

What is a PD&E Study?

A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is conducted to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. During the study, we determine the location and conceptual design of feasible build alternatives for roadway improvements and their social, economic and environmental effects. A No-Build Alternative, which considers leaving the roadways in their present state with routine maintenance, remains a viable alternative throughout the study. A PD&E study is finalized when the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reviews the documentation and recommendations then provides a Location and Design Concept Acceptance (LDCA).

Five Steps in the Transportation Development Process

Step 1. Long-Range Planning: The FDOT and local governments conduct long-range transportation planning on an ongoing basis to identify and prioritize individual projects.

Step 2. Project Development and Environment Study (PD&E): During this step, design options and their social and environmental effects are examined. (This is the current step for these I-75 projects.)

Step 3. Design: During design, detailed construction plans are prepared.

Step 4. Right-of-Way Acquisition: This phase entails acquisition of necessary right-of-way based on the construction plans.

Step 5. Construction: The roadway is built during this phase.



Title VI Civil Rights Act

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination laws, public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.

For additional information, contact Linda Stachewicz, District Seven Title VI Coordinator at (813) 975-6460 or Linda.stachewicz@dot.state.fl.us.

Para preguntas en Español

Valoramos la opinión del público sobre este proyecto. Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o si simplemente desea mas información en Español, favor ponerse en contacto con el ingeniero a cargo de este proyecto, el señor Manuel Santos, E.I. al teléfono (813) 975-6173 o correo electrónico Manuel.Santos@dot.state.fl.us

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INTERSTATE 75 KICKOFF NEWSLETTER

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT STUDIES



NORTHERN STUDY – FROM SOUTH OF US 301 TO NORTH OF FLETCHER AVENUE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

SOUTHERN STUDY – FROM MOCCASIN WALLOW ROAD IN MANATEE COUNTY TO SOUTH OF US 301 IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is beginning two Project Development and Environment (PD&E) studies to consider proposed improvements on Interstate 75 (I-75) (State Road 93A) in Manatee and Hillsborough counties. A map detailing the limits of both projects is shown on the inside of this newsletter. The northern project (shaded green on the map) extends from north of Fletcher Avenue to south of US 301, a distance of 15.5 miles.

The southern project (shaded purple on the map) extends 25 miles from south of US 301 to Moccasin Wallow Road. I-75 is part of the Florida Intrastate Highway System (FIHS) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). Currently, I-75 generally has six travel lanes (three northbound



and three southbound). I-75 is a major trade and tourism corridor within the Tampa Bay region. Motorists regularly experience traffic congestion along portions of I-75 and traffic is expected to grow into the future. Improvements will be necessary to ensure I-75 operates efficiently and meet regional mobility needs. The improvements will relieve traffic congestion on I-75, improve safety and emergency evacuation, and reduce emergency response time.

The FDOT is conducting these PD&E studies to identify and analyze various alternative design concepts to meet the future traffic needs on I-75. These studies will evaluate the environmental effects of the alternatives. It is anticipated that potential mainline widening improvements will be within the existing right-of-way. Additional right-of-way will likely be needed for stormwater management facilities, floodplain compensation sites, and interchange improvements.

This newsletter announces the "kickoff" for the PD&E studies, informs you about the studies, and explains the process. Future newsletters will announce public meetings, explain project design alternatives and summarize the recommended improvements to I-75. We encourage your questions, comments and participation in the studies.

Activity	2008				2009			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Study Kickoff								
Data Collection								
Develop and Analyze Alternatives								
Alternatives Public Workshop								
Develop Preferred Alternatives								
Public Hearing								
Final Documents and Location and Design Concept Acceptance								

For more information or to comment, please contact:

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Go to www.mytbi.com and click on "Future Projects" then "I-75 PD&E Studies" for more information!

INTERSTATE 75 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDIES



NORTHERN STUDY - FROM SOUTH OF US 301 TO NORTH OF FLETCHER AVENUE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY (FPID NO. 419235-3-22-01)
SOUTHERN STUDY - FROM MOCCASIN WALLOW ROAD IN MANATEE COUNTY TO SOUTH OF US 301 IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY (FPID NO. 419235-2-22-01)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What type of improvements are being considered?

A: The studies will consider both interim and ultimate improvements. Interim improvements could include adding travel lanes to the existing highway as well as interchange improvements. The ultimate improvements could include adding special-use lanes (SUL) such as express lanes to serve regional travelers, lanes for bus rapid transit (BRT) or other transit modes, or high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes. Additional improvements could include interchange modifications or reconfiguration. The improvements to be recommended will be based on engineering and environmental analyses that are currently underway.

Q: How far into the future will the studies consider?

A: Along with the PD&E studies that will consider the need for improvements through year 2035, FDOT will prepare a "vision" for the I-75 corridor. This vision will take a long-range view (as much as 50 years into the future), to help establish goals for the corridor consistent with FDOT's core mission of providing safe and efficient movement of people and goods. The vision will be presented in future project newsletters.

Q: What are the FHHS and SIS?

