

C.R. 951 PD&E STUDY
From Immokalee Road/C.R. 951(Collier Blvd.) to Alico Road

Public Involvement Program

In accordance with the Florida Department of Transportation "*Project Development and Environment Manual*", this Public Involvement Program is being submitted to the Engineering Manager for review and approval.

Prepared for:
Lee County Board of County Commissioners



and

Collier County Board of County Commissioners



Submitted By: Dyer, Riddle, Mills & Precourt, Inc.
Date: March 2003

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. DeBerry".

Donald DeBerry (Lee County DOT Engineering Manager)

Public Involvement Program

This program is in compliance with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) "*Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual*". The purpose of this program is to help ensure the appropriate input from all concerned citizens, agencies, private groups and governmental entities. The C.R. 951 Study Team firmly believes in the positive value of conducting a pro-active public involvement program that focuses on achieving public awareness and community interaction throughout the entire project development process. This program will involve the development and distribution of clear, concise communications between the County and the residents and property owners within the project study area, the various jurisdictions in and near the study area and the interested review agencies. A large consensus building aspect is included in the public involvement program. The goal of this program will be to foster communication and education for the project and the study process.

The following Public Involvement Program identifies the techniques and methodologies to be employed throughout the PD&E process. The groups and individuals to be notified are also identified. This program will be updated as the project development phase progresses.

I. Description of Proposed Improvement

(A) Project Limits

The project limits of the C.R. 951 PD&E study are from the existing intersection of C.R. 951 (Collier Blvd.) and Immokalee Road in Collier County to Alico Road in Lee County, which is an approximate distance of 15 miles.

(B) Project Objective

The objective of the study is to provide information necessary for a decision on the type, design and location of a transportation facility east of I-75 from the existing intersection of Immokalee Road and C.R. 951 (Collier Blvd.) in Collier County to Alico Road in Lee County. The information generated during the study will be analyzed, evaluated and documented in a series of reports predicting impacts and estimating costs associated with the development of a transportation facility.

(C) Anticipated Class of Action (COA)

The anticipated Class of Action is an Environmental Impact Statement.

II. Identification of Concerned Public

To ensure adequate public participation during the project process, the following local, regional, State and Federal agencies having a concern in this project because of permitting authority, jurisdictional review or expressed interest have been identified. Additionally, the following individual citizens, property owners or public interest groups having a direct or expressed interest in the project (i.e., residential, business, commerce, historic, minority, ecological or environmental) have been identified.

These agencies, groups and individuals will be contacted at the onset of the project, and will be kept informed throughout the course of the study to ensure that their input is incorporated into the planning process. As other concerned individuals or groups are identified during the study, they will also be listed and contacted.

(A) Federal

Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency - Natural Hazards Branch, Chief
Federal Railroad Administration - Office of Economic Analysis, Director
U.S. Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office
U.S. Department of Interior - Office of Trust Responsibilities, Environmental Services Staff
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Department of Interior - U.S. Geological Survey Chief
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IV, Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service, Field Supervisor - Jacksonville
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Regulatory Branch - District Engineer
U.S. Department of Commerce - National Marine Fisheries Service - St. Petersburg
U.S. Department of Interior - National Park Service - Southeast Regional Office
U.S. Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Director
Federal Aviation Administration, District Office
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Center for Environmental Health and Injury Control
U.S. Coast Guard 7th District, Miami

(B) State

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Florida Department of Community Affairs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Administrator of Environmental Resources
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Director
Florida Department of State, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Naples

(C) Regional

South Florida Water Management District, Fort Myers Area Office
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Naples/Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Fort Myers Regulatory Office
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, South District Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Office of Environmental Services, Field Office

(D) Local Agencies

Lee County Community Development
School Board of Lee County
Lee County Emergency Medical Services
Lee County Transit System
Lee County Emergency Management
Lee County Parks & Recreation
Lee County Planning Department
Lee County Transportation and Engineering
Lee County Housing Authority
Lee County Office of Economic Development
Lee County Port Authority
Lee County Division of Lands
Lee County Natural Resources
City of Bonita Springs Public Works
Collier County Housing Authority
Collier County Community Development & Environmental Services
Collier County Emergency Management
Collier County Parks & Recreation
Collier County Planning Department
Collier County School Board
Collier County Transportation Services
Collier County Transit System
Collier County Port Authority
Collier County Divisions of Lands
Collier County Natural Resources

(E) Other Interested Organizations & Individuals

Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Florida
Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
The Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Sierra Club
San Carlos Civic Association
Southwest Florida Transportation Initiative (SWFTI)
Project Stakeholders
Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) – Board of Trustees
Homeowner Associations in Study Area
All public and private groups, organizations, agencies and/or businesses that request to be placed on the project mailing list.

