

Public Involvement Plan

US 41 (SR 45) Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study From 12th Street To Kracker Avenue

WPI Segment No. 421140 8
Hillsborough County

In accordance with Part 1, Chapter 11 of the *PD&E Manual* this Public Involvement Plan is submitted to the Department for review and approval.

Submitted By:

American Consulting Engineers of Florida, LLC

Approved:

Department Head, Intermodal
Systems Development, FDOT
District Seven

Date:

June 2008



This program is in compliance with the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) *Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual*, Section 339.155, Florida Statute (F.S.), Executive Orders 11990 and 11988, and CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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

This document outlines the various methods by which the FDOT will disseminate project information and solicit input from the community regarding local values and concerns. This public involvement program is a living document that will be updated as the project development phase progresses. The program specifies the public involvement approach to be taken with the project and the means that will be used to involve the public in the process. This includes a list of contact persons, media, officials, and agencies that may be involved in the project. The collection of public input will occur throughout the PD&E Study's duration. The program has been developed in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1968, under Title VI and VIII of the United States Civil Rights Act.

I. Description of Proposed Improvement

Project Name: US 41 (SR 45)
Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study

WPI Segment ID No.: 421140 8

FAP No.: N/A

Project Limits: The study limits for the proposed project are from 12th Street to Kracker Avenue in southern Hillsborough County. A location map (**Figure 1**) is included on the following page.

Proposed Activity: To conduct a PD&E study that establishes the location and design concepts for improving US 41 in Hillsborough County within the Study limits.

Class of Action: A State Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) is the expected level of environmental documentation required for this project.



Figure 1



Project Contact Information

For further information regarding this project contact:

Manuel E. Santos, PE
FDOT Project Manager
Florida Department of Transportation
11201 N. Malcolm McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612-6403
(813) 975-6173
manuel.santos@dot.state.fl.us

Jeffrey Novotny, PE
Consultant Project Manager
American Consulting Engineers of Florida
18250 North US Highway 41
Lutz, FL 33549
(813) 496-7414
JNovotny@ace-fla.com

II. Background

This study is being initiated to improve operational capacity of US 41, a four-lane arterial highway. The build alternative will consider widening the existing facility to six lanes along with intersection improvements and construction of storm water management facilities. Hillsborough County has approved a number of large developments along US 41 and others are proposed. A separate traffic study will provide data to support future design alternatives and recommendations.

This project has been screened through the Programming Screen of the FDOT's Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process as ETDM Project # 9511 (19th Avenue to Gibsonton Drive) to initiate agency coordination. Comments from several agencies were received. There were no general public comments received as part of the ETDM screening before initiating this PD&E Study.

III. Project Goals

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

1. Determine the engineering requirements necessary for improvements to add additional travel lanes throughout the project corridor while also considering multi-modal transportation needs.
2. Determine the factors related to the design and location of the facility including alternative alignments, transportation needs, social impacts, economic factors, and environmental effects.
3. Develop cost estimates for each alternative
4. Evaluate alternatives and recommend a preferred alternative.

