# **1. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION**

- A. Re-evaluation Type: Design Change
- B. Original approved Environmental Document:

Document Type: Type 2 CE

Date of Approval: 07/15/2016

**Project Numbers:** 

12556	424501-1-22-01	N/A

ETDM (if applicable)

Financial Management

Federal-Aid

Project Name: I-275 (SR 93) FROM 54TH AVE S TO N OF 4TH ST NORTH

Project Location: FDOT District 7 ( Pinellas County )

Project Limits: I-275 from south of 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street North

C. Prior Re-evaluation(s):

FM Number	Туре		Date District Approved	Date Lead Agency Consultation	Date Lead Agency Approved (if applicable)		
	PE	DC	ROW	CON			
424501-1-22-01					04/18/2017		04/26/2017

### Description of Approval:

A Typical Section Design Change is proposed in order to repurpose the approved I-275 Master Plan lane configuration (as contained in the Type 2 CE) within the portion of Segment C from south of 9th Street North to 1.0 Mile south of the Howard Frankland Bridge. This portion of Segment C is subdivided into two sub sections: From south of 9th Street North to north of 4th Street North (Segment C-SP3) From north of 4th Street North to 1.0 Mile south of the Howard Frankland Bridge (Segment C-SP4) The repurposing of one (1) of the two (2) approved Master Plan express lanes is proposed in order to accommodate the provision of three general use through lanes, one auxiliary lane, and one express lane in each direction throughout these limits with the Starter Project improvements. The planned Segment C Typical Section Design Changes are consistent with the approved Type 2 CE footprint.

The planned Segment C Typical Section Design Change and Concept Plans constitute the new Starter Typical Sections and Concept Plan for Segment C which was advanced to construction under WPI Seg. No. 424501-2. Subsequently, the approved Type 2 CE Concepts will require modification due to the planned changes to the Segment C Typical Sections and will be addressed in a future evaluation.

D. Project or project segment(s) being evaluated

FAP Number	FM Number	Project/ Segment Name	Project/ Segment Location	Туре		Project/ Segment Letting Type	Funding		
				PE	DC	ROW	CON		
	424501-1-22- 01	I-275 (SR 93) FROM 54TH	District 7 - PINELLAS					Design Build	Federal
		AVE S TO N OF 4TH ST NORTH	TINELEAG						

1316-003-U	433880-1-52- 01	GATEWAY EXPRESSWAY	District 7 - PINELLAS			Design Build	Federal
		FM SR690 @					
		US19 & SR686					
		EXT @ CR611					
		TO W OF I-275					

### 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Seven is conducting a Re-evaluation to evaluate and document proposed changes to the previously approved Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study and subsequent Re-evaluations for I-275 (SR 93) from south of 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street North in Pinellas County, Florida. A PD&E study was conducted for the 16.3-mile corridor to analyze the need for operational improvements and evaluate the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of any proposed improvements. Following a Public Hearing held on September 29, 2015, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the Type II Categorical Exclusion (Type II CE) for this project on July 15, 2016.

Following approval of the Type II CE, FDOT performed a Re-evaluation to evaluate a change to the approved Typical Section of Segment C (from south of Gandy Boulevard to north of 4th Street North). That Re-evaluation evaluated the repurposing of one of the two approved express lanes to accommodate the provision of three general use through lanes, one auxiliary lane, and one express lane in each direction for this segment of the study corridor. This Design Change Re-evaluation was approved by FDOT Office of Environmental Management (OEM) on April 26, 2017.

I-275 is a limited access urban interstate highway facility that runs in a north and south direction through Pinellas County. The posted speed limit is 65 miles per hour. Within the project limits, I-275 is a divided highway comprised of a four-lane divided typical section with auxiliary lanes from south of 54th Avenue South to I-375. From I-375 to north of 4th Street North, I-275 is comprised of a six-lane divided typical section with auxiliary lanes. Due to a series of existing left-hand entrance and exit ramps, there are no continuous travel lanes on I-275 in the southbound direction and only one continuous travel lane in the northbound direction. To improve traffic flow on I-275, operational improvements are needed to increase the number of continuous lanes.

## 3. CHANGES IN APPLICABLE LAW OR REGULATION

Are there changes in federal or state laws, rules, regulations, or guidance that require consideration since the date of the original Environmental Document or subsequent Re-evaluation(s)? No

## 4. EVALUATION OF MAJOR DESIGN CHANGES AND REVISED DESIGN CRITERIA

Are there major design changes, including but not limited to changes in the alignment(s), typical section(s), drainage/stormwater requirements, design control and criteria, or temporary road or bridge? No Minor design changes are proposed to the approved PD&E concepts for the Gateway Express (FPID 433880-1) and I-275 Segment C (FPID 424501-1) projects. The design changes are needed to allow the Gateway Design Build project under construction within Segment C from south of Gandy Boulevard to north of 4th Street North to accommodate connections between I-275, Gateway Express and Roosevelt Boulevard and the reasonably forseeable future widening of I-275. All proposed design changes are within the functional right-of-way for the Interstate and do not include capacity improvement. The following Design Changes are proposed related to bridge lengthenings to accommodate future widening of I-275:

