



State Road (S.R.) 524

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study
From Friday Road (south) to Industry Road

Project Kickoff Newsletter

Financial Project ID (FPID) No.: 437983-1

Spring 2019

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for State Road (S.R.) 524 from Friday Road (south) to Industry Road, a distance of 3.15 miles. The study will evaluate several alternatives to improve roadway capacity, add bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and address transit needs.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the FDOT completed the S.R. 524 long-range planning study to evaluate capacity and safety alternatives for the roadway. This PD&E study will evaluate and refine those alternatives, and will compare their potential affects on the environment and the surrounding communities, as well as the traveling public.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The S.R. 524 project is in the PD&E study phase of the FDOT's five step highway development process. A PD&E study assists the FDOT in determining the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental affects of the proposed roadway improvements. During the PD&E study process, feasible alternatives are developed for roadway improvement projects. These "Build" alternatives are evaluated based on environmental, engineering and socioeconomic conditions, safety needs, and public input. The need for additional right of way for stormwater and environmental mitigation is also evaluated during the PD&E study phase. The "No Build" alternative is considered to be a viable alternative and will remain so for the duration of the study. This "No Build" alternative leaves the existing roadway as it is, with only routine maintenance as required. If the study results in a "Build" alternative being selected, the project may proceed to the next phase, which is the "Project Design" phase.

STUDY LOCATION MAP



THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- 1 **Long-range Planning**
The need for roadway improvements is determined based on future land uses and projected traffic volumes.
- 2 **Project Development and Environment Study***
The location and conceptual design of road improvements are identified, and environmental and social impacts are assessed.
- 3 **Project Design**
Construction plans are prepared.
- 4 **Acquire Right of Way**
Additional land needed for roadway right of way is purchased, if needed.
- 5 **Construction**
The recommended improvements are constructed.

*Current stage of the S.R. 524 improvement project.

KEY PROJECT MILESTONES

The first public meeting will be scheduled in early Spring 2020. The PD&E study phase is expected to be completed by Summer 2021. Below is a tentative study schedule.

Project Start	Late 2018
Kickoff Newsletter	Spring 2019
Alternatives Public Workshop	Spring 2020
Public Hearing	Spring 2021
Study Completion	Summer 2021

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The S.R. 524 PD&E study process will provide many opportunities for the public to view information about the project and to comment on the proposed improvements. Data collection has begun, and alternatives analyses and development are underway. Public involvement activities will continue throughout the duration of the project beginning with this kickoff newsletter and includes an alternatives public workshop and a public hearing later in the process. The mailing list for the newsletter and other public involvement activities includes:

- All individuals owning property within 300 feet of the right of way of the proposed project;
- Neighborhood and civic associations in the study area;
- Local, state, and federal elected and appointed officials;
- Local, regional, state, and federal agencies and interest groups; and,
- Individuals who request to be placed on the mailing list.

Be on the lookout for future communications about this project as the development process proceeds.

Public involvement (or engagement) activities during the study process will include input from and coordination with the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) as well as input from local civic organizations, public officials, public agencies and other interested persons or groups. The meetings proposed on the tentative study schedule will provide information on the project status, design concepts, and other study considerations. They will also provide an opportunity for those who have a stake or an interest in the proposed project to comment on the study's findings. A public hearing will be held to present conclusions reached about improvement options and project effects. The public hearing will also provide an opportunity for public statements, which will be recorded in the official public hearing transcript, and will be reviewed by FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) before approval of the study findings is granted.

LOCAL AGENCY PARTNERS

In addition to receiving public input, the FDOT will coordinate with the following local agencies throughout the study:



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Anyone who would like to be placed on the mailing list should contact Lorena Cucek, FDOT Project Manager. Public comments and questions are welcome at any time throughout the study. You can submit your comments directly to Mrs. Cucek or through the project website (link below) by clicking the "Ask a Question" button under the project manager's contact information. Meeting announcements, project documents, and other important project information will also be available on the project website.

Lorena Cucek, Project Manager

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http://www.cflroads.com/project/437983-1/SR_524_PD_E_Study

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns relative to FDOT compliance with Title VI may do so by contacting Jennifer Smith, FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator via email at Jennifer.Smith2@dot.state.fl.us.

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 December 14, 2016, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.