(F) Property Owners

Owners of property falling within the project study area with equal or greater to five acres will be used for property notification until alternatives have been developed for the project. Once alternatives have been developed, owners of property falling in whole or in part within 300 feet of the right-of-way lines of the project conceptual design alternatives will be notified.

(G) Local Elected & Appointed Officials

Lee County, State and Federal Legislative Delegations
Lee County Commission
Lee County Administrator
Lee County Constitutional Officers

City of Bonita Springs City Council
Collier County Commission
Collier County Administrator
Collier County Constitutional Officers

(H) Project Initiation Letter

The C.R. 951 PD&E Study Team will prepare and transmit a project initiation letter to inform all interested agencies and elected officials. The letter will include an overview of the project, purpose, need, goals and schedule. The letter will also serve as an invitation for participation and coordination.

III. Public Involvement Techniques

The public involvement program will be developed to ensure that state, regional and local officials, property and business owners, interested groups and organizations, and county residents receive the correct information concerning the purpose and need for the project and the status of the current study activities. In addition to eliminating misinformation, efforts will also focus on creating a dialogue with the public in order to incorporate public input prior to key decision making points within the study.

(A) Legal/Display Newspaper Advertisements

Black-and-white, quarter-page display advertisements will be placed in the *News-Press* and *Naples Daily News*. They will be used to announce public informational meetings, dates, locations and other pertinent information relating to the proposed project. Black-and-white, 1/8-page display advertisements will be placed in the *News-Press* and *Naples Daily News* to announce the consensus building workshops.

(B) News Releases to Local Media

News releases will be prepared and distributed to Lee County Division of Public Resources and Collier County Transportation Services Community Liaison for transmittal to area media in advance of public meetings and at any other point in the study deemed necessary. News releases will be distributed to, but not limited to, the following:

Newspapers:

News Press P.O. Box 10 Fort Myers, Florida 33902	Naples Daily News 1075 Central Avenue Naples, Florida 34102	Bonita Banner 102 Bonita Beach Rd. Bonita Springs, Florida 34135
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Radio:

92.7 FM – WGUF	1200 AM – WNOG	90.9 FM – WWOR
90.1 FM – WGPU	107.1 FM – WCKT	101 FM – WAVV

Television:

NBC – WBBH – Channel 2 3719 Central Avenue Fort Myers, Florida 33901	ABC – WZVN – Channel 7 4001 Tamiami Trail North Naples, Florida 34103
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CBS – WINK – Channel 11
2824 Palm Beach Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33916

FOX – WFTX – Channel 4
621 SW Pine Island Road
Cape Coral, Florida 33909

PBS – WGCU – Channel 30
Florida Gulf Coast University
10501 FGCU Boulevard South
Fort Myers, Florida 33965

(C) Coordination Meetings with Local Officials

Presentations will be held prior to the public workshops to coordinate with local officials regarding the project status, corridor alternatives and to receive their comments.

(D) Project Newsletters and Flyers

During the study, a newsletter will be prepared and published in conjunction with key milestone events such as prior to the public workshops, the public hearing and at the study's completion. The newsletter will communicate directly with those on the project mailing list. The newsletter will contain information about the project process, the project's current schedule and public involvement activities. The newsletters will also be used as a public notice device to announce and provide notification of upcoming public meetings.

One (1) page flyers will be prepared throughout the study process. The flyers will be available for distribution to interested members of the public. The flyers will contain information on the study status, schedule, planned meetings and other items of interest.

(E) Project Web Site – (www.CR951.com)

A project web site will be created and maintained for the duration of the study. The web site will provide a facts section, subscription section, project schedule, current status section, public involvement opportunities, and a project team contacts and comment section. It will also provide the date of the last update.

(F) Variable Message Boards

Variable message signs will be used for the announcement of public workshops and the public hearing. Boards will be located within the study area in an effort to communicate with the traveling public.

