



Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
I-275 PD&E Studies from north of I-4 to north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (SR 574) and from north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (SR 574) to north of Bearss Avenue (SR 678/CR 582)
11201 N McKinley Drive, MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

Contact Information

We encourage your participation in this I-275/State Road 93 Project Development and Environment Study. If you wish to discuss any issues related to this project, please contact Ashley Henzel, P.E., Senior Project Manager, at 813-975-6433 or Kris Carson, Public Information Officer, at 800-226-7220 or by email to: kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us.

Written comments may be sent to:
Kirk Bogen, P.E.
Environmental Management Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456

En Español

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o si simplemente desea mas información sobre este proyecto, favor de ponerse en contacto con el señora Lilliam Escalera, E.I., al teléfono (813) 975-6445 o correo electrónico lilliam.escalera@dot.state.fl.us.

Non-Discrimination

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who need special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation service (free of charge), please contact Alex Henry, Public Involvement Coordinator, 813-975-6405 or alex.henry@dot.state.fl.us at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing.



Public hearing location:

Date: **Tuesday, March 26, 2019**
Time: **5:30-7:30 pm** Open House
6:30 pm Formal Presentation
Place: **Seminole Heights United Methodist Church**
6111 N Central Avenue
Tampa, FL 33604

We want your input!

A successful project depends on the public's participation during the study process. To provide comments, make suggestions, or ask questions about the project, contact:

Ashley Henzel, P.E.
Senior Project Manager
(813) 975-6433 · (800) 266-7220

Media Contact:
Kris Carson
Public Information Officer
(813) 975-6202 · (800) 266-7220
kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us

Study Schedule

The Study schedule for north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to north of Bearss Avenue (WPI 431821-1) is shown below.

Phase	Anticipated Completion
Project Kickoff	Spring 2014
Complete Analysis	Spring 2019
Stakeholder Meetings	Spring 2014-Spring 2019
Public Hearing	Spring 2019
Finalize PD&E Documents	Summer 2019
PD&E Approval	Summer 2019

Schedule subject to change

For more information about the projects
or to leave a comment go to:

active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/mlk-to-bearss

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code, Section 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

I-275 (SR 93) from I-4 to north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (SR 574) and north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (SR 574) to north of Bearss Avenue (SR 678/CR 582)

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Studies

WPI Segment Nos. 443770-1 | 431821-1

ETDM No. 13854

Hillsborough County

Dear Property Owner and/or Interested Citizen:

You are invited to attend and participate in the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven public hearing for the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Studies on I-275 from **I-4 to north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (SR 574)** (WPI 443770-1), which involves adding one dedicated auxiliary lane northbound from Floribraska Avenue to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and one dedicated auxiliary lane southbound from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the flyover ramp at I-4, and **from north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (SR 574) to north of Bearss Avenue** (WPI 431821-1), which involves adding one general purpose lane in each direction with transit accommodations. Both projects are in Hillsborough County, Florida. The hearing allows those interested the opportunity to provide comments and express views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed project.

This letter serves as notice to property owners (pursuant to F.S. 339.155) that all or a portion of their property is within 300 feet of the edge of right of way of the proposed project. This does not mean that all properties will be directly affected.

Beginning at 5:30 pm, FDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and discuss the project. Exhibits and other project-related materials showing the proposed improvements will be available. A PowerPoint presentation will run continuously during the open house. At 6:30 pm, FDOT representatives will hold the formal portion of the hearing, which will be an opportunity to make formal oral public comments. Following the formal portion of the hearing, the informal open house will resume and continue until 7:30 pm. You can attend anytime during the two-hour meeting to review project information and talk with project team members.

A court reporter will be available to receive comments in a one-on-one setting before and after the formal portion of the hearing. You may mail your written comments to the address preprinted on the back of the comment form or enter them on the project website (active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/mlk-to-bearss). All comments must be postmarked or received on the website by **Friday, April 5, 2019**, to become part of the official public hearing record.

Draft study documents and other pertinent information depicting the project's recommendation will be available for review from **Tuesday, March 5, 2019**, to **Friday, April 5, 2019**, at the following locations:

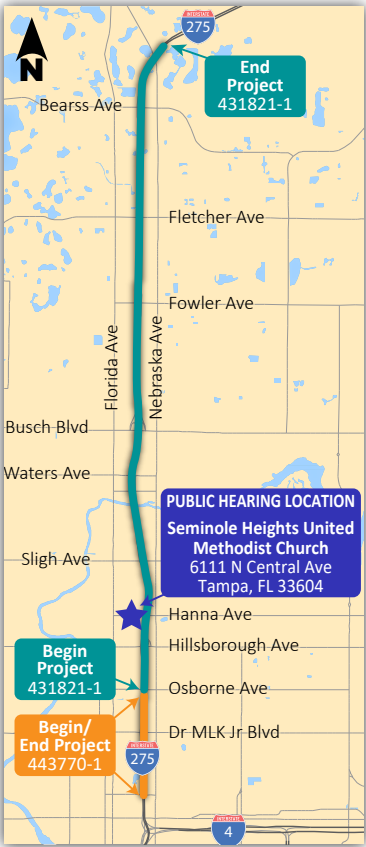
Seminole Heights Branch Library	Library Hours:	Florida Department of Transportation, District 7	Business Hours:
4711 Central Avenue Tampa, FL 33603-3905	Mon, Wed-Sat 10am-6pm Tues 10am-8pm Sun Closed	11201 N McKinley Drive Tampa, FL 33612-6456	Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat-Sun Closed

