

### PROJECT CONTACTS

We encourage you to participate in the US 301 PD&E study and invite your questions and comments. We are also available to meet with your group or neighborhood association. If you have questions regarding the project or would like to schedule a meeting, please contact the FDOT Project Manager, Stephanie Pierce at (813) 975-6445, toll free at (800) 226-7220 or by email at [stephanie.pierce@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:stephanie.pierce@dot.state.fl.us). Written comments and questions can be faxed to (813) 975-6443 or mailed to:

**US 301 PD&E Study**  
**Attn: Stephanie Pierce**  
**Florida Department of Transportation**  
**11201 N. Malcolm McKinley Drive, MS 7-500**  
**Tampa, Florida 33612**

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS AND REGULATIONS

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 Christopher Speese, Public Involvement Coordinator at (813) 975-6405 or toll free at (800) 226-7220 or email [christopher.speese@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:christopher.speese@dot.state.fl.us).

#### PARA PREGUNTAS EN ESPAÑOL

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o si simplemente desea mas informacion sobre este proyecto, favor de ponerse en contacto con la señora Elba Lopez, al teléfono (813) 975-6403 o correo electrónico [elba.lopez@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:elba.lopez@dot.state.fl.us).



# US 301 from Fowler Avenue to Proposed SR 56

Project Development and Environment Study

WPI Segment No.: 255796-1

This newsletter is the first in a series prepared by the FDOT to help keep you (the public) informed about the



### US 301 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study

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### PD&E STUDY HAS BEGUN!

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has begun a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study to consider roadway improvements along US 301 in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. The project begins at Fowler Avenue (SR 582) and extends north to Proposed SR 56, a distance of 13.8 miles. The PD&E study involves developing roadway alternatives that widen US 301 from two to four lanes to accommodate future traffic projections. The project team will evaluate the engineering, social and environmental effects of widening the road and compare the effects for each alternative.

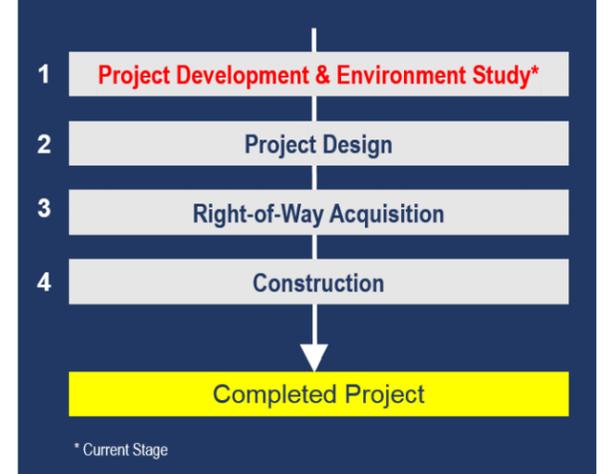
US 301 is a major north-south roadway used for travel through Hillsborough and Pasco counties and provides access to many of the area's major roadways including I-4, SR 39, SR 54 and SR 52. It is an important roadway in the overall Tampa Bay area as it is listed as an emergency evacuation

