



US 17/92 Hinson Avenue

Project Development & Environment Study



WHO TO CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding the US 17/92 Hinson Avenue PD&E Study, please contact:

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CONTACTOS:

Si usted tiene preguntas sobre el Estudio de PD&E de US 17/92 Hinson Avenue, por favor comuníquese con:

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WEBSITE

www.swflroads.com/us17-92/hinsonave/s1stto17th/

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 Cynthia Sykes, FDOT District One Title VI Coordinator, by email at Cynthia.Sykes@dot.state.fl.us.

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US 17/92 Hinson Avenue

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

From South 1st Street to 17th Street - Polk County, Florida



FPID No: 431351-1-22-01

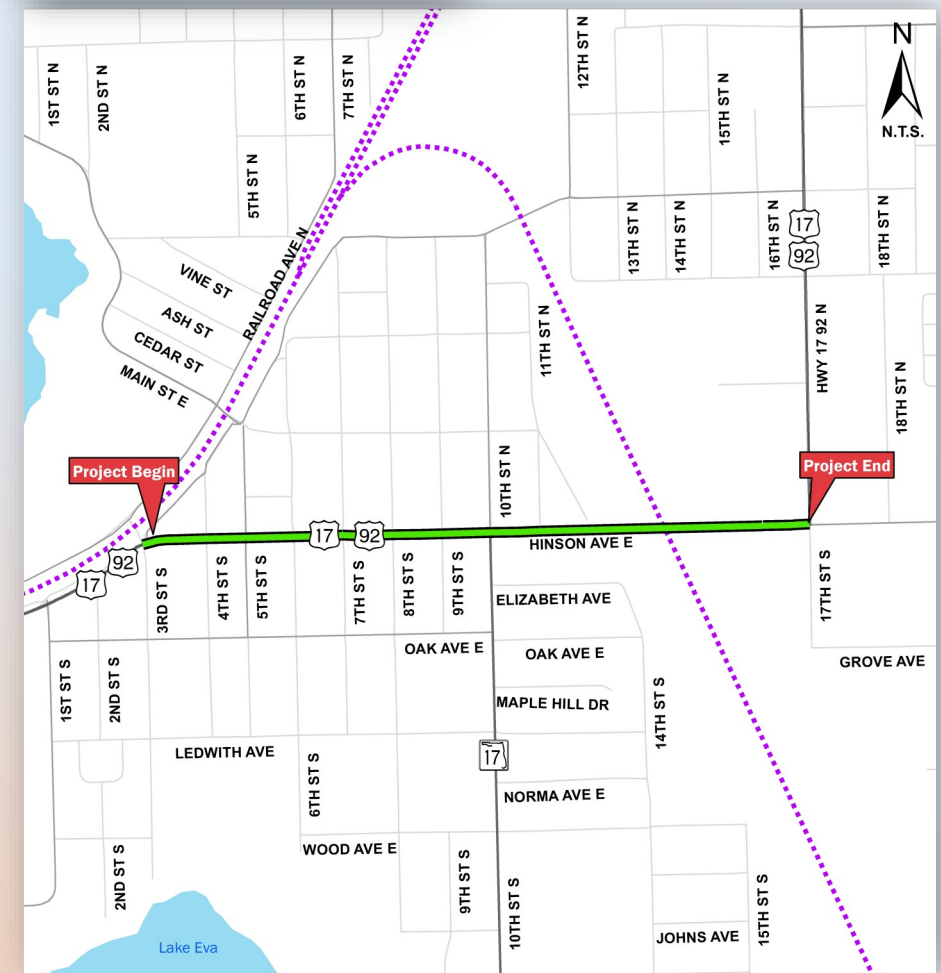
Project Newsletter

August 2020

Reaching Out To You

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One is kicking off the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study phase for US 17/92 Hinson Avenue from South 1st Street to 17th Street in Haines City, Florida. A Feasibility Study was completed as part of the first phase and is discussed later in this newsletter.

The purpose of this project is to address the deficient capacity of US 17/92 within downtown Haines City. This in turn will alleviate existing congestion on the corridor and accommodate projected travel demand to the year 2040 as a result of area-wide growth. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will be evaluated as part of this improvement providing connections to community points of interest. Other goals of the project are to enhance safety conditions, mobility options, and to improve local transportation network connectivity. Primarily running east-west, US 17/92 connects to other major facilities in the county and region. Additionally, the roadway currently experiences a higher crash rating than the statewide average for similar facilities. During the PD&E phase of the project, FDOT will work to provide solutions to the needs of the corridor as alternative alignments are analyzed.



