



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

I-95 Managed Lanes Master Plan
From South of Linton Boulevard to Palm Beach/Martin County Line
Palm Beach County, Florida

Contract No.: C9065
Financial Management No.: 436576-1-22-01
FAP Project No.: Not Assigned

Prepared for:
*Florida Department of Transportation
District 4
3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309*

Prepared by:
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March 2019

W. Indiantown Rd



Linton Blvd

Interstate 95 / SR 9 Managed Lanes Master Plan

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1.0 Introduction

The Master Plan Study for the I-95 Managed Lanes from south of Linton Boulevard to Palm Beach/Martin County Line evaluates and analyzes the feasibility of implementing managed lanes along the corridor, determines potential impact of the proposed project and serves as the basis to determine if a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study needs to be conducted and to what level of detail. Results of the Master Plan Study may feed back into the LRTP Cost Feasible Plan in order to determine what project(s) will be programmed.

Public involvement for the Master Plan Study focused on engaging the adjacent municipalities and agencies having jurisdiction within the study limits with the objective of informing, coordinating, and documenting their feedback. The general public was not involved in this phase of the planning process. The public, business owners and other stakeholders will be notified and involved in subsequent phases of the project (i.e., PD&E Studies, Design and Construction).

During the course of the study, the project team conducted a kickoff meeting, alternatives meeting and final recommendations meeting with the District Management Team. In addition, several coordination meetings with Palm Beach County representatives and the Transportation Planning Agency (TPA), including Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC), were held to obtain their feedback and address comments and concerns in regards to the project.

Agendas, maps and exhibits were prepared and distributed at the meetings. Exhibits included typical sections, project alternatives and other graphic displays. Minutes were prepared for each meeting documenting identified issues, concerns, and suggestions provided to the Project Team. Meeting records are included in this Public Involvement Summary Report to document local government outreach efforts throughout the process.

2.0 Project Description

The FDOT District Four office is conducting a Master Plan Study for the I-95 Corridor from South of Linton Boulevard (MP 7.5) to the Palm Beach/Martin County Line (MP 45), a distance of approximately 37.5 miles, in Palm Beach County, Florida. The primary purpose of the study is to identify long-term capacity needs along the I-95 mainline and develop managed lanes design concepts to address any segments identified along the Corridor as operating below the Level of Service standard adopted for this facility as part of the

Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) designation. **Figure 2.1** depicts the project location and study limits for the Plan.



Figure 2.1 Master Plan Location Map

2.1 Financial Project Number

The Financial Project Number for the Master Plan is 436576-1-22-02

2.2 Project Limits

The project extends 37.5 miles along I-95 from South of Linton Boulevard (MP 7.5) to the Palm Beach/Martin County Line (MP 45).

2.3 Project Contact Information

For additional information regarding this project contact:

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3.0 Project Background

Managed lane techniques and improvements are becoming popular as a congestion management tool in urban areas across the United States because they provide active management of transportation demand and are cost-effective facilities. As transportation demands continue to rise in Florida's metropolitan areas and with limited funds available to build out of congestion, the FDOT has prioritized managed lane implementation as a congestion mitigation strategy in transportation planning. According to the FDOT Express Lanes Handbook (2015), managed lanes are defined as "highway facilities or sets of lanes within an existing highway facility where operational strategies are proactively implemented and managed in response to changing conditions with a combination of tools." These tools include access control, vehicle eligibility, variable pricing, or a combination of these tools. Express lanes, high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, reversible lanes, truck-only toll lanes, and vehicle restricted lanes are considered to be managed lanes.

4.0 Project Goals

The Master Plan was developed to meet the following objectives:

1. A comprehensive analysis identifying traffic operational deficiencies along the I-95 mainline with the timeframe(s) when improvements are needed.
2. Develop an ultimate capacity improvement plan for the corridor using traffic demand management and transit techniques to improve reliability and flow of traffic along the corridor. The alternatives to be analyzed will include:
 - a. Converting the existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane to an express lane while maintaining the existing number of general purpose lanes.
 - b. Converting the existing HOV lane to an express lane, and adding a second express lane while maintaining the existing number of general purpose lanes.
 - c. Converting the existing HOV lane to an express lane, and adding a second express lane by converting one of the general purpose lanes.
3. Consider design constraints, benefits, construction costs, right-of-way impacts, interagency coordination, and recommend a concept for further evaluation during a Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) study.
4. Define an implementation plan for the corridor including the timing and sequencing of improvements, and any right-of-way acquisition requirements.

5.0 Project Coordination

5.1 Project Fact Sheet

A project fact sheet was developed for the Master Plan Study including the following information (see **Appendix A**):

- Project Limits
- Study Objectives
- Project Schedule
- Project Status
- Contact Information

The fact sheet was updated at various stages of the study and was distributed at the coordination meetings with the agencies and municipalities. In addition, the project fact sheet was posted at the following website: <http://95express.com/related-information/i-95-managed-lanes-master-plan-palm-beach-county/>.

5.2 Project Website

Information and updates on the Master Plan study were posted at the FDOT's 95Express website under the following location:
<http://95express.com/related-information/i-95-managed-lanes-master-plan-palm-beach-county/>.

