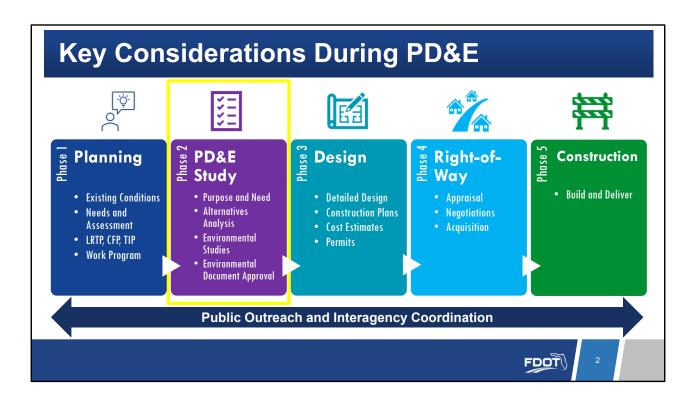


The Florida Department of Transportation, or F D O T, welcomes you to the Alternatives Public Workshop for the SR 31 Extension Project Development and Environment, or P D and E, study. We appreciate your attendance and participation.



The purpose of this P D and E study is to evaluate engineering and environmental data and document information that will aid F D O T District One and the F D O T Office of Environmental Management in determining the type, preliminary design, and location of the proposed improvements. In this presentation, we will introduce the project, discuss the purpose and need, identify the study alternatives, and explain the PD&E Study process.

In-person: This presentation will play on a loop throughout the open house tonight. The project team is available to answer your questions and project materials are on displayed for viewing.

Live Online: Following this presentation, the project team will answer your questions. You may submit your questions through the questions box at any time during or after the presentation.

Key considerations during the PD&E process include evaluating impacts and effects on the social, economic, cultural, natural, and physical environments. We also take into account specially designated resources that may be impacted as a result of the proposed improvements.

Project Location

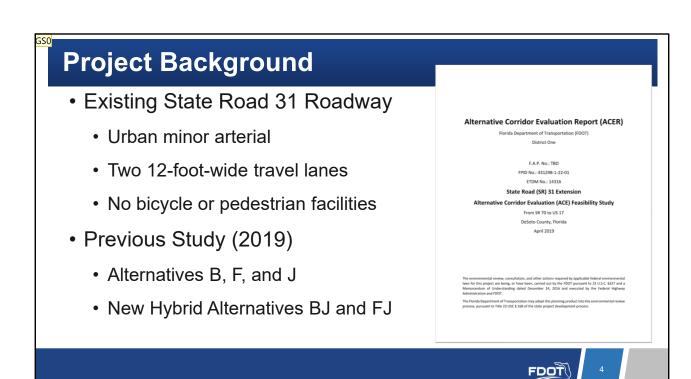
- Study limits from SR 70 to US 17
 - Northeast of downtown Arcadia
- Approximately 5 miles, depending on the alternative
- New Roadway



FDOT

The PD&E Study project limits are on SR 31 from SR 70 to approximately five miles north to US 17, depending on the alternative, northeast of downtown Arcadia, in DeSoto County.

The proposed extension of SR 31 will result in the creation of a new corridor.



Within the project limits, SR 31 is classified as an urban minor arterial with two 12-footwide travel lanes, intermittent turn lanes, and an open drainage system. The posted speed limit on SR 31, near its intersection with SR 70, is 45 miles per hour. In addition, no bicycle or pedestrian facilities are present in this portion of the study area.

An earlier study was completed in 2019 to identify and evaluate reasonable corridor alternatives for the extension of SR 31. The previous study recommended five corridors for further evaluation. Those corridors are the subject of this PD&E Study.

Purpose and Need

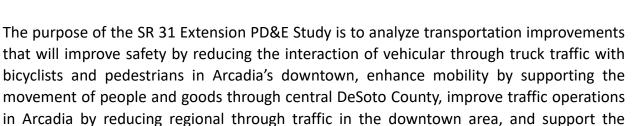
- Improve Safety Conditions
- Enhance Mobility
- Improve Traffic Operations
- Support Local Economic Development Goals

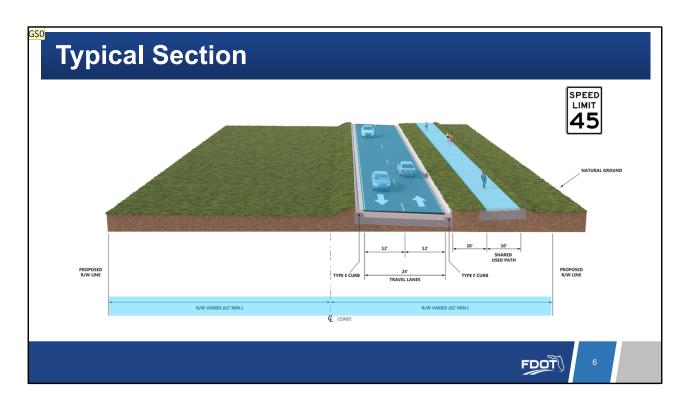
economic development goals for northeast Arcadia identified in local future land use plans.