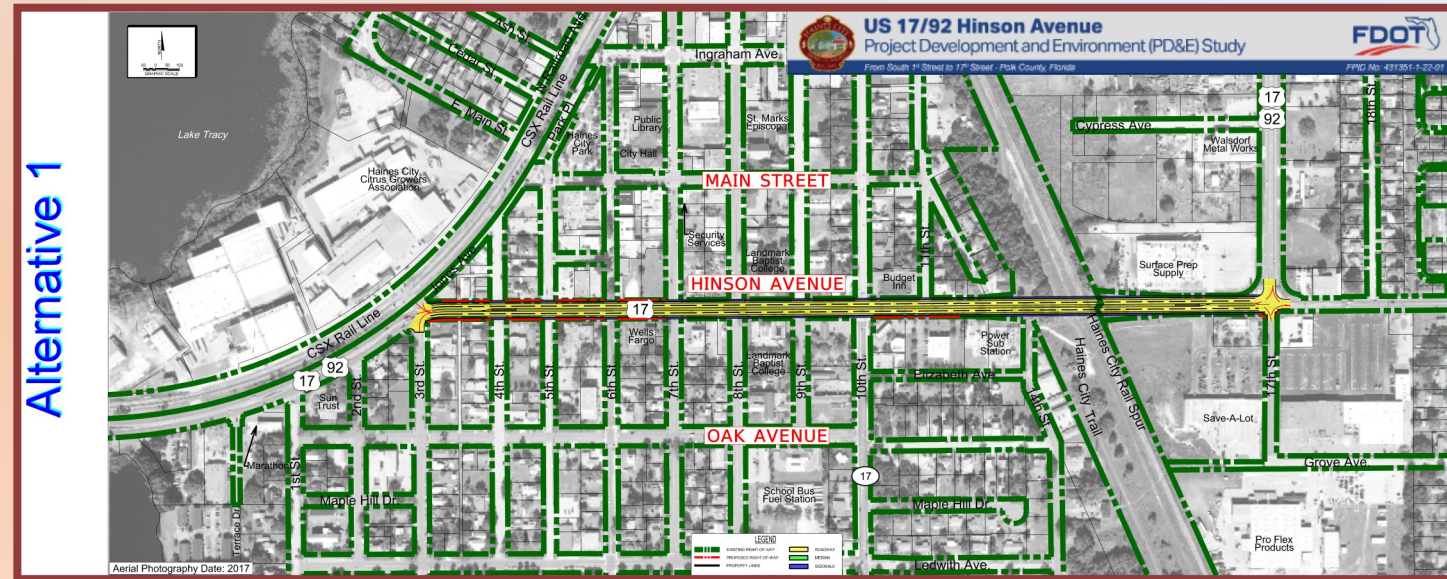
Project Study Area

As illustrated in the map on the right, the project study area passes east through downtown Haines City from 1st Street, through a railroad underpass, to 17th Street along US 17/92 Hinson Avenue.

