

Contact Information

If you wish to discuss any issues related to the completed environmental phase, please contact:

Ashley Henzel, P.E.

Senior Project Manager
Phone: 813.975.6433 or 800.266.7220
ashley.henzel@dot.state.fl.us

For issues related to final design of this project, please contact:

Marshall Hampton, P.E.

Special Project Administrator
Phone: 813.975.6078
marshall.hampton@dot.state.fl.us

For other issues related to this project, please contact:

Kristen Carson (Media Contact)

Public Information Officer
Phone: 813.975.6202 or 800.226.7220
kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us

En Español

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o si simplemente desea más información sobre este Proyecto, favor de ponerse en contacto con el señor Manuel Flores, al teléfono 813.975.4248 o correo electrónico manuel.flores@dot.state.fl.us.

Non-Discrimination

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 or persons who require translation service (free of charge), please contact Alex Henry, Public Involvement Coordinator, 813.975.6405 or alex.henry@dot.state.fl.us.

Right-of-Way Acquisition Procedure

When a transportation project proposes acquiring private property, you may have questions and concerns. To better inform you about the right-of-way acquisition process and your rights, FDOT created real estate acquisition and relocation informational brochures. These brochures and other education materials are available on our website: <https://www.fdot.gov/rightofway/documents.shtm> or call (813) 975-6000 for information.



For more information about the project go to:
<http://active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/54th-to-4th/>



I-275 (SR 93) Design Change and Right-of-Way Re-evaluation

Project Development and Environment Study from south of 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street North, Pinellas County, Florida
WPI Segment #424501-1, ETD #12556



STUDY APPROVAL NOTICE: I-275 (SR 93) DESIGN CHANGE & RIGHT-OF-WAY RE-EVALUATION

On May 19, 2020 the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Office of Environmental Management (OEM) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated December 14, 2016 and executed by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FDOT approved a Design Change and Right-of-Way Re-evaluation for Work Program Item Segment Number: 424501-1 I-275 (SR 93) from south of 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street North Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. A legal notice indicating study approval was published in Tampa Bay Times on August 16, 2020.

The original PD&E Study, approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on September 29, 2015, evaluated operational improvements to provide two continuous lanes in each direction on I-275 in Segments A and B, and provided two express lanes in each direction in Segment C, see Figure 1 on inside page for segments. Subsequently, on April 26, 2017 FDOT OEM approved a Design Change Re-evaluation to evaluate re-purposing the approved express lane configuration within Segment C from south of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street North to one mile south of the Howard Frankland Bridge. The re-purposing of one of the two approved express lanes was needed to accommodate three general use lanes, one auxiliary lane, and one express lane in each direction.

The current Design Change and Right-of-Way Re-evaluation evaluated the impacts of further changes to the previously approved PD&E studies. The current re-evaluation evaluated the addition of two express lanes on I-275 in Segment B from north of I-375 to south of Gandy Boulevard and the addition of a second express lane in Segment C from south of Gandy Boulevard to north of 4th Street North. These proposed improvements would tie-in with improvements to the Howard Frankland Bridge currently under construction.

