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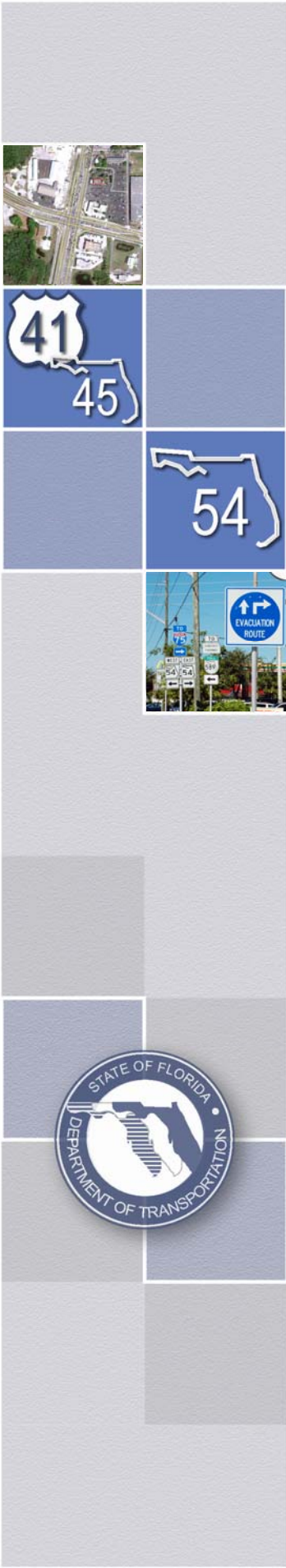
What's Happening?

The PD&E study for the intersection of US 41 and SR 54 is underway. The first public meeting will be scheduled in early summer 2013. The project is expected to be completed by early 2014. Below is a tentative project schedule. This schedule may change throughout the duration of the project.

Tentative Project Schedule

Notice to Proceed	April 30, 2012
Data Collection & Alternatives Analysis	Spring 2012—Summer 2013
Alternatives Public Workshop	Summer 2013
Select Alternatives to present at Public Hearing	Summer 2013
Public Hearing	Fall 2013
FHWA Approval	Winter 2014

Non-Discrimination Laws: 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 Manuel Santos, Project Manager, at (813) 975-6173 or (800) 226-7220.



US 41 at SR 54

Project Development & Environment Study



US 41 / SR 54 Newsletter ■ FPID: 419182-1 ■ September 2012

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study for proposed improvements to the intersection at US 41 (SR 45) and SR 54 in Pasco County. The project study area will include areas adjacent to the intersection along US 41 and SR 54 as shown on the study location map inside this newsletter.

SR 54 is one of two existing major east-west arterials connecting eastern Pasco County to western Pasco County. SR 54 across Pasco County provides connections to several regional north-south routes including US 19, Suncoast Parkway, US 41, I-75, US 301 and US 98. The proposed improvements at the intersection of US 41 and SR 54 will enhance the overall transportation network linking Pasco County with the Tampa Bay region.

The need for this project has been established based on future traffic demands, future population and employment growth in the area. SR 54 is a primary evacuation route. Improvements at the US 41 / SR 54 intersection are included in the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) *2035 Cost Affordable Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP), as well as the *2035 Regional LRTP Needs Assessment*, which was developed by the West Central Florida MPO's Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC).

