

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Project Name: US 301 (SR 41)
Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

Project Limits: from Fowler Avenue to SR 56

County/State: Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida

Work Program Item (WPI)

Segment No: 255796-1

Federal Project No.: N/A

County Section No.: N/A

In accordance with Part 1, Chapter 11 of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) PD&E Manual, this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is submitted to the department for review and approval.

Submitted by: DocuSigned by: Jeffrey Jacquin Date: 03/01/2023 | 3:41 PM EST
50EF336E8220437...
Jeffrey Jacquin, PE, Project Manager
AIM Engineering and Surveying, Inc.

Approved by: DocuSigned by: Kirk Bogen Date: 03/02/2023 | 7:46 AM EST
AAD882EAC4D7401
Kirk Bogen, PE
District Seven Environmental Management Engineer

November 2015
Updated: February 2023

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN
Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study
US 301 (SR 41) from Fowler Avenue to SR 56
Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida

The purpose of this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to assist in providing information and obtain input from concerned citizens, agencies, private groups (residential/business), and governmental entities regarding the US 301 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. 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. The PIP outlines the various methods the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will utilize to meet these goals. This PIP will be updated throughout the project as project development progresses. A schedule of events and list of interested parties, officials and agencies will be included.

This PIP is in compliance with the FDOT PD&E Manual, Part 1, Chapter 11; Section 339.155, Florida Statutes; Executive Orders 11990 and 11988, Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 771; the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and the Civil Rights act of 1964 and 1968, under Titles VI and VIII of the United States Civil Rights Act.

I. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

Project Name: US 301 PD&E Study

**Work Program
Item Segment No.:** 255796-1

Project Limits: The study limits for the proposed project are along US 301 from Fowler Avenue in Hillsborough County to SR 56 in Pasco County. The Project Location Map is shown in **Figure 1**.

Proposed Activity: To conduct a PD&E study that evaluates capacity and operational improvements for US 301 within the project limits, a distance of approximately 13.8 miles.

Class of Action: State Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)

Project Contact:	<p>Amber Russo, P.E. FDOT Project Manager Florida Department of Transportation 11201 N. McKinley Drive MS7-500 Tampa, FL 33612 (813) 975-6260 Amber.Russo@dot.state.fl.us</p>	<p>Kris Carson Public Information Officer Florida Department of Transportation 11201 N. McKinley Drive MS7-110 Tampa, FL 33612 (813) 975-6060 Kristen.Carson@dot.state.fl.us</p>
-------------------------	--	---

