

Gibsonton Drive from Fern Hill Drive to US 301

Project Development & Environment Study

WPI Segment No. 450438-1

JANUARY 2024

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 the public hearing. Project newsletters like this one will be mailed out to all property owners adjacent to the study area and to federal, state, and local officials at key points during the study. There are multiple ways to get involved — call, write, or email us. You can also join us at our public hearing or invite us to speak at one of your own small group 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 or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact **Roger Roscoe**, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (813) 975-6411 or by email to: roger.roscoe@dot.state.fl.us

For more information on this study, visit our project website:
www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/gibsonton-dr-fern-hill-to-us301/

COMUNIQUESE 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 nuestro representante, Manuel Flores, (813) 975-4248, Manuel.Flores@dot.state.fl.us Departamento de Transporte de la Florida, 11201 North McKinley Drive, Tampa, FL 33612.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Study Began	Summer 2022
Data Collection	Summer 2022 thru Fall 2023
Preparation of Documents	Ongoing
Public Hearing	February 20, 2024
PD&E Study Approval	Summer 2024

PROJECT FUNDING

Hillsborough County Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 to Fiscal Year 2027/2028.

Phase	Fiscal Year(s)
Design	Not Currently Funded
Right of Way Acquisition	Not Currently Funded
Construction	Not Currently Funded

Hearing Date

February 20, 2024

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Formal presentation 6:30 p.m.

In-person Session Location

Riverview Public Library
 9951 Balm Riverview Road
 Riverview, FL 33569

Registration to Virtual Session

www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/gibsonton-dr-fern-hill-to-us301/

Join the Conversation about the Gibsonton Drive PD&E Study

We want your comments and suggestions throughout the study.

Questions?

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

Ashley Henzel, P.E.
FDOT Project Manager
 FDOT District Seven
 11201 N. McKinley Dr., MS 7-500
 Tampa, FL 33612
ashley.henzel@dot.state.fl.us
 813-975-6433

Media Inquiries?

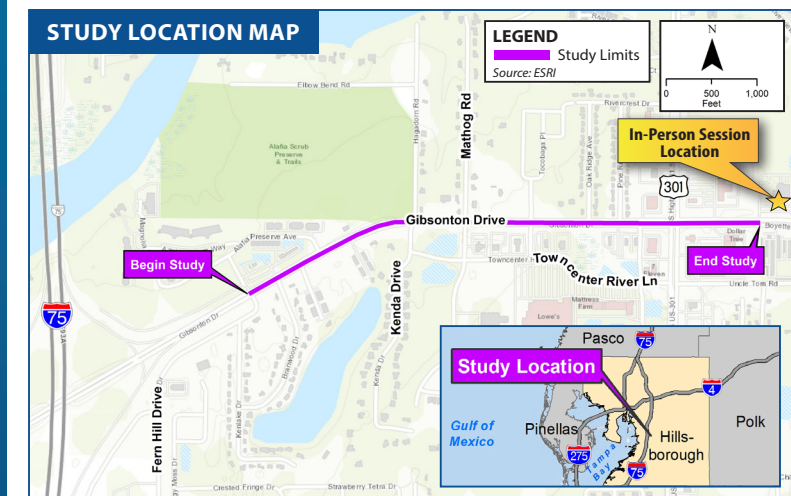
Kris Carson
Public Information Officer
 FDOT District Seven
 11201 N. McKinley Dr., MS 7-110
 Tampa, FL 33612
kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us
 813-975-6060
 800-226-7220

Dear Property Owner/Interested Citizen,

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven, in coordination with Hillsborough County, will hold a public hearing on February 20, 2024, regarding the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study for the proposed improvements to Gibsonton Drive from Fern Hill Drive to US 301 in Hillsborough County, a distance of approximately 0.95 miles. This Public Hearing is being held to provide the opportunity for public comment on the proposed widening of Gibsonton Drive from four lanes to six lanes, including providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The proposed improvements at the I-75/Gibsonton Drive interchange as well as improvements at Gibsonton Drive/Fern Hill Drive intersection are proposed under other projects.

This newsletter also serves as notice to property owners (pursuant to Florida Statutes 339.155) that all or a portion of their property is within a minimum of 500 feet of the centerline of the alignment; however, this does not mean that all properties would be directly affected.

This public hearing is being conducted both in-person and virtually to present information to and receive public input from interested persons regarding the proposed improvements to Gibsonton Drive. Citizens who choose to attend the virtual hearing session must do so through a computer, tablet or smartphone via GoToWebinar. **Virtual attendees must register online** at the project website: www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/gibsonton-dr-fern-hill-to-us301/. Additional information related to the public hearing is included in the newsletter insert.



