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

REGIONAL

Mr. Manny C. Pumariega, Executive Director
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
9455 Koger Boulevard
Suite 219

Ms. Linda Sloan, Executive Director
Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council
1241 S.W. 10th Street
Ocala, FL 32674-2798

Mr. Emilio Vergara, Executive Director
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34609-6899
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2491

LOCAL AGENCIES

Mr. Dennis Dix, Executive Director
Hernando County Metropolitan Planning Organization
20 North Main Street, Room 262
Brooksville, FL 34601

Mr. Doug Uden, Executive Director
Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization
7530 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL 34653

**ADVANCE NOTIFICATION
MAILING LIST**

OTHER

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Mr. Billy Cypress, Chairperson
Miccosukee Business Committee
P.O. Box 440021, Tamiami Station
Miami, FL 33144

Mr. R. Perry Beaver, Principal Chief
Muskogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Mr. Eddie Tullis, Chairperson
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
HCR 69A, Box 85B
Atmore, AL 36502

Mr. Jerry Haney, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

Mr. James Billie, Chairperson
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6073 Sterling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024