

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Public Hearing

I-95 Interchange at Ellis Road Re:

Widening of Ellis Road from John Rodes Boulevard to Wickham Road

Project Development and Environment Study

PRESENTATION BY: Daniel Kristoff, Jr.

DATE TAKEN: October 25, 2012

TIME:

5:00 P.M. - 6:50 P.M.

PLACE:

2955 Minton Road

West Melbourne, Florida

Proceedings taken before:

Patricia A. Migliaccio, RMR, CRR, CLR, FPR, CCR(NJ) Court Reporter and Notary Public, State of Florida at Large.

1	INDEX OF PROCEEDINGS	
2	Presentation	PAGE 3
3		J
4	PUBLIC SPEAKERS Shirley VanDiver	23
5	Scott Morgan	27
6	Stephanie Eley	28
7	Kathy Meehan	28
8	Public Meeting Closed	29
9	Certificate of Reporter	30
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

MR. KRISTOFF: Okay. Good evening. And welcome to the alternatives public hearing for the I-95 interchange and Ellis Road Project Development Environmental Study.

My name is Dan Kristoff, and I am the consultant project manager. And I hope you all have had an opportunity to talk with DOT staff or our staff prior to coming into this presentation.

Before we get into the project specifics there are a number of recitals we need to put in the record, so please bear with me.

This public hearing is being held in accordance with the following state and federal regulations: Federal Highway Act of 1968 as amended by 23 US Code Section 128, 40 CFR 1500 through 1508, 23 CFR 771, and Section 339.155 of the Florida statutes as it relates to State Financial Identification Project Number 426905-122-01 and Federal-Aid Project Number SFT1 251 R.

This public hearing was advertised consistent with federal and state regulations, and is being conducted consistent with the American Disabilities Act of 1990. This hearing is being held to afford all citizens the right to

understand the project and comment upon their concerns.

This hearing is being held to afford all the citizens a right for you to understand the project and comment upon it to the Department of Transportation. It is being held to comply with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 as amended.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability mor family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns relative to DOT's compliance with Title VI and/or Title VIII may do so by contacting the FDOT District Five Title VI and Title VIII coordinator Lorie Matthews at 719 South Woodland Boulevard, MS506, Deland, Florida, 32720 or the Florida Department of Transportation Equal Opportunity Office, 605 Suwannee Street, Room 260, Mail Station 65, Tallahassee, Florida, (332)399-0450.

All inquiries or complaints will be handled according to Department of Transportation procedures in an expeditious manner.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to

∠

inform you of the study findings, discuss the study recommendations, and receive input regarding the location, conceptual design, and potential social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed improvement upon the community.

In case you have not gotten a speaker card at the sign-in table, speaker cards are available and I would ask if you would raise your hand and you wish to speak this evening our personnel will provide you with a speaker card.

This graphic identifies the major phases that are required to complete this project. The planning phase for the project has been completed in that it is identified in the current FDOT five-year work program and the Space Coast TOP Long Range Transportation Plan. The PD&E study which is currently under way will be followed by preliminary and final design activities that will include the development of right-of-way plans and permit applications for construction. Once right-of-way acquisition is completed the project will be ready for construction.

The PD&E study is a multi-phase element in itself. It begins by collecting data, followed

by forecasting future traffic to determine the true need for the project. It is then followed by the development of alternatives, an evaluation of potential impacts of the build alternatives, and the selection of a preferred alternative that will move forward into the final design phase.

Funding is available for the preliminary and final design phases of the interchange, and this project will be initiated after the Federal Highway Administration accepts the environmental document.

Throughout the entire PD&E study a public outreach program secures information from government agencies, stakeholders in the project, businesses, individuals, and special interest groups that may be affected.

Today's meeting provides an opportunity for any person or group to view the progress to date, ask questions, and provide comments to the Florida Department of Transportation.

