

Fowler Avenue/State Road 582

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study

From N. Florida Avenue to West of N. 56th Street
Hillsborough County | WPI Segment No. 448505-1



Newsletter 2 | Alternatives Public Workshop | REVISED JUNE 2023

ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC WORKSHOP

June 15, 2023
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

In-Person Session
University Mall
(2nd Floor)
2200 E. Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33612

Register for
Virtual Session:

<https://www.fdot7studies.com/projects/fowler-florida-to-56th/>

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
about the
Fowler Avenue
PD&E Study

We want your comments
and suggestions.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

We're here to help.
Give us a call, send us
an email, or let us come
speak to your group:

Amber Russo, P.E.
Project Manager
FDOT - District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

Amber.Russo@dot.state.fl.us

(813) 975-6260
(800) 226-7220

or
- Media Inquiries -

Kris Carson
Public Information
Officer
FDOT - District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

Kristen.Carson@dot.state.fl.us

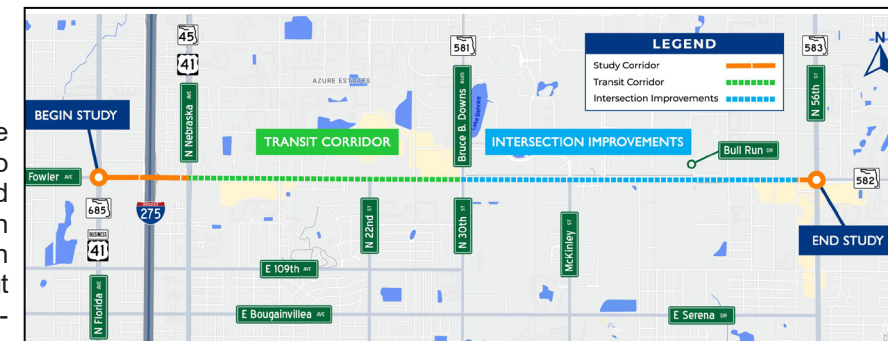
(813) 975-6060
(800) 226-7220

Dear Property Owner and/or Interested Citizen:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven invites you to attend and participate in the Fowler Avenue (State Road 582) from North Florida Avenue to west of North 56th Street Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study Alternatives Public Workshop on June 15, 2023 at the University Mall (2nd Floor) located at 2200 E. Fowler Avenue, Tampa, Florida from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the study is to evaluate transit oriented alternatives from Nebraska Avenue to Bruce B. Downs (BBD) Boulevard and innovative intersection improvements from BBD Boulevard to west of N. 56th Street. The transit corridor from Nebraska Avenue to BBD Boulevard would reconfigure Fowler Avenue to include one of three transit alternatives:

- Business Access and Transit Lane
- Frontage Lane
- Median Guideway

Innovative intersections were analyzed from BBD Boulevard to west of N. 56th Street, but found to not be feasible. Intersection as well as bicycle and pedestrian safety is being studied throughout the project limits including mid-block crossings.



This notice is being sent to all property owners (pursuant to F.S. 339.155) within at least 500 feet of the edge of right-of-way of the proposed project, as well as to public officials, regulatory agencies, organizations and individuals interested in the project.

The Alternatives Public Workshop is being offered in-person and with an option to attend online to present information to and receive public input from interested persons regarding the proposed improvements. Citizens who choose to attend the virtual workshop session must do so through a computer, tablet or smartphone via GoToWebinar. Virtual attendees must register online at the project website or from your mobile device you can scan the QR Code in this newsletter. Virtual online attendees should use the sign-in link emailed to them after registering. Starting at 5:30 p.m., attendees will be able to view materials online and ask questions to FDOT staff through the GoToWebinar question box. Team members will be available virtually to assist with questions and/or concerns.

The workshop will consist of an informal, open house format. No formal presentation will be given. There will be a short video presentation discussing general project details which will run continuously throughout the workshop. You can attend anytime during the two-hour meeting to review project information and talk one-on-one with project team members. Design concepts and other project information will be available at the in-person workshop session and for review online on the project website starting on Monday, June 12, 2023. The same materials will be presented for the in-person and virtual formats. Written comments may be submitted at any time during the workshop, or mailed back to the preprinted address on the back of the form. To be included in the official public workshop record, please postmark by Monday, June 26, 2023. Comments may also be submitted by visiting the project website.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. Section 327, and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

Sincerely,

Kirk Bogen, P.E.
Environmental Management Engineer

Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456
ATTN: FOWLER AVENUE PD&E STUDY (WPI Segment No. 448505-1)

If you have any questions about the project or scheduled workshop, please contact: Amber Russo, P.E., Project Manager at (813) 975-6260 or amber.russo@dot.state.fl.us or visit the project website: <https://www.fdot7studies.com/projects/fowler-florida-to-56th/>

We want your input.