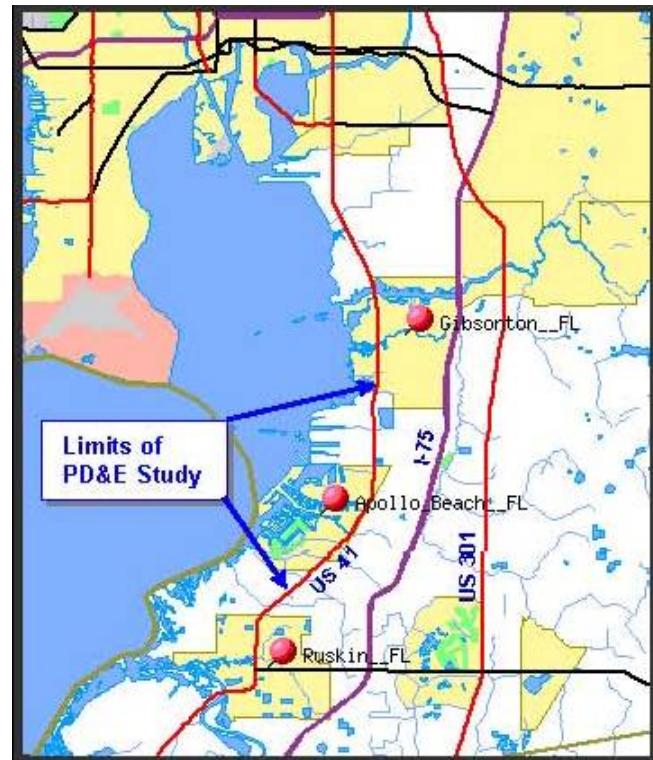


IV. Identification of Concerned Public

A. Communities

US 41 (SR 45) travels through or near several unincorporated communities including Gibsonton and Apollo Beach. These communities are identified as Census Designated Places (CDP) by the US Census Bureau. A map showing the two CDP's is included to the right. The table below includes data obtained from the Bureau for year 2000 for these two CDP's.

The primary land uses along the corridor include agricultural, industrial, commercial, and low density residential. Since Gibsonton has a noticeable Hispanic/Latino population, the Department may opt to include project newsletters in both English and Spanish. All efforts will be made to notify any Spanish speaking interest groups and residents within the project area. See **Section V. E** for additional non-English language considerations.



Community	Population	Percent Hispanic/Latino	Households	Family Size	Families	Median Age	Population Over 65
Gibsonton	8,752	18%	3,112	3.18	2,193	32.2	759
Apollo Beach	7,444	7.4%	3,132	2.70	2,361	46.2	1,392
Total	16,196	-	6,244	-	4,554	-	2,151



B. Agencies

The following federal, state, regional agencies and Native American Tribal officials have been identified as having involvement with this project due to jurisdictional review or expressed interest. These agencies will be contacted either directly by the FDOT through the Advance Notification (AN) process at the outset of the project, or through the ETDM process. The ETDM process uses an Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) as a formal review committee. As previously noted, this project has been screened through the ETDM programming screen. The ETAT members are shown in **Section IV. D.** As other concerned public agencies are identified throughout the Study, they will also be listed and contacted. For names and addresses of contacts, please refer to **Appendix A**.

Federal:

U.S. Department of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
U.S. Department of Federal Railroad Administration – Office of Economic Analysis (FRA)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region IV (EPA)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Regulatory Branch (COE)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Tampa Regulatory Branch

State:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
Florida State Clearinghouse; FDEP Office of Intergovernmental Program (OIP)
Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC)
Florida Department of Transportation – Environmental Management Office

Regional:

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)
Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)

Tribal Officials:

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Chairperson
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Land Resource Manager
Muskogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Principal Chief
Muskogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Historic Preservation Manager
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama, Chairperson
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida, Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida, AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum, Tribal Historic Officer
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Chairman
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer



Local Agencies

Hillsborough County Public Works Department
Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department
Hillsborough County Planning and Growth Management
Hillsborough County Public School Board
Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission
Hillsborough County Hispanic Affairs Liaison
Hillsborough County Emergency Management
Hillsborough County Administrator
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Hillsborough County Fire Rescue
Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management
Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission

C. Elected and Appointed Officials

The FDOT's consultant will update and maintain e-mail lists and develop an e-mail notification for FDOT's use. The following elected and appointed officials and local public interest groups or organizations having a direct or expressed interest in the project have been identified and will be contacted by the FDOT. See **Appendix A** for contact information.