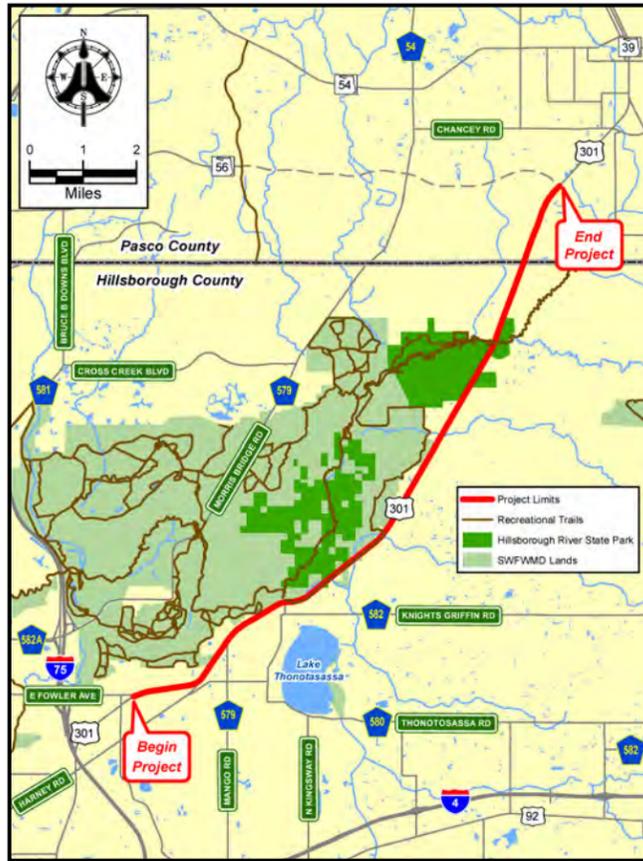
### THE PD&E STUDY PROCESS

This PD&E study will evaluate alignment alternatives, also called build alternatives, to widen US 301. The build alternatives will accommodate future growth of local, freight and commuter traffic, improve driver and pedestrian safety, and reduce emergency response times. The project will also consider a "no-build" alternative, which assumes no improvements to US 301 other than routine maintenance through 2040.

This newsletter kicks off the PD&E study and provides you with an overview of the project. Future newsletters will discuss the build alternatives. FDOT will hold an alternatives public meeting in Winter/Spring 2016 to give you an overview of the alternatives and provide you the opportunity to personally share your thoughts about what is proposed for US 301. A formal public hearing is scheduled for Summer 2016. We encourage you to contact us with your questions, comments and suggestions about the study. Our contact information is provided to the left.

#### THE TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT PROCESS





Project Location Map

## PROJECT LOCATION

The US 301 PD&E study extends from Fowler Avenue (SR 582) to Proposed SR 56, a distance of 13.8 miles. There is currently one signalized intersection and five bridges within the study area. This study area mainly consists of unincorporated Hillsborough and Pasco Counties, which includes scattered residential and business locations and the Hillsborough River State Park.

## WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completes a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study to determine the location, preliminary design, social, economic, and environmental effects of proposed major roadway improvements. During the PD&E study process, FDOT will evaluate alternatives based on engineering considerations, environmental effects, safety needs, and public input. FDOT also considers the no-build alternative, which means no changes are made to the roadway within the study limits, except for routine maintenance, through the year 2040. FDOT requests and encourages community input throughout the PD&E study process.

## PURPOSE & NEED

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety and traffic flow along US 301 from Fowler Avenue to proposed SR 56. The project would:

- Reduce traffic congestion
- Improve emergency and hurricane evacuation times, and
- Provide safer access to properties within the corridor

## PD&E STUDY SCHEDULE

<b>Begin PD&amp;E Study</b>	<b>May 2015</b>
<b>Alternatives Public Meeting</b>	<b>Winter/ Spring 2016</b>
<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>Summer 2016</b>
<b>Complete PD&amp;E Study</b>	<b>Fall 2016</b>

The US 301 study team is currently gathering information about the study area including various engineering data along with cultural, social and environmental resources. These resources include locations of threatened and endangered species, wetlands, archaeological and historic structures, potential contamination sites, noise sensitive sites, as well as locations of residences, public facilities, and commercial buildings near the project corridor. The study team will use this information to determine the possible effects that changes to US 301 could have on these resources. The FDOT will present the results of this analysis in draft project reports that will be made available for review during the public hearing process.



## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Public involvement is one of the most important elements of a PD&E study. It is very important for the public to provide comments to FDOT about the proposed US 301 improvements. There are many ways for you to stay involved, such as small group meetings, an alternatives public meeting and a public hearing. Project newsletters, such as this one, are mailed to all property owners within the study area as well as elected/appointed public officials, and interested citizens/groups at key points in the study.

FDOT will print and mail newsletters four times during this study:

1. Project kickoff (current)
2. Prior to the alternatives public meeting (Winter/Spring 2016)
3. Prior to the public hearing (Summer 2016)
4. End of the study (Fall 2016)

The mailing list includes:

- All property owners located within 300 feet on either side of the roadway
- Neighborhood and civic associations
- Local elected and appointed public officials
- Local, regional, and state agencies
- Anyone requesting to be included

The second project newsletter will discuss the build alternatives and announce the date and location of the alternatives public meeting. This meeting gives interested people the opportunity to express their views about the project. Project staff will be available to discuss the project.

The third project newsletter will announce the date and location of the public hearing. FDOT will present preliminary conclusions reached about the roadway improvement options and the effects of the project. Public statements made during the hearing process are recorded in the official public hearing record.



The study team may also make presentations to local officials as well as hold casual "small group" meetings with local and neighborhood groups. FDOT will provide information on the project status and illustrations of the proposed build alternatives at these meetings. Anyone who wishes to comment about the project will be allowed time to do so at these meetings.

The fourth newsletter will announce the completion of the project.



## Want to Stay Connected?

Anyone who would like to receive future information about this project should contact the Project Manager using the contact information located on the front and back of this newsletter.