Project Schedule

Project Kick-off	April 2022
Data Collection & Existing Conditions	Ongoing
Alternatives Development & Evaluation	Underway
Alternatives Public Workshop	June 15, 2023
Public Hearing (If Necessary)	Spring 2024
Finalize Study Documents (If Necessary)	Summer 2024
Study Approval (If Necessary)	Fall 2024

Project Funding

FDOT Five-Year Tentative Work Program Fiscal Years 2023/24 - 2027/28

Design*	Right of Way	Construction*
FY 2023/24	Pending	FY 2025/26

* Funded under FDOT WPI Segment No. 445652-1

For more information visit the project website at:
<https://www.fdot7studies.com/projects/fowler-florida-to-56th/>

Get Involved Today!

We invite you to get involved? The public plays an important role in the project development and decision making process of this study. Opportunities for you to provide your input will be available throughout the study by means of submitting comments or attending/hosting public meetings. There are several ways to get involved - call, write, or email us. Details on how to provide your input and attend the Alternatives Public Workshop are included in this newsletter. You can also invite us to speak at one of your own meetings.

Non-Discrimination

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 (ADA) or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact **Roger Roscoe**, Title VI Coordinator, at Roger.Roscoe@dot.state.fl.us, by telephone at (813) 975-6411 or toll-free at (800) 226-7220, or by written correspondence at least (7) days prior to the workshop to the Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612.

Comuniquese Con Nostros

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información sobre este proyecto, favor de ponerse en contacto con nuestro representante, el señor **Manuel Flores**, al teléfono (813) 975-4248 o correo electrónico: Manuel.Flores@dot.state.fl.us.

Updated Evaluation Matrix

An evaluation matrix comparing the No-Build and Build Alternatives is shown below. This matrix compares preliminary cost estimates (right-of-way acquisition, wetland mitigation, engineering and construction), as well as natural, physical, and social environmental factors.

	No-Build Alternative	BAT Lane	Frontage Lane	Median Guideway
Potential Right-of-Way Impacts				
Number of Business and Residences Impacted	0	2	57	2
Potential Right-of-Way for Roadway Improvements (acres)	0	0.01	1.47	0.01
Potential Environmental Effects				
Archaeological Sites and Historic Resources	0	MED	MED	MED
Section 4(f) Resources	0	NO	NO	NO
Wetlands	0	LOW	LOW	LOW
Surface Waters	0	LOW	LOW	LOW
Floodplains	0	LOW	LOW	LOW
Protected Species and Habitat	0	NO	NO	NO
Noise	0	LOW	LOW	LOW
Contamination Sites	0	LOW	MED	LOW
Estimated Costs (in millions)				
Right-of-Way Acquisition	\$0.00	\$2.00 ¹	\$51.80	\$2.00 ¹
Wetland and Surface Water Mitigation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Construction Engineering and Inspection (8%) ²	\$0.00	\$1.90	\$2.45	\$3.04
Design (7%) ²	\$0.00	\$1.60	\$2.15	\$2.66
Construction	\$0.00	\$19.50	\$26.10	\$32.30
Preliminary Estimate of Total Costs	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$82.50	\$40.00

¹ Right-of-Way for intersection improvements at Fowler Avenue and Nebraska Avenue

² Of construction cost

What is a PD&E Study?

A PD&E Study is a comprehensive study that evaluates social, economic, and environmental effects associated with the proposed transportation improvements so that the FDOT can reach a decision on the type, location, and conceptual design to meet the project's proposed purpose and need. Engaging the public by sharing and receiving information is a key component of this process and is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Traffic & Crash Data

Crash data along Fowler Avenue within the project limits was obtained from the FDOT crash records database from the 5-year period from 2015 through 2019 with Hillsborough County. A total of 3,320 crashes occurred within the corridor resulting in 9 fatalities and 46 incapacitating injuries. Of these crashes, 120 involved a bicycle or pedestrian resulting in the 9 fatalities and 17 incapacitation injuries. 56% of all the crashes within the corridor were rear-end crashes and 20% were angle and left turn crashes. In 2022, annual average daily traffic (AADT) in the corridor ranged from 20,000 vehicles per day (vpd) to 62,000 vpd. In 2045 under the build condition, AADT is expected to range from 30,000 vpd to 68,500 vpd. The proposed improvements include transit alternatives and intersection and bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

