



## **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT and ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to determine the engineering and environmental effects of the proposed Central Polk Parkway. The Central Polk Parkway is proposed as a new multi-lane limited access facility in Polk County that will serve as an additional north-south route in the central Polk County regional transportation network.

The PD&E Study began in the summer of 2008. FDOT collected engineering and environmental data and developed a Draft Purpose and Need (P&N) Statement for the proposed project. The statement and the study area were presented at two public coordination meetings in March 2009.

Because the Central Polk Parkway would be constructed as new alignments, a corridor analysis was conducted in compliance with applicable regulations to identify and evaluate viable corridors that provide the desired north-south route connecting S.R. 60 to the Polk Parkway (S.R. 570) and to I-4. The study team identified 29 preliminary corridors that were presented at two public information workshops in December 2009.

The corridors were refined and evaluated based on several factors to determine the corridors that were viable for further study. As a result of the corridor analysis phase, nine recommended corridors were displayed at workshops in September 2010.

Following completion of the corridor analysis phase, FDOT developed a specific alternative alignment within each of the nine recommended corridors that best meets the purpose and need for the project. Field truthing was conducted to verify preliminary information, and an evaluation matrix was created to document social and cultural impacts, natural and physical impacts and estimated costs for each alternative alignment. The alternative alignments and evaluation matrix are shown on the handout insert.



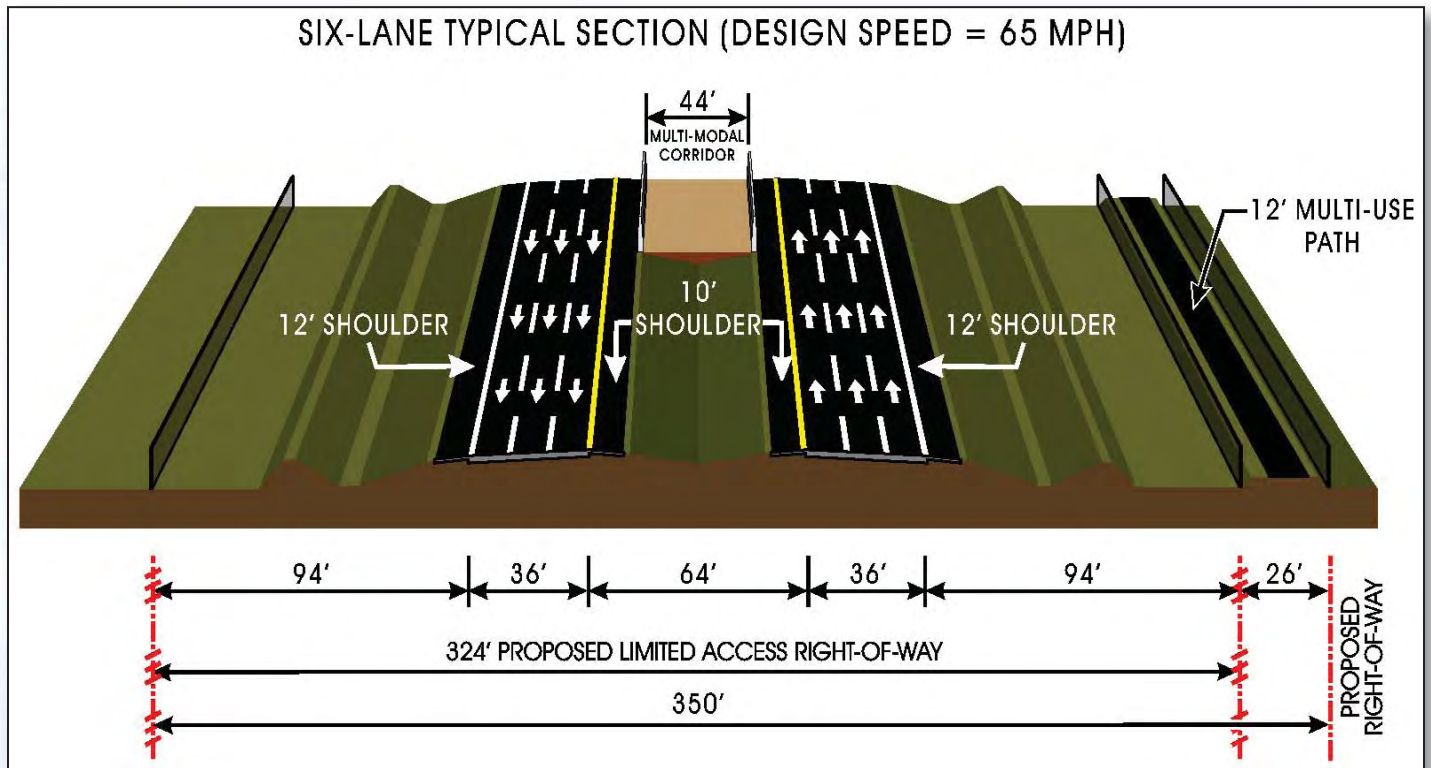
## **NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE**