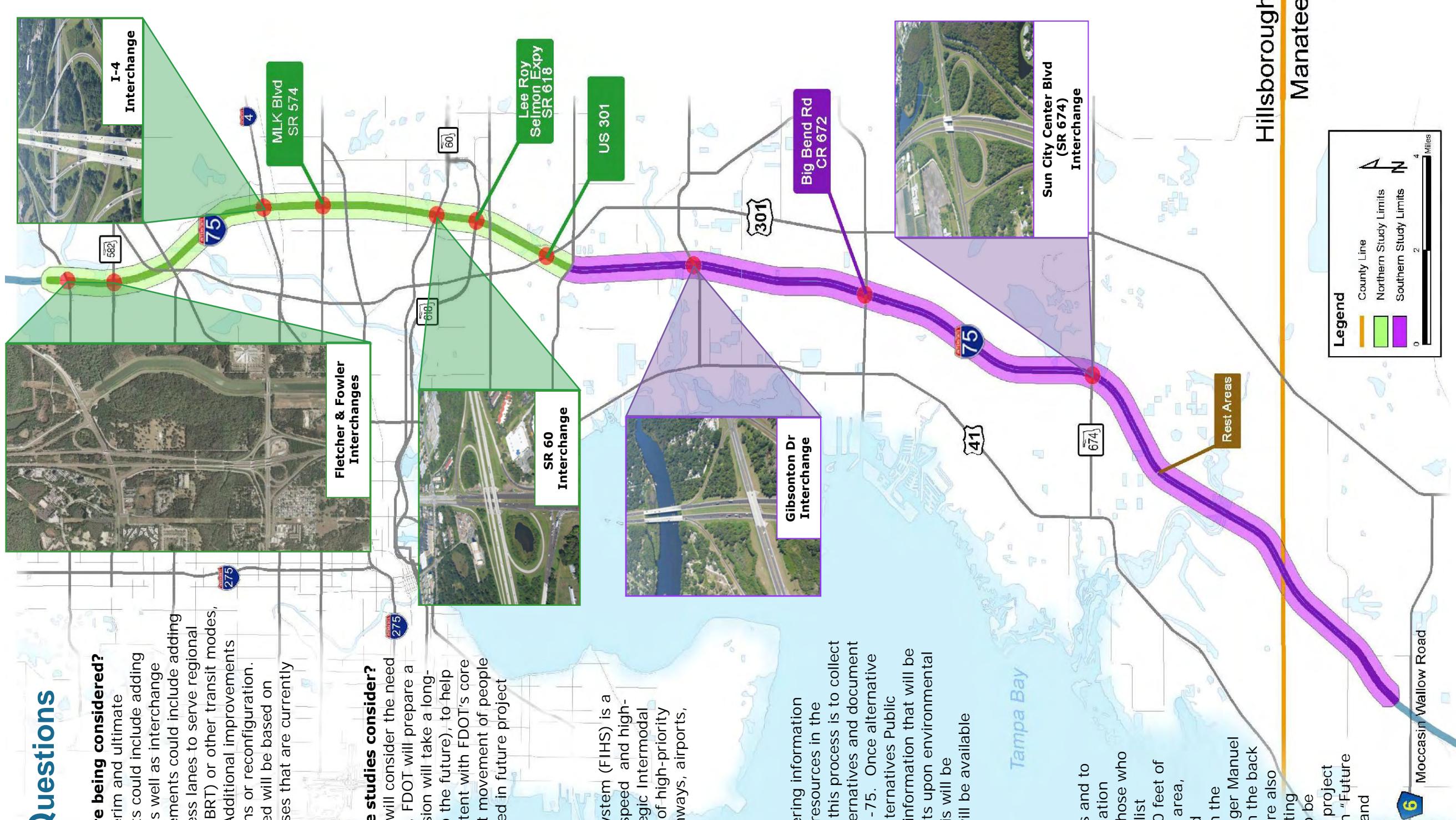
A: The Florida Intrastate Highway System (FHHS) is a statewide highway network for high-speed and high-volume traffic movement. The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) is a statewide network of high-priority transportation facilities including highways, airports, seaports, railroads, and bus stations.

Q: What Happens Next?

A: The study team is currently gathering information on various social and environmental resources in the project study area. The next step in this process is to collect engineering data to create design alternatives and document the recommended improvements to I-75. Once alternative design concepts are developed, an Alternatives Public Workshop will be held to display the information that will be used to determine the potential effects upon environmental resources. The results of this analysis will be summarized in project reports that will be available at the Public Hearing.

Q: How Do I Become Involved?

A: Your questions, comments and participation are very important to us and to the decision making process! Information about these projects will be sent to those who are on the mailing list. The mailing list includes: property owners within 500 feet of the project, civic groups in the study area, elected officials, and government and regulatory agencies. To be placed on the mailing list, contact the Project Manager Manuel Santos. His contact information is on the back of this newsletter. Public meetings are also another way to be involved. All meeting dates, times, and locations are yet to be determined. Future newsletters, the project website (www.mytbi.com) and click on "Future Projects" then "I-75 PD&E Studies") and advertisements in local newspapers will announce public meetings.



Go to www.mytbi.com and click on "Future Projects" then "I-75 PD&E Studies" for more information!