

**PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO:	Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners	DATE:	8/26/02	FILE:	PMA02-042
THRU:	Bipin Parikh, P.E. Assistant County Administrator (Development Services)	SUBJECT:	Route Study – Colony Road from S.R. 52 to County Line Road		
FROM:	James C. Widman, P.E. Engineering Services Director	REFERENCES:	W.O. No. C3230.00 URS Southern, Inc. Commission Districts 2 & 5		

It is recommended that the data herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

On October 10, 2000, the Board approved Task Order No. EDO00-017 and Scope of Work in the amount of \$126,805.00, with a contract time of 360 calendar days (ENA00-147). This Task Order with URS provided for a route study for improvements of Colony Road from S.R. 52 to C.R. 578 (County Line Road). A report identifying four alignments in addition to the no-project alternative was produced. On September 5, 2001, the Board was advised of a public workshop scheduled for September 20, 2001, to inform the public and to gain comments and input (ENA01-148). Pertinent comments were incorporated into the study.

Colony Road presently exists between S.R. 52 and Hudson Avenue, approximately three miles east of Little Road. Alignments were analyzed based on long-range planning, safety, cost, environmental and property impacts. All four alignments included in the study proceed northward from S.R. 52 along the existing alignment of Colony Road. Acquisition between S.R. 52 and Foxfire Drive would be along the west side of Colony Road. It is envisioned that a right-of-way width of 120' will be needed to accommodate the eventual four-lane facility.

Alignment One shifts eastward after passing Foxfire Drive to avoid a wetland south of Hudson Avenue. It shifts eastward again to clear Lake Scarlet, north of Hudson, to align with Kitten Trail east of Teresa Boulevard. Alignment One widens Kitten Trail and crosses Denton Avenue between Kitten Trail and East Road, then runs up the east side of East Road all the way to C.R. 578.

Alignment Two follows the same alignment as Alignment One to a point north of Hudson where it shifts westward just north of Lake Scarlet and runs along the east side of Coyote Road. Between Eden Avenue and Smith Boulevard, Alignment Two widens to the east from 120' width to 550' width to create a wetland restoration/enhancement area. This area reduces back to the 120', normal width between Ithaca Avenue and Seifert Road, and continues along the east side of the section line from Duda Road to C.R. 578.

Alignment Three shifts westward north of Foxfire Drive to cross Hudson Avenue, approximately 620' west of the section line. This would avoid the wetland south of Hudson Avenue and Lake Scarlet to the north, and would connect with Coyote Road about 1,030' south of Kitten Trail. Acquisition would then be anticipated to occur along the east side of Coyote Road up to a point between Eden Avenue and Smith Boulevard, where it would expand toward the east to include a wetland restoration/enhancement area from south of Gladwin to north of Ithaca Avenue. From there it would transition back to the narrower width along the east side of the section line prior to the point it reaches Seiffert Road, and continuing thusly to C.R. 578. It then passes the lakes on either side of Hudson Avenue and rejoins Alignment Two north of Lake Scarlet. Alignment Three matches Alignment Two from there to C.R. 578. This Alignment lies between differing land densities, displaces the fewest residents, and is slightly less expensive.

Alignment Four matches Alignment One from S.R. 52 to Sherman Drive, about 1,600' south of C.R. 578, where it shifts westward with reversing double curves to align with Cobblestone Avenue in Hernando County.

ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS:

Some of the alternatives available to the Board in this matter are as follows:

1. Approval of Alignment Three will permit County staff to continue planning for a future corridor along this alignment.
2. Deny approval and suspend any further action.
3. Direct staff as to other action desired by the Board.

RECOMMENDATION AND FUNDING:

The Engineering Services Department recommends that the Board approve Alternative No. 1 and the selection of Alignment Three for Colony Road from S.R. 52 to C.R. 578 (County Line Road).

Additional funding will be required at such future date as design is authorized.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Route Study Reevaluation for Colony Road

JCW/GTR/JLP/lmds

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR

DATE: _____

BY: _____