



**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 **Jensen Hackett**, Title VI Coordinator, at jensen.hackett@dot.state.fl.us, by telephone at (813) 975-6283 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 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612.

Comuniquese Con Nosotros

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información sobre este proyector, 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.

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.

For more information on this study, visit our project website:
www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us98-cr54-to-us301/



**US 98/SR 35/SR 700
Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study**
From CR 54 to US 301/SR 39
Pasco County | WPI Segment No.: 443368-2

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE | PROJECT NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2021

HEARING DATE
Thursday
December 2, 2021
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Formal presentation 6:30 p.m.

In-person Session Location
Pasco County Fairgrounds
Clayton Auditorium
36722 State Road 52
Dade City, FL 33525

Registration to Virtual Session
www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us98-cr54-to-us301/

JOIN THE CONVERSATION about the **US 98 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:

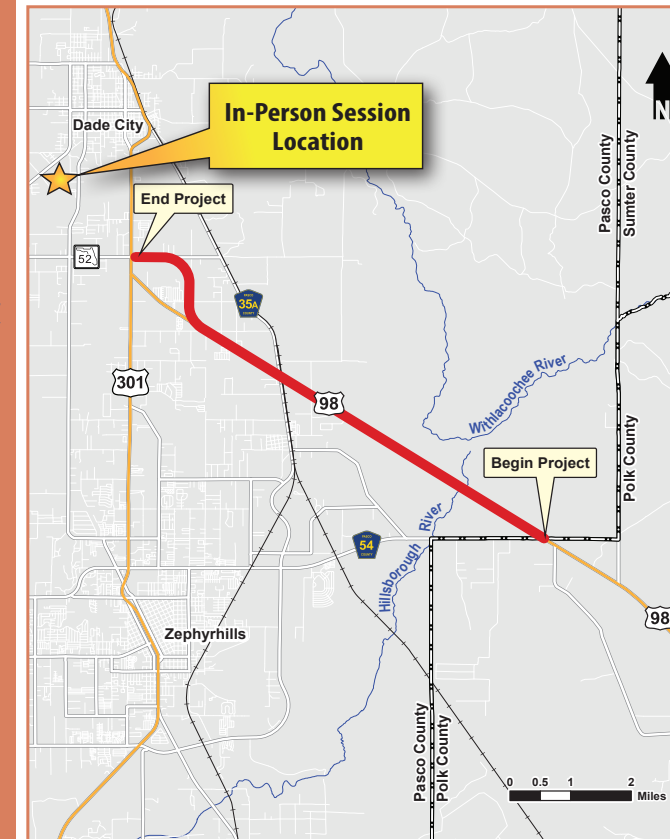
Craig Fox, P.E.
FDOT PD&E Project Manager
FDOT—District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Dr.
Tampa, FL 33612
craig.fox@dot.state.fl.us
813-975-6082

— 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 Thursday, December 2, 2021, regarding the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study, WPI Segment No. 443368-2, for the proposed improvements to US 98 from the CR 54 to US 301 in Pasco County, a distance of approximately 8.6 miles. The public hearing will be offered in-person, with an option to attend online.

This public hearing is being conducted in-person with an option to attend virtually to present information to and receive public input from interested persons regarding the proposed improvements to US 98.



PROJECT LOCATION & STUDY AREA MAP

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/us98-cr54-to-us301/. 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. The design concepts, display boards, and video presentation from the in-person session will be available for review online starting on November 29, 2021, at www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us98-cr54-to-us301/. Draft project engineering and environmental reports will be available for public review from November 10, 2021, to December 13, 2021, on the project website and at the following locations:

- Zephyrhills Public Library: 5347 8th Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542, Tues. & Thurs.: 9 am to 6 pm; Fri.: 9 am to 5 pm; Sat.: 9 am to 12 pm; closed on Sunday & Monday.
- 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.

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 Craig Fox, P.E., FDOT PD&E Project Manager at (813) 975-6082 or visit our project website at www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us98-cr54-to-us301/.

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 widen US 98 and to realign US 98 to Clinton Avenue to enhance safety and provide system linkage/regional connectivity and consistency.

