

Overpass Road PD&E Study



From Old Pasco Road to US 301

Overpass Road Kickoff Newsletter

FPID No.: 432734-1

August 2012

Pasco County (the County), in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is conducting a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study for proposed improvements to Overpass Road in Pasco County. The project study area will include Overpass Road from Old Pasco Road to US 301 as shown on the study location map below.

Study Description

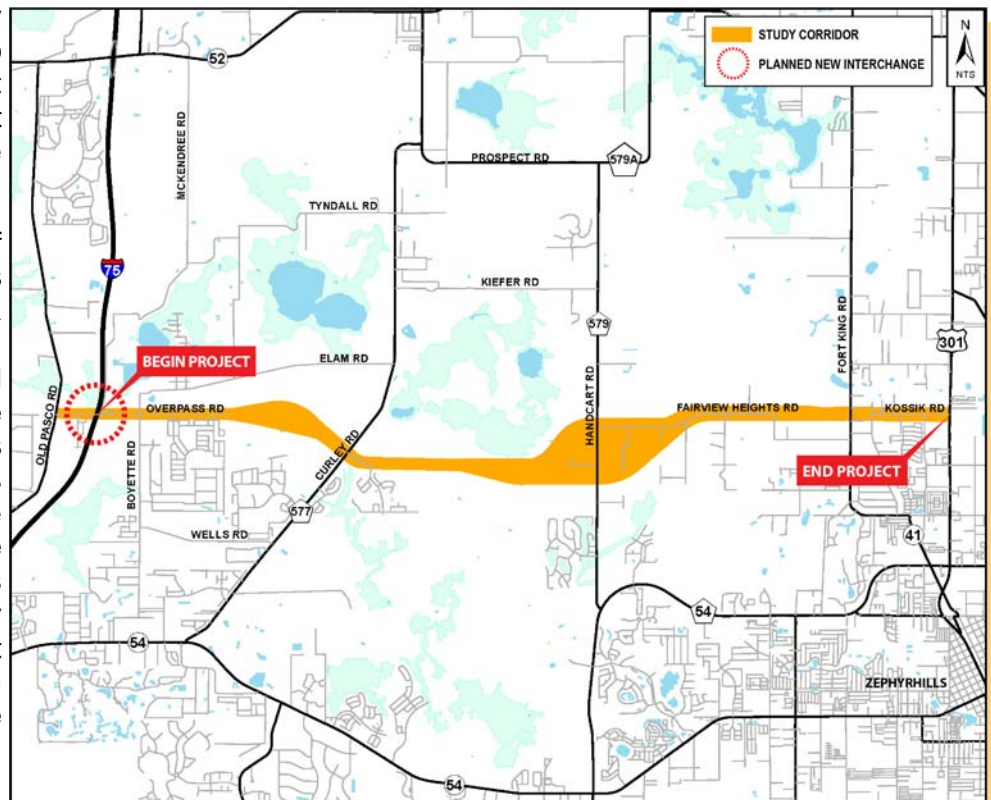
Overpass Road is currently a two-lane facility that extends from Old Pasco Road to 0.86 miles east of Boyette Road. This roadway capacity improvement project involves:

- ♦ the widening of the existing segment of Overpass Road (from Old Pasco Road to east of Boyette Road);
- ♦ the addition of an interchange at Overpass Road and I-75; and
- ♦ the extension of Overpass Road on new alignment from 0.86 miles east of Boyette Road to US 301.

The widening and extension of the roadway are planned to be constructed, at a minimum, as a four-lane divided roadway with the potential to expand to six-lanes if needed.

The need for this project has been established based on future traffic demands, future population and employment growth in the area, and the need to improve emergency evacuation and enhance safety. The Overpass Road project is identified in the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 2035 Cost Affordable Roadway Improvements during the 2015 to 2025 timeframe. You may visit the MPO's website at www.pascompo.net for more information.

This newsletter serves to kickoff the PD&E study. An alternatives public workshop and later a public hearing tentatively, scheduled for October 2013, will be held to give you the opportunity to make comments on the study and the alternatives being considered. We encourage you to contact us at any time during the study to ask questions or make comments. You may also visit our project website at www.overpassroad.com which will be updated throughout the study.



