



Overpass Road Project Development & Environment Study Fact Sheet

Overpass Road is currently an east-west roadway that extends from Old Pasco Road to approximately 0.86 miles east of Boyette Road. It is located between State Road (SR) 52 and County Road (CR) 54/SR 54 and crosses over Interstate 75 (I-75) with no connections to the interstate. The roadway serves mostly local trips and is classified as a two-lane undivided collector between Old Pasco Road and Boyette Road and a four-lane divided collector from Boyette Road to approximately 0.86 miles east of Boyette Road, where it currently ends.

PREVIOUS PLANNING

In 2003, Pasco County initiated the *Overpass Road Route Study* to evaluate capacity and safety improvement alternatives for Overpass Road from Old Pasco Road to Fort King Road. After considering the study recommendations, the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners approved a locally preferred alternative on April 26, 2005, for further consideration. At the time of this study, a direct connection to I-75 was not evaluated. Therefore, following completion of the route study, Pasco County initiated an *Interchange Feasibility Study* in 2006 for a potential new interchange at I-75 and Overpass Road. Through coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the interchange concept was deemed acceptable for further consideration and development.

CURRENT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Since a request for new access to an interstate highway is a federal action, a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study and a *Preliminary Interchange Justification Report* (PIJR) are necessary to meet FDOT/FHWA and NEPA requirements. The PIJR has been prepared concurrently with the Overpass Road PD&E Study, and received a *Determination of Engineering and Operational Acceptability* by the FHWA on May 27, 2014.

The PD&E Study has evaluated and refined the proposed alternatives identified in the *Overpass Road Route Study*, including an extension of Overpass Road to U.S. Highway 301 (US 301). The purpose of the project is to improve the movement of people and goods through the project area by increasing roadway capacity and reducing traffic congestion. The PD&E Study compares the effects that the alternatives being considered may have on the environment and the surrounding communities, as well as the traveling public.

This proposed roadway capacity improvement project in Pasco County involves the widening of the existing segment of Overpass Road (from Old Pasco Road to its current terminus located approximately 0.86 miles east of Boyette Road); the addition of an interchange at Overpass Road

Overpass Road PD&E Study

From Old Pasco Road to US 301



and Interstate 75 (I-75); and the extension of Overpass Road on new alignment from its current terminus located approximately 0.86 miles east of Boyette Road to United States Highway 301 (US 301). The proposed ultimate improvements for Overpass Road include the following:

- Four lanes from Old Pasco Road to I-75
- A new interchange at I-75 and Overpass Road
- Six lanes plus two auxiliary lanes from I-75 to Boyette Road
- Six lanes from Boyette Road to US 301

In addition to these improvements, the existing Blair Drive access to Overpass Road will be closed and a new two-lane paved roadway will be constructed with a connection to Old Pasco Road.

The project limits extend from Old Pasco Road on the west to US 301 on the east, for a total length of approximately 9.0 miles

TRANSPORTATION PLAN CONSISTENCY

The Overpass Road project is consistent with locally adopted plans. The Pasco County Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) identifies full funding through the construction phase (FY 2019/2020) for the new interchange proposed at I-75 and Overpass Road (CIP 5020) and the PD&E Study for Overpass Road from I-75 to US 301 (CIP 5025). construction of a new interchange at I-75 and Overpass Road and the widening of the roadway from Curley Road to east of River Glen Drive to a four-lane divided facility is identified in the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 2040 Cost Affordable Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) with construction funded during the 2020 to 2025 time frame. The design phase for the proposed interchange is fully funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/2016. The four-lane widening of the existing segment of Overpass Road from Old Pasco Road to Boyette Road and the extension of the roadway as a four-lane divided facility from the future McKendree Road realignment to Curley Road and from east of River Glen Drive to Green Slope Drive is funded for construction in the 2026 to 2030 time frame. Note that the 'Needs Plan' of the LRTP shows that the Overpass Road corridor is anticipated to ultimately warrant six lanes by the year 2040.

OVERPASS ROAD TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS

Opening Year (2022)

- Between 11,500 and 47,800 vehicles per day

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From Old Pasco Road to US 301



Design Year (2040)

- Between 23,000 and 73,100 vehicles per day

PROJECT CHRONOLOGY

Previous Planning Studies

Overpass Road Route Study

- *Overpass Road Route Study* initiated by Pasco County (September 2003)
- *Final Overpass Road Route Study* completed (March 2005)
- Alternative O-3 from the *Final Overpass Road Route Study* approved by the Pasco Board of County Commissioners as the locally preferred alternative (04/26/2005)

I-75 and Overpass Road Interchange Feasibility Study

- Completed 2007
- Interchange concept reviewed and deemed acceptable for further project development (memo from FHWA Division Administrator 06/07/2007)

Current Studies

Preliminary Interchange Justification Report (PIJR)

- Methodology Letter of Understanding (MLOU) Meeting (02/24/2010)
- MLOU approval by FHWA (08/26/2010)
- Incremental traffic submittals and coordination with FDOT, i.e. Existing Conditions, Travel Demand Forecasting Reports (September 2010 through June 2011)
- DRAFT PIJR submittals and coordination with FDOT/Central Office/FHWA (First Draft - November 2011, Second Draft - July 2012, Draft Final - February 2013)
- Meeting held with FDOT and FHWA to address comments on *Draft Final PIJR*, February 2013 (07/29/2013)
- Revisions to *Draft Final PIJR* based upon coordination with FDOT and FHWA (August 2013)
- PIJR Submittal to FDOT (08/30/2013)
- PIJR Submittal to FHWA for *Determination of Engineering and Operational Acceptability* (10/08/2013)

****PIJR STATUS:**

- *Determination of Engineering and Operational Acceptability* received from FHWA on 05/27/2014

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

- Environmental Assessment (EA) Class of Action through the ETDM screening process (accepted by FHWA 08/12/2008)
- Advance Notification Package distributed (06/29/2012)

Overpass Road PD&E Study



From Old Pasco Road to US 301

- Preliminary engineering and environmental analysis of alternatives (June-November 2012)
- Alternatives Public Workshop for proposed interchange and roadway alternatives (11/29/2012)
- Pasco Board of County Commissioners approves County's Recommended Build Alternatives - Flyover Ramp Alternative [interchange] and Alternative O-3 [roadway] (04/23/2013)
- *Draft Alternatives Technical Memorandum* submitted to FDOT (April 2013)
- Further engineering and environmental analysis of Recommended Alternatives, including avoidance/minimization/mitigation
- Completed draft engineering/environmental technical studies (reports submitted to FDOT for review on March 24, 2014)
- Coordination with FDOT on review comments received to date for draft engineering/environmental technical studies

****PD&E STUDY STATUS:**

- Revisions to draft engineering / environmental technical documents in progress
- EA/NEPA document completion in progress/submittal with revised engineering/environmental technical documents
- Public Hearing Date: Late 2016 (TENTATIVE)