Project Description

The Fowler Avenue PD&E Study is evaluating the accommodation of transit alternatives from Nebraska Avenue to BBD Boulevard and intersection improvements from BBD Boulevard to west of N. 56th Street. The transit corridor from Nebraska Avenue to BBD Boulevard would reconfigure Fowler Avenue to include one of three transit alternatives:

- Business Access and Transit Lane
- Median Guideway
- Frontage Lane

Intersection and bicycle and pedestrian safety is also being studied throughout the project limits. Innovative intersections were analyzed from BBD Boulevard to west of N. 56th Street, but were found to not be feasible.

The No-Build Alternative assumes no improvements would be made to Fowler Avenue within the project limits except routine maintenance. The No-Build alternative remains a viable alternative throughout the PD&E Study process.

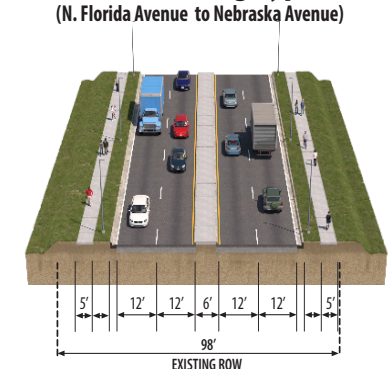
Study Purpose

The purpose of this project is to address safety, accommodate transit options, and improve multi-modal accommodations along Fowler Avenue for all users.

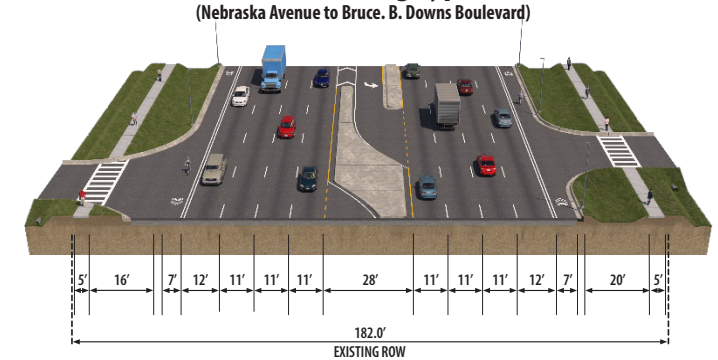
Existing Conditions

Fowler Avenue is currently a four-lane facility from N. Florida Avenue to Interstate 275, an eight-lane divided facility between Nebraska Avenue (US 41) and BBD Boulevard (County Road 581)/N. 30th Street and six-lanes divided elsewhere. Sidewalks exist throughout the project limits. The posted speed limit in the corridor varies from 40 miles per hour (mph) to 45 mph.

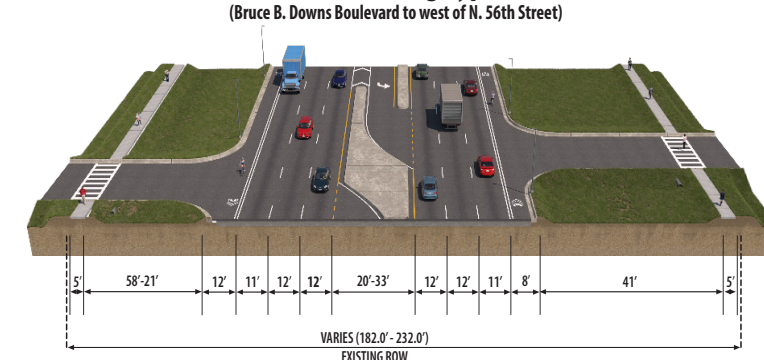
Fowler Avenue Existing Typical Section (N. Florida Avenue to Nebraska Avenue)



Fowler Avenue Existing Typical Section (Nebraska Avenue to Bruce B. Downs Boulevard)