(G) Speakers Bureau

The project team will be available to give presentations about the project to interested groups and organizations.

IV. Consensus Building Meetings

The public involvement program for this project will include a consensus-building effort unprecedented in Lee or Collier counties. The purpose of this effort will be to develop consensus during the PD&E study among project stakeholders with an interest in decisions related to the extension of C.R. 951. A series of small group meetings will be held to involve the identified stakeholders in the consensus building assessment process. An independent facilitator will conduct

the consensus building meetings. In addition to the general public, the following groups/people will be invited to the process:

- Environmental Groups
- Citizen/Civic Groups
- Neighborhood Groups
- Business Groups
- Property Owners
- Developers
- Local Governments
- State and Federal Agencies

(A) Consensus Building Outcome

The outcome of the consensus building process will consist of a report containing recommendations, issues and comments compiled during the process and the opportunity to comment given to the public prior to the report's finalization. The report will be incorporated into the Comments and Coordination report as an appendix.

(V) Public Information Workshops

Four (4) public workshops will be held in support of the consensus building process to provide the public with an opportunity to review analysis results and recommendations being considered. The purpose of the workshops is to obtain public input as to the potential alternatives for the study and issues of concern.

The workshops will be conducted as an informational meeting and may include a video presentation and a project brochure for distribution at the workshop. Exhibits and displays will be used for the purpose of enhancing public understanding of the characteristics and impacts of the study.

Legal advertising announcing the public workshops will meet the current requirement presented in the FDOT PD&E Manual and will be placed in the *News Press* and the *Naples Daily News*. All media identified earlier will be used for public workshop news releases.

Announcement for the workshop property owners and interested parties will be in the form of letters, flyers and/or newsletters.

(A) Analysis of Public Information Workshop Results

The Public Information Workshop team will be debriefed following the workshops to record and classify information and comments received at the workshop. Comments obtained at the workshops will be posted on the CR 951 web site (www.CR951.com). In addition, a summary of the workshop results will be prepared and included in the Comments and Coordination Report. Public input received at the public information workshops will be included in the evaluation of alternatives leading to the selection of a preferred alternative including the no build alternative.

(VI) Public Hearing

A formal Public Hearing, as required by Federal and State laws, will be held in accordance with Part 1, Chapter 8-2.7 of the PD&E Manual. The hearing is divided into the following sections:

- One hour period prior to the hearing when staff is available to answer question

- Formal presentation
- Recess to answer any further questions
- Public testimony

Legal advertising announcing the Public Hearing will be published at least 21 days before the hearing and again between 5 to 12 days in the *News Press* and the *Naples Daily News*.

Notification of the Public Hearing will be sent to elected and appointed officials, all persons owning property within 300 feet of either side of the centerline of viable project alternative(s), and other interested persons.

The Public Hearing may include a video presentation and a project brochure containing a summary of the project, typical sections, and standard information. Exhibits and displays will be used to depict the conceptual design plans for the purpose of enhancing public understanding of the preferred alternative(s).

Engineering and environmental reports, a set of conceptual design plans for the preferred alternative(s) and comments received prior to the hearing will be put on display at least 21 days before the day of the hearing.

A multi-disciplinary consultant team will staff an information project review period prior to the beginning of the formal hearing to explain the project and answer questions. The consultant team will then be available to answer questions during the formal portion of the hearing.

An official Public Hearing transcript will be made of the Public Hearing proceedings and will be incorporated into the project documentation. The Public Hearing transcript includes collecting and copying letters received after the hearing (but before the hearing cutoff point); collecting and copying affidavits of publication of the legal display advertisements; preparing the hearing certification and copying the entire transcript package. Oral and written comments received will be documented as part of the public record and responses to written comments will be addressed.

(A) Public Hearing Follow-Up

Oral and written testimony provided at the Public Hearing will be included in the formal environmental documentation for the project. Comments requiring a response will be addressed in writing following the closing of the Public Hearing. In addition, a summary of the hearing results will be prepared and included in the Comments and Coordination Report.

(VII) Comments and Coordination Report

A Comments and Coordination Report will be prepared, containing at a minimum, documentation of the public participation accomplished throughout the study period. This report will summarize and respond to the comments received from the public information workshops, consensus building workshops and agency coordination, etc.