Let's take a brief look at the project. The purpose of the project is to provide a new interchange with I-95. It will be midway between the State Route 518 and the State Route 192 interchanges. It will provide a connection to

Ellis Road and upgrade the Ellis Road corridor from John Rodes Boulevard to Wickham Road. A connection will also be provided to the St. Johns Heritage Parkway to the west.

Today Ellis Road is a two-lane roadway with signalized intersections at John Rodes Boulevard and Wickham Road. It does not connect to I-95. Along the route there are numerous side streets and business driveway connections. Deep ditches and canals line the road for virtually its entire distance, and almost one dozen utilities provide services to adjacent properties.

This area of the east coast region of

Florida is a significant economic engine with

more than 35,000 jobs within the service area of

the Melbourne International Airport. In order to

maintain and grow the region's economy it is

essential that freedom of movement for both

people and goods is maintained.

Currently, the interchanges at State Route
518 and State Route 192 serve as connections
between I-95 and the Melbourne International
Airport. They are designated as Strategic
Intermodal System connections. When completed,
the new I-95 interchange and Ellis Road corridor

system will become the new Strategic Intermodal System connection. It will provide direct access to the airport and other Florida regions, as well as relieve the traffic at the State Route 518 and State Route 192 interchanges.

The new connection will carry an estimated 27,000 vehicles per day, thereby providing improved mobility to the region. The Ellis Road connection will require four lanes to handle the traffic demand. Community and environmental issues that are specific to the project are listed, as well as some of the major engineering considerations. Let's examine a couple of those.

In the northeast quadrant of the interchange the Lamplighter neighborhood is relatively close to I-95 and the proposed connection to John Rodes Boulevard. In the northwest quadrant of the interchange a Department of Environmental Resources Conservation Easement provides protection to the natural environment. Storm water retention ponds shown in dark blue are required by the St. John's Water Management District. They are close to a number of wetland systems and will likely have some affect upon them.

Utilities that serve the region are located along the west side of I-95 within the purple shaded area. They include a major Florida natural gas line and significant distribution lines for Florida Power.

Lastly, L-15 and M-1 canals cross the area and are critical in the flood control system of the Crane Creek drainage basin.

The earlier slide mentions the constraints or sensitive community issues at the I-95 interchange. Several modifications to the interchange concept have been developed to reduce the effects on the more substantive items.

Alternative number one has been developed to avoid the Lamplighter Village by constructing a retaining wall along the westbound lanes of the roadway approach to the bridge over I-95. Also the M-1 canal system is routed to the east of the interchange to maintain adequate flow.

Alternative number two is similar to alternative one but is shifted farther to the south. This eliminates the need for the retaining wall and avoids the conservation area that is west of I-95. The M-1 canal is again routed to the east of the interchange. Conflicts

with utilities west of I-95 are unavoidable with either interchange, but the impacts to them are being reduced by shifting the ramps closer to the bridge by using mechanical wall systems.

In order to meet the future demand a four-lane roadway is required. The roadway elements will include two travel lanes in each direction separated by a grass median. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations will also be provided. This typical section meets the Strategic Intermobal System criteria of 50-miles per hour.

Similarly, the bridge over I-95 will clue the four travel lanes, appropriate turning lanes, and the accommodations for both pedestrians and bicycles.

Let's examine several issues along Ellis
Road. Numerous businesses that are near the
existing two-lane road occupy both sides of the
corridor. A pocket of single family dwellings
fronts the roadway near the Wickham end of the
project. And both the businesses and residential
areas along the corridor will be affected by the
proposed roadway improvements.

Two typical sections have been carried

forward for further analysis. This top section meets the SIS criteria and requires a minimum of 136 feet of right-of-way. A curb and gutter system is used in order to reduce the right-of-way required for the roadway improvements.

The bottom typical is similar to the SIS section. However, it has a narrower median, and the sidewalks are closer to the roadway lanes.

It requires a minimum of 102 feet of right-of-way, and it is the narrowest typical section that would meet urban design standards.

