

# Public Involvement Plan

## US 41 (SR 45) Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study From 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head, Intermodal  
Systems Development, FDOT  
District Seven

\_\_\_\_\_  
American Consulting Engineers of Florida, LLC

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

<b>Project Name:</b>	US 41 (SR 45) Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study
<b>WPI Segment ID No.:</b>	421140 8
<b>FAP No.:</b>	N/A
<b>Project Limits:</b>	The study limits for the proposed project are from 12 <sup>th</sup> Street to Kracker Avenue in southern Hillsborough County. A location map ( <b>Figure 1</b> ) is included on the following page.
<b>Proposed Activity:</b>	To conduct a PD&E study that establishes the location and design concepts for improving US 41 in Hillsborough County within the Study limits.
<b>Class of Action:</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto: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 (19<sup>th</sup> 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.

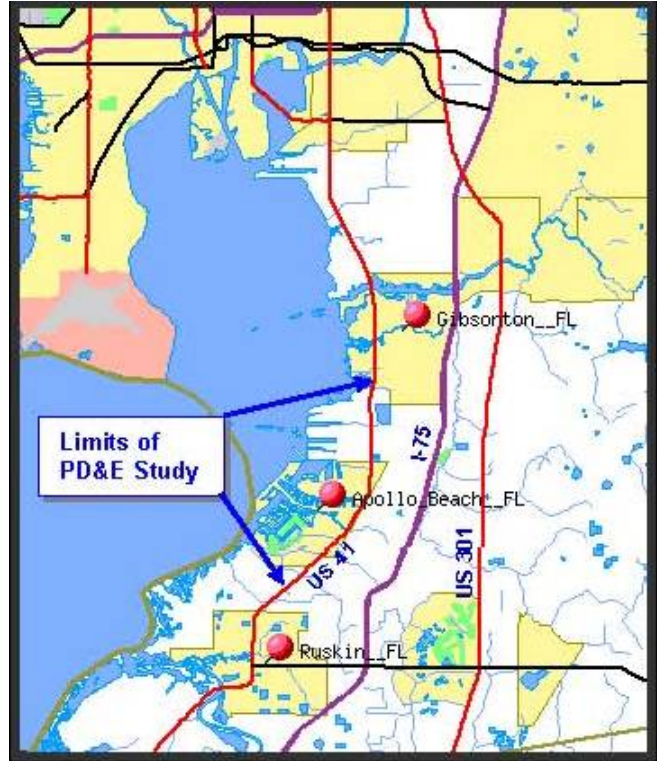


## IV. Identification of Concerned Public

### 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 CDPs.

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,196</b>	-	<b>6,244</b>	-	<b>4,554</b>	-	<b>2,151</b>



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



**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**

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

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.

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

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



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



#### 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**

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

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

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

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

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

### **State Agencies**

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

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

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

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

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

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Bob Gordon, PE, Director  
Hillsborough County Public Works Department  
County Center, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33602

Mark J. Thornton, Director  
Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation &  
Conservation Department  
1101 East River Cove Street  
Tampa, FL 33604

Peter Aluotto, AICP, Director  
Hillsborough County Planning & Growth  
Management Department  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 34602

Jennifer Faliero, Chair  
Hillsborough County Public Schools  
901 E. Kennedy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33602

Richard D. Garrity, PhD, Executive Director  
Hillsborough County Environmental Protection  
Commission  
Roger P. Stewart Center  
3629 Queen Palm Dr  
Tampa, FL 33619

Tony Morejon, Hispanic Liaison  
Hillsborough County, BOCC  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602



Larry Gispert, Director  
Hillsborough County Emergency Management  
Department  
2711 E. Hanna Ave  
Tampa, FL 33610

Patricia G. Bean  
Hillsborough County Administrator  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

Sheriff David Gee  
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office  
P.O. Box 3371  
Tampa, FL 33602

William L. Nesmith, Chief  
Hillsborough County Fire Rescue  
2709 E. Hanna Ave  
Tampa, FL 33610

Barry M. Boldissaro, Director  
Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management  
24<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33602

Robert B. Hunter, FAICP  
Hillsborough County City-County Planning  
Commission  
P.O. Box 1110  
Tampa, FL 33601-1110

### **Federal Officials**

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Senator Bill Nelson  
Sam Gibbons Federal Court House  
801 N. Florida Ave., 4th Floor  
Tampa, Florida 33602

Senator Mel Martinez  
5100 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 190  
Tampa, FL 33609

