

***Level I Contamination Screening Evaluation Report
Technical Memorandum***

**US 98 / SR 35 / SR 700
From CR 54 to US 301 / SR 39**

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study



**Florida Department of Transportation
District 7**

Work Program Item Segment No. 443368-3

ETDM Project No. 14374

Pasco County, Florida

November 2024

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

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Prepared for:



Florida Department of Transportation
District Seven

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November 2024

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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7 is conducting a Design Change Re-evaluation to evaluate and document changes to the previously approved Type 2 Categorical Exclusion along US Highway 98 (US 98) / State Road 35 (SR 35) / SR 700 from County Road 54 (CR 54) to US 301 / SR 39, in Pasco County. The proposed consists of widening US 98 from a 2-lane undivided facility to a 4-lane divided facility from CR 54 to north of Townsend Road, approximately 6.8 miles, and realign US 98 from north of Townsend Road to US 301, approximately 2.0 miles. The realignment allows US 98 to align with the Clinton Avenue (New SR 52) intersection at US 301 and was the results of a separate ACE study (WPI Segment No. 443368-1). The project is located in Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14, Township 25S, and Range 21E; and Sections 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, 34 and 35, Township 25S, and Range 22E; Pasco County, Florida. See **Figure 1-1** for Project Location Map.

A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study was completed for the project to analyze the need for improvements. Following a Public Hearing held on December 2, 2021, the FDOT's Office of Environmental Management (OEM) approved the Type 2 Categorical Exclusion for this project on December 6, 2022. The re-evaluation analyzes design changes made since the approval of the Type 2 Categorical Exclusion.

As part of the design-build final design and right of way acquisition process, the following modifications to the Preferred Alternative Concept Plans from the approved Type 2 Categorical Exclusion have been made. The changes include the following:

1. Acquisition of USDA Parcel (See **Figure 1-2 Reevaluation Area Map (1)**)
2. Relocation of Pond 400 (See **Figure 1-2 Reevaluation Area Map (1)**)
3. Permanent Easement 805 (See **Figure 1-2 Reevaluation Area Map (1)**)
4. Modification of ROW acquisition at US 98 and Townsend Road (See **Figure 1-3 Reevaluation Area Map (2)**)
5. Old US 98 Roundabout additional ROW (See **Figure 1-4 Reevaluation Area Map (3)**)
6. Parcel 115 (See **Figure 1-5 Reevaluation Area Map (4)**)
7. Modification of medians

1.2 REPORT PURPOSE

As part of the PD&E Study, a Level I CSER was prepared for the project mainline corridor in September 2022. The purpose of the CSER is to identify past and present activities that have the potential to impact areas in, or immediately adjacent to, project construction. This evaluation provides an analysis of potential contamination concerns for the areas of design change only. Contamination within or adjacent to the ROW has the potential for liability and may require assessment, remediation, or special handling.

