

NATURAL RESOURCES EVALUATION TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Florida Department of Transportation

District Seven

SR 56 Southbound C-D Road/Ramps to I-75/I-275

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

Limits of Project: South of the I-75/I-275 Apex to SR 56

Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida

Financial Management Number: 430573-4

ETDM Number: 14330

Date: July 2022

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 May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

SR 56 Southbound C-D Road/Ramps to I-75/I-275

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study

Natural Resources Evaluation Technical Memorandum

Work Program Item Segment No. 430573-4

ETDM Project No. 14330

Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, Florida

Prepared for:



Florida Department of Transportation
District Seven

Prepared by:

American Consulting Engineers of Florida, LLC
2818 Cypress Ridge Boulevard, Suite 200
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

July 2022

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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Seven, is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study to evaluate location and design concepts for constructing a southbound collector-distributor (C-D) road system to carry the southbound on-ramps from State Road (SR) 56 to Interstate 75 (I-75) and I-275. The limits of the study are along I-75 from south of the I-75/I-275 Apex to SR 56 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. The study will improve the southbound operations between the I-75/I-275 and I-75/SR 56 interchanges and eliminate undesirable weaving movements. The design year for the improvements is 2045. A project location map is provided as **Figure 1-1**.

A Natural Resources Evaluation (NRE) was prepared in July 2021 to evaluate impacts to protected species and their suitable habitat, in addition to wetlands and other surface waters. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurred with the findings of the July 2021 NRE on August 12, 2021. The purpose of this report is to evaluate the changes in impacts to protected species and wetlands and other surface waters within the additional area in the updated preferred alternative as shown in **Figure 1-2**. The additional area considered in this report, hereafter referred to as the study area, includes the extended limits of the preferred alternative further to the south by approximately 3,700 feet, including widening the bridge over Cypress Creek (Bridge No. 100412) by approximately 21 feet for the additional two 12-foot lanes. The July 2021 NRE did not propose improvements over Cypress Creek; therefore, no impacts were evaluated. The July 2021 NRE preferred alternative design is provided in **Attachment A**, while the updated preferred alternative design is provided in **Attachment B** for comparison.

The objective of the PD&E study is to assist the FDOT's Office of Environmental Management (OEM) in reaching a decision on the type, location, and conceptual design of the necessary improvements for the southbound on-ramps from SR 56 to I-75 and I-275 to safely and efficiently accommodate future travel demand. This study documents the need for the improvements as well as the procedures utilized to develop and evaluate various improvements, including elements such as proposed typical sections, preliminary horizontal alignments, and interchange enhancement alternatives.

The PD&E study satisfies all applicable requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to qualify for federal-aid funding of subsequent development phases (design, right of way acquisition, and construction). This project was screened through the FDOT's Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process as ETDM Project No. 14330. An ETDM Programming Screen Summary Report was published on February 21, 2018, containing comments from the Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) on the project's effects on various natural, physical, and social resources. A Type 2 Categorical Exclusion is being prepared as part of this PD&E study.

