

US 301 (Gall Blvd.) Project Development & Environment Study from SR 56 (Proposed) to SR 39 (Buchman Hwy.)

WPI Segment No: 416564-1

Pasco County, Florida

April 2015

We Want Your Input!

A successful PD&E study depends on the public's participation in the study process. We encourage your input throughout the study.

To provide comments, ask questions, and make suggestions about the study, please contact:

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US 301 STUDY UNDERWAY

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has begun the US 301 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study to consider roadway improvements along US 301 (SR 43 / Gall Boulevard) in Pasco County south of the City of Zephyrhills. US 301 is a major north-south roadway used for travel through Pasco County. It is an important roadway in the Tampa Bay area transportation network and is a designated emergency evacuation route.

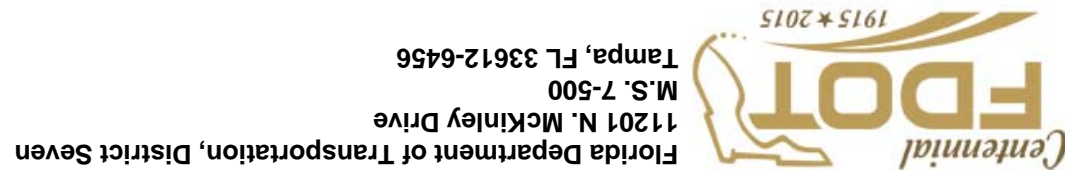
The US 301 PD&E study limits extend from the proposed new intersection of US 301 and SR 56 to SR 39 (Buchman Highway), for a distance of approximately 1.7 miles. The study involves considering roadway alternatives which include widening US 301 (SR 43) from two to four lanes.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved a PD&E study on January 25, 1993 and a subsequent Design Change Reevaluation on April 6, 2007 for the segment of US 301 from the proposed new intersection of US 301 and SR 56 to Chancey Road. The current PD&E Study will examine any changes to this segment of US 301 that are proposed during the study (such as changes in geometry, alignment, capacity, etc.).

The project team will evaluate the engineering, social and environmental effects of proposed improvements to the US 301 corridor and compare the effects for each alternative as part of the decision making process.

THE PD&E STUDY PROCESS

The PD&E study will identify and evaluate multiple alternatives for needed capacity and safety improvements and determine the environmental effects of each alternative, including a no-build alternative. The proposed build alternatives will provide for future traffic growth of local traffic as well as freight movement, improve driver and pedestrian safety, and reduce emergency response times. The no-build alternative will be a viable alternative throughout the study.



Tell Us What You Think...

We encourage you to participate in the US 301(Gall Blvd.) project and invite your questions and comments. We are available to meet with your business group or neighborhood association and talk about the project. Please call the FDOT project manager, Stephanie Pierce, to schedule a presentation or ask a question about the project. You may contact her at:

Florida Department of Transportation
11201 N. Malcolm McKinley Drive, MS 7-500
Tampa, Florida 33612
(813) 975- 6445
Stephanie.pierce@dot.state.fl.us



Para Preguntas En Español

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o si simplemente desea más información sobre este proyecto en Español, favor de ponerse en contacto con la señora Elba Lopez, al teléfono: (813) 975-6403, o correo electrónico: elba.lopez@dot.state.fl.us.

Non-Discrimination Laws and Regulations

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 or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Lori Marable, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (813) 975-6405 or toll free at (800) 226-7220 or email lori.marable@dot.state.fl.us.



This newsletter provides you with an overview of the project. Future newsletters will discuss proposed alternatives under consideration and present recommended improvements. FDOT will hold a public hearing later in the process to give you an overview of the alternatives, and provide you the opportunity to personally share your thoughts about what is proposed for US 301. We encourage you to contact us with your questions, comments and suggestions about the study. Our contact information is provided on the front and back of this newsletter.

This newsletter is the first in a series prepared by the FDOT to help keep you (the public) informed about the US 301 PD&E study.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The US 301 improvement project extends from the proposed new intersection of US 301 and SR 56 to SR 39 (Buchman Highway), for a distance of approximately 1.7 miles. There is currently one signalized intersection within the study area at Chancey Road. Land uses in the study area mainly consist of residential, commercial and agricultural properties, the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution, and Festival Park.

