



I-275 (SR 93) Design Change Re-evaluation

September 2019

Project Development and Environment Study from south of 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street North, Pinellas County, Florida
WPI Segment #4245001-1, ETDM #12556



PUBLIC HEARING LOCATION DETAILS

DATE Tues., September 24, 2019

TIME 5:30-7:30 p.m. Open House
6:30 p.m. Formal
Presentation

PLACE First Baptist Church of St.
Petersburg
Heritage Hall
1900 Gandy Boulevard N
St. Petersburg, FL 33702



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
Phone: 813.975.6433 or
800.266.7220
ashley.henzel@dot.state.fl.us

Kristen Carson (Media Contact)

Public Information Officer
Phone: 813.975.6202 or
800.226.7220
kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us

Written comments may be submitted in place of or in addition to oral comments. Comments may be provided at the hearing or by mail to the address preprinted on the attached comment form. You may also submit comments on the project website <http://active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/54th-to-4th/>. All written comments must be submitted or postmarked no later than **Friday, October 4, 2019**, to be part of the official public hearing record.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE: I-275 (SR 93) DESIGN CHANGE RE-EVALUATION

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 a Design Change Re-evaluation of the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study of **I-275 (SR 93) from south of 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street North**. This project involves operational improvements, congestion management, lane continuity, and express lane improvements along the project corridor in Pinellas County. This hearing allows those interested the opportunity to provide comments and express views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, cultural 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. However, this does not mean that all properties will be directly affected.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., 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 p.m., 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 p.m. 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 pre-printed on the back of the comment form provided at the hearing or enter them on the project website: <http://active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/54th-to-4th>. All comments must be postmarked or emailed by **Friday, October 4, 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 on the project website for review from **Wednesday, September 4, 2019, to Friday, October 4, 2019**, and at the following locations:

BARBARA S. PONCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

7770 52nd Street North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
727.541.0718

Library Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fri-Sat 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sun 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

FDOT DISTRICT SEVEN

11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612
813.975.6000

Business Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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 visit the project website at <http://active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/54th-to-4th/>.

Sincerely,



Kirk Bogen, P.E.

Environmental Management Engineer

Figure 1. Project Location Map



Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
I-275 (SR 93) Design Change Re-evaluation
11201 N McKinley Drive, MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456



CONTACT INFORMATION

We encourage your participation during in this I-275 (SR 93) Design Change Re-evaluation. 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 by email to: ashley.henzel@dot.state.fl.us or Kris Carson, Public Information Officer, at 813.975.6202 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 informacion sobre este Proyecto, favor de ponerse en contacto con la senora 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.



STUDY SCHEDULE

The study schedule for the I-275 (SR 93) Design Change Re-evaluation (WPI #424501-1) of the I-275 PD&E Study from south of 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street North is shown below.

PHASE	
Current Design Change Re-evaluation	Began August 2018
Preparation of Documents	Ongoing
Public Hearing	September 24, 2019
Re-evaluation Approval	Winter 2019/2020

Schedule subject to change



For more information about the project or to leave a comment go to:
[http:// active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/54th-to-4th/](http://active.fdotd7studies.com/i275/54th-to-4th/)

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.



I-275 (SR 93) Design Change Re-evaluation

Project Development and Environment Study from south of 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street North, Pinellas County, Florida

Study Purpose

A PD&E Study is a comprehensive evaluation of social, cultural, economic, and environmental effects associated with a proposed transportation improvement. FDOT District Seven conducted a PD&E Study and subsequent re-evaluation studies for I-275 (SR 93) from south of 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street North in Pinellas County, Florida to analyze the need for operational improvements, and evaluate the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of proposed improvements. The I-275 corridor improvements considered for the PD&E Study and subsequent re-evaluation studies are needed to help improve existing traffic congestion, enhance safety, and better accommodate future travel demands associated with projected growth in employment and population. The studies satisfy all applicable requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for this project to qualify for federal-aid funding of subsequent development phases (i.e., right-of-way acquisition, design, and construction).

Existing Conditions

I-275 is a vital link in the local and regional transportation network and serves as a critical evacuation route. As a major north-south corridor through Pinellas County, I-275 connects the Tampa Bay Region with the remainder of the state and the nation supporting commerce, trade, and tourism. Preserving the operational integrity and regional functionality of I-275 is critical to the mobility and economy of the Tampa Bay Region. Within the study limits, I-275 is a divided highway with two general use lanes with one auxiliary lane in each direction from south of 54th Avenue South to I-375. From I-375 north to north of 4th Street North, I-275 has three general use lanes and one auxiliary lane in each direction. Due to a series of existing left-hand entrance and exit ramps, there are no continuous travel lanes on southbound I-275 and only one continuous lane on northbound I-275.

PD&E Study & 2017 Design Change Re-evaluation

The original PD&E Study evaluated operational improvements to provide two continuous lanes in each direction on I-275 in Segments A and B, and provide express lanes in each direction in Segment C. Following a Public Hearing held on September 29, 2015, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the Type II Categorical Exclusion (Type II CE) on July 15, 2016 for these improvements.