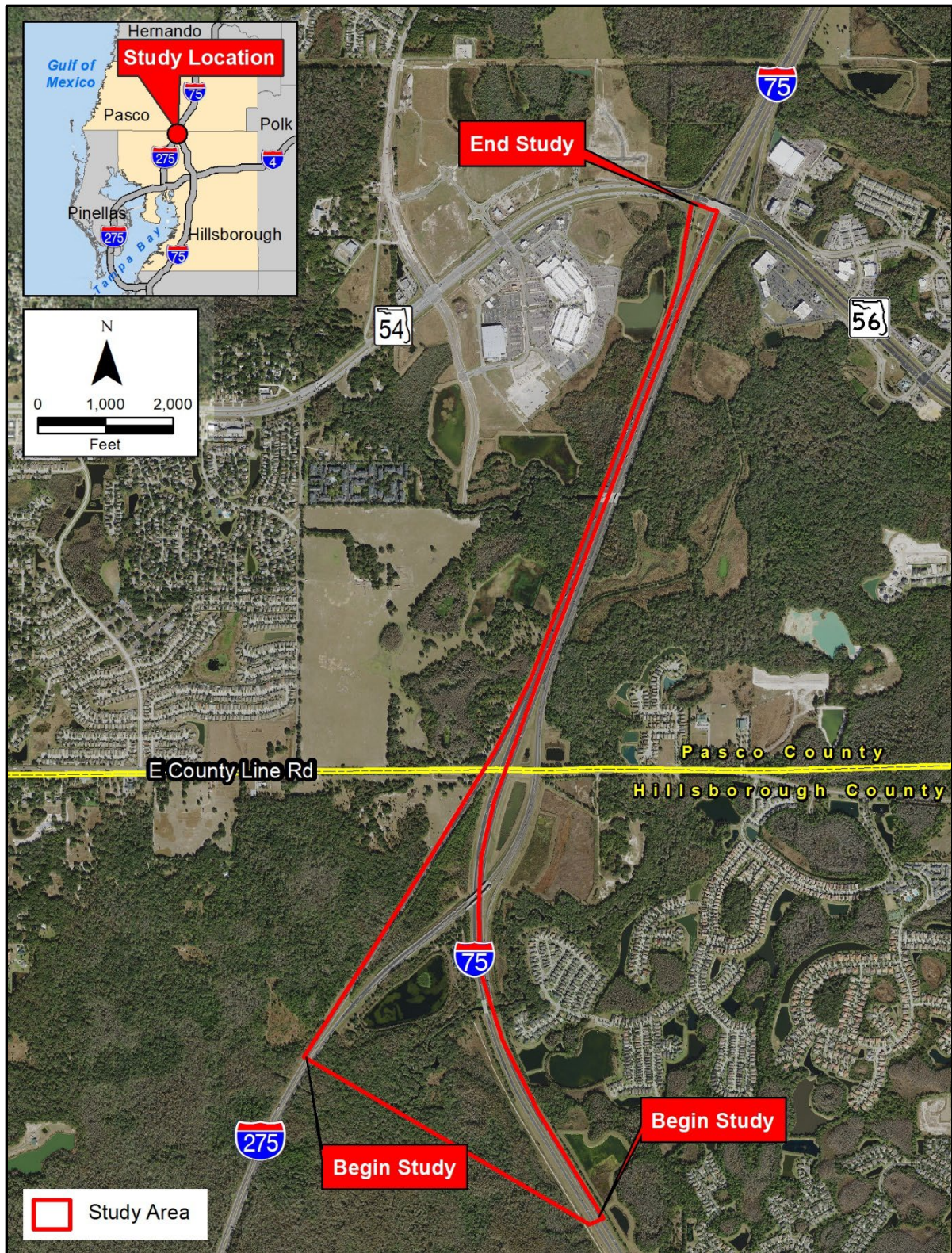


Figure 1-1 Project Location Map

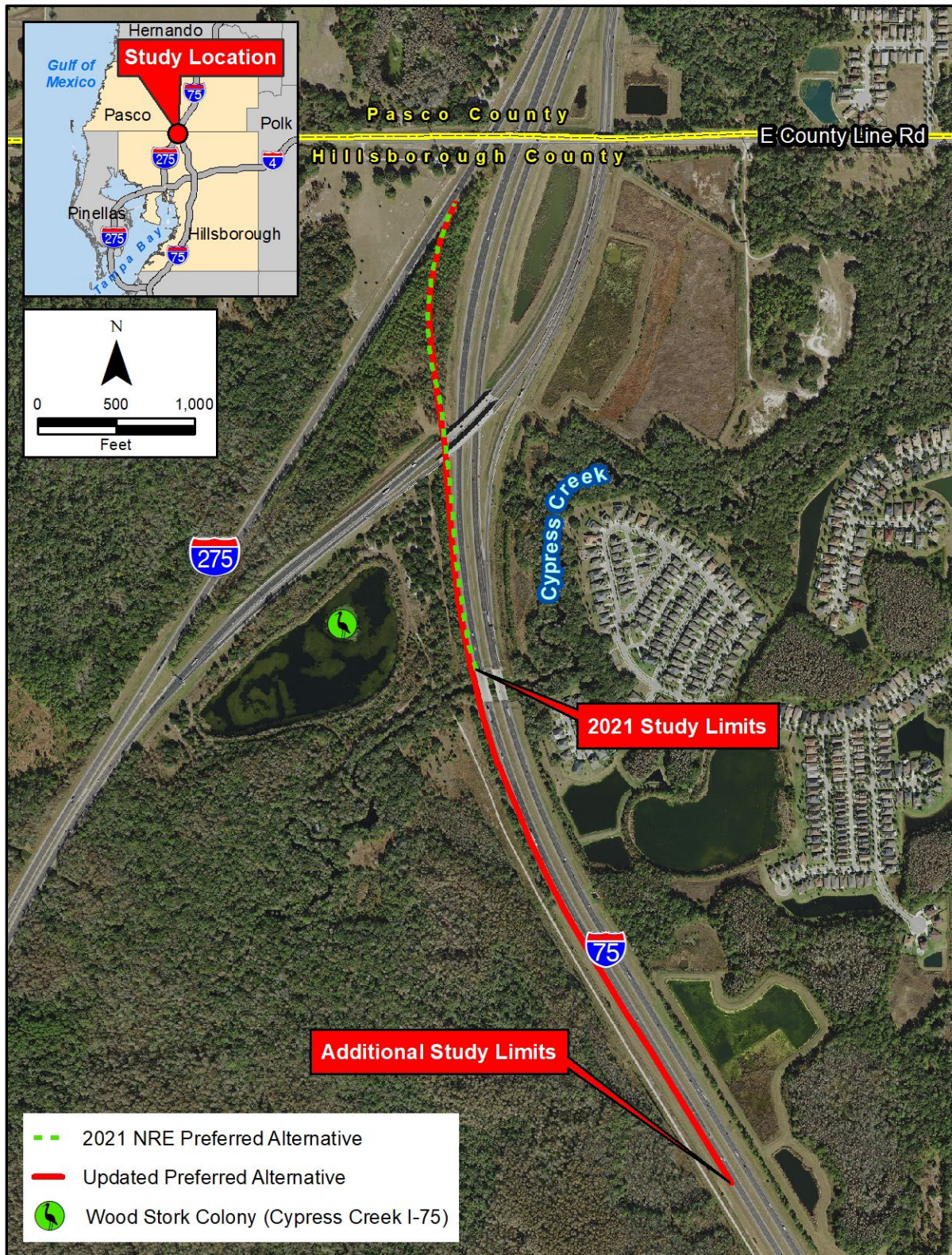


Figure 1-2 Updated Preferred Alternative Area Map

SECTION 2 PROTECTED SPECIES AND HABITAT

2.1 METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT

The study area was assessed for the presence of suitable habitat for protected species in accordance with 50 CFR Part 402 of the ESA of 1973, as amended, Chapter 5B-40: Preservation of Native Flora of Florida, F.A.C., Chapter 68A-27: Rules Relating to Endangered or Threatened Species, F.A.C., and the FDOT PD&E Manual.

Informal consultation was conducted with the USFWS, who concurred with the findings of the July 2021 NRE on August 12, 2021. This report evaluates changes to protected species and their habitats for the updated preferred alternative. Updated literature reviews, agency database searches, and preliminary field reviews of potential habitat areas were conducted to identify protected species occurring or potentially occurring within the study area. No additional protected species were identified; therefore, the same species identified in the July 2021 NRE were evaluated as part of this report. No changes in species listing statuses were made from the time of the July 2021 NRE approval.

2.2 FIELD REVIEW FINDINGS

A field review was conducted in May 2022 which consisted of a vehicular survey, roadside observations, a detailed pedestrian survey through natural and altered habitats, and an aerial survey with a remote control drone. Several federal listed threatened wood storks (*Mycteria americana*), among other colonial nesting birds, were observed at the documented wood stork colony (Cypress Creek I-75) located west of the project. No further observations of protected species were recorded. Species observations and historical occurrences are provided in **Attachment C**.

2.3 SPECIES EVALUATION

As mentioned above, the same species identified in the July 2021 NRE were evaluated as part of this report. The proposed project design generally follows the same footprint as the previously evaluated design, and therefore; no significant change in impacts to suitable habitat were identified and impacts to protected species are minimal to none.

2.3.1 Wood Stork

The updated preferred alternative for the I-75 southbound on-ramp from the C-D road will extend the project limits further to the south and west, including widening the bridge over Cypress Creek (Bridge No. 100412) by approximately 21 feet. As defined by the USFWS, suitable foraging habitat (SFH) for wood storks includes wetlands and surface waters which have areas of water that are relatively calm, uncluttered by dense thickets of aquatic vegetation, and have permanent or seasonal water depth between 2 and 15 inches. During the field review in May 2022, a large mass of water hyacinth (*Pontederia crassipes*) was observed within Cypress Creek extending from bank to bank. This dense thicket of aquatic vegetation does not provide adequate suitable foraging habitat for the wood stork.

It is anticipated the depths of the creek are greater than 15 inches. Therefore, the widening of the bridge is not anticipated to have an adverse impact to SFH for the wood stork.

As stated in the July 2021 NRE, coordination was conducted with the USFWS via email in December 2020 (**Attachment D**) to discuss conservation measures to address potential impacts to the colony. In this correspondence, it was decided that the FDOT has covered all of the required conservation measures to achieve an effect determination of may effect, not likely to adversely affect. Since the proposed project footprint is being shifted west of the previous design and closer to the documented wood stork colony, coordination with the USFWS was reinitiated in June 2022 to confirm there would be no change in effect determination for the wood stork. On July 6, 2022, the USFWS provided confirmation that the additional project area as a result of the updated preferred alternative would not change the previous effect determination for the wood stork. The email correspondence is provided in **Attachment D**. Since impacts to SFH are not anticipated, and unavoidable wetland impacts will be mitigated, it was determined the project may affect, not likely to adversely affect the wood stork.

2.3.2 Additional Protected Species Summary

Overall, the additional project footprint as part of the updated preferred alternative occurs within the same habitat types as previously identified, mostly maintained interstate ROW. Therefore, no changes in effect determinations have been made from the July 2021 NRE, as shown in **Table 2-1** and **Table 2-2** below. The proposed project changes are not anticipated to result in adverse effects to protected species or their habitat.

