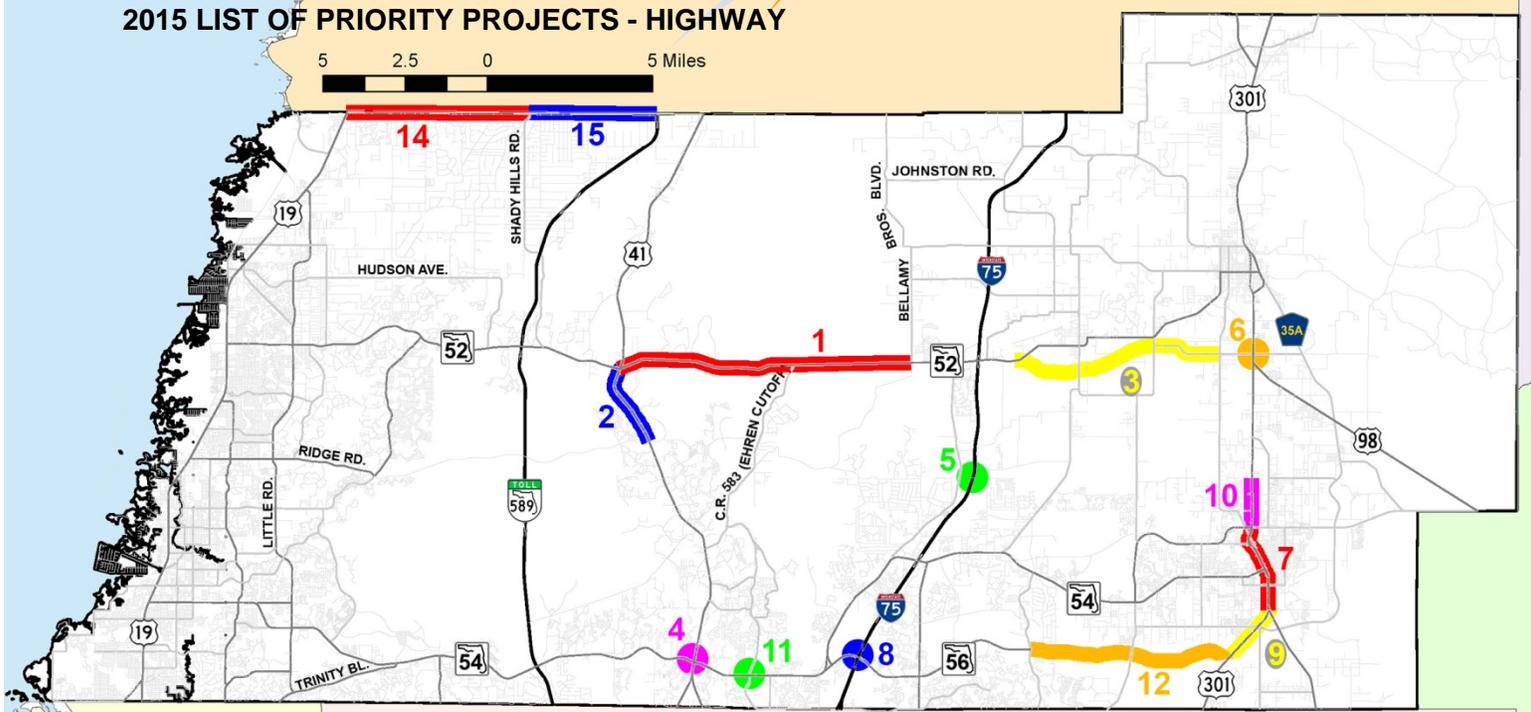


Pasco Transportation Insight

A Newsletter Highlighting Pasco MPO
Transportation Planning Activities

Fall/Winter 2015

2015 LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS - HIGHWAY



- 1** SR 52 - Two to Four Lanes (from US 41 to Bellamy Brothers Blvd)
- 2** US 41 - Two to Four Lanes (from Connerton Blvd./Ridge Road Extension to SR 52)
- 3** SR 52 - Clinton Avenue Extension / New Four Lanes (East of UrtadcoPlace to Fort King Road)
- 4** SR 54 at US 41 - Interchange (SIS)
- 5** I-75 at Overpass Road - Interchange (from Old Pasco Road to Boyette Road)
- 6** US 98 at US 301 - Clinton Avenue/Intersection Realignment PD&E
- 7** US 301 (Gall Boulevard) - 6th Street and 7th Street, One-Way Pairs (from SR 39 to CR 54)
- 8** SR 56 at I-75 - Interchange (Diverging Diamond) (from west of CR 54/Wesley Chapel Blvd. to west of Cypress Ridge Blvd)
- 9** US 301 (Gall Boulevard) - Four to Six Lanes (from SR 56 to SR 39)
- 10** US 301 (Gall Blvd) - Four to Six Lanes (from CR 54/Eiland Blvd to Kossik Road)
- 11** SR 54 at Collier Parkway - Interchange (SIS)
- 12** SR 56 - Two to Four Lanes (from Meadow Pointe Blvd to US 301)
- 13** Regional Model Support - Annual Proportionate Share for TMA MPOs (not shown on map)
- 14** CR 578/County Line Road North - Two to Four Lanes (from East Raod to Shady Hills Road)
- 15** CR 578/County Line Road North - Two to Four Lanes (from Shady Hills Road to Suncoast Parkway)

