

# I-75 (SR 93A)

## **FINAL COMMENTS AND COORDINATION REPORT**

### **PD&E Study from South of Fowler Avenue, Hillsborough County, to South of SR 56, Pasco County**

WPI Segment No.: 408459 1  
Federal Aid Project Number: 0751 105 I

### **Reevaluation Study from South of SR 56 to CR 54, Pasco County**

WPI Segment No.: 258736 1  
Federal Aid Project Number: NH-75-1(91)275

### **Florida Department of Transportation District Seven**



**April 2004**

# **COMMENTS AND COORDINATION REPORT**

## **I-75 Hillsborough and Pasco Counties Project Development & Environment Study**

**PD&E Study from South of Fowler Avenue, Hillsborough County to  
South of SR 56, Pasco County**

WPI Segment Number: 408459 1  
Federal Aid Project Number: 0751 105 I

**Reevaluation Study from South of SR 56 to  
CR 54, Pasco County**

WPI Segment Number: 258736 1  
Federal Aid Project Number: NH-75-1-(91)275

The proposed action involves improvements to I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue to County Road 54, a distance of approximately 13.9 miles.

**Florida Department of Transportation  
District Seven**

Prepared by:  
**Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.**

April 5, 2004

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

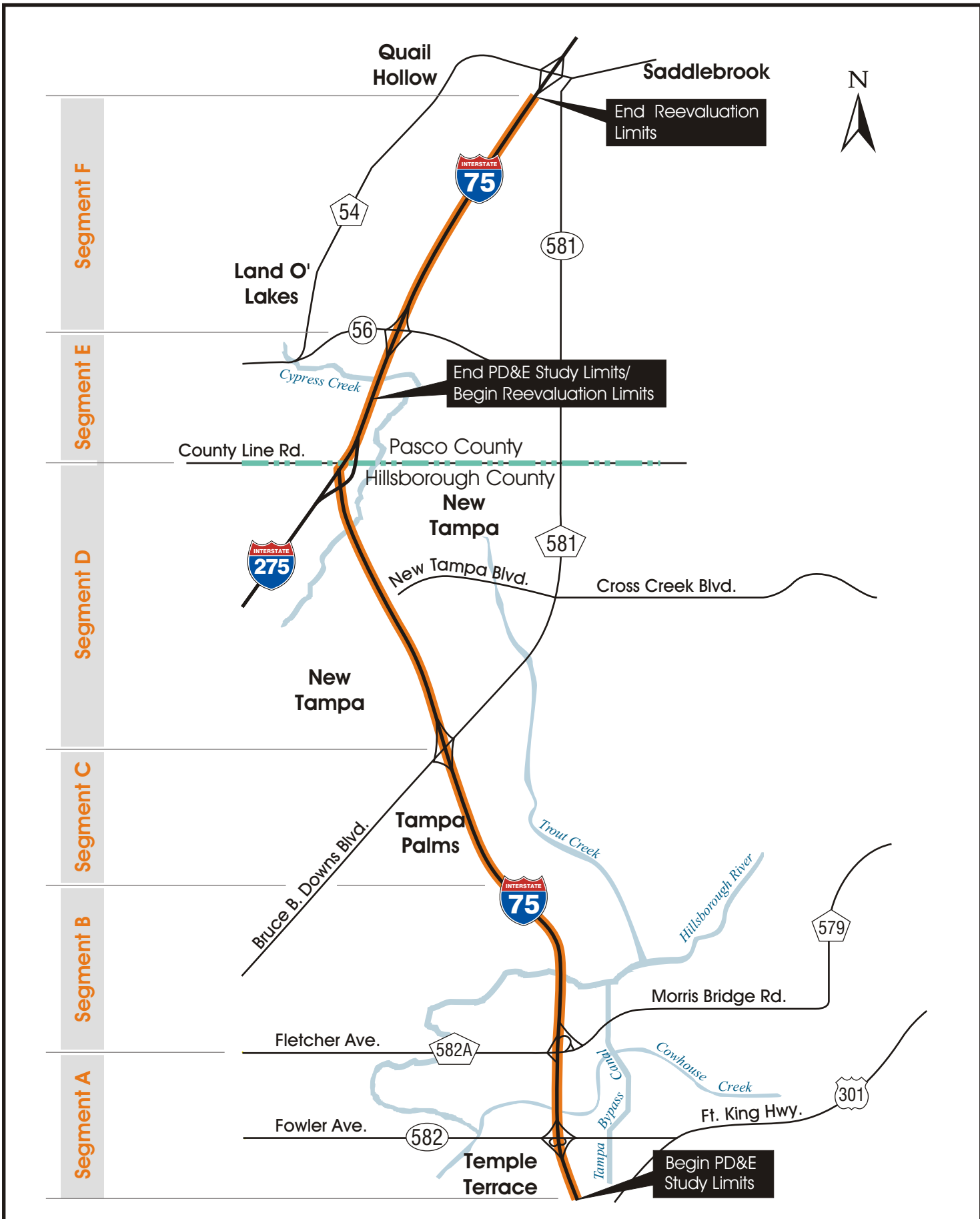
The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has conducted studies to evaluate and document the proposed improvements to Interstate 75 (I-75) from south of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to County Road (CR) 54 in Pasco County. A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study was conducted for the I-75 segment from south of Fowler Avenue to south of SR 56 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida. A Design Change Reevaluation has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the remaining I-75 segment from south of SR 56 to CR 54 in Pasco County. The Reevaluation Study compared and documented the new approved design concepts to those contained in the I-75 PD&E Study that was approved by the FHWA on November 27, 2000. The combined length of these studies was approximately 13.9 miles. Figure 1 indicates the limits of the PD&E and Reevaluation Studies.

The existing facility from south of Fowler Avenue to south of SR 56 is typically a four-lane limited access highway. This study evaluated six-lane and six-lane with auxiliary lanes typical section alternatives and a No-Build Alternative.

In compliance with state and federal rules, regulations and policies, a Public Involvement Program was developed in February 2002 and carried out as an integral part of the I-75 PD&E Study. Public involvement was accomplished during the PD&E Study to keep appropriate agencies, public officials, property owners, and interested citizens informed and to ensure project compliance with local and regional transportation plans. The FDOT has conducted an interagency coordination and consultation effort, and public participation process. This document describes the following components: Advance Notification, Elected Officials/Agency Kick-off Meeting, the Public Hearing, and comments received.

## **2.0 ADVANCE NOTIFICATION**

The FDOT initiated early project coordination on January 22, 2002, by distribution of an Advance Notification (AN) Package to the Florida State Clearinghouse, Office of the Governor, Tallahassee, Florida, in accordance with Executive Order 83-150. The FDOT received notification that the Clearinghouse received the AN and forwarded the package to the appropriate agencies. The agencies or government entities listed below received an AN. An (\*) indicates those agencies that responded to the AN. Appendix A contains a copy of the Advance Notification package.



**I - 75 PD&E Study**  
 from south of Fowler Avenue to CR 54  
 Hillsborough and Pasco Counties  
 WPI Seg. No: 408459 1 / FAP No: 0751 105 I  
 WPI Seg. No: 258736 1 / FAP No: NH-75-1-(91)275

**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

**Figure 1**

### **Federal**

Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
US Department of the Interior, USFWS  
\*Federal Aviation Administration  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
US Department of the Interior, US Geological Survey, Environmental Affairs Program  
US Department of Agriculture, Southern Region  
US Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs

### **State**

\*Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest District  
\*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, South Region  
Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources

### **Regional**

Southwest Florida Water Management District  
\*Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

### **Other**

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma  
Seminole Tribe of Florida

The Florida Department of Community Affairs indicated in a letter dated March 29, 2002 that the project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. Summaries of the comments from the agencies that responded to the AN are provided below.

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

**Comment:** The Federal Aviation Administration indicated in a letter dated February 12, 2002 that the "FAA interposes no objection with this proposal provided navigational airspace is not impacted."

### **Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest District**

**Comment:** The FDEP indicated in a letter dated March 1, 2002 that the funding for the Federal-Aid action and PD&E Study is consistent with the FDEP's authorities in the Coastal Management Program. The project will require an Environmental Resource Permit. A sovereign submerged lands authorization(s) (issuance/modification of a public easement) may also be required if the expanded right-of-way crossings of creek and wetland areas are determined to be state-owned submerged lands. The FDEP recommends that a binding wetland jurisdictional determination be obtained prior to any further planning. Early coordination with SWFWMD regulatory staff may help prevent future permitting problems. The public conservation and recreation lands located adjacent to the interstate and in the vicinity of the proposed project have been targeted for preservation by Hillsborough County,

SWFWMD and the state. The FDEP requested that a trail underpass at the I-75 over the Hillsborough River be evaluated.

**Response:** The Hillsborough River Bridge is expected to be widened and not replaced. The existing profile of the bridge and the design high water of the Hillsborough River provide for limited vertical and horizontal clearances. These constraints preclude the development of an underpass at these locations. The required permits and authorizations will be obtained during the design phase of the project.

#### **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Office of Environmental Services**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission indicated in a letter dated March 7, 2002 a concern with the further fragmentation of wildlife habitat; impacts to wetland and riparian systems; direct, secondary and cumulative impacts to listed species; the need for supplemental wildlife surveys; and adequate mitigation for wetland and listed species habitat impacts. The selected project alignment should avoid impacts to listed species. To compensate for impacts to wetlands and listed species habitat, the FFWCC supports mitigation that establishes or maintains habitat connectivity within the study area and adjacent natural areas. Suitable wildlife undercrossings should be incorporated with appropriate bridge designs at the Hillsborough River, Cypress Creek, Trout Creek, and Cowhouse Creek wetland crossings.

**Response:** As with the Hillsborough River Bridge, these bridges are expected to be widened and not replaced. The existing profile of the bridges and the design high water of these water bodies provide for limited vertical and horizontal clearances. These constraints preclude the development of underpasses at these locations.

#### **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council**

**Comment:** The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) indicated in a letter dated March 11, 2002 that the project was reviewed for consistency with the TBRPC's Strategic Regional Policy Plan. The project may impact Natural Resources of Regional Significance. It must be determined that any proposed impacts to regionally-significant natural resources are of overriding public interest, and mitigation should be required according to the ratios set forth therein.

**Response:** The FDOT will work with the appropriate regulatory agencies to ensure impacts to natural resources are avoided, minimized or mitigated.

### **3.0 ELECTED OFFICIALS/AGENCY KICK-OFF MEETING**

A Public Officials/Agency Kickoff Meeting for the I-75 PD&E Study was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the FDOT, District Seven Office, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, Florida.

The meeting format was open and informal. This meeting was held to inform elected officials and local, state, regional, and federal agencies of the project and to obtain specific data on matters pertinent to the project.

Seventeen agency representatives including the City of Temple Terrace, the City of Tampa, Temple Terrace Police Department, Hillsborough County, the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, attended the kickoff meeting. No written comments were received from the agencies during the kickoff meeting.

## **4.0 AGENCY COORDINATION AND COMMENTS**

On April 16, 2003 and on June 10, 2003, the FDOT met with Hillsborough County and Pasco County representatives, respectively to discuss the project. Both counties were in concurrence with the proposed improvements.

Throughout the PD&E process the FDOT received comments from local and state agencies. In a letter dated November 25, 2003, the Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources indicated that the Cultural Resource Assessment survey prepared for this project is complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, Florida Administrative Code.

The City of Tampa reviewed the concept plans that the FDOT provided and in a letter dated October 23, 2003, noted that the proposed improvements to I-75, near the proposed New Tampa Nature Park in the southeast quadrant of the I-75/ CR 581 interchange, would have no impacts on the park site itself. The proposed improvements for I-75 are in compliance with the Management Plan that was developed for the park site.

On November 5, 2003, the FDOT initiated informal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding impacts on threatened and endangered species. An Endangered Species Technical Memorandum was prepared for this project. On December 22, 2003, the USFWS indicated "The Proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.). This finding fulfills the requirements of the Act."

Copies of these agency letters are provided in Appendix B.

## **5.0 PUBLIC HEARING**

A formal Public Hearing was held on December 17, 2003, in the auditorium at the Florida Department of Transportation, District 7 Headquarters, located at 11201 North McKinley Drive in Tampa, Florida. The Hearing was held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to present the PD&E Study and Reevaluation and to give the public the opportunity to express their views concerning the conceptual design and social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed improvements. The Study's supporting documents were available for public review prior to and after the Hearing from November 26, 2003 through January 5, 2004 at the New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Boulevard in Tampa.

Notification was accomplished by electronic mail to public officials and by direct mail to federal, state, regional, and Hillsborough and Pasco Counties agencies, interested citizens, and property owners whose property lies in whole or in part within 300 feet from the centerline of the proposed project.



Legal display advertisements for the Hearing were published on November 27, 2003 and December 11, 2003 in the Metro section of the Tampa Tribune. Forty-four people (not including FDOT staff) signed the attendance rosters.

Copies of the Public Hearing materials, including the legal display advertisement and the newsletter sent to officials, agencies and property owners are included in Appendix C. Copies of the Hearing brochure, recommended build alternative, display graphics, and attendance rosters are included in the Public Hearing Project Scrap Book that was prepared for this project.

The formal portion of the Hearing began at 6:00 p.m. Robert Clifford, AICP, Modal Planning and Development Manager for the FDOT, District 7, presided at the Hearing. Following introductory remarks, Mr. Clifford provided a summary of the FDOT's engineering and environmental studies associated with the proposed improvements and showed a video about the project. The next portion of the Hearing was devoted to oral comments.

Attendees were able to offer statements as part of the Official Public Hearing Record in one of four ways: (1) make an oral statement during the formal portion of the Hearing; (2) make an oral statement to the court reporter during the informal portion of the Hearing; (3) complete the Comment Form and submit it to the court reporter or drop it in the 'Comment Form' box; or (4) complete and mail the Comment Form to the FDOT - District 7.

Three people gave oral statements to the court reporter during the informal portion of the Hearing. One person gave an oral statement during the formal portion of the Hearing. A copy of the Public Hearing transcript is included in Appendix D.

## **6.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This section summarizes the substantive comments received throughout the study process. Three oral statements were provided to the court reporter during the informal portion of the Hearing, one oral comment was provided during the formal portion of the Hearing and 86 written comment sheets were received. One written comment form and one oral comment included comments on both noise and some other issue. Thus, 92 comments were received. Copies of the written comments are maintained in the project file. A summary of the oral and written comments received is shown in Table 1.

Approximately 91 percent of the comments concerned noise levels. Most of those commenting are residents within the subdivisions in Tampa Palms. Fifty residents from Tremont Village signed form letters stating they are negatively affected in terms of quality of life by the traffic noise on I-75 and wish to be considered in the noise barrier analysis. Many of these residents also wrote individual comments restating their concerns about noise.

As a result of the PD&E Study's noise analysis, noise barriers have been determined to be cost reasonable at two locations, south of Fowler Avenue on the west side of I-75 and at the Enclave Subdivision of Tampa Palms.

**Table 1  
Summary of Oral and Written Comments Received**

<b>Issue</b>	<b># Comments*</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Noise levels	84	91.30%
Integrity of the natural gas lines & working with residents	1	1.09%
Request the FDOT buys whole parcel for a pond rather than just a strip	1	1.09%
Alternative system of access connecting County Line Road and I-275 near the apex	1	1.09%
Miscellaneous comments or requests for information	5	5.43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: \*One written comment form and one oral comment included comments on more than one issue.

There were 18 requests to be added to the project mailing list and three requests for additional project information. Other miscellaneous comments are summarized below.

**Comment:** One person requested that the FDOT purchase her whole parcel of land for a pond rather than just a strip of this parcel.

**Response:** If the residual portion of the parcel is found to be an uneconomic remainder, the FDOT may purchase the entire parcel.

**Comment:** One person suggested an alternative system of access roads connecting County Line Road and I-275 near the Apex. He also requested the FDOT coordinate with the homeowner's associations in the area.

**Response:** Due to the proximity of the I-275/I-75 Apex area, connections to County Line Road would adversely affect traffic operations on the I-275 and I-75 mainlines. Throughout the Study, the FDOT has conducted a public coordination process. Ongoing coordination will be maintained throughout the design and construction phases of the project.

**Comment:** One person commented on the newly installed natural gas lines in the project area and the effects on these lines due to increased volumes and weight on I-75. He is concerned about any hazardous conditions to the highway and nearby residents. Another concern is the amount of involvement the residents have in the process.

**Response:** The FDOT coordinates transportation improvement projects with utility providers to ensure that neither the roadway nor the utility are adversely affected. Throughout the study, the FDOT has conducted a public coordination process. Ongoing coordination will be maintained throughout the design and construction phases of the project.