Table 2-1 Protected Faunal Species Effect Determinations

Species	Common Name	State Status (FWC)	Federal Status (USFWS)	July 2021 Effect Determination	Current Effect Determination
REPTILES					
<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	Eastern indigo snake	FT	T	MANLAA	MANLAA
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher tortoise	ST	C	NAEA	NAEA
<i>Lampropeltis extenuata</i>	Short-tailed snake	ST	--	NAEA	NAEA
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	Florida pine snake	ST	--	NEA	NEA
BIRDS					
<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	Florida scrub jay	FT	T	No Effect	No Effect
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little blue heron	ST	--	NAEA	NAEA
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Tricolored (Louisiana) heron	ST	--	NAEA	NAEA
<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	Southeastern American kestrel	ST	--	NAEA	NAEA
<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida sandhill crane	ST	--	NAEA	NAEA
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle ¹	--	--	--	--

Species	Common Name	State Status (FWC)	Federal Status (USFWS)	July 2021 Effect Determination	Current Effect Determination
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i>	Eastern black rail	FT	T	MANLAA	MANLAA
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood stork	FT	T	MANLAA	MANLAA
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey ²	--	--	--	--
<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	Roseate spoonbill	ST	--	NAEA	NAEA
MAMMALS					
<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	Florida black bear ³	--	--	--	--

FWC=Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, USFWS=United States Fish and Wildlife Service

MANLAA=May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect, NAEA=No Adverse Effect Anticipated, NEA=No Effect Anticipated

FT=Federal Threatened, T=Threatened, ST=State-designated Threatened, C=Candidate for listing under ESA

1 Protected under the Bald and Golden Eagles Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c)

2 Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 703–712)

3 Protected under the Florida Black Bear Conservation Rule (68A-4.009, F.A.C.)

Table 2-2 Protected Floral Species Effect Determinations

Species	Common Name	State Status (FDACS)	Federal Status (USFWS)	July 2021 Effect Determination	Current Effect Determination
<i>Campanula robsinsiae</i>	Brooksville bellflower	FE	E	No Effect	No Effect
<i>Chionanthus pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy fringe-tree	FE	E	No Effect	No Effect
<i>Justicia cooley</i>	Cooley's water willow	FE	E	No Effect	No Effect
<i>Lechea cernua</i>	Nodding pinweed (scrub pinweed)	ST	--	No Effect Anticipated	No Effect Anticipated
<i>Sacoila lanceolata</i> var. <i>lanceolata</i>	Leafless beaked orchid	ST	--	No Effect Anticipated	No Effect Anticipated

FDACS=Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FE=Federal Endangered, E=Endangered, ST=State-designated Threatened

SECTION 3 WETLANDS AND OTHER SURFACE WATERS

Wetlands and other surface waters were evaluated in accordance with Executive Order 11990, *Protection of Wetlands* (May 1977), and the FDOT *PD&E Manual*.

As mentioned above, an NRE was completed in July 2021 to evaluate the project's involvement with wetlands and other surface waters. This technical memorandum evaluates changes in wetland and other surface water impacts based on the preferred alternative.

3.1 METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT

A variety of resources including the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data and maps, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil surveys, and United States Geological Survey (USGS)

topographical maps were utilized to identify wetlands and other surface waters that occur within the study area. A field review was conducted in May 2022 to verify the boundaries and quality of the identified wetlands and surface waters adjacent to the proposed changes in the preferred alternative.

3.2 WETLAND AND OTHER SURFACE WATERS IMPACTS AND EVALUATION

The July 2021 NRE identified 5.37 acres impacts to wetlands and 0.25 acre of impacts to other surface waters. As part of the updated preferred alternative, the project proposes to widen the I-75 southbound bridge over Cypress Creek (Bridge No. 100412) by approximately 21 feet. Since this portion of Cypress Creek is a continuation of Surface Water 7 (SW7) as identified in the July 2021 NRE, the updated preferred alternative will result in an additional impact of 0.04 acre to SW7. The majority of the 0.04 acre impact consists of shading and should not be considered as a direct dredge or fill impact. The permanent fill impacts as a result of the piles to support the bridge are anticipated to be approximately 0.002 acre (~100 sq. ft.). With the updated preferred alternative, there are a total of 5.37 acres of wetland impacts and 0.29 acres of other surface water impacts. **Attachment E** depicts the limits of the updated preferred alternative and the associated additional impact. The overall anticipated impacts to wetlands and other surface waters are summarized in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1 Wetlands and Other Surface Water Impacts

Wetland/Other Surface Water ID	NWI / USFWS	FLUCCS	Project Impact Acreage		
			July 2021	July 2022	Change
WETLANDS					
WL1	PFO2F	6210	0.00	0.00	--
WL2	PFO2F	6210	0.00	0.00	--
WL3	PFO1/4C	6150	0.00	0.00	--
WL4	PFO2F	6210	0.28	0.28	--
WL5	PEM1Fx	6410	0.00	0.00	--
WL6	PFO4/1C & PFO2F	6150	2.35	2.35	--
WL8	PFO4/1C & PFO2F	6150	2.74	2.74	--
OTHER SURFACE WATERS					
SW7	R2UBH	5100	0.25	0.29	+0.04
TOTAL			5.37	5.41	+0.04

No changes were made to the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) scores from the 2021 NRE, as no additional wetland impacts are proposed. The total functional loss for the study is anticipated to remain as 3.78. The functional loss by habitat type is summarized in the **Table 3-2**.

Table 3-2 Functional Loss Analysis by Habitat Types

FLUCCS Code	Wetland / Surface Water Description	Impact Acreage	Delta Values (UMAM)	Functional Loss Values
6150	Stream and Lake Swamps (Bottomland)	5.09	0.70	3.56
6210	Cypress	0.28	0.77	0.22
6410	Freshwater Marshes	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS		5.37		3.78

3.3 WETLAND IMPACT MITIGATION

The approximately 5.37 acres of wetland impacts which will result from the construction of this project will be mitigated pursuant to *Section 373.4137, F.S.*, to satisfy all mitigation requirements of *Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S.*, and *33 U.S.C. § 1344*. There are no changes in mitigation requirements from the July 2021 NRE. The entirety of the study area is located within the service areas of the Fox Branch Ranch Mitigation Bank, Hillsborough River Mitigation Bank, North Tampa Mitigation Bank, Two Rivers Ranch Mitigation Bank, and the Wiggins Mitigation Bank. As of June 2022, each mitigation bank except for the North Tampa Mitigation Bank has the appropriate credit availability to satisfy the mitigation needs for this study. At a minimum, mitigation will be provided to offset the functional loss calculated. Mitigation will be coordinated by the Department as part of the Environmental Resource Permitting with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and State Section 404 permitting with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

SECTION 4 ANTICIPATED PERMITS

All necessary permits will be acquired prior to construction of the proposed project improvements. Coordination and/or permitting will be conducted with the following agencies during the design phase of this project as shown in **Table 4-1**. There are no changes in permits required from the July 2021 NRE.

Table 4-1 Permit Coordination

Coordinating Agency	Permit
Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)	Individual ERP Permit
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	Section 404 Permit
	NPDES Permit
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	Gopher tortoise permitting

SECTION 5 CONCLUSION

The additional project footprint resulting from the updated preferred alternative generally follows the same areas and habitat types previously evaluated in the July 2021 NRE. No additional protected species observations were recorded. Through coordination with the USFWS, it was determined the additional project area would not result in adverse effects to the wood stork or the need for additional conservation measures from those provided in the July 2021 NRE. The updated preferred alternative is not anticipated to result in any adverse effects to other protected species; therefore, no changes were made to the effect determinations in the July 2021 NRE as shown in **Table 2-1** and **Table 2-2**. The wetland and other surface water fill impacts will be from the footprint of the proposed piles and will be well under 0.1 acre (approximately 0.002 acre). There will also be approximately 0.04 acres of shading impact from the bridge widening. The overall anticipated impacts to wetlands and other surface waters are summarized in **Table 3-1**. There are no changes in the requirements of the July 2021 NRE implementation measures and commitments for the project; however, two of the July 2021 NRE commitments are now to be completed as part of FDOT District Seven standard operating procedure and qualify as implementation measures rather than commitments. The two previous commitments that are now implementation measures include the surveys for osprey and bald eagle nests as well as protected plants. The updated implementation measures and commitments are provided below.