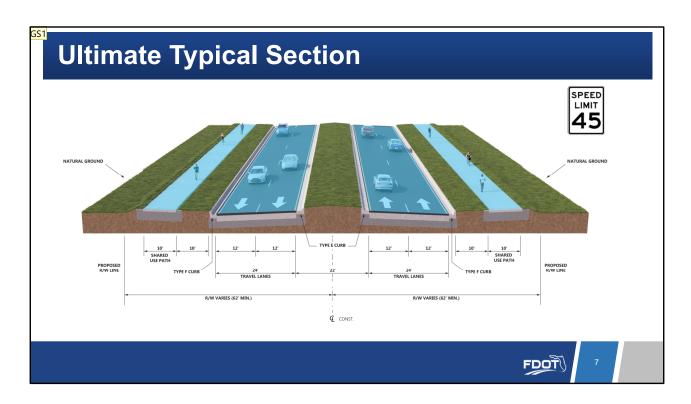








The typical section shown here is being proposed for this new roadway with an overall width of 124 feet. The typical section will fit within the larger corridor footprint of 250 feet and provide for variation within the corridor alignment. An initial phasing is shown here, including two 12-foot-wide travel lanes and a 10-foot-wide shared-use path.

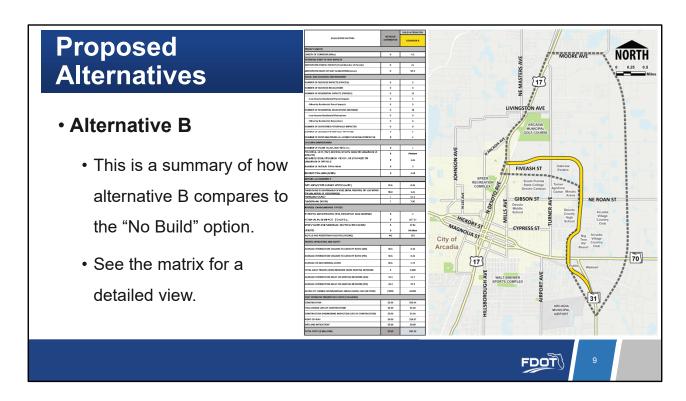


This initial phasing typical section would be expandable to a four-lane divided roadway to create the ultimate shown here. Both sides of the roadway include two 12-foot-wide travel lanes and a 10-foot-wide shared-use path. The roadway context classification would change from an urban minor arterial to a rural town and the speed limit will remain 45 mph.



The proposed extension of SR 31 includes five alternative corridors. The project team has kept the same corridor names from the 2019 study. Let's review each alternative.

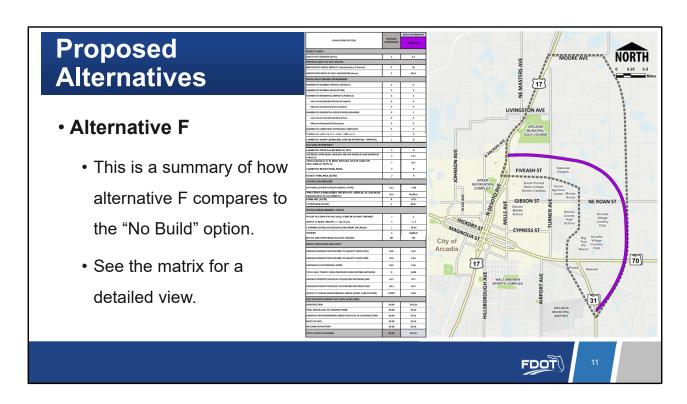
Alternative B begins south of SR 70 and ends at US 17, north of NE Fiveash Street. The total corridor length is approximately 3.7 miles. Alternative B runs along the western study area boundary, west of Big Tree RV Resort.



