



U.S. 301/S.R. 41 (Gall Blvd.) Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study Update



Florida Department of Transportation
District Seven

from S.R. 39 to south of C.R. 54

Pasco County
WPI Segment No. 256422-2
January 2012

Public Hearing Scheduled

Dear Interested Citizen, Business and Property Owner:

You are invited to attend and participate in a Public Hearing to be held by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding the two roadway alternatives being considered. The hearing is being held to give the public an opportunity to provide comments concerning the alternatives. The hearing will be held at the following time and location:

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2012

Time: Open House from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Formal Presentation and Public Comment at 6:00 p.m.

Place: First Church of the Nazarene
6151 12th Street
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

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 Robin Rhinesmith, Project Manager, at (813) 975-6496 or (800) 226-7220 or by email at robin.rhinesmith@dot.state.fl.us at least 7 days prior to the Hearing.

Sincerely,

Ming Gao, P.E.
Intermodal Systems Development Manager

The department recognizes public involvement is an important aspect of the PD&E study process and this hearing is being held to gather your input for the proposed project of U.S. 301/S.R. 41 (Gall Blvd.) from S.R. 39 to south of C.R. 54.

A court reporter will be available to receive comments in a one-on-one setting. Exhibits and other project related materials will be displayed showing the proposed improvements adjacent to historic properties.

Department representatives will be available beginning at 5:00 p.m. to answer questions and discuss the project informally. At 6:00 p.m., the formal portion of the hearing will begin, which will provide an opportunity to make formal public comments. Following the formal portion of the hearing, the informal open house will resume and continue until 7:00 p.m. You may also mail your comments to the address preprinted on the back of the comment form.

This newsletter serves as notice to property owners (pursuant to Florida Statutes 339.155) where all or a portion of their property is within 300 feet of the centerline of one of the proposed alternatives. However, this does not mean all properties would be directly affected.

Maps, drawings and other pertinent information depicting the project's proposed alternatives will be available for public review from Thursday, February 2, 2012 to Monday, March 5, 2012 at the Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 8th Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542, hours are Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and closed Sunday and Monday, and FDOT District Seven Office, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, FL 33612-6456, hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Interested parties may submit written comments at the hearing or mail to: Ming Gao, P.E., Intermodal Systems Development Manager, FDOT District Seven, 11201 N. McKinley Drive MS 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612-6456. Written comments will be accepted throughout the study, but to be included in the Public Hearing record, comments must be postmarked no later than Monday, March 5, 2012.

Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Drive
MS 7-500
Tampa, Florida 33612-6456



WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

A successful PD&E study depends on everyone's participation in the study process. We encourage you to provide comments, ask questions, and make suggestions about the study. Please call or send your comments to:

Robin Rhinesmith
Project Manager
FDOT District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Drive
MS 7-500
Tampa, FL 33612-6456
robin.rhinesmith@dot.state.fl.us

Marian Scorza
Public Information Officer
FDOT District Seven
11201 N. McKinley Drive
MS 7-100
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(813) 975-6038
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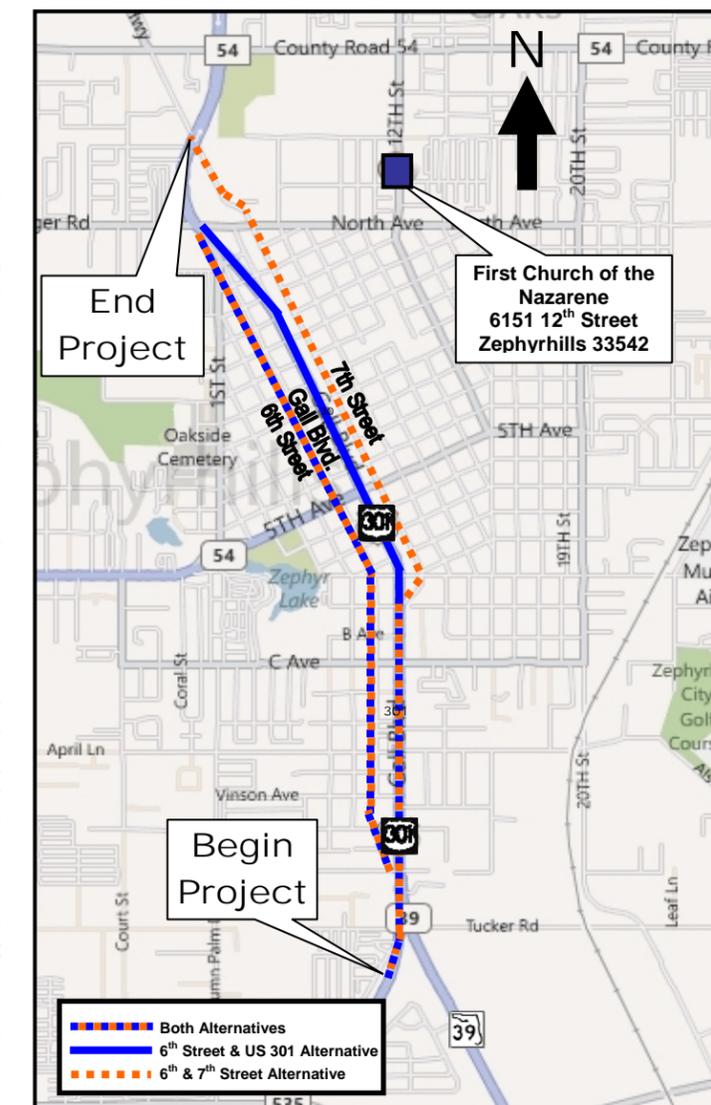
RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION

We understand when private property right of way acquisitions are planned in order to implement a transportation project, you may have questions and concerns. To better educate and inform you about the right of way acquisition process and your rights, the department has created real estate acquisition and relocation brochures. These brochures and other informational materials may be found on our website: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rightofway/documents.shtm>. Copies of the brochures are also available upon request.

We are very interested in hearing your concerns and answering your questions. Please speak with the department's Project Manager, Robin Rhinesmith or a Right of Way Representative, (813) 975-6127 at your convenience.

NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS AND REGULATION COMPLIANCE

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What is a PD&E Study?

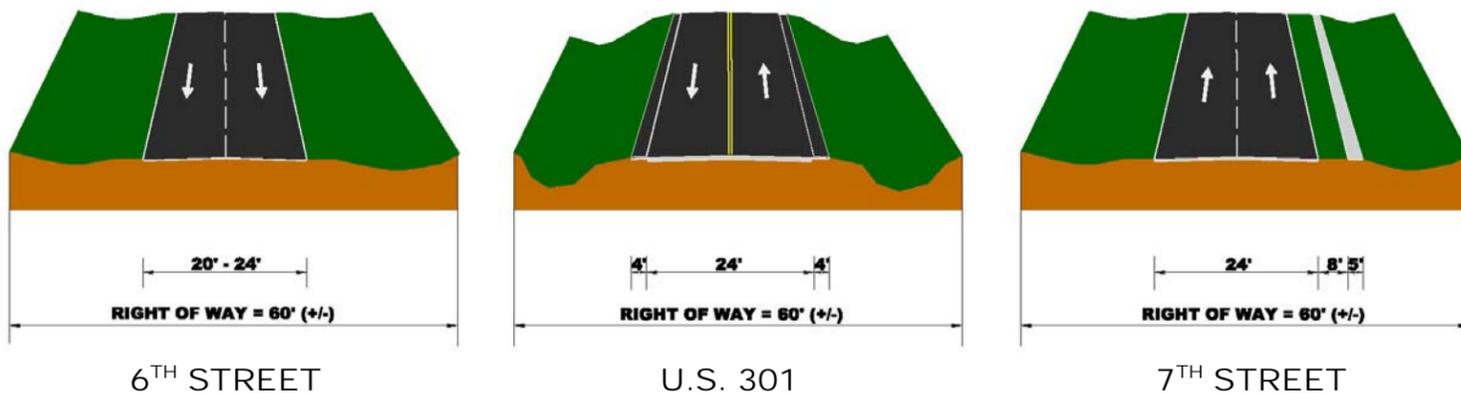
A Project Development and Environment Study or PD&E study is a comprehensive study conducted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The study evaluates social, cultural, economic and environmental effects associated with the proposed transportation improvements. This includes consideration of the effects on the community and the quality of life of its citizens.

This process is mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal requirements when federal funds are to be used for a project. It represents a combined effort by transportation professionals who analyze information and document the best alternative for a community's transportation needs. The PD&E study efforts are accomplished by working in cooperation with other state/federal agencies and local governments. This coordination allows the department to better determine the effects a transportation project will have on the natural and human environment.