The no-build alternative will remain under consideration throughout the remainder of the PD&E Study. The no-build alternative includes no construction of the Central Polk Parkway. Future traffic would be accommodated by improvements to the existing roadway network in Polk County.

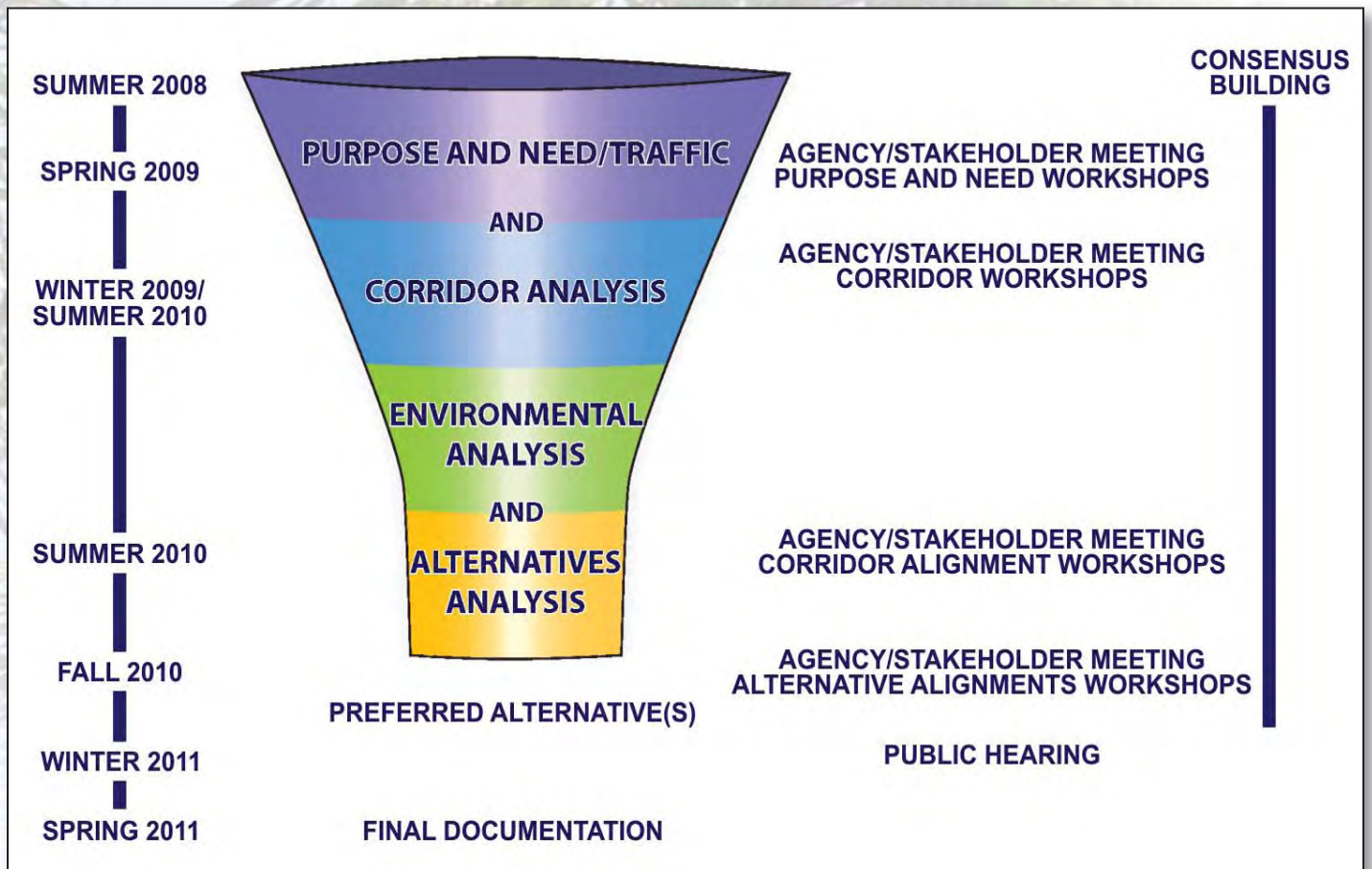
## **HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE**

