

# CR 951 PROJECT NEWS

Newsletter No. 1

February 2003

## WELCOME TO THE CR 951 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY

The Lee County Department of Transportation (LDOT) and the Collier County Division of Transportation welcome you to participate in the CR 951 PD&E study. This study is being conducted in association with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The study will document the need for the project and develop and evaluate viable transportation improvement alternatives, including the no-project alternative, for the extension of County Road 951 within the limits of the project (see page 2 for study area map).

Public involvement is a very important part of this project. There will be many opportunities for public input during the course of the project. This newsletter is the first in a series of newsletters and flyers that are planned as information and events develop over the project schedule. Also planned are public meetings, consensus building workshops and more. Visit the project web site at [www.CR951.com](http://www.CR951.com) for upcoming events and project information. But first, what is a PD&E study?

### WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

A PD&E study is a planning and engineering process that was developed by the FDOT in order to determine social, economic and environmental impacts associated with a proposed transportation improvement project. This process, mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires the combined efforts of professional engineers, planners and scientists who collect and analyze project-related information to develop the best solution for a community's transportation needs. The process used in the development of the project is made up of several components. These include:

- Data collection
- Development of alternatives
- Analysis of viable alternatives (including the no-project alternative)
- Selection of recommended alternatives
- Public and agency involvement

(See PD&E page 3)

## PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP

The first public information workshop is scheduled for February. The workshop will introduce the project to the general public and give persons the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the project team. The workshop will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2003 from 5-8 pm at the Three Oaks University Center, 20991 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, Florida. There will be an Open House from 5-6 pm followed by a short presentation by the project team beginning at 6:00 pm. Following the presentation and a brief intermission, the audience will be divided into small groups to discuss project related topics.



### Public Information Workshop

**Date:** Thurs., Feb. 20, 2003

**Time:** 5-8 p.m.

**Place:** Three Oaks University Center  
20991 Three Oaks Pkwy.  
Estero, Florida

### Visit the project web site at: [www.CR951.com](http://www.CR951.com)

A project web site has been created for this PD&E study. Information about the project will be available as it is developed. Visit the web site for PD&E definitions, project map and schedule, public involvement opportunities and upcoming events. A list of project team members and their e-mail addresses is available on the "Contact Us" page of the web site. Submit your comments via e-mail or provide your mailing information to be incorporated into the project database for mailings and notifications. Watch the web site for announcements regarding workshops and consensus building meetings.