Three separate horizontal alignments have been developed for each one of the typical sections. They are a widening to the north, a widening to the south, and a best fit alignment. At the Wickham Road intersection, which is circled in red, all of the alignments tie into the recently completed improvement in conjunction with the NASA Boulevard relocation.

After careful consideration of the potential impacts of the alignment alternatives a best fit alignment for each of the two typical sections has been carried forward for your further consideration and is presented this evening.

2.0

2.2

The 50-mile per hour SIS typical section and the 45 miles per hour are independent of each other. As you can see they can be reviewed at the display boards in the adjacent room.

This aerial photograph depicts the difference in overall right-of-way requirements between the two typical sections. The area shaded in orange shows the additional right-of-way required by the 50-mile per hour alternative versus the 45-mile per hour. Let's take look at several of the engineering challenges.

The existing right-of-way for the road varies between 75 and 100 feet. This is insufficient to accommodate the proposed improvements requiring the purchase of additional property.

There are 11 utilities along the corridor.

Most of them require relocations, and service

must be maintained to adjacent users during the

construction period. This will require extensive

coordination and detailed scheduling during

construction.

The Crane Creek drainage basin has a series of canals that define the flow of storm water and

control flooding in the region. The most significant element that affects the project is the system of canals that collect and control drainage and flooding through this area. It is an extensive system, and the Ellis Road project is centrally located within this system.

More specifically, the L-15 canal lies immediately adjacent to the existing roadway, serving as an equalizing canal between the M-1 and L11 canals. While the existing canal, as can be seen in the photograph, takes on many different shapes along the Ellis Road corridors, the photos clearly reveal one major constant: It is that water is always present within the canal system.

Therefore, from I-95, which is the vertical line shown on the left, to Technology Drive, almost three quarters of the length of the project, the typical section must provide a positive canal connection system. This typical section is shown on the slide clearly indicating the additional area required to accommodate the flood control facility.

The Department of Transportation has a standard practice for the treatment of canals.

2.0

This involves setting the canal away from the adjacent travel lanes for both the safety of the motorist and the ability to maintain the canal without disrupting traffic on the roadway.

This image on the bottom road shows you an approximate dimension that is required for a 45-mile per hour speed limit with a guardrail section. Almost 75 feet for the canal treatment from the edge of pavement.

There are alternative measures that can be investigated for the canal. For example, a closed box culvert could be placed in concrete with a standard ditch construction. Another method is a closed box culvert with a sheet pile wall. And lastly, an open dish with a vertical sheet piling provides another solution.

These investigative treatments will be given further detailed consideration as the project moves into the next phase. Information gathered during this phase of the project is insufficient for engineering recommendations for those alternative solutions, but they are committed to be examined in the next phase.

Within the approximate two-mile distance between John Rodes Boulevard and Wickham Road

there are approximately 60 side street and access points. Except for the project end points, there are no signals along the project, and only one location that has a separate turning lane. This results in poor operations and the potential for numerous accidents.

2.2

In light of the future traffic that would utilize the roadway access management features will be part of the proposed improvements. They will not only improve the flow of traffic but also reduce conflict points and provide improved safety.

Access management features that will be incorporated into the project include a median that separates the opposing directions of travel. The median also provides safety for left turn movements by allowing the turning vehicle to be out of the through traffic lane. Other features of an access management plan are to reduce the frequency of median openings, reduce the frequency of signals, and have fewer side street connections. All of these items are directed to not only improving operational characteristics of the roadway but to significantly improve motorist and pedestrian safety.

The images on this slide convey the means by which conflict points and, therefore, the risk of accidents are reduced by the use of directional medians. The typical all movement intersection on a four-lane roadway has 18 major conflict locations where accidents can potentially occur.

We have the 18 major conflict points on the left side. In contrast, a directional median opening has only four major conflict points.

Along a roadway that will be required to handle almost 28,000 vehicles per day, the appropriate use of each typical and each type of opening will substantially improve the safety and operations of the facility.