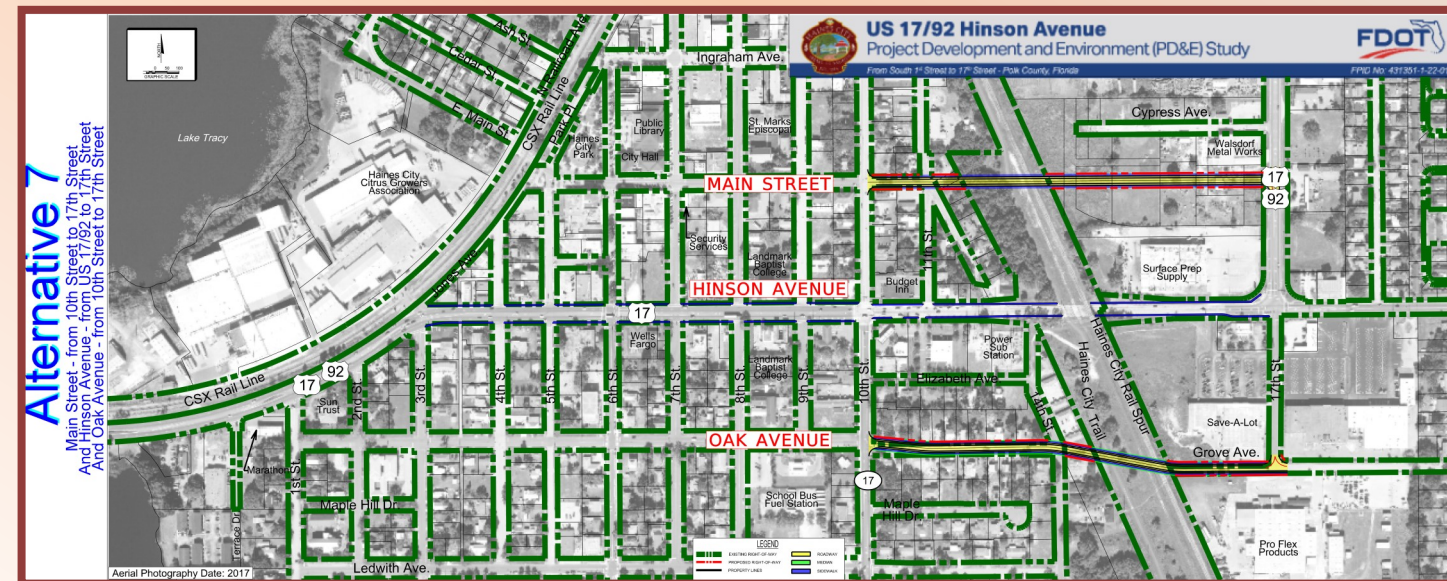
Feasibility Study Results

The Feasibility Study prepared in Phase One provided documentation of the analysis and evaluation of a series of potential alternatives that would satisfy the project needs. A total of eight alternatives were developed and analyzed based on - improvements to local and regional roadway network congestion and Level of Service (LOS), improvement to safety, improvement to emergency evacuations, and potential impacts to the natural, physical, and human environment. From the Feasibility Study, two Build Alternatives were advanced for further consideration and analysis in the PD&E Phase, in addition to the No-Build Alternative.

Alternative 1 widens the existing 2- and 4-lane Hinson Avenue to a 4-lane roadway between 10th Street and 17th Street under the historic bridge. Alternative 1 will bring Hinson Avenue into compliance with current design criteria and standards between 1st Street and 17th Street.



Alternative 7 would provide new at-grade crossing of the rail line at Main Street and Oak Avenue by extending both streets east from their current termini. In this alternative, all roadways, including Hinson Avenue will remain two lanes. Alternative 7 will bring Main Street and Oak Avenue into compliance with current FDM criteria and standards between 10th Street and 17th Street.



Both **Alternative 1** and **7** will evaluate the feasibility of potential roundabouts and alternative intersection configurations at 1st Avenue (west) and 17th Street (east).

The **No-Build Alternative** assumes that no capacity improvements will be made to US 17/92 Hinson Avenue within the project limits other than routine maintenance through the year 2045.

Next Steps

The PD&E Phase will continue to develop improvements within each of the two alternatives identified in the Feasibility Study. Over the next few months each alternative will be analyzed for alignment modifications to reduce impacts to the existing railroad. From there new alternatives will be developed, which will focus on opportunities to improve capacity, safety, and bicycle and pedestrian amenities within the study area.

Public involvement, along with the participation of local governments and cooperating agencies, assists the project team as it develops and brings alternatives forward for further evaluation. The team will present preliminary alternatives for public review at an Alternatives Public Workshop later this year. With comments received then, the department will refine and present the preferred alternatives for improvements to US 17/92 at a formal Public Hearing in the spring of 2021.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in this process and provide comments on project alternatives and issues that are important to them. Comments can be made through the project website at www.swflroads.com/us17-92/hinsonave/s1stto17th/ or by emailing the project manager at Jennifer.marshall@dot.state.fl.us. The next public meeting is an Alternatives Public Workshop scheduled for fall 2020. This is an informal open house where you can view the project team's progress to date on the development of alternatives for US 17/92 improvements.

Project Schedule

The time and location for the Alternatives Public Workshop will be announced soon. The formal Public Hearing that presents the preferred alternative concepts is tentatively scheduled for the spring 2021.

FDOT	2019		2020				2021		
	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
PD&E Phase Kick Off	★								
Develop and Evaluate Alternatives		[Yellow Bar]							
Alternatives Public Workshop						★			
Develop Preferred Alternatives						[Yellow Bar]			
Project Documentation						[Yellow Bar]			
Public Hearing								★	
Final Approval and LDCA									★

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the 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.