

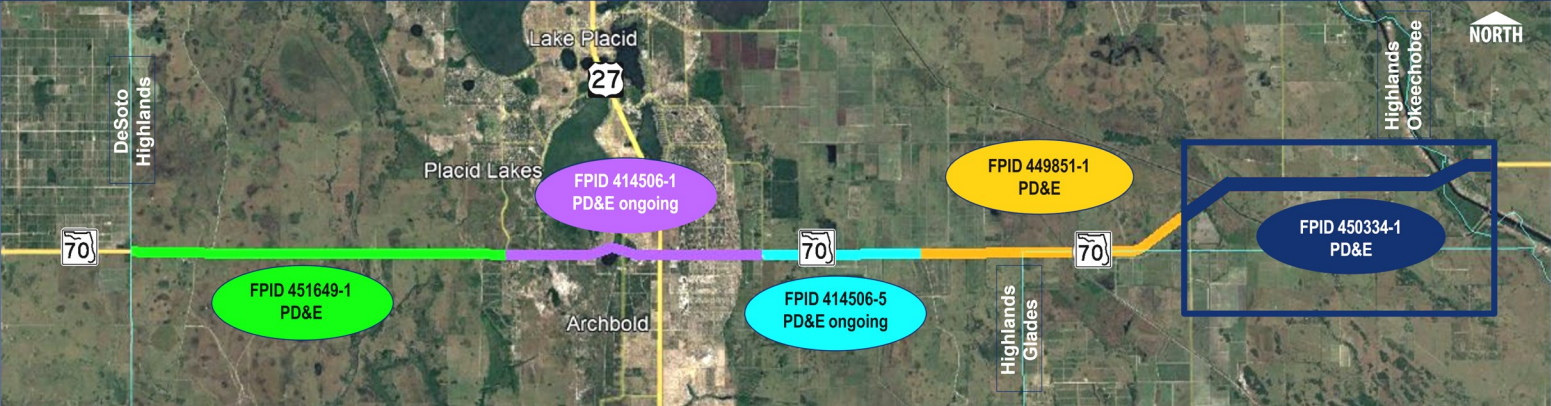


SR 70 PD&E Study from CR 721 South to CR 599/128th Avenue Highlands and Okeechobee Counties

Newsletter No. 1

www.swflroads.com/project/450334-1

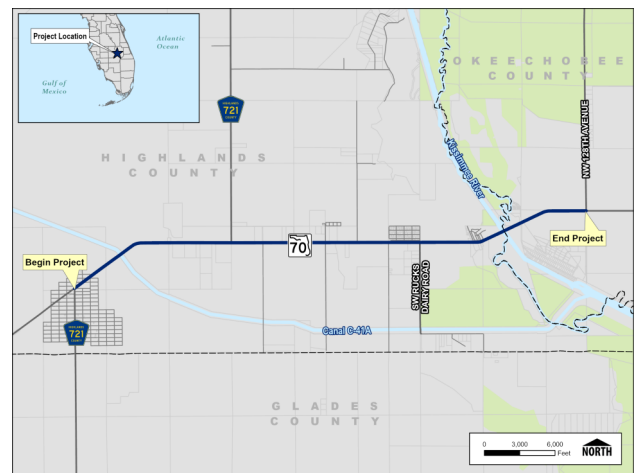
May 2023



The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One is conducting Project Development and Environment (PD&E) studies for proposed improvements to the State Road (SR) 70 corridor in Highlands and Okeechobee Counties. The intent is to provide additional roadway capacity and enhance safety along the SR 70 corridor, a major east-west roadway spanning the state. The project limits for each of these PD&E studies are shown above. For the project shown within the blue box on the map (FPID 450334-1), which is the focus of this PD&E study, the limits extend approximately 8.6 miles from CR 721 South to CR 599/128th Avenue in Highlands and Okeechobee Counties. The project area is shown in greater detail on the right side of this page.

During the PD&E process, FDOT will develop alternatives and provide opportunities for your input. Alternatives under consideration include widening SR 70 from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway with multi-modal facilities (i.e., a shared use path) along the project segment. Each alternative will be evaluated to determine social and environmental impacts, safety enhancements, additional right-of-way, and traffic performance.

The purpose of the study is to select a preferred alternative that will be advanced to the design phase. Throughout this process, FDOT will consider a “no-build” option which assumes no improvements to SR 70 other than routine maintenance. If the study results in the selection of a “build” alternative, the project can proceed to a design phase, for preparation of construction plans. You are encouraged to participate in the SR 70 PD&E Study. As the study progresses, we will use the input we receive from the community to develop and refine alternatives. We invite your questions and comments which can be submitted through the project website or by contacting the FDOT Project Manager.



Contact Us

David C. Turley, P.E., Project Manager

Florida Department of Transportation

801 North Broadway Avenue

Bartow, Florida 33830

Phone: (863) 519-2255

Email: david.turley@dot.state.fl.us

Website: www.swflroads.com/project/450334-1

FDOT solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

SR 70 PD&E Study
 from CR 721 South to CR 599/128th Avenue
 David C. Turley, P.E.
 Florida Department of Transportation
 801 North Broadway Avenue
 Bartow, FL 33830



Project Schedule

Over the next several months, project activities will include collecting data, developing alignment alternatives, and evaluating potential social and environmental effects of the alternatives. The project team will present these alternatives at an alternatives public meeting, tentatively scheduled for early 2024. A formal public hearing is tentatively scheduled for late 2024. You will receive notifications through the mail prior to each meeting. After the public hearing, FDOT District One will submit project documents to the FDOT Office of Environmental Management for Location and Design Concept Acceptance.

Para Preguntas En Español

Si usted necesita información de este proyecto en español, por favor comuníquese con el Sra. Karina Della-Sera de la Oficina del Departamento de Transporte de la Florida, por teléfono al (863) 519-2750. También puede usar el correo electrónico: karina.dellasera@dot.state.fl.us.

Study Activities	2023				2024				2025	
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Study Begins	●									
Data Collection	■									
Project Newsletters		▲			▲			▲		▲
Coordination and Development of Alternatives		■								
Alternatives Public Meeting					★					
Refine and Evaluate Alternatives					■					
Finalize Draft Study Documents							■			
Public Hearing								★		
Finalize Study Documents for FDOT								■		
OEM Approval (Location and Design Concept Acceptance, or LDCA)										●

Preliminary - subject to change