Federal Officials

The Honorable Bill Nelson	United States Senator
The Honorable Mel Martinez	United States Senator
The Honorable Kathy Castor	United States Representative (District 11)
The Honorable Adam H. Putnam	United States Representative (District 12)

State Officials

The Honorable Ronda Storms	State Senator (District 10)
The Honorable Arthenia L. Joyner	State Senator (District 18)
The Honorable Ron Reagan	State Representative (District 67)

Hillsborough County Commission

The Honorable Rose Ferlita	District 1
The Honorable Ken Hagan	District 2
The Honorable Kevin White	District 3
The Honorable Al Higginbotham	District 4
The Honorable Jim Norman	District 5
The Honorable Brian Blair	District 6
The Honorable Mark Sharpe	District 7

Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Honorable Joe Affronti, Mayor-City of Temple Terrace, MPO Chairman
Ramond Chairmonte, Interim Executive Director



The following table lists the e-mail addresses of the above elected and appointed officials and additional local agency contacts.

Name	Agency	E-mail
Bill Nelson	United States Senator	martinez.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactInformation.contactform
Mel Martinez	United States Senator	billnelson.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm
Kathy Castor	United States Representative	Kathy.Castor@mail.house.gov
Adam H. Putnam	United States Representative	Adam.H.Putnam@mail.house.gov
Ronda Storm	Florida State Senator	Storms.ronda.web@f1senate.gov
Arthenia L. Joyner	Florida State Senator	Joyner.arthenia.web@f1senate.gov
Ron Regan	Florida State Representative	Ron.regan@myfloridahouse.gov
Rose Ferlita	Hillsborough County BOCC	ferlitar@hillsboroughcounty.org
Ken Hagan	Hillsborough County BOCC	hagenk@hillsboroughcounty.org
Kevin White	Hillsborough County BOCC	whitek@hillsboroughcounty.org
Al Higginbotham	Hillsborough County BOCC	higginbothama@hillsboroughcounty.org
Jim Norman	Hillsborough County BOCC	normanj@hillsboroughcounty.org
Brian Blair	Hillsborough County BOCC	blairb@hillsboroughcounty.org
Mark Sharpe	Hillsborough County BOCC	sharpe@hillsboroughcounty.org
Joe Affronti	City of Temple Terrace	jaffronti@templeterrace.com
Ramond Chairamonte	Hillsborough MPO	rayc@plancom.org
Manny Pumariega	Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council	manny@tbrpc.org
Betti Johnson	Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council	betti@tbrpc.org
Dave Moore	Southwest Florida Management District	David.Moore@swfwmd.state.fl.us
Bob Gordon, PE	Hillsborough County Public Works	GordonB@hillsboroughcounty.org
Mark J. Thornton	Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation & Conservation Dept	ThorntonM@hillsboroughcounty.org
Peter Aluotto	Hillsborough County Planning & Growth Management	aluottop@hillsboroughcounty.org
Jennifer Falliero	Hillsborough County Public Schools	hcps.communications@sdhc.k12.fl.us
Richard D. Garrity, PhD	Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission	GarrityR@hillsboroughcounty.org
Tony Morejon	Hillsborough County Hispanic Affairs Liaison	MorejonT@hillboroughcounty.org
Larry Gispert	Hillsborough County Emergency Management	gispertl@hillsboroughcounty.org
Patricia G. Bean	Hillsborough County Administrator	beanp@hillsboroughcounty.org
David Gee	Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office	dgee@hcso.tampa.fl.us
William L. Nesmith	Hillsborough County Fire Rescue	nesmithw@hillsboroughcounty.org
Barry M. Boldissar	Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management	boldissarb@hillsboroughcounty.org
Robert B. Hunter	Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission	execdir@plancom.org



D. Property Owners and Public/ Special Interest Groups:

The existing land uses in the project corridor are mostly agriculture, industrial, commercial and low-density residential. The best ways to engage these property and business owners will be to notify them by letters/newsletters and invite them to the Public Hearing.

The following Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) members have already been contacted through the ETDM Programming Screen process to solicit agency input and comments on the PD&E process. See **Appendix A** for contact information.