PURPOSE & NEED

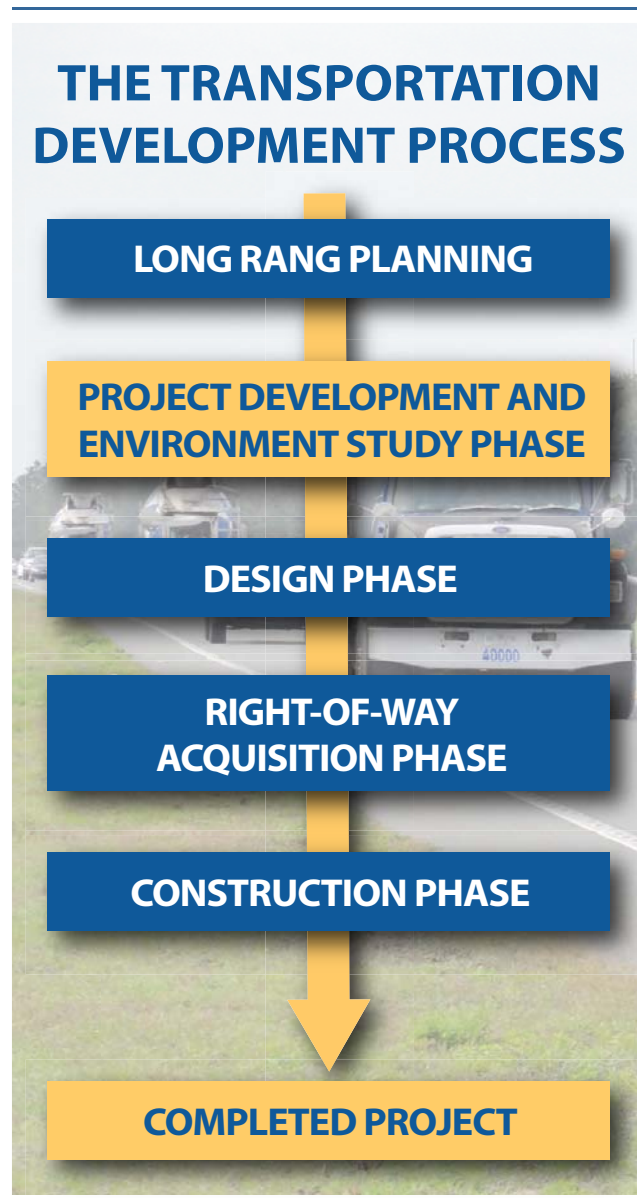
The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety and traffic flow along US 301 within the study area. The project would:

- Reduce traffic congestion,
- Improve emergency and hurricane evacuation times, and
- Provide safer access to properties within the corridor



WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completes a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study to determine the location, preliminary design, social, economic, and environmental effects of proposed major roadway improvements. During the PD&E study process, FDOT will evaluate alternatives based on engineering considerations, environmental effects, safety needs, and public input. FDOT also considers the no-build alternative, which means no changes are made to the roadway within the study limits, except for routine maintenance, through the year 2040. FDOT requests and encourages community input throughout the PD&E study process.



The US 301 study team is currently gathering information about the study area including various engineering data along with cultural, social and environmental resources. These resources include locations of threatened and endangered species, wetlands, archaeological and historic structures, potential contamination sites, as well as locations of residences, public facilities, and commercial buildings near the project corridor. The study team will use this information to determine the possible effects that may occur if changes are made to US 301. The FDOT will present the results of this analysis in draft project reports that will be made available for review during the public hearing process.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Public involvement is one of the most important elements of a PD&E study. FDOT is very interested in receiving comments from the public and property owners who live and work in the vicinity of the US 301 project and can provide insight into proposed improvements. There are many ways for you to stay involved, such as small group meetings, using the project newsletters to stay informed on the project, and attending a public hearing. The FDOT will present information on the project at your regularly-scheduled neighborhood and civic meetings upon request. FDOT made presentations at the Moose Lodge #2276, Tropical Acres Estates and The Ramblewoods.

Project newsletters, such as this one, are mailed at key points in the study. These newsletters include contact information where you can provide your comments to the project team.

FDOT will print and mail newsletters three times during this study:

1. Project kick-off (current)
2. Prior to the public hearing (Summer 2015)
3. End of the study (Winter 2015)

Project newsletters are sent to:

- All property owners located within 300 feet of any project alternative
- Neighborhood and civic associations
- Local elected and appointed public officials
- Local, regional, and state agencies
- Anyone requesting to be added to the mailing list



A second project newsletter will discuss the build alternative(s) and announce the date and location of the public hearing. The study team may also make presentations to local officials as well as hold casual "small group" meetings with local and neighborhood groups. FDOT will provide information on the project status and illustrations of the proposed build alternatives at these meetings. Anyone who wishes to comment about the project will be provided time to do so.

FDOT will hold a public hearing to present preliminary conclusions reached about the roadway improvement options and the effects of the project. We encourage your attendance and your comments. Public statements made during the hearing process are recorded in the official public hearing record.



PD&E STUDY SCHEDULE	
Begin PD&E Study	Summer 2013
Public Hearing	Summer 2015
Complete PD&E Study	Winter 2015

