

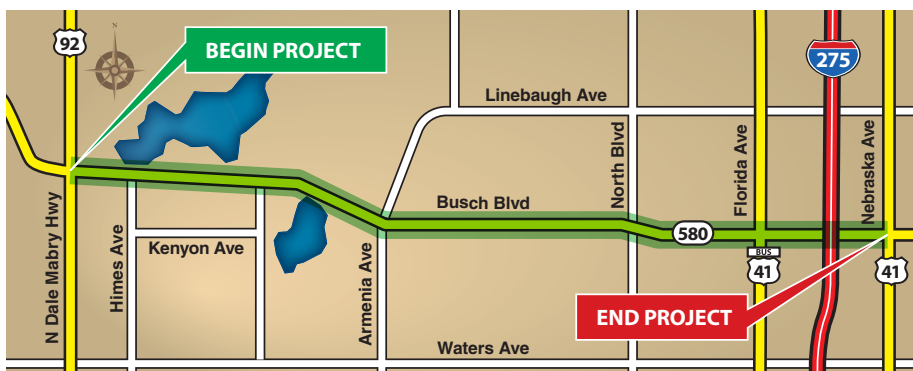
West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) Corridor Study

From North Dale Mabry Highway to North Nebraska Avenue, Hillsborough County, FL

Financial Project ID Number: 435908-1-22-01

Corridor Study Update

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 7 is concluding a corridor planning study along West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) from North Dale Mabry Highway to North Nebraska Avenue in Hillsborough County – a distance of approximately 3.3 miles.



The study began in March 2017. The outcome of the study is the Corridor Alternatives and Strategies Report which documents near-, mid- and long-term recommendations for improvements to the corridor that meet the mobility and connectivity needs of all users, regardless of their transportation mode.

The study recommendations were guided by input from:

- A Project Advisory Group (PAG), made up of local government and agency representatives, that met with FDOT at a series of meetings throughout the study process;
- A Public Visioning Workshop, where members of the community were invited to provide input on the current conditions and concerns along the corridor, prioritize goals and objectives of the study, and identify potential improvements that are most important to them;
- A Public Alternatives Meeting, where members of the community were invited to provide input on the draft mid-term recommendations and long-term alternatives; and
- Solicited input online through the project website, Wikimapping tool, and a Community Preference Survey.

Study Recommendations

Existing deficiencies and community input helped define the desired future of the corridor through a series of goals and objectives related to accessibility and connectivity, economic development, mobility, and safety. Safety, above all else, was found to be the community's top concern. The community's priorities were summarized through the following corridor vision statement:

"The Busch Boulevard corridor offers safe, comfortable and convenient access through and across the corridor for all users and all travel modes."

About the Corridor

The West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) corridor is an east-west urban principal arterial connecting and serving local commuters and visitors between North Dale Mabry Highway and Nebraska Avenue. The corridor study area includes portions of unincorporated Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa and is the main route to the Busch Gardens Amusement Park (located approximately 2.15 miles east of the project limits at McKinley Drive).

The corridor supports a variety of land uses and demographics, including schools, churches, large and small businesses with direct access to and from SR 580, transit services, pedestrians, bicyclists and many small communities. The corridor also serves a large commuter population as a connection between Veterans Expressway to the west and I-275 and I-75 to the east.

What is a Corridor Study?

A corridor study is the first step in planning by defining the corridor's needs. A corridor study generally defines the relationships between a roadway and its adjacent land. Corridor studies are also used to: define acceptable levels of access and mobility; determine transportation system needs to support surrounding land uses, and identify operational deficiencies, among other things. This corridor study will include establishing a shared vision that will allow the community to help set project goals and objectives. The vision will guide the project team to develop a set of improvements that leverage local resources, match local conditions and desires, and are consistent with ongoing planning and development efforts.

The study has resulted in a number of preliminary recommendations. Changes in the corridor to realize the vision for the Busch Boulevard corridor can be implemented in a series of improvements in the near-, mid-, and long-term. Details of these improvements can be found in the Corridor Alternatives and Strategies Report, which is located on the project website.

Next Steps

A general overview of this implementation strategy is summarized below:

- **Corridor Study** – Completed – Established the corridor vision and documented potential implementation plan to achieve the vision.
- **Near-Term Improvements** – Construction to begin in 2019 (FPID 437530-1-52-01) – improvements include: resurfacing and restriping the pavement from west of North Armenia Avenue to just east of North Florida Avenue; installation of median islands, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements including detectable warning surfaces, and sidewalk repair along West Busch Boulevard.
- **Mid-Term Improvements** – Design in 2019 (FPID 435908-2-32-01), Construction is currently unfunded – these improvements will be a step toward the proposed long-term improvements and can be advanced without further evaluation in a PD&E Study. Improvements include: the addition of a restrictive landscaped median to improve safety, address access issues, and accommodate turn lane improvements; continuous 6' sidewalks; pedestrian lighting; intersection improvements that enhance pedestrian safety, with a focus on Chamberlain High School at North Boulevard; signal coordination to improve traffic flow; improvements to transit stops; reduced lane widths as a method of traffic calming; and reducing the posted speed.
- **Long-Term Improvements** – Currently unfunded – These are the improvements that achieve the corridor vision; they require significant right-of-way acquisition, and would first need to be further evaluated through a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, which is not currently funded. Improvements include: Installing continuous 7' buffered bike lanes throughout the corridor, and street trees.

Thank you for your participation in this important project, and stay up to date on advances in the corridor by checking the website for updates.

Your Input Matters!

The recommendations are documented in the Corridor Alternatives and Strategies Report posted to the project website, which you can access at this link: www.fdotd7studies.com/westbuschblvd/.

We encourage you to visit the project website, review the report, and provide feedback.

The website also houses general study information, and project documents that have been developed to date, including presentations and meeting materials presented at the PAG meetings, Public Visioning Workshop, and Alternatives Public Meeting.

▶ Learn more about the project here: www.fdotd7studies.com/westbuschblvd/

For more information or to comment, please contact:

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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.

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 or persons who require translation service (free of charge) should contact Alex Henry, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (813) 975-6405 or (800) 226-7220.

Comuníquese Con Nosotros

Nos importa mucho la opinión del público sobre el proyecto. Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información, por favor comuníquese con nosotros. Nuestro representante, Señora Lilliam Escalera, 813-975-6445, Departamento de Transportación de Florida, 11201 N. McKinley Dr., Tampa, FL 33612, lilliam.escalera@dot.state.fl.us.