

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Project Name: SR 50 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study
Project Limits: from the Brooksville Bypass/SR 50A/E. Jefferson St. to I-75
County/State: Hernando County, Florida
WPI Segment No.: 430051-1

In accordance with Part 1, Chapter 11 of the *Florida Department of Transportation Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual* this Public Involvement Program is submitted to the District Environmental Management Engineer for review and approval.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

Submitted By:



Jeffrey Novotny, P.E., AICP
Project Manager

American Consulting Engineers of Florida, LLC

Date:

1-4-2017

Approved By:



Kirk Bogen, P.E.
District Environmental Management Engineer

Date:

1/6/17

January 2017



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM
Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

State Road (SR) 50
from the Brooksville Bypass/SR 50A/East Jefferson Street to Interstate 75
Hernando County, Florida

The purpose of this Public Involvement Program (PIP) is to assist in providing information to and obtaining input from concerned citizens, agencies, private groups (residential/business), and governmental entities. The overall goal of this plan is to help ensure that the study reflects the values and needs of the communities it is designed to benefit. A schedule of events and list of documentation exhibiting compliance with all procedures are included.

This program is in compliance with the *Florida Department of Transportation Project Development and Environment Manual, Part 1, Chapter 11*; Section 339.155, F.S., Executive Orders 11990 and 11988, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 771.

I. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

- Project Name:** SR 50 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study
- WPI No.:** 430051-1
- FAP No.:** N/A
- Project Limits:** SR 50 from the Brooksville Bypass/SR 50A/East Jefferson Street to Interstate 75 (I-75) in Hernando County.
- Proposed Activity:** The study will evaluate widening/reconstruction alternatives, roadway improvements, sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit access improvements consistent with local/regional transportation improvement plans and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
- Class of Action:** Categorical Exclusion Type II
- Project Description:** The purpose of this study is to evaluate a multi-lane roadway improvement along SR 50 from the Brooksville Bypass/SR 50A/East Jefferson Street to I-75 in Hernando County in order to accommodate future traffic growth and provide for enhanced emergency response and evacuation times.

Project Location Map



Project Contact Information

For information regarding this study, please contact:

FDOT Project Manager

Lilliam Escalera
Florida Department of Transportation
11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6403
813-975-6445
lilliam.escalera@dot.state.fl.us

Consultant Project Manager

Jeffrey Novotny, PE, AICP
American Consulting Engineers of Florida
2818 Cypress Ridge Boulevard, Suite 200
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544
813-435-2646
inovotny@acp-fl.com

II. PROJECT BACKGROUND

SR 50 is a major east-west arterial that spans central Florida from coast to coast. In Hernando County, SR 50 connects to several regionally significant corridors, including US 19, SR 589 (Suncoast Parkway), US 41, I-75, and US 301. SR 50 is also a hurricane evacuation route, a designated truck route, part of the state's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), and is part of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee's (CCC) Regional Roadway Network.

In order to accommodate projected traffic increases along SR 50, the Department has initiated a study to evaluate alternative capacity and operational improvements from the Brooksville

Bypass/SR 50A/East Jefferson Street to I-75. This portion of SR 50 connects the City of Brooksville to I-75 and has been identified as a sustainable growth area in the county's comprehensive plan.

The study will evaluate the potential effects of widening SR 50 from a four-lane divided arterial to a six-lane divided arterial with operational improvements as well as the effects of incorporating multimodal improvements such as sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and transit accommodations. The length of the study is approximately 8.2 miles. It is anticipated that any improvements would be accommodated within the existing right of way with the exception of potential off-site stormwater management facilities.

III. PROJECT GOALS

The following goals and objectives have been defined for this study:

1. Collect necessary information to support the Department's decision on the type, design, and location of improvements within the study limits.
2. Evaluate alternatives based on factors related to the design and location of the facility including transportation needs, cost estimates, social impacts, economic factors, and environmental effects.
3. Involve and update the public on alternative development and evaluation.
4. Evaluate alternatives and recommend a preferred alternative.
5. Obtain Department and federal approval of the appropriate environmental documents.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF AGENCIES AND CONCERNED PUBLIC

The following federal, state, regional or local agencies and Native American Tribal officials, having a concern in this study due to jurisdictional review or expressed interest, have been identified and will be contacted directly by FDOT through the Advance Notification (AN) process at the outset of the study in accordance with the *Florida Department of Transportation PD&E Manual, Part 1, Chapter 3, Advance Notification*. As other concerned public agencies are identified throughout the study, they will be listed and contacted.