5.1 IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

- Surveys for potentially affected gopher tortoise burrows will be conducted prior to construction, and permits to relocate tortoises and commensals, as appropriate, will be obtained from the FWC.
- Surveys to update locations of active osprey and bald eagle nest sites will be conducted during the permitting phase of the project, and permits will be acquired if there are unavoidable impacts during construction. Coordination with USFWS and FWC will take place as necessary.
- Plant surveys should be conducted prior to construction during the appropriate survey season. If protected species are located, coordination with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Division of Plant Industry (FDACS–DPI) will be initiated to determine requirements.
- Wetland mitigation for unavoidable impacts will account for wood stork suitable foraging habitat, as part of the wetland mitigation provided for federal and state permitting.

5.2 COMMITMENTS

- The FDOT will incorporate the most current USFWS guideline *Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake* during construction. **Appendix D** provides an example of the currently approved construction guidelines.

APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT A	July 2021 NRE Preferred Alternative Design
ATTACHMENT B	Updated Preferred Alternative Design
ATTACHMENT C	Observed and Historically Documented Protected Species
ATTACHMENT D	2022 USFWS Coordination
ATTACHMENT E	Updated Preferred Alternative Evaluation Figure

ATTACHMENT A July 2021 NRE Preferred Alternative Design

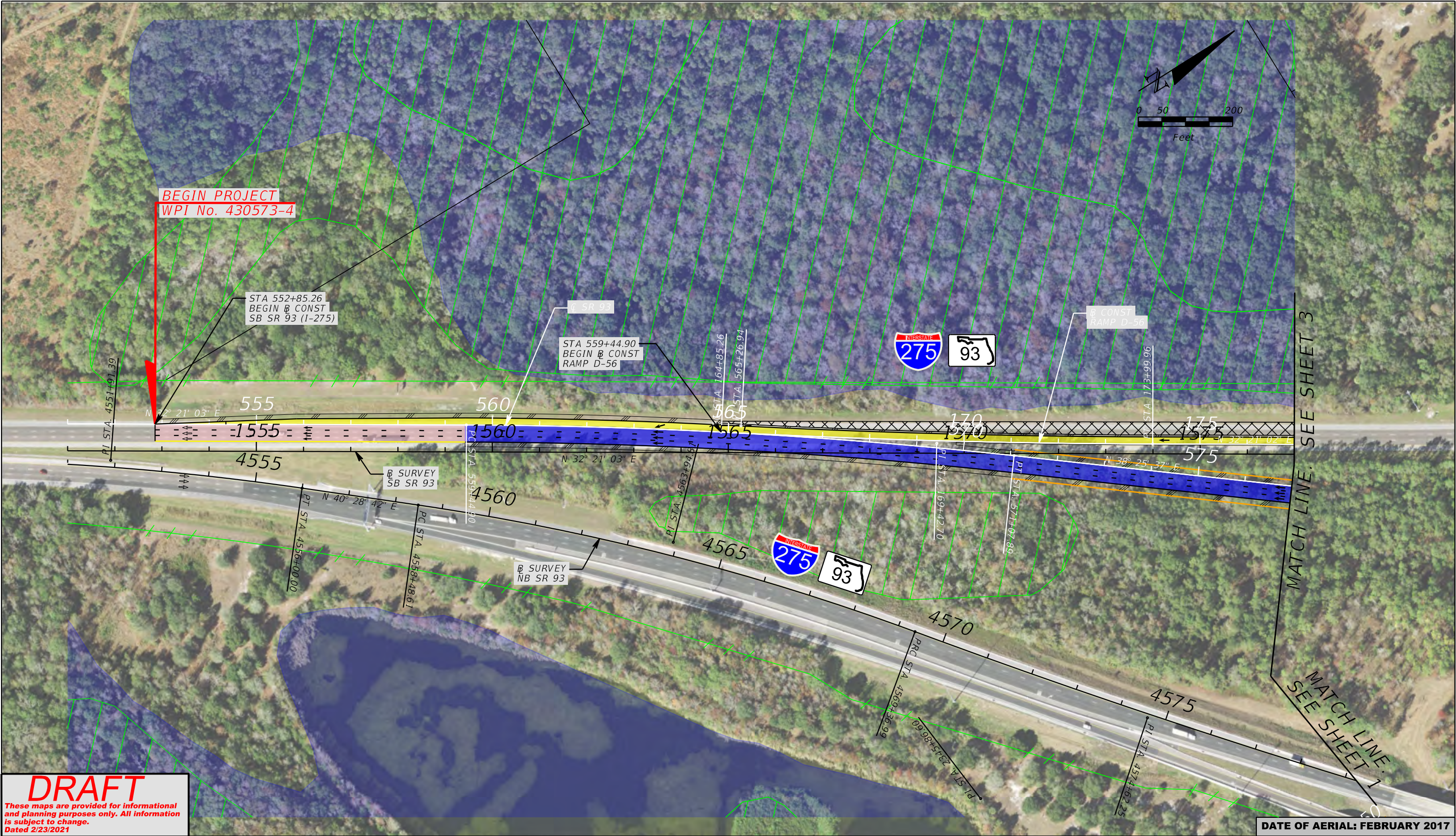


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These maps are provided for informational and planning purposes only. All information is subject to change.
Dated 2/23/2021

DATE OF AERIAL: FEBRUARY 2017

LEGEND	 WETLANDS OR OTHER SURFACE WATERS BOUNDARY	 PREFERRED SMF AND FPC AREA	 PROPOSED C-D ROADS/RAMPS	 PROPOSED BRIDGE	 PROPERTY LINE
	 FLOODPLAINS AREA	 POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED SITE	 PROPOSED MAINLINE	 PAVEMENT REMOVAL	 EXISTING R/W
		 MILL / RESURFACE	 PROPOSED MEDIAN BARRIER WALL / MSE WALL	 COUNTY LINE	 EXISTING LA R/W
					 PROPOSED LA R/W

		American Consulting Professionals, LLC 2818 Cypress Ridge Blvd, Suite 200 Wesley Chapel, Florida 33544 Phone: (813) 435-2600 Fax: (813) 435-2601 Engineering Business No. EB7110 Jeffrey S. Novotny, P.E. No. 51083	STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION			SB I-75/I-275 from South of County Line Road to SR 56 (SB C-D Road with Flyover Ramp) Concept Plans WPI Segment No. 430573-4	SHEET NO. 1
			ROAD NO. SR 93/ SR 93A/ SR 56	COUNTY HILLSBOROUGH/ PASCO	FINANCIAL PROJECT ID 254552-1-22-19		