Evaluation matrices of the six alternatives have been developed and they have been used in the analysis of the alternatives. They include information regarding environmental, community, and economic factors. In addition, comments from public agencies and the general public provide further items to consider.

After considering the input that has been received, we have carefully evaluated the alternatives that have been developed for the project. Let's examine the preferred

1 alternatives.

For the I-95 interchange to John Rodes
Boulevard segment, the currently preferred
alternative is a high-speed SIS urban typical
section utilizing the alternative two alignment.
It avoids conservation land to the west, has the
least effect on the Lamplighter Village
residential area, and is the least costly of the
two alternatives.

For the segment of the project between John Rodes Boulevard and Wickham Road the currently preferred alternative is the 45-mile per hour standard urban typical section utilizing a best-fit alternative. It requires the least amount of right-of-way, has the least disruption to the residential and business community, and reduces the impact to adjacent wetlands, and is the least costly.

Access Management was identified as a major component of the proposed improvements. Access Management Class Five is recommended for the I-95 interchange and Ellis Road widening project. This classification is being performed in compliance with the standards developed by the Florida Department of Transportation under

Section 335.18 of the Florida statutes in order to protect public safety, provide for mobility, and preserving the functioning and integrity of the roadway.

The recommended Class Five criteria is as follows: The median type is restrictive with median opening spacing as follows: Signals at 1320-foot intervals, full median openings at 1320-foot intervals, directional median openings at 660-foot intervals, side connections at 440-foot intervals.

However, any businesses or residences that will remain along the roadway will continue to have the access that they have today. It will be further developed in concert with you when the final design process moves forward.

The preferred alternatives have been evaluated in accordance with Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands of the Constitution of the United States of America.

There is no significant floodplain encroachment. Wetlands cannot be totally avoided, and the FDOT will work with the regulatory agencies to provide the appropriate

mitigation for the impacts.

endangered species.

1.8

A survey for threatened and endangered species has been conducted for the project. The report concludes that the proposed improvements will not affect any known or threatened or

Air quality and noise analyses were performed to identify potential impacts to adjacent properties and sites. The preferred alternative will not have any significant adverse impact on air quality. Therefore, this project meets the maximum air quality standards established by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The results of the noise study indicate that three residences are predicted to approach or slightly exceed the state's noise attainment criteria. However, since the preferred alternative will require the acquisition and removal of these residences, consideration for noise abatement measures is not applicable.

A Cultural Assessment Report has been completed for the project area. We have determined that the preferred alternative has no impact upon any archeological or historic sites.

The Federal Department of Transportation Act of 1966 provides specific protection for wildlife and waterfowl refuges, historic and archeological sites, public parks, and recreation areas. The preferred alternative has no involvement with any Section 4(f) properties.

For the segment west of John Rodes Boulevard let's recalculate. The preferred alternative is the SIS typical section utilizing alternative alignment two. East of John Rodes Boulevard the preferred alternative is the standard urban typical section with its best alignment.

In summary, the preferred alternative recommendations are consistent with the regional transportation needs. They provide the necessary capacity and safety for an SIS connector. They provide enhancements with continuous sidewalks, bicycle provisions, and improved storm water collection and treatment systems. They have least impact to the community and to the environment, and it is the least costly.

What's next? Following today's hearing we will evaluate and utilize the information that we have received to perform our final assessment of these alternatives including the no-build

alternative. We will complete the technical environmental documents and submit an environmental document with a preferred alternative recommendation to the Federal Highway Administration. When the Federal Highway Administration accepts our recommendations they will approve the environmental document and issue design concept and location approval.

The next step in our process tonight is to open the public meeting to public comment. But before we commence with the public testimony let's explain how we'll conduct the proceedings.

This is not a question and answer session. It is a time for each individual who desires to place his or her comments on the record. We do request that you limit your testimony to no more than three minutes in order for all of those who wish to testify to have an opportunity to do so. We will remind you when you are near your time limit.

