

WHAT IS THE INTERSTATE 75 (I-75) MASTER PLAN?

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is preparing a Master Plan for a section of Interstate 75 (I-75) through Sumter, Marion, and Alachua Counties.

The purpose of the I-75 Master Plan is to evaluate short and long-term improvements or enhancements to the I-75 interstate corridor and its interchanges to help improve safety, reliability, and mobility. The master plan will allow FDOT to focus its future efforts and funding by prioritizing the most critical sections for improvement.

The I-75 Master Plan is divided into two study areas. The Southern Study (FPID 443623-1), approximately 22.5 miles, begins at Florida's Turnpike (State Road (S.R.) 91) in Sumter County and ends at S.R. 200 in Marion County. Interchanges to be evaluated within the southern study's limit include Florida's Turnpike, S.R. 44, County Road (C.R.) 484 and S.R. 200. The Northern Study (FPID 443624-1), approximately 25.3 miles, begins north of S.R. 200 in Marion County and ends south of C.R. 234 in Alachua County. Interchanges to be evaluated include S.R. 40, U.S. 27, Northwest 49th Street (planned), S.R. 326, C.R. 318 and C.R. 234.

The I-75 Master Plan will include:

- Interstate improvements that optimize long-term capacity needs, long-term mobility needs, travel reliability and travel options for drivers.
- Accessibility improvements that consider deficiencies and needs of existing interchanges to promote system connectivity and local traffic operations.
- Identification and expansion of short-term improvement strategies including Traffic Incident Management [detection, verification, clearance, and traffic management associated with incidents on the highway and arterials (ex. Road Rangers)] and Active Traffic Management [involves continuous monitoring of facility operations with adjustments to lane controls and speeds on a real time basis (ex. overhead dynamic messaging signs)].

WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

Prepared during the Planning and Feasibility Phase, which is the first phase of FDOT's Project Development Process, a Master Plan is a document that summarizes a vision for future transportation and provides a set of recommended improvements or enhancements to improve safety, reliability, and mobility. Development of a Master Plan involves data collection, public engagement, analysis of current and future transportation needs, and the identification and evaluation of potential projects to address those needs. The findings of the analysis and recommendations developed during the Planning and Feasibility Phase are documented in a Master Plan report.

Improvements recommended in a Master Plan may include widening, managed lanes, auxiliary lanes, collector-distributor roads, modifying interchanges, and/or evaluating new interchanges. A Master Plan also includes public engagement, which serves as input in the identification and prioritization of projects to move forward in the Project Development Process. This long-range approach provides a regional perspective to identify the areas where future demand is predicted and assists in defining subsequent Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Studies.

WHY DO WE NEED THE I-75 MASTER PLAN?

I-75 is one of Florida's important transportation corridors, critical to the state's economic competitiveness and quality of life. As the primary north-south corridor in the Central Florida region, I-75 provides for the movement of people and freight, evacuation, mobility between regional employment and population centers, system connectivity to Florida's Turnpike and a thoroughfare for tourism and trade in Florida. In partnership with the local communities, FDOT wants to be proactive in planning for a safe and efficient corridor. FDOT is developing the I-75

Master Plan, which will serve as a guide to focus future efforts and funding toward the most critical segments of I-75 first.

The goals of the I-75 Master Plan are to identify and recommended solutions that improve safety, reliability, mobility, operational capacity, efficiency, and connectivity along and across the I-75 corridor through Sumter, Marion, and Alachua Counties. The Master Plan will document the highway’s needs, define and prioritize necessary improvements, and identify ways to fund these improvements. As part of the Master Plan process, t FDOT will develop an Implementation Plan based on priorities identified in the Master Plan. Funded priorities will become individual projects, which would then progress through the Project Development Process.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS?

The FDOT Project Development Process is a comprehensive process involving five phases:

1. **Planning Phase:** During this phase, the FDOT will evaluate the long-range transportation needs of I-75. Results will be documented in a Master Plan and related Implementation Plan that will identify, evaluate, and prioritize individual projects to proceed to the next phase.
2. **Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study Phase:** During this phase, design concept options and their social and environmental effects are examined.
3. **Design Phase:** During design, detailed design plans are prepared.
4. **Right-Of-Way Acquisition Phase:** This phase entails acquisition of any necessary right-of-way, based on the design plans developed during the Design Phase.
5. **Construction Phase:** Roadway improvements are built and put into service during this phase.

Depending on transportation priorities, available funding, and complexities of the needed improvements, a project’s progression from planning to construction may take up to 10 years. FDOT follows federal and state requirements throughout the Project Development Process and works closely with governmental agencies, partners, and the local community to identify improvement priorities and move them through the production pipeline. Planning, Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition and Construction are sequential phases of production for projects.



WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

FDOT is preparing the I-75 Master Plan as part of the first phase of the Project Development Process. During this Planning and Feasibility Phase, FDOT is evaluating a wide-range of long-range needs for the future of I-75 through Sumter, Marion, and Alachua Counties. The I-75 Master Plan will define a vision for future transportation and provide a set of recommended improvements or enhancements to the mainline interstate and interchanges to improve safety, reliability, and mobility. Development of the I-75 Master Plan involves data collection, public engagement, analysis of current and future transportation needs, and the identification and evaluation of potential projects to address those needs. The findings of the analysis and recommendations developed during the Planning and Feasibility Phase will be documented in a Master Plan report that includes an Implementation Plan. Proposed improvements will advance to the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study Phase and/or the Design Phase as funding becomes available.

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE EVALUATED FOR INTERSTATE 75 IN THE PLANNING & FEASIBILITY PHASE?

During this preliminary phase of the Project Development Process, the I-75 Master Plan will identify the future needs to improve safety, reliability, mobility, operational capacity, efficiency, and connectivity along and across the corridor. Recommended improvements or enhancements to I-75 could include widening, adding managed lanes, changes to collector-distributor roadways, adding auxiliary lanes, making interchange operational improvements, evaluating new interchanges, and/or reconfiguring existing interchanges. The recommended improvements or enhancements would be further evaluated in the next phases of the Project Development Process.

WHEN WILL THE I-75 MASTER PLAN BE COMPLETE?

The Master Plan process began in October 2021 and is expected to be completed by November 2022.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

FDOT will hold a series of Public Informational Meetings to allow the public to view the proposed Master Plan recommendations. The informational meetings will be held at various locations within the project limits. A virtual meeting option will also be made available for those unable to attend in-person.

Comments can be submitted anytime to:

Florida Department of Transportation
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For information about the studies, or to see additional information about the upcoming Public Informational Meetings, visit the project websites:

- Southern Study: www.cflroads.com/project/443623-1
- Northern Study: www.cflroads.com/project/443624-1