

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

State Project No.: 99007-1402

Federal Aid Project No.: IR-9999(43)

Budget Item No.: 7140004

F.E.I.D. No.: 59-2087895

In accordance with the Florida DOT Project Development and Environmental Guidelines, this public involvement plan is submitted to the District Project Development and Environmental Engineer for review and approval.

Submitted by: Greiner, Inc.

Date: May 21, 1990

Approved: _____
(PD&E Engineer)

(Date)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

This plan is in compliance with the Florida DOT Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) Guidelines, Florida Statute 339.155, Executive Orders 11990 and 11988, CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and DOT Order 5610.1C.

I. Description of Proposed Improvement

State Job No.: 99007-1402

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Project Limits: I-275 from Howard Franklin Bridge eastward to the Dale Mabry Highway interchange and shall be documented as an Environmental Assessment; the Himes Avenue interchange eastward to 50th Street interchange on I-4 and north to the Buffalo Avenue interchange on I-275 and the Crosstown Connector in the vicinity of 30th Street on I-4 southward to the Crosstown Expressway and shall be documented as an Environmental Impact Statement.

Level of Significance: Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement (EA & EIS).

II. Identification of Concerned Public

The following local, regional, state or federal agencies having a concern in this project due to jurisdictional review or expressed interest have been identified and will be contacted directly by the Florida Department of Transportation or through the early permit coordination process and throughout the life of the project. As other concerned public agencies are identified throughout the study, they also will be listed and contacted.

STATE: Florida Department of Environmental Regulations
Florida Department of Natural Resources
Florida Department of State, State
Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Planning and Budget, Office of the Governor
Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission

FEDERAL: Federal Highway Administration
Federal Aviation Administration
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service
U.S. Coast Guard

REGIONAL: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

LOCAL: City of Tampa, Department of Public Works
City of Tampa, Department of Planning
City of Tampa, Department of Recreation
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority
Hillsborough County Expressway Authority
Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission
Hillsborough County Aviation Authority
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department
Tampa Port Authority
Hillsborough County Department of Parks & Recreation
Centers
Hillsborough County Department of Public Works
City of Tampa Police Department
Pasco County Sheriff's Department

The following individual citizens, property owners and local, state and national public interest groups having a direct or expressed interest in the project study will be identified and contacted either by the Florida Department of Transportation or its consultant to assure participating in the permit coordination process.

Owners of property falling in whole or in part within 300 feet of the centerline of the proposed project. (FS 339.155)

Local elected and appointed officials:

City of Tampa
Hillsborough County
City of Temple Terrace
Pasco County
State and Federal Legislative Delegation
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce

Representatives of:

Suncoast Chamber of Commerce
Ybor City Chamber of Commerce
Tampa Parkway Association
Tampa Downtown Association
Westshore Development Association
Other public interest organizations

III. Public Notification

During Phase II Studies a continuation of all media forms utilized during Phase I along with the project office, phone service and speakers bureau shall be stressed.

The following techniques will be employed to notify the public of the proposed transportation improvements and to solicit public input into the project development process.

Identification of mass media used to carry public notices, news releases, public service announcements, news items and interviews:

NEWSPAPERS: The Tampa Tribune
 The St. Petersburg Times
 The Clearwater Sun
 The Tampa Bay Business Journal
 Florida Business Tampa Bay

RADIO:	WLFF	WYNF	WRBQ
	WQYK	WAMA	WUSA
	WRXB	WDAE	WYOU
	WSUN	WFLA	WHBO
	WTIS	WPDS	WNLT
	WWBA	WMNF	WTAN

TELEVISION: WTVT-TV Channel 13, WXFL-TV Channel 8, WTSP-TV Channel 10, WTOG-TV Channel 44, WFTS-TV Channel 28, WEDU-TV Channel 3, WUSF-TV Channel 16.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION TECHNIQUES TO BE USED IN THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:

Project Office with toll free information phone service
Speakers Bureau
Invitational and information letters
News releases to the media
Public Notices - advertisements
Public Announcements

Computerized direct mail list - the following will be contacted by direct mail in order to obtain input into the project development process and/or in order to provide project information:

- Owners of property within 300 feet of the centerline of the proposed transportation improvement (FS 339.155);
- Local elected and appointed public officials;
- Individuals who request to be placed on the mailing list for this project.
- Public and private groups, organizations, agencies or businesses that request to be placed on the mailing list for this project.