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code, Section 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by Federal Highway Administration and FDOT. If you have questions about the project or the scheduled hearing, please contact **Ashley Henzel, P.E.**, at **813-975-6433** or **800-226-7220**, or visit the project website at active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/mlk-to-bearss.

Sincerely,

Kirk Bogen, P.E.
Environmental Management Engineer

For more information about the project or to leave a comment go to active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/mlk-to-bearss




Operational Improvements Study

(WPI 443770-1)

To ensure continuity south of the proposed project from north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to north of Bearss Avenue (shown in **teal** in the map to the right), an additional project is being studied to provide operational improvements from I-4 to north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (shown in **orange** in the map to the right).

The improvements include providing dedicated auxiliary lanes from the I-4 ramps to north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The remainder of this newsletter describes the improvements for the project north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.



Study Purpose

A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is a comprehensive evaluation of social, cultural, economic, and environmental effects associated with proposed transportation improvements. The objective of this PD&E Study is to assist the FDOT in deciding the type, location, and conceptual design of the necessary improvements. The PD&E Study satisfies all applicable requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for this project to qualify for federal-aid funding of subsequent development phases (right of way acquisition, design, and construction).

Project Overview

The limits of this PD&E Study (WPI No. 431821-1) are from north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to north of Bearss Avenue in Hillsborough County. The proposed project involves widening I-275 to add one general purpose lane in each direction, provide transit accommodations on the inside shoulder, and complete operational improvements at the Hillsborough Avenue and Bearss Avenue interchanges. The project is shown in **teal** in the map above.

FDOT District Seven committed to remove express lanes from this portion of I-275 and study them on a separate corridor that is more regionally focused.

Existing Conditions

I-275 is a major north-south interstate that provides an important connection to the regional and statewide transportation network (such as I-4 and I-75), linking Tampa Bay to the remainder of the state and nation. I-275 is a designated highway on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), the state's network of high priority facilities. Widening this 7.7-mile portion of I-275 is critical to maintain and improve access to major transportation facilities, as well as enhance mobility within the Tampa Bay area. I-275 is a designated evacuation route.

Within the project limits, I-275 contains three 12-foot travel lanes, a 10-foot outside shoulder, and a 9-foot inside shoulder in each direction. I-275 contains a 12-foot auxiliary lane northbound from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to Hillsborough Avenue. From Hillsborough Avenue to Busch Boulevard, I-275 contains an inside 12-foot striped out lane.

Alternatives Considered

No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative assumes that no improvements would be made to I-275 within the project limits except routine maintenance. The advantages of the No-Build Alternative include no costs for design and construction, no effects to existing land use and natural resources, and no disruption to the public during construction. However, the disadvantages of the No-Build Alternative are the project's purpose and need would not be met and the area would see increased congestion and user cost. Additionally, the No-Build Alternative is not consistent with local plans. However, this alternative remains a viable alternative throughout the PD&E Study process.

