

CR 951 PROJECT NEWS

Newsletter No. 7

November 2004

CORRIDOR PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD

CR 951 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY

The Lee County Department of Transportation and the Collier County Transportation Division, in association with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are conducting a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study for the potential extension of CR 951 from Immokalee Road in Collier County to Alico Road in Lee County, a distance of approximately 15 miles. The CR 951 PD&E Study involves a formal process of identifying, evaluating and documenting social, economic and environmental impacts associated with the proposed extension. The study is being conducted to document the need for the project, and to develop and evaluate viable transportation improvement alternatives for the extension of CR 951 within the project limits in Lee and Collier Counties.

Alternatives Analysis

Several potential alignment alternatives for the CR 951 extension between Immokalee Road and Alico Road have been developed during the study. The process of developing these alternatives began in February 2003 at a Public Information Meeting held for the CR 951 PD&E Study. Approximately 80 members of the community attended this meeting and were divided into "working teams". Each group was asked to sketch up to three alignment alternatives on a blank aerial photograph. The groups were informed that the "no-build" or "do nothing" alternative could be one of the alternatives their group developed.

The result of this community effort is shown on the map inserted in this newsletter. This map represents a compilation of the preliminary alternatives developed to date by the community. Modifications were suggested by the technical study team, which allows a reasonable comparison of the alternatives to be considered. In September 2003, during a small group consensus building meeting, the community was given the opportunity to develop evaluation criteria that would be used to quantify and compare potential social, economic and environmental impacts associated with each of the project alternatives. The general evaluation criteria include travel service, impacts to natural environment, social environment and physical environment, and project cost.

CORRIDOR PUBLIC MEETING PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP NO. 3

The corridor public meeting is scheduled for November 30th. The meeting will present the results of the corridor alternatives and no-build evaluation screening process and give people the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the project team. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 30, 2004 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Three Oaks Banquet and Conference Center, 20991 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, Florida. There will be an Open House from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. followed by a short presentation by the project team beginning promptly at 6:00 p.m.



**Corridor Public Meeting-
Public Information Workshop
No. 3**

Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2004
Time: 5:30 -7:30 p.m.
Place: Three Oaks Banquet and
 Conference Center
 20991 Three Oaks Pkwy.
 Estero, Florida

CORRIDOR PUBLIC MEETING - PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP NO. 3 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2004

The Corridor Public Meeting will include study details such as:

- Typical Roadway Concepts
- Modifications to viable (green) alignments (see map insert)
- Additional screening of viable (green) alignments

Visit the project web
 site at
www.CR951.com

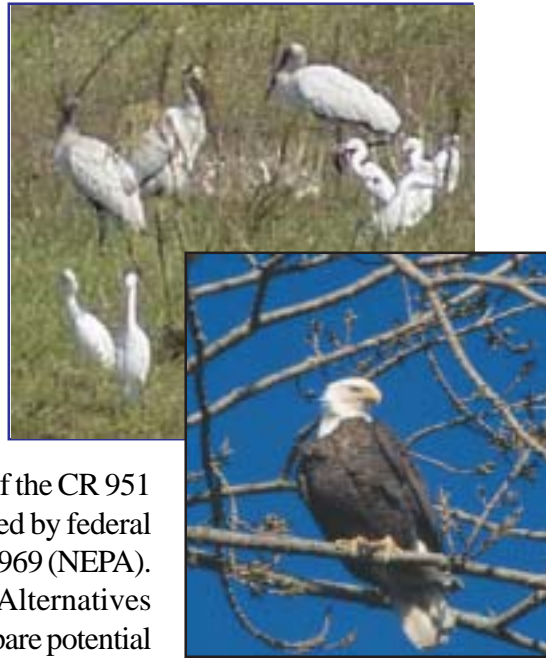
WHAT'S NEXT?

- Continue to Evaluate No-Build and Build Options
- Preliminary Engineering Analysis
- Evaluation/Documentation of Project Impacts
- Continuation of Agency Involvement
- Continuation of Public Involvement and Consensus Building Process

Alternatives Analysis (Cont'd)

In the months that followed, an initial comparison of project impacts, using the evaluation criteria developed in September 2003, was performed to eliminate or “screen” potential alternatives with significant or adverse impact. The alternatives that have been eliminated from further study are shown in red on the inserted map. The remaining alternatives, shown in green, represent the initial viable project alternatives, or those alternatives most likely to minimize or avoid harm to the human and natural environment. The results of this initial screening activity were presented at a Public Information Workshop held in December 2003.

Over 100 potential alignment alternatives still exist today for the CR 951 PD&E Study. The study team will continue to evaluate social, economic and environmental impacts associated with the project; and with the community’s input, will identify the remaining viable alternatives. This work effort will be discussed at the upcoming corridor public meeting on November 30, 2004. The remaining project alternatives will then be compared to the “no-build” or “do nothing” alternative and the results of that evaluation will be presented at a future public meeting in early 2005.