# **Appendix A Advance Notification Package and Responses**



SAI # FL200201291466

## Florida Department of Transportation

JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive \* Tampa, FL 33612-6456 \* (813) 975-6039 or 1-(800) 226-7220  
Environmental Management Office (EMO) \*MS 7-500

THOMAS F. BARRY, JR.  
SECRETARY

January 23, 2002

Ms. Jasmin Raffington, Coordinator  
Florida State Clearinghouse  
Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Subject: WPI Segment No: 408459 1 / FAP No: 0751 105 I  
Interstate 75 (I-75) PD&E Study / Hillsborough and Pasco Counties / Advance Notification

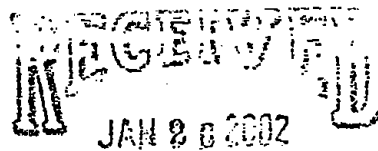
Dear Ms. Raffington:

The attached Advance Notification package is for a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study on I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue to north of State Road 54 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida. This information is being forwarded to your office for processing through appropriate State agencies in accordance with Executive Order 95-359. Distribution to local, State and Federal agencies is being made as noted.

Although more specific comments will be solicited during the permit coordination process, we request that permitting and permit reviewing agencies review the attached information and furnish us with any general comments they consider pertinent at this time.

This is a Federal-aid action and the Florida Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration, will determine what degree of environmental documentation will be necessary. The determination will be based upon in-house environmental evaluations and comments received through coordination with other agencies. Please provide a consistency review for this project in accordance with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program.

In addition, please review this project's consistency, to the maximum extent feasible, with the approved Comprehensive Plan of the local governmental jurisdiction(s) pursuant to Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.



State of Florida Clearinghouse

Ms. Jasmin Raffington  
Page 2 of 4  
January 23, 2002

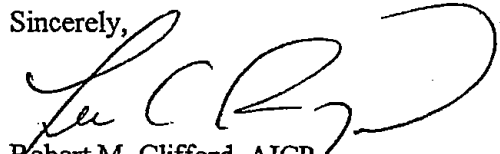
We are looking forward to receiving your comments on the project within 45 days. Should additional review time be required, a written request for an extension must be submitted to our office within the initial 45 day comment period.

Your comments should be addressed to:

Mr. Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
MS 7-500  
11201 N. McKinley Drive  
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

Your expeditious handling of this notice will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
for Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager

RC/dgj  
Attachment

Ms. Jasmin Raffington  
Page 3 of 4  
January 23, 2002

**Mailing List - Federal**

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

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

Mr. John Hankinson, Jr., Administrator  
Region IV  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Mr. Joe R. Miller  
District Engineer, Regulatory Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32201-4970

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

Chief, Mitigation Division  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Chief, Review Unit  
Environmental Affairs Program, MS 423  
U.S. Geological Survey  
U.S. Department of Interior, Room 2D318  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 20192

Mr. David Hankla, Field Supervisor  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
6620 Southpoint Drive, South  
Suite 310  
Jacksonville, FL 32216-0912

Regional Forester  
Southern Region  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1720 Peachtree Road, N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30367-9101

Chief - Environmental Services Staff  
Office of Trust Responsibilities  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of Interior  
Room 4560, Interior Building  
18<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20245-0001

Mr. Mike Murray  
Page 4 of 4  
February 13, 2002

**State**

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

Bradley J. Hartman, Director  
Office of Environmental Services  
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Comm.  
620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Lt. Col. Greg Holder, Regional Director  
South Region  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
3900 Drane Field Road  
Lakeland, FL 33811-1299

Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews  
Director of the Division of Historic Resources, SHPO  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

**Regional**

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

Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
9455 Koger Boulevard, Suite 219  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2491

**APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

TYPE OF SUBMITTAL:		2. DATE SUBMITTED January 22, 2002	Applicant Identifier 408459 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Application Identifier
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Legal Name: Florida Department of Transportation	Organizational Unit: Environmental Management Office
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Address: (give city, county, state and zip code) 201 North McKinley Drive, MS 7-500 Tampa, Florida 33612	Name and telephone number of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code): Jeraldo Comellas, Jr., P.E. 813/975-6077
--	---

EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 5 9 - 6 0 0 1 8 7 4	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box) <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>
TYPE OF APPLICANT: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	A. State 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): _____
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)	

9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. Department of Transportation
---

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: 2 0 - 2 0 5	11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:  Financial Project Number: 408459 1 21 01
TITLE: Highway Planning and Construction	
AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (cities, counties, states, etc.) Hillsborough & Pasco Counties, Florida	

PROPOSED PROJECT:	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:
Start Date: 10/18/01	Ending Date: 10/18/03
a. Applicant	b. Project: Hillsborough & Pasco Counties Congressional District 9, Hillsborough District 11

ESTIMATED FUNDING:		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?
Federal	\$ 29,000,000.00	a. YES. PREAPPLICATION / APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE January 22, 2002
Applicant	\$ .00	b. NO. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E.O. 12372
State	\$ .00	<input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW
Local	\$ .00	
Other	\$ .00	
Program Income	\$ .00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?
TOTAL	\$ 29,000,000.00	<input type="checkbox"/> YES IF "YES", attach an explanation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

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.

Typed Name of Authorized Representative: Jeraldo Comellas, Jr., P.E.	b. Title: District EMO Engineer	c. Telephone Number: 813/975-6077
Signature of Authorized Representative		e. Date Signed

10/19/02 - 6.11



**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET**

**1. Need for Project:**

The Florida Department of Transportation proposes to improve Interstate 75 (I-75) (State Road 93A) from south of Fowler Avenue to north of State Road 54 (SR 54) in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida. The project location is shown in Figure 1.

The improvements to I-75 are needed to accommodate projected traffic increases and to improve safety conditions. Improvements to I-75 are consistent with the Hillsborough County, Pasco County and the City of Tampa Comprehensive Plans as well as the Hillsborough County and Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization Long-Range Transportation Plans.

**2. Description of Project:**

The existing facility is typically a four-lane limited access highway. The Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study limits extend from south of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to north of SR 54 in Pasco County, a distance of about 13.9 miles. This Study will evaluate six and eight-lane typical section alternatives and a no-build alternative. A PD&E Study Reevaluation of Work Program Item Segment No. 258736 1 will also be undertaken on the I-75 section from south of SR 56, in the vicinity of Cypress Creek, to north of SR 54. The Study will incorporate all recommended improvements being recommended in the ongoing I-75/CR 581 Interchange Modification Report.

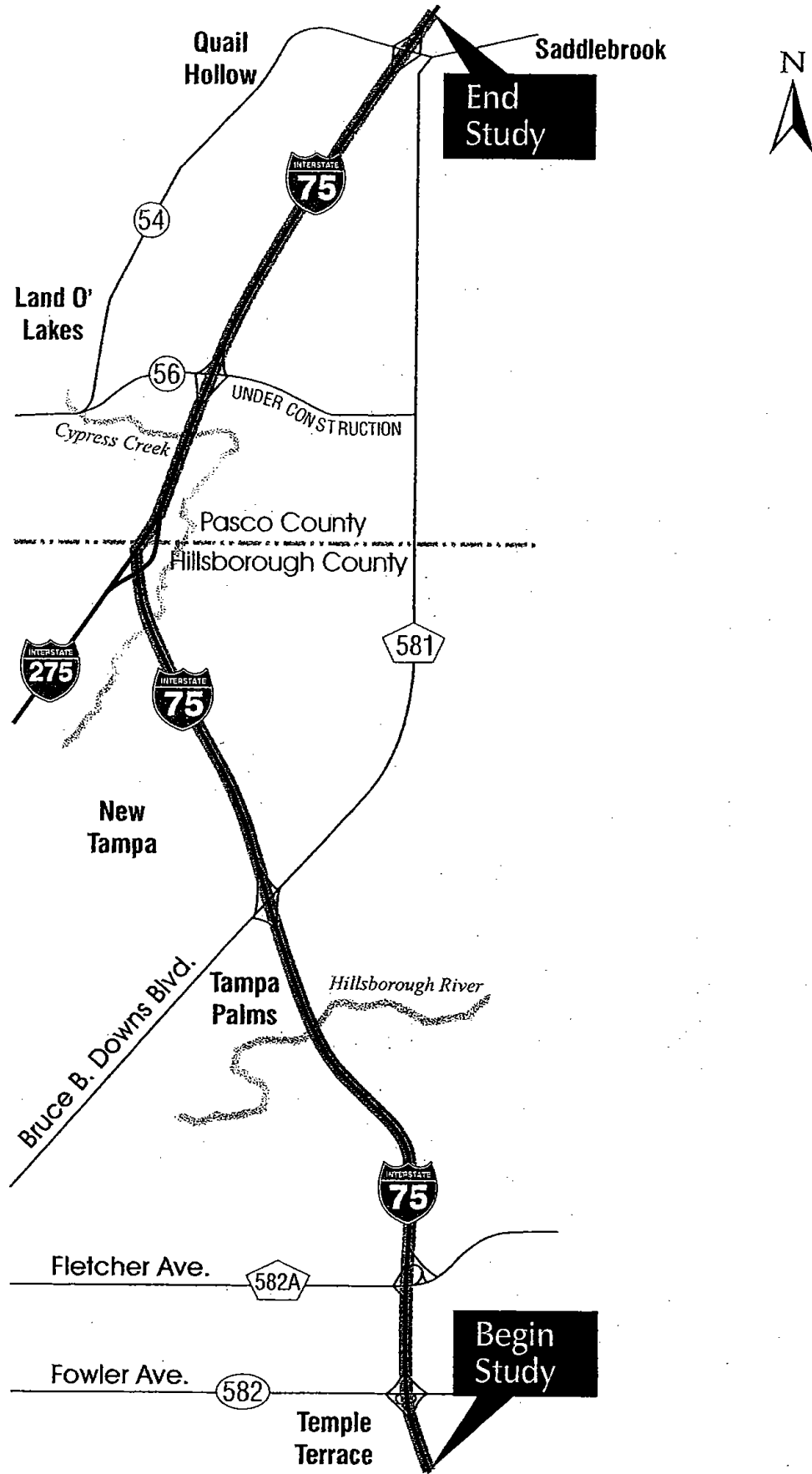
**3. Environmental Information:**

- a. **Land Uses:** Land uses along the corridor consists of general agriculture, commercial, industrial and low density residential areas. The proposed project is consistent with future land use plans.
- b. **Wetlands:** Numerous wetlands occur along the project and include riverine, marshes, and forested systems. Some of the wetland areas are high quality, pristine systems with little or no disturbance outside of the existing right-of-way. There are also numerous wetland mitigation sites adjacent to the existing right-of-way. Several of the natural wetlands are large floodplains associated with the riverine systems that cross the project. A Wetland Evaluation Report will be completed for this Study. The evaluation will be coordinated with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local government agencies.
- c. **Floodplains:** The existing roadway crosses FEMA designated 100-year base floodplains at Cow House Creek, the Hillsborough River and Cypress Creek in Hillsborough County. In Pasco County, portions of the study area for the proposed I-75 widening are located within the 100-year base floodplain at Cypress Creek and Trout Creek. A Location Hydraulic Report and Conceptual Pond and Floodplain Siting Report will be completed for this Study.

- d. **Wildlife and Habitat:** Preliminary literature reviews have been conducted and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was contacted regarding known occurrences of protected animals and plants within the study area. During the preliminary field review, potential habitat for the following protected animals was noted: Shermans fox squirrel, gopher tortoise, gopher frog, eastern indigo snake, American alligator, Florida sandhill crane, Florida burrowing owl, southeastern kestrel, and numerous species of protected wading birds. Several of these species are known to occur in the area adjacent to I-75. No USFWS-designated Critical Habitat for threatened or endangered species occurs within the Study area. A Threatened and Endangered Species Report documenting any involvement with protected species will be prepared and coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- e. **Outstanding Florida Waters:** Hillsborough River and Cypress Creek
- f. **Aquatic Preserves:** N/A
- g. **Coastal Zone Consistency Determination is Required:**  Yes  No
- h. **Cultural Resources:** A review of the Florida Site File indicated that 25-30 archaeological sites are recorded within or proximate to the project corridor. Among these resources, seven (located between Fowler Avenue and Cypress Creek) are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. No historic structures are recorded within the project corridor. A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey will be completed during this Study. The results of the survey will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- i. **Coastal Barrier Resources:** N/A
- j. **Contamination:** Preliminary investigation has identified 10 potential contamination sites along the I-75 corridor. The potential contamination sites include active gasoline service stations; a dry cleaning facility, a citrus grove, a motel, an FDOT storage site, an executive airport, and a spill on I-75. A Contamination Screening Evaluation Report will be performed during this Study.
- k. **Sole Source Aquifer:** The I-75 project is not located within a sole source aquifer.
- l. **Other Comments:** None

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

5. **List Permits Required:** Environmental Resource Permit (SWFWMD, FDEP, USCOE)



**I - 75 PD&E Study**  
 from South of Fowler Avenue to North of SR 34  
 Hillsborough and Pasco Counties  
 WPI Seg. No: 408459 1 / FAP No: 0751 105 1

**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

**Figure 1**



## Florida Department of Transportation

11201 N. McKinley Drive \* Tampa, FL 33612-6456 \* (813) 975-6039 or 1-(800) 226-7220  
Environmental Management Office (EMO) \*MS 7-500

JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS F. BARRY, JR.  
SECRETARY

January 22, 2002

Mr. Eddie Tullis, Chairperson  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502

RE: WPI Segment No: 408459 1 / FAP No: 0751 105 I  
Interstate 75 (I-75) PD&E Study / Hillsborough and Pasco Counties / Advance Notification

Dear Mr. Tullis:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue to North of State Road 54 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida. The proposed improvements for the project are outlined in the Advance Notification package, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

Please consider this letter as an invitation to offer us your comments and to participate in this Study. The Department is especially interested in any first hand knowledge you could share with us involving any cultural resource issues in the project area, or any comments you may have regarding the project in general.

Please submit any written comments you may have to:

Mr. Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
11201 N. McKinley Drive / MS 7-500  
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

We look forward to your comments and participation in this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Seifert, E.I., Project Manager at [michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us) or Ginger Regalado, Community Involvement Specialist at [ginger.regalado@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:ginger.regalado@dot.state.fl.us) at (800) 226-7220.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager

RC/dgj  
Attachment



## Florida Department of Transportation

JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

11201 N. McKinley Drive \* Tampa, FL 33612-6456 \* (813) 975-6039 or 1-(800) 226-7220  
Environmental Management Office (EMO) \*MS 7-500

THOMAS F. BARRY, JR.  
SECRETARY

January 22, 2002

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

RE: WPI Segment No: 408459 1 / FAP No: 0751 105 1  
Interstate 75 (I-75) PD&E Study / Hillsborough and Pasco Counties / Advance Notification

Dear Mr. Beaver:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue to North of State Road 54 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida. The proposed improvements for the project are outlined in the Advance Notification package, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

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District Planning Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
11201 N. McKinley Drive / MS 7-500  
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

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Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager

RC/dgj  
Attachment



## Florida Department of Transportation

11201 N. McKinley Drive \* Tampa, FL 33612-6456 \* (813) 975-6039 or 1-(800) 226-7220  
Environmental Management Office (EMO) \*MS 7-500

JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS F. BARRY, JR.  
SECRETARY

January 22, 2002

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

RE: WPI Segment No: 408459 1 / FAP No: 0751 105 I  
Interstate 75 (I-75) PD&E Study / Hillsborough and Pasco Counties / Advance Notification

Dear Mr. Haney:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue to North of State Road 54 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida. The proposed improvements for the project are outlined in the Advance Notification package, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

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Mr. Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
11201 N. McKinley Drive / MS 7-500  
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

We look forward to your comments and participation in this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Seifert, E.I., Project Manager at [michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us) or Ginger Regalado, Community Involvement Specialist at [ginger.regalado@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:ginger.regalado@dot.state.fl.us) at (800) 226-7220.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager

RC/dgj  
Attachment



## Florida Department of Transportation

11201 N. McKinley Drive \* Tampa, FL 33612-6456 \* (813) 975-6039 or 1-(800) 226-7220  
Environmental Management Office (EMO) \*MS 7-500

JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS F. BARRY, JR.  
SECRETARY

January 22, 2002

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

RE: WPI Segment No: 408459 1 / FAP No: 0751 105 I  
Interstate 75 (I-75) PD&E Study / Hillsborough and Pasco Counties / Advance Notification

Dear Mr. Cypress:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue to North of State Road 54 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida. The proposed improvements for the project are outlined in the Advance Notification package, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

Please consider this letter as an invitation to offer us your comments and to participate in this Study. The Department is especially interested in any first hand knowledge you could share with us involving any cultural resource issues in the project area, or any comments you may have regarding the project in general.

