



**Florida Department of Transportation
District Seven**
11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612

Get Involved Today!

We invite you to get involved! The public plays an important role in the project development and decision-making process of this study. Opportunities for you to provide your input will be available throughout the study by means of submitting comments or attending the public hearing. There are multiple ways to get involved - call, write, or email us. For details on how to provide your input and attend the public hearing, please see the insert page provided. You can also invite us to speak at one of your own meetings!

Non-Discrimination

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 (ADA) or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact **Alex Henry**, Public Involvement Coordinator, at **alex.henry@dot.state.fl.us**, by telephone at **(813) 975-6405** or toll-free at **1 (800) 226-7220**, or by written correspondence at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing to the Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 5-500, Tampa, FL 33612.

Comuniquese Con Nosotros

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información sobre este proyecto, por favor ponerse en contacto con el señor **Manuel Flores** al teléfono **813-975-4248** o al correo electrónico: **manuel.flores@dot.state.fl.us**.

Project Schedule

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Study Began | Summer 2020 |
| Data Collection | Completed May 2021 |
| Preparation of Documents | Ongoing |
| Public Hearing | June 24, 2021 |
| PD&E Study Approval | September/October 2021 |

Project Funding

FDOT Five Year Tentative Work Program Fiscal Year 2021/2022 to Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

| Phase | Fiscal Year(s) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| PD&E | Ongoing |
| Design | Design Build (See Construction) |
| Right of Way Acquisition | Not Currently Funded |
| Construction | Not Currently Funded |

For more information on this study, visit our project website:
www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us301-us98-to-sr50/



US 301/State Road (SR) 35 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study

From South of US 98 to SR 50
Pasco & Hernando Counties | WPI Segment No.: 447536-1

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE | PROJECT NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2021

HEARING DATE

June 24, 2021

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Formal presentation 6:30 p.m.

In-person Session Location

Community Center of Ridge Manor
34240 Cortez Boulevard
Ridge Manor, FL 33523

Registration to Virtual Session

www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us301-us98-to-sr50/

JOIN THE CONVERSATION about the US 301/SR 35 PD&E Study

We want your comments
and suggestions
throughout the study.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

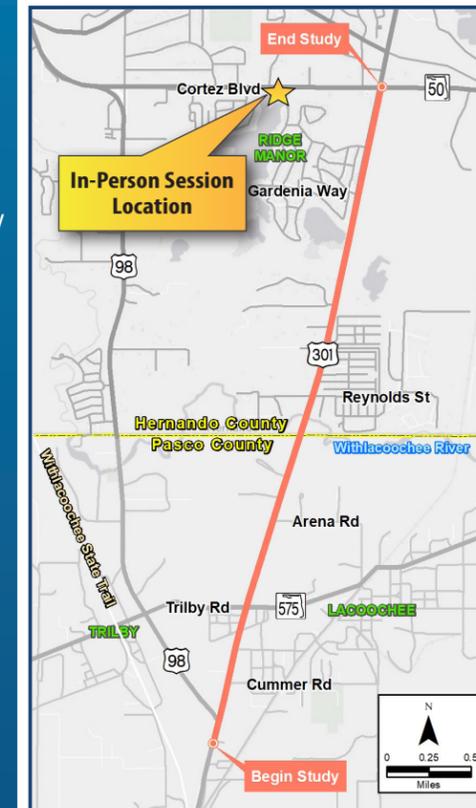
We're here to help.
Give us a call, send us an email,
or let us come speak to your group:

Ashley Henzel, P.E.
FDOT Project Manager
FDOT—District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Dr.
Tampa, FL 33612
ashley.henzel@dot.state.fl.us
813-975-6433
800-226-7220

— Or —

Media Inquiries
Kris Carson
Public Information Officer
FDOT—District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Dr.
Tampa, FL 33612
kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us
813-975-6202
800-226-7220

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven will hold a public hearing on June 24, 2021, regarding the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study, WPI Segment No. 447536-1, for the proposed improvements to US 301/State Road (SR) 35 from south of US 98 to SR 50 in Pasco and Hernando Counties, a distance of approximately 4.0 miles. The public hearing will be offered in-person, with an option to attend online. In accordance with Section 335.188, Florida Statutes, this Public Hearing is also being held to provide the opportunity for public comment on the proposed access management reclassification for US 301 from the Pasco/Hernando County Line to SR 50 (Cortez Boulevard) from Access Class 4 to Access Class 3 due to proposed changes from a non-restrictive to a restrictive median.