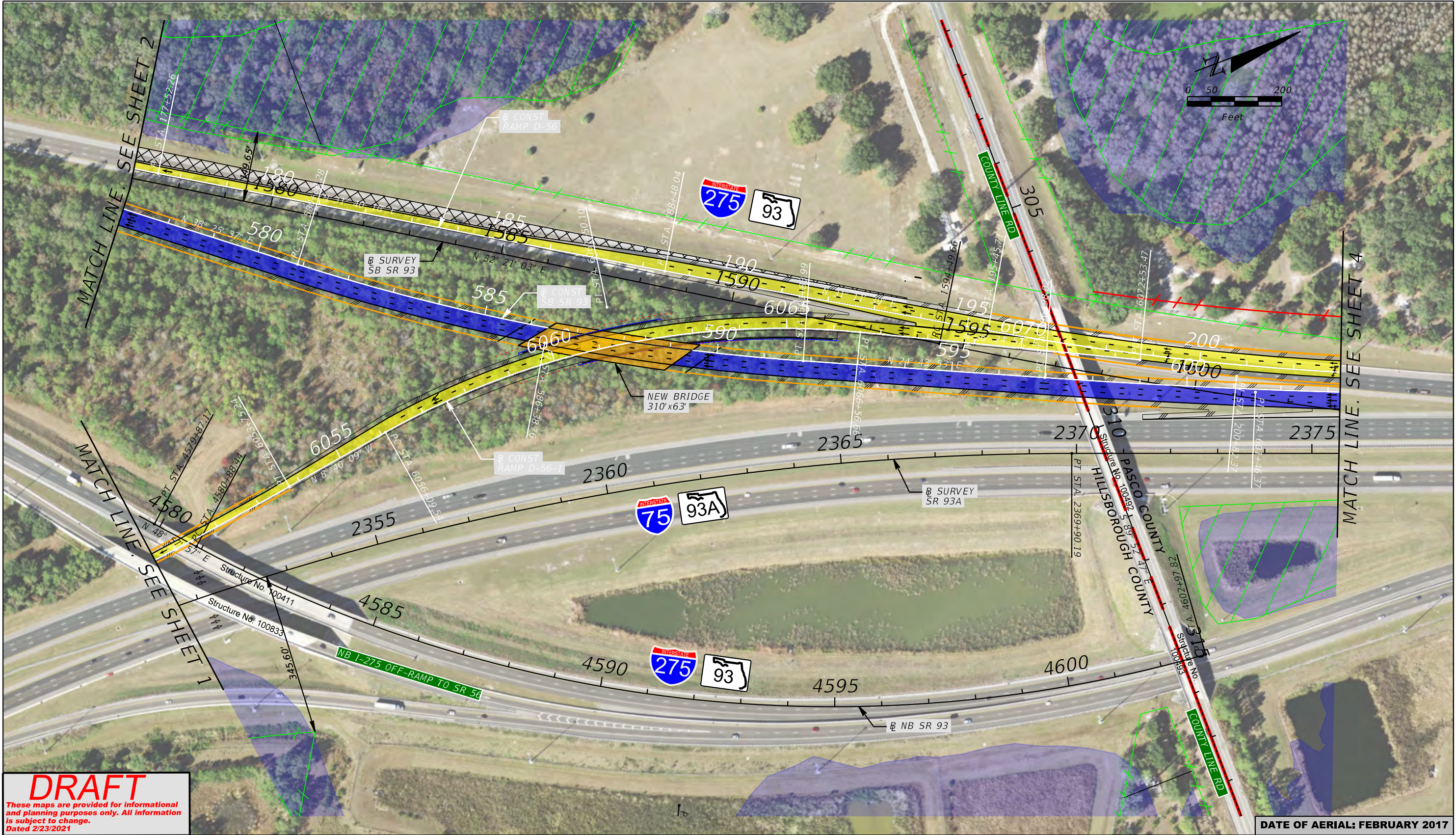


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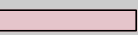
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			ROAD NO. SR 93/ SR 93A/ SR 56	COUNTY HILLSBOROUGH/ PASCO		



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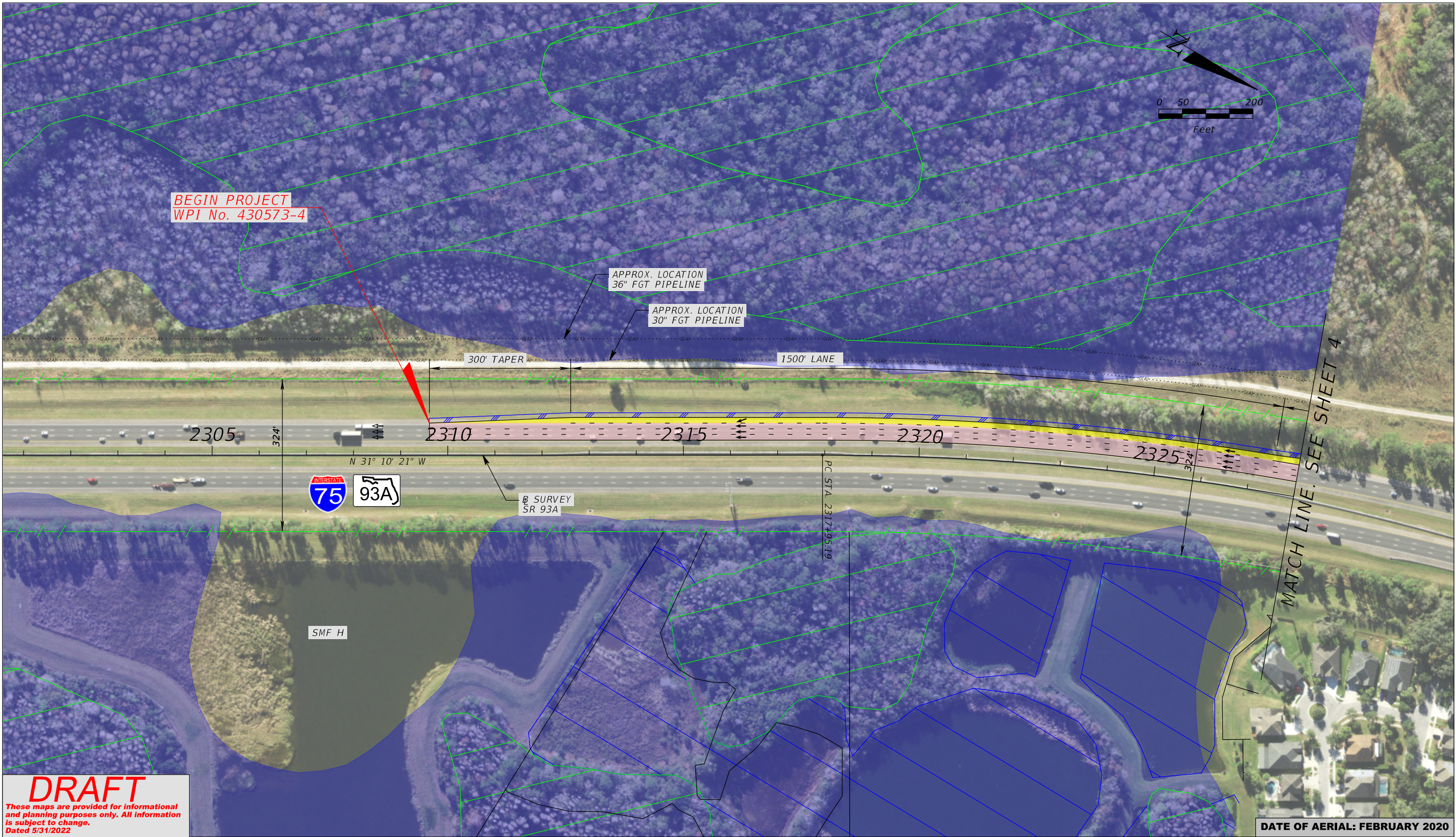
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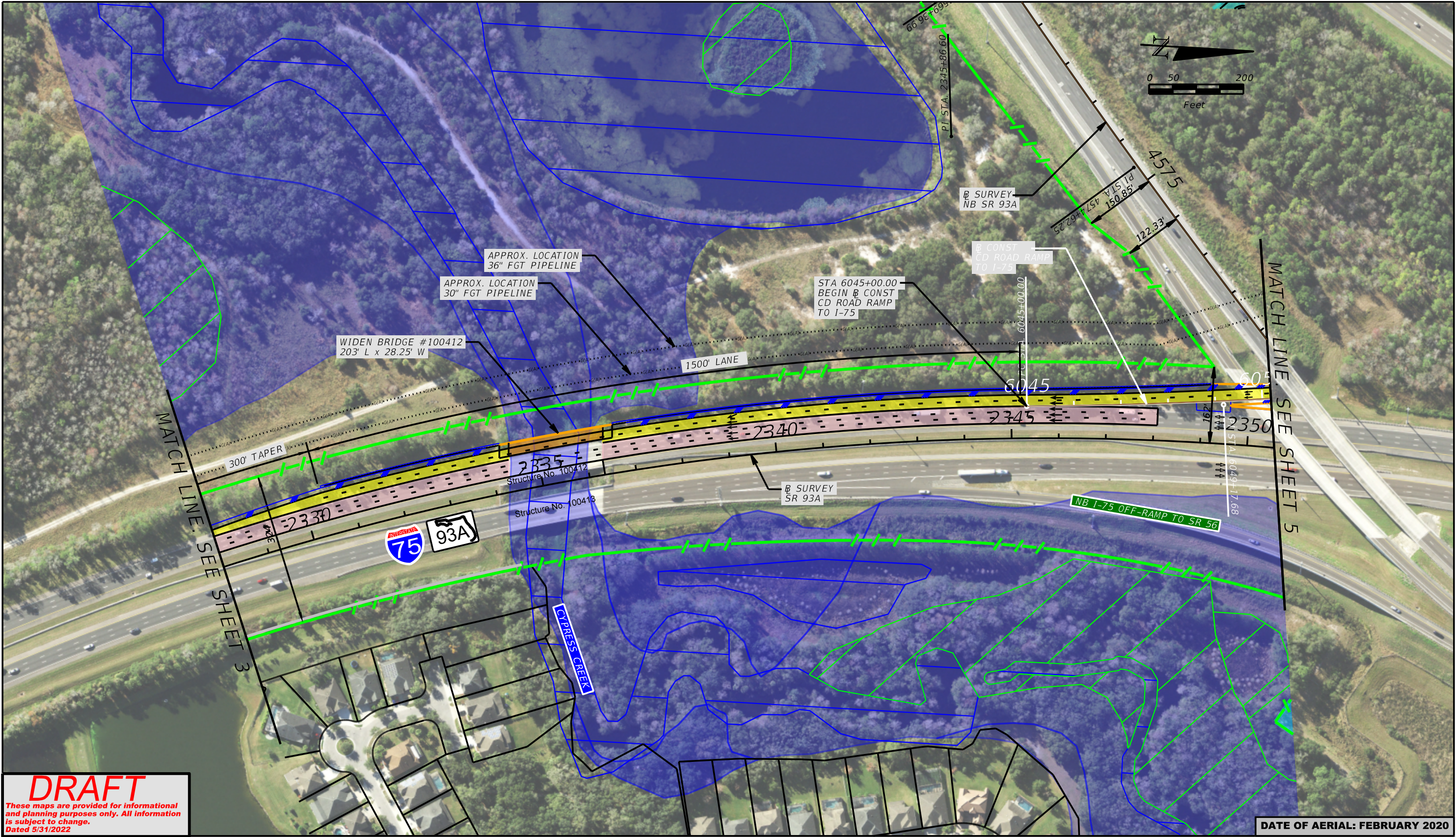
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			SR 93/ SR 93A/ SR 56	HILLSBOROUGH/ PASCO	254552-1-22-19		

