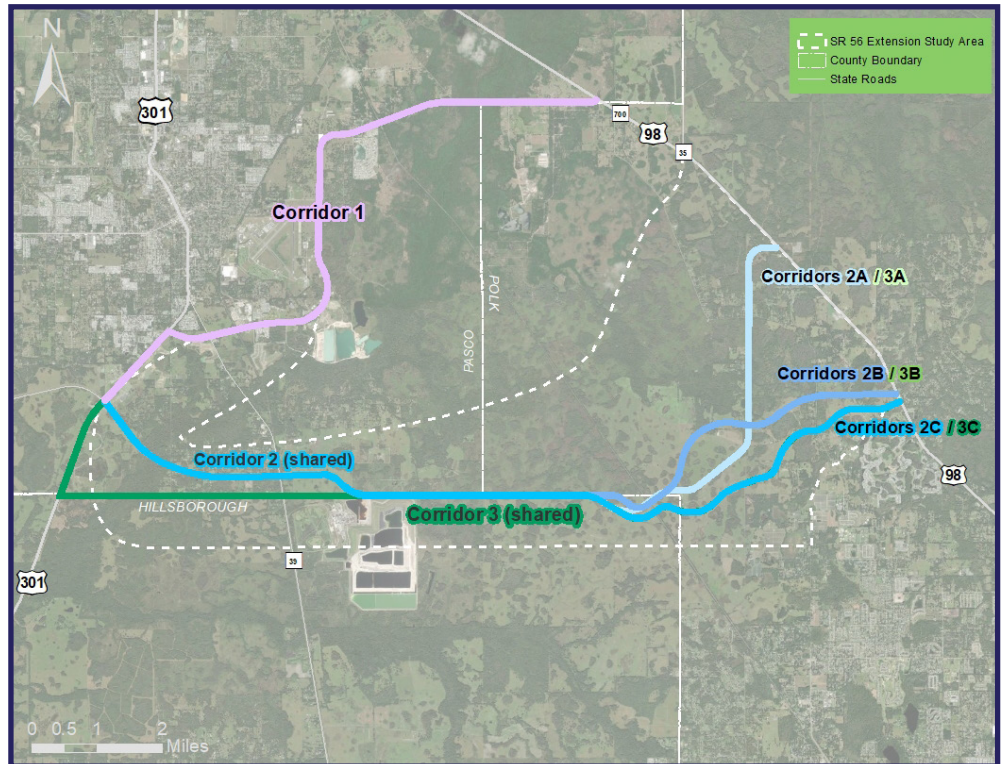


UPDATED MAY 24, 2021

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven is utilizing the Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) process to evaluate the extension of State Road (SR) 56 from US 301/SR 41 to US 98/SR 35/SR 700 in Pasco County, Florida. The intent is to find a suitable corridor for the extension of the existing SR 54/SR 56 facility, which currently stretches from US 19 to the intersection with US 301/Gall Boulevard/SR 41. This extension of the corridor could complete a direct east-west route across the southern portion of Pasco County into Polk County and could also serve as part of a bypass for the City of Zephyrhills. The goals of the ACE process are to identify and evaluate alternative corridors, eliminate alternative corridors that do not meet the project's purpose and need or that have disproportionate and/or significant impacts to the surrounding environment, and to recommend a reasonable alternative corridor(s) for further study in the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) phase. This project is being coordinated with the City of Zephyrhills, Pasco County, project stakeholders and the public.



ACTIVITIES COMPLETED TO DATE

- A Kickoff Meeting was held on August 13, 2019 for elected officials, agency representatives, and other interested parties. An overview of the study process and project schedule was presented.
- A Methodology Memorandum (MM) was approved in October 2020. The MM documents the process utilized to develop and evaluate alternative corridors.
- An Existing Conditions Report (ECR) was approved in May 2020. The ECR documents the current conditions within the study area and the engineering and environmental factors used in the corridor evaluation.
- A Draft Alternative Corridor Evaluation Report (ACER) was prepared in April 2021. The ACER documents all aspects of the study including the development and evaluation of alternative corridors, rationale for the recommendation to eliminate or advance alternative corridors, and public involvement activities to date.