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Mr. Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
11201 N. McKinley Drive / MS 7-500  
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

We look forward to your comments and participation in this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Seifert, E.I., Project Manager at [michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us) or Ginger Regalado, Community Involvement Specialist at [ginger.regalado@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:ginger.regalado@dot.state.fl.us) at (800) 226-7220.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager

RC/dgj  
Attachment



# Florida Department of Transportation

11201 N. McKinley Drive \* Tampa, FL 33612-6456 \* (813) 975-6039 or 1-(800) 226-7220  
Environmental Management Office (EMO) \*MS 7-500

JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS F. BARRY, JR.  
SECRETARY

January 22, 2002

Mr. Mitchell Cypress, Acting Chairman  
Seminole Tribe of Florida  
6300 Stirling Road  
Hollywood, FL 33024

RE: WPI Segment No: 408459 1 / FAP No: 0751 105 1  
Interstate 75 (I-75) PD&E Study / Hillsborough and Pasco Counties / Advance Notification

Dear Mr. Cypress:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue to North of State Road 54 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida. The proposed improvements for the project are outlined in the Advance Notification package, which is included as an attachment to this letter.

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Please submit any written comments you may have to:

Mr. Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager in eer  
Florida Department of Transportation  
11201 N. McKinley Drive / MS 7-500  
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

We look forward to your comments and participation in this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Seifert, E.I., Project Manager at [michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us) or Ginger Regalado, Community Involvement Specialist at [ginger.regalado@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:ginger.regalado@dot.state.fl.us) at (800) 226-7220.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager

RC/dgj  
Attachment





15532 302  
Mike

STATE OF FLORIDA  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

*"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"*

JEB BUSH  
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT  
Secretary

March 29, 2002

Mr. Robert M. Clifford  
District Planning Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
11201 North McKinley Drive, MS 7-500  
Tampa, Florida 33612-6456

RE: Advanced Notification - Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study  
- Interstate 75 From South of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to North of  
State Road 54 in Pasco County - Work Program Item Segment Number 408459  
FAP Number 0751 105 I - Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida  
SAI: FL 200201241466C

Dear Mr. Clifford:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 14 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated the review of the above-referenced project.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) indicates that the funding for the Federal Aid action and PD&E study (Interstate 75 From South of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to North of State Road 54 in Pasco County) is consistent with the DEP's authorities in the Coastal Management Program. The project will require an Environmental Resource Permit issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District; however, detailed information regarding the project is not yet available and should be provided as soon as it becomes available. In addition, the DEP has provided detailed comments and recommendations for consideration during the development of the project and the PD&E Study. Please refer to the enclosed DEP comments.

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100  
Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781  
Internet address: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

CRITICAL STATE CONCERN FIELD OFFICE  
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 212  
Marathon, Florida 33050-2227  
(305) 289-2402

COMMUNITY PLANNING  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
(850) 488-2156

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
2575 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
(850) 412-0060

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
(850) 488-2022

Mr. Robert M. Clifford  
March 29, 2002  
Page Two


The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has expressed concerns regarding the potential for habitat fragmentation; impacts to wetlands and riparian systems; direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the habitat of listed species; the need for supplemental wildlife surveys; and the mitigation of wetland and listed species impact. Therefore, the applicant is encouraged to conduct seasonal wildlife surveys and coordinate with the FWC to minimize impacts to listed species and habitat areas and mitigate any unavoidable impacts. Please refer to the enclosed FWC comments.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) notes that regionally-significant resources are located within the study area. Therefore, the applicant is encouraged to coordinate with the affected local governments to ensure compliance with all applicable local review or permit requirements. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate with the counties to ensure compliance with the requirements of their comprehensive plans. Please refer to the enclosed TBRPC comments.

Based on the information contained in the referenced Advance Notification and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that, at this stage, the referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). However, the applicant is required to address the concerns identified by the DEP, FWC, and TBRPC. All subsequent environmental documents must be reviewed to ensure continued consistency with the FCMP. Therefore, the PD&E study should be forwarded to the State Clearinghouse for interagency review as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Should questions arise regarding this letter, please call Ms. Jasmin Raffington at (850) 922-5438.

Sincerely,

  
Shirley W. Collins, Acting Administrator  
Florida Coastal Management Program

SWC:jj

Enclosures

cc: Lauren P. Milligan, Department of Environmental Protection  
Angela Hurley, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
Bradley J. Hartman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



# Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush  
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Struhs  
Secretary

Ms. Jasmin Raffington  
Florida State Clearinghouse  
Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

March 1, 2002  
M. J. Struhs  
March 1, 2002  
State of Florida Clearinghouse

RE: FDOT – Advance Notification, PD&E Study – I-75 Improvements from South of Fowler Avenue to North of State Road 54, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties  
SAI # FL200201291466C

Dear Ms. Raffington:

The Department has reviewed the above referenced Advance Notification from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (USDOT) to conduct a study of interstate design alternatives to improve safety and accommodate traffic increases on a 13.9-mile section of I-75. Funding for the Federal aid action and PD&E study is consistent with the Department's authorities in the Florida Coastal Management Program. However, as detailed project information is not yet available, the Department cannot determine the consistency of the interstate modification project at this time. Additional information is required concerning the details of anticipated design, width, impacts, construction, and proposed wetland mitigation. Further evaluation(s) of the project will be conducted during the environmental documentation and/or permitting stages. Future consistency will be based in part on adequate consideration of comments offered in this and subsequent reviews. Department staff offer the following comments and recommendations:

- ◆ As noted on the Advance Notification Fact Sheet, interstate construction activities will require issuance of an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), pursuant to Part IV of Chapter 373, *Florida Statutes (F.S.)*, and Rules 62-113, 40D-4, and 40D-40, *Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)*. Please be advised that a sovereign submerged lands authorization(s) (issuance/modification of a public easement) may also be required if the expanded right-of-way crossings of creek and wetland areas are determined to be state-owned submerged lands, per Chapter 253, *F.S.*
- ◆ It is recommended that a binding wetland jurisdictional determination, pursuant to Rule 62-340, *F.A.C.*, be obtained prior to any further planning. Early coordination of project plans with SWFWMD regulatory staff may help prevent future permitting problems.
- ◆ The permit applicant will be required to eliminate or reduce the proposed wetland resource impacts of highway construction to the greatest extent practicable:

"More Protection, Less Process"

Printed on recycled paper.

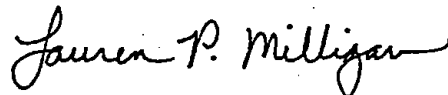
- Minimization should emphasize avoidance-oriented corridor alignments; wetland fill reductions via pile bridging and steep (or vertically retained) side slopes; and median width reductions within safety limits.
  - Wetlands should not be displaced by the installation of stormwater conveyance and treatment swales; instead, compensatory treatment in adjacent uplands should be considered the preferred alternative.
  - After avoidance and minimization have been exhausted, mitigation must be proposed to offset the adverse impacts of the project to existing wetland functions and values. Particular attention should be given to forested wetland systems, which are difficult to mitigate.
  - The cumulative impacts of concurrent and future road/interstate improvement projects in the vicinity of the subject project should also be addressed.
- ◆ The public conservation and recreation lands located adjacent to the interstate (Cypress Creek Preserve and Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area) and in the vicinity of the proposed project (Lettuce Lake Regional Park, Wilderness Park county parks, Ecopalms tract, and Cypress Creek Flood Detention Area) have been targeted for preservation by Hillsborough County, SWFWMD, and the state in order to preserve the area's flatwood, hardwood hammock, swamp, and riverine ecosystems; natural flood detention and stormwater runoff filtering capabilities; recreational opportunities; and significant historical and archaeological sites. The natural areas associated with Cypress Creek, Trout Creek, and the Hillsborough River are also identified as Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission due to high quality ecological communities and occurrences of several listed species. In addition to water resource quality and quantity concerns, the Department is interested in preserving the wildlife corridor functions of these floodplain systems. Therefore, future environmental documentation should include an evaluation of the primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts of highway construction on the above public lands and proposed acquisition sites.
- Under Article X, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution (as amended in 1998), dispositions of state-owned conservation lands are restricted to those lands "no longer needed for conservation purposes." The FDOT will need to request that the governing board (Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or SWFWMD Governing Board) holding title to conservation lands within the modified interstate corridor, such as the Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area, determine whether the subject parcels are no longer needed for conservation purposes. This new requirement must be met before the conveyance of these lands can proceed. Proposals to utilize state conservation lands are also required to meet the guidelines of the state's linear facility policy, POLICY Use of Natural Resource Lands by Linear Facilities As Approved By Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund on January 23, 1996.
  - As the above referenced public lands are heavily used for resource-based recreation, the Department requests that the FDOT evaluate the feasibility of including a trail underpass at the I-75 bridge over the Hillsborough River. Underpass construction would provide New Tampa residents with improved access to recreational lands on the east side of I-75.
  - If there is no reasonable alternative to the expansion of right-of-way within the County's Cypress Creek Preserve, Hillsborough County has requested that the FDOT include the

estimated cost of compensation and/or mitigation for property conveyance in the build alternative.

- ◆ Please be advised: both Cypress Creek and Trout Creek are included within the Hillsborough River Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) designation under subsection 62-302.700(9)(i)14, *F.A.C.* Per section 373.414(1), *F.S.*, any impacts to these streams and associated wetlands must be demonstrated to be "clearly in the public interest" as part of the ERP permitting process. Every effort should be made to maximize the treatment of stormwater runoff from the proposed I-75 improvements project, as the Hillsborough River tributaries north of Fletcher Avenue are afforded a high level of protection under sections 62-4.242(2) and 62-302.700, *F.A.C.* We recommend that the study include an evaluation of existing stormwater treatment adequacy and details on the future stormwater treatment facilities, which must be designed to prevent water quality degradation of the receiving waters in the OFWs. The permit applicant must demonstrate that the proposed stormwater system meets the design and performance criteria established for the treatment/attenuation of discharges to OFWs, pursuant to Rule 40D-4, *F.A.C.*, and the *SWFWMD Basis of Review for ERP Applications*.
- ◆ Previous surveys of the project area have identified approximately 25-30 archaeological sites, including several eligible for listing on the National Register. We recommend that the proposed Cultural Resources Assessment Survey be conducted by a professional archaeologist and coordinated throughout with the Florida Division of Historical Resources.
- ◆ We recommend that future environmental documentation provide information regarding the Best Management Practices to be utilized during construction activities to prevent erosion, sedimentation, and turbid discharges to waters of the state, per Rule 62-302, *F.A.C.*

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Advance Notification and request that copies of the draft Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be sent through the State Clearinghouse for review. Please feel free to call me at (850) 487-2231 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Lauren P. Milligan  
Environmental Specialist  
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

/lpm

cc: Lori Collins, DEP, Southwest District  
Marsha Rickman, DEP, OGT  
Miki Renner, SWFWMD, Hillsborough River CWM  
Gina Miller, Hillsborough River Greenways Task Force  
Ann Paul, National Audubon Society  
Lynn McGarvey, Sierra Club

# FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



DAVID K. MEEHAN  
St. Petersburg

H.A. "HERKY" HUFFMAN  
Deltona

JOHN D. ROOD  
Jacksonville

QUINTON L. HEDGEPEETH, DDS  
Miami

EDWIN P. ROBERTS, DC  
Pensacola

RODNEY BARRETO  
Miami

SANDRA T. KAUPE  
Palm Beach

ALLAN L. EGBERT, Ph.D., Executive Director  
VICTOR J. HELLER, Assistant Executive Director

BRADLEY J. HARTMAN, DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE  
(850)488-6661 TDD (850)488-954  
FAX (850)922-567

March 7, 2002

Ms. Cindy Cranick  
Florida State Clearinghouse  
Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

State of Florida Clearinghouse

RE: SAI #FL200201291466C, FDOT  
Project Development & Environment  
Study for improvements to I-75 from  
south of Fowler Avenue in  
Hillsborough County to north of SR  
54 in Pasco County

Dear Ms. Cranick:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has reviewed the Advance Notification Package for the Project Development & Environment Study for the referenced project, and offers the following comments and recommendations.

The purpose for the study is to evaluate various alternative improvements of I-75, from south of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to north of SR 54 in Pasco County, that accommodate projected traffic increases and improve safety. Substantial growth of the Tampa metropolitan area into north Hillsborough County and south Pasco County has resulted in severe congestion of area roadways accessing I-75. Many large, established residential communities along with numerous new multi-family, office, commercial, and retail complexes have expanded in this area. This growth trend will continue due to numerous approved Developments of Regional Impact and other major projects planned within the area. In addition to this project, an alternate east/west route with an interchange at I-75 is also under evaluation by a separate PD&E Study.

Currently, a typical four-lane limited access highway extends through the 13.9-mile study area corridor. This study will evaluate typical six- and eight-lane highway alternatives. Although land uses along the corridor consist primarily of agriculture, commercial, industrial, and low-density residential areas, some areas of high quality habitat, including riparian, marsh, and forested wetland areas, are fragmented by the existing highway. Within the study area, the

Ms. Cindy Cranick  
March 7, 2002  
Page 2

existing roadway crosses Cow House Creek, the Hillsborough River, Cypress Creek, and Trout Creek.

The following listed species are known, or potentially occur in habitats adjacent to the study area corridor, including: wood stork, Sherman's fox squirrel, Florida mouse, bald eagle, Florida sandhill crane, southeastern American kestrel, listed wading birds, eastern indigo snake, gopher frog, gopher tortoise, and American alligator.


FWC concerns include: further fragmentation of wildlife habitat; impacts to wetland and riparian systems; direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts to listed species; the need for supplemental wildlife surveys; and adequate mitigation for wetland and listed species habitat impacts. The selected project alignment should avoid impacts to listed species. Seasonal and pre-construction surveys should be conducted to document the presence or absence of listed species and assess impacts. Any impacts to active nests of listed species should only occur upon FWC authorization or permit, and adequate mitigation. To compensate for impacts to wetlands and listed species habitat, we support mitigation that establishes or maintains habitat connectivity within the study area and adjacent natural areas.

Although extensive fragmentation of wildlife habitat has resulted from construction of the existing roadway, proposed improvements may provide opportunities to re-connect core habitats and enhance potential greenways/corridors in this area. Suitable wildlife undercrossings should be incorporated with appropriate bridge designs at the Hillsborough River, Cypress Creek, Trout Creek, and Cow House Creek wetland crossings. To insure functionality, wildlife undercrossing design parameters must be adequate for the expansive roadway crossing at these major wetlands.

We recommend coordination with the Hillsborough River Greenways Task Force for locating the proposed roadway improvements, locating potential mitigation opportunities within greenways/corridors, and minimizing impacts to the Hillsborough River basin.

If you have any questions concerning our comments or recommendations, please contact either Mr. Jim Beaver or Mr. Bill Smith at (941)575-5765.

Sincerely,

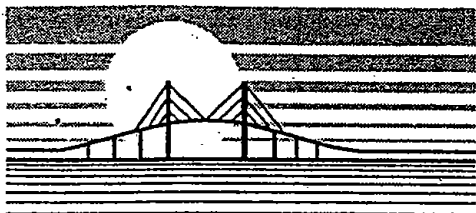
  
Bradley J. Hartman, Director  
Office of Environmental Services

BJH/JWB/WRS  
ENV 1-3-2  
SA11466c.wpd

Ms. Cindy Cranick  
March 7, 2002  
Page 3

cc: Mr. Robert M. Clifford, District Planning Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500  
Tampa, Florida 33612-6456





Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

# Agenda

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
9455 Koger Blvd. - Suite 219  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

March 11, 2002  
10:00 a.m.

\*\*\* THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC \*\*\*

**Agenda Item #1**

**Chairman King**  
**Commissioner Jan Platt**  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Sec/Treasurer Simon**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- Invocation and Pledge
- Roll Call
- Voting Conflict Report
- Approval of Minutes

**Agenda Item #2**

**Sec/Treasurer Simon**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

- Financial report for the period ending 01/31/02

**Agenda Item #3**

**Chairman King**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Agenda Item #4**

**Chairman King**

**ITEM(S) REMOVED FROM  
CONSENT AGENDA, ADDENDUM  
ITEM(S) OR ANY OTHER ITEM  
REQUIRING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

**Agenda Item #5**

**REVIEW ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION**

None.

**Agenda Item #6**

**Jim Sewell**

**REGIONAL DOMESTIC SECURITY TASK FORCE**

**Agenda Item #7**

**Chairman King**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Agenda Item #8**

**Comm. Mary Maloof**  
**Vice Chair Todd**  
**Mr. Bill Lofgren**  
**Ms. Betti Johnson**  
**Vice Mayor Kynes**  
**Avera Wynne**

**PROGRAM REPORTS**

- A. Agency on Bay Management (ABM)
- B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC)
- C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- D. Emergency Management
- E. Legislative Committee
- F. Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)-No report

Agenda Item #9  
Chairman King

## EXECUTIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Agenda Item #10  
Wren McAllister  
Avera Wynne  
Roger Tucker  
Gerald Smelt

## OTHER COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Future of the Region
- B. GIS Urban Growth Modeling Workshop
- C. Building Committee- Proposed Interlocal Amendment
- D. Future of the Region 2002

Agenda Item #11  
Chairman King

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Agenda Item #12  
Mr. Manny Pumariega

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Agenda Item #13  
Chairman King

## NEXT MEETING

- A. Monday, April 8, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
9455 Koger Boulevard, Suite 219  
St. Petersburg, FL
- B. Events Calendar for March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2002 through  
April 8, 2002 in members folders.

