



US 41 PD&E STUDY



from Kracker Avenue to south of SR 676 (Causeway Boulevard)

Hillsborough County | Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven | WPI Segment No.: 430056-1

Project Kick-Off Newsletter
March 2013

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!
We want your comments
and suggestions
throughout the study.

Now is the time
to get involved.

HAVE QUESTIONS?
If you have questions...
we have answers

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

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STUDY KICKS OFF!

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Seven is kicking off a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study along a portion of US 41 (SR 45) in Hillsborough County (**MAP 1**). This PD&E study focuses on a segment of US 41 (SR 45), beginning at Kracker Avenue and extending to just south of SR 676 (Causeway Boulevard) - a distance of approximately 7.8 miles.

US 41 is one of three heavily travelled north-south roadways in southern Hillsborough County, running parallel to both I-75 and US 301. In an effort to improve mobility and enhance safety within the corridor, several alternatives will be developed; including options for widening this portion of US 41 from four to six lanes and adding features such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and bus stop foundations.

Along with roadway and multi-modal improvements to be considered as part of the study, it will also evaluate the effects that improvements to the bridge crossings over the Alafia River and Bullfrog Creek would have on the environment. The Department will be working closely with the US Coast Guard (USCG) if the bridges require replacement based on the study's alternatives analysis process.

The proposed project is not presently included in the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 2035 *Highway Cost Affordable Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP) component. However, the project is consistent with an identified need to widen US 41 to six-lanes by the year 2035 as documented in the Hillsborough County MPO's 2035 *Highway Needs Plan*.

PD&E STUDY BASICS

A PD&E study is conducted to meet the federal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal and state requirements. The study is to ensure that the implementation of transportation projects reflect and incorporate the unique engineering and community characteristics of the area. During the study, we determine the location and conceptual design of feasible "build" alternatives for transportation improvements and analyze each of their social, economic and environmental effects. The "no-build" alternative, which leaves US 41 in its present state and provides for only routine maintenance, remains an option throughout the study.

The PD&E study will be finalized when the environmental reports are completed and approved by the Florida Department of Transportation and, if necessary, the USCG. If a "build" alternative is selected, once funding has been programmed, the project may then proceed to the next phase in development, which is the design phase.