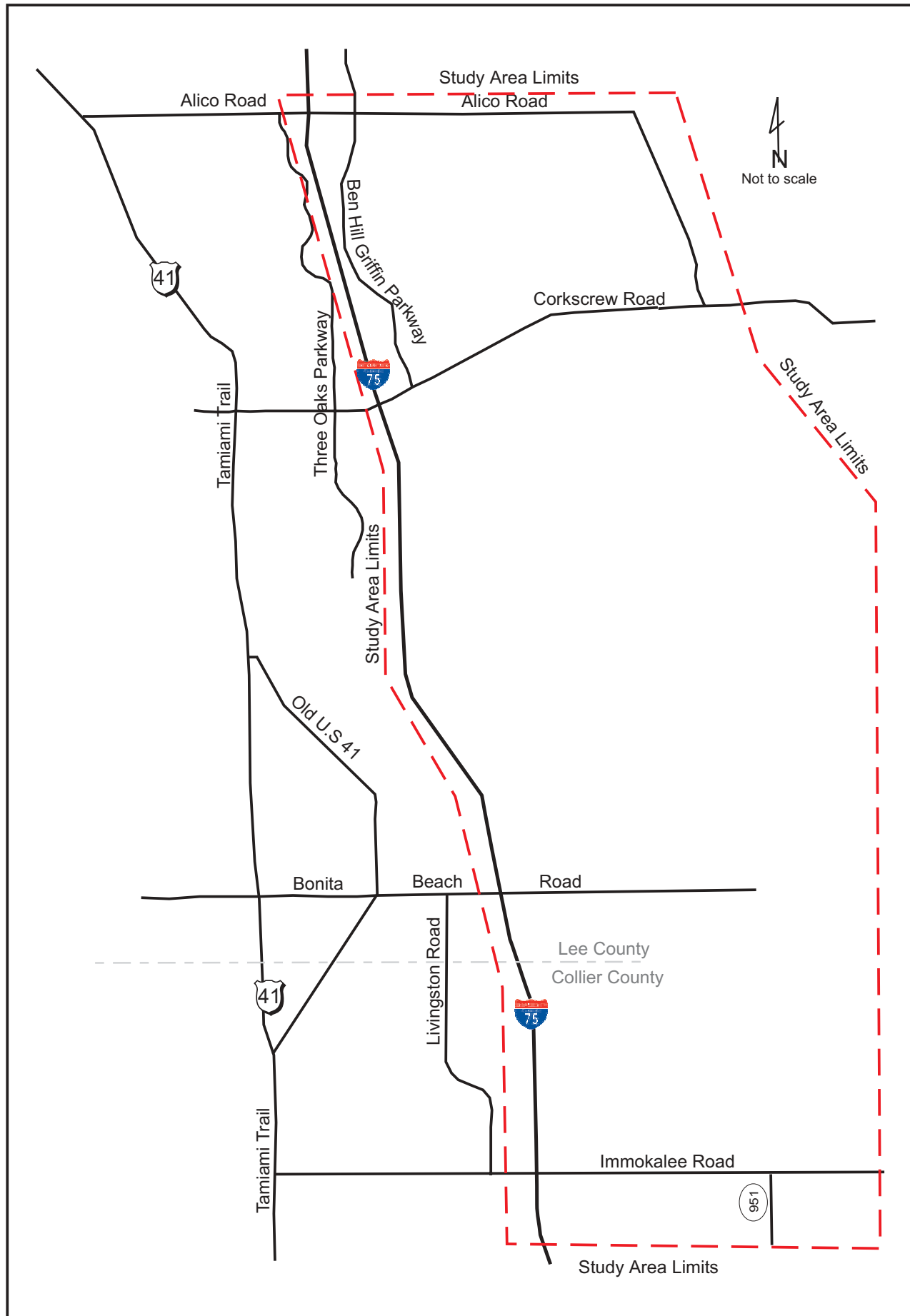
### Consensus Building Workshops

A series of small group meetings will be held by the project team with those persons or parties who have an interest in the decisions related to the extension of CR 951. The consensus building process will address the following:

- The nature & need for additional north-south capacity
- How that need can be met
- Measures taken to address the environment, community and business impacts
- Coordination with others who affect the issues and solutions relating to CR 951

The consensus building process will be open to all members of the public. If you are interested in participating in the consensus building workshops, please e-mail your request and mailing information via the web site or call (239) 337-1071, toll-free 1-877-496-1076 or write to Lee County DOT, c/o Cella & Associates, Inc., 2125 First Street, Suite 201, Fort Myers, FL 33901.

## STUDY AREA LOCATION MAP



(PD&E from page 1)

### Data Collection

Data collection involves gathering the information that is needed to develop and evaluate the various improvement alternatives, including:

- Traffic counts
- Crash records
- Existing roadway conditions
- Identification of wetlands
- Threatened/Endangered species habitat
- Existing land use and property information
- Planned developments
- Existing drainage systems and drainage patterns
- Contamination sites
- Archaeological/Historic sites



### Development of Alternatives

Several improvement alternatives will be developed that will meet future travel demand and attempt to minimize impacts to the community and the natural environment. These alternatives will be developed with input from the public, local government and environmental agencies obtained throughout the study process. The no-project alternative, or the alternative to make no improvements, will remain a viable alternative throughout the study.

### Analysis of Alternatives

The alternatives developed will be compared based on community and environmental impacts, costs for design and construction engineering inspection, right-of-way acquisition, construction and environmental mitigation. Public comment and sentiment are also considered during this analysis. Several environmental studies are conducted and used in this analysis. These include:

- *Air Quality* - assesses existing conditions and determines ways to conform with the Clean Air Act
- *Noise* - determines if the project will increase noise levels in noise sensitive areas
- *Wetlands* - finds the best way to avoid or mitigate long-term and short-term impacts to wetlands
- *Water Quality* - implements measures to prevent, reduce or eliminate pollution of ground and surface waters
- *Wildlife and Habitat Impacts* - efforts are made to protect and ensure the continued existence of threatened and/or endangered species and their habitat
- *Contamination* - identify, evaluate and recommend actions concerning potential contamination problems within and/or adjacent to the project
- *Floodplains* - documents efforts to minimize or avoid encroachment within the 100-year floodplain through drainage system design
- *Archaeological and Historic Sites* - documentation is required to identify and minimize impacts to historic and archaeologically significant sites



### Selection of Recommended Alternatives

Once the analysis of all the viable alternatives, including the no-project alternative, is complete and the public has had the opportunity to comment on these alternatives, a recommendation will be made. This recommended alternative, along with the supporting project documentation and summary of public input, will be presented to the FHWA for Location and Design Concept Acceptance.

### Public Involvement Program

A complete Public Involvement program is conducted throughout the study. This program is designed to make the public aware of the project and to solicit comments and input from the public during the development and evaluation of the alternatives and the selection of the recommended alternative.