AGENCIES & STAKEHOLDERS

FEDERAL:

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Tampa Regulatory Branch
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation
U.S. Department of Interior - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region IV

STATE:

Florida Department of Agriculture
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FDOT Environmental Management Office
FDOT Office of Freight Logistics and Passenger Operations
Florida State Clearinghouse, FDEP Office of Intergovernmental Programs

REGIONAL:

Southwest Florida Water Management District
Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations Chairs Coordinating Committee
Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council

TRIBAL OFFICIALS:

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

STATE AND LOCAL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS:

U.S. Senators

Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Marco Rubio

U.S. Representatives

Representative Richard Nugent (District 11)

Florida State Senators

Senator Wilton Simpson (District 18)

Florida State Representatives

Representative Blaise Ingoglia (District 35)

Hernando County Board Of County Commissioners

District 1 – Nick Nicholson
District 2 – Wayne Dukes
District 3 – Diane Rowden
District 4 – Jeff Holcomb
District 5 - James Adkins

Hernando County Department of Public Works

(Housed under Transportation Services)

Director of Transportation Services

Brian Malmberg

Engineering Services Manager

Mark Guttman, P.E.

Hernando County Fire Rescue

Chief

Scott Hechler

Hernando County School Board

Chairperson

Beth Narverud

Hernando County Sheriff

Sheriff

Al Nienhuis

City of Brooksville

Mayor

Robert Battista

Vice Mayor

Betty Erhard

Council Member

Joe Bernardini

Council Member

Natalie Kahler

Council Member

William Kemerer

City of Brooksville Public Works

Public Works Director

Richard Radacky

The following local public interest groups, agencies, and organizations having a direct or expressed interest in the study have been identified and will be contacted by the Florida Department of Transportation:

Civic Organizations:

Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce

Hernando County Office of Business Development

Communities/Neighborhoods:

Hill 'n Dale

Spring Lake

Community Services

Hernando County Health and Human Services

Hernando County Veteran Services

MedFleet, Inc.

Mid Florida Community Services

Infrastructure

Duke Energy

Hernando County Division of Transportation Services

Hernando County Utilities Department

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative

Municipalities/Government

Hernando Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization – Dennis Dix (Executive Director)

Recreation

Croom Wildlife Management Area
Kennedy Park

Schools

Eastside Elementary School

Transit/Transportation

Hernando County Aviation Authority
Hernando County School Transportation
McDonald Transit Associates, Inc.
THE Bus (Hernando County MPO)

Worship

Brooksville Wesleyan Church
First Lutheran Church ELCA
Good Samaritan Christian Fellowship
Grace Brethern Church
Hillside Community Baptist Church
Mount Zion AME Church
New Apostolic Church
New Hope Assembly of God

Other organizations and public/special interest groups which may have an interest in the study include the following groups:

- Tampa Bay Builders Association
- Tampa Bay Partnership
- Sierra Club Tampa Bay
- CSX Transportation (CSXT)
- Florida Trucking Association
- AAA Auto Club South

V. IDENTIFICATION OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

The following techniques will be used to notify the public of the proposed transportation improvements and to solicit public input into the project development process.

A. Communities

According to the Sociocultural Data Report (SDR) generated for the project, which uses 2014 American Communities Survey 5-year estimates, the total population within the 1000-foot buffer area is 562 persons. Of the total population, 24% are included in a racial minority or ethnic minority (i.e., Hispanic or Latino of any race) category. Of the Census block groups intersecting the project buffer, three have a minority population greater than 31%, with one having greater than 84% (Table 1). In Hernando County, where the project is located, the countywide minority population percentage is 19%, lower than in the project area.