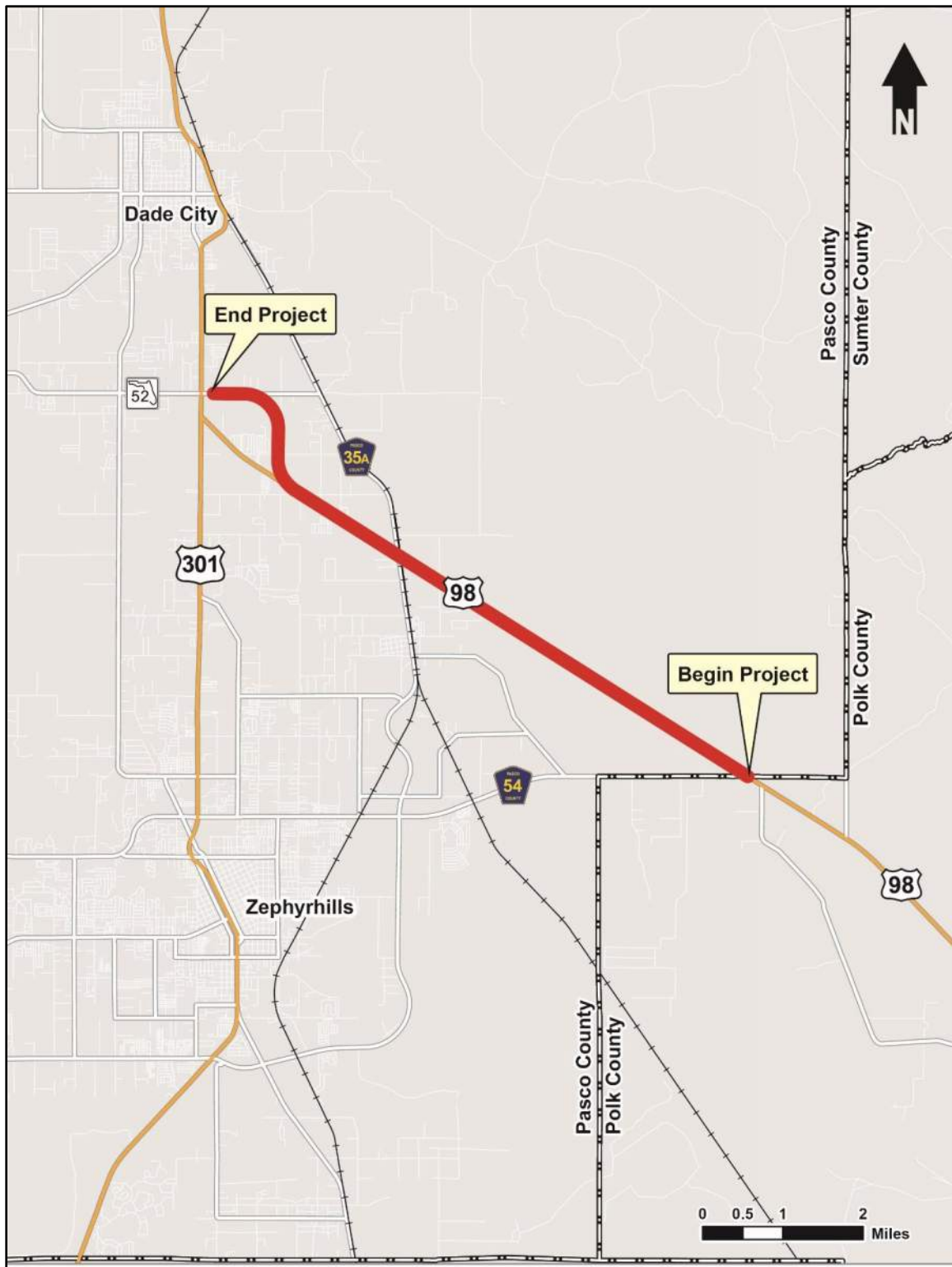


Figure 1-1 Project Location Map



Figure 1-2 Reevaluation Area Map (1)