Maps, drawings, project videos and other project information will be available at the hearing session and for review online starting on **February 16, 2024**, at www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/gibsonton-dr-fern-hill-to-us301/. Project reports will be on display from **January 29, 2024**, to **March 1, 2024**, on the project website and at the following locations:

- Riverview Public Library: 9951 Balm Riverview Road, Riverview, Florida 33569
 Monday-Thursday: 10 am to 9 pm; Friday & Saturday: 10 am to 6 pm; Sunday: Closed
- Florida Department of Transportation, District 7: 11201 N. Mc Kinley Drive, Tampa, FL 33612
 Monday-Friday: 8 am to 5 pm; Saturday & Sunday: Closed

To become part of the official public hearing record, comments must be postmarked by Friday March 1, 2024. 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 May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

FDOT welcomes and appreciates everyone's participation. If you have questions about the project or the scheduled hearing, please contact Ashley Henzel, P.E., FDOT Project Manager at ashley.henzel@dot.state.fl.us or visit our project website at www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/gibsonton-dr-fern-hill-to-us301/.

Sincerely,

Kirk Bogen, P.E.

Environmental Management Engineer

WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

A PD&E study is conducted to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal and state requirements. The study is to ensure that the implementation of transportation projects reflect and incorporate the unique engineering and community characteristics of the area. During the study, the FDOT and Hillsborough County will determine the location and conceptual design of feasible "build" alternatives for transportation improvements and analyze each of their social and economic, cultural, natural and physical environmental effects. The "no-build" alternative, which leaves Gibsonton Drive in its present state and provides for only routine maintenance, will remain an option throughout the study.

STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to address future roadway capacity issues as well as improve safety conditions on Gibsonton Drive, which is an important east-west connection between I-75 and US 301. The project will also provide improved mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists along Gibsonton Drive. This segment of Gibsonton Drive experiences high crash rates that are higher than the statewide average for similar facilities. Gibsonton Drive is an important freight route that serves as an alternate route to I-75 and has the potential of safely accommodate higher truck volumes. Gibsonton Drive is also a designated Hurricane Evacuation Route.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project traverses the unincorporated census designated place of Riverview and provides access to I-75 from the communities of Riverview, Boyette, Fish Hawk and Lithia. The class of action for this project is a Type 2 Categorical Exclusion. The proposed improvements will include widening Gibsonton Drive, the construction of stormwater management facilities (SMF) and floodplain compensation sites (FPC), various intersection improvements, median modifications, and multimodal facilities (pedestrian, bicycle, and transit accommodation). The No-Build alternative, which involves no new capacity or operational improvements, remains a viable alternative throughout the study process, although it does not accomplish the purpose and need for this project.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The existing Gibsonton Drive from Fern Hill Drive to US 301 has four travel lanes, two in each direction. The existing right of way is a minimum of 125 feet wide, but varies throughout the corridor from 125 feet to generally 150 feet.

TRAFFIC & CRASH DATA

Crash data along Gibsonton Drive within the project limits was obtained from the FDOT crash records database for the 5-year period including 2018 through 2022. A total of 910 crashes were reported including 280 of them involving injuries and 2 fatalities.

Traffic along Gibsonton Drive in 2022 ranged from an average of 38,400 to 56,600 vehicles per day. Projected traffic by year 2045 is expected to range from 52,500 to nearly 71,000 vehicles per day.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative is to widen the existing four-lane divided urban arterial from Fern Hill Drive to US 301 to a six-lane divided urban arterial with a 22-foot median. There will be two 11-foot and one 12-foot travel lanes with curb and gutter with a 10-foot wide sidewalk in each direction. Horizontal widening alignments were adjusted to minimize right-of-way requirements, impacts and costs.

Up to 30 feet of additional right-of-way is required along the north side of the roadway between Hagadorn Road and US 301 and up to 7 feet of additional right-of-way is needed on the south side of Gibsonton Drive approaching the US 301 intersection. Additional right-of-way is proposed for one off-site SMF and one off-site FPC site which are located adjacent to Gibsonton Drive.