PROJECT LOCATION & STUDY AREA MAP

This public hearing is being conducted both in-person and virtually to present information to and receive public input from interested persons regarding the proposed improvements to US 301, which include providing comments regarding the median modifications along the study corridor. Citizens who choose to attend the virtual hearing session must do so through a computer, tablet or smartphone via GoToWebinar. **Virtual attendees must register online** at the project website: www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us301-us98-to-sr50/. Another option to attend the formal portion of the hearing is by phone at (914) 614-3221 using access code 243-778-487, however phone attendees will be in listen-only mode. Additional information related to the public hearing is included in the newsletter insert.

This public hearing will be conducted in accordance with all federal, state, and local requirements. This newsletter also serves as notice to property owners (pursuant to Florida Statutes 339.155) that all or a portion of their property is within a minimum of 300 feet of the centerline of the alignment; however, this does not mean that all properties would be directly affected.

Maps, drawings and other project information will be available at the in-person hearing session and for review online starting on June 21, 2021, at www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us301-us98-to-sr50/. Draft project engineering and environmental reports will be available for public review from June 3, 2021, to July 6, 2021, on the project website and at the following locations:

- Florida Department of Transportation, District 7: Planning & Environmental Management Office
11201 N. McKinley Drive MS 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612, Mon.-Fri.: 8 am to 5 pm; Closed on Sat. & Sun.
- East Hernando Branch Library: 6457 Windermere Road, Brooksville, FL 34602
Tues.-Fri.: 10 am to 6 pm; Sat.: 10 am to 5 pm. The library is closed on Sun. & Mon.
- Hugh Embry Library: 14215 4th Street, Dade City, FL 33523, Mon. & Wed.: 10 am to 8 pm;
Tues. & Thurs.: 10 am to 6 pm; Fri. & Sat.: 10 am to 5 pm. The library is closed on Sunday.

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.

FDOT welcomes and appreciates everyone's participation. If you have questions about the project or the scheduled hearing, please contact Ashley Henzel, P.E., FDOT Project Manager at (813) 975-6433 or (800) 226-7220 or visit our project website at www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us301-us98-to-sr50/.

Sincerely,

Kirk Bogen, P.E.

Environmental Management Engineer

What is a PD&E Study?

The Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study is a comprehensive study that evaluates social, economic and environmental effects associated with the proposed transportation improvements so that the FDOT can reach a decision on the type, location and conceptual design to meet the project's proposed purpose and need. Engaging the public by sharing and receiving information is a key component of this process and is required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Study Purpose

The purpose of the project is to address existing safety issues and accommodate future traffic growth. This segment of US 301 has a crash rate that exceeds the statewide average for similar facilities. US 301 is an important freight route that spans from Sarasota, Florida to Delaware. This serves as an alternate freight route to Interstate 75 (I-75) and has the potential to safely accommodate higher truck volumes.

Project Description

The project is to provide capacity and safety improvements for US 301/State Road (SR) 35 from south of US 98 to SR 50 in Pasco and Hernando Counties, a distance of approximately 4.0 miles. A project location map is provided on the cover page of this newsletter. The class of action for this project is a Type 2 Categorical Exclusion. The proposed improvements will include construction of stormwater management facilities and floodplain compensation sites, various intersection improvements, median modifications, and multimodal facilities (pedestrian, bicycle and transit accommodation).

Existing Conditions

The existing US 301 from north of US 98 to south of SR 50 is a 2-lane undivided roadway with 12-foot travel lanes and 4 to 6-foot paved shoulders. The right of way for US 301 varies from 100 feet to 225 feet. Just north of the Pasco County line, there is an existing bridge over the Withlacoochee River with 12-foot lanes and 10-foot shoulders.

Traffic & Crash Data

Crash data along US 301 within the project limits was obtained from the FDOT crash records database for the 5-year period 2014 through 2018 within Pasco and Hernando Counties. A total of 106 reported crashes with an average of 21 crashes per year. The highest number of crashes occurred at the Trilby Road and US 98 intersections.

Annual average daily traffic (AADT) ranged from 6,100 vehicles per day (VPD) to 8,100 VPD in 2019; by design year 2045, AADTs are expected to range from 14,080 VPD to 16,790 VPD within the study limits. If no improvements are made, the US 98 and Trilby Road intersections are expected to operate at LOS F by 2045. The proposed improvements in this study improve safety along US 301 by enhancing access management with a divided median and proposed signal controlled intersections at US 98 and Trilby Road.

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative is to widen US 301 from a 2-lane undivided to a 4-lane divided facility. US 301 will be widened to the east from US 98 to north of Arena Road and south of Gardenia Way to SR 50 as shown in **Typical Section 1**. US 301 will be widened to the

west from north of Arena Road to South of Gardenia Way as shown in **Typical Section 2**. A new southbound bridge and pedestrian bridge will be constructed over the Withlacoochee River as shown in **Typical Section 3**.