We ask you to please be respectful of those who speak. We ask that you do not applaud or hiss when comments are made. The order in which I have received the speaker cards are the order in which I will call the names for those who wish

1 to speak.

1.0

All comments are being recorded by our court reporter and are placed in a transcript of this hearing. The transcript will become a part of the document that is provided to the Federal Highway Administration for review and approval.

Again, if you don't have a speaker card, feel free to raise your hand and a speaker card will be provided to you.

We realize that many individuals prefer to provide their comments in writing rather than at a public setting. Direct contact information with the Department and the consulting team project managers is included in the handout that was provided today and can be found on our project web site. Written comments can be made to the individuals identified on the handout or directly to the web site.

Comment forms were made available at the sign-in table and will be mailed to the pre-addressed location or dropped in our comment box in the adjacent area. Written comments postmarked through November 5, 2012 are considered to be a part of this hearing. You may send your comments to the addresses previously

_

indicated or on the pre-stamped or pre-addressed comment form that was provided to you.

I have two speaker cards. I will call the names of those that have completed them and they will be in the order received. And hopefully I will be able to do my best to pronounce the names accordingly. After I call your name please approach the microphone in the center aisle, state your name, your full address prior to making your statement. If you represent an organization, municipality or other public body, please provide that information as well.

Again, we ask that you speak directly into the microphone so that our court reporter will be able to be certain to complete the record and get your comments.

The first speaker card that I have is from Shirley S. VanDiver.

MS. VANDIVER: I've got one question. I know I am supposed to ask a question but they said you would identify --

MR. KRISTOFF: Please give us your name and address.

MS. VANDIVER: Shirley VanDiver. We own two properties on Ellis Road. Our home address

is 2455 New York Street. It's in West Melbourne.

I've got one question. They said that you would identify any city officials that were a representative here at the meeting. Could you do so?

MR. KRISTOFF: I know there are some city officials, and we will ask them to stand after we've heard your comments.

MS. VANDIVER: Well, it referred to my comments as well. We've owned one property on Ellis Road since 1985. We bought -- which we have retired from the business that we own, but we still own the property and building. We have rentals that provide our retirement income. We built a second property on Ellis Road at 495 Stan Drive, and that was also towards our retirement income. We have been self-employed previously for 30 years; thus, we had no other retirement income. This is our retirement income.

We have been involved in this expansion of the roads for the last probably 15 or 20 years because we're a property owner, the first being at Melbourne Airport probably 15 years ago. At that time your drawings continued right straight down the middle of Ellis Road. And I have an

objection to what you have done with the drawing at the present time.

The one you are leaning towards is the best fit which comes right smack in the middle of our building, both buildings, even the new one. When we put the new building up approximately five-and-a-half years ago, I asked for enough setback so it wouldn't be affected at all, parking, building, whatsoever, and they approved the plans in the City of Melbourne at that time.

I am not happy with the way you've done it.

You keep insisting that it can't go down the middle. You're ripping up everything in there.

Nothing is going to remain the same. The road isn't going to be located exactly. I see no reason whatsoever why you can't maintain the road down the middle and take a little bit off the north and a little bit off the south. That's my objection.

It wouldn't affect -- it would affect everybody a little bit but nobody a lot. The explanations that you personally provided to us earlier in the evening make no sense to me whatsoever.

As far as these limited access, it's an

industrial area. We have lived in the area for approximately close to 40 years. And that four-laning of I-95 the engineers did and gave us limited access, to me it creates more of a problem than it did previously. This is an industrial area. Limiting access and having tractor trailers have to make U-turns in that road is ridiculous.

Okay. Just one other thing real quick. I'd like to know if anybody's here from the City of Melbourne. I saw Stephanie Eley from the City of West Melbourne earlier. So, I assume she is still here.

When I talked to City of Melbourne they said that the cities were supposed to be impartial.

