



Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
 11201 N. McKinley Drive
 MS 7-500
 Tampa, FL 33612-6456

US 301 (SR 39/GALL BLVD.)

From south of CR 54 (Eiland Boulevard) to the US 98 Bypass (SR 533)
 Project Development & Environment Study

Project Newsletter No. 3
 WPI Seg. No.: 408075 1 FAP No.: 3112 020 P

Pasco County, Florida
 October 2009

Public Hearing

November 4, 2009
 5:00-7:00pm

Location:
 Zephyr Palms Event Center
 4645 Airport Road
 Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Dear Interested Citizen, Business Owner and Property Owner:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) invites you to attend and participate in a Public Hearing regarding the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for the proposed improvement of US 301 (SR 39/Gall Blvd.) from south of CR 54 (Eiland Blvd.) to the US 98 Bypass (SR533) in Pasco County.

The hearing is intended to solicit comments from the public concerning the location, conceptual design, and the potential social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed improvements.

This letter serves as notice to property owners that a whole or portion of their property is within 300 feet of the centerline of one or more of the alternatives evaluated. However, this does not mean that all properties will be directly affected.

Study documents, such as maps, drawings, and other pertinent information depicting the project's proposed improvements will be available for public review at the hearing and from October 15, 2009 through November 16, 2009 at either of the locations listed below:

Zephyrhills Public Library
 5347 8th Street
 Zephyrhills, FL 33542
 M-F: 9:00-7:00 p.m.; Sat: 9:00-12:00 p.m.

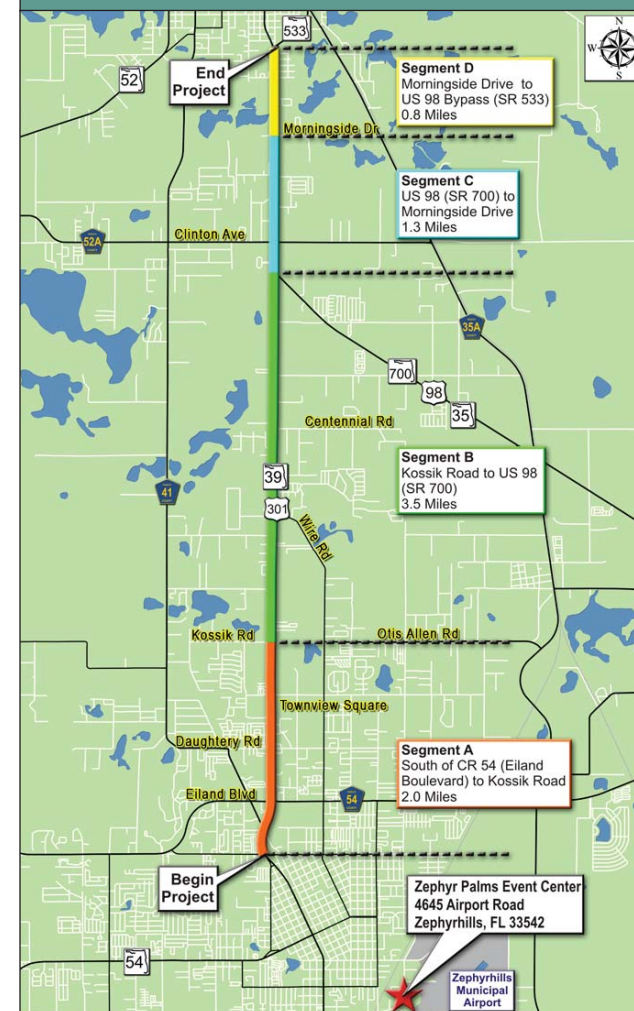
Florida Department of Transportation District Seven Office
 11201 N. McKinley Drive
 Tampa, FL 33612-6456
 M-F: 8:00-5:00 p.m.

Department representatives will be available at the public hearing beginning at 5:00 p.m. to answer questions and discuss the project with attendees. Aerial photographs, project graphics illustrating the proposed improvements and estimated costs will be on display. A video presentation will also be shown. The formal portion of the hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. and consist of a presentation by the FDOT followed by a public comment period. Following the formal portion of the hearing the informal open house will continue until 7:00 p.m.