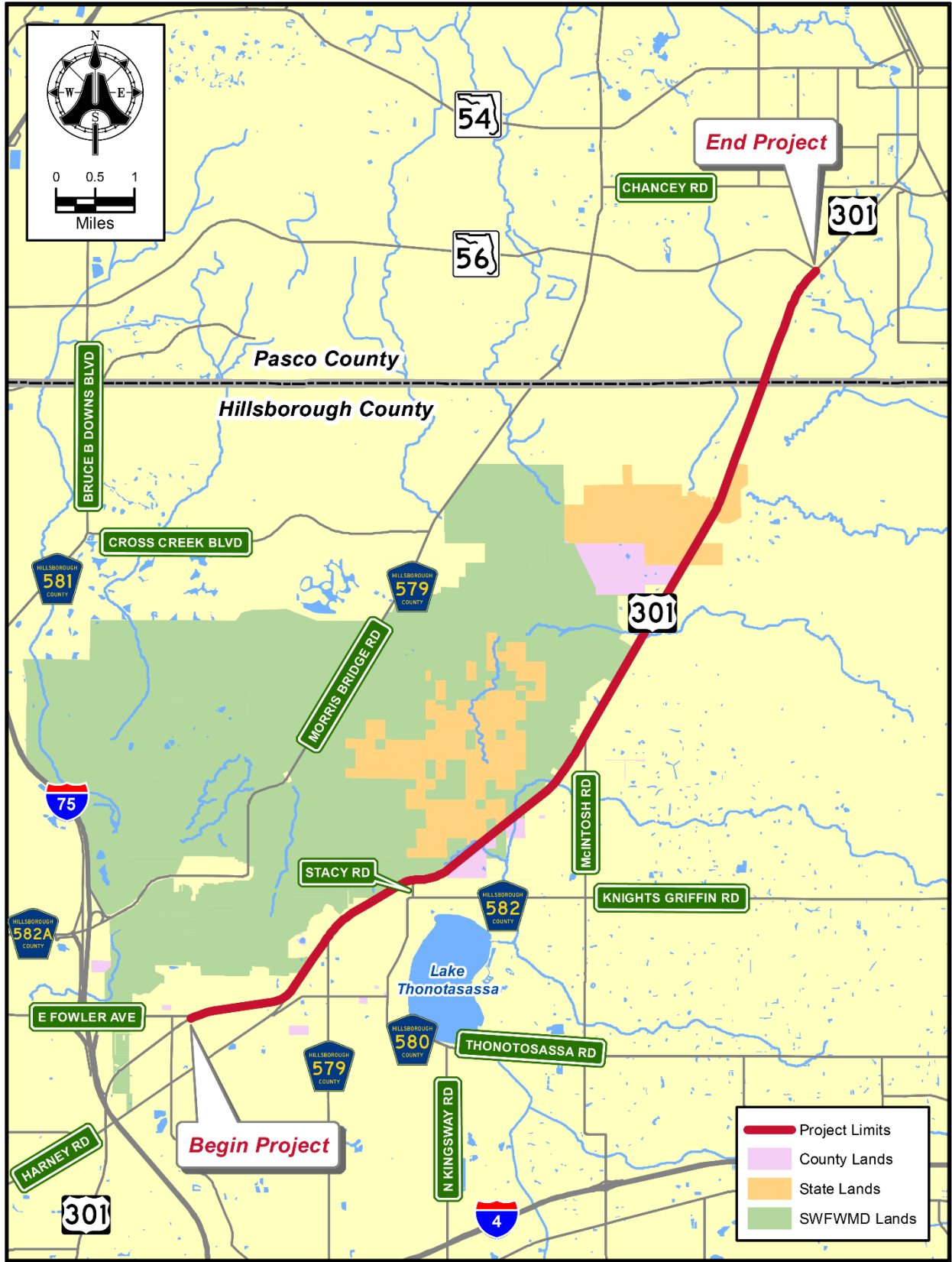


Figure 1: Project Location Map

II. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The purpose of this project is to relieve congestion on this segment of US 301 in unincorporated Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. US 301 is a major north-south principal arterial that parallels I-75 for much of the state. Within the study limits, US 301 connects the City of Tampa with the City of Zephyrhills. It is designated as an evacuation route by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

The project begins at Fowler Avenue (SR 582) in Hillsborough County and extends north to SR 56 in Pasco County, a distance of approximately 13.8 miles. Within the project limits, US 301 is a two-lane undivided rural roadway with 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, with posted speed limits of 55 and 60 mph. The existing right-of-way varies from 100 feet to 230 feet throughout the project corridor. Stormwater runoff is conveyed in roadside ditches. There are 5 bridges and 33 cross drains located within the study limits.

III. PROJECT GOALS

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

- Collect necessary information to support FDOT's decision on the type, design and location of improvements within the US 301 project limits.
- 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.
- Involve and update the public on alternative development and evaluation.
- Evaluate alternatives and recommend a preferred alternative.
- Obtain FDOT approval of the SEIR.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

The following federal, state, regional, and local agencies and Native American tribal officials have been identified with a possible involvement with this project due to jurisdictional review or expressed interest. These agencies have been contacted directly by the FDOT through the Advance Notification (AN) process at the outset of the project, in accordance with Part 1, Chapter 3 of the PD&E Manual or through the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process. The ETDM process uses an Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) as a formal review committee. The Programming Screen Summary Report documents this screening coordination. As other concerned public agencies are identified throughout the study, they will also be listed and contacted.

