



I-75 PD&E Project Update

The following serves as a summary and update of the activities conducted to date on the I-75 PD&E Study. There are several issues that have been evaluated to date in the categories of: Environmental Assessment, Traffic Analysis, Transit, and Public Outreach, as summarized below:

Environmental Assessment:

The initial data gathering has been completed, which will be used to evaluate the environmental impacts in the areas of air quality, noise, contamination, historic and/or archaeological resources, endangered species, wildlife and habitat, recreational lands, and wetlands. The project team collected the data from several government and regulatory agencies and compiled a GIS database that will be utilized to properly and accurately determine potential environmental impacts as the alternatives are identified and analyzed. Furthermore, team members have conducted corridor-wide site reviews to evaluate and collect field data and to verify the actual existing conditions in comparison to the regulatory agencies' databases. The existing conditions data is being compiled into individual reports to assist in determining recommended solutions.

Traffic Analysis:

The traffic data for the current year has been collected in order to determine the existing traffic conditions. Travel Demand Modeling has been completed to estimate the 2040 traffic volumes and conditions, and this information is being used to identify required improvements to meet the future traffic conditions. In addition, a detailed Origin and Destination Survey was performed during Spring 2009 to help refine and validate the traffic modeling, and help ensure that the appropriate long-term improvements are identified and evaluated.

Transit Analysis:

Several potential transit corridors in Miami-Dade County were identified and analyzed as alternatives to connect a future transit guideway along I-75 in Broward County with the existing or proposed Miami-Dade Metrorail system. A total of eight corridors in Miami-Dade County were identified that fall within a study area that covers the northwest area of the county. Each of the potential transit corridors were evaluated for mobility improvements, environmental impacts, costs, land use impact, and community acceptability. The results

of this analysis will be included in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan update process being conducted by both counties, as appropriate.

In addition, Express Bus Service and associated Park and Ride lots are being evaluated for inclusion along the corridor, as part of the I-75 Highway Improvements Alternatives Analysis.

Public Outreach:

In an effort to keep the channels of communication as open and proactive as possible, the project team has and will continue to go to great efforts to involve the public at every level of the decision-making process of this study. As part of the public outreach for this PD&E Study, Kick-Off meetings were conducted in September 2007, including one Elected Official/Agency Kick-Off Meeting and two Public Kick-Off Meetings (one in Broward County and the other in Miami-Dade County). In Fall 2008, Concepts Public Workshops were conducted (again, one in Broward County and the other in Miami-Dade County).

These meetings were conducted to provide the community with a forum through which to learn about the scope, limits, schedule, alternatives, and required process to be used for the study, and to provide FDOT with a forum to identify community and agency/municipality concerns and focus areas for the study.

Comments received at the Kick-Off and Concepts Workshop meetings included concerns about noise, traffic, and transit. The project team will analyze each comment brought forth by the various stakeholders and interested parties and will work to address all concerns throughout the alternatives development and evaluation phase of this study.

The project team has also conducted a series of briefings with elected officials in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, prior to each public meeting. These briefings were completed to inform local government officials about the project and to update them on the study's progress. The team has had extensive coordination with the Miami-Dade and Broward county government agencies (such as Public Works, Transit, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations) to integrate their input into the alternatives under development and to brief them about the study as it progresses.