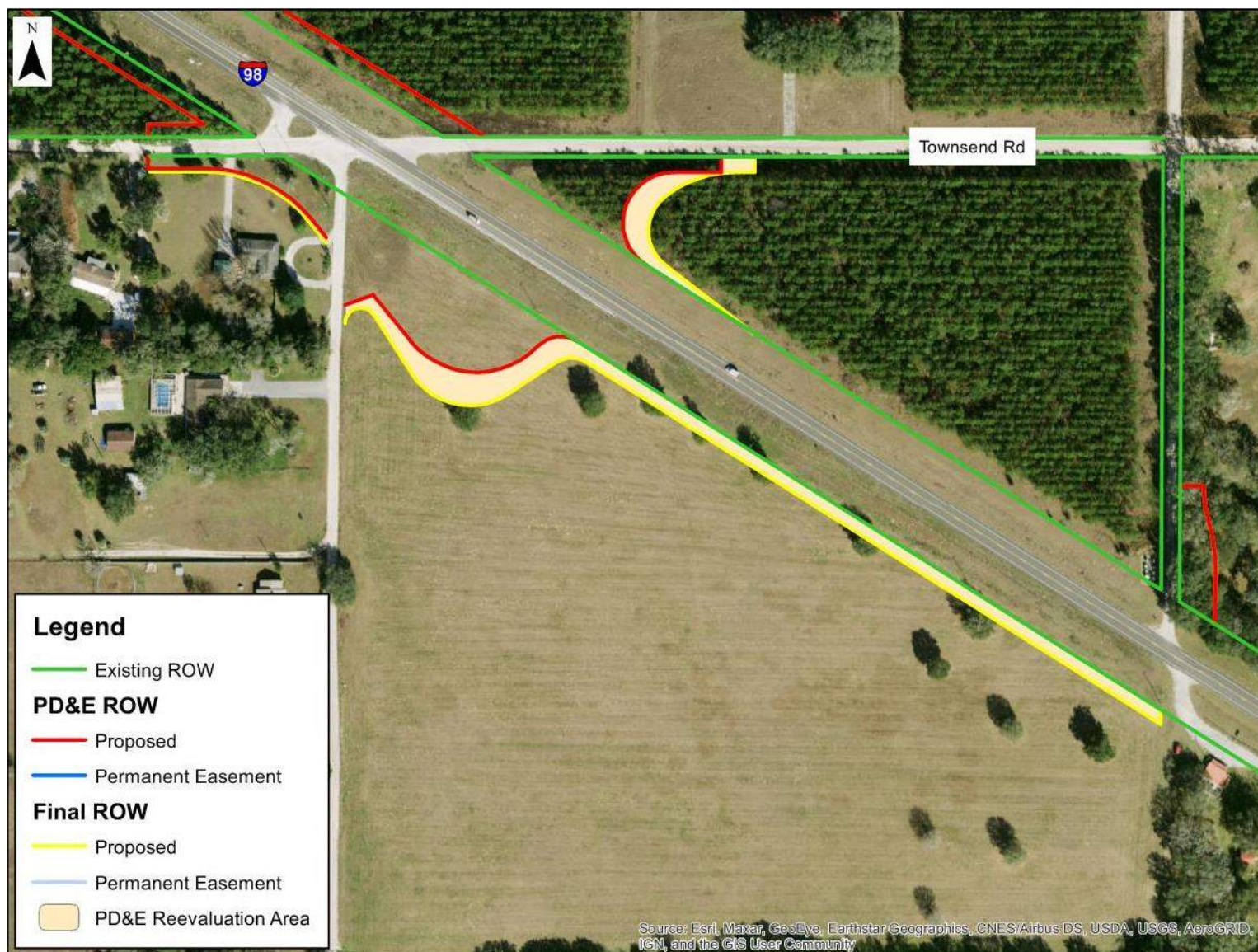


Figure 1-3 Reevaluation Area Map (2)