US 41 Environmental Technical Advisory Team

Name	Agency	E-mail
C. Lynne Miller	Southwest Florida Water Management District	clmiller@swrf.net
David A. Rydene	National Marine Fisheries Service	David.Rydene@noaa.gov
Madolyn Dominy	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	dominy.madolyn@epa.gov
Gary Donaldson	Florida Department of Community Affairs	gary.donaldson@dca.state.fl.us
John Fellows	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	john.p.fellows@usace.army.mil
Lauren P. Milligan	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us
Nahir Detizio	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	nahirdetizio@fhwa.dot.gov
Rick Allen Robbins	Natural Resources Conservation Services	Rick.Robbins@fl.usda.gov
Randall Overton	U.S. Coast Guard	Randall.d.overton@uscg.mil
Wally Blain	Hillsborough County MPO	blaing@plancom.org
Steve Terry	Miccosukee Tribe	stevet@miccosukeetribe.com
Scott Sanders	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	scott.sanders@myfwc.com
Sherry Anderson	Florida Department of State	sanderson@dos.state.fl.us
Todd Samuel Mecklenborg	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	todd_mecklenborg@fws.gov

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

- Tampa Bay Builders Association
- Agriculture Industry Development, Tampa
- Economic Development Department, Hillsborough County
- Tampa Bay Partnership
- Sierra Club Tampa Bay
- Concerned Citizens of Gibsonton Area
- CSX Transportation (CSXT)
- United Citizens' Action Network (UCAN), Hillsborough County
- Tampa Bay Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- South Shore Chambers of Commerce (South Shore Roundtable)
 - Apollo Beach Chamber of Commerce
 - Riverview Chamber of Commerce
 - Ruskin Chamber of Commerce

The South Shore Roundtable is an umbrella organization which includes the Chambers of Commerce for Apollo Beach, Riverview, and Ruskin. A mailing list of contacts and addresses of the public interest groups can be found in **Appendix A**.



V. Public Notification

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. Legal / Display Newspaper Advertisements

Legal/display advertisements will be published in the following newspaper announcing the location, date, and time of the Public Hearing:

This PD&E Study is located within the designated market area for the *Tampa Tribune*. *CENTRO Mi Diario*, a publication of the *Tribune*, provides market reach for Spanish-speaking persons. Contact information for these publications is included below.

The Tampa Tribune
South Shore Edition
200 S. Parker Street
Tampa, FL 33606

CENTRO Mi Diario
202 South Parker St
Tampa, FL 33606

An Alternatives Public Workshop is *not included* within the scope of this PD&E Study.

A legal/display advertisement announcing the Public Hearing will be published at least 15 days prior to the Hearing but no more than 30 days prior to the Hearing and again 7 to 12 days before the Hearing. A notice will also be e-mailed by the District to the Department's Office of the General Council at least 35 days prior to Public Hearing for publishing in the *Florida Administrative Weekly* at least 21 days prior to the Hearing.

B. Newsletters

Three (3) newsletters will be developed for this project and distributed as follows:

- 1) The first newsletter will serve as a kick-off newsletter.
- 2) The second newsletter will be distributed prior to the Public Hearing and serve as notice for the Hearing.
- 3) The final newsletter will be distributed upon approval of the State Environmental Impact Report (SEIR).



C. News Releases to Local Media

News releases will be prepared by the FDOT's community involvement specialist for distribution to the media by the District Public Information Officer. The following media outlets will receive news releases about the project.

NEWSPAPERS	
St. Petersburg Times 1000 N. Ashley Dr, Suite 104 Tampa, FL 33602 813-226-3366 / 727-893-8785 Jean Heller, jheller@tampabay.rr.com	The Tampa Tribune 200 S. Parker Street Tampa, FL 33606 813-259-8225 / 1-800-527-2773 Commuting, Rick Barry Rbarry@tampatrib.com Transportation / Recreation, Tom Brennan, Bbrennan@tampatrib.com
Tampa Bay Business Journal 4350 W. Cypress Street, Suite 800 Tampa, FL 33607 (813) 873-8225	CENTRO Mi Diario 202 S. Parker St. Tampa, FL 33606 813-259-7500 dveller@tampatrib.com
Tampa Bay Business Journal	
Tampa Bay Times 1000 N. Ashley Street Tampa, FL 33602 (813) 226-3300	Florida Sentinel Bulletin 2207 E 21 st Avenue Tampa, FL 33605 (813) 248-1921