Subsequent to FHWA approval of the Type II CE, a Design Change Re-evaluation was undertaken in 2017 to evaluate re-purposing the approved express lane configuration within Segment C from south of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street North to 1.0 mile south of the Howard Frankland Bridge. The re-purposing of one of the two approved express lanes was needed to accommodate three general use lanes, one auxiliary lane, and one express lane in each direction. This re-evaluation was approved by FDOT Office of Environmental Management (OEM) on April 26, 2017. The acceptance of the Type II CE and the 2017 Re-evaluation constituted approval for the Design-Build construction that is currently underway as part of the Gateway Expressway and I-275 Design Build Project (433880-1-52-01 and 424501-2-52-01) within Segment C from south of Gandy Boulevard to north of 4th Street North.

Current Design Change Re-evaluation

The current Design Change Re-evaluation (WPI No. 424501-1) is evaluating the impacts of further changes to the approved PD&E. The current re-evaluation is evaluating the addition of a second express lane in Segment C and the addition

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: <https://www.fdot.gov/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.

of two express lanes on I-275 in Segment B from north of I-375 to south of Gandy Boulevard. These proposed improvements would tie-in with planned improvements to the Howard Frankland Bridge.

The current re-evaluation also analyzes replacing the I-275 ramp bridges on 4th Street North over Big Island Gap, providing trail connections from the Howard Frankland Bridge to 4th Street North and Ulmerton Road, and ramp connection modifications at the Gandy Boulevard and Gateway Expressway interchange areas. To meet drainage and stormwater requirements, pond sites will be needed to accommodate new impervious surface due to widening to accommodate express lanes. Several of these new pond site locations will be outside of the existing right of way.

Typical Sections

To best describe the types of improvements proposed, the study corridor is divided into three segments. **The current re-evaluation is considering typical section design changes for Segments B and C. No changes are proposed for Segment A** (south of 54th Avenue South to I-375).

Figure 2 shows the Previously Approved Alternative and the Current Preferred Build Alternative typical sections for Segment B (I-375 to Gandy Boulevard). **Figure 3** shows the Previously Approved Alternative and the Current Preferred Alternative typical sections for Segment C (Gandy Boulevard to north of 4th Street North).

Updated Evaluation Matrix

The environmental and sociocultural impacts of the Current Preferred Build Alternative were compared to the impacts from the Previously Approved Alternative in an evaluation matrix shown in **Table 1**. Estimated project costs are also shown.

Table 1: Evaluation Matrix & Estimated Project Costs

EVALUATION CRITERIA	Previously Approved Alternative	Current Preferred Build Alternative
Potential Right-of-Way (R/W) Impacts		
No. of Affected Parcels	15	28
No. of Potential Residential/Business Relocations	0/0	16/0
Additional R/W Needed for Roadway (acres)	0	0.73
Additional R/W Needed for Ponds (acres)	4.5	19.9
Potential Environmental Impacts		
Archaeological / Historic Sites	16	17
Noise-Sensitive Sites	1,054	1,415
Wetlands (acres)	0.74	2.93
Seagrasses (acres)	0.74	1,424
Threatened and Endangered Species	Low	Low
Contamination and Hazardous Material Sites	13	13
Estimated Project Costs (\$millions)		
R/W Needed		\$12.54
Preliminary Engineering Design		\$23.22
Construction		\$331.71
Construction Engineering Inspection		\$23.22
Preliminary Estimate of Total Cost		\$390.70

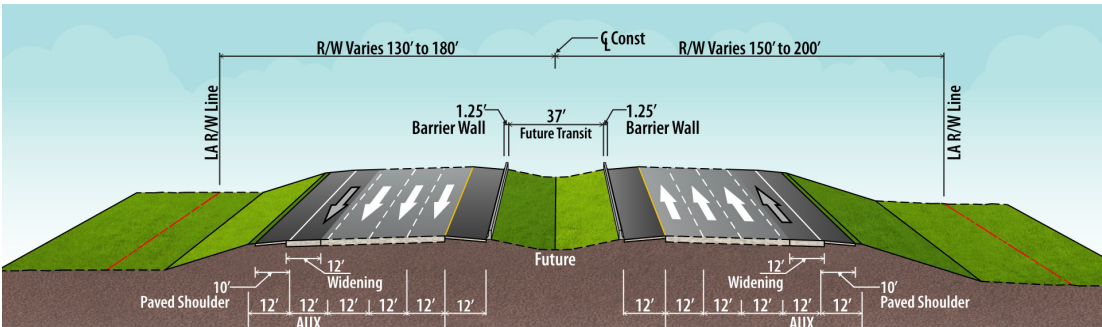
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Figure 2. Segment B - I-175 to Gandy Boulevard Typical Sections