2015 LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is responsible for identifying and maintaining a List of Priority Projects annually. This prioritized list, which was approved by the MPO in July, 2015, provides guidance to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in the development and funding of transportation projects. The funded projects are then presented in a five year work program, considered tentative pending public input and approval by the FDOT. The listed transportation projects include all modes (Highway, Public Transportation, Sidewalks/Trails, Intersections) and other projects that improve the flow of traffic and improve safety. The list also includes regional trail priorities. You may view the full list of Priority Projects by accessing the following link.

<http://www.pascocountyfl.net/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2840>

The map above was prepared to highlight the 2015 Priority List of Highway Projects (top ten).

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Anclote Coastal Trail Approved by MPO Board

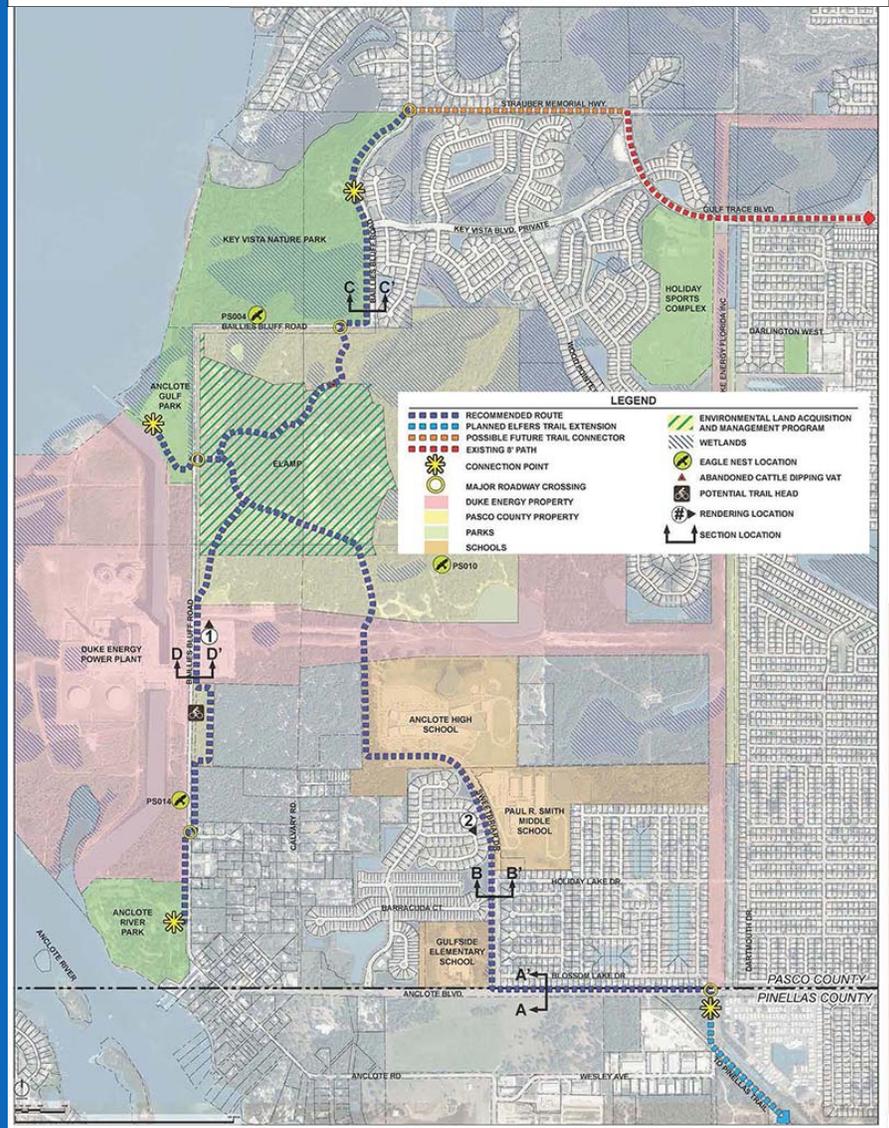
The Anclote Coastal Trail Alternatives Analysis Study which examined potential alternatives for providing a trail connection between the termination of the Elfers Trail in Pinellas County and three parks in southwest Pasco County – Anclote River Park, Anclote Gulf Park, and Key Vista Nature Park, was approved by the MPO Board on October 8, 2015. The preferred trail width is 12 feet and is planned to be outside of road right-of-way to the greatest extent possible. The goal for the trail is to provide non-motorized access to the surrounding communities with a future connection to the existing Pinellas Trail in Tarpon Springs. The study area is predominantly suburban and includes open space, parks, three schools and Duke Energy facilities.