We urge you to participate in this study and invite your comments and questions. Please ask questions and provide comments to FDOT representatives at this workshop. You may complete a comment sheet this evening or take it home, complete it and mail it to the project manager, Nicole Broome. You can also provide oral comments to a court reporter present at this workshop.

# PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION



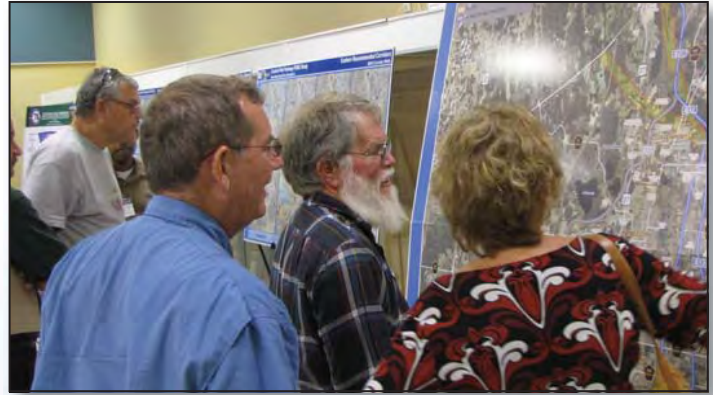
# PD&E STUDY SCHEDULE



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

FDOT will review and consider comments received as a result of the October public workshops and, together with engineering and environmental analyses, select a preferred alternative or alternatives in each leg of the study area. Impacts to the natural, social and physical environments will be updated and documented in several study reports.

The preferred alternatives will be presented at a formal public hearing scheduled tentatively for early 2011. Following the hearing, a final determination will be made. It will be submitted to the FDOT district secretary for approval that is expected in the spring of 2011. The project would then be eligible to advance to the design, right-of-way acquisition and construction phases as they are scheduled. Currently there is no funding identified for future phases of this project in the FDOT Adopted Five-Year Work Program.



## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement is an ongoing and important part of the PD&E Study. FDOT held a series of meetings in winter and spring of 2010 with representatives of several cities and towns in Polk County to provide an update on the status of the PD&E Study and receive input on local perspectives regarding the study.

In addition, the study team held meetings with Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, Clear Springs Land Company, CSX Railroad, the Polk Transportation Planning Organization, Polk County Planning and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council. FDOT gave a presentation to a group of residents of the Gordonville community in March 2010 and provided project information at the Eloise Community Day in April 2010.



## TO STAY INFORMED

If you would like to add a name and/or address to the study mailing list, please contact Nicole Broome.

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