

## Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven

-75 PD&E Studies from Moccasin Wallow Road to south of US 301 and south of US 301 to north of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard  
1201 N McKinley Drive, MS 7-500  
Tampa, FL 33612-6456



# PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**-75 from Moccasin Wallow Road to south of US 301 and south of US 301 to north of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard**  
Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Studies

WPI Segment Nos. 419235-2 | 419235-3    ETDM Nos. 8001 & 14267    Manatee and Hillsborough Counties

Dear Property Owner and/or Interested Citizen:

You are invited to attend and participate in the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven public hearing for the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Studies on I-75 from Moccasin Wallow Road in Manatee County to south of US 301 in Hillsborough County (WPI 419235-2) and from south of US 301 to north of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard in Hillsborough County (WPI 419235-3). The proposed projects involve adding two 12-foot express lanes in each direction in the median from Moccasin Wallow Road to north of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard. The projects also include installing stormwater management facilities (ponds), improvements to select interchanges, and floodplain compensation sites. The northern project may impact the Tampa Bypass Canal, a Section 4(f) resource. The hearing allows those interested the opportunity to provide comments and express views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed project.

This public hearing is being conducted in-person with an option to attend virtually to present information to and receive public input from interested persons regarding the proposed improvements to I-75. Citizens who choose to attend the virtual hearing session must **register online at the project website: [www.fdotd7studies.com/i75](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/i75)**. Attendees can participate through a computer, tablet, or smartphone via GoToWebinar. Additional information related to the public hearing is included in the newsletter insert.

This public hearing will be conducted in accordance with all federal, state, and local requirements. This newsletter also serves as notice to property owners (pursuant to Florida Statutes 339.155) that all or a portion of their property is within a minimum of 300 feet of the centerline of the alignment; however, this does not mean that all properties would be directly affected.

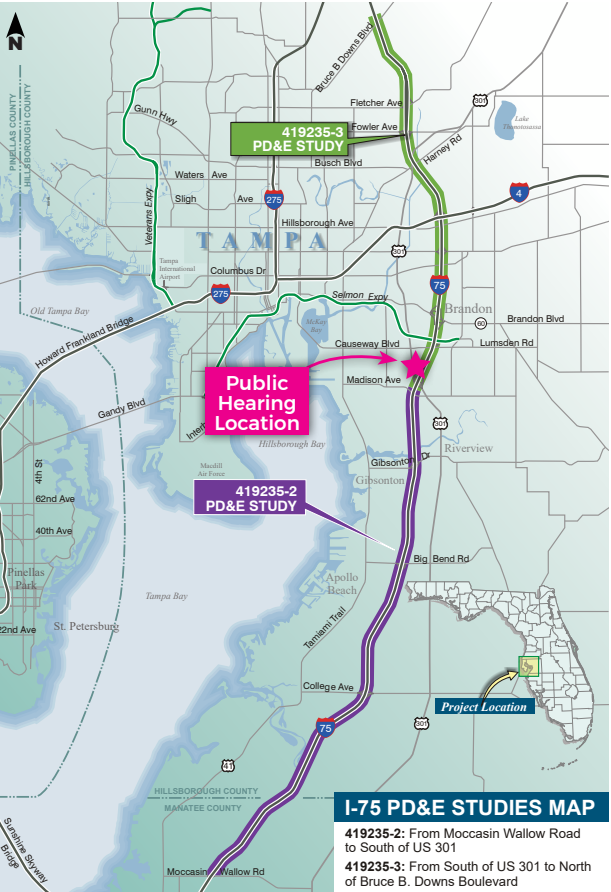
Maps, drawings, and other project information will be available at the in-person hearing session on January 27, 2022, and for review online starting on January 24, 2022, at [www.fdotd7studies.com/175](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/175). Draft project engineering and environmental reports will be available for public review from January 6, 2022, to February 7, 2022, on the project website and at the Brandon Regional Library, Ruskin Branch Library, and Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven offices. Information about these locations, including addresses, phone numbers, and hours of operation, is located on page 3 of this newsletter.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code, Section 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by Federal Highway Administration and FDOT. FDOT welcomes and appreciates everyone's participation. If you have questions about the project or the scheduled hearing, please contact **Ashley Henzel, P.E.**, at **(813) 975-6433** or **Amber Russo, P.E.**, at **(813) 975-6260** or **800-226-7220**, or visit the project website at [www.fdotd7studies.com/i75](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/i75).