Table 1: Project Area Demographics Characteristics

Census Tract	Block Group	Total Population	Households	Minority Population ¹	Age 65 And Over Population	Less Than High School Diploma
401.02	1	809	467	24	119	114
402.02	2	1032	825	49	600	138
402.02	3	2932	1160	924	347	371
403.01	1	1720	778	68	350	117
403.03	1	895	525	50	298	112
403.03	2	1333	668	28	308	105
404.00	3	379	175	259	55	53
404.00	4	588	282	498	97	14

Notes:

¹ Calculated by subtracting White alone from the total population

Source: 2014 American Communities Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 2: Project Area Census Block Groups



B. Property Owners and Special Interest Groups

The existing land uses in the project corridor are mostly agricultural, residential, and transportation. The best way to engage these property and business owners will be to notify them by letters/newsletter and invite them to the Public Hearing.

The following Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) members were previously contacted through the ETDM Programming Screen process to solicit agency input and comments on the PD&E process.

Table 2: SR 50 Environmental Technical Advisory Team

Name	Agency	Email
Robin Rhinesmith	Florida Department of Transportation District 7	Robin.rhinesmith@dot.state.fl.us
Martha Hodgson	Florida Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Management	Martha.Hodgson@dot.state.fl.us
Marjorie Kirby	Florida Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Management	Marjorie.Kirby@dot.state.fl.us
Peter McGilvray	Florida Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Management	Peter.McGilvray@dot.state.fl.us
Victor Muchuruza	Florida Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Management	Victor.Muchuruza@dot.state.fl.us
Xavier Pagan	Florida Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Management	Xavier.Pagan@dot.state.fl.us
Erika Thompson	Florida Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Management	Erika.Thompson@dot.state.fl.us
Shereen Yee Fong	Florida Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Management	Shereen.YeeFong@dot.state.fl.us
Khaleda Hatim	Florida Intrastate Highway System FDOT Central Office	Khaleda.Hatim@dot.state.fl.us
Steve Bohl	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Steve.Bohl@freshfromflorida.com
Adam Biblo	Florida Department of Economic Opportunity	Adam.Biblo@deo.myflorida.com
Matt Preston	Florida Department of Economic Opportunity	Matt.Preston@deo.myflorida.com
Suzanne Ray	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Suzanne.E.Ray@dep.state.fl.us
Chris Stahl	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Chris.Stahl@dep.state.fl.us
Jason Aldridge	Florida Department of State	Jason.Aldridge@dos.myflorida.com
Ginny Jones	Florida Department of State	Ginny.Jones@dos.myflorida.com
Daniel McClamon	Florida Department of State	Daniel.McClamon@dos.myflorida.com
Alyssa McManus	Florida Department of State	Alyssa.McManus@dos.myflorida.com
Jennifer Goff	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Jennifer.Goff@myfwc.com
Dennis Dix	Hernando-Citrus County MPO	DennisD@co.hernando.fl.us
Paul Blackhouse	Seminole Tribe of Florida	PaulBlackhouse@semtribe.com

Alison Swing	Seminole Tribe of Florida	AlisonSwing@semtribe.com
Chastity LaRiche	Southwest Florida Water Management District	Chaz.LaRiche@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Monte Ritter	Southwest Florida Water Management District	Monte.Ritter@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Robert Barron	US Army Corps of Engineers	Robert.B.Barron@usace.army.mil
Andrew Kizlauskas	US Army Corps of Engineers	Andrew.A.Kizlauskas@usace.army.mil
Michael Ormella	US Army Corps of Engineers	Michael.Ormella@usace.army.mil
Tarrie Ostrofsky	US Army Corps of Engineers	Tarrie.L.Ostrofsky@usace.army.mil
Randy Turner	US Army Corps of Engineers	Randy.L.Turner@usace.army.mil
Deborah Wegmann	US Army Corps of Engineers	Deborah.L.Wegmann@usace.army.mil
Kim Gates	US Environmental Protection Agency	Gates.Kim@epa.gov
Amanetta Somerville	US Environmental Protection Agency	Somerville.Amanetta@epa.gov
Lourdes Mena	US Fish and Wildlife	Lourdes_Mena@fws.gov

VI. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The following techniques will be used to notify the public of the proposed transportation improvements and to solicit public input into the project development process.

