

CASTELLANA REPORTING SERVICES



Transcript of

Date: May 6, 2010
FDOT Public Information Meeting

Reporter: Rachelle Castellana

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
INTERSTATE 75 PUBLIC HEARING
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT STUDIES

NORTHERN STUDY:
FROM SOUTH OF US 301 TO NORTH OF FLETCHER AVENUE
SEGMENT NO: 419235-3, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

SOUTHERN STUDY:
FROM MOCCASIN WALLOW ROAD TO SOUTH OF US 301
SEGMENT NO: 419235-2, HILLSBOROUGH & MANATEE COUNTIES

DATE: Thursday, May 6, 2010

TIME: 5 p.m. To 7 p.m.

PLACE: Florida State Fairgrounds
Florida Center Building
4800 US Highway 301
Tampa, Florida 33610

REPORTED BY: Rachelle I. Castellana, CSR
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public, State of
Florida

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Formal Presentation 3
Certificate of Reporter 14

1 MR. BOGEN: Good Evening. My name is Kirk Bogen
2 and I am the Project Development Engineer for District
3 7 of the Florida Department of Transportation.

4 Welcome to the public hearing for the I-75 Project
5 Development and Environment Studies or PD&E Studies.

6 This public hearing is being held relative to State
7 Project Number: 419235-2 as well as State Project
8 Number: 419235-3. The proposed improvements involve
9 I-75 from Moccasin Wallow Road in Manatee County to
10 north of Fletcher Avenue in Hillsborough County.

11 This hearing is being held to give all interested
12 persons the right to understand the project and
13 comment on their concerns to the Department. Public
14 participation at this hearing is encouraged and
15 solicited without regard to race, color, creed,
16 religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, and
17 family status.

18 This public hearing is being held in accordance
19 with applicable Federal and State laws. Those
20 citations are listed on the board next to the sign-in
21 table. This public hearing was advertised consistent
22 with federal and state requirements and is being
23 conducted consistent with the Americans with
24 Disabilities Act of 1990. This information is also
25 provided in the project brochure.

1 Today is Thursday, May 6th, 2010 and it's
2 approximately 6 p.m. We are assembled at the Florida
3 State Fairgrounds, Florida Center in Tampa, Florida.
4 This is your opportunity to receive information on the
5 project and officially comment on the recommended
6 "Build" Alternative and other documents available here
7 tonight.

8 The recommended "Build" Alternative is based on
9 comprehensive environmental and engineering analyses
10 completed to date, as well as on public comments that
11 have been received. These projects meet the maximum
12 air quality standards established by the United States
13 Environmental Protection Agency or the EPA.

14 In addition, the Department proposes to use
15 properties in the vicinity of the Big Bend Road
16 Interchange protected under Section 4(f) of the U.S.
17 Department of Transportation Act. Based on this the
18 Department is seeking a de Minimus finding from the
19 Federal Highway Administration for the proposed use of
20 these properties.

21 When you arrived this evening you should have
22 received an information packet containing an
23 informational newsletter and a comment form. If you
24 weren't able to sign in or did not receive an
25 information packet, please stop by our sign-in table

1 before leaving this evening. You also should have had
2 the opportunity to view the audiovisual presentation
3 that is continuously running throughout this public
4 hearing.

5 One of the unavoidable consequences on a project
6 such as this is the necessary acquisition of
7 properties and the relocation of families and
8 businesses. On this project, we anticipate the
9 relocation of 62 families and 27 businesses. These
10 relocations are marked on the aerial display board.

11 If you are required to make any type of move as a
12 result of a Department of Transportation project, you
13 can expect to be treated in a fair and helpful manner
14 and in compliance with the Uniform Relocation
15 Assistance Act. You will be contacted by an appraiser
16 who will inspect your property. We encourage you to
17 be present during this inspection and provide
18 information about the value of your property.

19 You also may be eligible for relocation advisory
20 service and payment benefits. If you are being moved
21 or you are unsatisfied with the Department's
22 determination of your eligibility for payment or the
23 amount of that payment, you may appeal that
24 determination. You will be promptly furnished
25 necessary forms and notified of the procedures to be

1 followed in making that appeal.

2 A special word of caution. If you move before
3 you receive notification of the relocation benefits
4 that you might be entitled to, your benefits may be
5 jeopardized.

6 The relocation specialists who are supervising
7 this program are Charlene Padgett and Zenia Gallo.
8 They will be happy to answer your questions and you
9 will -- and will also furnish you with copies of
10 relocation assistance brochures. Charlene and Zenia
11 are standing there. Anyone who is involved in a
12 relocation on this project will know whom they are and
13 who they need to see regarding that issue.

14 Before I continue, I would like to recognize any
15 elected officials or their representatives who are
16 here tonight.

17 Anyone desiring to make a statement or present
18 written views and/or exhibits regarding the location,
19 conceptual design, social, economic, and environmental
20 effects of the improvements will now have an
21 opportunity to do so. If you have completed a
22 speaker's card, please give them to a Department staff
23 member. If you have not received a speaker's card and
24 wish to speak, please raise your hand so that you can
25 receive a card to complete.

1 Written statements and exhibits may be presented
2 in lieu of or in addition to oral statements. All
3 written material received at this public hearing and
4 at the Florida Department of Transportation District 7
5 office located at 11201 North McKinley Drive, Tampa,
6 Florida 33612, postmarked no later than May 17, 2010,
7 will become a part of the public record for this
8 hearing. All written comments should be addressed to
9 Ming Gao. Comments may also be emailed to
10 ming.gao@dot.state.fl.us. That's Ming, M-I-N-G, dot,
11 G-A-O, @dot.state.fl.us.