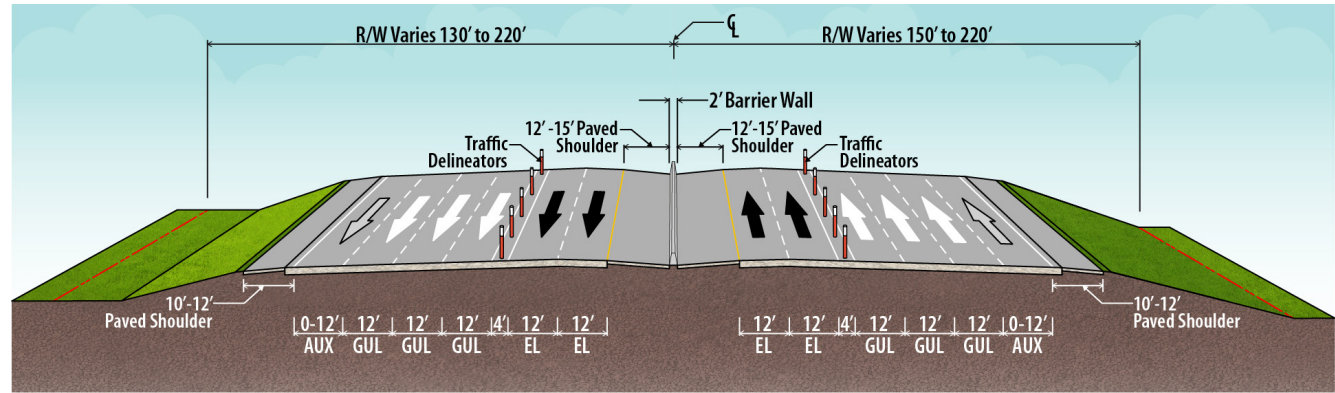
The current re-evaluation also analyzed replacing the I-275 ramp bridges on 4th Street North over Big Island Gap, providing trail connections from the Howard Frankland Bridge to 4th Street North and Ulmerton Road, and ramp connection modifications at the Gandy Boulevard interchange. To meet drainage and stormwater requirements, pond sites will be needed to accommodate new impervious surface due to widening to accommodate express lanes. Several of these new pond site locations will be outside of the existing right-of-way. FDOT is conducting an Environmental Look Around (ELA) to identify opportunities to reduce or eliminate right-of-way required for pond sites as identified through the Re-evaluation. The ELA is ongoing and will be completed during the design phase.

Figure 1. Project Location Map



Figure 2. Segment B/C - I-275 from I-375 to north of 4th Street Typical Section

Preferred Build Alternative Typical Section



General Use Lane (GUL) | Express Lane (EL) | Auxiliary Lane (AUX)

Public Involvement

A public hearing was held Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg, 1900 Gandy Boulevard N, St. Petersburg, FL 33702. The hearing provided information about the Preferred Build Alternative and allowed residents, business owners, tenants, and those interested to comment and express views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed project. The hearing included an open house that began at 5:30 pm. The formal portion began at approximately 6:30 pm where FDOT representatives made a formal presentation on the proposed improvements and were available to speak with attendees, take comments and answer questions. The public was given the opportunity to provide comment in writing or by mail, verbally at the microphone during the formal presentation, or verbally to the court reporter.

One hundred and forty one (141) members of the public signed in at the public hearing. Fifteen (15) comments were written at the hearing, 11 were orally received at hearing and 43 additional comments were received by mail, email, and through the website during the official comment period which ended October 4, 2019. A transcript of the public hearing is provided in the Comments and Coordination Report, available on the project web-site.

Planned Improvements

To best describe the planned improvements, the study corridor is divided into three segments. The typical section for Segments B and C changed as noted below. No changes are proposed for Segment A (south of 54th Avenue South to I-375).

Figure 2 shows the Preferred Build Alternative typical section for I-275 from I-375 to north of 4th Street. The typical section primarily consist of three general purposes lanes with an auxiliary lane, where appropriate, and 2 express lanes in each direction. The outside paved shoulder varies between 10-12 ft and the inside shoulder varies between 12-15 ft.

Selected Alternative

Following the public hearing, the Preferred Build Alternative was selected based on a determination that the No Build Alternative did not meet the purpose and need of the project to increase capacity and relieve congestion along the corridor. The proposed improvements will reduce future traffic congestion and improve traffic operations and safety along I-275.

Funding

Table 1 outlines the timing and funding for the improvements associated with the approved Re-evaluation.

Table 1: FDOT Adopted Work Program FY 2020/21 - 2024/25

	Description	R/W Begins	Design Begins	Construction Begins
424501-5	I-275 (SR 93) from 54th Ave S to south of Roosevelt Blvd	2020/21*	2024/25 Design/Build	
424501-4	I-275 from south of Roosevelt Blvd to north of 4th St N	N/A	Not currently funded	Not currently funded
430500-1	SR 687/4th Street N from south of Big Island Gap to south of I-275/SR 93	N/A	Currently Underway	2021/22

*Right-of-way acquisition related to stormwater management facilities and floodplain compensation sites for Segment A and Segment B