APPENDIX A
PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIST

United State Senate and House of Representatives

U.S. Senators

Robert Graham
United States Senator
2252 Killearn Center Blvd., Suite 300
Third Floor
Tallahassee, FL 32315

Bill Nelson
United States Senator
US Court House Annex
111 N. Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

U.S. Congress

Porter Goss
United States Congressman
2000 Main Street
Suite 303
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Florida State Senate and Representatives

Florida Senators (by District)

Michael Bennett (District 21)
Florida State Senator
3653 Cortez Road W.
Suite 90
Bradenton, FL 342101

Burt Saunders (District 37)
Florida State Senator
1039 SE 9th Place
Suite 120
Cape Coral, FL 33904

Larcenia Bullard (District 39)
Florida State Senator
14842 Robinson Street
Miami, FL 33176

Dave Aronberg (District 27)
Florida State Senator
3900 Woodlake Boulevard
Greenacres, FL 33463

Florida Representatives (By District)

Jerry Paul (District 71)
Florida State Representative
4456 Tamiami Trail
Suite B-14
Port Charlotte, FL 33980

Bruce Kyle (District 73)
Florida State Representative
2120 Main Street
Suite 208
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Jeff Kottkamp (District 74)
Florida State Representative
P.O. Box 152085
Cape Coral, FL 33915

Carole Green (District 75)
Florida State Representative
15248 Tamiami Trail
Suite 200
Fort Myers, FL 33908

Dudley Goodlette (District 76)
Florida State Representative
4001 Tamiami Trail
Suite 300
Naples, FL 34103

Lindsay Harrington (District 72)
Florida State Representative
115 Tamiami Trail
Suite 2110
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Mike Davis (District 101)
Florida State Representative
212 Napa Ridge Road
Naples, FL 34119

Joseph Spratt (District 77)
Florida State Representative
P.O. Box 1760
Labelle, FL 33975

David Rivera (District 112)
Florida State Representative
P.O. Box 520633
Miami, FL 33152

County and City Officials

Lee County

Board of Commissioners: Lee County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902

**County Commissioners:
(By District)** Bob Janes (District 1)
Douglas St. Cerny (District 2)
Ray Judah (District 3)
Andy Coy (District 4)
John Albion (District 5)

County Administrator: Donald Stillwell
P.O. Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Metropolitan Planning Organization: Glen Ahlert, Coordinator
Paul Pass, Chairman

Lee County MPO
P.O. Box 3455
North Fort Myers, FL 33918

Constitutional Officers: Charlie Green
Clerk of the Circuit Court
P.O. Box 2469
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Ken Wilkinson
Property Appraiser
2480 Thompson Street
4th Floor
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Cathy Curtis
Tax Collector
P.O. Box 850
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Rodney Shoap
Sheriff
14750 Six Mile Cypress Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33912

Philinda Young
Supervisor of Elections
P.O. Box 2545
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Collier County Board of Commissioners: Collier County Board of County Commissioners
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34112-4996

**County Commissioners:
(By District)** Donna Fiala (District 1)
Frank Halas (District 2)
Tom Henning (District 3)
Fred Coyle (District 4)
Jim Coletta (District 5)

County Manager: James Mudd
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34112-4996

Metropolitan Planning Organization: Diane Flagg & Trinty Caudill, Acting Coordinators
Naples-Collier MPO
28000 North Horseshoe Drive
Naples, FL 34104

Constitutional Officers:

Dwight Brock
Clerk of the Court
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34112-4496

Abe Skinner
Property Appraiser
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34112-4496

Guy Carlton
Tax Collector
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34112-4496

Don Hunter
Sheriff
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Naples, Florida 34112-4996

Jennifer Edwards
Elections
3301 East Tamiami Trail
Naples, Florida 34112-4996

City of Bonita Springs:

Gary Price, City Manager
P.O. Box 367029
Bonita Springs, FL 34136

Mayor of Bonita Springs:

Paul Pass
P.O. Box 367029
Bonita Springs, FL 34136

**Bonita Springs City
Council (By District):**

Wayne Edsall (District 1)
Jay Arend (District 2)
Bob Wagner (District 3)
John Warfield (District 4)
David Piper (District 5)
Ben Nelson (District 6)