12 We will now call upon those who have turned in
13 speaker cards. When you come forward, please state
14 your name and address for the record. If you
15 represent an organization, municipality, or other
16 public body, please provide that information as well.

17 We ask that you limit your input to three
18 minutes. If you have additional comments, you may
19 continue with the court reporter after the formal
20 session. Please come to the microphone so that the
21 court reporter will be able to get a complete record
22 of your comments.

23 I have three. The first speaker -- if I
24 mispronounce your name, please forgive me. The first
25 speaker is Howard Hyzen.

1 HOWARD HYZEN
2 9019 SIENNA MOSS LANE
3 RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA 33578
4

5 MR. HYZEN: My name is Howard Hyzen. I live at
6 9019 Sienna Moss Lane, Riverview, Florida 33578. I
7 was wondering if there is a feasible possibility that
8 when all the projects are completed and the toll
9 installations are inserted, is there any possible way
10 that additional funds can be generated by charging a
11 little bit more just trying to reflect a reduction in
12 property taxes for Hillsborough County?

13 MR. BOGEN: Okay. This is not a question-and-
14 answer period. But if you will see me afterwards I
15 will be able to give you some direction on who you can
16 contact.

17 MR. HYZEN: Thank you.

18 MR. BOGEN: Thank you. The next speaker is Carl
19 Pflug.
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1 CARL PFLUG
2 6715 BRIGHTON PARK DRIVE
3 APOLLO BEACH, FLORIDA 33577
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5 MR. PFLUG: Carl Pflug. 6715 Brighton Park
6 Drive, Apollo Beach. I have great displeasure in
7 looking at the displays out front. I realize I was
8 told that it's not part of the study, but I think some
9 consideration should be given to looking into other
10 corridors for traffic over the next 50 years in
11 Florida. The whole highway system we have was
12 developed after World War II and in other areas of the
13 country projects like this have been done to widen to
14 where in New Jersey now we have highways with 16
15 lanes; and we have overlooked the possibility of other
16 avenues, other routes, for example, through the center
17 of the state.

18 I don't know who would have to raise that
19 question, but I thought I would bring it up at this
20 period so it would be an avenue to look at.

21 MR. BOGEN: I will refer you to Mr. Waddah Farah.
22 He may be able to give you some guidance on that. All
23 right. Our third speaker is Tim Wirebjer.

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1 TIM WIREBJER
2 6121 NORTH FALKENBURG ROAD
3 TAMPA, FLORIDA 33610
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5 MR. WIREBJER: I wasn't quite sure if we are
6 allowed -- question and answer or -- it's more of a
7 statement. I was living -- I live at the intersection of
8 I-4 and 75. When 75 came through, our drainage changed.
9 For a couple of years it was for the better. And then
10 that changed. If the roadway gets larger, I'm curious
11 where the extra water will runoff to.

12 We live in a low area. It likes to pocket the water
13 there. I'm just really curious where we will put that
14 extra water if the lanes get wider.

15 MR. BOGEN: I will refer you to George Walton after
16 the formal portion. Can you state your name and address
17 for the court reporter?

18 MR. WIREBJER: My name is Tim Wirebjer. 6121 North
19 Falkenburg Road, Tampa, Florida 33610.

20 MR. BOGEN: Thanks. Next we have Bill Williams.
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1 BILL WILLIAMS
2 11114 KEMPTON VISTA DRIVE
3 RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA 33578
4

5 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Bill Williams. I live at
6 11114 Kempton Vista Drive, Riverview, Florida 33578. I
7 like to speak strongly against the proposed widening of
8 I-75. In a well-documented study by several
9 transportation institutes, among them Texas Transportation
10 Institute, which has been recognized nationally for their
11 expertise on transportation issues.

12 Widening projects such as this have not reduced
13 congestion, but, in fact, according to APTA's Home
14 Planning Guide its No-Build alternative is viable in
15 dealing with some of the congestion. It is my opinion
16 that using the \$2.4 million that would go towards the --
17 would instead go towards building public transportation
18 systems such as the commuter rail between Bradenton and
19 Tampa that's been endorsed by both TBar, HART, and the
20 Hillsborough National Planning Organization, would be a
21 better alternative.

22 The freeway extension would increase traffic and
23 benefit some drivers, perhaps. But a transportation line
24 would benefit drivers by reducing congestion and people
25 who prefer not to drive or because of physical impairments

1 cannot. Thank you.

2 MR. BOGEN: Let me make sure you know that "No-Build"
3 is always a consideration throughout the entire process.

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1 MR. BOGEN: That was my last speaker card. Is
2 there anyone else that would desire to speak? Seeing
3 none, the verbatim transcript of the hearing's oral
4 proceedings will be made a part of the project
5 decision-making process and will be available at the
6 District 7 office for public review upon request
7 within three weeks.

8 Thank you for attending the public hearing and
9 for providing your input in this project; and it is
10 now approximately 6:14. I hereby officially close the
11 formal portion of the public hearing for the I-75 PD&E
12 studies. The Florida Department of Transportation
13 thanks you for attending. Goodnight. Drive safely.

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA :

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH :

I, Rachelle I. Castellana, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing FDOT Public Hearing; and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the outcome of the foregoing action.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2010, IN THE CITY OF TAMPA, COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH, STATE OF FLORIDA.

Rachelle I. Castellana, Certified Reporter