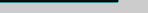
ATTACHMENT B Updated Preferred Alternative Design



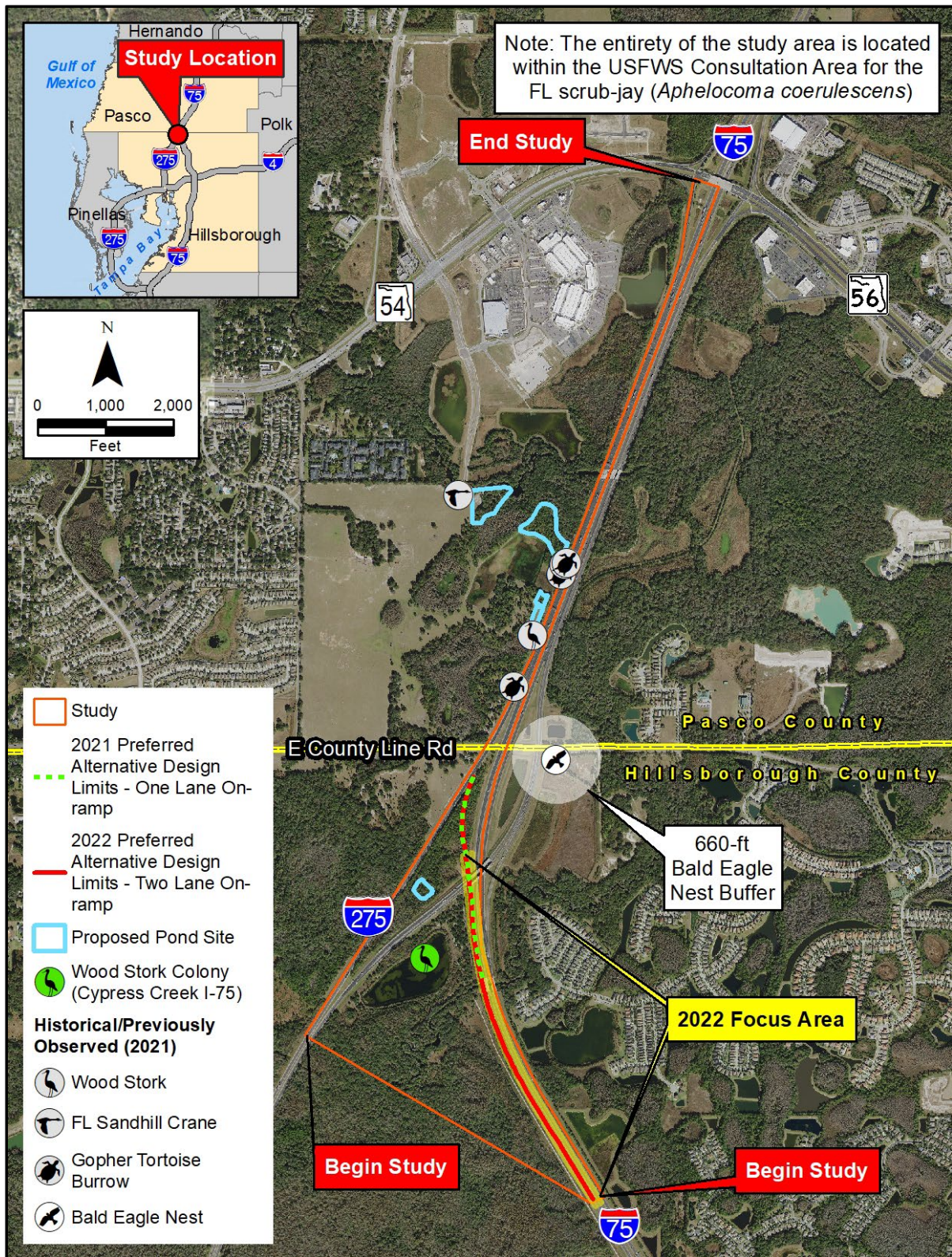
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Dated 5/31/2022

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	 WETLANDS	 PREFERRED SMF AND FPC AREA	 PROPOSED C-D ROADS/RAMPS	 PROPOSED BRIDGE	 PROPERTY LINE					
	 OTHER SURFACE WATERS BOUNDARY	 POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED SITE	 PROPOSED MAINLINE	 PAVEMENT REMOVAL	 EXISTING R/W					
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ATTACHMENT C Observed and Historically Documented Protected Species



ATTACHMENT D 2022 USFWS Coordination

From: Conner, Allison <Allison.Conner@dot.state.fl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Salicco, Christopher; Daniel, Thomas
Cc: Rhinesmith, Robin
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] 430573-4: SR 56 C-D Road

Good morning Chris and Tom,

Happy New Year!