ADVISORY GROUPS

The Project's 25 Member Agency Task Force and the 12 Member Citizens Advisory Committee will continue as Phase II begins. Both groups will convene on an "as needed basis" to discuss issues as they occur throughout the project's development process. The Agency Task Force will be comprised of the following agency representatives:

City of Tampa, Department of Public Works
City of Tampa, Department of Planning
City of Tampa Police Department
Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority
Hillsborough County Expressway Authority
Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission
Hillsborough County MPO
Hillsborough County Aviation Authority
Hillsborough County Department of Public Works
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department
Pinellas County MPO
Pasco County MPO
Pasco County Sheriff's Department
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Coast Guard
Southwest Florida Water Management District
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Tampa Port Authority
MPO/LRT Consultant Team (Ex-officio)
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Florida Department of Environmental Regulations
Florida Department of Natural Resources

The consultant will assist the Department in organizing the Project Agency Task Force and will provide logistical support to the Department through the study.

The Citizens Advisory Committee (formed during Phase I) will provide direct contact with corridor users, land owners, businesses and residents. Members include representatives or local governments and key associations:

Westshore Development Association
University of Tampa
University of South Florida
Tampa Tribune
Tampa Downtown Association
Tampa Parkway Association
Ybor City Chamber of Commerce
Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
Tampa Mayor, Sandy Freedman or Appointee
Representative James T. Hargrett
Hillsborough County Commission Chairman or Appointee

IV. Public Meetings

The following information meetings will be held to involve the public and interested agencies in the project development process and to inform interested parties of the project's current status:

- A second notification in the form of an Introductory or Kickoff/Coordination meeting announcing Phase II shall be held with elected/appointed officials.
- One (1) Public Workshop Meeting is anticipated to publicly present the viable design alternatives for this project.
- Two (2) formal hearings will be held in accordance with state and federal law to present the proposed alternatives - one (1) hearing for the Environmental Assessment and one (1) for the Environmental Impact Statement.

V. Coordination with the Metropolitan Planning Organization

To assure project coordination with the Hillsborough County MPO, an MPO staff member has been included as a member of the Agency Task Force. In addition, the Department or its representative will

attend any Hillsborough or Pasco County MPO meetings where the project study is addressed on the Agenda.

VI. Analysis and Evaluation of Public Input

A transcript of the Public Workshop and each hearing (EA and EIS) will be developed, to include written comments received at the workshop and those received ten (10) days after the workshop and hearings.

A staff de-briefing will be held subsequent to each public information workshop and hearing to assess all issues identified and comments received. A report will be prepared summarizing the discussion of issues and comments. Issues identified in the workshops will be addressed through the preparation of follow-up newsletter, distribution of news releases or other appropriate techniques. Responses to all questions and comments not answered at the workshops will be made in writing.

VII. Public Hearing

In compliance with the Federal Law, Florida Action Plan and Florida Statute 334.211, a public hearing will be held for the Environmental Assessment and the Environmental Impact Statement once the concept design alternatives have been presented. At this public hearing the public can formally offer data concerning the project. The hearing is usually held with an informal format (PD&E Guidelines Manual, Part 1, Chapter 8-2.8.2).

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT: Legal Advertisement will be noticed in the Tampa Tribune.

LETTERS OF INVITATIONS: Letters will be written to all property owners as required by Florida Statute 334.211 and to local government officials to notify them of the upcoming public hearing.

HEARING PREPARATION: Tape recording, slide presentations, graphics and handouts will be prepared to supplement the oral public hearing presentation.

TRANSCRIPT: A transcript of the public hearing will be developed, to include written comments received at the hearing and written comments received ten (10) days after the hearing. The transcript will then be forwarded to the FHWA Division Office.

VIII. Public Hearing Follow-Up

The following procedures will be undertaken after the public hearing.

RESPONSES: Responses to all questions and comments not answered at the public meeting will be made in writing.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Public notice will be provided by mail and/or by newspaper advertisement as to where the study document is located for public review.

RECOMMENDATION NOTICE: A legal notice announcing the Federal Highway Administration's approval of the final document and recommendations will be published in the Tampa Tribune. In addition, news items detailing the Department's recommendations to FHWA will be provided to the local media.

IX. Public Information During Design

Public information techniques will be employed during the design process to inform the public of the project's status.