

# Collier County Government



Transportation Division  
Planning Department  
2885 S. Horseshoe Drive  
Naples, FL 34104

Contact: Connie Deane  
Community Liaison  
239-252-8192 or 8365  
Eileen O'Grady  
Public Information Specialist  
239-252-8192 or 5801

March 14, 2008

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Wilson Boulevard Extension/Benfield Road Corridor Study Public Workshop Planned for March 26**

The Collier County Transportation Services Division invites residents, visitors, business and property owners to participate in the Wilson Boulevard Extension/Benfield Road Corridor Study Public Workshop on Wednesday, March 26 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Agnes Church, 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples. This corridor study is being conducted to identify a potential new north-south road to help improve capacity in eastern Collier County as well as to lessen traffic congestion on Collier Boulevard (CR 951), while being sensitive to environmental issues and public concerns.

The 20-mile wide study area limits include US 41 to the south, CR 951 to the west, 18<sup>th</sup> Street S.E./Miller Boulevard to the east and Golden Gate Boulevard to the north.

In recent years, Collier County has experienced significant development and population growth. This trend is expected to continue, particularly in the eastern portions of the county. This growth has strained the area's transportation network and prompted an analysis of potential ways to improve north-south travel.

A new north-south roadway is needed to create a better traffic circulation, allow for an alternate connection to Collier Boulevard (CR 951) and I-75 from US 41, improve access to US 41 and I-75 and accommodate countywide population and employment growth. In addition, the potential new roadway will serve the evacuation needs of eastern Collier County residents, enhance overall safety, and allow for better emergency access.

The purpose of the workshop is to present information about the project and study area, and to obtain public input on the location of a new north-south road. Participants will be provided a map of the study area and asked to "draw" a preferred alignment, given the constraints of the project area. Maps and exhibit boards showing these constraints and project parameters will be available to assist participants in identifying an alignment.

This is the first of two workshops. The second workshop will be held once alternative alignments have been developed so that the public will have an opportunity for comment before the study is completed. The study will be completed in summer 2009.

District 5 Commissioner Jim Coletta, in whose district this corridor study is located, would like to see as many of his constituents as possible get involved in the study process.

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“This workshop will provide an opportunity for all the residents and business owners in Golden Gate Estates and eastern Collier County to have a say in how, or if, an additional north-south roadway is incorporated into what development has already happened,” said Coletta. “This is the community’s chance to take part in an important county transportation process. With everyone’s input we can better determine where a road can best fit to assist the transportation and emergency needs, if it is determined that an alignment can be done successfully.”

County staff and consultant team members will be at the workshop to discuss the study and answer any questions from residents. Everyone is encouraged to attend and provide input.

Members of the Board of County Commissioners may be in attendance at this informational workshop.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Collier County Facilities Management Department located at 3301 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, Florida, 34112, 239.252.8380, at least two days prior to the meeting.