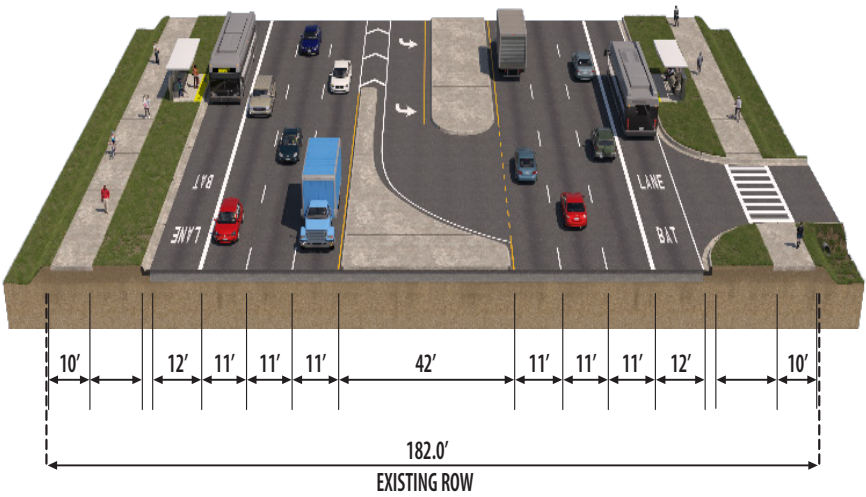


Fowler Avenue Existing Typical Section (Bruce B. Downs Boulevard to west of N. 56th Street)



Transit Alternatives

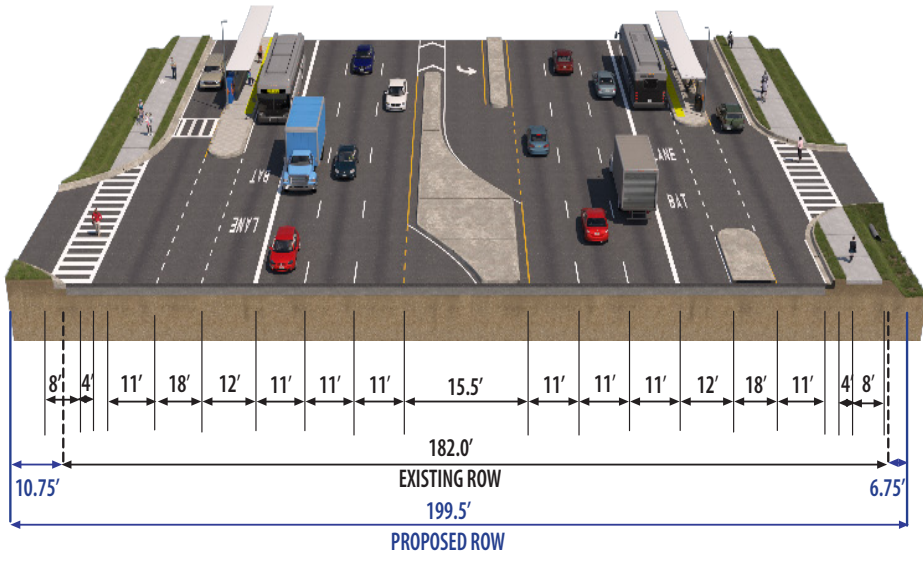
BAT Lane Alternative



Business Access & Transit (BAT) Lane

- Transit Vehicles can make through movements
- General purpose vehicles can make right turns into driveways and at intersections
- General purpose vehicles are NOT allowed to make through movements

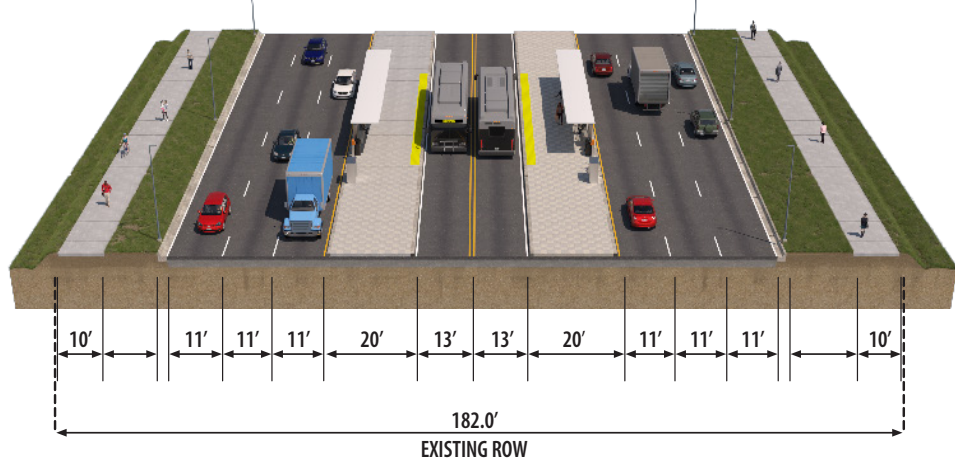
Frontage Lane Alternative



Frontage Lane

- Parallel and separate from Fowler Ave mainline for access to/from businesses
- Bus in outside lane of mainline
- Enter/Exit at appropriate locations
- Sidewalks for bicyclists and pedestrians

Median Guideway Alternative



Median Guideway

- Located within the median
- Stops/Stations located at or near intersections
- Median U-turns allowed at designated locations



Instructions for attending the Alternative Public Workshop

Interested Persons can attend the Alternative Public Workshop in-person or virtually. The same materials will be presented for both formats.