Federal

US Department of Transportation – Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 US Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) – Tampa Regulatory Branch, District Commander
 US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service

US Department of Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs
US Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office
US Department of Interior – National Park Service (NPS) – Southeast Regional Office
US Department of Interior – NPS – National register of Historic Places (NRHP)
US Department of Interior – US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Regional Environmental Officer

State

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
Florida Department of Agriculture – Division of Forestry Florida
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Southwest District
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO)
Florida Transportation Commission

Regional

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)
Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)

Local

Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)
Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission
Hillsborough County Economic Development Department
Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management
Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART)
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Hillsborough County Fire Rescue
Hillsborough County Schools
Pasco Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Pasco County Planning and Development Department
Pasco County Sheriff's Office
Pasco County Fire Rescue
Pasco County Schools
City of Temple Terrace Community Development Department
City of Temple Terrace Public Works Department
City of Temple Terrace Police Department
City of Temple Terrace Fire Rescue

Native American Tribes

Seminole Tribe of Florida, Chairman
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Chairman
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Land Resource Manager
Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Principal Chief

Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Historic Preservation Manager
 Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Chief
 Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (Do not contact or send letters)

Name	Title	Agency
Federal Officials		
Rick Scott	Senator	US Senate
Marco Rubio	Senator	US Senate
Laurel Lee	Representative, District 15	US House of Representatives
State Officials		
Danny Burgess, JR.	Senator, District 23	Florida State Senate
Randall Maggard	Representative, District 54	Florida House of Representatives
Fentrice Driskell	Representative, District 67	Florida House of Representatives
Lawrence McClure	Representative, District 68	Florida House of Representatives
Hillsborough County Officials and Agencies		
Harry Cohen	Commissioner, District 1	Board of County Commissioners
Ken Hagan	Chair, Commissioner, District 2	Board of County Commissioners
Gwen Myers	Vice Chair, Commissioner, District 3	Board of County Commissioners
Michael Owen	Commissioner, District 4	Board of County Commissioners
Donna Cameron Cepeda	Commissioner, District 5	Board of County Commissioners
Pat Kemp	Commissioner, District 6	Board of County Commissioners
Joshua Wostal	Commissioner, District 7	Board of County Commissioners
Bonnie Wise	County Administrator	Hillsborough County
Cindy Stuart	Clerk of Circuit Court	Hillsborough County
Craig Latimer	Supervisor of Elections	Hillsborough County
Bob Henriquez	Property Appraiser	Hillsborough County
Nancy Millan	Tax Collector	Hillsborough County
Chad Chronister	Sheriff	Hillsborough County
James Hudock	Public Works Director	Hillsborough County
Josh Bellotti	Engineering & Environmental Director	Hillsborough County
George Cassady	Public Utilities Department Director	Hillsborough County
Timothy Dudley, Jr.	Emergency Management Division Director	Hillsborough County
Dennis Jones	Fire Rescue Chief	Hillsborough County
John Patrick	Community & Infrastructure Planning Director	Hillsborough County
Adam Gormly	Development Services Director	Hillsborough County
Jaksa Petrovic	Economic Development Director	Hillsborough County