Project Description

The proposed improvements will widen US 98 to a 4-lane divided facility from CR 54 to north of Townsend Road and realign US 98 from north of Townsend Road to US 301. The realignment allows US 98 to align with the Clinton Avenue (New SR 52) intersection at US 301 and was the result of a separate Alternatives Corridor Evaluation (ACE) study (Work Program Item (WPI) Segment No. 443368-1). The project is located in Pasco County and covers a distance of approximately 8.6 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, and multimodal facilities (pedestrian and bicycle accommodations).

Existing Conditions

The existing US 98 from CR 54 to US 301 is a 2-lane undivided facility with 12-foot travel lanes and 8-foot (4-foot paved) shoulders. There are no sidewalks, shared use path, bike lanes or other similar multi-modal facilities within the project corridor. The existing right of way (ROW) along the project corridor is 160 feet. There are two (2) existing bridges in the project limits. The first carries US 98 over the Hillsborough River and the second carries US 98 over Old Lakeland Highway and the CSX railway. Both locations consist of a single bridge with two 12-foot lanes and 8-foot paved shoulders.

Traffic & Crash Data

Crash data along US 98 within the project limits was obtained from the FDOT crash records database for the 5-year period 2014 through 2018 within Pasco County. A total of 211 reported crashes with an average of 42 crashes per year. Of the 211 total crashes, there were three fatal crashes, 109 crashes involving personal injury, and 99 crashes that were property damage only. Approximately 36% were rear end crashes, which is a crash type typically related to "stop-and-go driving" conditions and is indicative of traffic congestion.

Annual average daily traffic (AADT) ranged from 4,500 vehicles per day (VPD) to 9,400 VPD in 2019; by design year 2045, AADTs are expected to range from 6,700 VPD to 19,200 VPD within the study limits. If no improvements are made, US 98 will be over capacity by 2045. The proposed improvements in this study improve safety along US 98 by enhancing access management with a divided median and proposed intersection improvements at CR 54, Old Lakeland Highway, Clinton Avenue, and US 301.

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative is to widen US 98 to a 4-lane divided facility from CR 54 to north of Townsend Road and realign US 98 from north of Townsend Road to US 301. The realignment allows US 98 to align with the Clinton Avenue (New SR 52) intersection at US 301 and was the result of a separate Alternatives Corridor Evaluation (ACE) study (WPI Segment No. 443368-1).

From CR 54 to north of Townsend Road, the widened 4-lane divided facility roadway will consist of 12-foot travel lanes with a varying 24 to 30-foot median rural typical section within the existing 160-foot wide ROW, as shown in Typical Section 1. In the realignment section, the roadway consists of a suburban typical section within a proposed 245-foot wide ROW and includes a 6-foot sidewalk on the east side of the road and a 10-foot shared use path on the west side, as shown in Typical Section 2. Where the realigned US 98 connects to Clinton Avenue and extends to US 301, the roadway consists of an urban typical section within a 140-foot wide ROW and includes a 6-foot sidewalk on the east side of the road and a 10-foot shared use path on the west side, as shown in Typical Section 3. The shared use path will connect to the existing shared use path on US 301.

At both the Hillsborough River and Old Lakeland Highway / CSX locations, the bridges will be replaced with twin bridges with two 12-foot travel lanes with 6-foot inside shoulders and 10-foot outside shoulders. The Old Lakeland Highway / CSX bridge will include a barrier separated 10-foot walkway to accommodate future shared use path and/or sidewalk accommodations. The bridges will be located within the existing 160-foot ROW.

