



ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SUMMARY

Date: October 4, 2023 & October 12, 2023
Time: 5 – 7 p.m.
In-Person Location: UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County, Twin Lakes Park, Green Building, 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, FL 34231
Attendees: 28 (in-person) + 15 (virtual) Citizens and 1 Government Official
Public Officials: Paula R. Wiggins, P.E. (Sarasota County)
Media: ABC7 - WWSB
Staff in attendance: FDOT District One Staff: Steven Andrews, Adam Rose, Emily Barnett, Janella Newsome, Jesse Moss, Cynthia Sykes, Jeffrey James, Karina Della-Sera, Ryan Ellis, Lisa Sheets
Consultant Staff: Cris Schooley, Marc Ispass, Michael Garau, Katie Gleason, Sarah Johnson, Siobhan Gale, Kaylee Bledsoe, Nicole Selly, Catherine Winter, Valerie Ciudad-Real, Dakota Larsen

Summary

FDOT conducted the State Road (SR) 72 (Clark Road) Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study Alternatives Public Information Meeting to present information about the preliminary alternatives and provide the opportunity for the public to express their views about the project. The public meeting was conducted in both an in-person and online format. The in-person meeting facility was selected because of its proximity to the project corridor. The facility was easily accessible with ample parking and met all ADA requirements. Additionally, meeting materials were posted to the project webpage swfroads.com/project/444634-1 on September 27, 2023.

In-Person Option

Wednesday, October 4, 2023
5 – 7 p.m. Open House
UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County
Twin Lakes Park, Green Building
6700 Clark Road
Sarasota, FL 34231

Live Online Option

Thursday, October 12, 2023
6 – 7 p.m.
fdot.cc/SR_72_PDE

A total of twenty-eight (28) citizens and one (1) government official signed in at the in-person meeting. A total of fifteen (15) citizens joined the online meeting. This provided a total of forty-four (44) people that attended the SR 72 (Clark Road) PD&E Study Alternatives Public Information Meeting.



The Public Meeting was advertised in the following manner:

- Email to Elected Officials – Distributed on September 6, 2023
- Email to Appointed Officials – Distributed on September 7, 2023
- Email to Interested Parties – Distributed on September 8, 2023
- Email to ETAT Members – Distributed on September 6, 2023
- Newsletter to Property Owners – Mailed on September 7, 2023
- Florida Administrative Register – Published on September 22, 2023
- FDOT Public Notice Website – Published on September 6, 2023
- Legal Advertisement – Published in The Herald-Tribune on September 27, 2023

At the start of both events, meeting attendees were provided with a handout and the project team explained the comment process. Both events provided the opportunity to view a project video and ask questions to the project team.

The following project-related information was on display at the meeting:

- Roll plots of the Build Alternative
- Project location map
- Crash History
- Project Video
- Welcome and Thank you Boards
- Typical Sections
- Floodplains
- Transportation Development Process
- Schedule and Funding
- Evaluation Matrix
- Comment Board
- Title VI
- Statutes
- Intersection Concepts
- Section 4(f)

At the in-person meeting, attendees were able to leave written comments. All other comments were submitted either by email, website, or by mail. Six (6) comment forms were received at the in-person meeting and twelve (12) were received during the 19-day comment period following the meeting, ending October 23, 2023. From the comment forms, please see below a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the project.



FAQs

What is this PD&E study for?

The purpose of the project is to identify and evaluate potential improvements to this 3.4-mile segment of SR 72 (Clark Road). These improvements are intended to improve capacity to accommodate future travel demand projected as a result of area-wide population and employment growth. Other goals include enhancing safety conditions and accommodating multimodal activity.

Can you better explain the process and give us an idea how long it will take before any improvements are made?

Generally speaking, there are five phases of the project development process. Planning, PD&E, Design, ROW Acquisition, Construction. We are currently in the second phase of this process (PD&E Study). Depending on transportation priorities, available funding, and complexities of the job, a project may take up to 10 years to complete construction. FDOT follows federal and state requirements throughout project development and works closely with governmental agencies, partners and the local community to identify new projects and move them through the production pipeline.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Will this project require additional right-of-way?

The proposed Build Alternative would need additional right-of-way, both for the roadway and for pond sites. The proposed right-of-way lines are shown on the concept exhibits.

NOISE

How do you identify who gets a noise wall and who doesn't?

After the public information meeting, the Department selects a preferred alternative and performs a detailed noise analysis. This analysis includes an evaluation of noise abatement measures with results presented at a public hearing.

ROUNDBABOUTS

Why are you proposing roundabouts?

Roundabouts have been shown to have safety and operational benefits. Roundabouts remove right angle conflicts, which lessens the speed and severity of crashes at these types of intersections. Operationally, approaching drivers only have to yield to traffic already in the roundabout, which means less time waiting at red lights.



OTHER

How will this project effect flooding, water quality, and the environment?

Only minor impacts are anticipated with the proposed Build Alternative as shown on the Evaluation Matrix. The FDOT is conducting detailed surveys and reports on these effects to be displayed before the public hearing next year.