Forest Turbiville	Conservation and Environmental Lands Director	Hillsborough County
Rick Valdez	Parks and Recreation Director	Hillsborough County
Janet Lorton	Executive Director	Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Agency
Jessica Vaughn	Board Member, District 3	Hillsborough County Public Schools
Henry Washington	Board Member, District 5	Hillsborough County Public Schools
Addison Davis	Superintendent	Hillsborough County Public Schools
Pasco County Officials and Agencies		
Ron Oakley	Commissioner, District 1	Board of County Commissioners
Seth Weightman	Commissioner, District 2	Board of County Commissioners
Kathryn Starkey	Commissioner, District 3	Board of County Commissioners
Gary Bradford	Commissioner, District 4	Board of County Commissioners
Jack Mariano	Commissioner, District 5	Board of County Commissioners
Mike Carballa	County Administrator	Pasco County
Nikki Alvares-Sowles	Clerk & Comptroller	Pasco County
Brian Corley	Supervisor of Elections	Pasco County
Mike Wells	Property Appraiser	Pasco County
Mike Fasano	Tax Collector	Pasco County
Chris Nocco	Sheriff	Pasco County
Branford Adumuah	Public Works Director	Pasco County
Nectarios Pittos	Planning & Development Administrator	Pasco County
Sally Sherman	Assistant County Administrator, Utilities	Pasco County
Andrew Fossa	Emergency Management Director	Pasco County
Scott Cassin	Fire Chief	Pasco County
Al Hernandez	Board Member, District 1	Pasco County Schools
Kurt Browning	Superintendent	Pasco County Schools
City of Temple Terrace Officials and Agencies		
Andy Ross	Mayor	City of Temple Terrace
Gil Schisler	Vice Mayor	City of Temple Terrace
James Chambers	Councilmember	City of Temple Terrace
Alison Fernandez	Councilmember	City of Temple Terrace
Meredith Abel	Councilmember	City of Temple Terrace
Carlos Baía	City Manager	City of Temple Terrace
Cheryl Mooney	City Clerk	City of Temple Terrace
Mike Sherman	Community Development Director	City of Temple Terrace
Michael Hall	City Engineer	City of Temple Terrace
Ian Kemp	Fire Chief	City of Temple Terrace

V. IDENTIFICATION OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

The success of any transportation improvement is dependent upon a successful public outreach effort. Therefore, the FDOT is committed to conducting a proactive PIP that focuses on soliciting community interaction throughout the project development process. It is believed that the positive value of implementing a strong PIP will result in public awareness of and support for the project.

The project is located within unincorporated sections of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. The communities of Temple Terrace and Thonotosassa are within the study area. **Table 1** shows the 2010 Census data obtained from the United States Census Bureau. A map showing the census tracts surrounding the study limits is shown in **Figure 2**.

Table 1: Project Census Data

2010 Census Tract	Population	Number of Households	Minority* Population	Median Age	Population 65 & Over
101.03	4661	1549	1105	41.3	582
102.03	1977	826	812	36.5	187
102.13	1966	748	689	43.6	284
102.14	267	120	49	49.2	60
103.03	2969	1179	705	40.2	480
103.04	3817	1367	1061	42.3	540
9804.00	107	40	24	42.5	18
329.04	2560	920	438	57.8	963
330.14	3270	1587	282	61.8	1427
Total	21,594	8336	5165		4541

* Minority groups include African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Other, and Two or More Races.



Hillsborough County
Census Tracts



Pasco County Census
Tracts



Figure 2: Project Census Tracts (2010)

Minority groups with the highest percentages within the project limits include Hispanic (12.7% in Hillsborough County, 5% in Pasco County) and African American (8.4% in Hillsborough County, 4.7% in Pasco County). Project newsletters will be made available in Spanish upon request. All efforts will be made to notify any Spanish-speaking interest groups and residents within the project area.

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

- Florida Native Plant Society, Suncoast Chapter
- Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay
- Hillsborough County Hispanic Affairs
- Hillsborough River State Park/Fort Foster State Park
- Keep Pasco Beautiful
- Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful
- Ranch Oaks Village Mobile Home Park
- River Palm RV Resort
- Sierra Club, Tampa Bay Group
- Spanish Main RV Resort
- Tampa Audubon Society

- Tampa Bay Conservancy
- Tampa Machinery Auction
- Two Rivers Ranch
- Zephyrhills Correctional Institute
- Zephyrhills Festival & Auction

VI. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Various techniques will be used to notify the public of the proposed transportation improvements and to facilitate an early and continuous exchange of ideas and information with the community. Mass media used to carry public notices, news releases, public service announcements, news items and interviews are listed under their appropriate categories as follows:

A. Newspaper Advertisements

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

Two legal/display advertisements announcing the public hearing will be published at least 21 days but no more than 30 days prior to the hearing and again at least seven days but no more than 12 days before the hearing. A notice will also be electronically submitted for publishing in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR) at least 7 days prior to the public hearing. The FDOT's consultant will submit the FAR ad online, after registering with the Department of State's e-rulemaking website. A chronological file of pertinent newspaper clippings will be maintained in the project files.