Pre-registration is required for the virtual format. Registration is available online at the project website: <https://www.fdot7studies.com/projects/fowler-florida-to-56th/> or from your mobile device, or you can scan the QR code to the right.

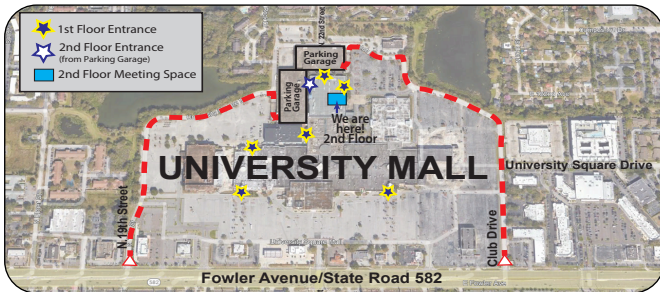


If you have any questions or issues registering, please contact Amber Russo, P.E., FDOT Project Manager at (813) 975-6260 or Amber.Russo@dot.state.fl.us

How to Attend In-Person

In-Person Alternatives Public Workshop will be held at:
University Mall (2nd Floor)
2200 E. Fowler Avenue, Tampa, FL 33612
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

1. Enter the mall property and proceed to the parking garage on the north and west sides of the mall. Enter the mall from the 2nd floor of the parking garage. Upon entering the mall, turn right at the first aisle and follow the signs to the food court and venue space.



2. Upon arrival, please sign-in.
3. During the Workshop, a repeating informational presentation will be shown and project displays will be available for review. Team members will be on-site to assist with questions and/or concerns.

How to Attend Virtually

The Virtual Alternatives Public Workshop Session will be held through: GoToWebinar
(login information will be emailed after registering)
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

1. Pre-registration is required for the virtual format. Registration is available online at: www.fdot7studies.com/projects/fowler-florida-to-56th/ or from your mobile device, or you can scan the QR Code above.
2. Virtual online attendees should use the sign-in link emailed to them after registering.
3. Attendees will be able to view materials online and ask questions to FDOT staff through the GoTo "Questions" box. Team members will also be available virtually to assist with questions and/or concerns.

There are many ways to submit your comment

- Submit your comments through the project website on the "Send Us Your Comments Page": www.fdot7studies.com/projects/fowler-florida-to-56th/send-us-your-comments/
- Complete a comment form and drop it in the comment box in-person at the Workshop.
- Mail comments to the address listed on the back. Please postmark by June 26, 2023.

Persons wishing to submit written statements or other exhibits, may do so by mailing them to Kirk Bogen, P.E., Environmental Management Engineer, FDOT District Seven, 11201 N. McKinley Drive MS 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612, or provide them on the "Send Us Your Comments" page on the project website above.



ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC WORKSHOP COMMENT FORM

Comments may be provided in one of three ways: complete the form at the Workshop and place in the "Comments" box, mail comments to the address on the back of this form, or visit the website at <https://www.flhwy.com/projects/fowler-florida-to-56th/send-us-your-comments/>. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by **June 26, 2023** to become part of the official public record.

Fowler Avenue/State Road 582 PD&E Study

from N Florida Avenue to west of N 56th Street
WPI Segment No. 448505-1

Name (Print): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please add me to the study notification list.

NOTE: All comments are part of the project record and are available for viewing by the public and the media. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who need special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or persons who require translation services (free of charge) please contact Roger Roscoe, District Seven Title VI Coordinator, at Roger.Roscoe@dot.state.fl.us or (813) 975- 6411.

Comuníquese con nosotros: Nos importa mucho la opinión del público sobre el Proyecto. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios, o simplemente desea más información, por favor comuníquese con nosotros. Nuestro representante en español es: Manuel Flores, Manuel.Flores@dot.state.fl.us, (813) 975-4248.

Fold Here

Postage
Here

Florida Department of Transportation - District Seven
Attn: Kirk Bogen, PE, Environmental Management Engineer
11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612

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