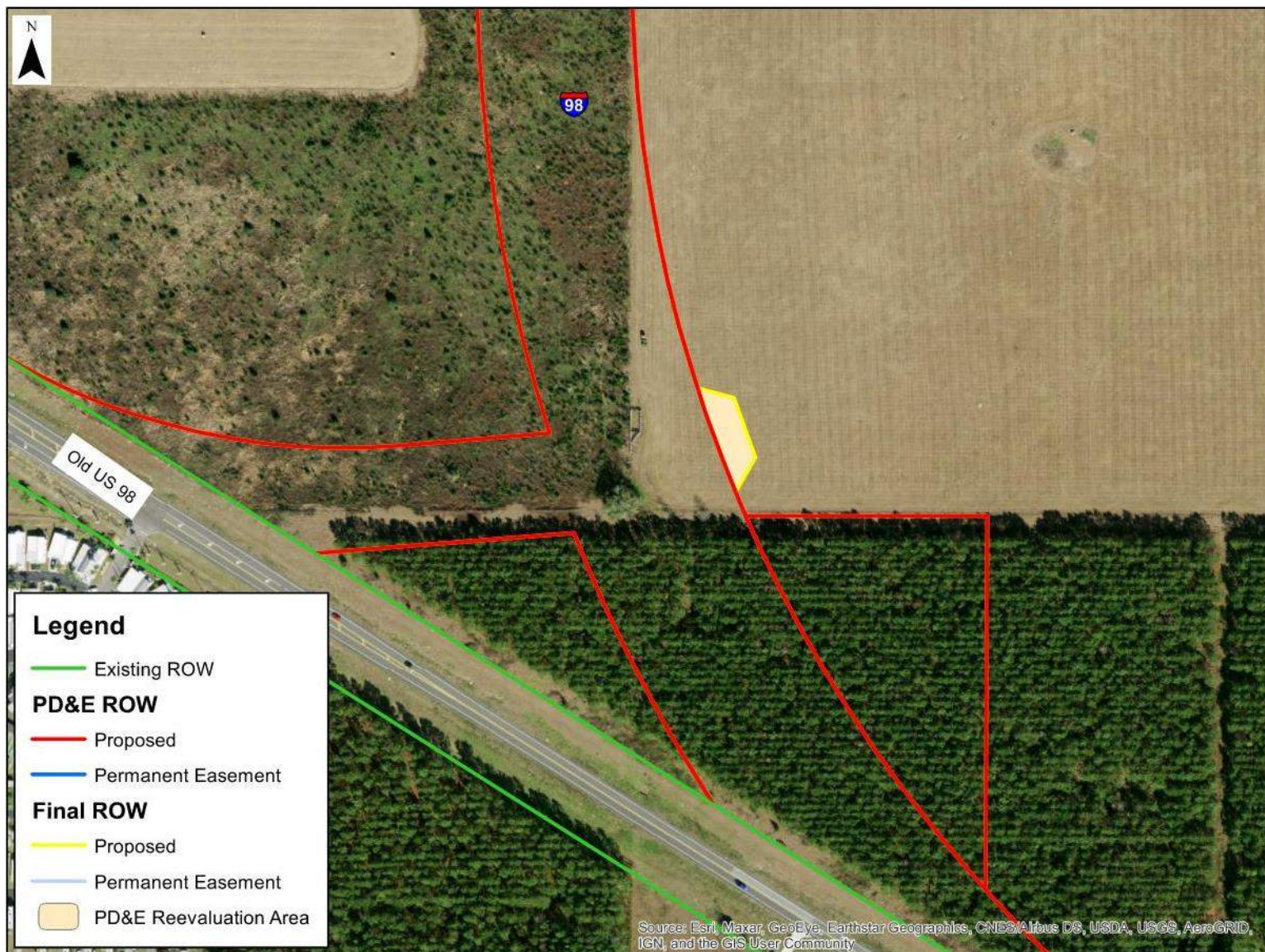


Figure 1-4 Reevaluation Area Map (3)