Sincerely,

Kirk Borge

**Kirk Bogen, P.E.**  
Environmental Management Engineer



## Get Involved Today

We invite you to get involved! The public plays an important role in the project development and decision-making process of this study. Opportunities for you to provide your input will be available throughout the study by means of submitting comments or attending the public hearing. There are multiple ways to get involved - call, write, or email us. For details on how to provide your input and attend the public hearing, please see the insert page provided. You can also invite us to speak at one of your own meetings!

## Comuníquese Con Nosotros

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información sobre este proyector, por favor ponerse en contacto con el señor Manuel Flores al teléfono 813-975-4248 o al correo electrónico: [manuel.flores@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:manuel.flores@dot.state.fl.us).

## Non-Discrimination

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Jensen Hackett, Title VI Coordinator, at [jensen.hackett@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:jensen.hackett@dot.state.fl.us), by telephone at (813) 975-6283 or toll-free at 1 (800) 226-7220 or by written correspondence at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing to the Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612.

# Study Schedule

The Study schedule for the projects is shown below.

Phase	Anticipated Completion
Project Kickoff	Spring 2008
1 <sup>st</sup> Public Hearing	May 6, 2010
Project On Hold	2010-2016
Stakeholder Meetings & Analysis	Ongoing
2 <sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing	January 27, 2022
Finalize PD&E Documents	Winter 2022

*Schedule subject to change*

For more information about the projects  
or to leave a comment go to:

**[www.fdotd7studies.com/i75](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/i75)**

## HEARING DATE

**Thursday, January 27, 2022**  
**5:30-7:30 pm** Open House  
**6:30 pm** Formal Presentation

## IN-PERSON SESSION LOCATION

Hilton Garden Inn  
4328 Garden Vista Drive  
Riverview, FL 33578

## REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL SESSION

[www.fdotd7studies.com/i75](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/i75)

**JOIN THE  
CONVERSATION**  
about the I-75 PD&E Studies

We want your comments and suggestions throughout the study.

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

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

**Ashley Henzel, P.E.**

FDOT Project Manager  
ashley.henzel@dot.state.fl.us  
813-975-6433

—or—

## Amber Russo, P.E.

amber.russo@dot.state.fl.us  
813-975-6260

—or—

## Media Inquiries:

**Kris Carson**  
Public Information Officer  
kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us  
813-975-6202

FDOT—District Seven  
11201 N. McKinley Drive  
Tampa, FL 33612  
800-226-7220

For more information about the project or to leave a comment:  
[www.fdotd7studies.com/i75](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/i75)



## What is a PD&E Study?

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

## Project Overview

The limits of the PD&E Studies (WPI Nos. 419235-2, 419235-3) are along I-75 from Moccasin Wallow Road in Manatee County to south of US 301 in Hillsborough County, and south of US 301 to north of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard in Hillsborough County. The proposed projects would add two 12-foot express lanes in each direction in the median from Moccasin Wallow Road to north of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard.