Verbal statements, written statements and exhibits submitted at the hearing will become part of the official Public Hearing Record. Written statements may be provided on the enclosed comment form by placing it in the comment box at the hearing or by mailing it to the address on the comment form. All comments must be postmarked by November 16, 2009 to become part of the official public record.

Persons who require special accommodations under the American 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 at least 7 working days in advance of the hearing.

Ming Gao, P.E.
 Intermodal Systems Development Manager



WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

A successful PD&E study depends on everyone's participation in the study process. We encourage your input throughout the study.

To provide comments, ask questions, and make suggestions about the study, please contact:

Manuel Santos, E.I.
 Project Manager
 FDOT District Seven
 11201 N. McKinley Drive
 MS 7-500
 Tampa, FL 33612-6456
 (813) 975-6173
 (800) 226-7220
 manuel.santos@dot.state.fl.us

Marian Scorza
 Public Information Officer
 FDOT District Seven
 11201 N. McKinley Drive
 MS 7-100
 Tampa, FL 33612-6456
 (813) 975-6038
 (800) 226-7220
 marian.scorza@dot.state.fl.us

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

We understand that when a transportation project proposes the acquisition of private property, you may have questions and concerns. To better educate and inform you about the right-of-way acquisition process and your rights, the Department has created real estate acquisition and relocation brochures. These brochures and other education materials will be available at the public hearing.

Copies of the brochures may also be found on our website:
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rightofway/Documents.shtm>

We are very interested in hearing your concerns and answering your questions. We encourage you to speak with the Department's Project Manager or a Right-of-Way Representative at your convenience.

NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS AND REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE

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 services (free of charge) should contact Manuel Santos, Project Manager, at (813) 975-6173 or (800) 226-7220 at least seven days prior to the hearing.

What is a PD&E Study?

A Project Development and Environment study or PD&E study is a comprehensive study conducted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The study evaluates social, cultural, economic and environmental effects associated with the proposed transportation improvements.

This process is mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal requirements when federal funds are to be used for a project. It represents a combined effort by transportation professionals who analyze information and document the best alternative for a community’s transportation needs. The PD&E study efforts are accomplished by working in cooperation with other state/federal agencies and local governments. This coordination allows the Department to better determine the effects a transportation project will have on the natural and human environment.

Project History and Description

US 301 is currently a four-lane roadway that connects the cities of Zephyrhills and Dade City in eastern Pasco County. The Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) anticipates US 301 to play an ever increasing role in the movement and distribution of freight and goods throughout in Pasco County based on their 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan.

In anticipation of these future traffic demands, this PD&E study is being conducted to identify and evaluate various alternatives and to compare the effects they would have on the environment and the community.

US 301 Improvements

The FDOT is conducting a PD&E study to evaluate alternative improvements along US 301 from south of CR 54 (Eiland Blvd.) to the US 98 Bypass (SR 533) in Pasco County, a length of 7.6 miles.

Motorists in Pasco County are faced with increased traffic congestion and delay as demand from the County’s growth continues to place pressure on the existing transportation system. The objective of this PD&E study is to assess the effects of continued growth along US 301 (SR 39/Gall Blvd.) and to provide documented environmental and engineering analyses, which will help the FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reach a decision on the type, conceptual design and location of the necessary improvements within the US 301 PD&E study limits.

This PD&E study develops a plan to accommodate future growth in an organized manner and to maintain mobility along a regionally significant transportation corridor in a safe and efficient manner.

The FDOT has identified that minimal environmental effects are anticipated to occur if the recommended build alternative is implemented. These effects include:

- No anticipated adverse effects to threatened and endangered species
- No impacts to existing wetlands and floodplain encroachments
- No National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or NRHP-listed cultural resources will be affected
- No relocations of residences or businesses is anticipated

Details of all the environmental effects are documented in the PD&E study reports. The public hearing is being held to gain public input on the recommended alternative. FDOT representatives will be available at the hearing to discuss the alternative and this study.



Recommended Build Alternative

The Recommended Build Alternative consists of widening US 301 to a six-lane roadway facility from south of CR 54 to north of Kossik Road and maintaining the existing four-lanes on US 301 from north of Kossik Road to the US 98 Bypass. This alternative is consistent with the Pasco County MPO’s 2025 Cost Affordable Plan.