B. News Releases to Local Media

News releases will be prepared by the consultant. The following media outlets will receive news releases about the project.

Newspapers	
<p>Tampa Bay Times 490 First Avenue South St Petersburg, FL 33701 (727) 893-8111 dalmeida@tampabay.com</p>	<p>La Gaceta 3210 E 7th Ave Tampa, FL 33605 (813) 259-8133</p>
<p>The Florida Sentinel 2207 21st Avenue Tampa, FL 33605 (813) 248-1921 ledwards@flsentinel.com</p>	

Radio	
<p>WMNF – FM 88.5 Tampa, FL http://www.wmnf.org (813) 238-8001</p>	<p>WUSF – FM 89.7 Tampa, FL http://www.wusf.usf.edu (813) 974-8700</p>
<p>WFLA – AM 970 Tampa, FL http://www.970wfla.com/main.html (813) 832-1000</p>	<p>WQBN – AM 1300 Temple Terrace, FL wqbnradio@gmail.com (813) 272-1333</p>
<p>WTMP – FM 96.1 Dade City, FL lbriseno@wtmp.com (813) 259-6867</p>	
Television	
<p>Channel 28 WFTS, ABC 4045 N. Himes Avenue Tampa, FL 33607 (877) 833-2828 newstips@wfts.com</p>	<p>Channel 10 WTSP, CBS 11450 Gandy Blvd. St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (727) 577-1010 desk@tampabays10.com</p>
<p>Channel 8 WFLA, NBC 200 S. Parker Street Tampa, FL 33606 (813) 228-8888 news@wfla.com</p>	<p>Bay News 9 700 Carillon Parkway, Suite 9 St Petersburg, FL 33716 (727) 329-2400 desk@baynews9.com</p>
<p>Univision 62 WVEA Tampa (Spanish) 2610 W. Hillsborough Avenue Tampa, FL 33614 (813) 872-6262 noticiatampa@entravision.com</p>	<p>Channel 13 WTVT, Fox 3213 W. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 876-1313 news@wtvt.com</p>
<p>Tampa Bay Community Network Channels 19 & 20 1001 North B Street Tampa, FL 33606 (813) 254-1687</p>	<p>Channel 22 HTV 28th Floor County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33602 (813) 272-6699 www.hillsboroughcounty.org/htv</p>

<p align="center">Telemundo Channel 49 WRMD 402 N. Reo St. #218 Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 319-5757 www.telemundo.com</p>	<p align="center">Pasco Government Television 8731 Citizens Drive, Suite 340 New Port Richey, FL 34654 (727) 847-2411</p>
<p align="center">Channel 44 WTOG, CW 365-105th Terrace NE St. Petersburg, FL 33716 (727) 576-4444</p>	<p align="center">Channel 34 WUSF, PBS 4202 E. Fowler Ave., TVB 100 Tampa, FL 33620 (813) 974-8700 news@wusf.org</p>

C. Newsletters

Four newsletters will be developed and distributed for this project.