Please see response from Zakia below regarding this project's involvement with the wood stork. If you have any additional questions or concerns as we prepare the NRE, please let me know.

Thank you,



Allison Conner
Environmental Specialist III
Florida Department of Transportation
District Seven – Planning & Environmental Management Office
(813) 975-6455 / (800) 226-7220 x6455
Allison.Conner@dot.state.fl.us

From: Williams, Zakia <zakia_williams@fws.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 9:09 AM
To: Conner, Allison <Allison.Conner@dot.state.fl.us>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 430573-4: SR 56 C-D Road

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Good Morning Allison,

Happy New Year!! It looks as though FDOT have covered all the conservation measures that will be required. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you,
Zakia

Zakia Williams
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
US Fish and Wildlife Service
7915 Baymeadows Way, Ste. 200
Jacksonville, Florida 32256
(o) 904-731-3119

Allison Conner
Environmental Specialist III
Florida Department of Transportation
District Seven – Planning & Environmental Management Office
(813) 975-6455 / (800) 226-7220 x6455
Allison.Conner@dot.state.fl.us

From: Conner, Allison <Allison.Conner@dot.state.fl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 10:07 AM
To: Henzel, Ashley; Salicco, Christopher
Cc: Daniel, Thomas; Canfield, Sydney
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] 430573-4: SR 56 Southbound C-D Road/Ramps to I-75/I-275

Good morning,

USFWS has indicated that our 'may affect, not likely to adversely affect' determination for the federal protected wood stork remains valid. Therefore, we will document no change to our 'may affect, not likely to adversely affect' determination via a Natural Resources Evaluation Technical Memorandum to support the Re-evaluation and no additional agency consultation or concurrence is needed at this time. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,



Allison Conner
Environmental Specialist III
FDOT District Seven
Planning & Environmental Management Office
(813) 975-6455 / (800) 226-7220 x6455
Allison.Conner@dot.state.fl.us

From: Williams, Zakia <zakia_williams@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 6, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Conner, Allison <Allison.Conner@dot.state.fl.us>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 430573-4: SR 56 Southbound C-D Road/Ramps to I-75/I-275

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Good morning Allison,

After review of the provided information, the Service has determined that the above-mentioned project, may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect wood storks in the project area. The FDOT has commitments, to avoided, minimize and mitigate for all impacts to SFH. There are no additional conservation measures that need to be added. Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns. If you would like for me to get the document stamped let me know.

Thanks,
Zakia

Zakia Williams
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

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$$((\underline{\quad}))$$

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From: Conner, Allison <Allison.Conner@dot.state.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 8:49 AM
To: Williams, Zakia <zakia_williams@fws.gov>
Cc: Henzel, Ashley <Ashley.Henzel@dot.state.fl.us>; Rhinesmith, Robin <Robin.Rhinesmith@dot.state.fl.us>; Salicco, Christopher <CSalicco@acp-fl.com>; Daniel, Thomas <TDaniel@acp-fl.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 430573-4: SR 56 Southbound C-D Road/Ramps to I-75/I-275

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Good morning Zakia,

The FDOT previously initiated Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation on the above referenced project (FWS Log No. 2021-TA-1411) for the federally protected wood stork. As identified in the NRE completed in 2021, there is one wood stork colony (Cypress Creek I-75) located near the southern limits of the project. Suitable foraging habitat (SFH) impacts were located more than 2,500 feet from the colony, and it was anticipated that there would be no adverse impact on the colony. Therefore, the FDOT made an effect determination of May Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (MANLAA) for the wood stork based on previous coordination. The NRE was submitted on July 15, 2021, via the EST and concurrence was provided on August 12, 2021. We also coordinated regarding wood stork conservation measures prior to transmitting the NRE (see email correspondence attached).

The project is now extending the limits further to the south to include widening the bridge over Cypress Creek (see attached concept plans). The work at the bridge over Cypress Creek will be approximately 750 feet from the existing wood stork colony. The proposed impacts at Cypress Creek are minimal and are not anticipated to have an adverse impact on the wood stork. Most of the Cypress Creek impacts are open surface water with water hyacinth and minimal wetland fringe on the creek banks, which do not provide adequate SFH for the wood stork. The wetland/surface water fill impacts will be from the footprint of the proposed piles and will be well under 0.1 acre (approx. 0.002 acre). There will also be approximately 0.04 acres of shading from bridge widening.

We would like to confirm with you whether any additional conservation measures should be included and confirm there would be no change in effect determination for the wood stork based on the additional project area as shown in the provided attachments. If there are additional conservation measures we can include in our commitments to USFWS to ensure a MANLAA determination, please let me know.

Thank you,



Allison Conner

Environmental Specialist III

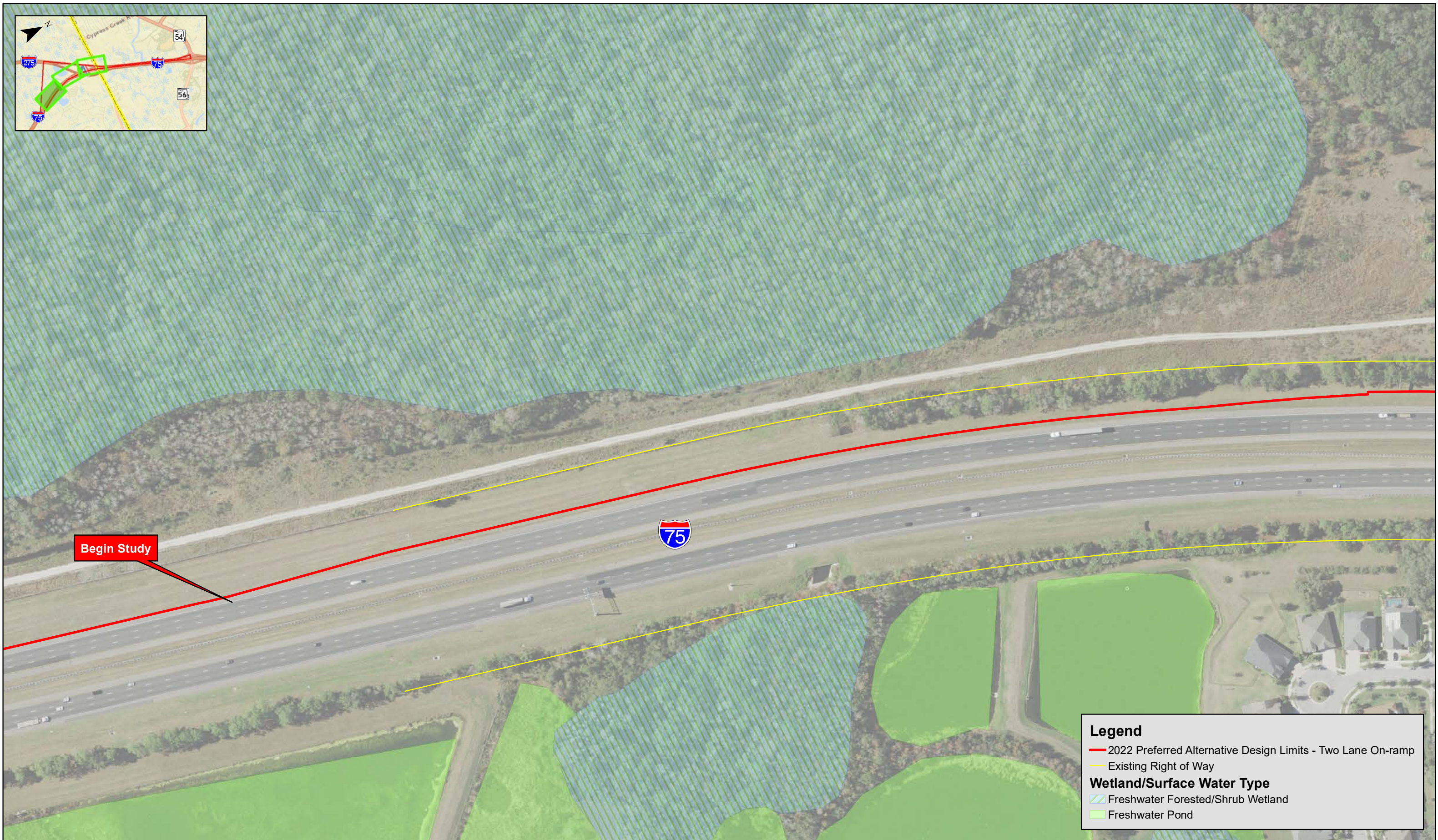
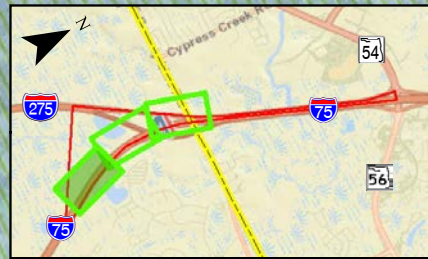
FDOT District Seven