Congresswoman Kathy Castor  
4144 N Armenia Ave, Suite 300  
Tampa, FL 33607

Congressman Adam H. Putnam  
650 East Davidson Street  
Bartow, FL 33830

### **State Officials**

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Senator Ronda Storms  
313 E. Robertson Street  
Brandon, FL 33511

Senator Arthenia L. Joyner  
508 W. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Ste C  
Tampa, FL 33603-3415

Representative Ron Reagan  
7011 15th Street, Suite B-1  
East Sarasota, FL 34243-6205



### **Hillsborough County Commission**

---

Commissioner Rose Ferlita  
Hillsborough County BOCC  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

Commissioner Jim Norman  
Hillsborough County BOCC  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

Commissioner Ken Hagan  
Hillsborough County BOCC  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

Commissioner Brian Blair  
Hillsborough County BOCC  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

Commissioner Kevin White  
Hillsborough County BOCC  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

Commissioner Mark Sharpe  
Hillsborough County BOCC  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

Commissioner Al Higginbotham  
Hillsborough County BOCC  
County Center  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Tampa, FL 33602

### **Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization**

---

Honorable Joe Affronti, Mayor  
MPO Chairman  
City of Temple Terrace  
11250 N. 56<sup>th</sup> Street  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Ramond A. Chiaramonte, AICP  
Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning  
Organization  
County Center, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
601 E. Kennedy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33602

### **Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) Members**

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C. Lynn Miller, StormWater Resources of FL,  
District ETAT Representative  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34604

Madolyn Dominy, EPA Regional Biosolids  
Coordinator  
USEPA Region 4  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

David A. Rydene, Fishery Biologist  
Habitat Conservation Division  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Gary Donaldson, Senior Planner  
Division of Community Planning  
Florida Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100



John Fellows, Biologist  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
701 San Marco Blvd, Room 732  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Lauren P. Milligan, Environmental Manager  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd – M/S 47  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Nahir DeTizio, District Transportation Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
545 John Knox Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Rick Allen Robbins, Soils Specialist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 141510  
Gainesville, FL 32614-1510

Randall Overton, Civil Engineering Unit  
USCG Seventh District  
Brickell Plaza Federal Building  
909 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33131-3050

Wally Blain, AICP, Transportation  
Improvements Program  
Hillsborough County MPO  
P.O. Box 1110  
Tampa, FL 33601-1110

Steve Terry, Land Resource Manager  
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida  
P.O. Box 44021  
Miami, FL 33144

Scott Sanders, Exotic Species Lead  
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation  
Commission  
620 S. Meridian St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Sherry Anderson, Architectural Historian  
Office of Cultural and Historic Preservation  
500 S. Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Todd Mecklenborg, Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
600 4<sup>th</sup> Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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### Public Interest Groups

---

Peggy Templeton, President  
Tampa Bay Builders Association  
2918 W. Kennedy Boulevard #201  
Tampa, FL 33609

Stephen Gran, Manager  
Agriculture Industry Development, Tampa  
Economic Development Department  
P.O. Box 1110  
Tampa, FL 33601

Gene Gray, Director  
Economic Development Department,  
Hillsborough County  
County Center, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
601 E. Kennedy Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33602

Roy J. McCraw, Jr, Chair  
Tampa Bay Partnership  
4300 W. Cypress Street, Suite #250  
Tampa, FL 33607

Ryan Bose, Conservation Chair  
Sierra Club Tampa Bay  
P.O. Box 1948  
Tampa, FL 33601

Lee Stevens, President  
Concerned Citizens of Gibsonton Area  
P.O. Box 1304  
Gibsonton, FL 33534



Michael J. Ward, Chair, President, Chief  
Executive  
CSX Transportation  
500 Water Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

United Citizens' Action Network  
Terry J. Flott, Chair  
907 Knight Street  
Seffner, FL 33584

Zoraida Sempritt, Chair  
Tampa Bay Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
1502 Busch Boulevard, Suite F  
Tampa, FL 33612

Mike Peterson  
South Shore Roundtable  
218 Apollo Beach Boulevard  
Apollo Beach, FL 33572

Don Pearson, President  
Apollo Beach Chamber of Commerce  
233 Flamingo Drive  
Apollo beach, FL 33572

Billie Gordon, President  
The Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce  
10520 Riverview Drive  
Riverview, FL 33568

Tony Zipperer, President  
Ruskin Chamber of Commerce  
315 S. Tamiami Trail  
Ruskin, FL 33570



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

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