No-Build Evaluation

A detailed No-Build Alternatives Analysis is also being completed as part of the CR 951 PD&E Study. This is a standard part of the PD&E study process as mandated by federal and state requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). However, as requested by members of the public, the CR 951 No-Build Alternatives Analysis will go beyond what is traditionally required to document and compare potential impacts between build and no-build alternatives. It is anticipated that the existing and proposed transportation network within and surrounding the CR 951 study area will not meet the growing transportation needs in this portion of southwest Florida. Therefore, the CR 951 No-Build Alternatives Analysis will consider potential improvements to existing roadway networks over and above what is already programmed for improvement by the year 2030. The build and no-build scenarios will be evaluated based on their ability to provide greater regional mobility and congestion relief and to facilitate emergency management access by providing an alternative north-south transportation corridor east of Interstate 75.

Draft Needs Assessment

The purpose of and need for the extension of CR 951 from Immokalee Road in Collier County to Alico Road in Lee County is based on several contributing and defining factors. A Draft Needs Assessment was issued in September 2003 for the proposed extension of the CR 951 project. The report was prepared in response to public input regarding a request to document the purpose of and need for the proposed improvement. This is also a standard part of the PD&E study process. At the request of members of the community, the CR 951 project team agreed to publish a separate Draft Needs Assessment document. The Draft Needs Assessment was distributed to approximately 50 members of the community at a small group consensus building meeting held on September 16, 2003. The Draft Needs Assessment is available on the project web site, www.CR951.com.

Public Involvement Summary

Public involvement efforts on this project have been substantial. The Public Involvement Program for this project includes a consensus building component designed to achieve community consensus on certain elements of the study process and results. The Public Involvement Program consists of a series of small group consensus building meetings as well as large-scale public information workshops. Following is a summary of the public meeting events held to date on the CR 951 PD&E Study. In addition, project updates have been provided to elected and appointed officials and to over 15 specific community groups interested in the outcome of the study.

Public Information Workshop No. 1 - Introduction to the CR 951 PD&E Study,

February 20, 2003: This workshop included a brief introduction to the CR 951 PD&E Study scope of services including the public involvement process. Attendees were organized into “working teams” and were asked to facilitate a discussion of project issues and concerns to be addressed during the study. The “working teams” also developed the initial project alternatives being evaluated for the proposed extension.

Small Group Consensus Building Meeting No. 1 -

Purpose of and Need for the Project (March 27, 2003): A summary of the February 20, 2003 Public Information Workshop was provided including a graphical representation of the project alternatives developed by the public “working teams”. A presentation was provided to discuss the initial purpose of and need for the proposed improvement and a group exercise was facilitated to obtain input from the attendees regarding the community’s perspective on the function of the proposed CR 951 extension.



Small Group Consensus Building Meeting No. 2 - Preliminary Traffic Forecasts and the Affected Environment

(May 22, 2003): This meeting included a continuation of the project purpose and need along with a presentation on Preliminary Travel Demand Forecasts with and without the proposed CR 951 extension, as well as a graphical presentation of the affected environment (natural, social and physical environmental constraints).

Small Group Consensus Building Meeting No. 3 - Update on Travel Demand Forecasts and Needs Assessment, Preliminary Project Alternatives including the No-Build Alternative, Evaluation Measures and More

(September 16, 2003): This meeting included an update of the Travel Demand Forecasts (with and without the CR 951 extension) and refinements to the Project Alternatives. In addition, the Draft Needs Assessment was distributed and discussed. The meeting also included a facilitated discussion with “working teams” to present and discuss the evaluation criteria to be used to evaluate project impacts. Five primary evaluation measures were introduced in the areas of travel service, impacts to natural environment, impacts to social environment, impacts to physical environment, and project costs. Evaluation criteria in each of the five main measurements were expanded to create the project evaluation criteria.

Public Information Workshop No. 2 - Presentation of Preliminary Alternatives and Initial Evaluation Screening Matrices, December 9, 2003:

A summary of the results of the previous three small group consensus building meetings was presented at this meeting, along with the initial screening of project alternatives based on the evaluation criteria established in September 2003. This screening of initial project alternatives led to the identification of initial viable project alternatives to be advanced to the next stage of evaluation.



Small Group Consensus Building Meeting No. 4 - Project Alternatives Update and No-Build Alternative Methodology

(May 26, 2004): This meeting was held to present preliminary engineering design criteria, alternative roadway concepts (typical sections), and refinements made to the initial project alternatives. An additional update to the Travel Demand Forecasts (traffic volumes) and the methodology to be used to determine and evaluate the No-Build Alternative Analysis was also discussed. The latter topic was discussed as a facilitated group exercise using the “working teams” format.