Previously Approved Alternative Typical Section



Current Preferred Build Alternative Typical Section

General Use Lane (GUL)
Express Lane (EL)
Auxiliary Lane (AUX)

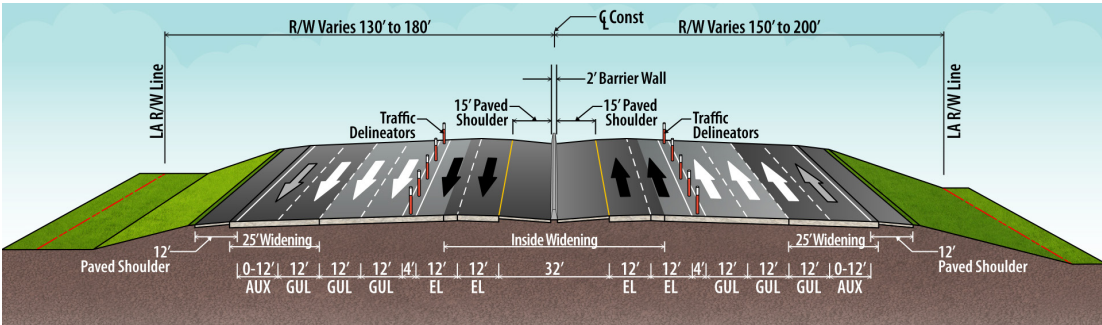
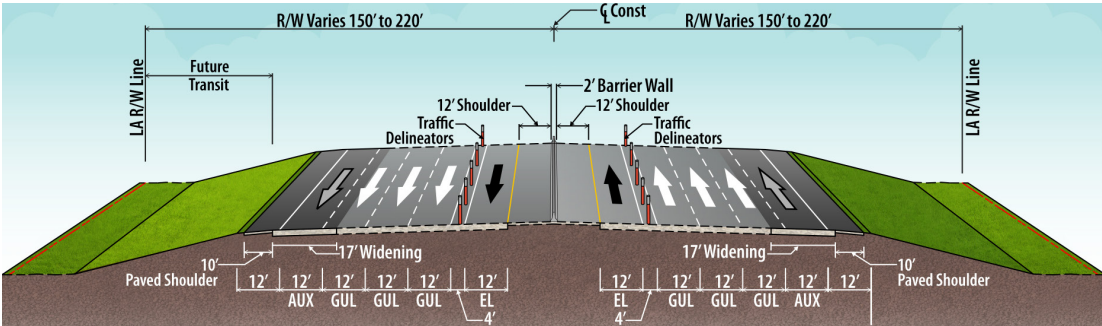


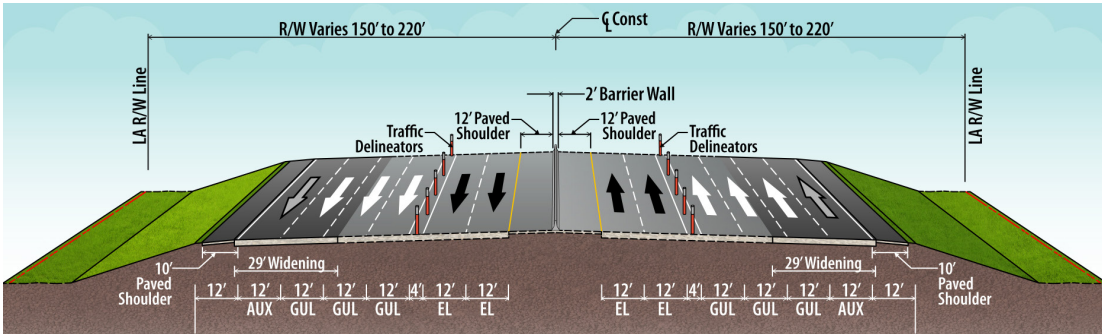
Figure 3. Segment C - Gandy Boulevard to north of 4th Street North Typical Sections

Previously Approved Alternative Typical Section



Current Preferred Build Alternative Typical Section

General Use Lane (GUL)
Express Lane (EL)
Auxiliary Lane (AUX)



Funding

Table 2 outlines the timing and funding for the improvements associated with the current Design Change Re-evaluation. Once funding is available, these projects will proceed as Design-Build projects (WPI No. 424501-5).

Table 2: FDOT Tentative 5-Year Work Program

Project Phase	FDOT Fiscal Years 2020-2024		
	Segment A (Lane Continuity)	Segment B (Lane Continuity & 2 Express Lanes)	Segment C (1 additional Express Lane)
Design Change Re-evaluation	Underway	Underway	Underway
Right-of-Way Acquisition	FY 2022 ⁽¹⁾	FY 2022 ⁽¹⁾	Not currently funded
Design/Build	FY 2024 ⁽²⁾	FY 2024 ⁽²⁾	Not currently funded

(1) Right-of-way acquisition related to stormwater management facilities and floodplain compensation required for Segment A and Segment B. (2) Partially funded.