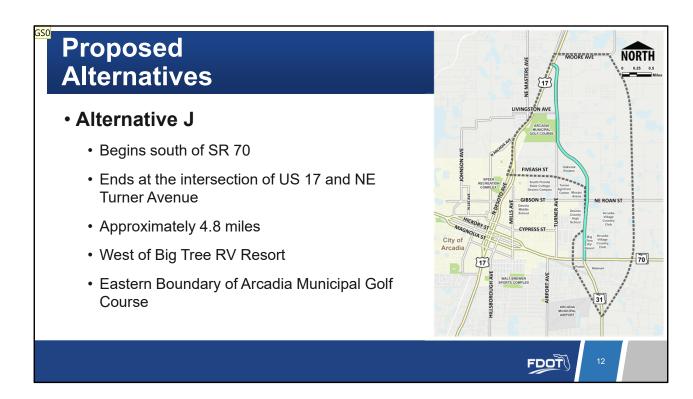
Based on the analysis completed so far, this is a summary of how alternative B compares to the "No Build" option.



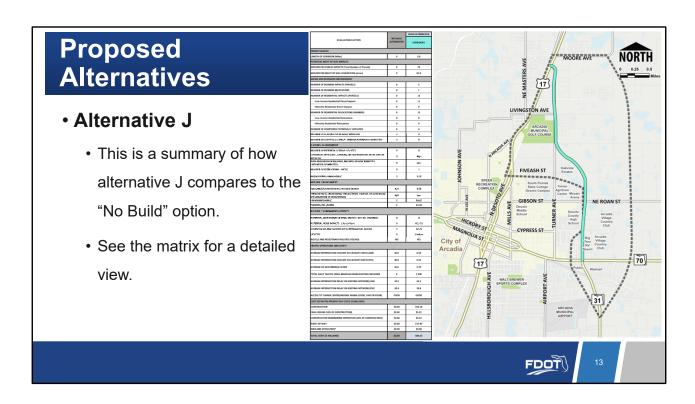
Alternative F begins south of SR 70 and ends at US 17, north of NE Fiveash Street. The total corridor length is approximately 4.3 miles. Alternative F runs along the eastern boundary and to the north of Oakview Estates.



Based on the analysis completed so far, this is a summary of how alternative F compares to the "No Build" option.



Alternative J begins south of SR 70 and ends at the intersection of US 17 and NE Turner Avenue. The total corridor length is approximately 4.8 miles. Alternative J traverses west of Big Tree RV Resort and follows the eastern boundary of Arcadia Municipal Golf Course.



Based on the analysis completed so far, this is a summary of how alternative J compares to the "No Build" option.

Proposed Alternatives

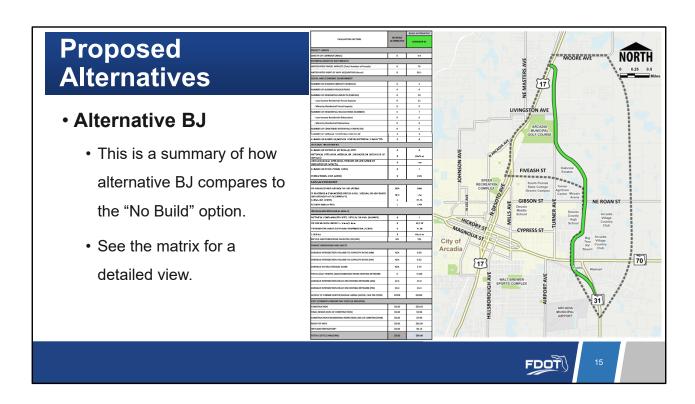
Alternative BJ

- Begins South of SR 70
- Ends at the intersection of US 17 and NE Turner Avenue
- Approximately 4.3 miles
- West of Big Tree RV Resort
- East of Arcadia Municipal Golf Course