Evaluation Matrix

An evaluation matrix comparing the No Build and Build alternatives is shown below. This matrix compares preliminary cost estimates (ROW acquisition, wetland mitigation, engineering and construction), as well as natural, physical and social environmental factors.

| Evaluation Matrix | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| Evaluation Criteria | No-Build Alternative | Preferred Alternative |
| Potential ROW Impacts | | |
| Number of affected parcels | 0 | 36 ¹ |
| Area of ROW anticipated to be acquired for US 301 widening (acres) | 0 | 24.5 |
| Area of ROW anticipated to be acquired for Stormwater Ponds and Floodplain Compensation Sites (acres) | 0 | 90.9 |
| Number of residential relocations | 0 | 1 |
| Number of business relocations | 0 | 2 |
| Potential Environmental Effects | | |
| Archaeological/Historical sites | 0 | 0 |
| Section 4(f) sites | 0 | 0 |
| Noise sensitive areas | 0 | 0 ³ |
| Wetlands that are not Other Surface Waters (acres) | 0 | 0.70 |
| Protected Species Involvement | None | Low |
| Petroleum and hazardous material sites | None | 2 (High) 6 (Medium) |
| Estimated Costs² (Present Day Costs in \$ Millions rounded up to nearest \$0.1 Million) | | |
| Construction of Roadway, Bridges and Ponds | \$0.0 | \$54.5 |
| Right of Way for US 301 Roadway Widening | \$0.0 | \$10.6 |
| Right of Way for Stormwater Ponds and Floodplain Compensation Site | \$0.0 | \$3.8 |
| Wetlands Mitigation | \$0.0 | \$0.2 |
| Design and Construction Inspection (20% of construction) | \$0.0 | \$11.0 |
| Total Project Estimated Costs | \$0.0 | \$80.1 |

¹ Based on estimated total area for the US 301 widening and preferred stormwater management facility and floodplain compensation sites

² Construction cost based on LRE system prepared May 2021

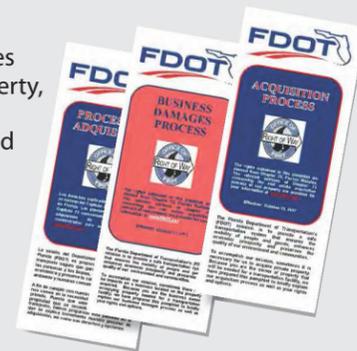
³ One noise sensitive site was identified, but it is also identified as a potential residential relocation

Right of Way Acquisition Procedure

We understand that when a transportation project proposes the acquisition of private property, you may have questions and concerns. To better educate and inform you about the Right of Way acquisition process and your rights, the FDOT has created real estate acquisition and relocation brochures.

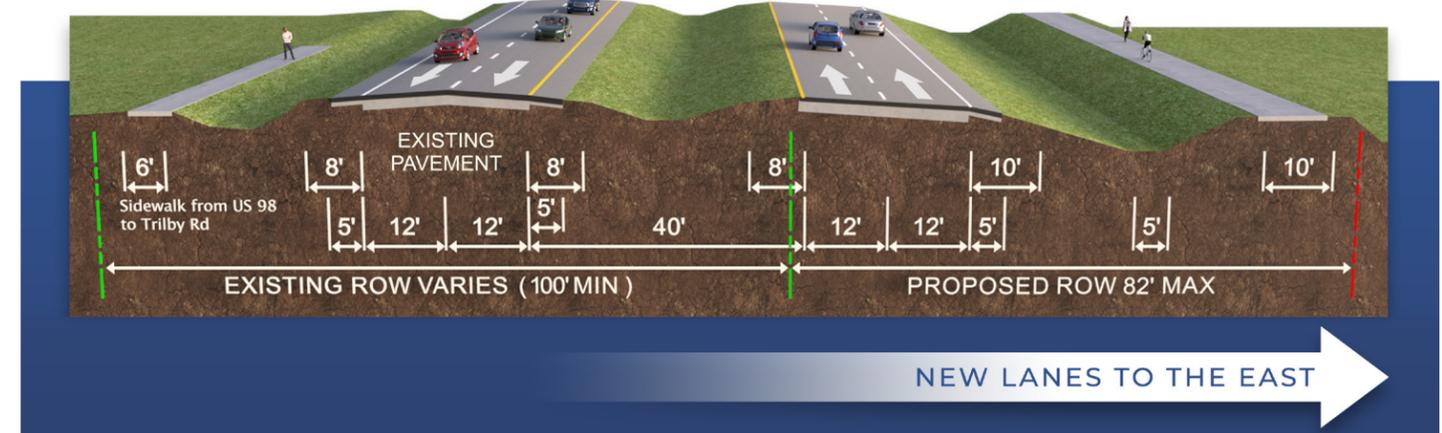
These brochures and other education material will be available at the public workshop along with representatives from the FDOT's Right of Way acquisition and relocations departments. Copies of the brochures may also be found on our website at: www.dot.state.fl.us/rightofway/documents.shtm.