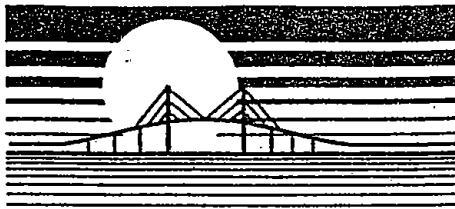
Agenda Item #14  
Chairman King

## ADJOURN

*The Council, in accordance with its adopted rules of procedure, may only take action on matters not on the printed agenda involving the exercise of agency discretion and policy-making upon a finding by the Council of an emergency situation affecting the public's health, safety, and welfare. Council meetings are Public Meetings within the context of Section 286.011, Florida Statutes. Council meetings are not Public Hearings within the context of Section 120.54, Florida Statutes. The Chairman has full discretion as to whether or not to recognize speakers other than Council members or staff, and is not required to recognize individuals to speak on issues before the Council. Public Hearings on issues before the Council are conducted by individual local governments, and are the proper forum for public comment.*

*Please note that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting or hearing, s/he will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, s/he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons wishing to speak at a Council meeting are required to complete the form provided at the entrance to the meeting room. The form, after being completed, must be given to the Recording Secretary.*

*If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this meeting you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council at 727-570-5151 within 3 working days of the meeting.*



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

RECEIVED  
MAR 15 2002

Chairman  
Councilman Jerry King

Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Barbara Sheen Todd

Secretary/Treasurer  
Commissioner Steve Simon

Executive Director  
Manny L. Pumariega

State of Florida Clearinghouse

March 11, 2002

Ms. Jasmin Raffington  
Florida State Clearinghouse  
Florida Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

**Subject:** *IC&R #FSC013-02, FDOT Advance Notification of PD&E Study for I-75, SAI #FL200201291466C, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties*

Dear Ms. Raffington:

The aforementioned project was reviewed for consistency with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's *Strategic Regional Policy Plan*. The attached report was approved by the Council at its March 11, 2002 meeting and summarizes the Council staff's findings.

Please contact me if further information regarding this item is desired.

Sincerely,

Angela Hurley  
Research Planner/ IC&R Coordinator

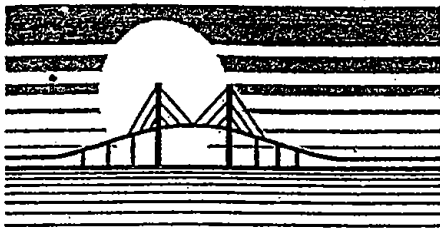
AH/bj

Enclosure

# IC&R

## Intergovernmental Coordination and Review

9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219, St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
Phone (727) 570-5151 Suncom 513-5066 FAX (727) 570-5118  
<http://www.tbrpc.org>



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

FL DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FOR A PD&E STUDY, I-75 BETWEEN FOWLER AVE. AND SR 54, SAI #FL200201291466C, HILLSBOROUGH AND PASCO COUNTIES, IC&R # FSC013-02.

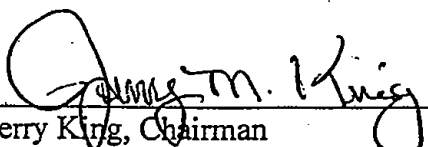
The Florida State Clearinghouse has requested review and comment on the regional issues which should be addressed in the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for potential expansion of the titled roadway to six or eight lanes. The Study Area is located in central northern Hillsborough County and central southern Pasco County. Approximately 13.9 miles of roadway are included. A reevaluation of the Work Program for the segment between SR 56 to north of SR 54 will also be undertaken, and the recommendations from the I-75/CR 581 Interchange Modification Report will be included.

### Council Comments/Concerns

The project may impact Natural Resources of Regional Significance" as identified in *Future of the Region: A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region* (FRSRPP). The attached map illustrates the regionally-significant resources that have been identified in the Study Area. Additional regionally-significant resources may be identified during the Study, including Designated wetlands, Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas, Priority Wetlands for Species (7+), and Rare/Endangered Species Occurrences. Pursuant to SRPP Policies 4.5.2 and 4.5.6, it must be determined that any proposed impacts to regionally-significant natural resources are of overriding public interest, and mitigation should be required according to the ratios set forth therein.

Further, it is recommended that any additional comments addressing local concerns be considered.

Council adopted March 11, 2002

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry King, Chairman  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Pertinent policies from the Council's adopted policy plan, *Future of the Region: A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region*, include:

4.5.1: Protect, preserve and restore all regionally-significant natural resources shown on the Map of Regionally-Significant Natural Resources.

4.5.2: Impacts to regionally-significant natural resources shall be allowed only in cases of overriding public interest and when it is demonstrated and/or documented that the mitigation will successfully recreate the specific resource. Mitigation should meet the following minimum ratios:

• Riverine habitats	3:1
• Special Habitats	2:1

4.5.3: Mitigation by habitat re-creation shall employ native plant material which replaces natural value and function. Monitor mitigation areas for a sufficient time to ensure success: a minimum 85 percent final coverage of desired species. Yearly maintenance and replanting should be undertaken to ensure final cover as necessary.

4.5.5: Mitigation for allowable impacts to regionally-significant wetland areas should be performed within the drainage basin.

4.5.6: Mitigation by restoring disturbed habitat of a similar nature, including the removal of exotic plant species, may be acceptable. The minimum acceptable ratio shall be twice the habitat re-creation ratio set forth in policy 4.5.2.

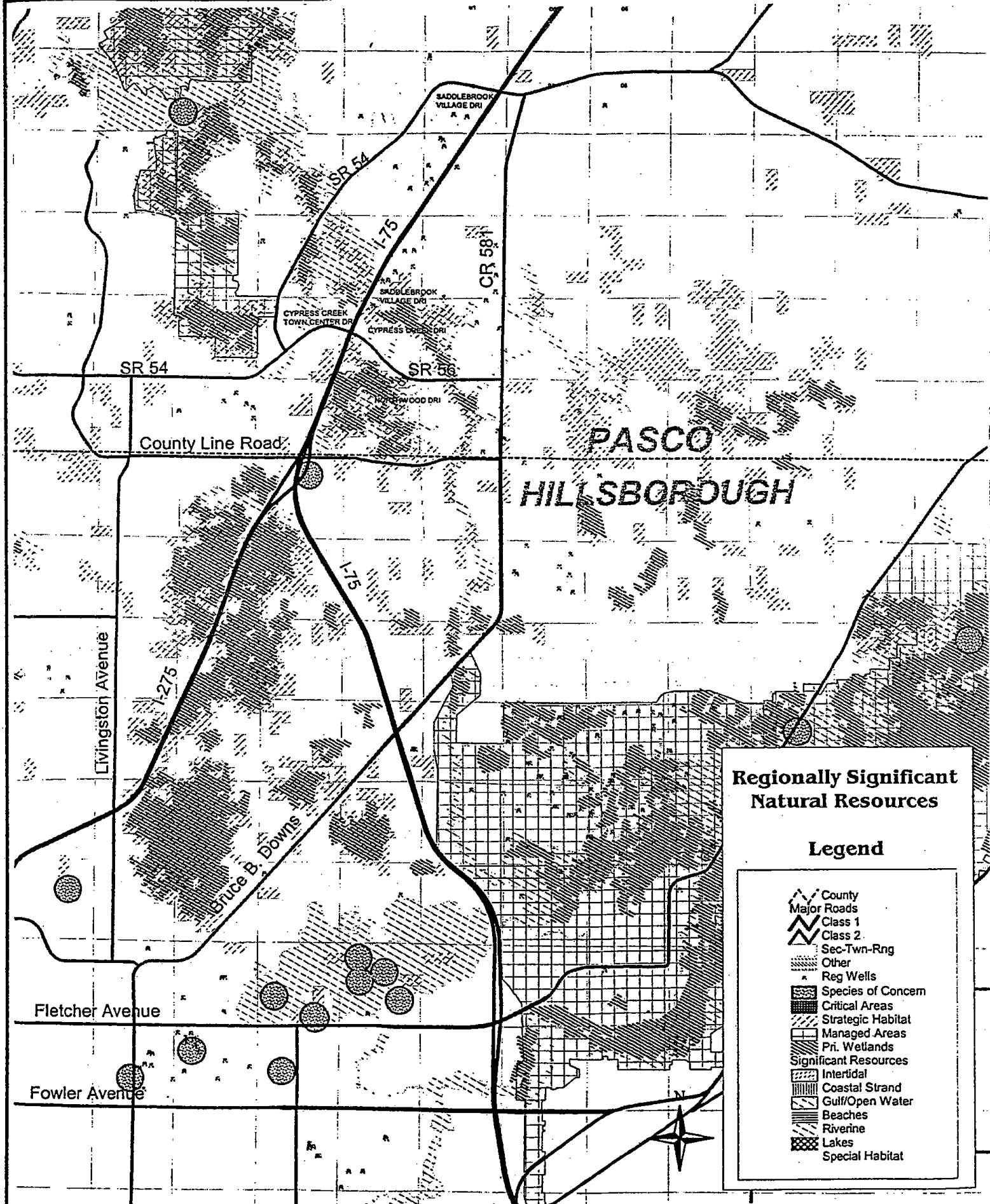
4.5.7: Maintain and improve native plant communities and viable wildlife habitats, determined to be regionally-significant natural resources in addition to the Map of Regionally-Significant Natural Resources, including those native habitats and plant communities that tend to be least in abundance and most productive or unique.

4.5.10: Maintain a minimum horizontal buffer necessary to preserve the natural value and function of the regionally-significant natural resource.

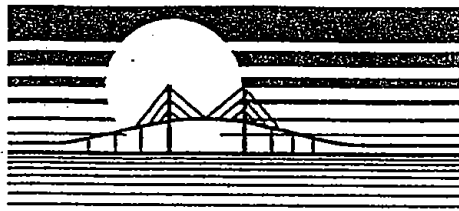
Regional Goal 4.11: Incorporate the protection of regionally-significant natural resources in planning for future growth in the region.

4.11.6: Land use decisions shall be consistent with federal- and state-listed species protection and recovery plans, and adopted habitat management guidelines.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Committee's comments constitute compliance with Florida's Intergovernmental Coordination and Review process only.



Regionally significant natural resources as identified in Future of the Region : Strategic Regional Policy Plan



*Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council*

Chairman  
Councilman Jerry King

Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Barbara Sheen Todd

Secretary/Treasurer  
Commissioner Steve Simon

Executive Director  
Manny L. Pumariega

March 1, 2002

Ms. Jasmin Raffington  
Florida State Clearinghouse  
Florida Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

**Subject:** *IC&R #FSC013-02, FDOT Advance Notification of PD&E Study for I-75,  
SAI #FL200201291466C, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties*

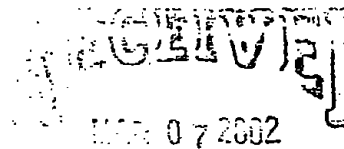
Dear Ms. Raffington:

The above-referenced item will appear on the Consent Agenda for the March 11, 2002 meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council which will be held at the Council offices at 10:00 a.m. An agenda and a copy of the report are enclosed for your information should you or your representative wish to attend.

If you have any questions, please call me at (727) 570-5151, Ext. 270.

Sincerely,

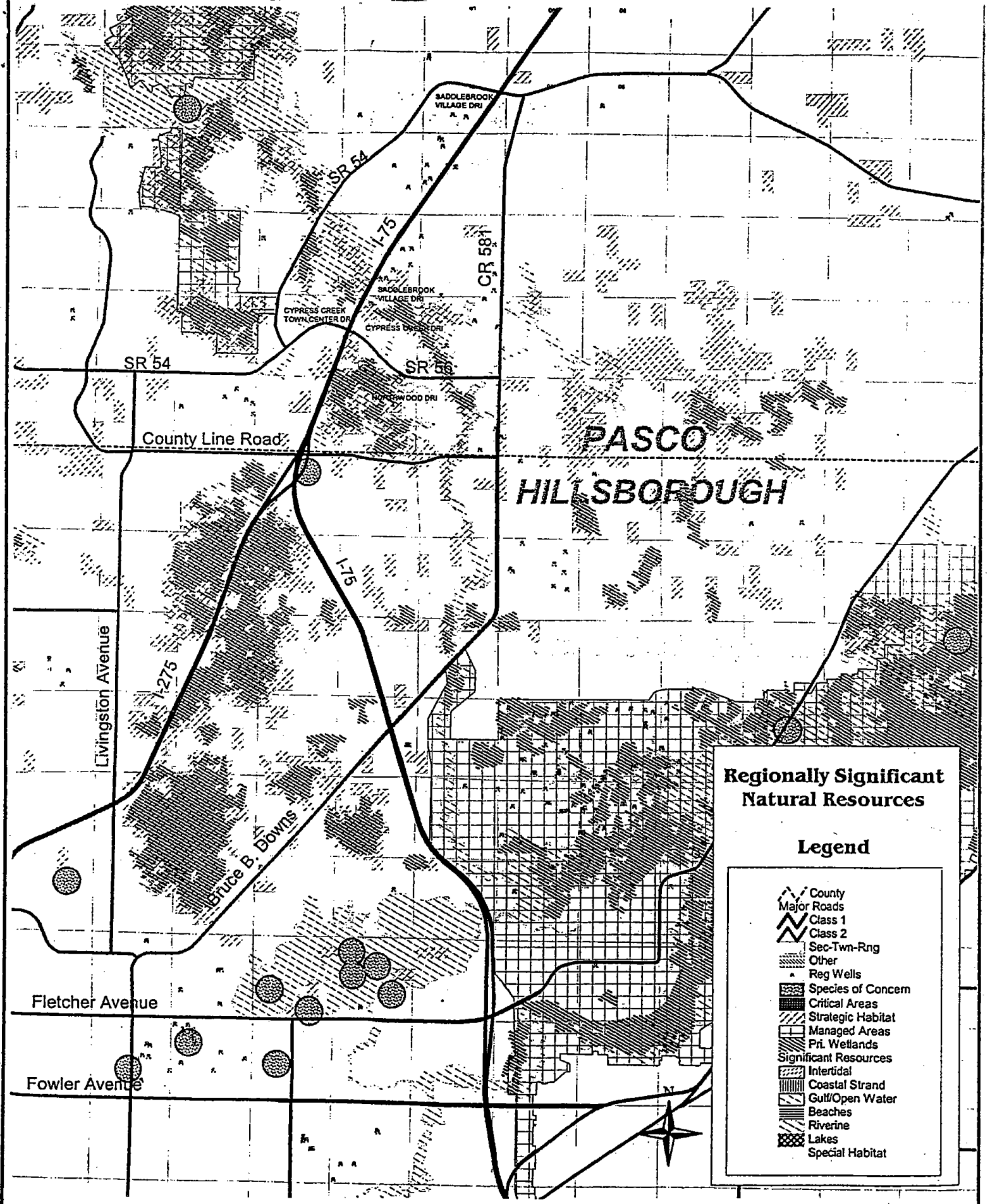
Angela Hurley  
Research Planner/IC&R Coordinator



AH/bj

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Enclosures



**Regionally Significant Natural Resources**

**Legend**

- County
- Major Roads
- Class 1
- Class 2
- Sec-Twn-Rng
- Other
- Reg Wells
- Species of Concern
- Critical Areas
- Strategic Habitat
- Managed Areas
- Pri. Wetlands
- Significant Resources
- Intertidal
- Coastal Strand
- Gulf/Open Water
- Beaches
- Riverine
- Lakes
- Special Habitat

*Regionally significant natural resources as identified in Future of the Region : Strategic Regional Policy Plan*



COUNTY: STATE

DATE: 1/28/02

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 2/28/02

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 3/29/02

Message:

SAI#: FL200201291466C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

AGRICULTURE  
 X OTTED  
 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
 FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERV. COMM  
 STATE  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY/C & ED

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

FDOT Advance Notification for a Project Development and Environment Study on I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to north of State Road 54 in Pasco County, Florida. The 13.9 mile stretch of previously described highway is currently a standard four-lane, limited access highway. The PD&E Study will evaluate six and eight-lane section alternatives and a no build alternative. The Study will also incorporate all recommended improvements being considered for the ongoing I-75/CR581 Interchange Modification Report.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)

2555 SHUMARD OAK BLVD  
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100  
 (850) 414-6580 (SC 994-6580)  
 (850) 414-0479

- No Comment
- Comment Attached
- Not Applicable

- ~~No Comment/Consistent~~
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: OTTED

Reviewer: M Blakely

Date: 2/1/02

Message:

DATE: 1/28/02  
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 2/28/02  
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 3/29/02

SAI#: FL200201291466C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

X AGRICULTURE  
OTTED  
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERV. COMM  
STATE  
TRANSPORTATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY/C & ED  
**RECEIVED**  
JAN 31 2002  
Division of Forestry  
FRPSS BUREAU

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To: Florida State Clearinghouse  
AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)  
2555 SHUMARD OAK BLVD  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100  
(850) 414-6580 (SC 994-6580)  
(850) 414-0479

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comment Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

Jack P. Dodd, Planner  
Division of Forestry  
Forest Resource Planning &  
Support Services Bureau  
3125 Conner Blvd. Mail Stop C23  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
Division/Bureau: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer: *Jack P. Dodd*  
Date: *02-28-02*

999

**FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION  
ROUTING SHEET**

SAI#: FL200201291466C

*2/21/02*  
~~1/29/02~~

DATE: 1/28/02

COMMENTS DUE TO RPC:

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: COUNTY: STATE CITY:

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE     DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY     FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT     OCS

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

FDOT Advance Notification for a Project Development and Environment Study on I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to north of State Road 54 in Pasco County, Florida. The 13.9 mile stretch of previously described highway is currently a standard four-lane, limited access highway. The PD&E Study will evaluate six and eight-lane section

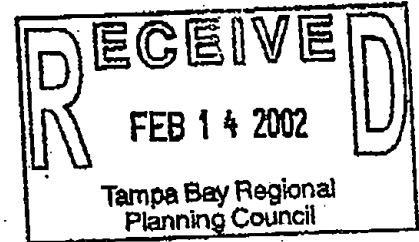
**ROUTING:**

RPC

Local Governments

TAMPA BAY RPC

HILLSBOROUGH  
X PASCO



*SAI # FL 200201291466C  
I-75 PD&E*

IF YOU HAVE NO COMMENTS, PLEASE CHECK HERE AND RETURN FORM TO RPC:

ALL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY THE DUE DATE TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SHOWN BELOW. PLEASE REFER TO THE SAI # IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. ANGELA HURLEY  
9455 KOGER BOULEVARD  
SUITE 219  
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 337022491

RECEIVED

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT SEND COMMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE!**

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT OR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FEDERAL CONSISTENCY REVIEW PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR BOTH PROGRAMS IS (850) 414-6580 OR SUNCOM 994-6580.

FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
RPC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION  
AND RESPONSE SHEET

155013-02  
Regional

SAI#: FL200201291466C

2/28/02  
~~1/29/02~~

DATE: 1/28/02

COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUSE:

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: COUNTY: STATE CITY:

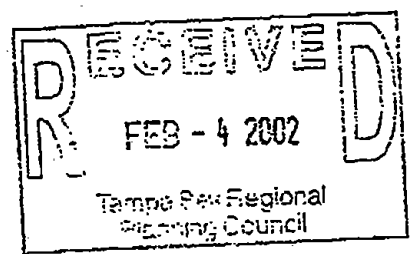
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE  DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY  FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT  OCS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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ROUTING:

RPC  
X TAMPA BAY RPC



PLEASE CHECK ALL THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BELOW FROM WHICH COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED; ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RPC'S CLEARINGHOUSE RESPONSE PACKAGE. IF NO COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED, PLEASE CHECK "NO COMMENT" BOX AND RETURN TO CLEARINGHOUSE.

COMMENTS DUE TO RPC:

2/21/02  
~~1/29/02~~

     HILLSBOROUGH  
     PASCO

NO COMMENTS:

See Attached Comments

(IF THE RPC DOES NOT RECEIVE COMMENTS BY THE DEADLINE DATE, THE RPC SHOULD CONTACT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT REVIEW PRIOR TO FORWARDING THE RESPONSE PACKAGE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE.)

NOTES:

ALL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT (INCLUDING ANY RPC COMMENTS) SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY THE DUE DATE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE. PLEASE ATTACH THIS RESPONSE FORM AND REFER TO THE SAI # IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AT (850) 414-6580 OR SUNCOM 994-6580.

COUNTY: STATE

DATE: 1/28/02

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 2/28/02

Message:

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 3/29/02

SAI#: FL200201291466C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

AGRICULTURE  
 OTTED  
 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
 FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERV. COMM  
 X STATE  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD

FDOT  
 WILL SURVEY

State of Florida Clearinghouse

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY/C & ED

ALL FLA  
 SAI-DOT  
 2002-960

RECEIVED  
 BUREAU OF  
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 02 JAN 31 PM 5:26

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
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To: Florida State Clearinghouse

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)

2555 SHUMARD OAK BLVD  
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100  
 (850) 414-6580 (SC 994-6580)  
 (850) 414-0479

- No Comment
- Comment Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division of Historical Resources  
 Bureau of Historic Preservation

Division/Bureau:

Reviewer: SARAH JALVING

Date: 2/27/02

*Just Snyder-Holtz*  
 2.28.2002

UNIT COORDINATORS for Intergovernmental Coordination and Review:

CMP COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
DEM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
DCP COMMUNITY PLANNING

Ms. VANESSA HOLMES

2555 SHUMARD OAK  
BLVD  
ROOM 120.03  
2555 SHUMARD OAK  
BLVD

(850) 414-6563  
( ) 413-9969  
(850) 488-2356

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

**Project Description:**

FDOT Advance Notification for a Project Development and Environment Study on I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to north of State Road 54 in Pasco County, Florida. The 13.9 mile stretch of previously described highway is currently a standard four-lane, limited access highway. The PD&E Study will evaluate six and eight-lane section alternatives and a no build alternative. The Study will also incorporate all recommended improvements being considered for the ongoing I-75/CR581 Interchange Modification Report.

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- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

EO. 12372/NEPA  No Comment  Comments Attached  Not Applicable  
Federal Consistency  No Comment/Consistent  Consistent/Comments Attached  Inconsistent/Comments Attached  N/A

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. UNIT COORDINATORS are responsible for logging in, logging out, and hand-carrying/mailling project packages to the next reviewing unit on this form, or to the ACC if all review requirements have been met. Failure to meet internal suspense dates may result in loss of opportunity to comment on critical issues.
2. Requests for EXTENSIONS should be made prior to due date, especially if COMMENTS will be submitted. Contact your UNIT COORDINATOR, who will request the EXTENSION from the ACC.
3. Agency COMMENTS on SAIs will be sent to the State Clearinghouse (SCH) and should be prepared in LETTER format for the Secretary's signature. Forward the project package to the next review unit while your COMMENTS are being drafted. Coordinate your comments with other reviewers prior to finalizing.

# SAI Routing Sheet

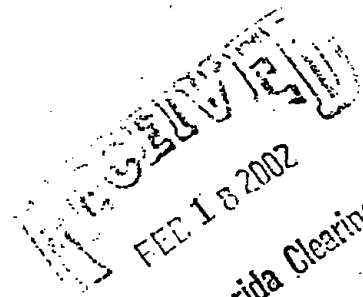
COUNTY: STATE

DATE: 01/29/2002

Message:

SAI#: FL200201291466C

PROJECT TO BE REVIEWED BY: (Div/Program)	ASSIGNED REVIEWERS (Print Last Name)	IS PROJECT LOCATED IN APPROVED DRI? (Circle Yes/No)				Is Project CONSISTENT w/ COMPLAN? YES NO	Is Project CONSISTENT w/ FCMP? YES NO	Do you have any COMMENTS on project?		DATE REVIEW COMPLETED	RVWR/ SUPV INT
		YES		NO				YES	NO		
		Is Project Consistent with DO?		Is Project DRI Scale?							
DCP	RWD	YES	NO	YES	NO					2/10/02	[Signature]
1/30/02 Date Rec'd			Monitoring Letter?	Monitoring Letter?							
		YES	NO	YES	NO						
Complete and forward to Div/Prog Below no later than: 2/28/02											
DEM	Kampton									2/14/02	[Signature]
2/14/02 Date Rec'd											
Complete and forward to Div/Prog Below no later than: 2/28/02											
CMP	Jones	Wetlands?		Stormwater?						2-21-02	[Signature]
2/19/02 Date Rec'd		YES	NO	YES	NO						
Complete and forward to ACC Coordinator no later than: 2/28/02											

  
 FEB 16 2002

State of Florida Clearinghouse

RECEIVED  
 2/21/02

ports District Office  
Page 2  
January 28, 2002

In addition to providing information or comments at this meeting, you are encouraged to submit comments on the attached Comment Form. Please submit them to the following address:

Kenneth A. Hartmann, P.E., District Seven Secretary  
Attn: Robert M. Clifford, AICP, District Planning Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
11201 N. McKinley Drive / M.S. 7-500  
Tampa, Florida 33612-6456

We request that comments be postmarked by February 25, 2002, so that they may be considered as part of the project study efforts.

Your attendance at this Kickoff Meeting is encouraged.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Planning Manager

RC/kro

Enclosure

2/12/2002

Mr. Hartmann:  
The FAA interposes no objection w/ this proposal provided navigational airspace is not impacted. Any use of construction cranes/equipment that exceed navigational airspace should be coordinated w/ the FAA. Attached is FAA Form 7460, "Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration," for your use. Please review the form and, if applicable, please submit to FAA Air Traffic Division in Atlanta, GA.

Sincerely,  
William P. Rupert  
FAA Orlando ADO

RECEIVED  
FEB 28 2002



# **Appendix B**

## **Agency Coordination**

RECEIVED  
2003 OCT 29 PM 4  
52 00 00



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Glenda E. Hood  
Secretary of State  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

October 20, 2003

Mr. James E. St. John  
Attn: Marvin L. Williams  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration, Florida Division  
227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 2015  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Re: DHR Project No. 2003-8830 / Received by DHR: October 8, 2003  
Financial Management No. 40859-1 / Federal-Aid Project No.075-1 (105)  
*Cultural Resource Assessment Survey: I-75 (SR 93A) from South of Fowler Avenue to South of  
CR 54. I-75 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study  
Hillsborough and Pasco County, Florida*

Dear Mr. St. John:

Our office received the referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

The investigation of the PD&E Study project Area of Potential Effect, including the existing and proposed rights-of-way as well as the proposed pond sites and Flood Plain Compensation sites, resulted in the identification and evaluation of one newly recorded site, 28 previously recorded archaeological sites, one archaeological occurrence, and two historical structures.

The newly recorded site, 8HI7877 is a small lithic scatter. It is the opinion of Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (ACI), that due to the paucity of temporally diagnostic artifacts and the sparse assemblage, site 8HI7877 does not meet the criteria for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Based on the information provided, our office concurs with this determination. We further note that, since the tests were excavated near the corners of the proposed pond site, it is probable that the site area extends outside the boundaries of this proposed facility. We recommend additional testing, in case project plans change to include any area outside of site 8HI7877 as identified in the present investigation.

The location of 15 previously recorded sites could not be verified by this investigation, including site 8HI450 that was considered eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

The locations of 13 other previously recorded sites were verified and updated Florida Master Site File (FMSF) has been provided. These include 8HI10, 8HI99, 8HI471, 8HI472, 8HI473, 8HI483, 8HI5431, 8HI5432, 8PA357, 8PA480, 8PA481, 8PA632, and 8PA633.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office  
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6435

Archaeological Research  
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

Historic Preservation  
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums  
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Palm Beach Regional Office  
(561) 279-1475 • FAX: 279-1476

St. Augustine Regional Office  
(904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

Tampa Regional Office  
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Mr. St. John  
October 20, 2003  
Page 2

Of the total 28 previously recorded archaeological sites, six sites (8HI99, 8HI450, 8HI471, 8HI472, 8HI473, and 8HI483) were considered potentially eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1979.

The Florida SHPO subsequently considered 8HI99 ineligible for the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1994. Archaeological testing of 8HI99, as contained within the referenced project area, indicated an absence of significant cultural material and hence, it is the opinion of ACI that site 8HI99 does not appear to be eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Based on the information provided, our office concurs with this determination.

While 8HI450 was considered eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1979, the current investigations could not locate the site. No significant information was derived from the present investigation of sites 8HI471 and 8HI472 and it is the opinion of ACI, that both sites have suffered damage as a result of the construction of I-75, and no significant archaeological deposits associated with site 8HI471 and 8HI472 are contained within the project API. Based on the information provided, our office concurs with this determination.

The archaeological occurrence (AO #1) was identified by a single flake and did not appear to meet the minimum criteria for listing as an archaeological site.

The two historic structures 8HI7839 and 8HI7840 are Frame Vernacular Style residences representing commonly occurring types of local architecture. Due to common design, non-historic alterations, and lack of known significant historical associations, it is the opinion of ACI that these structures do not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Based on the information provided, our office concurs with this determination. It is the opinion of ACI that the proposed developmental plans will have no effect on properties of historical or archaeological value. Based on the information provided, our office concurs with this determination.

We find the submitted report complete but insufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*. The requested information should be identified as an addendum to the referenced report, and include the above DHR Number (2003-8830). The report will be considered sufficient on receipt of the following information.

- Information regarding site 8HI473 and site 8HI483 is disparate in the project report (page 6-19, 6-23) and on the FMSF site forms - please clarify.
- Black and white photographs of 8HI7839 and 8HI7840 for FMSF records.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Mini Sharma, Historic Sites Specialist, at [mtsharma@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:mtsharma@dos.state.fl.us) or (850) 245-6333. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Director, and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Xc: Mr. Leroy Irwin, FDOT-CEMO  
Mr. Waddah Farah, FDOT District Seven, Planning / EMO  
Ms. Marion Almy, Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

P01057



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Glenda E. Hood  
Secretary of State  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

RECORDED  
DEC 08 2003

Mr. James E. St. John  
Attn: Marvin L. Williams  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration, Florida Division  
227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 2015  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

November 25, 2003

Re: DHR Project No. 2003-8830B  
Additional Information Received by DHR: November 25, 2003 *LML 12/1/03*  
Financial Management No. 40859-1 / Federal-Aid Project No.075-1 (105)  
*Cultural Resource Assessment Survey: 1-75 (SR 93A) from South of Fowler Avenue to South of CR 54. 1-75 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study Hillsborough and Pasco County, Florida*

Dear Mr. St. John:

Our office received the additional information on the referenced project. Based on the information provided, our office finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Mini Sharma, Historic Sites Special:st, at mtsharma@dos.state.fl.us or (850) 245-6333. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

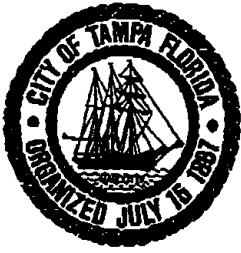
*Burlana E. Mattick*  
*Historic Preservation Supervisor*

*for* Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Director, and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Xc: Mr. Leroy Irwin, FDOT-CEMO  
Mr. Waddah Farah, FDOT District Seven, Planning / EMO  
Ms. Joan Deming, Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

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- Director's Office (850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6435
- Archaeological Research (850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436
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- Palm Beach Regional Office (561) 279-1475 • FAX: 279-1476
- St. Augustine Regional Office (904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044
- Tampa Regional Office (813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340



# CITY OF TAMPA

Pam Iorio, Mayor

Parks and Recreation Department

October 23, 2003

Mr. Mike Seifert  
Project Manager  
FDOT District 7 EMO  
11201 N. McKinley  
MS 7-500  
Tampa, FL 33612-6403

Re: I-75 PD&E Study from South of Fowler Avenue to North of SR 54, Hillsborough and Pasco  
Counties - WPI Segment Nos. 408459 1 and 258736-1

Dear Mr. Seifert:

Thank you for providing the City information regarding the Department's plan to improve I-75 between Fowler Avenue and CR 54. As you know, the City has been developing its site plan for the proposed New Tampa Nature Park in the southwest quadrant of the I-75/CR 581 interchange. The only plans or studies we received was one aerial photograph that showed on/off ramp improvements at that interchange with no impacts to the park site itself.

These improvements are in compliance with the Management Plan that was developed for the park site in order to acquire the land through Florida Communities Trust and Hillsborough County's Environmental Land Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP). It is our understanding that ELAPP has advised the Department that no impacts to the site can be permitted regarding the Department's potential project requirements for ponds and floodplain compensation.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the proposed improvements near our Park site and look forward to continued communication between our two agencies. If you have any questions regarding our Park development efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me at (813) 274-7730.

Sincerely,

Ross J. Ferrel  
Director  
City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department

C: Wayne Papy, Jim Valentine, File

RECEIVED  
CITY OF TAMPA  
2003 OCT 31 PM 2:25

Parks Division • 7525 N. Boulevard • Tampa, Florida 33604-4764 • 813/931-2121 • Fax: 813/931-2120  
Recreation Division • 1420 N. Tampa Street • Tampa, Florida 33602-2927 • 813/274-8615 • Fax: 813/274-7744





# Florida Department of Transportation

11201 N. McKinley Drive • Tampa, FL 33612-6456 • Phone (813) 975-6000 • 1-800-226-7220  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE \* 7-500 \* (813) 975-6457

JEB BUSH  
GOVERNOR

JOSE ABREU  
SECRETARY

November 5, 2003



FWS Log. No. 04-448 (St. Pete)

The Proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). This finding fulfills the requirements of the Act.