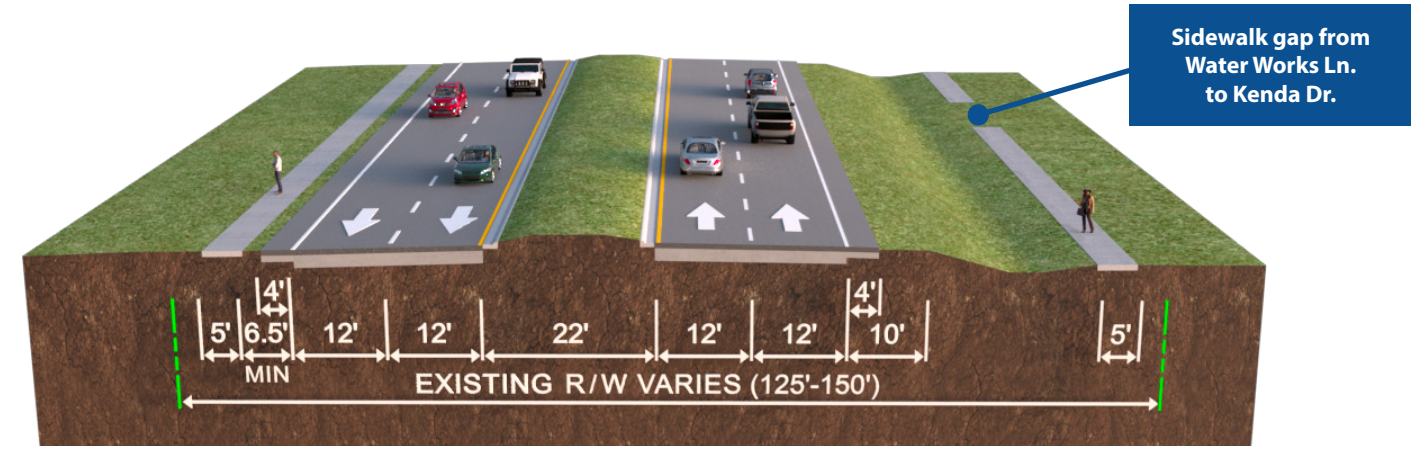
EVALUATION MATRIX

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

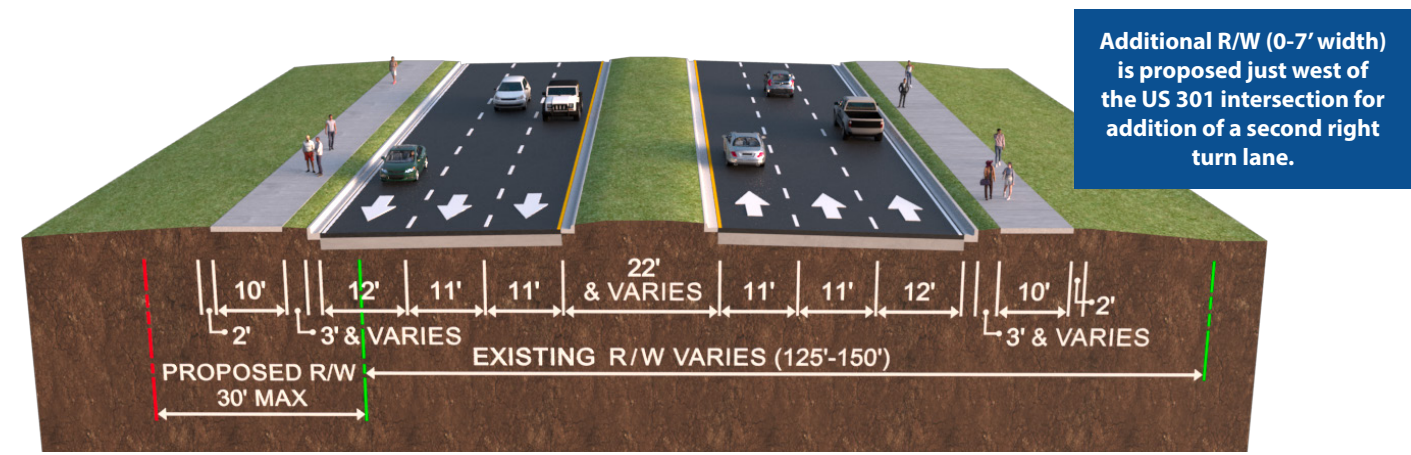
Evaluation Criteria	No-Build Alternative	Preferred Alternative
Potential Business/Residential Impacts		
Number of business relocations	0	1
Number of residential relocations	0	3
Potential ROW Impacts		
Number of affected parcels	0	20
Area of ROW anticipated to be acquired for road widening (acres)	0	0.95
Area of ROW anticipated to be acquired for Stormwater Pond and Floodplain Compensation Site (acres)	0	3.19
Potential Environmental Effects		
Archaeological/Historical Resources	0	0
Section 4(f) sites	0	0
Noise impacted receptors	0	12
Wetlands that are not Other Surface Waters (acres)	0	0.17
Protected Species Involvement	None	Low
Petroleum and hazardous material sites (risk ranking)	None	0 (High) 6 (Medium)
Estimated Costs (Present Day Costs in \$ Million rounded up to nearest \$0.1 Million)		Total Project
Design (10% of construction)		\$2.4
Right of Way Gibsonton Drive Roadway Widening		\$6.7
Right of Way for Stormwater Pond and Floodplain Compensation Site		\$3.2
Wetlands Mitigation for Wetland impacts that are not other surface waters (0.17 acres)		\$0.1
Construction Inspection (10% of construction)		\$2.4
Construction Cost ¹		\$23.5
Total Project Estimated Costs		\$38.3¹

¹ Construction cost estimate prepared December 2023.

EXISTING ROADWAY TYPICAL SECTION (Looking East)



PREFERRED ROADWAY TYPICAL SECTION (Looking East)



RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION PROCEDURE

We understand that when a transportation project proposes the acquisition of private property, you may have questions and concerns. To better educate and inform you about the Right of Way acquisition process and your rights, the FDOT has created real estate acquisition and relocation brochures.

These brochures and other educational materials will be available at the public hearing along with representatives from the FDOT's Right of Way acquisition and relocations departments. Copies of the brochures may also be found on our website at: www.dot.state.fl.us/rightofway/documents.shtm.

We are interested in hearing your concerns and answering your questions. Please feel free to speak with the FDOT's Project Manager or a Right of Way Representative at your convenience either at the workshop or by phone at (813) 975-6495.