- Newsletter One – Project Kickoff Notification
- Newsletter Two – Public Hearing Notification
- Newsletter Three – Second Public Hearing Notification
- Newsletter Four – SEIR approval by the Department

D. Invitational and Informational Newsletters

A mailing list will be established, and the following groups will be contacted to obtain input into the PD&E process and/or provide project information and introduce opportunities for public comment:

- 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 Florida Statute (Section 399.155, FS). The property owner list will be compiled from the Property Appraiser's office utilizing a Geographic Information System (GIS) database containing current tax maps and ownership records. For the public hearing, notification must be received at least 21 days prior to the date of the hearing.
- Elected and appointed officials in the area (city, county, state, federal) and community leaders who have been identified, or have requested to be put on the mailing list.
- Permitting agencies and other federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction within the project vicinity that have been identified and placed on the mailing list of officials, agencies, and interested parties.
- Public and private groups, organizations, agencies, businesses or individuals that request to be placed on the mailing list for this project.
- Media in the project area that have been identified and placed on the mailing list to be used for news release/distribution, advertisements, or any other concerns.

These groups will be notified 21 days in advance of public meetings; therefore, hard copy notifications will be sent out 25 days prior to the public meetings.

E. Limited Proficiency Guidelines / Language Considerations

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, all reasonable steps will be taken to assure that Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons receive the language assistance necessary to afford them meaningful access to programs and services. Upon request, methods will be provided to make arrangements for an appropriate interpreter and translation services free of charge.

As noted, this project is situated in a location where a recognized component of the population is Spanish-speaking. To facilitate communications with this specific group, a targeted approach has been designed to include:

- The department and/or consultant will provide Spanish-speaking representatives at the public hearing to facilitate translation; and
- Advertising the public hearing in a local Spanish newspaper.

Notation will be made in the project newsletters to indicate that Spanish language versions of the newsletter will be made available upon request. Also, Spanish-speaking groups in the community may request multiple copies of newsletters for distribution.

Involving the minority and migrant population within the study area will be accomplished by providing project information to the local agencies that serve these groups and by conducting small group meetings upon request. Project information will be provided to the following agencies and individuals:

- Hillsborough County Hispanic Affairs
 - Tony Morejon, Hispanic Affairs Liaison
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay
 - Ileana Martin, President

F. District Seven Project Information Website

All pertinent project information will be posted on the FDOT District Seven Project Information Website <https://active.fdotd7studies.com/us301/fowler-to-sr56/>.

G. Public Outreach Activity Schedule

PD&E Study Milestones	
Begin PD&E Study	May 2015
Project on Hold	2017 - 2019
Data Collection	Completed August 2021
Preparation of Documents	Ongoing
First Public Hearing	March 24, 2022
Second Public Hearing	Anticipated June, 2023
PD&E Study Approval	Fall 2023

VII. COORDINATION WITH HILLSBOROUGH AND PASCO COUNTIES

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.

A. Coordination Meetings with Local Officials

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 presentations upon request to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Hillsborough County TPO. Presentations will also be made upon request to the Pasco County BOCC and the Pasco County MPO. Presentation materials may include a fact sheet, PowerPoint presentation, and comment forms.

B. Unscheduled Meetings and Presentations

The FDOT and their representatives (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.

C. Coordination and Adjacent Projects

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

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

In compliance with the *PD&E Manual*, 23 CFR 771, and Section 339.155, FS, a public hearing was held on March 24, 2022, as part of the PD&E study. The public hearing was held to involve the public and interested parties in the PD&E process, to inform them of the project's preferred alternative, and to solicit comments for the official project record. Following the first public hearing, it was decided that further analysis of the project area was to be conducted and a second public hearing will be held to provide new information to the public.

A. Public Hearing Site

The second public hearing will be held at the following location in Hillsborough County:

FDOT District 7 Headquarters
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 975-6000

B. Public Advertisements

A legal classified ad will appear in the Tampa Bay Times, La Gaceta and the Florida Sentinel 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 12 days prior to the public hearing.

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. It will also be posted on the FDOT PIO website at least seven (7) days prior to the public hearing.

C. Letters of Invitation

Newsletters and/or notification letters will be mailed to all property owners as required by Section 339.155 Florida Statutes, notifying them of the upcoming public hearing. Notification and/or newsletter will be emailed to elected and appointed officials notifying them of the public hearing.