Newspaper Advertisements

Legal/display advertisements will be published in the following newspapers announcing the location, date, and time of the public hearing and any public meeting event:

The Tampa Bay Times
Hernando Times Edition
15365 Cortez Boulevard
Brooksville, FL 34613

Radio Notification

WMNF 88.5 FM
Tampa, FL 33603
<http://www.wmnf.org/>
813-238-8001

WTMP 96.1 FM
5207 Washington Blvd
Tampa, FL 33619

WFLA 970 AM
Tampa, FL 33611

WUSF 89.7 FM
Tampa, FL 33620
<http://www.wusf.usf.edu/>
813-974-8700

WDUV 105.5 FM
11300 4th Street N., Suite 300
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

WLCC – AM 790
Tampa, FL 33607

Television Notification

Channel 8
WFLA, NBC
200 S. Parker Street
Tampa, FL 33606

Bay News 9
Hernando Bureau
15365 Cortez Boulevard
Brooksville, FL 34613

Local Channel 622
HCGB – Government Broadcasting
20 North Main Street, Room 163
Brooksville, FL 34601

Channel 13
WTVT, Fox
3213 W. Kennedy Boulevard.
Tampa, FL 33609

In addition to working with the media, a number of different notification techniques will be used throughout the study process. These techniques include:

Letters/Newsletters:

Invitational and informational letters and newsletter will be distributed to elected and appointed officials, property owner/tenants, business owners/operators, and interested parties as feasible. It is anticipated that three (3) newsletters will be distributed for this study: a study kick-off newsletter, a public hearing newsletter, and an LDCA acceptance newsletter. A fourth newsletter for an optional Alternatives Public Workshop will be developed and distributed at the discretion of FDOT.

Press Releases:

If required, press releases will be submitted to the FDOT seven (7) days prior to each public meeting/hearing.

Public Notices/Legal Ads:

Public advertisement will consist of a legal classified ad published in the area newspaper with the largest circulation twice prior to the public meeting/hearing, and once to announce federal Location and Design Concept Acceptance (LDCA) at the end of the study.

Public Announcements:

Information fliers will be made available to organizations such as neighborhood/civic groups, the FDOT, and Hernando County, to publish in existing newsletters and websites. Any such correspondence will be coordinated through the District's Public Information office (PIO).

Direct Mail List:

The following will be contacted by direct mail in order to obtain input throughout the study process and in order to provide study information. These groups will be notified 21 days in advance of public meetings, therefore notifications will be sent out 25 days prior to the meeting.

- Those whose property lies, in whole or in part within 300 feet on either side of the centerline for each alternative alignment as required by Section 399.155 F.S., as well as other local citizens who may be effected by the construction of this project. The property owner portion of the mailing list will be based on the county property appraiser's tax rolls.

- Local elected and appointed officials, community leaders, or individuals who have requested to be placed on the study mailing list.
- Public or private groups, organizations, agencies or businesses that have been identified or have requested to be placed on the study mailing list.

Presentations: Presentations will be given to local officials and agencies such as the Hernando Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) prior to public information meetings and the public hearing to apprise local officials of the study status. Specific location and design concepts, and receive their comments.

Public Meetings: One informal public workshop will be conducted as required by the FDOT, to present the study and the conceptual alternatives being considered and to obtain comments and input from community stakeholders and the general public.

Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held as required by federal regulations and state law.

Informal/Unscheduled Meetings: In addition to the scheduled public meeting(s), there may be additional meetings with the public, elected officials, public agencies or civic groups. The purpose of these meetings will be to apprise the attendees of the study status, specific location and design concepts, and to receive input.

Project Website: All pertinent study information, including maps, handouts, meeting materials, and documents will be posted on the FDOT District Seven PD&E study information website: www.fdotd7studies.com.