All documents are available for review on the Project Documents tab of the project website: www.fdotd7studies.com/SR56EXT/

STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Seven (7) alternative corridors were developed and are shown in the **figure above**. Based on the evaluation of each alternative corridors ability to satisfy the project's stated purpose and need and an evaluation of environmental and engineering factors, Corridors 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A and 3C are recommended for elimination from further analysis. Corridors 1 and 3B are recommended for advancement to further evaluation during the PD&E study. The details of the analysis are documented in the Draft ACER.

WHAT'S NEXT?

A Public Information Meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2021. The meeting will provide an opportunity to review the alternative corridors and provide your input. We encourage all interested people to participate and express their views regarding the project and information presented. Public comments will be received through July 5, 2021. After the public meeting, comments will be incorporated into the Draft ACER. The Draft ACER will then be provided to the Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT) for review and comment. After inclusion of ETAT comments, the ACER will be submitted to the Office of Environmental Management (OEM) for approval. FDOT will then conduct a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to further analyze the recommended alternatives. The PD&E Study start date is to be determined.

WE INVITE YOU TO GET INVOLVED!

The public plays an important role in the project development and decision-making process of this study. There are multiple ways to get involved - call, write, or email us - see the Contact Information below. There are several opportunities to participate in the study, including:

- The project website is your best source for up-to-date information; you can get access at this link: www.fdotd7studies.com/SR56EXT/. The website will continue to be updated throughout the study with the latest documents and information.
- WikiMap Tool: The study is utilizing a WikiMap Tool, which can be accessed here <https://wikimapping.com/SR-56-Extension.html>. Use of this tool offers the public an opportunity to add location-based notes to a map of the study area at any point during the study process. The project team will use this information to help inform the process and guide solutions.
- Public Information Meeting: A Public Information Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2021 to present the alternative corridors being considered to move forward in the project development process and allow the public to express concerns, ask questions, and make comments to be included in the project files.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

FDOT District Seven invites you to participate in the Public Information Meeting that is being held for the Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) Study being conducted for the extension of SR 56 from US 301/SR 41 to US 98/SR 35/SR 700 in Pasco County, Florida. The referenced meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at the Alice Hall Community Center, located at 38116 5th Ave, Zephyrhills, FL 33542 at 3:00 p.m.**

Those who cannot attend in person, may participate virtually using this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8882728355568477965>. If using a mobile device, the free "GoToWebinar" application will be required to attend. If you prefer to dial in by phone, call +1 (866) 952-8437 and then dial the Audio Access Code: 966-819-356.

Questions and comments may be submitted prior to the meeting through the registration link, project website, or by contacting the FDOT Project Manager Brian Shroyer via email at brian.shroyer@dot.state.fl.us. Project information can be viewed on the project website at: <https://fdotd7studies.com/SR56EXT>.

We encourage all interested people to participate and express their views regarding the project and information presented. Access to the project information will be available beginning Tuesday, June 15, 2021 and will remain available for you to review and comment at your convenience. We encourage all interested people to participate and express their views regarding the project and information presented no later than Monday, July 5, 2021.

We look forward to your participation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions, comments, or would like more information about the study, please contact:

FDOT Project Manager: **Brian Shroyer**

Email: Brian.Shroyer@dot.state.fl.us

Phone: **(813) 975-6449**

Mail: **FDOT District Seven, 11201 N. Malcom McKinley Drive, MS 7-500, Tampa, FL 33612**

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 service (free of charge) should contact Alex Henry, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (813) 975-6405 or (800) 226-7220 or alex.henry@dot.state.fl.us.

Comuníquese Con Nosotros! Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios, o si simplemente desea más información sobre este proyecto, por favor ponerse en contacto con el señor Manuel Flores al teléfono (813) 975-4248 o correo electrónico: manuel.flores@dot.state.fl.us.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.