RADIO	
WQYK 99.5 FM WRBQ 104.7 FM 5510 W. Gray St., Suite 130 Tampa, FL 33619	WUSF 89.7 FM 4202 E. Fowler Ave. WRB 219 Tampa, FL 33620
WTMP 96.1 FM 5207 Washington Blvd Tampa, FL 33619	WDUV 105.5 FM 11300 4th St. N., Suite 300 St. Petersburg, FL 33716
WFLA 970 AM 4002 Gandy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33611	WMNF 88.5 FM 1210 Martin Luther King Blvd. Tampa, FL 33603



TELEVISION	
Channel 28 WFTS, ABC 4045 N. Himes Ave Tampa, FL 33607 877-833-2828 news tips@wfts.com	Channel 10 WTSP, CBS 11450 Gandy Blvd St Petersburg, FL 33702 727-577-1010 desk@tampabays10.com Dave Balut, Reporter, dbalut@tampabays10.com Office: 727-577-8474, Cell 727-709-4803
Channel 8 WFLA, NBC 200 S. Parker Street Tampa, FL 33606 813-228-8888 Newsroom: 813-221-5788 news@wfla.com	Bay News 9 Hillsborough Bureau 4400 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Tampa, FL 33614 727-329-2400 tips@baynews9.com / desk@baynews9.com
Univision 62 WVEA Tampa (Spanish) 2610 W. Hillsborough Avenue Tampa, FL 33614 813-872-6262 noticiatampa@entravision.com	Channel 13 WTVT, Fox 3213 W. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609 813-876-1313 news@wtvt.com
Tampa Bay Community Network Channels 19 & 20 1001 North B Street Tampa, FL 33606 (813) 254-1687	Channel 22 HTV 28th Floor County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33602 813-272-5362 www.hillsboroughcounty.org/htv
Telemundo Channel 49 WRMD 402 N. Reo St. #218 Tampa, FL 33609 813-319-5757 www.telemundo.com	Channel 16 WUSF, PBS 4202 E. Fowler Ave., TVB 100 Tampa, FL 33620 (813) 974-8700 news@wusf.org
Channel 44 WTOG, CW 365-105 th Terrace NE St. Petersburg, FL 33716 (727)576-4444	



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, F.S.). 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 20 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. Many of these are listed in **Section IV. D.**
- Neighborhood civic associations in the project area.

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

E. Language Considerations

As noted, this project is situated in a location where a recognized component of the population is Spanish-speaking. To facilitate communications an increased effort will be undertaken, to include:

- The Department and/or consultant providing Spanish-speaking representatives at the Public Hearing to facilitate translation.
- Informing the Hillsborough County Hispanic Affairs Liaison about the project
- Advertising the Public Hearing in a local Spanish-speaking publication in accordance with **Section V. A.**
- The project newsletters will include a Spanish speaking contact for this project. Also, Spanish-speaking groups in the community may request Spanish language versions of newsletters for distribution.



VI. Public Meetings

The following public 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

These meetings will be held throughout the study when deemed appropriate by the Department to inform local officials of the project status, the alternative alignment concepts and to receive their comments. Coordination will be accomplished by presentations upon request to the Hillsborough County MPO, the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners. Presentation materials may include a fact sheet, *PowerPoint* presentation, and comment forms.

B. Alternatives Public Workshop

(Not applicable for this project.)

C. Public Hearing

In compliance with the *PD&E Manual* and Section 339.155, P.S., a formal Public Hearing will be held for this project. The Public Hearing will be held to involve the public and interested parties in the PD&E process, to inform them of the project's recommended alternative and to solicit comments for the official project record. See **Section VII** for additional information.

