

I-75 / Everglades Boulevard Interchange Justification Report

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

June 3, 2009



INTRODUCTION

Collier County Transportation Services Division welcomes you to this public information meeting for the *I-75/Everglades Boulevard Interchange Justification Report*. The purpose of this public meeting is to give you the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments on this important project. Collier County staff and members of the project team are available this evening to answer your questions.

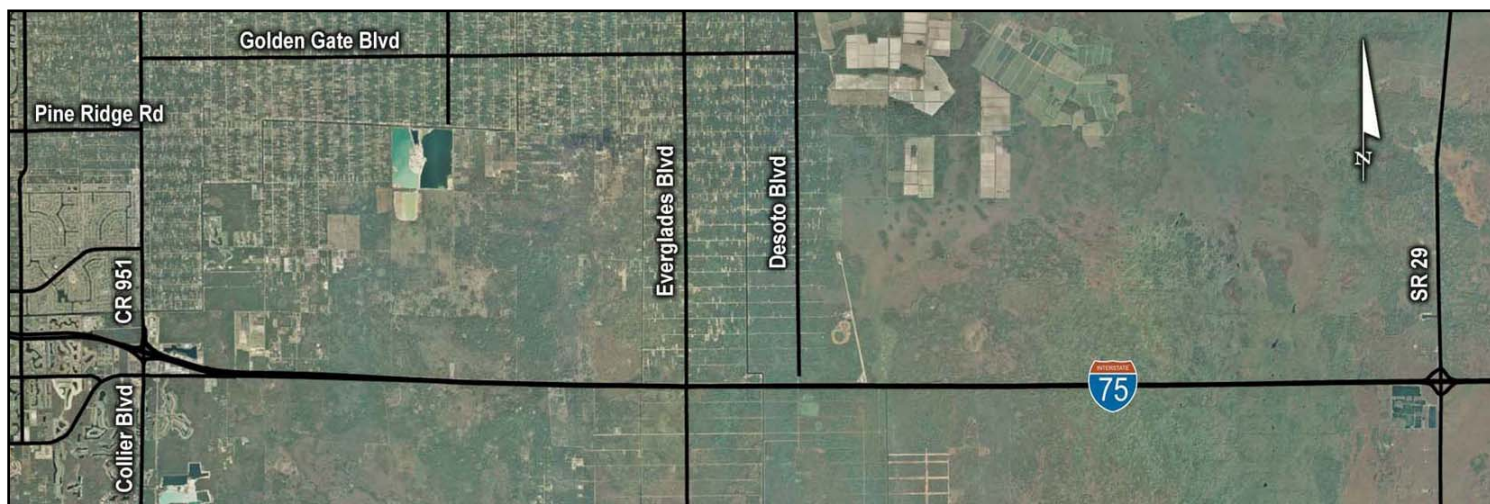
The county is developing an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) to evaluate the need for a new interchange on I-75/Alligator Alley between Collier Boulevard (CR 951) and SR 29. The project area is shown below. A new interchange along this 21-mile section of I-75 would improve mobility and interstate access for people living and working in eastern Collier County. Improved access to I-75 is especially critical during evacuation events such as hurricanes and brush fires. A new interchange in eastern Collier County would also help to alleviate some of the future traffic congestion projected to occur at the Collier Boulevard (CR 951), Golden Gate Parkway and Immokalee Road interchanges.

IJR PROCESS

An IJR is a formal proposal that documents the need for and the operational impacts of a new interchange on a limited access facility, such as I-75. The IJR for this project will address the following:

- ✓ The existing conditions of the study area roadway network (including current traffic operations);
- ✓ Reasonable alternatives to a new interchange;
- ✓ Future year traffic operations on I-75 (both with and without a new interchange);
- ✓ Environmental fatal flaws;
- ✓ Level of public support; and
- ✓ Consistency with local, regional and state transportation plans.

Since I-75 is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the IJR must be submitted to FHWA for its review and approval. It is FHWA's policy to maintain the safety and integrity of the Interstate Highway System to provide motorists with the highest level of service possible. Limiting access to only justified interchanges is critical to achieving this goal. The IJR for this project is being prepared in consultation with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One.



Project Area Map

INTERCHANGE CONCEPTS

Concepts for a new interchange at either Everglades Boulevard or Desoto Boulevard were developed after extensive data collection and travel demand modeling. These concepts are on display this evening for you to review and comment. Each concept was developed to provide safe access to and from I-75, while minimizing impacts to property owners and the area's sensitive natural resources. The county will continue to evaluate each concept based on engineering and environmental factors to determine the preferred interchange location and configuration.

WHAT'S NEXT

This public information meeting is an important element of the IJR process. The public comments received tonight will help the county determine the preferred alternative. Following this public meeting, the interchange concept evaluations will be completed and the IJR will be prepared. The study team will present the IJR recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) prior to submitting the IJR to FHWA. *The approval of an IJR is conditional upon the successful completion and approval of a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study.* FDOT is expected to begin the PD&E study in the spring of 2010.

Interchange Justification Report Schedule

Task	2008	2009												
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Begin IJR	★													
Data Collection														
Travel Demand Modeling														
Public Information Meeting							★	June 3, 2009						
Concept Development														
Alternatives Evaluation														
Prepare Draft IJR														
FDOT Review														
Prepare Final IJR														
Present to Collier BCC													★	
Submit to FHWA													★	

Project Schedule from IJR through Construction

Phase	2008			2009				2010				2011				2012				2013				2014				2015			
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
IJR																															
PD&E Study																															
Design																															
Right-of-way Acquisition																															
Construction																															

Note: The timeframes above are estimates of the time required to complete each phase. Only the IJR and PD&E Study phases, displayed in green, are currently funded.

PROJECT CONTACT

Thank you for attending this public information meeting. Please let us know what you think by completing a comment form and submitting it in the tray provided at the comments table tonight, mailing it, or faxing it to the number on the form. We encourage you to stay involved. If you would like to share your comments at any time during this project, please contact Planning Manager Michael Greene at the following address:

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