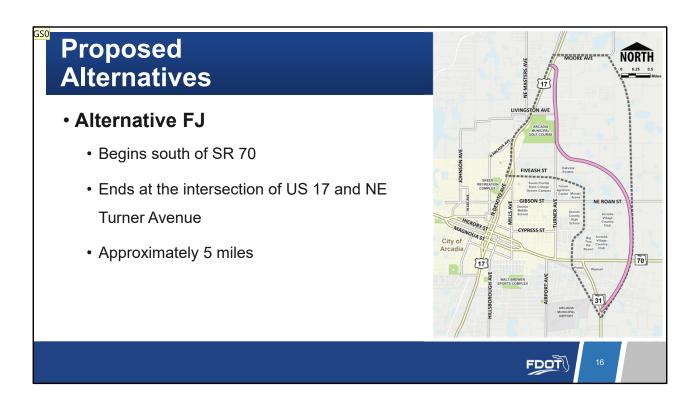




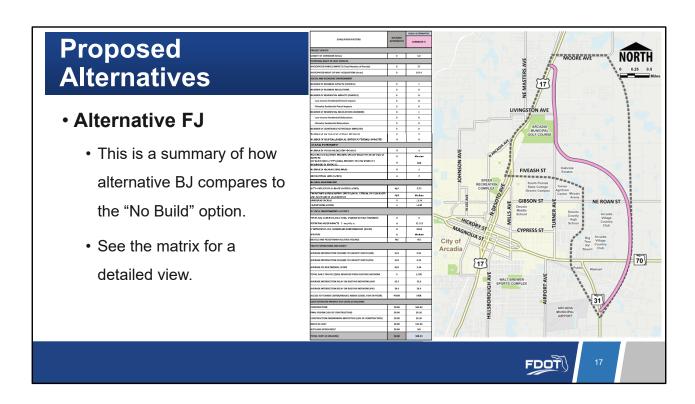
Alternative BJ is a hybrid combination of both Alternative B and Alternative J. It begins south of SR 70 and ends at the intersection of US 17 and NE Turner Avenue. The total corridor length is approximately 4.3 miles. Alternative BJ traverses west of Big Tree RV Resort and follows the eastern boundary of the study area and Arcadia Municipal Golf Course before terminating at US 17 at NE 17th Avenue



Based on the analysis completed so far, this is a summary of how alternative BJ compares to the "No Build" option.



Alternative FJ is a hybrid combination of both Alternative F and Alternative J. It begins south of SR 70 and ends at the intersection of US 17 and NE Turner Avenue. The total corridor length is approximately 5 miles. Alternative FJ runs along the eastern boundary of the study area and then follows the eastern boundary of Arcadia Municipal Golf Course before terminating at US 17 at NE 17th Avenue.



Based on the analysis completed so far, this is a summary of how alternative FJ compares to the "No Build" option.

Proposed Alternatives

- Includes evaluation of a No-Build alternative
 - No improvements through the year 2045
 - · Routine maintenance will still occur











Throughout this study, a "no-build" alternative is also considered. The "no-build" alternative assumes that no improvements are made to SR 31 through the year 2045 ("twenty forty-five"), except routine maintenance.

Environmental Effects

- Protected species and habitat
- · Wetland and floodplains
- · Water quality and Stormwater management and permitting
- Air quality
- Right-of-way requirements and relocations
- Contamination
- · Archeological and Historical Resources
- Noise
- · Land use
- · Construction effects
- Farmland
- Aesthetics



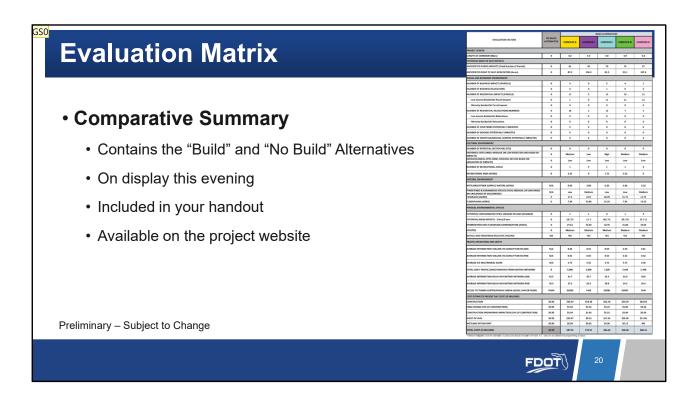




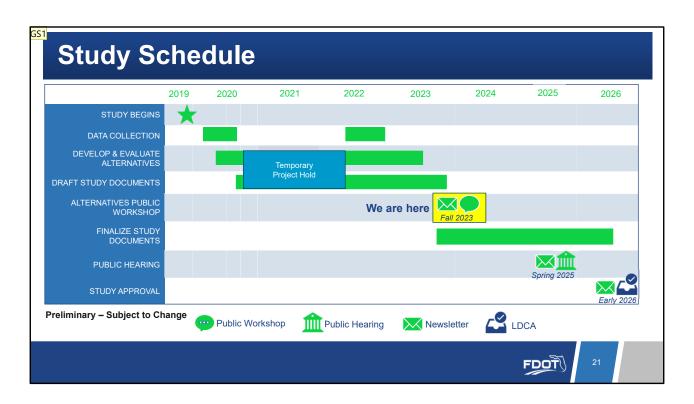
This P D and E study is ongoing. Project team members will continue to develop, refine, and evaluate alignment alternatives for SR 31 throughout the remainder of the study. Potential environmental effects associated with the proposed build alternatives are under careful evaluation and include detailed studies of