D. Unscheduled Meetings and Presentations

The FDOT and the consultant (if required) will be available on short notice to attend meetings or make presentations. Such meetings and presentations may be held at any hour between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Aerial maps, press releases, advertisements, audio/visual displays and other materials may be used for these meetings.

E. Coordination with Adjacent Projects

The project team has coordinated with other consultants and/or agencies regarding a current resurfacing project and will coordinate with other consultants and/or agencies if any other intersection projects are developed.



Public Hearing

In compliance with the *PD&E Manual*, and Section 339.155, FS, a Public Hearing will be held as part of the PD&E Study.

A. Potential Public Hearing Site

Depending on schedule and availability, the Public Hearing could be held at one of the following locations:

Apollo Beach Recreation Center
664 Golf and Sea Boulevard
Apollo Beach, FL 33572
813-671-7635

Christ Community Church
501 Apollo Beach Boulevard
Apollo Beach, FL 33572
813-649-9295

B. Public Advertisements

See **Section V. A.**

C. Newsletters / Notification to Parties

See **Sections V. B and V. D.**

D. Hearing Presentation

An audio/visual (PowerPoint) presentation, conceptual design plans, brochure, comment form, and other exhibits will be developed and made available at the Public Hearing. The presentation may be edited for use on local public access TV following the Hearing.

E. Briefing Meeting

The Department will hold a briefing meeting approximately 30 to 40 days prior to the Public Hearing to review all materials. The meeting will be held at the FDOT offices with various Department staff and their representatives to discuss potential public issues or concerns. The Hearing graphics, presentation, and brochure will also be presented for review and comment.

F. Public Hearing Transcript

A court reporter will prepare a verbatim transcript of the Public Hearing formal session to include written and verbal comments received at the Hearing and written comments postmarked within 10 days after the Hearing. The transcript will be forwarded to the District Intermodal Systems Development Office.



G. Location of Documents for Public Review

Public notice will be provided in the Public Hearing advertisement indicating where the Study documents are located for public review. Public review sites are anticipated to include:

Ruskin Branch Public Library
One Dickman Drive, South East
Ruskin, Florida 33570-4314
(813) 273-3652

FDOT District 7
Intermodal Systems Development Office
11201 N. Malcolm McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 975-6133

The study documents will be available for public review from 21 days prior to and through the 10 days comment period following the Public Hearing.

H. Title VI and Title VIII Civil Rights Acts

Notification during the Public Hearing will be provided in the presentation, by brochure, signage and through availability of personnel on the Title VI program which complies with Title VIII. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been subjected to discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a written complaint with the FDOT's Equal Opportunity Office or may contact the District Seven Title VI>Title VIII Coordinator.

I. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Notification of the Department's intent to comply with the ADA will be provided in the public advertisements, letters of invitation to property owners and local officials and by the selection of a public hearing site that meets all ADA requirements.

J. SAFETEA-LU Compliance

SAFETEA-LU or Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users stipulates that the public be given reasonable opportunity for commenting on transportation projects. Under SAFETEA-LU a visualization component requires that some sort of visual aid such as GIS Maps, Graphs, Charts, or other methods of interpreting data and information be provided to the public. Visual aids that comply with the standards set forth by SAFETEA-LU will be available at all public meetings or hearings.

K. Assistance for Spanish-speaking Attendees

Spanish-speaking personnel will be on hand to assist those in need at the Public Hearing.

L. Project Team Debriefing

A debriefing meeting will be held with the project team no later than two weeks after the Public 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 followed up after the Hearing. If a written response is necessary, the FDOT and their representatives will prepare all letters of response.



VIII. Recommendation Notice

Once all Public Hearing comments are reviewed and considered and FDOT approves the State Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) a legal advertisement announcing the approval will be prepared and published by FDOT in media outlets as specified in **Section V a**. Notification will be sent to all individuals on the project's mailing list (including property owners, elected officials, and agencies) by newsletter to inform them of FDOT's approval. This notice shall include the date of approval, a brief description of the alternative selected, the schedule for remaining phases, and the name of the design project manager (if it has been assigned).