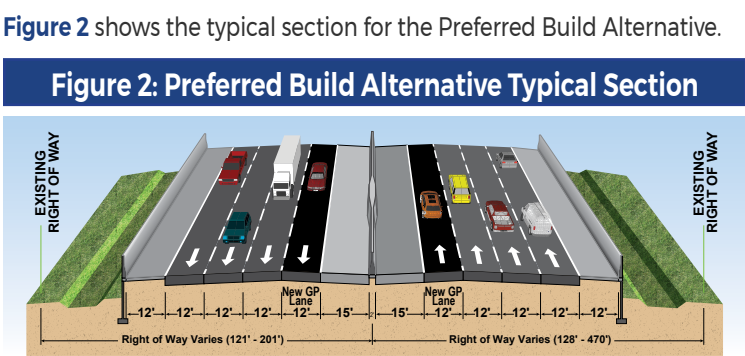
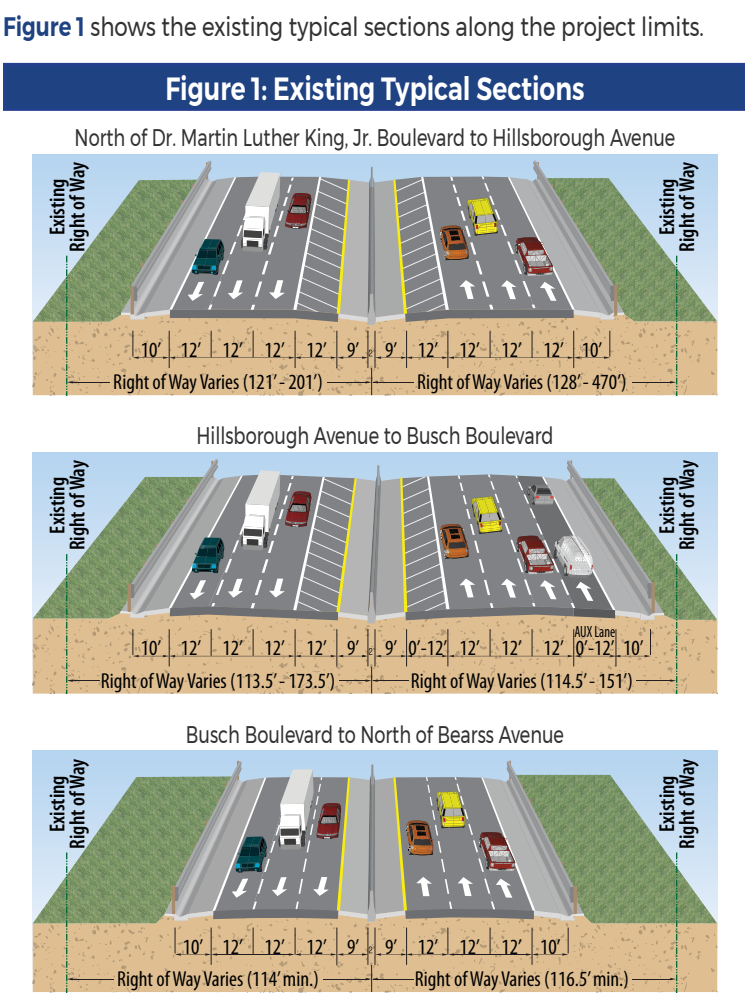
Preferred Build Alternative

The Preferred Build Alternative would add one 12-foot general purpose lane in each direction on I-275 for a total of four 12-foot general purpose lanes in each direction. Improvements would also include a 15-foot inside shoulder to accommodate transit, a 12-foot outside shoulder, and a 2-foot concrete barrier separating each direction of travel. The mainline I-275 improvements would be constructed within the existing right of way. Approximately 3.4 acres of right of way will be required for stormwater management facilities near the Bearss Avenue interchange. Right of way may be needed for stormwater management facilities for other projects within the limits of WPI 443770-1. See "Right of Way Acquisition Procedure" below for more information.

Right of Way Acquisition Procedure

When a transportation project proposes acquiring private property, you may have questions and concerns. To better inform you about the right of way acquisition process and your rights, FDOT created real estate acquisition and relocation informational brochures. These brochures and other education materials will be available during the public hearing. Copies of the brochures are available on our website: www.dot.state.fl.us/rightofway/Documents.shtm. We would like to hear your concerns and answer your questions. We also encourage you to speak with the FDOT Project Manager or a Right of Way Representative at your convenience.

Typical Sections



Future Funding

Following the PD&E phase and once funding is available, these projects will proceed as Design-Build projects.

Phase	Right of Way	Design Build
From I-4 to north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (WPI 443770-1)	N/A	\$34 M (2023)
From north of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to north of Hillsborough Avenue (WPI 431821-2)	N/A	\$34 M (2023)
From north of Hillsborough Avenue to south of Bearss Avenue (WPI 431821-3)	N/A	\$173 M (Not Currently Funded)
Bearss Avenue Interchange (WPI 431821-4)	\$2.3 M (Not Currently Funded)	\$47 M (Not Currently Funded)

Evaluation Matrix

The environmental and socio-cultural impacts of the Preferred Build Alternative and the No-Build Alternative are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Alternatives Evaluation Matrix		
Evaluation Criteria	No-Build Alternative	Build Alternative
Potential Relocations		
Number of Businesses and Residences	0	0
Potential Right of Way Impacts		
Additional Right of Way for Roadway (acres)	0	0
Additional Right of Way for Ponds (acres)	0	3.40 ¹
Potential Environmental Effects		
Archaeological Sites	0	1
Historic Sites	0	8
Section 4(f) Sites	0	0
Noise Sensitive Sites ²	448	749
Wetlands (acres)	0	0.64
Floodplains (acre-feet)	0	1.00
Surface Waters (acres)	0	2.81
Threatened & Endangered Species	None	Minimal
Contamination and Hazardous Material Sites ³	0	15
Estimated Costs (in millions)		
Right of Way Acquisition	\$0	\$2.3 M
Wetland & Surface Water Mitigation ⁴	\$0	\$0.2 M
Construction & Engineering Inspection (8%)	\$0	\$23.3 M
Design-Build	\$0	\$291.6 M
Preliminary Estimate of Total Costs	\$0	\$317.4 M

¹ Right of way for stormwater management facilities near Bearss Avenue interchange.
² Number of impacted sites based on the Noise Study Report.
³ Sites ranked as Medium and High.
⁴ Wetland mitigation cost is \$117,551 per acre; 2018/19 fiscal year cost from the Environmental Mitigation Payment Processing Handbook (May 2017).