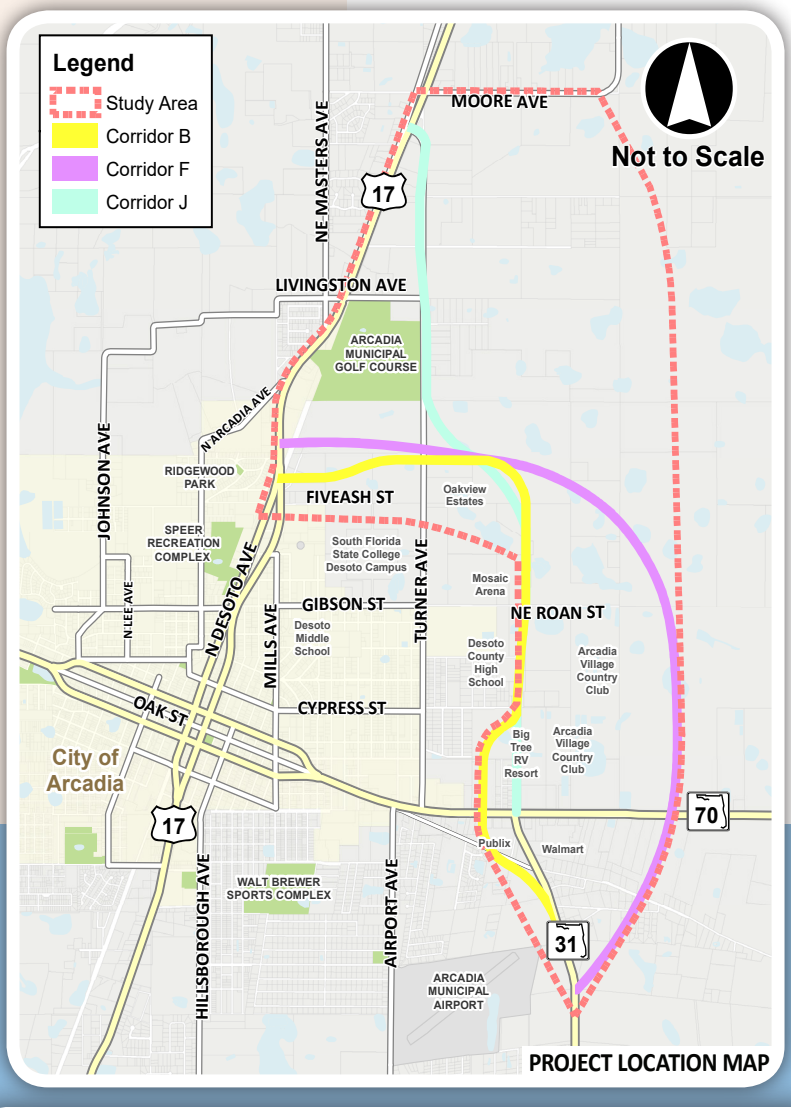
State Road (SR) 31 Extension

Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) Feasibility Study

From SR 70 to US 17 in DeSoto County, Florida

Financial Project ID Number:
431298-1-22-01



CONTACT INFORMATION

Public involvement was an important part of the SR 31 ACE Feasibility Study and will continue to be vital to the PD&E Study. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. If you have questions, comments, or would like more information about either study, please contact Steven Andrews, FDOT Project Manager, by e-mail at steven.andrews@dot.state.fl.us, by phone at (863) 519-2270, or by mail at FDOT District One, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, Florida 33831.

PARA INFORMACION EN ESPAÑOL

Si tuviese preguntas, comentarios, o simplemente deseara más información, póngase en contacto con Marlon Bizerra por correo electrónico a Marlon.Bizerra@dot.state.fl.us, por teléfono al (863) 519-2250, o envíe un correo a FDOT District One, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, Florida 33831.

Study web site: www.swflroads.com/sr31extension/sr70tous17

NEWSLETTER #3 - May 2019

ACE FEASIBILITY STUDY COMPLETE

In April 2019, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completed the Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) Feasibility Study to evaluate a potential new alignment for the extension of State Road (SR) 31 in DeSoto County. The study area begins on SR 31 south of SR 70 and extends north to US 17 between Fiveash Street and Moore Avenue.

The objective of the SR 31 Extension ACE Feasibility Study, which began in May of 2017, was to identify and establish the purpose and need, as well as viability of the project. Throughout the study, FDOT conducted analyses, met with stakeholders, identified corridor alternatives, and conducted corridor analysis.

The ACE Feasibility Study recommended that Corridors B, F, and J should be refined through additional analysis in the project's next phase, the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. These corridors were recommended based on public comments, stakeholder input, engineering considerations, cost, and their relative potential for social, physical, cultural, and natural impacts. The PD&E Study phase will offer additional opportunities for public input as the corridors are developed and refined into alternative alignments.

WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

A PD&E Study is an environmental and engineering process developed by the FDOT to determine social, economic, natural, and physical environmental impacts associated with a proposed transportation improvement project. The process follows procedures set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and federal and state laws and regulations. It requires the combined efforts of professional engineers, planners, and scientists who collect and analyze project-related information to develop the best solution for transportation needs. The process used in the development of the project is made up of several components. These include:

- Data Collection
- Alternatives Analysis (including the No-Build alternative)
- Selection of preferred alternative(s)
- Public and stakeholder involvement
- Environmental analysis and agency coordination

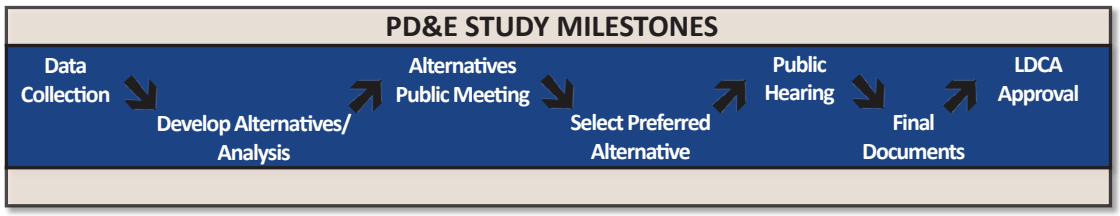
A range of alternatives will be considered for this project. The No-Build alternative will remain a valid alternative throughout the study process. Under the No-Build alternative, no improvements would be made.

Florida Department of Transportation
District One
ATTN: Steven Andrews
P.O. Box 1249
Bartow, FL 33831

SR 31 Extension ACE Feasibility Study

WHAT'S NEXT?

The PD&E Study is expected to begin in the Summer of 2019. Data collection and alternatives analyses are estimated to occur through the Fall of 2020, at which point an Alternatives Public Workshop will be held. A Public Hearing is anticipated to be held in Summer of 2021.



If the study recommends the selection of a build alternative, future phases of the project would include design; acquisition of land, and construction of the improvements.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.