

PROJECT LOCATION MAP



Project Development & Environment Study

I-75 PD&E Study
From S.R. 681 to north of University Parkway
Sarasota and Manatee Counties



FPID 201277-1-22-01

Public Information Workshop

February 28, 2008

I-75 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY

Welcome to the Public Information Workshop for the I-75 PD&E study from S.R. 681 to north of University Parkway. The goal of this meeting is to present the conceptual project alternatives and obtain public input.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has begun a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study to evaluate the widening of Interstate 75 (I-75) from State Road 681 (S.R. 681) in Sarasota County to north of University Parkway in Manatee County, a distance of approximately 14 miles (see Project Location Map).

A PD&E study is conducted to develop transportation improvement alternatives based on projected roadway capacity needs. Each alternative is evaluated to determine the social, economic, and environmental impacts it may have along the project corridor. The “no-build” alternative examines the possibility of leaving I-75 in its current condition beyond the design year 2035, while allowing for routine maintenance. The “no-build” alternative remains a viable alternative throughout the PD&E study. The PD&E process, authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, is a combined effort to analyze project-related information in order to develop the best alternative(s) to meet a community’s transportation needs with minimal community and natural environmental impacts.

The improvements to be studied include widening the existing six-lane roadway to accommodate future traffic. In addition, improvements may be recommended for the existing interchanges to alleviate current or projected future operational deficiencies. It is anticipated that the improvements can be constructed within the existing right-of-way (ROW), with the exception of interchange improvements, slip ramps, stormwater facilities, and floodplain compensation sites.

PROJECT FACTS

Project Description

FDOT District One is proposing to widen and/or rehabilitate the existing corridor along I-75 from S.R. 681 to north of University Parkway. The proposed improvements include widening the existing six-lane divided facility to an ultimate configuration of ten lanes with six general use lanes and 4 special use or express lanes, along with improvements to all interchanges within the project limits. There are four existing interchanges within the project corridor. The interchanges are located at: S.R. 72 (Clark Road), S.R. 758 (Bee Ridge Road), S.R. 780 (Fruitville Road), and University Parkway.

Bridge structures will be widened or reconstructed to accommodate the additional traffic lanes. All widening will occur within the existing FDOT right-of-way with the exception of interchange improvements, slip ramps, stormwater management facilities, and floodplain compensation sites.

Project Need

The need for this project has been identified in the I-75 Engineering/Multi-Modal Master Plan completed in August 1998 and is included in the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Plan. The I-75 Master Plan resulted in the identification of long-range 2020 ultimate improvements needed for I-75 in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

The 2020 ultimate improvements, comprising upgrades to the interchanges and mainline roadway needed to accommodate traffic projected through the year 2020, include the portion of I-75 from S.R. 681 in Sarasota County to north of University Parkway in Manatee County. This widening is a capacity improvement project. The improvement would enhance system mobility and accommodate travel demand generated by approved development in the project area. I-75 is a critical evacuation route for residents in Southwest Florida's low-lying Gulf Coast communities. It is shown on the Florida Division of Emergency Management's evacuation route network.

NOISE

Within the project limits, noise sensitive land uses exist both east and west of I-75. To assess the potential noise impact on these areas, the Department is conducting a detailed traffic noise analysis. This analysis is being conducted consistent with the requirements of the Federal Highway Administration and those found in the FDOT Project Development and Environment Manual. If noise impacts are identified, the potential for traffic noise mitigation will be assessed in detail and reported in the final noise study report. Representatives for the FDOT are available at the workshop tonight to answer any questions you may have regarding the traffic noise analysis.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

This schedule illustrates the key points of the I-75 PD&E study. Currently, the subsequent phases of design, right-of-way, and construction are not included in the FDOT tentative five-year work program.