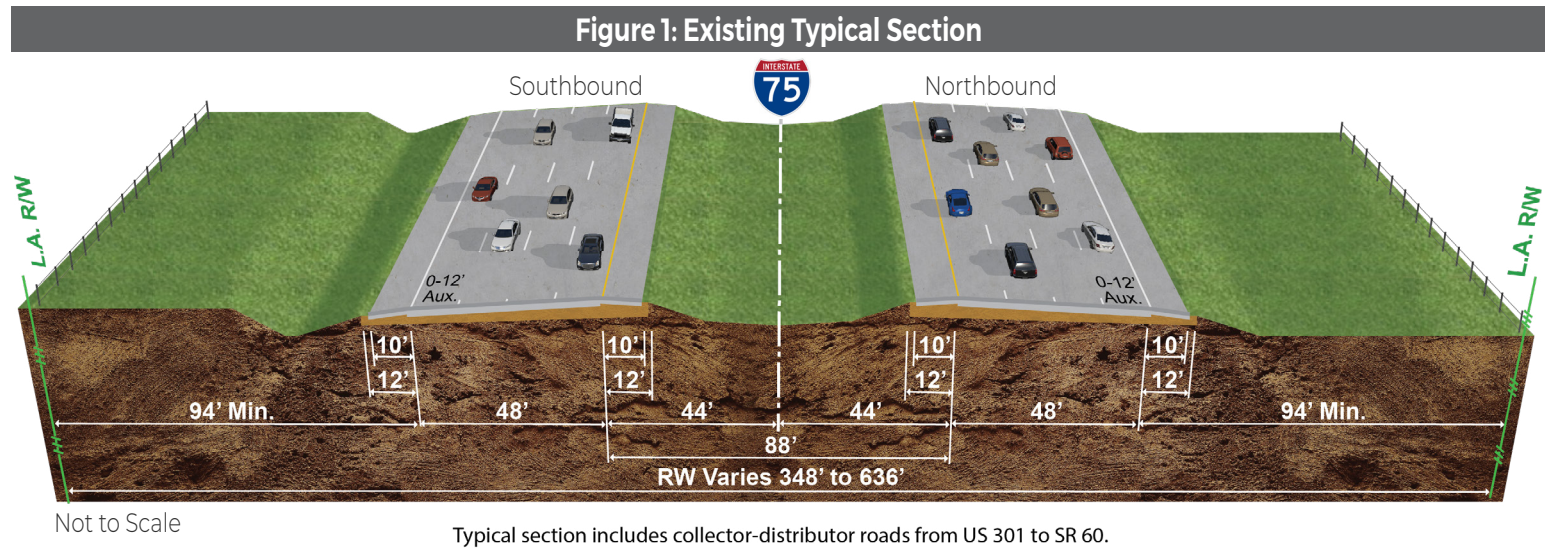
The projects also include installing stormwater management facilities (ponds), improvements to select interchanges, and floodplain compensation sites. The northern project may result in impacts to the Tampa Bypass Canal, a Section 4(f) resource.

## Purpose & Need

The purpose of the project is to evaluate alternatives to address the corridor's capacity and relieve congestion. These improvements are expected to enhance the overall safety and improve the operating conditions of the facility within the project limits.

## Existing Conditions Typical Section

Figure 1 shows the existing typical section along the project limits.



I-75 is a south-north interstate highway that is a major trade and tourism corridor. I-75 is part of the highway network that provides access to regional intermodal facilities such as several general aviation airports, MacDill Air Force Base, several seaports, transit stations, cruise ship terminals and major CSX intermodal rail facilities. It is part of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and is a vital link in the transportation network that connects the Tampa Bay region to the remainder of the state and the nation.

I-75 is a critical evacuation route as shown on the Florida Division of Emergency Management's evacuation route network. Improvements to I-75 will improve evacuation efforts, when needed, will enhance access to activity centers in the area, and movement of goods and freight in the greater Tampa Bay region. Statewide and regional transportation plans and studies by FDOT and the Hillsborough County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) identify the need for interstate improvements.

## Existing Conditions

I-75 is a major north-south interstate that provides an important connection to the regional and statewide transportation network (such as I-4 and I-275), linking Tampa Bay to the remainder of the state and nation. I-75 is a designated highway on the SIS, the state's network of high priority facilities. Widening I-75 is critical to maintain and improve access to major transportation facilities, as well as enhance mobility within the Tampa Bay area.