Three alternative routes were developed at the beginning of the study to determine their feasibility. The routes were analyzed to determine the opportunities and constraints of each route. The recommended alignment will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in December for approval. Next steps include design in 2016 and construction in 2017.

Coast to Coast Trail Initiatives

- The contract for design of the Pasco section of the Tri-County Trail (Starkey Gap) of the Coast to Coast Trail began in July. Design is funded and managed by FDOT and the MPO is seeking construction funding from FDOT in 2017.
- An update of the South Sumter Connector Trail Study was presented to the MPO Board on Sept. 10, by VHB, the consultant for FDOT District 5. Of the two alternatives, the southern alignment, which enters Pasco County via the Withlacoochee State Trail and runs along S.R. 575 in Lacochee, was overwhelmingly supported by the public who spoke on the issue. The next workshop is planned for early 2016.

Anclote Coastal Trail Recommended Alignment



See [http://www.cflroads.com/project/435471-1/South Sumter Connector Trail](http://www.cflroads.com/project/435471-1/South_Sumter_Connector_Trail) for more information.

Upcoming Trail Study

- Hardy Trail North & South Extension - Scope development is underway for a trail alignment study that will connect the southern terminus of the Withlacoochee State Trail to the Hardy Trail Extension in Dade City (from south of Meridian Ave. to Lock St.) sponsored by the MPO. The study will also evaluate connecting the southern terminus of the existing Hardy Trail to the multiuse path currently under construction along the western side of U.S. 301 between Dade City and Zephyrhills.



MOBILITY 2040: A VISION FOR THE 54/56 CORRIDOR Phase I Study- Defining Transportation Alternatives

The Pasco County MPO, the countywide organization in charge of transportation planning, has initiated a study to define transportation alternatives that could be implemented over the next twenty-years along the S.R. 54/56 corridor. The study limits are from U.S. 19 to Bruce B. Downs Blvd (S.R. 581). The MPO is utilizing a study approach that is citizen driven, with two Task Forces, one east of U.S. 41 (Segment 1) and one west of U.S. 41 (Segment 2).