Public Outreach Activity Schedule (Tentative*):

Year ->	2014				2015				2016				2017					
	Month No. ->	SPR	SMR	FALL	WIN	SPR	SMR	FALL	WIN	SPR	SMR	FALL	WIN	SPR	SMR	FALL	WIN	
Complie Mailing List																		
Newsletter #1 - Kick off																		
Newsletter #4 – Alt. Workshop (optional)																		
Alternatives Workshop (optional)																		
Informal Group Meetings																		
Newsletter #2 - Hearing																		
Public Hearing																		
Newsletter #3 – LDCA Notification																		
LDCA Approval Ad																		

* The most up-to-date schedule for these outreach activities will be included in the updated schedule included with the monthly progress report.

VIII. COORDINATION WITH HERNANDO COUNTY

The following agency and public information meetings will be held to involve the public and interested agencies in the PD&E study process and to inform interested parties of the project's status.

Coordination Meetings with Local Officials

As noted in **Section V**, a kickoff letter or informative newsletter will be mailed to local, state, and federal elected officials and agencies to provide them with information about the project and to solicit their comments and support.

Meetings will be held throughout the study when deemed appropriate by the department to inform local officials of the project status, the recommended alternative concepts, and to receive their comments. Coordination will be accomplished by presentation upon request to Hernando County Board of County Commissioners, Hernando County Department of Public Works, Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce, Hernando County Office of Business Development, and Hernando Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Unscheduled Meetings and Presentations

The FDOT and their representative (if required) will be available with proper notice to attend meetings or make presentations. Such meetings and presentations may be held at any hour between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm on any weekday. Aerial maps, press releases, advertisements, audio/visual displays, and other materials may be used for these meetings.

Coordination and Adjacent Projects

Efforts will be made to coordinate with any ongoing projects adjacent to the study limits.

IX. ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A *SR 50 PD&E Study Comment and Coordination Report* will be developed to summarize the public meeting/workshop results and recommendations. The report will also contain the overall input provided through the other public involvements techniques utilized in the study development process. The report will be forwarded to the District Environmental Management Engineer.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

In compliance with the *Florida Department of Transportation Project Development and Environment Manual*, 23 CFR 771 and Section 339.155, F.S., a formal public hearing will be held.

Potential Hearing Sites:

The public hearing will be held at an appropriate facility convenient to the study area and ADA accessible. Depending on the study schedule and facility availability, the public hearing may be held at one of the following locations:

Brooksville Wesleyan Church

22319 Cortez Boulevard (SR 50)

Brooksville, FL 34613 (near the western limit)

Wesleyan Village – Nicholson Community Center
8210 Wesley Drive
Brooksville, FL 34613

Public Advertisement:

A legal classified ad will appear in the *Tampa Bay Times* twice: the first will be published at least 21 days and no more than 30 days prior to the public hearing and the second will be published at least 7 days but no more than 15 days prior to the public hearing.

The Tampa Bay Times
Hernando Times Edition
15365 Cortez Boulevard
Brooksville, FL 34613

All advertisements will be sent to the local newspaper via email or registered mail, return receipt requested.

In addition, a public hearing announcement will be published in the *Florida Administrative Register* at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing.

Letters of Invitation:

Invitations will be mailed to all property owners whose property lies, in whole or part, within at least 300 feet of the centerline of each study alternative as required by Section 339.155, F.S. and to local elected and appointed officials notifying them of the upcoming public hearing. Notices may also be hand delivered to residences and businesses/tenants located along the study corridor as deemed necessary by FDOT.

Hearing Preparation:

Slide presentations, aerial maps, graphics, and handouts will be prepared to supplement the verbal public hearing presentation.

Transcript:

A verbatim transcript of the public hearing will be compiled and will include written and verbal comments received at the hearing as well as written comments received within the established comment period after the hearing. All public hearing documentation (handouts, presentations, graphics, etc.) will be included with the public hearing scrapbook.

**Documents for
Public Review:**

Environmental and engineering reports to support the study evaluation will be available for public review at least 21 calendar days prior to and 10 days following the public hearing date.

**Locations of
Review Documents:**

Public notice will be provided in the public hearing advertisement and via mailed invitational letters as to where the study documents are located for public review.