A Project Development Summary Report (PDSR) and other study documents are being prepared which contain the results of analyses of potential effects of improvement alternatives to the social, cultural, natural and physical environment. A PD&E study is finalized when the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reviews the documentation and recommendations then provides a Location Design Concept Acceptance (LDCA). If the study results in a build alternative selection, the project may proceed to the next phase which is the design phase.

Project Purpose and Description

The FDOT is conducting this PD&E study update to consider proposed improvements to U.S. 301/S.R. 41 locally known as Gall Boulevard. The study limits are from S.R. 39 to south of C.R. 54, a distance of approximately 2.6 miles. The improvements are intended to meet the future mobility needs along the U.S. 301 corridor. From the beginning of the study limits to C Avenue the project is located within unincorporated Pasco County. The remaining portion of the project is located within the City of Zephyrhills. Gall Boulevard is currently a two-lane, two-way, undivided roadway within the study limits. Sixth Street is a two-lane, one-way southbound roadway and 7th Street is a two-lane, one-way northbound roadway.



No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative assumes the existing conditions would remain for Gall Boulevard within the study limits and only routine maintenance and safety improvements would occur. The No-Build Alternative is considered a viable alternative and will remain so for the duration of the PD&E study process.

Build Alternatives

Two viable build alternatives are currently being considered for the reconfiguration of Gall Boulevard to create a one-way pair. A one-way pair, or couplet, is two one-way roadways carrying traffic in opposite directions typically separated by one or more blocks. The proposed improvements will provide for re-construction of the existing two-lane, undivided roadway to a multi-lane roadway with one-way segments using the current 6th Street for the southbound roadway and portions of either Gall Boulevard or 7th Street for the northbound roadway. The two build alternatives are referred to as the 6th Street and U.S. 301/S.R. 41 (Gall Blvd.) One-Way Pair Alternative and the 6th Street and 7th Street One-Way Pair Alternative. **A recommended alternative has not been selected at this time.** An evaluation matrix comparing the potential effects of the alternatives is included (see insert).



6th Street and U.S. 301/S.R. 41 (Gall Blvd.) One-Way Pair Alternative

The proposed 6th Street and U.S. 301/S.R. 41 (Gall Blvd.) One-Way Pair Alternative would convert U.S. 301 from a two-lane, two-way undivided roadway to a three-lane, one-way northbound roadway from Corey Street to Geiger Road/North Avenue. 6th Street will be converted to a three-lane, one-way southbound roadway from Corey Street to 16th Avenue. 7th Street will remain as it currently exists. The design speed is 40 mph and the anticipated posted speed is 35 mph.



6th Street and 7th Street One-Way Pair Alternative

For the proposed 6th Street and 7th Street One-Way Pair Alternative, U.S. 301 will remain a two-lane, two-way roadway from A Avenue to North Avenue. South of A Avenue to Corey Street, U.S. 301 will be a three-lane, one-way northbound roadway connecting to 7th Street. 6th Street will be widened from a two-lane to a three-lane, one-way southbound roadway from Corey Street to 16th Avenue. 7th Street will be widened from a two-lane to a three-lane, one-way northbound roadway beginning at A Avenue and ending at the U.S. 301/Fort King Road intersection. This alternative passes through segments of the Historic District between 4th and 5th Avenue and would eliminate a number of existing nearby parking spaces. The design speed is 40 mph and the anticipated posted speed is 35 mph.

What Happens Next?

Following the hearing, the project team will review all public input. They will then document the Preferred Alternative and finalize the PD&E study documents. The reports can then be sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval. The PD&E study is expected to be completed in the spring of 2012. Individuals on the project mailing list will be notified of the approved alternative. The project will move forward to the design phase and detailed plans will be prepared for construction.

PD&E Study Update	
Study Began	Fall 2010
Section 106 Historic Properties Public Workshop	April 27, 2011
Public Hearing	February 23, 2012
Study Approval	Spring 2012

FDOT Tentative Five-Year Work Program Fiscal Years 2012/2013 – 2016/2017	
PD&E Update	Underway
Design	After Study Approval
ROW Acquisition	2013/2014 – 2014/2015
Construction	Not currently funded