3 Segments Defined

Segment 1

Segment 2

Future Study



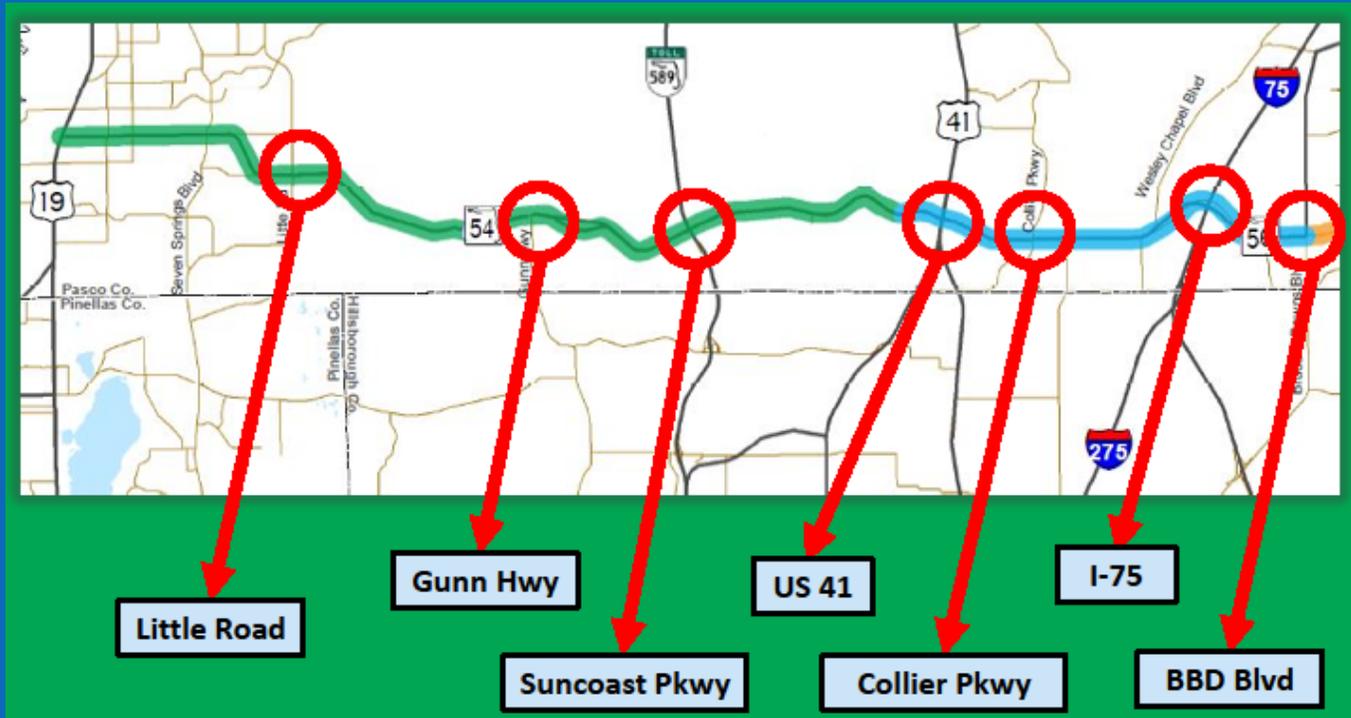
The approach to the study is divided into two phases. The Phase 1 overall objective is for each task force to recommend to the MPO Board, up to 6 viable and practicable highway and transit options or combination thereof, including a no-build option in which no major improvements in the corridor are implemented. Phase 2 of the study will focus on the limited set of alternatives defined in Phase 1. As Part of Phase 2, extensive public outreach will be conducted to engage a larger number of the general populace who want to provide their input into the selection/recommendation process. At the conclusion of Phase 2 the MPO board will conduct a public hearing, address comments and consider amending the adopted LRTP to show the selected alternative. Once an alternative is reflected in the adopted LRTP, transportation authorities, including the FDOT and Pasco County will determine available funding and project phasing over the next twenty years.

The first set of Task Force meetings were held September 24th and the 29th. The meetings focused on current land use policies and their implications regarding existing and future growth that will impact the corridor, a review of studies over the past five years specific to the corridor and presentation of alternatives identified in the previous studies. Intersection “hot spots” where congestion is currently occurring during peak travel times was also discussed. Task Force members and attending citizens were given the opportunity to comment on their issues and concerns relevant to the SR 54-56 corridor. The following is a summary of comments that were made:

- Extended turn lanes would be an immediate improvement
- The corridor needs an improved transit system and perhaps Bus Rapid Transit service
- Traffic speeds on the corridor are high and enforcement is needed
- Concern about growing congestion along the corridor

- Demographics and related lifestyles are changing and the study needs to discuss implications to travel
- North/South transit connections into Hillsborough County are relevant to this study
- At-grade solutions will likely all have intersection conflicts
- Current auto-dependency will challenge transit and bus solutions
- Road connections between developments can provide alternative routes to avoid SR 54
- There will always be a funding dilemma that must be addressed
- Is light rail a viable alternative to consider for the corridor?
- The safety of pedestrians using the corridor should be addressed
- Previous studies considered a tolling scenario. Is this still to be considered?
- Can the public sector purchase entitlements and move entitlements from undesirable locations to desired locations to stimulate higher density and transit oriented development

Intersection Hot Spots



The next set of Task Force meetings are listed below. Note that all meetings are open to the public and the public is afforded the opportunity to provide input.