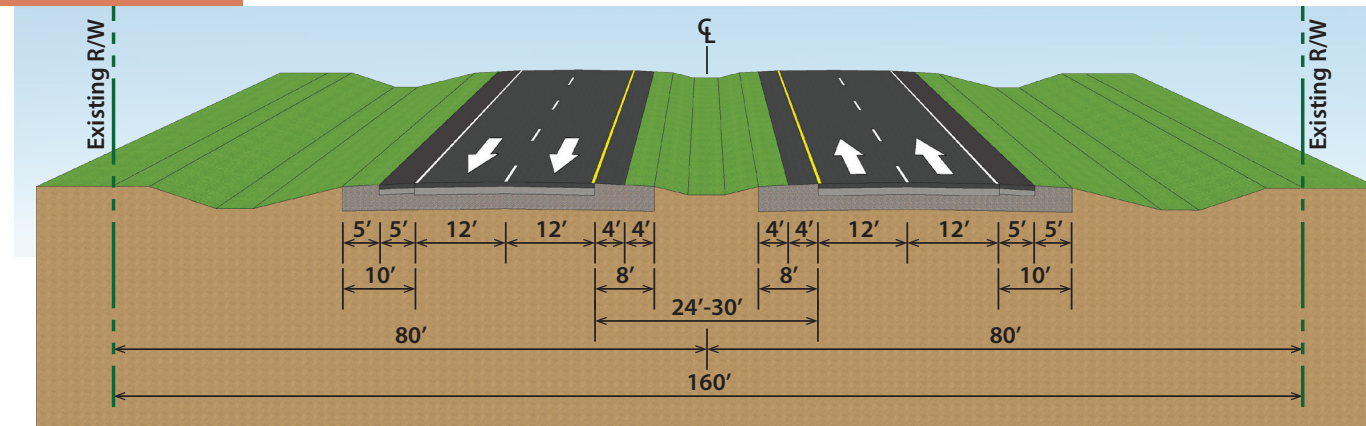
Evaluation Matrix

An evaluation matrix comparing the No Build and Preferred 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	37
Area of ROW anticipated to be acquired for US 98 widening/realignment (acres)	0	48.60
Area of ROW anticipated to be acquired for Stormwater Ponds and Floodplain Compensation Sites (acres)	0	105.23
Number of residential relocations	0	6
Number of business relocations	0	0
Potential Environmental Effects		
Archaeological/Historical sites	0	2
Section 4(f) sites	0	0
Noise sensitive areas	0	6
Wetlands that are not Other Surface Waters (acres)	0	28.43
Protected Species Involvement	None	Minimal
Petroleum and hazardous material sites	None	1 (Medium)
Estimated Costs (Present Day Costs in \$ Millions rounded up to nearest \$0.1 Million)		
Construction of Roadway, Bridges and Ponds	\$0.0	\$116.3
Right of Way for US 98 Roadway Widening	\$0.0	\$7.0
Right of Way for Stormwater Ponds and Floodplain Compensation Site	\$0.0	\$5.2
Wetlands Mitigation	\$0.0	\$2.6
Design and Construction Inspection (20% of construction)	\$0.0	\$23.2
Total Project Estimated Costs	\$0.0	\$154.3