- Protected species and habitat
- Wetlands and floodplains
- Water quality and Stormwater management and permitting
- Air quality
- Right-of-way requirements and relocations
- Contamination

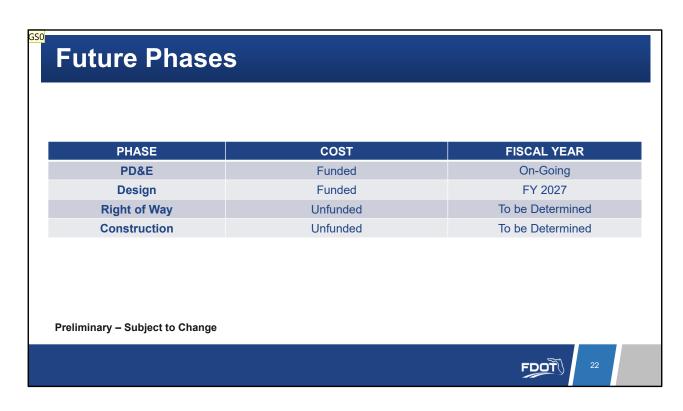
- Archeological and Historical Resources
- Noise
- Land use
- Construction effects
- Farmland and
- Aesthetics



The evaluation matrix included in your handout shows a summary of results of preliminary analysis for the "Build" and "No-Build" alternatives. This matrix is also on display this evening.



The project team has been working on developing and evaluating alternatives and preparing study documents. Following tonight's Alternatives Public Workshop, the project team will review feedback and begin developing the preferred alternative and final study documents to be presented at a public hearing tentatively scheduled for Spring 2025. Location and Design Concept Acceptance, or L D C A, is anticipated to occur early 2026.

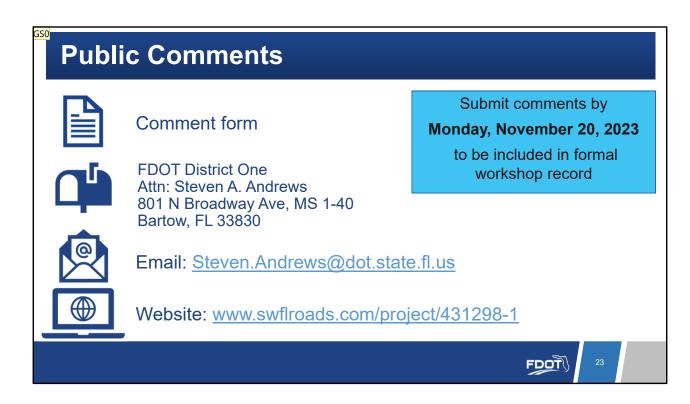


The Department anticipates completion of this P D and E study by early 2026, when the location and design concept of the preferred alternative will be submitted to the F D O T Office of Environmental Management for approval.

Funding for design is identified in the FDOT 5-Year Work Program for Fiscal Year 2027.

Design, right of way, and construction funding are identified in the 2045 Cost Feasible Plan of the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization or HRTPO's Long Range Transportation Plan.

FDOT will continue to work with the HRTPO to ensure that planning consistency is maintained for future phases.



The purpose of this Alternatives Public Workshop is to provide you the opportunity to ask questions and express your views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed alternatives under consideration. F D O T is also asking local governments and regulatory agencies to provide comments about the project.

Your comments will help the Department to make its selection of the preferred alternative. We encourage you to submit your comments in any of the following ways: at the in-person meeting, through the project webpage or by email or mail to the project team.

Though comments are accepted at any time, they must be received or postmarked by **Monday, November 20, 2023**, to be included in the formal workshop record. The project team will consider all comments, and where feasible, will incorporate them into the development of the preferred alternative.

The SR 31 Extension study team is here tonight to answer your questions and discuss the project. We invite you to ask them your questions and to review the aerial maps, plans, and illustrations on display.



We will mail project newsletters to keep you informed about the study's progress. If you would like to receive future newsletters and you are not on our mailing list, please fill out the workshop comment form or request to be added on the project webpage.

PD&E Study Compliance

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required to 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 May 26, 2022, and executed by FHWA and FDOT.



This P D and E study is being conducted and completed according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and other related federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, which qualify future phases of this project for federal funding. For additional information on all rules and regulations this meeting follows, please see the Federal and State Requirements Board.



Thank you for your interest in the proposed improvements to SR 31 and for taking the time to participate in this workshop. We look forward to your comments and your continued involvement in this important P D and E study.

And finally, an FDOT safety moment. [Embrace the space. Keep the distance from the driver in front of you.] FDOT thanks you for making safety a continued priority!