Mr. Bryan Pridgeon  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
9549 Koger Boulevard, Suite 111  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

With reference to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) the Service does not have sufficient staff to review and comment on this application; therefore, we are unable to make recommendations and take no action regarding this application.

Don Palmer 12/22/03  
Peter M. Benjamin Date  
Assistant Field Supervisor

RE: WPI Seg. No. 408459 1/FAP No. 0751 105 I  
I-75 from south of Fowler Avenue to south of CR 54, Hillsborough & Pasco Counties

Dear Mr. Pridgeon:

The Florida Department of Transportation is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to address proposed improvements on I-75 within the limits noted above. This study will evaluate improving the existing four-lane limited access facility to a six-lane typical section and six-lane typical section with auxiliary lanes to satisfy the future projected traffic demands. The vast majority of the proposed improvements will occur within the existing right-of-way. Right-of-way may be required for ramp extensions and the auxiliary lanes between the I-275/I-75 apex and SR 56. The bridges spanning the Hillsborough River and the two Cypress Creek crossings will be widened to accommodate the additional lanes not replaced or reconstructed.

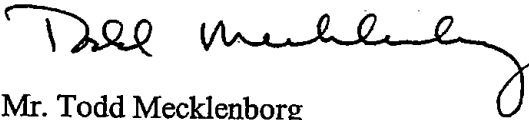
As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the Department is initiating informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A *Threatened and Endangered Species Memorandum* has been prepared for your agency's review. In order to fulfill the requirements of the NEPA process, the Department solicits comments from federal, state, and local agencies. All comments received by the Department will be addressed in the support documents and made available at the public hearing during the public involvement phase.

This proposed project has been evaluated for impacts on federally protected threatened and endangered species. Based on the results of the literature review and field surveys conducted, the Department has concluded that no federally listed threatened or endangered species will be affected by the proposed improvements. Furthermore, the proposed project is not located in an area designated as Critical Habitat by the U.S. Department of Interior. Therefore, the Department on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration has determined that the proposed actions will have "No Effect" with any federally protected threatened or endangered species.

Mr. Benjamin  
Page Two  
November 5, 2003

If your office concurs with this determination, please respond to the Department in writing at your earliest convenience. If your agency would like a site review or any additional information, please feel free to call me at (813) 975-6457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Mecklenborg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Mr. Todd Mecklenborg  
Biologist

# **Appendix C**

## **Public Hearing Notification Materials**



## **Legal Display Advertisement**

**THE TAMPA TRIBUNE**

Published Daily

Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida

State of Florida }  
County of Hillsborough } ss.

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared C. Pugh, who on oath says that she is the Advertising Billing Supervisor of The Tampa Tribune, a daily newspaper published at Tampa in Hillsborough County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement being a

LEGAL NOTICE

The matter of PUBLIC HEARING

is published in said newspaper in the issues of  
NOVEMBER 27, DECEMBER 11, 2003

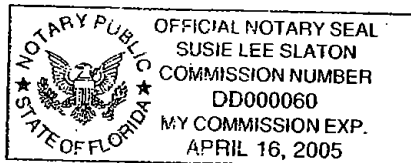
Affiant further says that the said The Tampa Tribune is a newspaper published at Tampa in said Hillsborough County, Florida, and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Hillsborough County, Florida, each day and has been entered as second class mail matter at the post office in Tampa, in said Hillsborough County, Florida for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that she has neither paid nor promised any person, this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

*C. Pugh*

Witnessed and subscribed by me, this 11 day  
DECEMBER, A.D. 20 03

Personally Known  or Produced Identification \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Identification Produced \_\_\_\_\_

*Susie Lee Slaton*





# PUBLIC HEARING

## I-75 (SR 93A)

**PD&E Study from south of Fowler Avenue, Hillsborough County, to south of SR 56, Pasco County**

WPI Segment No.: 408459.1 · Federal Aid Project Number: 0751 105.1

**Reevaluation Study from south of SR 56 to CR 54, Pasco County**

WPI Segment No.: 258736.1 · Federal Aid Project Number: NH-75-1(91)275

### PUBLIC HEARING

Date: December 17, 2003

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Auditorium

Florida Dept. of Trans.

District 7 Headquarters

11201 N. McKinley Dr.

Tampa, Florida

You are invited to the Public Hearing for the I-75 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from South of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to south of SR 56 in Pasco County and the Reevaluation Study from south of SR 56 to CR 54 in Pasco County.

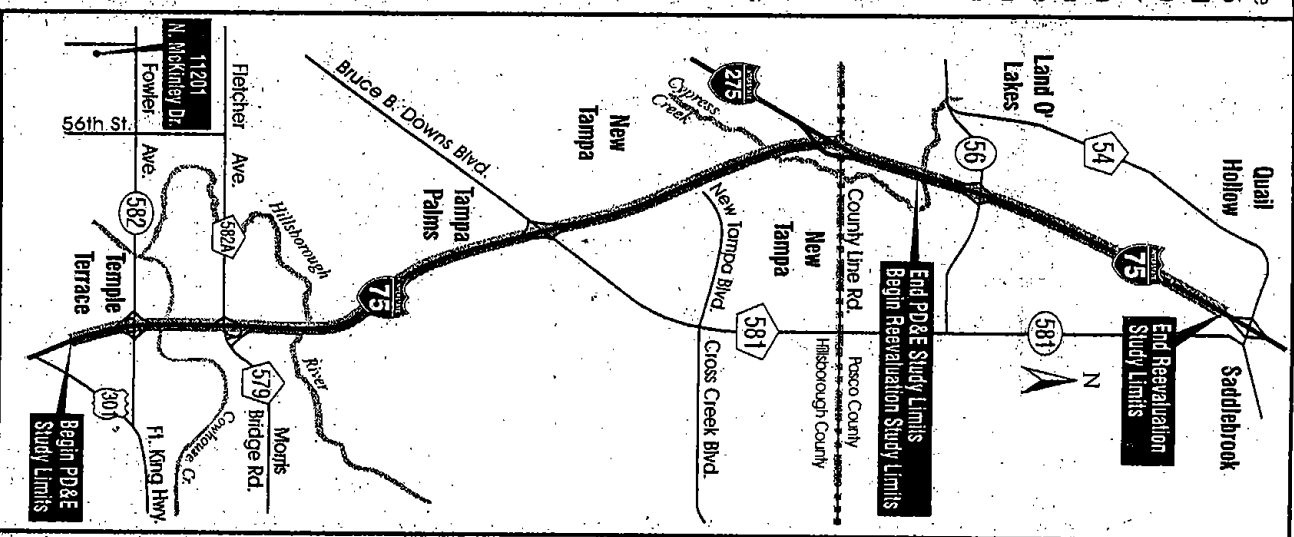
The I-75 project limits are shown to the right. The proposed improvements consist of widening I-75 from the existing four lanes to six lanes and, in some locations, widening to six lanes with auxiliary lanes to meet projected traffic needs along the I-75 corridor. This project involves encroachments on wetlands and floodplains, which require special consideration under Executive Orders 11990 and 11988, respectively.

The Public Hearing will allow interested persons the opportunity to express their views concerning the conceptual design and social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed improvements. Aerial photographs, concept plans, and project information will be available for public viewing during the Hearing. Representatives from the FDOT will be available beginning at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the project, answer questions, and receive comments. The formal portion of the Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a presentation by an FDOT representative, followed by a public comment period. Written comments may be sent to the address provided below.

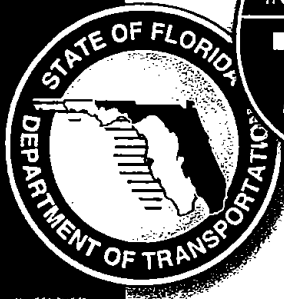
Supporting Study documents will be available for public review prior to and after the Public Hearing beginning November 26, 2003 through December 29, 2003 at the New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Boulevard, Tampa, Florida from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, and 12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sunday. These documents will also be available at the Hearing.

This Public Hearing is being held in accordance with 23 CFR 771, U.S.C. 128, F.S. Chapters 120 and 339.155. The Public Hearing is in compliance with Titles VI and VIII of the Civil Rights Act and Americans with Disabilities Act. Persons with disabilities who may require special accommodations at the Hearing or anyone with questions concerning this project should contact Mike Seifert, Project Manager, at (800) 226-7220 or (813) 975-6922 or by email to [Michael.seifert@dol.state.fl.us](mailto:Michael.seifert@dol.state.fl.us) by December 10, 2003.

Written comments may be addressed to: Robert Clifford, AICP District/Modal Planning and Development Manager, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500, Tampa, Florida 33612-6456.



## **Newsletter**



# I-75 (SR 93A)

PD&E Study from south of Fowler Avenue  
to south of SR 56, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties  
WPI Segment No.: 408459 1 • Federal Aid Project Number: 0751 105 1

Reevaluation Study from south of SR 56 to CR 54, Pasco County  
WPI Segment No.: 258736 1 • Federal Aid Project Number: NH-75-1(91)275

Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven

**Dear Property Owner and Interested Citizen:**

You are invited to the Public Hearing for the I-75 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from south of Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to south of SR 56 in Pasco County and the Reevaluation Study from south of SR 56 to CR 54 in Pasco County. The Hearing will be held by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as follows:

**Date:** Wednesday, December 17, 2003

**Time:** 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Open House  
6:00 p.m. Formal Hearing

**Place:** Florida Department of Transportation District 7 Headquarters, Auditorium  
11201 N. McKinley Drive  
Tampa, Florida

The Hearing is being held to provide the opportunity for the public to express views concerning the location, conceptual design, social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed improvements to I-75.

This newsletter serves as notice to property owners (pursuant to Section 339.155(6), Florida Statutes) that all or a portion of their property lies within 300 feet on either side of the centerline of any alternative for the proposed project. However, the property may not be directly affected.

FDOT representatives will be available to discuss the project informally and answer questions beginning at 5:00 p.m. on the day of the Hearing. Aerial photographs showing the proposed improvements will be on display. A court reporter will be available to receive comments in a one-on-one setting. At 6:00 p.m. the FDOT will begin the formal portion of the Hearing, which will include a presentation, a video and an opportunity to make formal oral comments. The informal portion will resume after the formal portion and will continue until 7:00 p.m.

The Study and supporting documents will be available for public review from November 26, 2003 through January 5, 2004 at the New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Boulevard in Tampa. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs; 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Fri; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sat; 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sun.

All comments received, whether verbal or written, will be considered equally and documented in the official Public Hearing record. Written statements may be mailed to:

**Robert M. Clifford, AICP**  
Modal Planning and Development Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven  
11201 N. McKinley Drive/ MS 7-500  
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

All comments must be postmarked by January 5, 2004 in order to be part of the official Public Hearing record. This Public Hearing is being held in accordance with 23 CFR 771, U.S.C. 128, F.S. Chapters 120 and 339.155. Anyone needing special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should contact Mr. Michael Seifert, Project Manager, at (800) 226-7220 or by email at michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us by December 10, 2003.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
District Modal Planning and Development Manager

PUBLIC HEARING

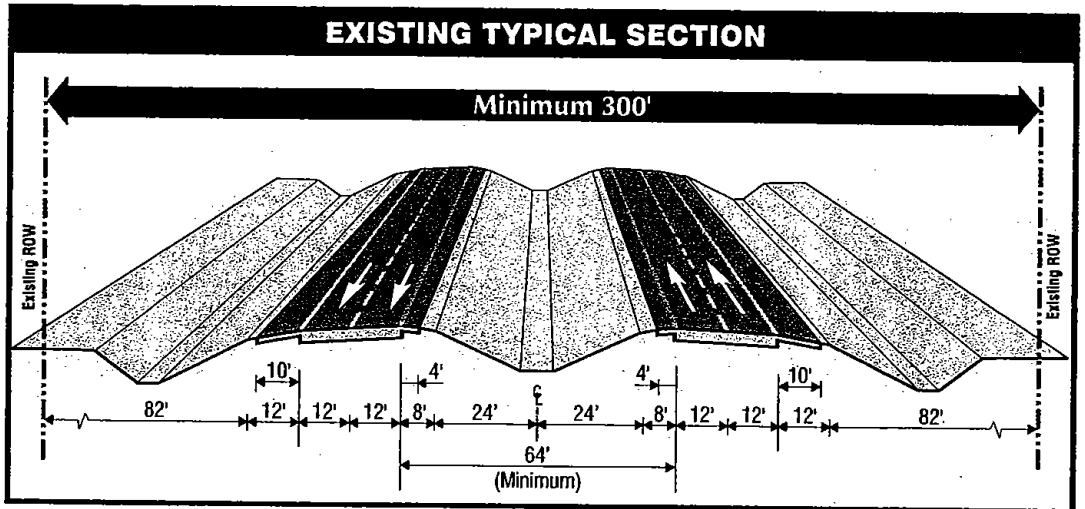
**EXISTING I-75**

Within the project limits I-75 generally has four 12-foot travel lanes (two in each direction), 8-foot inside shoulders, 10-foot or 12-foot outside shoulders, separated by a median that varies from 64 feet to 112 feet wide. In addition, there are auxiliary lanes in various locations. The existing typical section is shown in Figure 2.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

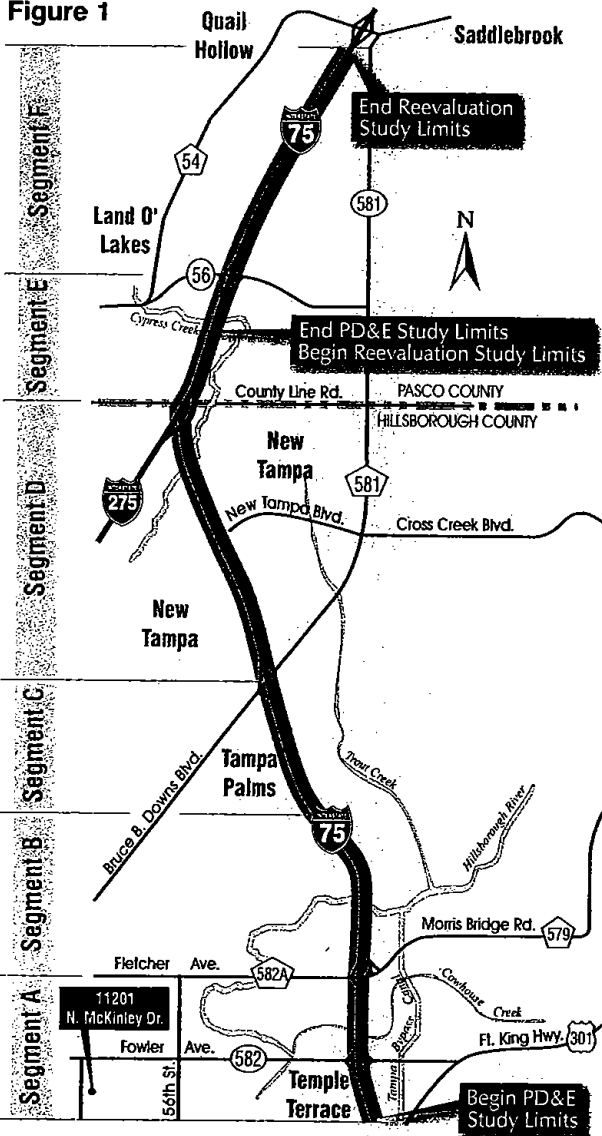
The FDOT is conducting a PD&E Study for improvements to I-75 from Fowler Avenue to south of SR 56. The FDOT is also conducting a Reevaluation Study from south of SR 56 to CR 54 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties.

The original PD&E Study evaluated adding two lanes (one lane in each direction) to the existing roadway and was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on November 27, 2000. For the analysis, the project was divided into six segments. Segments A, B, C, D and a portion of E are within the PD&E Study limits. The remaining portion of Segment E and Segment F make up the Reevaluation Study limits. The project study limits and the segments are shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 2** The number of existing lanes varies throughout the project limits.

**Figure 1**



**Recommended "Build" Alternative**

In general, the Recommended "Build" Alternative would add at least one additional lane in each direction for the length of the project and, in all segments except Segment D, auxiliary lanes would be provided. An auxiliary lane is a full width travel lane adjacent to the mainline to allow for safe speed changes and merging at entrance and exit ramps. The typical section varies throughout the project segments. Figures 3, 4 and 5 depict the typical sections proposed along the project corridor.

In Segments A, B, C and F the typical section would have three 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, one 12-foot auxiliary lane in each direction and 12-foot inside and outside shoulders, of which 10 feet are paved. The proposed typical section is shown in Figure 3.

In Segment D, the typical section would consist of three 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, 12-foot inside and outside shoulders, of which 10 feet are paved and a 64-foot median. The proposed typical section is shown in Figure 4.