Within the project limits, I-75 provides a minimum of six 12-foot travel lanes (three lanes in each direction) plus an auxiliary lane in each direction in various locations. Between US 301 and SR 60/Adamo Drive, the typical section widens to include collector/distributor roadways to remove weaving traffic from the travel lanes. The posted speed limit is 70 mph. Figure 1 shows the existing typical section within the project limits.

## Alternatives Considered

### No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative assumes no improvements would be made to I-75 within the project limits except routine maintenance. The No-Build remains a viable alternative throughout the PD&E Study process.

### Preferred Build Alternative

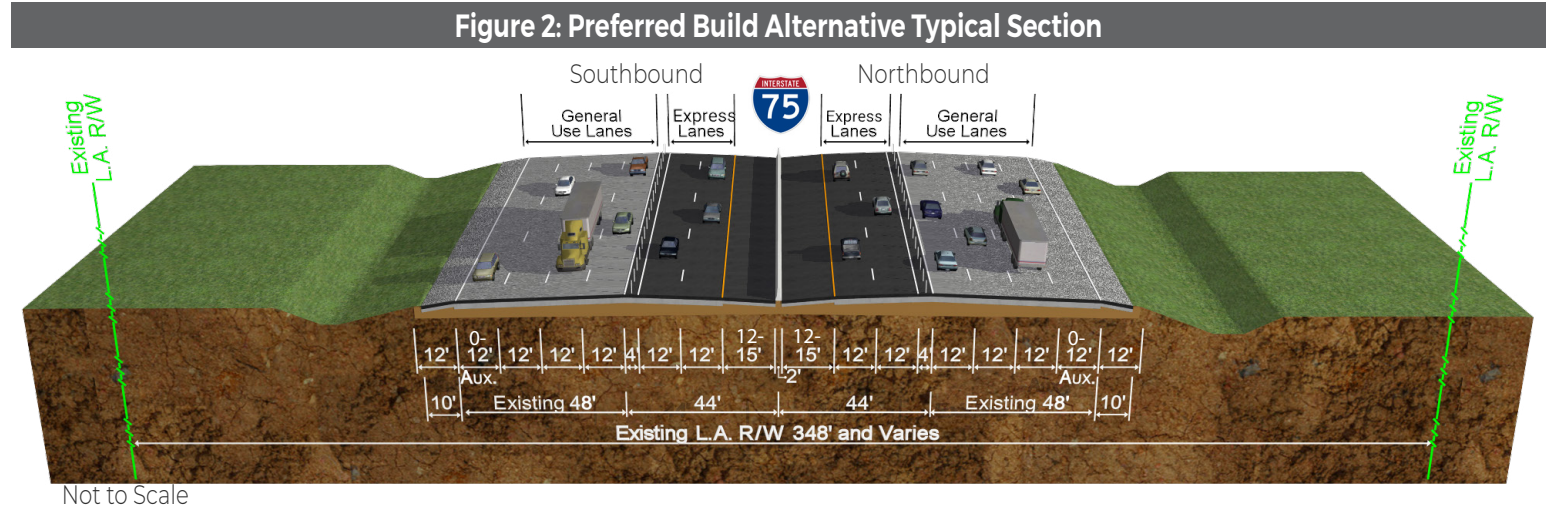
The Preferred Build Alternative includes adding two express lanes in each direction within the existing I-75 median through the project limits. The project will also include operational improvements at the interchanges. The improvements would be constructed on the existing alignment. Right of way will be needed for some of the interchange improvements, stormwater management facilities (ponds for water retention), and floodplain compensation sites. See the concept plan roll plots on the project website for right-of-way acquisition locations.