IX. Comments and Coordination Report

(Not applicable for this project.)

X. Evaluation of Public Involvement Program

The study team will monitor the public perception of the project. Public input will be documented by written reports of telephone conversations and requests for information. The FDOT will consider public involvement received from concerned parties throughout the study duration. A public involvement file containing public involvement concerns, issues and related data will be maintained.

In addition, members of the study team will be required to document and submit any public involvement concerns and requests for information from any concerned individual.

The issues noted at the public meetings shall be analyzed by the study team for their significance to determine if they, or elements of them, are valid for further consideration. Issues that are discussed at public meetings may be addressed by letter writing, follow-up newsletters, distribution of news releases, or other appropriate techniques.

XI. Public Information During Design and Construction

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.

Appendices

Appendix A: Mailing List

Appendix B: Public Agencies Meeting Schedules



Federal Agencies

Robert Wright, P.E., Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
545 John Knox Rd., Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Margret Reid, Associate Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Financial Management &
Administration
1120 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20590

James I. Palmer Jr., Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth St. SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

John R. Hall, Ph.D., Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Regulatory Branch
701 San Marco Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Charles Schnepel, Section Chief
US Army Corps of Engineers
Tampa Regulatory Office
10117 Princess Palm Drive, Suite 120
Tampa, FL 33610

State Agencies

Deborah Getzoff, Director
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest District
13051 N. Telecom Parkway
Temple Terrace, FL 33637

Lauren Milligan, Environmental Manager
Florida State Clearinghouse, FDEP
3900 Commonwealth Blvd, M/S – 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Frederick Gaske, Director
Florida Department of State
Division of Historic Resources
500 South Bronough Street, Room 402
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Mary Ann Poole, Director
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation
Commission
Office of Policy & Stakeholder Coordination
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Carolyn Ismart, Manager
FDOT, Environmental Management Office
605 Suwannee Street, M/S – 37
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Regional Officials

Manny L. Pumariega, Executive Director
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Blvd, Suite 100
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

Dave Moore, Executive Director
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604



Tribal Officials

Mr. Mitchell Cypress, Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Rd
Hollywood, FL 33024

Mr. W.S. Steele, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida
AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum
HC-61, Box 21-A
Clewiston, FL 33440

Enoch Kelly Haney, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884
Attn: Mr. Pare Bowlegs

Mr. Buford Rolin, Chairperson
Poarch Band Creek of Indians
5811 Jack Springs Rd
Atmore, AL 36502
Attn: Mr. Robert Thrower

Mr. Billy Cypress, Chairman
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
P.O. Box 44021
Miami, FL 33144
Attn: Mr. Steve Terry

Mr. A.D. Ellis, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447
Attn: Ms. Joyce Bear

Mr. Beasley Denson, Chairman
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
101 Industrial Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Attn: Mr. Kenneth H. Carleton

Local Agencies

Bob Gordon, PE, Director
Hillsborough County Public Works Department
County Center, 22nd Floor
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Congresswoman Kathy Castor
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Senator Mel Martinez
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Tampa, FL 33609

Congressman Adam H. Putnam
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Representative Ron Reagan
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Commissioner Ken Hagan
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Commissioner Kevin White
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Commissioner Brian Blair
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Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Tony Zipperer, President
Ruskin Chamber of Commerce
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Ruskin, FL 33570



County Commissioners		
County	Meeting Schedule	Location
Hillsborough	1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 9 AM	2nd Floor of County Center 601 E. Kennedy Blvd Tampa, FL 33602

MPO Board		
MPO	Meeting Schedule	Location
Hillsborough	1st Tuesday of each month, 9 AM	2nd Floor of County Center 601 E. Kennedy Blvd Tampa, FL 33602