D. Hearing Preparation

An audio/visual (PowerPoint) presentation, conceptual design plans, brochure, comment form, and other exhibits will be developed and made available at the public hearing.

E. Transcript Package

A verbatim transcript of the public hearing will be compiled by a court reporter and will include written and verbal comments received at the hearing as well as written comments received within the established comment period before and after the hearing. All public hearing documentation (handouts, presentation, graphics, etc.) will be included in a Public Hearing Scrapbook.

F. Documents and Location for Public Review

Public notice will be provided in the public hearing advertisement indicating where the study documents are located for public review. The study documents will be available for public review at least 21 calendar days prior to and 10 days following the public hearing. Public review sites are anticipated to include the following:

FDOT District 7 Headquarters

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 975-6000

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday – Sunday – Closed

Thonotosassa Branch Library

10715 Main Street
Thonotosassa, FL 33592
(813) 273-3652

Hours of Operation:

Sunday – Closed
Monday – Saturday – 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Zephyrhills Public Library

5347 8th Street
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
(813) 780-0064

Hours of Operation:

Sunday – Monday – Closed
Tuesday – Thursday – 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Friday – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

G. Title VI and Related Statutes

Information about the Title VI Program will be provided in the presentation, brochure, signage, and through availability of personnel on the Title VI Program and Relocation Assistance Program.

H. 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:

Comúíquese Con Nosotros

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información, por favor comuníquese con nuestro representante, el señor Manuel Flores, 813-975-4248, o al correo electrónico manuel.flores@dot.state.fl.us.

I. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

Notification of FDOT's intent to comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be provided in the public advertisements for the public hearing, in invitational letters to property owners/tenants and local officials, in handouts, and by selection of a public hearing site that meets all ADA requirements.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOW-UP

The following procedures will be undertaken after the public hearing:

A. Public Hearing Scrapbook

A scrapbook containing 11" x 17" reproductions of the public hearing display boards, concept plans, presentation materials, brochures and copies of the sign-in sheets will be prepared. The scrapbook will also include a cover page with the project description, WPI Segment No, and county; project location map; information about the hearing such as the date, location, number of people in attendance, and a list of all reports that were displayed. A flash drive containing the electronic files in PDF format will also be included and uploaded into SWEPT.

B. Project Team Debriefing

A debriefing meeting will be held with the project team approximately two to three weeks after the hearing. The purpose of the meeting is to identify, review and discuss comments and issues expressed by the public. 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 or emails of response. A copy of all responses will be included in the study files and incorporated in the *Comments and Coordination Report*. The meeting shall be attended by staff members who took part in the hearing and spoke to the public.

C. Responses to Questions and Comments

Responses to all letters received as a result of the hearing and questions and comments not answered at the public hearing may be made in writing.

D. Recommendation Notice

Once all comments are addressed and the District Secretary approves the final environmental document, a legal advertisement announcing the completion of the study will be prepared and published in the *Tampa Bay Times*, *CENTRO Tampa*, and the *Florida Sentinel*. A final newsletter may be sent to all individuals on the mailing list to notify them of the approval of the environmental document. This newsletter will include the date the document was signed by FDOT, a brief description of the recommended alternative, the schedule for any remaining phases, and the name of the design project manager (if one is assigned).

E. 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.

X. EVALUATION OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

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

XI. ANALYSIS AND SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A Comments and Coordination Report will be prepared to summarize the coordination with the public and local officials. This report will also summarize the comments and responses, results and recommendations of the informal meetings and public hearing. This report will also summarize the responses to comments received from the AN process, local government meetings, MPO meetings, and any pertinent informal meetings.

XII. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING DESIGN

Following the PD&E study phase, additional public involvement techniques will be documented in a *Community Awareness Plan* (CAP). This CAP will be prepared at the start of the proposed project's design and construction phases. It will outline procedures to keep the public informed of the project's design and construction phases.