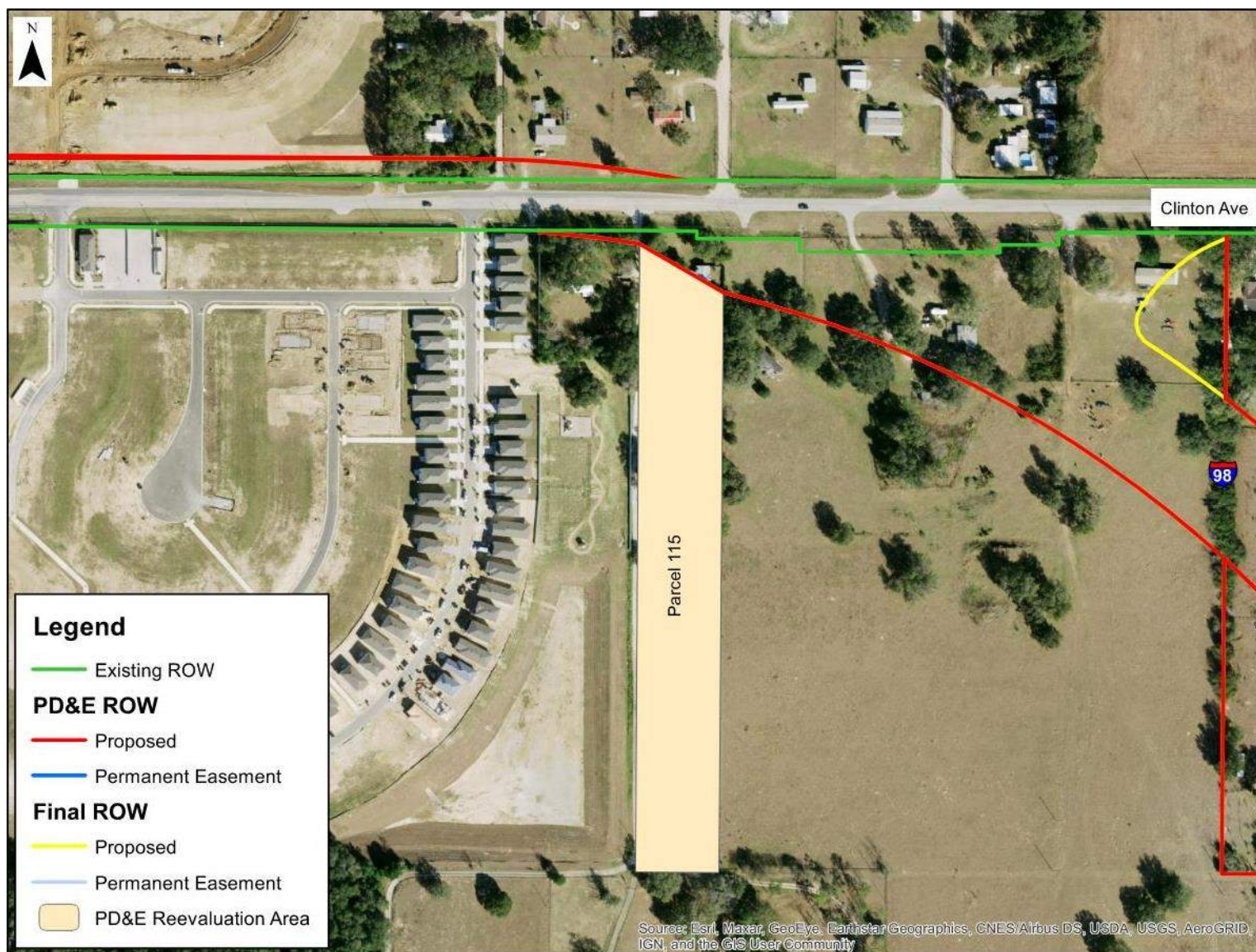


Figure 1-5 Reevaluation Area Map (4)

SECTION 2 METHODOLOGY

This contamination screening evaluation was conducted to identify contamination issues from properties or operations located within the vicinity of the Design Change Re-evaluation areas. This evaluation consisted of the following tasks:

1. Conduct desktop research using Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) MapDirect database search.
2. Review of aerial photographs, United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, and Google Earth Aerial Imagery, when necessary.
3. Perform a site reconnaissance to identify new and/or undocumented contamination sites, and to verify locations of documented contamination sites. Select photographs are provided in Appendix A.
4. Adjust risk ratings, as necessary, based on proposed changes to roadway alignment and document new potentially contaminated sites based on the design changes.