- Lengthening of the general purpose lane bridge over I-275 connecting southbound I-275 with 4th Street North. (Attachment A, Pages 1 and 2);
- Realignment and lengthening of the general purpose lane bridge (Ramp P) over I-275 connecting northbound I-275 to Roosevelt Boulevard. (Attachment A, Pages 3 and 4);

The following Design Changes are proposed related to express lane connections between Gateway Express, I-275, and Roosevelt Boulevard:

- Realignment of general purpose lane and express lane bridges over I-275 and Roosevelt Boulevard connecting Gateway Express to I-275 north of Roosevelt Boulevard. (Attachment A, Page 5)
- Widening and construction of new I-275 bridges for express lanes (northbound and southbound) and general purpose lanes (northbound) over Roosevelt Boulevard. (Attachment A, Page 6)

The planned Design Changes are consistent with the approved Type 2 CE footprint and do not require an Interchange Access Request.

### [2 - Attachment B - Concept Plan Graphics 021119]

## 5. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### Were there additional public involvement activities? No

## 6. PROJECT or SEGMENT(S) PLANNING CONSISTENCY

Planning Consistency is not required for this re-evaluation.

## 7. EVALUATION OF CHANGES IN IMPACTS

### a. SOCIAL & ECONOMIC

Are there changes in impacts to the social, economic, land use, mobility, and/or aesthetic effects? No

Are there changes in right-of-way needs? No

Is there a change in anticipated relocation(s)? No

Are there changes in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmlands? N/A

#### b. CULTURAL

Are there changes in impacts to cultural resources pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (historic sites/districts and archaeological sites)? No

Are there changes in effects to Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act protected resources or other protected public lands? No

Are there changes in impacts to lands purchased under Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act? No

Are there changes in impacts to recreational areas or protected lands? No

#### c. NATURAL

Are there changes in impacts to protected species and habitat, wetlands and other surface waters, and/or essential fish habitat? No No change in mitigation from initial approval.

Are there changes in impacts to designated Aquatic Preserves, Coastal Barrier resources, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Nationwide Rivers Inventory Rivers, and/or Outstanding Florida Waters? No

Are there changes in impacts to Floodplains or Water Resources? No

#### d. PHYSICAL

Are there changes in Air Quality? No

### What is the status of Highway Traffic Noise? N/A

Noise analysis was completed for Gateway Ramp P (see attachment). Based on the results of the analysis, realigning Ramp P at the I-275/SR 686 interchange would not create any new traffic noise impacts at the Madison Gateway Apartments. Additionally, the proposed noise barrier for the Azure Apartments/The Villas of Carillon is still valid. [1 - Memo\_433880 Gateway I-275 Express Lanes SA\_Traffic Noise]

What is the status of Contamination? N/A No change.

Are there changes in impacts to Utilities and Railroads? No

Are there changes in impacts to Navigation? No

## 8. COMMITMENT STATUS

Are there prior commitments from the Environmental Document or previously approved re-evaluation(s)? Yes

Are there new environmental commitments? No

[3 - 424501-1\_AttchC\_I-275\_PDE\_Pinellas\_PCR]

# 9. STATUS OF PERMITS

#### Federal

Segment	Name	Descriptor	Status	Date
	USACE Section 10 or Section 404 Permit		Needed	
	USCG Bridge Permit		Needed	

#### State

Segment	Name	Descriptor	Status	Date
	DEP National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit		Needed	
	DEP or WMD Environmental Resource Permit (ERP)		Needed	

#### Local

None anticipated.

### Other

None anticipated.

### **10. CONCLUSION**

The project has been re-evaluated pursuant to 23 CFR § 771.129. The FDOT has determined that no changes to the project affect the original decision. Therefore, the Administrative Action remains valid and the project can advance.

## **11. DISTRICT REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

### Name and title of FDOT Preparer: Robin Rhinesmith, Environmental Administrator, FDOT District Seven

The Environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

, 03/01/2019 (Date of Consultation)

**Robin Rhinesmith** 

District approving authority or designee

Electronically signed within SWEPT on June 20, 2019 4:41:48 PM EDT (electronic signature on file)

12. OEM APPROVAL

Not Applicable

# 13. Links to Supporting Documentation

June 20, 2019

Date

- 1 \_ 42450112201-CE2-D7-AttchA\_Memo\_433880\_Gateway\_I-275\_EL\_SA\_TrafficNoise-2019-0502.doc
- 2 \_ 42450112201-CE2-D7-AttchB\_I275\_CDCR\_PlanConcepts\_021119-2019-0415.pdf
- 3 <u>42450112201-CE2-D7-424501-1\_AttchC\_I-275\_PDE\_Pinellas\_PCR-2017-0502.pdf</u>
- 4 \_ 42450112201-CE2-D7-AttchD\_I275\_CDCR\_Email\_01Mar2019-2019-0416.pdf