Vision 54/56 Corridor Study Task Force meetings are held at:

Rasmussen College
18600 Fernview Street, Land O'Lakes, FL 34638

West Task Force Meetings

Tuesday December 1, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm

Tuesday February 2, 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm

East Task Force Meetings

Thursday December 3, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm

Thursday February 4, 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm

*Date, time and location of the February Task Force meetings is tentative.

For more information regarding this study and meeting updates visit www.vision54-56.com or contact Pasco MPO staff at (727) 847-8140.

TRANSPORTATION TIDBITS

- **U.S. 19 Improvements** - The U.S. 19 improvements that began in 2012 are coming to an end and will be completed by the spring of 2016. Remaining construction activities include; completing driveways, drainage, sidewalk work, highway lighting, grading ditches, storm and side drains, new curb and gutter, separators in the median, base widening and finishing in medians, new traffic signals, light pole relocation and lane paving. The cycle of project implementation from planning through construction is finally around the corner. U.S. 19 has undergone significant improvement since this project began construction in 2010, The most noticeable improvements to drivers include right turn lanes where feasible, channelized medians and continuous sidewalks on both sides of the highway to provide safer vehicular and pedestrian travel.
- **S.R. 54 Widening - Suncoast to U.S. 41** - Construction activities are well underway on the S.R. 54 widening project. The project which began in late 2014 is adding one additional travel lane in each direction to the existing 4 lane roadway, and includes resurfacing of all lanes. This FDOT funded project costs \$16M and is currently about 50% complete. The project has a completion date of spring 2016.
- **S.R. 56 Resurfacing and Sidewalks (Wesley Chapel** - Median/shoulder widening, turn lanes and sidewalks are all included in the S.R. 56 project extending from the I-75 to S.R. 581 (BBD Blvd.). Sidewalks will extent the length of the project and allow access to the new outlet mall west of I-75 and other development. The project which is currently about 60% complete, began in January 2015 and is expected to end by March 2016.
- **U.S. 301 Resurfacing and Multiuse Trail (Dade City/Zephyrhills)** - The resurfacing project on U.S. 301 between Kossik Road and Bougainvillea Avenue began January 2015. This \$12.5M project includes the construction of a 10' multiuse trail on the west side of the roadway. The project is expected to be completed by April 2016. FDOT's commitment to combine a multiuse trail with this resurfacing project will facilitate future trail connections south into Zephyrhills and north into Dade City, eventually connecting to the Withlacoochee State Trail in Ladoochee
- **PCPT to Link Up With THE BUS (Hernando Co. Public Transit** – PCPT has coordinated with Hernando County plans to provide connecting service along U.S. 19. A transfer stop will be located at the existing PCPT stop (Scheer Commerce Park at U.S. 19 and Emerald Boulevard) in Pasco County. This service is planned to begin in early 2016. This will provide for regional bus service among Hernando, Pasco and Pinellas Counties. For details, please contact PCPT at (727) 834-3322.



Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization

- Lance Smith (Chairman)
Councilman, City of Zephyrhills
- Mike Moore (Vice Chairman)
County Commissioner, District 2
- Theodore J. Schrader, County
Commissioner, District 1
- Kathryn Starkey, County
Commissioner, District 3
- Mike Wells, County Commissioner,
District 4
- Jack Mariano, County
Commissioner, District 5
- Vacant, Mayor, City of Port Richey
- Camille Hernandez, Mayor,
City of Dade City
- Jeff Starkey, Councilman,
City of New Port Richey

For questions or comments about upcoming MPO meetings or other activities regarding transportation plans and projects, please visit our website or email us at:

mpocomments@pascocountvfl.net

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"In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination laws, public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, familial, or income status. It is a priority for the MPO that all citizens of Pasco County are given the opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process including low-income individuals, the elderly persons with disabilities, and persons with limited English proficiency. You may contact the MPO's Title VI Specialist at (727) 847-8140 if you have any discrimination complaints".