Documents to be provided include the *SR 50 PD&E Study Project Development Summary Report* and any documents that provide documentation for the alternatives analysis.

Recommended review sites are:

FDOT District Seven Headquarters
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

Brooksville Library – Main Branch
238 Howell Avenue
Brooksville, FL 34613

**Title VI and
Related Statutes:**

Notification will be provided in the presentation, the handout, signage, and through availability of personnel. Per FDOT guidance dated March 21, 2013, the following public participation language will be used:

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 American with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Christopher Speese, Public Involvement Coordinator, at 813-975-6405 or (800) 226-7220 at least seven (7) working days in advance of the hearing.

Assistance for Spanish-speaking attendees. Spanish language assistance will be provided in the study handouts and applicable websites throughout the duration of the study. The following language will be used:

Comuniquese Con Nosotros

Nos importa mucho la opinión del público sobre el proyecto. Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información, por favor comuniquese con nuestra representante, Lilliam Escalera, 813-975-6403, Departamento de Transportación de Florida, 11201 N. McKinley Dr., Tampa, FL 33612, lilliam.escalera@dot.state.fl.us

**Americans with Disabilities
Act Compliance:**

Notification of the Department's intent to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be provided in the advertisements for the public hearing, in invitational letters to property owners/tenants and local officials, in handouts and through the selection of a hearing location that meets current ADA requirements.

XI. PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOW-UP

The following procedures will occur after the public hearing.

- Responses:** Responses to letters requiring a response received as a result of the hearing and questions and comments not answered at the public hearing will be made in writing.
- Recommendation Notice:** A legal notice announcing the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) approval of the final environmental document and recommendations will be published in the *Tampa Bay Times*. In addition, news items detailing the Department's recommendations to FHWA will be provided to local media.
- Public Hearing Transcript Package:** A transcript package will be produced and submitted following the public hearing. The transcript package will include a verbatim hearing transcript prepared by an approved court reporter, an errata sheet detailing any transcript discrepancies, a copy of all correspondence received by the Department as part of the public hearing record, and affidavits of publication for newspaper ads advertising the hearing.
- Comments and Coordination Report:** A *SR 50 PD&E Study Comment and Coordination Report* will be produced and submitted at the conclusion of the study containing all documentation regarding public participation throughout the study period. This report shall include all comments and responses received from the public as well as Advance Notification, coordination with local officials and agencies, and public meetings, etc., the verbatim transcript from the public hearing, proof of publication, sign-in sheets, public hearing certification, and all public correspondence.
- Public Hearing Scrapbook:** A scrapbook containing 11x17 reproductions of the public hearing display boards, concept plans, presentation materials, brochures, and sign-in sheets will be prepared. The scrapbook will contain information such as the total number of attendees; the alternatives that were shown; and a list of all reports that were displayed. The scrapbook cover page will include a study description, FDOT Work Program Item Segment Number (WPI Seg. No.), Federal Aid Project Number (FAP No.) if applicable, county; a study location map and the date, time, and location of the hearing. A CD containing the electronic files in .pdf format will also be included.
- Study Team Debriefing:** A debriefing will be held with the study team approximately two to three weeks after the hearing (based on FDOT staff availability) to identify, review, and discuss comments and issues expressed by the public at the hearing. Questions and comments received from the public, but not answered at the hearing, will be addressed as necessary. If written response is required, the FDOT and/or their representatives will prepare

letters of response. A copy of all responses will be included in the study files and incorporated in the *SR 50 PD&E Study Comments and Coordination Report*.

XII. EVALUATION OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

A public involvement evaluation process will be developed to assess the effectiveness of the public involvement efforts utilized throughout the study. This process will include identification of the public involvement tools, establishment of performance measures, performance evaluations and identification of improvement strategies.

XIII. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING DESIGN

It is anticipated that the Design Project Manager will maintain the appropriate level of public involvement activities throughout the final design process. These public involvement activities may include additional coordination meetings with local government and environmental permitting agencies, work sessions, and small group meetings as directed by FDOT.