The recommended typical section (**Figure 1**) for the six-lane widening is a low-speed urban typical section. The proposed features for this alternative include six 12-foot travel lanes (three in each direction), a 22-foot raised median, curb and gutter on the outside and inside of the roadway and 5-foot sidewalks. This typical section requires 136-feet of right-of-way and will not require right-of-way acquisition. However, right-of-way will be required to construct stormwater management facilities.

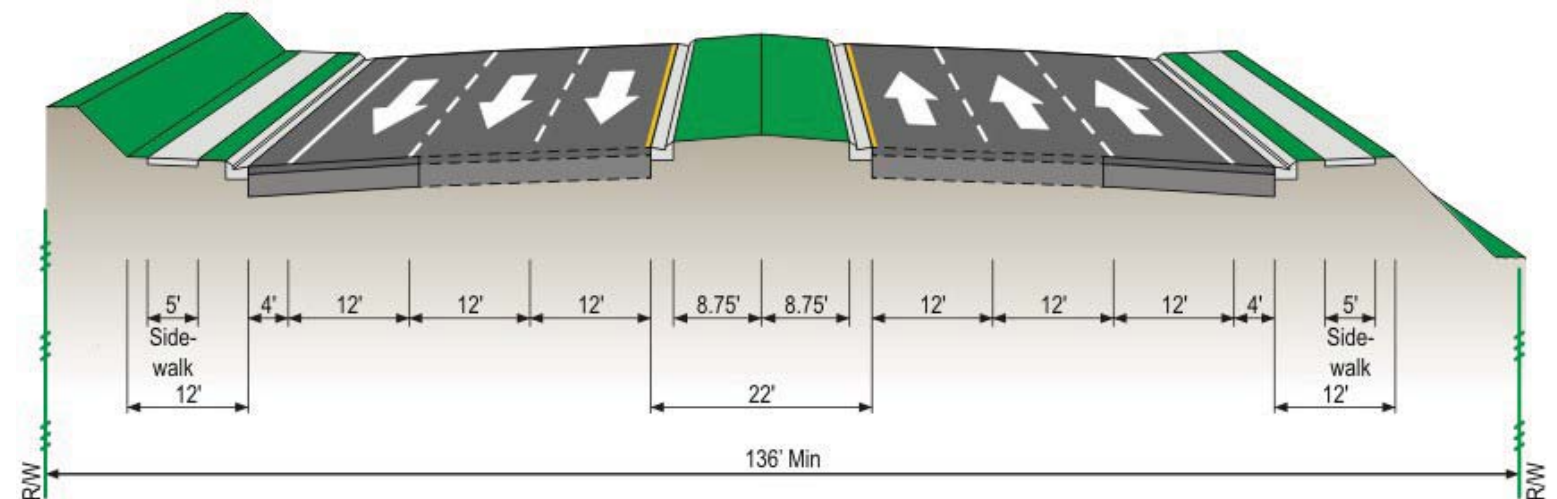


Figure 1 - Typical Six-Lane Urban Section

The section of US 301 between Kossik Road and Wire Road will be used to transition the proposed six-lanes into the existing four-lane roadway. To minimize traffic congestion and improve safety north of Kossik Road, Transportation System Management (TSM) improvements will be provided. The TSM improvements include median modifications on US 301 from north of Kossik Road to the US 98 Bypass and intersection improvements at four signalized intersections: Centennial Road, CR 52A (Clinton Avenue), Morningside Drive, and US 98 Bypass.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

You will have the opportunity to present your views concerning the proposed improvements during the hearing and for the 10 days afterward. Comments must be postmarked by November 16, 2009 to be included in the Official Public Hearing Record for this project. Based on the comments received during the public involvement process, and continued coordination with the governmental agencies, the FDOT will recommend an alternative to FHWA for its approval. Location Design Concept approval is expected by Spring 2010. All individuals on the mailing list will be notified by newsletter of the alternative approved by FHWA.

Study Schedule		FDOT Adopted Five-Year Work Program Fiscal Years 2009/10 – 2013/14	
Study Began	Summer 2008	PD&E Study	Underway
Alternatives Public Workshop	June 3, 2009	Design	FY 2014
Public Hearing	November 4, 2009	ROW Acquisition	Not Currently Funded
Study Approval	Spring 2010	Construction	Not Currently Funded