We are interested in hearing your concerns and answering your questions. Please feel free to speak with the FDOT's Project Manager or a Right of Way Representative at your convenience either at the workshop or by phone at (813) 975-6495.



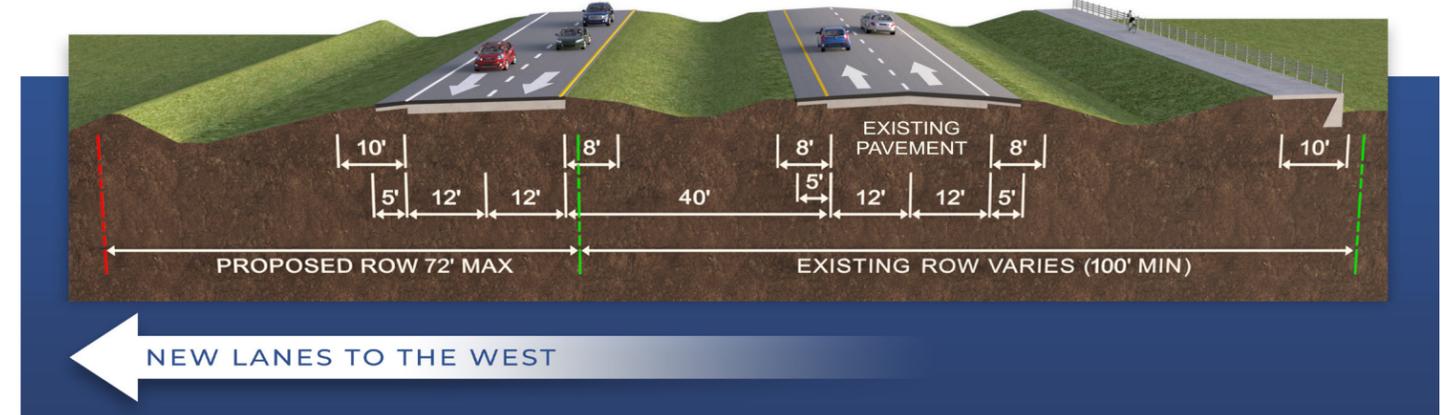
Typical Section 1

PREFERRED ROADWAY TYPICAL SECTION (NEW LANES TO EAST) US 98 TO NORTH OF ARENA ROAD AND SOUTH OF GARDENIA WAY TO SR 50



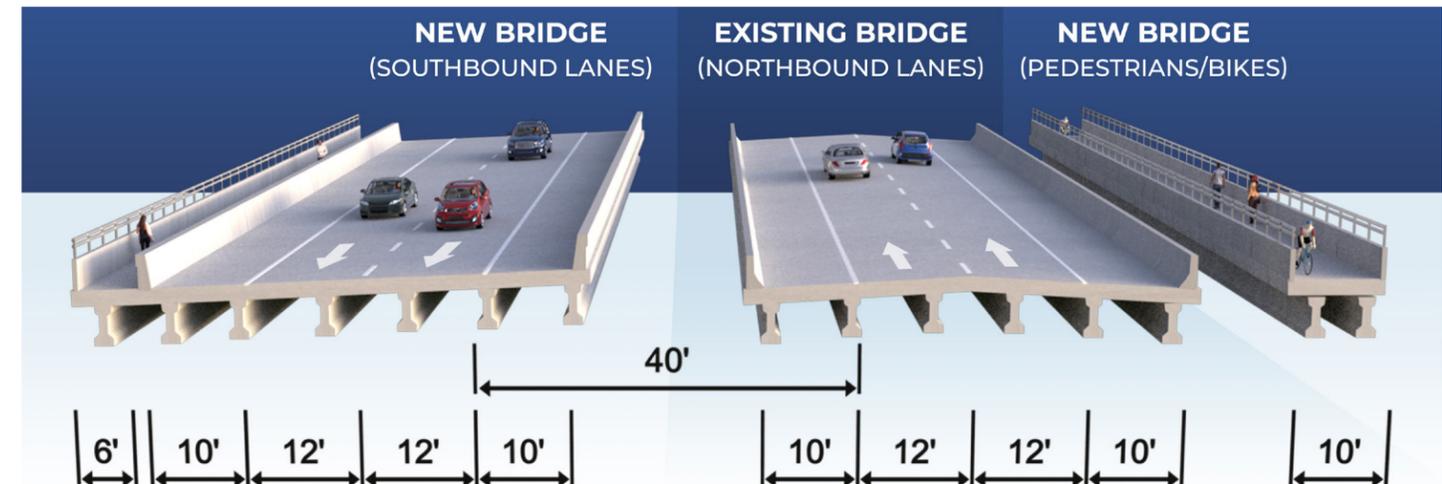
Typical Section 2

PREFERRED ROADWAY TYPICAL SECTION (NEW LANES TO WEST) NORTH OF ARENA ROAD TO SOUTH OF GARDENIA WAY



Typical Section 3

PREFERRED BRIDGE TYPICAL SECTION US 301 OVER THE WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER





US 301/State Road (SR) 35 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study

From South of US 98 to SR 50
Pasco & Hernando Counties | WPI Segment No.: 447536-1

Instructions for attending the public hearing

Interested persons can attend the public hearing either in-person, virtually, or by phone in listen-only mode. The same materials will be presented for the in-person and virtual formats.

Pre-registration is **required** for the virtual format, and in-person attendees may register in advance online. Registration is available online at the project website www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us301-us98-to-sr50/, or from your mobile device, scan the QR Code to the right.

If you have any questions or issues registering, please contact Ashley Henzel, P.E., the FDOT Project Manager at (813) 975-6433.

To call in by phone for the formal portion of the hearing, in LISTEN-ONLY MODE, please use (914) 614-3221 and access code 243-778-487.



To attend the Public Hearing In-Person

In-Person Public Hearing Session will be held at:

Community Center of Ridge Manor
34240 Cortez Boulevard, Ridge Manor, FL 33523

5:30 p.m. Open house
6:30 p.m. Formal Portion/Comment Period

1. Upon arrival, please sign-in. If you wish to make a formal public comment, please fill out a speaker card and give it to a project team member. You will be called during the formal portion in the order in which the cards are received.
2. During the Open House period starting at 5:30 p.m., a repeating informational presentation will be shown and project displays will be available for review. Team members will be on-site to assist with questions and/or concerns.
3. At 6:30 p.m. the formal public hearing portion will begin.
4. Those who filled out a speaker card will be called upon to make a formal comment.
