



Newsletter No. 1 • Summer / Fall 2017

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 Begins!

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 7 is conducting 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 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-75 to the east.



The West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) corridor study will use FDOT's Complete Streets policy to showcase how Complete Streets approaches can shape a corridor. The study, which began in March 2017, is expected to continue for approximately 18 months and will include technical work and data analysis, along with various opportunities for the public to be involved in discussing a vision for West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) that makes it accessible for all users.

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.



Project Schedule

The West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) Corridor Study began in March 2017 and is anticipated to be completed in 18 months. Project activities will include:

• Identifying the travel related needs and issues within the West Busch Boulevard project corridor.

| PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN SCHEDULE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|
| ACTIVITY | 2017 | | | | | | | | | | 2018 | | | | | | | | |
| | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep |
| Notice to Proceed - Project Begins | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Develop Public Involvement Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mailing List | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Г |
| Elected Officials/Agency Kick-off Meeting | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Advisory Group (PAG) Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | _ | | | | | 1 | | |
| Corridor Visioning Workshop | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alternatives Public Meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | Г |
| Final Corridor Alternatives & Strategies Report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Г |

- Coordinating with key stakeholders to establish the vision for the corridor and identify solutions to the corridor issues and improve operational efficiency within the West Busch Boulevard corridor.
- Document the vision for all future improvements within the West Busch Boulevard corridor to maximize the "livability" for all users.

Project Advisory Group (PAG)

A Project Advisory Group (PAG), composed of local government and agency representatives, are working with FDOT to identify corridor challenges along with potential solutions, assist with documenting the community goals, and develop a vision for the corridor that will guide the study development and future improvements. The PAG will meet at key points throughout the study to collaborate with the project team to ensure the vision and improvement alternatives are well-coordinated with local planning efforts, adjacent projects, and community goals.

How Can You Get Involved?

The project website is your best source for up-to-date information; you can get access at this link:

www.fdotd7studies.com/westbuschblvd/. In addition to the general study information that is already posted on the website, the project documents will be uploaded to this site as they are developed. However, you can already begin providing your input on this project using WikiMapping! This tool allows you to "pin" comments at specific locations along the corridor. You can pick the type of comment you have to help us understand the issues you observe in the corridor. Some of these issue types include: Bus/Transit, Connectivity, Intersection Issue, Pedestrian, Safety, and Traffic/Parking. If you have a comment on an issue that does not have a specific description, just use the "Other" category. The link to the WikiMapping tool is provided on the project website, but for direct access you can click on the following link:

http://wikimapping.com/wikimap/West-Busch-Boulevard-Corridor-Study.html. The project team will utilize this information to help inform the process and guide solutions.

Future opportunities for you to get involved include the upcoming Corridor Visioning Workshop that will be conducted in the Fall 2017. At this workshop, we will gather your input on the existing corridor and document your ideas to resolve some of the issues that you have observed. Our goal is to enlist your help to identify improvements that can be implemented in the West Busch Boulevard corridor to resolve the challenges. In advance of this workshop, a User Preference Survey will be available on the website in October; hard copies of this same survey will be available at the Corridor Visioning Workshop. These surveys will be used by the project team to understand the issues and concerns that you have regarding the corridor.

We want your input! We urge anyone interested in shaping the future of the West Busch Boulevard corridor to actively participate by visiting the website, get informed, document issues in the WikiMapping tool, attend meetings, and provide your ideas.

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 Christopher Speese, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (813) 975-6405 or (800) 226-7220.