Para preguntas e información en Español:

Valoramos la opinión del público sobre este proyecto. Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o si simplemente desea mas información en Español, favor ponerse en contacto con el ingeniero a cargo de este proyecto, el señor Domingo Noriega at 813-636-2475, or domingo.noriega@urs.com.

Public Involvement Opportunities

The Overpass Road PD&E study process will provide many opportunities for the public to view information about the project and to comment on the proposed improvements. Data collection has begun, and alternatives analysis and development are underway. Public involvement activities will continue through the duration of the project beginning with this kickoff newsletter and, later, an alternatives public workshop and a public hearing. Four editions of the project newsletter are planned. The mailing list for the newsletter and other public involvement activities includes:

- ◆ All individuals owning property within at least 300 feet of the right-of-way of the proposed project;
- ◆ Neighborhood and civic associations in the study area;
- ◆ Local, state and federal elected and appointed officials;
- ◆ Local, regional, state and federal agencies and interest groups, and
- ◆ Individuals who request to be placed on the mailing list.

Anyone who would like to be placed on the mailing list can contact Kevin Sumner, the Pasco County Project Manager. The contact information is shown on the back page of this newsletter; or you may log onto the project website at www.overpassroad.com and go to the 'Contact Us' page. A second project newsletter will inform the public of the status of alternatives development and the planned public workshop.

Public information meetings during the study will include presentations given before the Pasco County MPO and informal "small group" meetings with local civic organizations, public officials, and public agencies. Meetings will provide information on the project status, design concepts, and other study considerations. They will also provide an opportunity for those who have a stake or an interest in the proposed project to comment on the study's findings. An official public hearing will be held to present conclusions reached about improvement options and project effects. Public statements made at the hearing are recorded in the official public hearing transcript, which must be reviewed by the County, FDOT and FHWA before approval of the study findings are granted. A third project newsletter will announce the date, time, and location of the public hearing. The fourth newsletter will be used to announce FHWA's decision on the location and conceptual design of the project.

One Step in the Development Process

The Overpass Road project is in the PD&E study phase of the FDOT's 5-step highway development process. (See graphic on adjacent page.) The PD&E study will assist the County and FDOT in determining the location, conceptual design and social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed roadway improvements. During the PD&E study process, feasible alternatives are developed and analyzed for roadway improvement projects. These "Build" alternatives are evaluated based on environmental, engineering and socioeconomic conditions, safety needs and public input. The need for additional right-of-way for stormwater

Project Background

Pasco County conducted the Overpass Road Route Study in 2005 to evaluate capacity and safety improvement alternatives from Old Pasco Road to Fort King Road in Zephyrhills. Pasco County also conducted an interchange feasibility study in 2007 for the I-75/Overpass Road interchange; and an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) is currently underway for I-75 at Overpass Road.

This PD&E study will evaluate and refine the proposed alternatives as identified in the Overpass Road Route Study. The purpose of the project is to improve the flow of people and goods through the project area by increasing roadway capacity and reducing traffic congestion. The PD&E study will compare the effects the alternatives may have on the environment and the surrounding communities, as well as the traveling public.



and environmental mitigation is also evaluated during the PD&E study phase. The "No Build" alternative is considered to be a viable alternative and will remain so for the duration of the study. This "No-Build" alternative leaves the existing roadways as they are, with only routine maintenance as required.

If the study results in a "Build" alternative being selected, the project may proceed to the next phase, which is the Project Design phase.



What's Happening?

The Overpass Road PD&E study is underway. The first public meeting is tentatively scheduled for Fall of 2012. The project is expected to be completed by Spring 2014. Below is a tentative project schedule. This schedule may change throughout the duration of the project.

Tentative Project Schedule for PD&E Study

PD&E Study Begins	February 2012
Data Collection & Alternatives Analysis	Summer / Fall 2012
Alternatives Public Workshop	Fall 2012
Select Preferred Alternative(s)	Fall 2012
Public Hearing	Fall 2013
FHWA Approval	Spring 2014

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Contact Information

We invite your comments on this important project. You may provide your comments on our website at www.overpassroad.com, or for more project information or questions you may contact:

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Non-Discrimination Laws: 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 Kevin Sumner, Project Manager, at (727) 834-3604.