5. At the conclusion of the formal portion of the hearing and the public comment period, the open house will resume until 7:30 p.m.

To optionally attend the Virtual Public Hearing Session

The Virtual Public Hearing Session will be held through:

GoToWebinar

5:30 p.m. Open house
6:30 p.m. Formal Portion/Comment Period

Persons registered for the Virtual Public Hearing can attend online using GoToWebinar.

1. Virtual online attendees should use the sign-in link emailed to them after registering.
2. During the Open House period, starting at 5:30 p.m., attendees will be able to view materials online and ask questions to FDOT staff through the GoTo chat box. Team members will be available virtually to assist with question and/or concerns.
3. At 6:30 p.m. the formal public hearing portion will begin and will be broadcast from the in-person event to those attending virtually.
4. After in-person formal comments have been made, virtual online attendees who pre-registered to make a formal comment will be called upon. After the pre-registered comments have been made, other virtual attendees may use the Raise Hand function of the webinar to be called upon if they choose to make a formal public comment.
5. At the conclusion of the formal portion of the hearing and the public comment period, the open house will resume until 7:30 p.m.

There are many ways to provide comments:

- Submit your comments through the project website on the "Send Us Your Comments Page".
- Make a verbal statement during the public comments period after the formal portion (see above for in-person and virtual options on how to submit a speaker request).
- Make a verbal statement directly to the court reporter in a one-on-one setting for those attending the in-person session.
- Complete a comment form and drop it in the comment box in-person or mail comment to the address listed on the back. Please postmark by July 6, 2021.

Persons wishing to submit written statements or other exhibits, in place of, or in addition to oral statements, may do so at the hearing or by mailing them to Kirk Bogen, P.E., Environmental Management Engineer, FDOT District Seven, 11201 N. McKinley Drive MS 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612, or provide them on the "[Send us your comments](http://www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us301-us98-to-sr50/)" page on the project website at www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us301-us98-to-sr50/.

All comments postmarked on or before July 6, 2021, will become part of the official public hearing record.