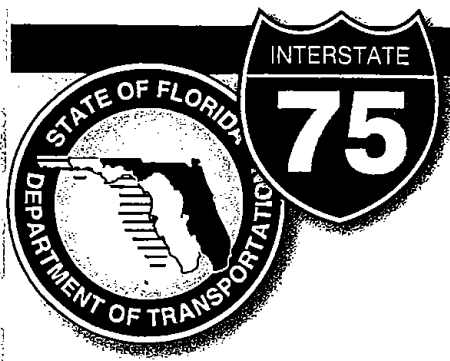
The typical section for Segment E would consist of three 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, three 12-foot auxiliary lanes in the southbound direction, one 12-foot auxiliary lane in the northbound direction, 12-foot shoulders, of which 10 feet are paved and a 64-foot median. A two-lane ramp would run parallel to the mainline. This proposed typical section is shown in Figure 5.

**No-Build Alternative**

The No-Build Alternative represents leaving I-75 in its existing condition while allowing for routine maintenance. The No-Build Alternative will remain a viable alternative throughout the study process.

**WHAT IS A PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY?**

A Project Development and Environment Study or PD&E Study is a comprehensive study conducted by the Florida Department of



# I-75 (SR 93A)

PD&E Study from south of Fowler Avenue  
to south of SR 56, Hillsborough and Pasco Counties  
WPI Segment No.: 408459 1 • Federal Aid Project Number: 0751 105 1  
Reevaluation Study from south of SR 56 to CR 54, Pasco County  
WPI Segment No.: 258736 1 • Federal Aid Project Number: NH-75-1(91)275

Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven

## EVALUATION MATRIX

Evaluation Factors	Recommended Build Alternative		
	PD&E Segment	Reevaluation Segment	Total
<b>Potential Relocations</b>			
Business	0	0	0
Residential	0	0	0
Non-Profit Organization	0	0	0
<b>Noise Effects</b>			
Sites exceeding the 66dba Isopleth	93	0	93
<b>Cultural Resources</b>			
Historic Structures	No Involvement		
Archaeological Sites	No Involvement		
Parks and Recreation Sites [Section 4(f)]	No Involvement		
<b>Natural/Physical Environmental Effects</b>			
Wetlands (acres)	67.15	16.75	83.90
Floodplain Encroachment (acres)	59.57	35.44	95.01
Potential Threatened & Endangered Species	No Involvement		
Potential Contamination Sites (Med/High)	1/0	4/0	5/0
<b>Project Estimated Costs (Millions\$)</b>			
Right-of-Way <sup>1</sup>	-	-	\$19.5
Engineering <sup>2</sup>	-	-	\$22.4
Construction <sup>3</sup>	-	-	\$149.0
Construction Engineering and Inspection <sup>2</sup>	-	-	\$22.4
<b>Total Cost</b>	-	-	<b>\$213.3</b>

**Notes:**

1. Estimate completed in August 2003, includes stormwater ponds
2. Estimated as 15% of construction cost
3. Estimate completed in October 2003

## FDOT FIVE YEAR TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM Fiscal Years 2004/2005 to 2008/2009

Segment	Design	Right-of-Way	Construction
Fowler Avenue to Bruce B. Downs Boulevard	2004/2005	2006/2007	2008/2009
Bruce B. Downs Boulevard to south of I-275 Apex	2004/2005	2006/2007	Not Funded
South of I-275 Apex to CR 54	2004/2005	Not Funded	Not Funded





Transportation. The Study evaluates social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts associated with the proposed transportation improvements.

This process is mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal requirements when federal funds are to be used for a project. It represents a combined effort by transportation professionals who analyze information and document the best alternative for a community's transportation needs.

The PD&E Study efforts are accomplished by working in cooperation with other state/federal agencies and the local governments. This coordination allows the Department to better determine the effects a transportation project will have on the natural and human environment.

**PROJECT NEED**

Traffic demand along I-75 from Fowler Avenue to CR 54 has increased in recent years. Several segments of I-75 and its ramps are currently experiencing Level of Service F in the peak hours. Forecasts indicate further traffic increases due to development in northern Hillsborough and southern Pasco Counties. The Traffic Technical Memorandum prepared for this project recommends that I-75 be widened to six lanes to provide additional capacity throughout the study limits.

Figure 3

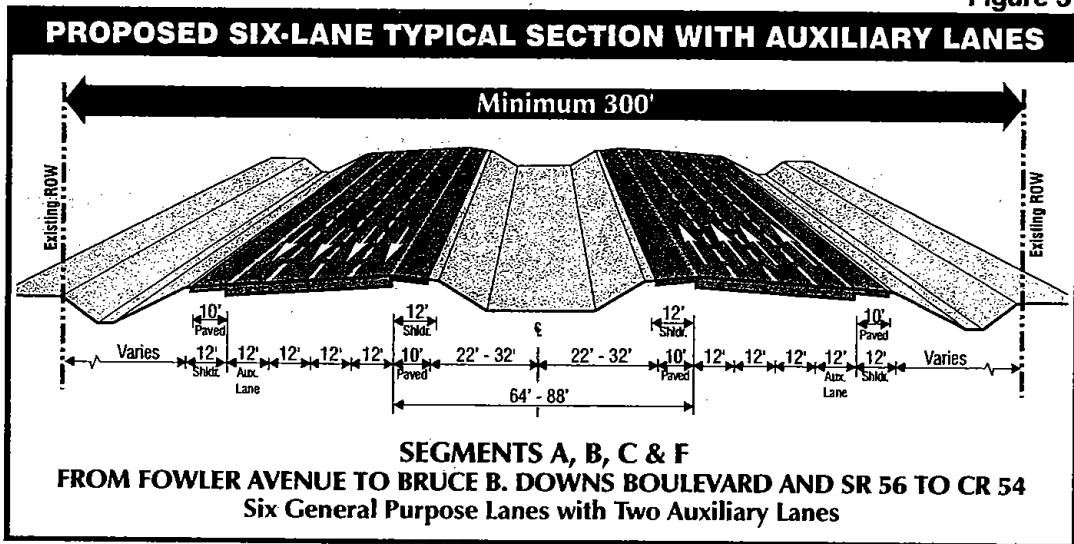


Figure 4

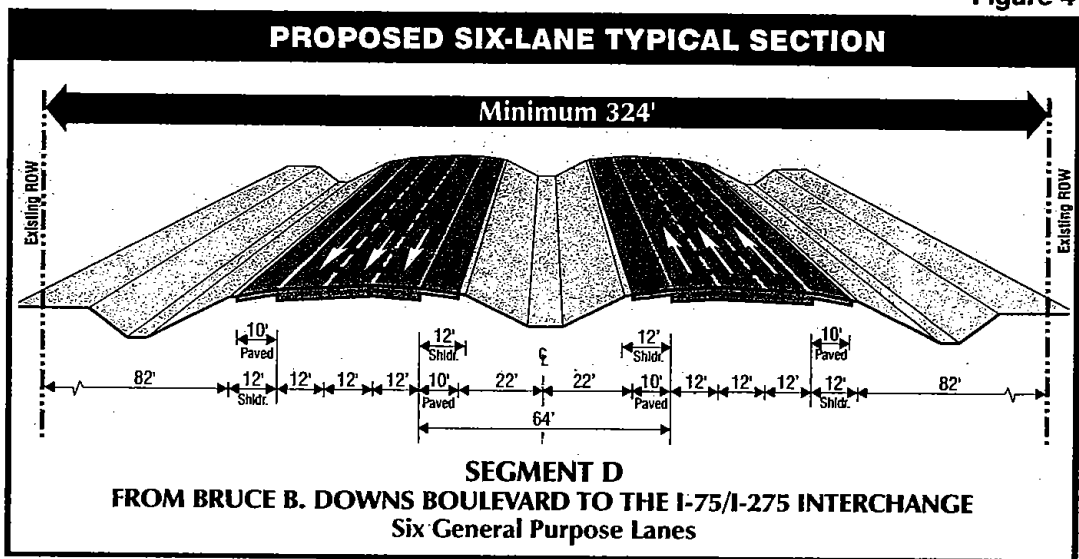
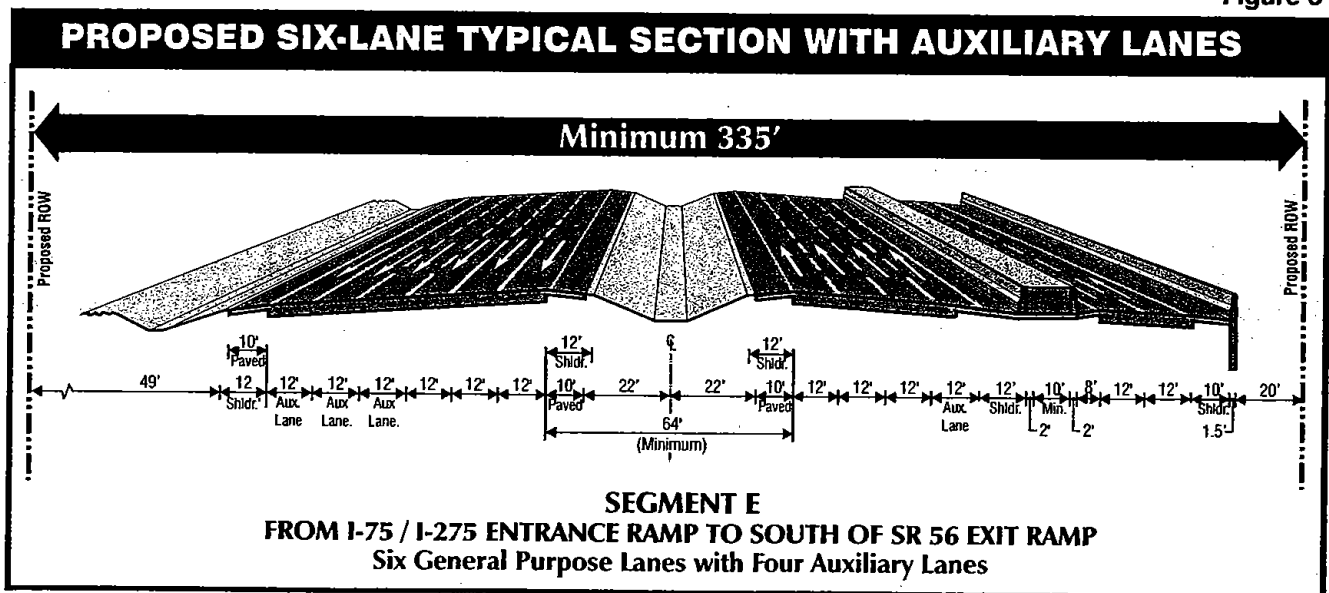


Figure 5



**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

Based on the comments received during the public involvement process and continued coordination with governmental agencies, the FDOT will recommend an alternative to the FHWA for its approval. Location Design Acceptance (LDA) and Reevaluation approval for this project is anticipated to be received from the Federal Highway Administration early next year. Individuals on the mailing list will be notified of the approved alternative by the FHWA by newsletter. The approved alternative will also be announced in the local newspaper.

Design and right-of-way acquisition will follow the study process. The FDOT's Tentative Five-Year Work Program, shown on the insert, indicates when the design, right-of-way and construction phases are programmed.

**TITLE VI AND TITLE VIII COMPLIANCE**

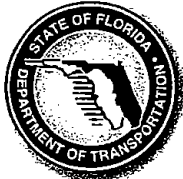
This Hearing is being held to afford all citizens the right to understand the project and express and concerns about the project to the Department. This Hearing complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended. Public participation at this Hearing is encouraged and solicited without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns relative to compliance with Title VI and/or Title VIII may do so by contacting District Seven Title VI and VIII Program Officer, Attn: Robert Clifford, AICP, Florida Department of Transportation, MS-7-500, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, Florida, 33612-6456, or the Florida Department of Transportation Minority Programs Office, 605 Suwanee Street, MS 65, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399.

All inquiries or complaints will be handled according to the Department's procedure and in an expeditious manner.

**HOW TO REACH US**

**We encourage you to take an active part in the I-75 project. If you wish to discuss the project with a Study team member, schedule a small group meeting or be added to the mailing list, please contact Michael Seifert, P.E., Project Manager at:**

**Telephone:** (813) 975-6000 or (800) 226-7220  
**Fax:** (813) 975-6451  
**E-mail:** michael.seifert@dot.state.fl.us  
**Address:** Florida Department of Transportation  
 District Seven  
 Modal Planning and Development  
 Department  
 11201 N. McKinley Drive/MS 7-500  
 Tampa, FL 33612-6456



Robert M. Clifford, AICP  
 Modal Planning and Development Manager  
 Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven  
 11201 N. McKinley Drive/MS 7-500  
 Tampa, FL 33612-6456

# **Appendix D**

## **Public Hearing Transcript**

# ORIGINAL

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I-75 (SR 93A) PD&E STUDY  
PUBLIC HEARING

WORK PROGRAM ITEM SEGMENT NO: 408459 1  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO: 0751 1051

DATE: Wednesday, December 17, 2003  
TIME: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
PLACE: Florida Department of Transportation  
District 7 Headquarters, Auditorium  
11201 North McKinley Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33612-6456  
REPORTED BY: MS. RACHELLE I. SCOLARO  
Notary Public

*SRS* SCOLARO REPORTING SERVICES, INC.

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## ORAL STATEMENTS

1 My name is Harvey Alkow, A-L-K-O-W. I  
2 live at 7205 Wareham Drive, Tampa Palms. I am  
3 in the Tremont section of Tampa Palms. I live  
4 in a conservation area and I am not near your  
5 sound criteria area, but I still hear the roar  
6 of the traffic in the morning.

7 I'm here representing the Tremont people  
8 who live close to I-75 who are hearing all kinds  
9 of roar, and now you're adding another lane to  
10 I-75; the roar is going to be worse.

11 According to the federal study, you are  
12 not allowed to build or cannot build a sound  
13 barrier until the sound decibels reach 6 and  
14 above. We're at 5.7 and 5.8, now you're adding  
15 another lane.

16 If you live near this I-75 area and you  
17 come out in the morning, you can't tell the  
18 difference between a decibel of 6 and 5.7 or  
19 5.8. It's infinitesimal. The roar is  
20 unbelievable, and now you're adding more  
21 traffic to it.

22 So I would suggest that before you have an  
23 uprising of the people living in the Tremont  
24 area that you reconsider putting up some kind of  
25 a sound barrier at 275, particularly covering

## ORAL STATEMENTS

1 the Tremont area going all -- and the Onclave  
2 area going all the way past the new development,  
3 Buckingham.

4 I don't want to talk about anybody else's  
5 homes but there are homes in the area that are  
6 anywhere from half a million to two and a half  
7 million near the park which is right on 275, and  
8 nothing is done for them.

9 I would hate -- I would hate to have to  
10 live with the worst sound when you're building a  
11 half-a-million-dollar-and-up house.

12 That's it.

13 HARVEY ALKOW

14 7205 Wareham Drive

15 Tampa Palms, FL 33647

16 813-903-9034

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## ORAL STATEMENTS

1 I'm Ralph Lehman. I live in Tremont,  
2 Tampa Palms. And the comment I would like to  
3 make is that I have a great concern.

4 At this point where I live, which is a  
5 fair distance from the -- from 75, there's still  
6 a lot of noise. And in the winter in particular  
7 when there's no humidity in the air, the noise  
8 carries a great deal further so that you can't  
9 even open your windows in the fall -- or towards  
10 the wintertime, because the noise comes in  
11 whenever there's traffic on 75, and that  
12 includes Sunday mornings as well.

13 This is going to increase when we have  
14 this additional amount of traffic by the growth  
15 that's occurring to the north of us, then the  
16 increase in the lane on 75.

17 That's really going to have an effect on  
18 what I consider my standard of living and why I  
19 bought where I did when I did. So I really  
20 object to having this built without some sound  
21 barriers being put up.

22 It's been made clear to me that the level  
23 of sounds that enters even within the area that  
24 measure -- and they don't measure back where we  
25 live -- and I understand some of the sound



## ORAL STATEMENTS

1 carries up over the area close by to where we  
2 live in a way that doesn't really reflect what  
3 you might expect, but is louder.

4 The problem is that as far as I  
5 understand, even within the area close to 75  
6 where they measured the sound level was above  
7 the accepted federal limit. And furthermore,  
8 the measurement was made in the summer, and  
9 while there are corrections for the winter these  
10 are based on national standards; I think that  
11 with the humidity we experience in the summer,  
12 which reflects sound and the change in the  
13 winter that we are different than the national  
14 standard that's being imposed on us. I think  
15 that there is a greater amount of sound in the  
16 winter than is being taken into account.

17 The main problem is that even in the  
18 summer they measured a level above what's  
19 acceptable by federal standards, and the only  
20 reason that they're not going to put this up is  
21 a cost basis.

22 Well, I find this difficult because it's  
23 going to cost a great deal to us in terms of  
24 property values and our standard of living, and  
25 I would like to make it clear that I object to

ORAL STATEMENTS

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not having the sound barrier put up as part of  
the planning here.