Risk ratings were assigned for each contamination site. The rating system is defined in the FDOT PD&E Manual Chapter 20 and is divided into four categories of risk which express the degree of concern for contamination problems. The four degrees of risk ratings are No, Low, Medium, and High and are defined as follows:

No Risk Rating

A review of available information on the property and a review of the conceptual or design plans indicates there is no potential contamination impact to the project. It is possible that contaminants have been handled on the property. However, findings from the Level I evaluation indicate that contamination impacts are not expected.

Low Risk Rating

A review of available information indicates that past or current activities on the property have an ongoing contamination issue; the site has a hazardous waste generator identification (ID) number, or the site stores, handles, or manufactures hazardous materials. However, based on the review of conceptual or design plans and/or findings from the Level I evaluation, it is not likely that there would be any contamination impacts to the project.

Medium Risk Rating

After a review of conceptual or design plans and findings from a Level I evaluation, a potential contamination impact to the project has been identified. If there is insufficient information (such as regulatory records or site historical documents) to make a determination as to the potential for contamination impact, and there is reasonable suspicion that contamination may exist, the property should be rated at least as a "Medium". Properties used historically as gasoline stations and which have

not been evaluated or assessed by regulatory agencies, sites with abandoned in place underground petroleum storage tanks or currently operating gasoline stations should receive this rating.

High Risk Rating

After a review of all available information and conceptual or design plans, there is appropriate analytical data that shows contamination will substantially impact construction activities, have implications to ROW acquisition or have other potential transfer of contamination related liability to the FDOT.

SECTION 3 FINDINGS

3.1 SITE RECONNAISSANCE

Site Reconnaissance was conducted on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 by HDR staff. The site reconnaissance observations are summarized below.

- The USDA parcel contained some old farm buildings, however it was unclear from public ROW if the buildings contained any potential concerns of contaminants that were or could release to the environment due to the buildings obscured by vegetation and distance.
- Just west of Pond 400, there was a TECO gas line with a bent vent pipe. Based on discussions with FDOT's Contamination Assessment and Remediation Contractor, it is unlikely this would pose any risks to the soil and groundwater. This observation was brought to the attention of the FDOT Utilities Department.

3.2 DESIGN CHANGE RE-EVALUATION PROJECT IMPACTS

Four sites of known or potentially contaminated sites were identified within the project area for potential impacts to the ROW.

Table 3-1 Potential Contamination Sites

Site No.	Site Name	Address	CSER Risk Rating Sept 2022	Re-evaluation Risk Rating Nov 2024	Comments
1	State Farm Insurance Diesel Spill	Highway 35A & US Highway 98	No	No	This site was first identified in the September 2022 CSER and was assigned a risk rating of No. A discharge was reported in May 1996 due to a vehicle accident. The discharge was issued No Further Action in September 1997. This site is located within the vicinity of USDA Parcel, Pond 400 and Permanent Easement 805. This site remains a risk rating of No.

2	Railroad Tracks	US 98 and Old Lakeland Highway	Low	High	This site was first identified in the September 2022 CSER. Railroads historically used arsenic based herbicides for vegetation and weed control along its corridors. Additionally, the use of petroleum and creosote-based compounds were used to preserve railroad ties. This site was assigned a risk rating of Low due to no proposed ROW near this site. However, design changes show USDA Parcel, Pond 400 and Permanent Easement 805 within the vicinity of the railroad tracks. This site is given a new risk rating of High.
3	Groves/Row Crops	N/A	Low	Low	This site was first identified in the September 2022 CSER. Review of historical aerial photographs beginning in 1941 depict groves/row crops near onsite and adjoining the project. Particularly, historic groves/row crops were apparent in the modification of ROW acquisition at US 98 and Townsend Road and Old US 98 roundabout additional ROW. Although grove/row crop cultivation in itself does not confirm the presence of contamination, many of the activities associated with grove/row crop cultivation can result in hazardous materials or petroleum product contamination of the soil and/or groundwater due to vehicle/equipment maintenance and fueling, pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer formulation and application, and freeze prevention via grove heaters. No mix/load areas, diesel powered irrigation pumps, central grove barns, or storage areas were observed on-site in 2021 or during historical aerial review. Thus, the former groves/row crops onsite and adjoining the project are not considered a contamination concern and remains a risk rating of Low.