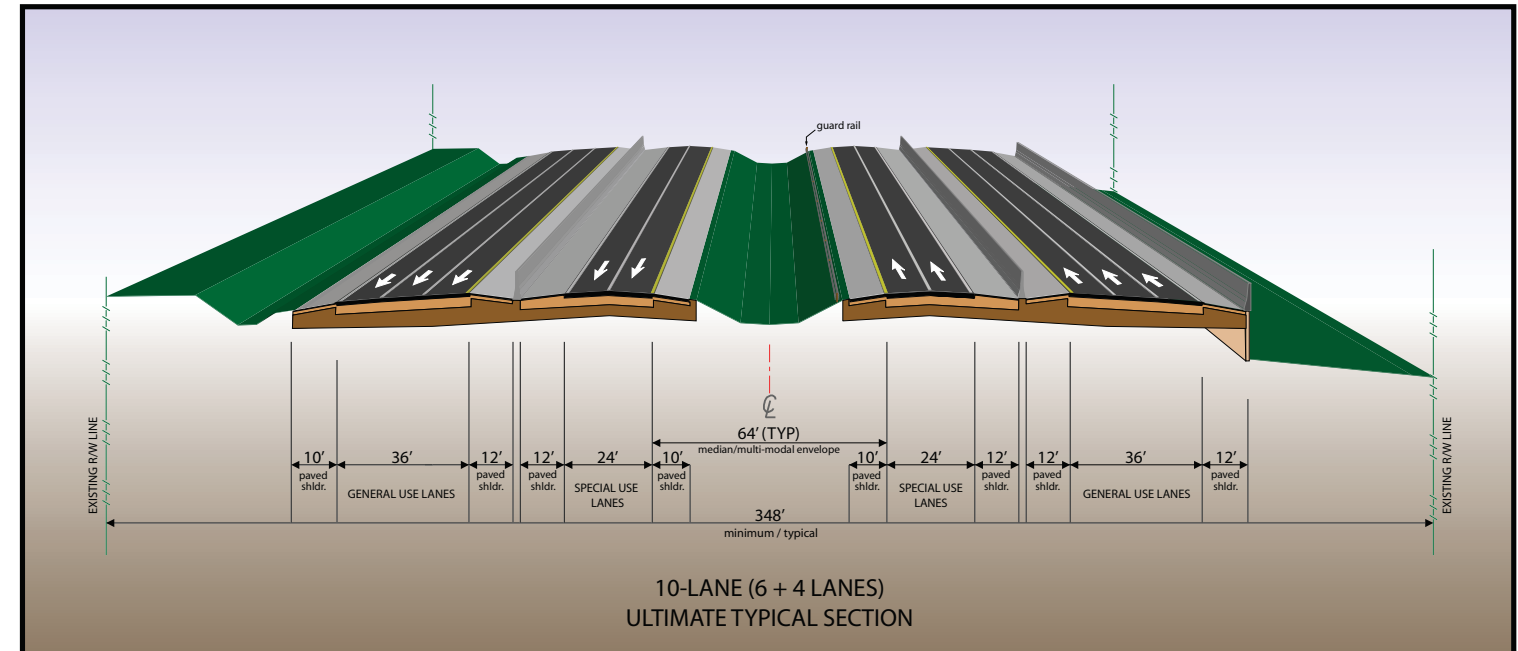


PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement is an important aspect of the PD&E study process. Public involvement includes communicating project-related information to all interested persons, groups, and government organizations and agencies. Public input is obtained regarding the development and evaluation of the project alternatives.

A public hearing will be conducted near the end of the project to present the recommended alternative to the public. The hearing will provide a forum for input from property owners and interested persons concerning the final recommendations of the proposed project. The public hearing is anticipated in Fall 2008. After the comments from the public hearing have been addressed, the project reports are finalized and submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for Location and Design Concept Acceptance. Once acceptance is received from FHWA, the PD&E study phase will be complete.

MAINLINE ULTIMATE TYPICAL SECTION



POTENTIAL IMPACTS/ISSUES

Right-of Way

The addition of travel lanes to the I-75 mainline is proposed to be accommodated within the existing limited access right-of-way. Additional right-of-way may be required for slip ramps, certain interchange modifications, floodplain compensation sites, and stormwater management systems.

Drainage

Proposed stormwater management needs are being examined to ensure that all stormwater facilities are compatible with the requirements of the regulatory agencies. The recommended stormwater alternatives will provide outfall locations and the required detention and/or retention facilities for storm water treatment or attenuation. Coordination meetings have been and will continue to be conducted with regulatory agencies.

CIVIL RIGHTS STATEMENT

The proposed project is being developed in accordance with Title VI and Related Statutes of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968. Any person or beneficiary who believes they have been

discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a complaint with the FDOT District One Title VI Coordinator, Jacquelin Brown, at (863) 519-2757 or by writing to Ms. Brown at Post Office Box 1249, Bartow, Florida 33831.

PROJECT WEBSITE

Visit the project web site at: www.i-75pde.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you received a newsletter in the mail, you are already on the PD&E study mailing list. If you, or someone you know, would like to be added to the mailing list, or if you have questions or need more information regarding the project, please contact:

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