Nobody is supposed to tell what their favorite is or non-favorite is. We attended a meeting in the City of West Melbourne and they are recommending hold the south. Uhm. I wonder if it could be that's their tax base. They're taking all their property and wanting to keep it. City of Melbourne, really doesn't matter to them. That's my opinion.

MR. KRISTOFF: Thank you very much for your comment. Mr. Scott Morgan.

1.2

MR. MORGAN: Good evening. Scott Morgan,
City Manager, City of West Melbourne, 2240 Minton
Road, West Melbourne, representing the City.

Back in June the West Melbourne City Council did go on record supporting the project. We think that it's a very important project, and so, certainly the interchange and the recommended alternative carrying that forward, the SIS alternative, alternative two is a very good alternative. It has less impact on Lamplighter Village, and we support that alternative for the interchange.

With respect to the Ellis Road segment, we do support the hold the south, wide north alternative. We believe that will have less utility location. It has less total property acquisitions than the SIS alternative, and we believe it forces a solution for taking advantage of the right-of-way the county has for the drainage. And spending project dollars on drainage and fewer dollars on right-of-way acquisition is something that our city supports.

So, I just want to go on record as we do support the hold south, wide north alternative.

Again, the 45-mile an hour standard urban is

certainly better because it also requires less acquisition of business properties. So, because you're carrying that forward, and it appears that the SWA's role will allow the 45-mile an hour standard urban as opposed to the SIS, that's a better project than the 50-mile an hour which requires more right-of-way. West Melbourne commented although we would support either. Certainly if FHW would approve the 45-mile an hour standard urban, that is better, less impactful for the environment, business community, and City of West Melbourne and FHA will approve the standard urban for that section. Thank you very much.

MR. KRISTOFF: I understand the Mayor of Melbourne is with us.

MS. ELEY: I just want to let everybody know
I'm councilwoman for the City of Melbourne and
I'm here to listen. We -- I'm on the
Transportation Board too. So, we did see this
project, but it hasn't been brought it forward to
Melbourne for their comments.

MS. MEEHAN: Kathy Meehan. I'm here to listen.

MR. KRISTOFF: I do not have any other

2.2

speaker cards. However, if someone wishes to make a comment, you may do so if you step to the microphone, but we would ask you to complete a speaker card after you have completed your comment.

Seeing none, we hope that you have really had an opportunity to view the displays that are in the other room. We will be here through 7:00 p.m. this evening and our personnel, the department's personnel will be available for further dialogue.

And again, I want to thank you all for participating and taking your time and providing us with your attention. Any comments that we receive will be incorporated into the record, and this does conclude the official public testimony portion of the hearing. And I will close the official public testimony at 6:40 p.m. Thank you very much.

(Public meeting closed.)

MR. O'BRIEN: I just want to say that I oppose the preferred alternative route, and I will inform them in writing my preference.

(This concludes these proceedings.)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER I, Patricia A. Migliaccio, RMR, Court Reporter do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did report the foregoing proceedings, and that pages 2 through 29 are a true and correct record of my stenographic notes. Dated this 16th day of November, 2012 at Melbourne, Brevard County, Florida. CRR, RMR, CLR, FPR, CCR(NJ)

PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPT CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on Oct. 25, 20/2, beginning at 5:00 p.m., I presided

over a Public Hearing for the following project:

I-95 / Ellis Road Interchange and Ellis Road from I-95 to Wickham Road (CR 509)

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

Brevard County, Florida

Financial Project ID: 426905-1-22-01

I further certify that the Public Hearing was conducted relative to the economic and social

effects of the location and design concept for the subject project and its impact on the

environment, that a transcript was made and the document attached herein is a full, true,

and complete transcript of what was said at the Hearing, and that the Florida Department

of Transportation has considered the social, economic, and environmental effects of the

proposed improvement and is of the opinion that it is properly located and should be

constructed.

Mary McGehee, Hearing Moderator

Mary M Sekee

Date

August 20, 2015