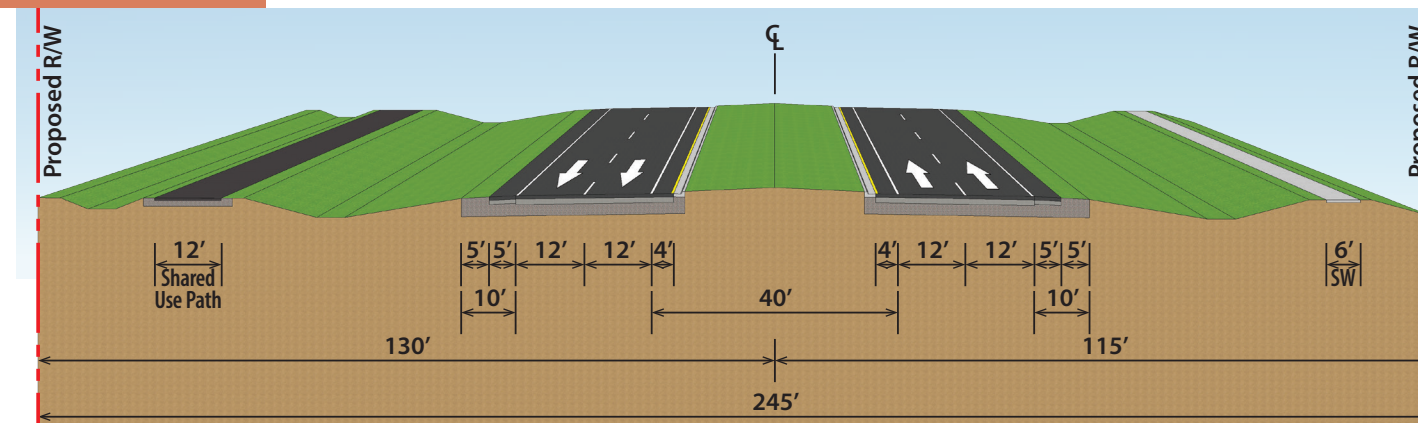
Typical Section 1

US 98 WIDENING FROM CR 54 TO NORTH OF TOWNSEND ROAD



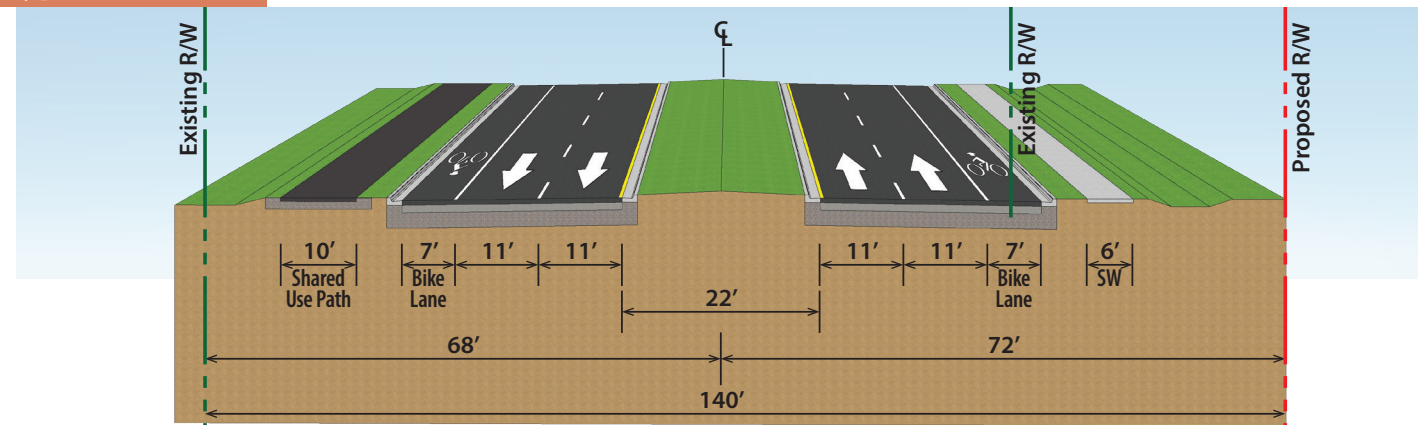
Typical Section 2

US 98 REALIGNMENT FROM NORTH OF TOWNSEND ROAD TO CINDY LANE



Typical Section 3

US 98 FROM CINDY LANE TO US 301



Project Schedule

Study Began	January 2021
Data Collection	Completed August 2021
Preparation of Documents	Ongoing
Public Hearing	December 2, 2021
PD&E Study Approval	Early 2022

Project Funding

FDOT Five Year 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	2022
Construction	Not Currently Funded



US 98/SR 35/SR 700

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study

From CR 54 to US 301/SR 39

Pasco County | WPI Segment No.: 443368-2

Instructions for attending the public hearing

The public hearing will be offered in person with the option to attend virtually. The same materials will be presented for the in-person and virtual formats.

Pre-registration is **required** for the virtual format only. Registration is available online at the project website www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us98-cr54-to-us301/, or from your mobile device, scan the QR Code to the right.

If you have any questions or issues registering, please contact **Craig Fox, P.E.**, the FDOT PD&E Project Manager at **(813) 975-6082**.



To attend the Public Hearing In-Person

In-Person Public Hearing Session will be held at:

Pasco County Fairgrounds Clayton Auditorium
36722 State Road 52
Dade City, FL 33525

5:30 p.m. Open house

6:30 p.m. Formal Presentation/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 Presentation/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. **A call in number is not available.**
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 question 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 December 13, 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](#)" page on the project website at www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/us98-cr54-to-us301/.

All comments postmarked on or before December 13, 2021, will become part of the official public hearing record.