



Alternatives Public Meeting Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

State Road (SR) 31 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from SR 80 (Palm Beach Boulevard) to SR 78 (Bayshore Road) Financial Project Number: 441942-1

1. *Where can I find information to learn more about the study?*

Information about the study can be found on the project webpage at <https://www.swflroads.com/project/441942-1>. All documents and materials presented at the public meeting are available for review on the Documents and Publications page.

2. *Where can I find information on adjacent projects for State Road 31 and State Road 78?*

For additional information about the SR 31 Design-Build project from SR 78 (Bayshore Road) to Horseshoe Road/Lake Babcock Drive, please visit the project webpage at <https://www.swflroads.com/project/442027-2>.

For additional information about the ongoing SR 78 (Bayshore Road) PD&E Study from I-75 to State Road 31, please visit the project webpage at <https://www.swflroads.com/project/444937-1>.

3. *When will the study be complete and when will construction start?*

The study is expected to be complete in the spring of 2024. At this time construction is not funded in the FDOT Five-Year Work Program.

4. *Given the time frame to start and complete a project of this size, will simple, inexpensive changes be made in the short-term to improve traffic flow?*

Interim mitigations will be investigated by the FDOT District 1 Traffic Operations group as the project progresses.

5. *Do the alternatives take into consideration projected growth and future traffic demands along the corridor?*

Yes, the alternatives were developed to account for future development and traffic demands along the corridor. FDOT uses a federally approved travel demand model, that accounts for future land uses, to estimate future traffic volumes.

6. Why is the bridge being moved to the east instead of just widening the existing bridge?

Due to the condition and age of the existing structure, widening this structure is not feasible.

7. Why was a moveable bridge considered when it is higher in cost?

The moveable bridge was considered as it provided a lower height and has a reduced impact to the viewshed. All viable alternatives were considered as part of this study, including the No-Build alternative.

8. Will a new bridge impact marine life?

Impacts to protected aquatic wildlife species will be avoided by implementing standardized construction methods during construction such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions.

9. Will the intersection of SR 31 and SR 80 be improved?

Yes, several options were evaluated to accommodate future traffic volumes through the intersection. The options included an at-grade conventional signalized intersection and a grade-separated flyover option (two flyovers) to accommodate the heaviest traffic movements.

10. How will traffic proceed with the flyover alternative?

The grade-separation flyover would introduce two new flyover bridges for SR 31 and SR 80 movements:

Southbound SR 31 travelers such as those coming from Lee Civic Center or Babcock Ranch, who want to go eastbound on SR 80, would use the flyover bridge. These travelers coming from the north will cross over at the proposed signal on SR 31. Similarly, eastbound SR 80 travelers, including those coming from Fort Myers who want to go northbound on SR 31, would use the flyover bridge. These travelers will cross over at the proposed signal on SR 31. Westbound SR 80 travelers who want to go northbound on SR 31 would turn right (at-grade) and proceed onto SR 31.

11. How will traffic be managed during construction?

A detailed traffic management plan for construction will be developed during later stages of the final design phase.

12. What considerations are being made to mitigate noise?

A traffic noise analysis will be conducted following FDOT policies and procedures as the project advances, that will evaluate the potential impacts to adjacent property owners and possible mitigation measures as needed.