Planning & Environmental Management Office

(813) 975-6455 / (800) 226-7220 x6455

Allison.Conner@dot.state.fl.us

ATTACHMENT E Updated Preferred Alternative Evaluation Figure



Begin Study

Legend

- 2022 Preferred Alternative Design Limits - Two Lane On-ramp
- Existing Right of Way

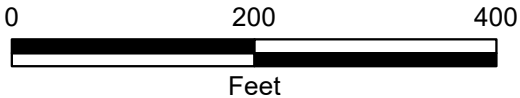
Wetland/Surface Water Type

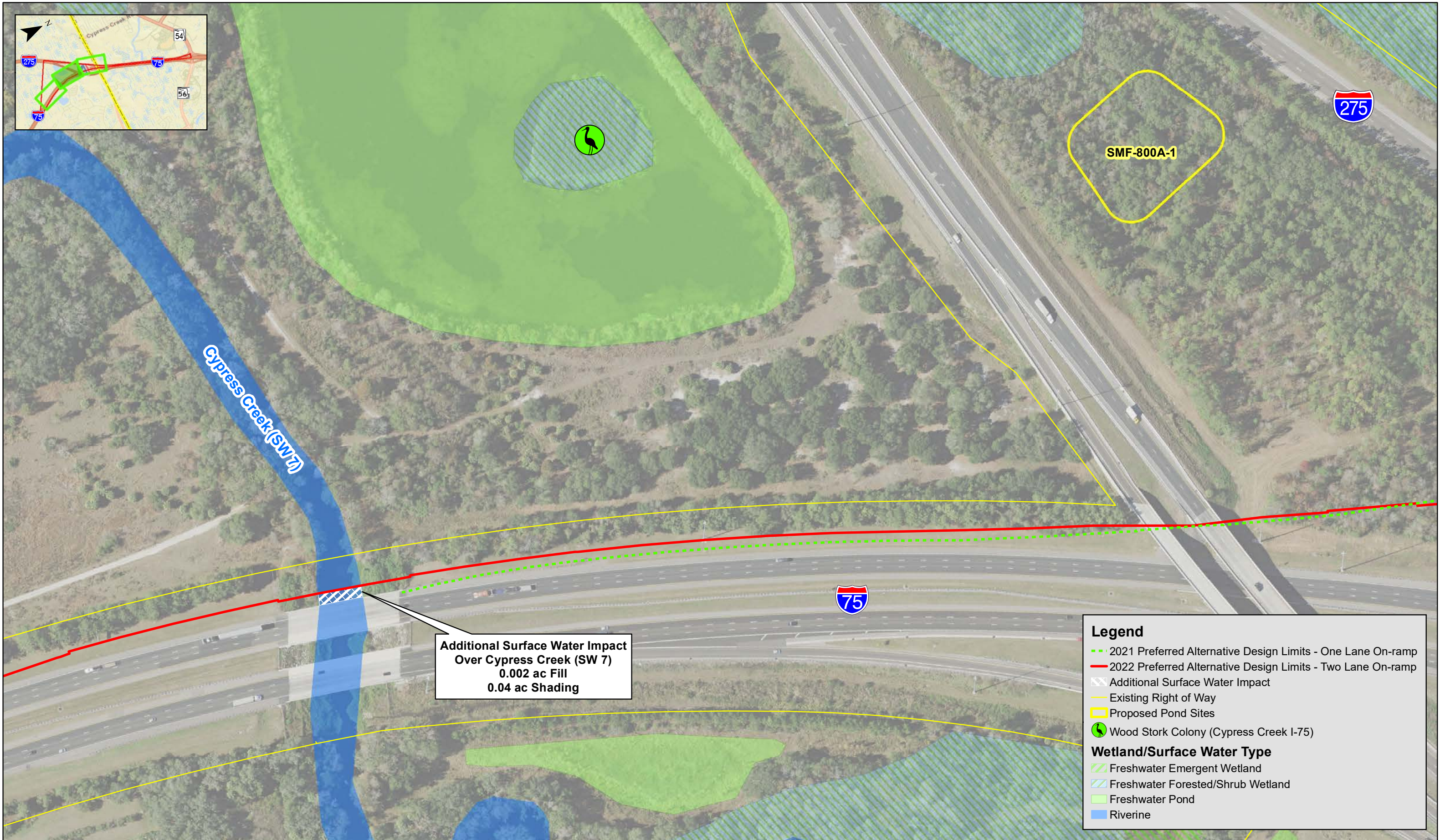
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond



SR 56 (SB) C-D Road/Ramps to I-75/I-275
FPID: 254552-1-22-19 // WPI No.: 430573-4
Hillsborough and Pasco Counties

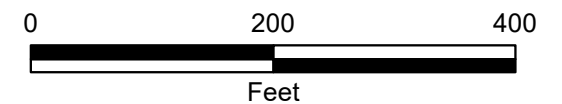
Attachment E: Updated Preferred Alternative
Evaluation Figure
Sheet 1 of 3

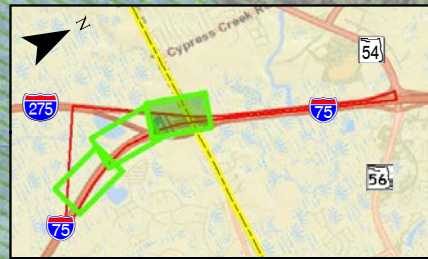




SR 56 (SB) C-D Road/Ramps to I-75/I-275
 FPID: 254552-1-22-19 // WPI No.: 430573-4
 Hillsborough and Pasco Counties

**Attachment E: Updated Preferred Alternative
 Evaluation Figure**
 Sheet 2 of 3





Legend

- 2021 Preferred Alternative Design Limits - One Lane On-ramp
- 2022 Preferred Alternative Design Limits - Two Lane On-ramp
- Existing Right of Way
- Proposed Pond Sites

Wetland/Surface Water Type

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond



SR 56 (SB) C-D Road/Ramps to I-75/I-275
FPID: 254552-1-22-19 // WPI No.: 430573-4
Hillsborough and Pasco Counties

**Attachment E: Updated Preferred Alternative
Evaluation Figure**
Sheet 3 of 3