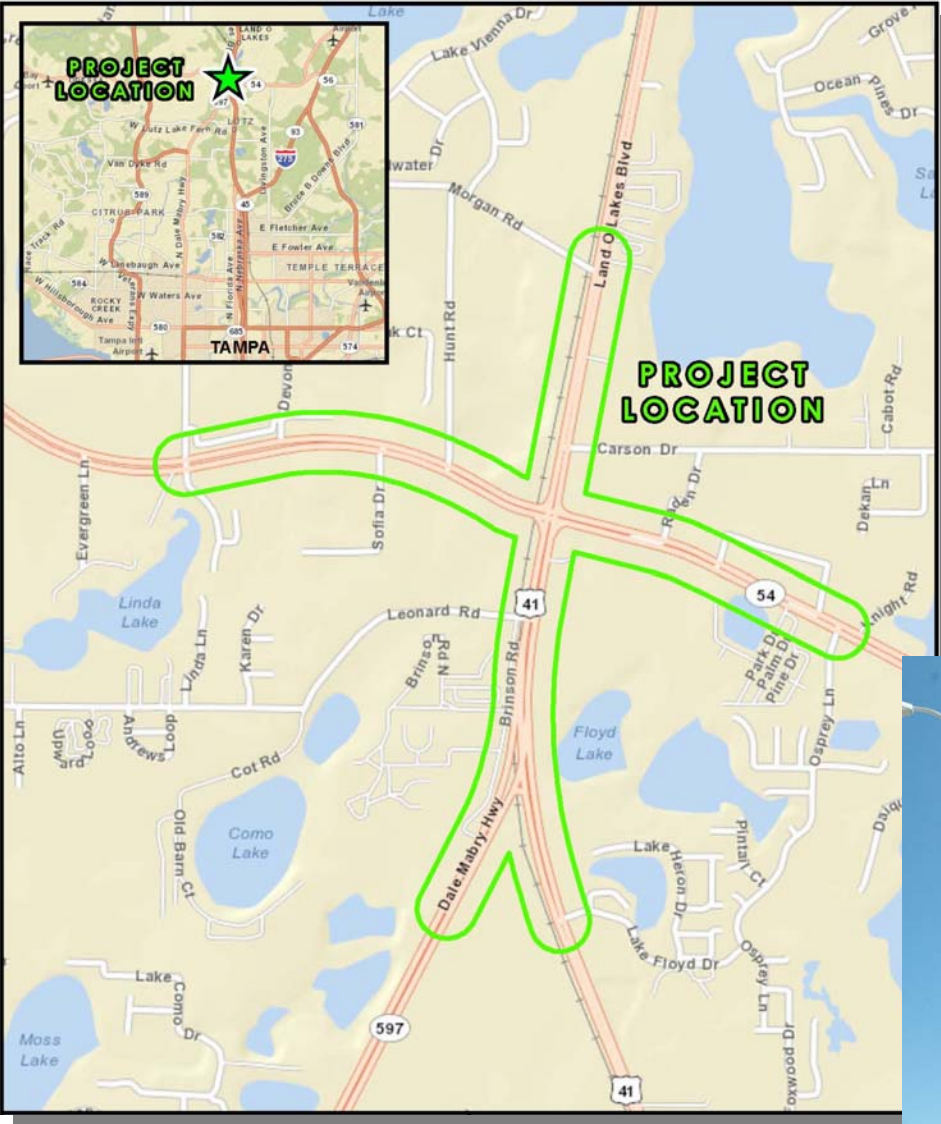
The purpose of this study is to identify and evaluate various alternatives for the US 41 / SR 54 intersection which will improve the flow of people and goods through the project area by increasing roadway capacity and reducing traffic congestion. The study will compare the effects each alternative may have on the environment and the surrounding communities, as well as the traveling public.

This newsletter initiates communication with the public about the PD&E study. A public workshop and a public hearing will be held in the near future to give you the opportunity to make comments on the study and the alternatives being considered. We encourage you to contact us at any time during the study to ask questions or make comments. For project information, please contact:

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Para preguntas y informacion en Español: Valoramos la opinion del publico sobre este proyecto. Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o si simplemente desea mas informacion en Español, favor ponerse en contacto con el ingeniero a cargo de este proyecto, el senor Manuel Santos, E.I.



Study Location Map



One Step in the Development Process

The US 41 / SR 54 project is in the PD&E study phase of the FDOT’s 5-step highway development process. A PD&E study assists the FDOT in determining the location, conceptual design and social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed roadway improvements. During the PD&E study process, feasible alternatives are developed for roadway improvement projects. These “Build” alternatives are evaluated based on environmental, engineering and socioeconomic conditions, safety needs and public input. The need for additional right-of-way for stormwater and environmental mitigation is also evaluated during the PD&E study phase. The “No Build” alternative is considered to be a viable alternative and will remain so for the duration of the study. This "No-Build" alternative leaves the existing roadways as they are, with only routine maintenance as required.

If the study results in a "Build" alternative being selected, the project may proceed to the next phase, which is the Project Design phase.

Public Involvement Opportunities

The US 41 / SR 54 PD&E study process will provide many opportunities for the public to view information about the project and to comment on the proposed improvements. Data collection has begun, and alternatives analysis and development are underway. Public involvement activities will continue throughout the duration of the project beginning with this kickoff newsletter and, later, an alternatives public workshop and finally a public hearing. Four editions of the project newsletter are planned. The mailing list for the newsletter and other public involvement activities includes:

- ♦ All individuals owning property within at least 300 feet of the right-of-way of the proposed project;
- ♦ Neighborhood and civic associations in the study area;
- ♦ Local, state and federal elected and appointed officials;
- ♦ Local, regional, state and federal agencies and interest groups, and
- ♦ Individuals who request to be placed on the mailing list.

Anyone who would like to be placed on the mailing list should contact Manuel Santos, FDOT Project Manager. His contact information is shown on the front page of this newsletter. A second project newsletter will inform the public of the status of alternatives development and provide information about the public workshop.



conceptual design of the project.

Public information meetings during the study will include presentations given before the Pasco County MPO and informal “small group” meetings with local civic organizations, public officials, and public agencies. Meetings will provide information on the project status, design concepts, and other study considerations. They will also provide an opportunity for those who have a stake or an interest in the proposed project to comment on the study’s findings. An official public hearing will be held to present conclusions reached about improvement options and project effects. Public statements made at the hearing are recorded in the official public hearing transcript, which must be reviewed by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) before approval of the study findings are granted. The third project newsletter will announce the date, time, and location of the public hearing. The fourth newsletter will be used to announce FHWA’s decision on the location and