4	Clinton Avenue Property	38350 Clinton Ave Dade City, FL 33525	Low	Low	This site was first identified in the September 2022 CSER and given a risk rating of Low. Previous site assessments in 2019 revealed arsenic and Total Recoverable Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TRPH) at concentrations above FDEP Soil Cleanup Target Levels (SCTLs) due to previous agrichemical storage and mixing at a storage shed, a discarded 55-gallon drum near an irrigation well, and chemical storage in the pole barn. The contamination was remediated and the site was given a Site Rehabilitation Completion Order (SRCO) in February 2021. This site is a neighborhood and located within 500 feet west of Parcel 115. Due to the SRCO and lack of current contamination concerns, this site remains a risk rating of Low.
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SECTION 4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 CONCLUSIONS

Based on this contamination screening evaluation of the project design changes, four sites were identified as having a potential for contamination concerns.

Table 4-1 Summary of Risk Ratings

No	Low	Medium	High
1	2	0	1

4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Additional information may become available or site-specific conditions may change from the time this evaluation was prepared and should be considered prior to acquiring ROW or proceeding with construction.

Acquisition of USDA Parcel is in the vicinity of Site 2 with a risk rating of High. This parcel also contained some old farm buildings that were obscured by vegetation and distance at the time of site reconnaissance. Additional investigation of this parcel is needed to understand the extent of potential contamination concern to the project. A Level II assessment is recommended to determine if contamination exists near the property due to railroad activities. Subsequent sampling/analysis would occur in order to avoid and/or minimize the acquisition of contaminated ROW areas and potential impacts on construction activities during excavation. The Level II assessment would include field screening and the collection of soil and groundwater samples for laboratory analysis, where applicable.

Relocation of Pond 400 is in the vicinity of Site 2 with a risk rating of High. A Level II assessment is recommended to determine if contamination exists on the property due to railroad activities. Subsequent sampling/analysis would occur in order to avoid and/or minimize the acquisition of contaminated ROW areas and potential impacts on construction activities during excavation. The Level II assessment would include field screening and the collection of soil and groundwater samples for laboratory analysis, where applicable.

Permanent Easement 805 is in the vicinity of Site 2 with a risk rating of High. A Level II assessment is recommended to determine if contamination exists on the property due to railroad activities. Subsequent sampling/analysis would occur in order to avoid and/or minimize the acquisition of contaminated ROW areas and potential impacts on construction activities during excavation. The Level II assessment would include field screening and the collection of soil and groundwater samples for laboratory analysis, where applicable.

Modification of ROW acquisition at US 98 and Townsend Road is in the vicinity of Site 3 with a risk rating of Low. No further action is required at this time. Site 3 has been determined to not have any contamination risk to the Design Change Re-evaluation.

Old US 98 Roundabout additional ROW is in the vicinity of Site 3 with a risk rating of Low. No further action is required at this time. Site 3 has been determined to not have any contamination risk to the Design Change Re-evaluation.

Parcel 115 is in the vicinity of Site 4 with a risk rating of Low. No further action is required at this time. Site 4 has been determined to not have any contamination risk to the Design Change Re-evaluation.

APPENDICES

Appendix A Site Reconnaissance Photographs

APPENDIX A

Site Reconnaissance Photographs

Site Photographs



CSX Tracks



Bent Natural Gas Marker



Parcel 115



Parcel 115



Old US 98 Roundabout



US 98 and Townsend Road



US 98 and Townsend Road



Abandoned Buildings at USDA Parcel



TECO Gas Utilities near CSX



USDA Parcel and Pond 400 Area