The Preferred Typical Section includes three 12-foot general use lanes with auxiliary lanes in various locations and 12-foot outside shoulders. Adjacent to the general use lanes, within the median, will be two 12-foot express lanes with a 12-15-foot inside shoulder. The express lanes will be separated from the general use lanes by a four-foot buffer. Refer to Figure 2 for a graphic of this typical section.

The evaluation matrix showing the comparison between the No-Build Alternative and the Preferred Build Alternative is provided on the insert.

## Preferred Build Alternative Typical Section

Figure 2 shows the typical section for the Preferred Build Alternative.



## Right of Way Acquisition Procedure

We understand that when a transportation project proposes the acquisition of private property, you may have questions and concerns. To better educate and inform you about the Right of Way acquisition process and your rights, the FDOT has created real estate acquisition and relocation brochures. These brochures and other education material will be available at the public workshop along with representatives from the FDOT's Right of Way acquisition and relocations departments. Copies of the brochures may also be found on our website at:

[www.dot.state.fl.us/rightofway/documents.shtm](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rightofway/documents.shtm)

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

## How to View the Study Documents

Draft study documents and other pertinent information depicting the project's recommendation will be available for review **January 6, 2022**, to **February 7, 2022** on the project website, as well as in person at the following locations:

<b>Brandon Regional Library</b> 619 Vonderburg Drive Brandon, FL 33511 Telephone: 813-273-3652	<b>Library Hours:</b> Mon-Tues 10am-9pm Wed-Sat 10am-6pm Sun Closed
---	--

<b>Ruskin Branch Library</b> 26 Dickman Drive Ruskin, FL 33570 Telephone: 813-273-3652	<b>Library Hours:</b> Mon-Sat 10am-6pm Sun Closed
---	---

<b>Florida Department of Transportation, District 7</b> 11201 N McKinley Drive Tampa, FL 33612-6456	<b>Business Hours:</b> Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat-Sun Closed
---	---

**Project Website:** [www.fdotd7studies.com/i75](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/i75)



## I-75 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Studies from Moccasin Wallow Road to south of US 301 and south of US 301 to north of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard

Hillsborough & Manatee Counties | WPI Segment Nos.: 419235-2 and 419235-3

### Instructions for attending the public hearing

**Public Hearing Date:** Thursday, January 27, 2022

This public hearing is being offered in person with an option to attend virtually. See instructions below. The same materials will be presented for the in-person and virtual formats.

**Pre-registration is required for the virtual format.** Registration is available online at [www.fdotd7studies.com/i75](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/i75) or from your mobile device, scan the QR Code to the right.

If you have any questions or issues registering, please contact Ashley Henzel, P.E., the FDOT Project Manager at (813) 975-6433, or Amber Russo at (813) 975-6260.



*Use this QR code to register for  
and access the meeting virtually*

#### To Attend the Public Hearing In-Person

In-Person Public Hearing Session will be held at:

**Hilton Garden Inn**

4328 Garden Vista Drive, Riverview, FL 33578

**5:30 p.m. Open House**

**6:30 p.m. Formal Portion/Comment Period**

1. Upon arrival, please sign-in. If you wish to make a formal public comment, please fill out a speaker card and give it to a project team member. You will be called during the formal portion in the order in which the cards are received.
2. During the Open House period starting at 5:30 p.m., a repeating informational presentation will be shown and project displays will be available for review. Team members will be on-site to assist with questions and/or concerns.
3. At 6:30 p.m. the formal public hearing portion will begin.
4. Those who filled out a speaker card will be called upon to make a formal comment.
5. At the conclusion of the formal portion of the hearing and the public comment period, the open house will resume until 7:30 p.m.