RALPH LEHMAN  
15810 Fairchild Drive  
Tampa Palms, FL 33647  
813-866-0591

## ORAL STATEMENTS

1 Patricia Ann Blevins, 9822 Davis Road,  
2 Tampa, Florida 33637-5008. My phone number is  
3 813-988-1335.

4 This is in regards to the property for  
5 Bessie A. Benton estate beginning north at 127th  
6 to the north bordered by Interstate 75 on the  
7 west and Old Morris Bridge Road on the east, and  
8 it ends at the telephone tower to the north.

9 This property shows on your map "Green  
10 listed as possible pond." That would take the  
11 biggest portion of this piece which is less than  
12 five acres. You need to buy the whole strip.  
13 And I'm speaking for the two of us; there are  
14 more people involved.

15 PATRICIA A. BLEVINS

16 (Estate of Bessie A. Benton)

17 9822 Davis Road

18 Tampa, FL 33637-5008  
19  
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22  
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## FORMAL HEARING

1 MR. CLIFFORD: Good evening. We can go  
2 ahead and get started. Good evening. My name  
3 is Bob Clifford, and I am the Modal Planning and  
4 Development Manager for District 7 of the  
5 Florida Department of Transportation.

6 Welcome to the I-75 Project Development  
7 and Environment Study and Reevaluation Public  
8 Hearing. This public hearing concerns the  
9 proposed improvements on I-75 from Fowler Avenue  
10 in Hillsborough County to County Road 54 in  
11 Pasco County.

12 Today is Wednesday, December 17th, 2003,  
13 and it is approximately 6 p.m.

14 This is your opportunity to receive  
15 information on the project and to publicly and  
16 officially comment on the Recommended Build  
17 Alternative and other documents available here  
18 tonight. The Recommended Build Alternative is  
19 based on environmental and engineering analyses  
20 accomplished to date as well as public comments  
21 received.

22 This project development and environment  
23 or PD&E study and reevaluation, along with the  
24 public hearing are conducted under applicable  
25 federal and state laws. Those citations, along

## FORMAL HEARING

1 with the advertisement dates, are listed on the  
2 board next to the sign-in table.

3 When you arrived this evening you should  
4 have received a handout and matrix containing  
5 information concerning the project and a  
6 comment sheet. If you did not receive this  
7 information, please raise your hand and we will  
8 provide them to you. Anybody who hasn't  
9 received that information?

10 At this time I would like to introduce  
11 representatives that may assist you in answering  
12 any questions regarding the materials or  
13 displays that we have here this evening.

14 First, I would like to introduce Mike  
15 Seifert, our Project Manager for the project;  
16 Kirk Bogen, our District Project Development  
17 Engineer; John Romero, our Consultant Project  
18 Manager; and Kristen Carson, of our District  
19 Public Information Office.

20 I will now show a video presentation that  
21 describes the project need, evaluation process,  
22 and proposed alternatives. After the video you  
23 will be given an opportunity to make an oral  
24 statement during this formal portion.  
25

## FORMAL HEARING

## VIDEO PRESENTATION

1  
2  
3 "Welcome to the Florida Department of  
4 Transportation's Public Hearing for the proposed  
5 improvements to Interstate 75 in Hillsborough  
6 and Pasco Counties.

7 "The hearing will present information  
8 about the project development and environment,  
9 or PD&E study, for I-75 from south of Fowler  
10 Avenue in Hillsborough County to south of State  
11 Road 56 in Pasco County, and the reevaluation  
12 study from south of State Road 56 to County Road  
13 54 in Pasco County.

14 "The project length is approximately 13.9  
15 miles. The intent of this PD&E study is to  
16 evaluate and document the engineering and  
17 environmental issues associated with the  
18 proposed improvements to I-75.

19 "The public hearing is being conducted by  
20 the Florida Department of Transportation in  
21 cooperation with the Federal Highway  
22 Administration. The hearing provides interested  
23 citizens an opportunity to ask questions and  
24 offer comments about the proposed improvements.

25 "The Department has distributed

## FORMAL HEARING

1 information about this project and has  
2 solicited input regarding the values and  
3 desires of the local community through  
4 presentations to various local organizations and  
5 public officials.

6 "I-75 is functionally classified as an  
7 urban principal arterial interstate from Fowler  
8 Avenue to south of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, and  
9 a rural principal arterial interstate from south  
10 of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard to County Road 54.

11 "Within the project limits, I-75 is  
12 typically a four-lane facility with 8-foot  
13 inside shoulders of which 4 feet are paved, and  
14 12-foot outside shoulders of which 10 feet are  
15 paved. The existing I-75 right of way is  
16 typically 324 feet wide in Hillsborough County  
17 and is generally 300 feet wide in Pasco County.

18 "The need for this project has been  
19 identified in the Hillsborough and Pasco  
20 Counties' Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
21 2025 Long Range Transportation Plans.

22 "Improvements to I-75 are needed to  
23 accommodate anticipated traffic growth.  
24 According to the study's traffic analysis, I-75  
25 currently carries up to 96,400 vehicles per

## FORMAL HEARING

1 day. By the year 2028, I-75 is projected to  
2 carry up to 153,000 vehicles per day. This  
3 represents more than a 58 percent increase over  
4 the current traffic volumes.

5 "The recommended alternative proposed for  
6 I-75 consists of adding at least one lane in  
7 each direction for the length of the project.  
8 The typical section would consist of three  
9 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, 12-foot  
10 inside and outside shoulders, and a median with  
11 a minimum width of 64 feet including the  
12 shoulders. In some segments auxiliary lanes  
13 would also be added.

14 "In Segments A, B, C and F the typical  
15 section would have three 12-foot travel lanes in  
16 each direction, one 12-foot auxiliary lane in  
17 each direction, and 12-foot inside and outside  
18 shoulders of which 10 feet are paved.

19 "In Segment D the typical section would  
20 consist of three 12-foot travel lanes in each  
21 direction, 12-foot inside and outside shoulders  
22 of which 10 feet are paved, and a 64-foot median  
23 including the shoulders.

24 "The typical section for Segment E would  
25 consist of three 12-foot travel lanes in each



## FORMAL HEARING

1 direction, three 12-foot auxiliary lanes in the  
2 southbound direction, one 12-foot auxiliary lane  
3 in the northbound direction, 12-foot shoulders  
4 of which 10 feet are paved, and a 64-foot median  
5 including the shoulders. A two-lane ramp would  
6 run parallel to the mainline.

7 "Proposed improvements to the I-275 apex  
8 would include the replacement of the existing  
9 two-lane I-275 northbound bridge over I-75 with  
10 a longer bridge that would provide two through  
11 lanes on I-275 and a single lane off-ramp to  
12 State Road 56. The off-ramp to State Road 56  
13 from I-275 would begin before the I-275 bridge  
14 and run along I-275 and then extend parallel to  
15 the I-75 mainline up to State Road 56.

16 "An exit ramp from I-75 to State Road 56  
17 would begin south of the I-275 overpass bridge  
18 and join with the I-275 ramp before passing  
19 under the County Line Road bridge. The two-lane  
20 ramp would run parallel to the I-75 mainline up  
21 to State Road 56. Beginning the ramp south of  
22 the merge of I-75 and I-275 would eliminate the  
23 weaving between I-275 traffic wanting to proceed  
24 northbound on I-75 and I-75 northbound traffic  
25 wishing to exit at State Road 56.

## FORMAL HEARING

1 "Preliminary concept plans showing the  
2 recommended alternative and the locations and  
3 number of auxiliary lanes are on display here  
4 tonight.

5 "This project has been coordinated with  
6 the Federal Highway Administration approved  
7 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard PD&E Study and  
8 Interchange Modification Report and the City of  
9 Tampa's New Tampa Boulevard Overpass.

10 "An important component of this study is  
11 the comparative evaluation of the environmental  
12 effects associated with each alternative. The  
13 evaluations were conducted in accordance with  
14 the National Environmental Policy Act and other  
15 federal requirements. They include  
16 consideration of the project's effects on the  
17 social, cultural, natural and physical  
18 environment.

19 "The major parameters upon which the  
20 Recommended Build Alternative and the No-Build  
21 Alternative were evaluated are presented in the  
22 matrix contained in the project brochure and are  
23 on display here tonight.

24 "Among the factors evaluated in the study  
25 are:

## FORMAL HEARING

- 1           \*    Cultural and community resources;  
2           \*    Noise level changes;  
3           \*    Contamination involvement;  
4           \*    Wetland encroachment;  
5           \*    Air quality changes;  
6           \*    Threatened and endangered species  
7                involvement; and,  
8           \*    Number of relocations

9            "The measures of these effects as well as  
10           comments received from the public, local  
11           governments and review agencies have aided the  
12           Department in selecting the recommended  
13           alternative.

14            "The PD&E study has evaluated providing  
15           additional capacity to meet future traffic  
16           demands along I-75. A No-Build Alternative was  
17           also evaluated. The Recommended Build  
18           Alternative is on display.

19            "There are advantages and disadvantages to  
20           the Build Alternative.

21            Advantages include:

- 22           \*    Less traffic congestion;  
23           \*    Improved levels of service on the  
24                roadway network; and,  
25           \*    Consistency with local transportation

## FORMAL HEARING

1 plans

2 Disadvantages include:

- 3 \* Design, right-of-way acquisition, and  
4 construction costs;  
5 \* Temporary disruption to traffic during  
6 construction; and,  
7 \* Environmental effects, although  
8 minimal

9 "The No-Build Alternative consists of  
10 leaving I-75 in its current condition and  
11 limiting work to routine maintenance. As with  
12 the Build Alternative, there are advantages and  
13 disadvantages to the No-Build Alternative.

14 Advantages include:

- 15 \* No inconvenience to traffic flow due  
16 to construction operations;  
17 \* No design, right-of-way acquisition or  
18 construction costs; and,  
19 \* No effects to the adjacent natural and  
20 human environment

21 Disadvantages include:

- 22 \* Increases in both traffic congestion  
23 and road user costs;  
24 \* Unacceptable levels of service on the  
25 existing roadway network;

## FORMAL HEARING

- 1                   \*    Increase in air pollutants due to  
2                                    congestion; and,  
3                   \*    Not consistent with local government  
4                                    transportation plans

5                   "The No-Build Alternative will remain a  
6                   viable alternative throughout the duration of  
7                   this study.

8                   "The PD&E study will be completed when  
9                   Location and Design acceptance is received from  
10                  the Federal Highway Administration early next  
11                  year.

12                  "In the Department's Five-Year Tentative  
13                  Work Program for the segment from Fowler Avenue  
14                  to Bruce B. Downs, Design is funded in fiscal  
15                  year 2004/2005; Right of way is funded in fiscal  
16                  year 2006/2007; and Construction is funded in  
17                  fiscal year 2008/2009.

18                  "For the segment from Bruce B. Downs to  
19                  the I-275 apex, Design is funded in fiscal year  
20                  2004/2005; Right of way is funded in fiscal year  
21                  2006/2007; and Construction is not currently  
22                  funded.

23                  "For the segment from south of the I-275  
24                  apex to County Road 54, Design is funded for  
25                  fiscal year 2004/2005; Right of way and

## FORMAL HEARING

1 Construction are not currently funded.

2 "This hearing is one of your opportunities  
3 to comment on the study and the recommended  
4 alternative. Your comments are very important.  
5 If you would like to make a comment as part of  
6 public hearing record, you may comment in one of  
7 the following four ways:

8 "First, you can complete one of the  
9 speaker cards in order to make an oral statement  
10 during the formal portion of the hearing.

11 "Second, you can make an oral statement to  
12 the court reporter here tonight in a one-on-one  
13 setting during the informal portion of the  
14 hearing.

15 "Third, you can complete the comment form  
16 provided in the brochure or located on the  
17 comment tables and submit it to the court  
18 reporter or drop it in one of the comment  
19 boxes.

20 "Fourth, you can complete and mail written  
21 comments to the address listed on the comment  
22 form.

23 "All submittals must be postmarked by  
24 January 5th, 2003 (sic) to become part of the  
25 official public hearing record. All comments,

## FORMAL HEARING

1           regardless of how they are submitted, will be  
2           considered equally before a recommendation is  
3           made to the Federal Highway Administration.

4           "This concludes the presentation. The  
5           Department thanks you for participating in the  
6           hearing and for your interest in the I-75 PD&E  
7           Study in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties."

8           MR. CLIFFORD: Turn the lights up. One  
9           additional clarification I wish to make that's  
10          different than what you just saw on the video  
11          and in the handout, we do have it on the board  
12          here, is in our new tentative work program.

13          The piece of I-75 from Bruce B. Downs to  
14          the I-275 apex, we're proposing to have fully  
15          funded in the work program and fiscal year of  
16          08/09. That's a recent addition that's  
17          different than the information presented on the  
18          video and in your handout. It is on the board  
19          over here.

20          As the video describes, you may provide  
21          your comments by giving an oral statement to the  
22          court reporter in a one-on-one setting during  
23          the informal portion of the hearing.

24          For those of you who prefer to provide  
25          written comments, you may complete the comment

## FORMAL HEARING

1 form included in your handout that can be  
2 submitted to the court reporter, dropped in one  
3 of the comment boxes, or mailed to us at the  
4 preprinted address.

5 To be included as part of the official  
6 public hearing document, again, all letters and  
7 correspondence need to be postmarked no later  
8 than January 5, 2004.

9 You may also provide your comments during  
10 this portion of the public hearing. Please  
11 complete a speaker card, and I'll call your name  
12 in which the order they are received.

13 Is there anybody that has completed such a  
14 card and wishes to speak during the formal  
15 portion? Mr. Davison. Thank you.

16 Just to remind everyone, this is not a  
17 question and answer session. It is the formal  
18 portion within the hearing. Mr. Davison, go  
19 ahead.

20 MR. DAVISON: Bob, I appreciate you having  
21 us today. Actually, looking at the proposed  
22 expansion is very interesting for a couple of  
23 things.

24 Number one, I don't think anyone realized  
25 what the State had planned for that section



## FORMAL HEARING

1           between the apex and State Road 56 where you're  
2           going to be putting in a two-lane road going  
3           north off of I-275 into State Road 56, and then  
4           you'll have three auxiliary lanes going south  
5           from 56 down to I-275.

6           The reason that intrigues me is that the  
7           east/west road, which you're familiar with --  
8           one of the reasons that that was not -- I think  
9           it was Section C -- or Segment C -- Alternative  
10          C was that there were environmental concerns.  
11          You seem to have bridged those environmental  
12          concerns by sticking that two-lane road in  
13          there.

14          When you come to put that road in there,  
15          you get together with the County, Pasco,  
16          Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa, and  
17          see if there would be any way that you could  
18          access one way going north onto that two-lane  
19          road off of County Line Road and a one-way lane  
20          going south accessing I-275 going south, which  
21          would be kind of a hybrid of the Alternative C.

22          The reason that's important is that may  
23          only negate having to have a two-lane road being  
24          financed by the City of Tampa through West  
25          Meadows and into the I-275 interchange from the

## FORMAL HEARING

1 east/west road and may also only have to make  
2 Bruce B. Downs six lanes all the way through  
3 with those two improvements. That would be a  
4 savings of approximately 70 million dollars, and  
5 not to mention the aesthetics that it would  
6 provide to that community.

7 And I would urge you and the City and the  
8 MPO to get together to see if that would be a  
9 viable alternative.

10 And Number Two, I would urge you to sit  
11 down with the homeowners of the Tampa Palms  
12 area -- sit down and explain to them about the  
13 noise levels.

14 I can tell you for a fact that I did not  
15 buy a house in the River Estates section of  
16 Tampa Palms because of the current noise  
17 levels.

18 Now, I understand there are some  
19 engineering constraints, but with certain  
20 foliage on the other side of the pond,  
21 discussing rights of way with the Tampa Palms  
22 Homeowners Association, you may be able to, if  
23 not eliminate, partially negate some of that  
24 sound problem that they're going to be having.  
25 I'm sure that they would be very amenable to

## FORMAL HEARING

1 sitting down with you, the homeowners  
2 associations, and looking at some of those  
3 alternatives. Thank you very much.

4 MR. CLIFFORD: Thank you. Is there  
5 anybody else who wishes to comment during this  
6 formal portion? Anybody else? Okay. Seeing  
7 none.

8 At this point what I'll do is I'll go  
9 ahead and close the hearing. Some final  
10 statements I need to read into the record.

11 The public hearing transcript, written  
12 statements, exhibits and reference materials  
13 will be available for public inspection at the  
14 District 7 office, 11201 North McKinley Drive,  
15 Tampa, Florida, within three weeks.

16 It is approximately 6:25. I hereby  
17 officially close the formal portion of the  
18 public hearing of the I-75 PD&E Study.

19 We thank you for attending. Good  
20 evening.

NOTARIAL CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

I, RACHELLE SCOLARO, Court Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at  
large, hereby certify that the Public Hearing was  
recorded in Stenotypy by me and the foregoing pages  
constitute a true and correct transcription of the  
recordings thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 28th day of  
December, 2003, at Tampa, Hillsborough County,  
Florida.

*Rachelle I. Scolaro*  
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