#### To Attend the Virtual Public Hearing Session

The Virtual Public Hearing Session will be held through:

**GoToWebinar (login information will be sent after registering)**

**5:30 p.m. Open House**

**6:30 p.m. Formal Portion/Comment Period**

1. Virtual online attendees should use the sign-in link emailed to them after registering.
2. During the Open House period, starting at 5:30 p.m., attendees will be able to view materials online and ask questions to FDOT staff through the GoTo "Questions" box. Team members will be available virtually to assist with questions and/or concerns.
3. At 6:30 p.m. the formal public hearing portion will begin and will be broadcast from the in-person event to those attending virtually.
4. After in-person formal comments have been made, virtual online attendees who pre-registered to make a formal comment will be called upon. After the pre-registered comments have been made, other virtual attendees may use the Raise Hand function of the webinar to be called upon if they choose to make a formal public comment.
5. At the conclusion of the formal portion of the hearing and the public comment period, the open house will resume until 7:30 p.m.

#### There are many ways to provide comments:

- ◆ Submit your comments through the project website on the "Send Us Your Comments Page": [www.fdotd7studies.com/i75](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/i75)
- ◆ Make a verbal statement during the formal portion of the hearing (see above for in-person and virtual options to submit a speaker request)
- ◆ Make a verbal statement directly to the court reporter during the informal portion in a one-on-one setting for those attending the in-person session
- ◆ Complete a comment form and drop it in the comment box in-person or mail comment to the address listed on the back. Please postmark by February 7, 2022

Persons wishing to submit written statements or other exhibits, in place of, or in addition to oral statements, may do so at the hearing or by mailing them to Kirk Bogen, P.E., Environmental Management Engineer, FDOT District Seven, 11201 N. McKinley Drive MS 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612, or provide them on the "Send us your comments" page on the project website at [www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/i75](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/i75).

All comments postmarked on or before February 7, 2022 will become part of the official public hearing record.





# I-75 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Studies from Moccasin Wallow Road to south of US 301 and south of US 301 to north of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard

Hillsborough & Manatee Counties | WPI Segment Nos.: 419235-2 and 419235-3

## Evaluation Matrix

The environmental and socio-cultural impacts of the Preferred Build Alternative for the north and south projects as compared to the No-Build Alternative are shown in the table below.

Evaluation Criteria	419253-2 (south)		419253-3 (north)	
	No-Build	Preferred Build Alternative	No-Build	Preferred Build Alternative
<b>Potential Relocations</b>				
Number of Businesses and Residences	0	0	0	19 businesses 17 residences
<b>Potential Right of Way Impacts<sup>1</sup></b>				
Additional Right of Way for Roadway (acres)	0	0	0	16.3
Additional Right of Way for Ponds (acres)	0	145.0	0	56.7
<b>Potential Environmental Effects</b>				
Archaeological Sites	0	0	0	0
Historic Sites	0	0	0	1 eligible
Section 4(f) Sites	0	0	0	1 potential
Noise Sensitive Sites <sup>2</sup>	0	933	0	983
Wetlands (acres)	0	41.8	0	98.6
Surface Waters (acres)	0	6.9	0	61.9
Floodplains (acre-feet)	0	57.3	0	11.9
Threatened & Endangered Species	0	minimal	0	minimal
Contamination & Hazardous Material Sites	0	14 low 10 medium 5 high	0	110 low 35 medium 0 high
<b>Estimated Costs (in millions)</b>				
Right of Way Acquisition	\$0	\$20 M	\$0	\$83 M
Wetland & Surface Water Mitigation <sup>3</sup>	\$0	\$6 M	\$0	\$21 M
Construction Engineering & Inspection (8%)	\$0	\$43 M	\$0	\$134 M
Design (7%)	\$0	\$38 M	\$0	\$118 M
Construction	\$0	\$537 M	\$0	\$1.7 B
<b>Preliminary Estimate of Total Costs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$644 M</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2.1 B</b>

<sup>1</sup> Right of way for stormwater management facilities, floodplain compensation sites, and interchange ramp improvements

<sup>2</sup> Number of impacted sites based on the Noise Study Report

<sup>3</sup> Wetland mitigation cost is \$125,594 per acre; 2021/22 fiscal year cost from the Environmental Mitigation Payment Processing Handbook (October 2019).