5.3 Kickoff Meetings

Kickoff meetings were held with the FDOT, Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA) and Palm Beach County representatives. The purpose of the meetings was to provide information on the Master Plan study under development by the FDOT and gather feedback on issues and concerns identified by the community. The following meetings took place at the beginning of the study. Meeting notes and handouts are provided in **Appendix B**.

Table 5.1 Project Kickoff Meetings

Agency / Municipality	Date
Florida Department of Transportation – District 4	05/09/2016
Palm Beach County MPO (currently TPA)	07/26/2016
Palm Beach County Engineering & Public Works	08/17/2016

5.4 Coordination Meetings

Agencies and municipalities in the project area were kept informed of project progress, recommendations, and meeting activities. Presentations were given to agencies and municipalities to apprise the attendees of the project status, specific location and design concepts, and receive their comments. The following coordination meetings were held during the course of the study. Meeting notes, presentations and handouts are provided in **Appendix C**. The City of Boynton Beach and Town of Lantana were unresponsive to the Master Plan's meeting requests.

Table 5.2 Project Coordination Meetings

Agency / Municipality	Date
City of Delray Beach	01/26/2017
Town of Lake Clarke Shores	07/25/2017
City of West Palm Beach	07/25/2017
City of Boca Raton	08/07/2017
City of Lake Worth	08/08/2017
Town of Jupiter	08/08/2017
Town of Mangonia Park	09/20/2017
Town of Cloud Lake	10/17/2017
Town of Glen Ridge	10/17/2017
City of Palm Beach Gardens	10/20/2017
City of Riviera Beach	10/20/2017
Palm Beach TPA	02/14/2018
Palm Beach Department of Airports	04/11/2018
City of Delray Beach	06/05/2018
Palm Beach Department of Airports	10/30/2018
City of Lake Worth	11/14/2018
City of Boca Raton	11/15/2018
Palm Beach TPA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	12/05/2018
Palm Beach TPA Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC)	12/05/2018
Town of Cloud Lake	12/06/2018
Town of Glen Ridge	12/06/2018
City of West Palm Beach	12/06/2018
Town of Mangonia Park	12/12/2018
City of Delray Beach	12/12/2018
City of Boynton Beach	12/13/2018
Palm Beach TPA Governing Board	12/13/2018
Town of Lake Clarke Shores	12/18/2018

5.5 Access Points Workshop

A workshop was held on November 7, 2017 with representatives from different offices within the FDOT to gather input regarding potential location of access points along the proposed managed lanes. A preliminary access point analysis was presented followed by an open discussion with the attendees. The workshop presentation is provided in [Appendix D](#).

6.0 Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Phase

The PD&E phase is funded for the following segments:

- SR-9/I-95 From South of Linton Blvd/CR-782 to 6th Avenue South (FM No. 444202-1) – FY 2024
- SR-9/I-95 From 6th Avenue South to North of Okeechobee Blvd (FM 444202-2) – FY 2024
- SR-9/I-95 From South of Indiantown Rd to the Palm Beach/Martin County Line (FM No. 413252-2) – FY 2025

The Department is currently pursuing funding for future phases for the segment of SR-9/I-95 between North of Okeechobee Blvd and South of Indiantown Rd (FM No. 444202-3).

7.0 Conclusion

Public Involvement activities for the Master Plan consisted of coordination with agencies and municipalities having jurisdiction within the study limits and posting of project information at the FDOT's 95Express website. The general public was not involved in this phase of the planning process. The following agencies and municipalities were coordinated with during the development of the Master Plan. The City of Boynton Beach and Town of Lantana were unresponsive to the Master Plan's meeting requests.

- Palm Beach County TPA Board, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Palm Beach County Engineering & Public Works
- Palm Beach Department of Airports
- City of Boca Raton
- City of Delray Beach
- City of Boynton Beach
- Town of Lantana

- City of Lake Worth
- Town of Lake Clarke Shores
- City of West Palm Beach
- Town of Glen Ridge
- Town of Cloud Lake
- Town of Mangonia Park
- City of Riviera Beach
- City of Palm Beach Gardens
- Town of Jupiter

Local comprehensive plans for municipalities traversed by the I-95 corridor were reviewed for consistency with the Master Plan. Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) standards for the I-95 corridor as well as transportation corridor management strategies were discussed with the municipalities and agencies to evaluate consistency with local development regulations. No inconsistencies were identified that could affect implementation of the Master Plan recommendations.

The following key items were discussed with the agencies and municipalities during the coordination meetings. Details are provided in the meeting notes included in [Appendix C](#).

- Location of managed lanes access points
- Number of managed lanes in each direction
- Managed Lanes traffic demand forecast
- FDOT policy on managed lanes
- Project segmentation and timeline for subsequent phases
- Congestion and safety concerns near Belvedere Rd
- Elevation issues along the I-95/Belvedere Rd segment
- Toll revenue policy and how it is implemented on State Highway System (SHS) projects
- Improvements along parallel facilities
- Noise concerns on I-95 southbound direction between Palm Beach Lakes Blvd and 45th Street
- Consideration of transit options as part of the study
- Safety concerns with Congress Avenue
- Existing express lanes performance and revenue statistics from Segment 1 in Miami-Dade County

- Impacts to the City of Lake Worth Water Treatment facility located south of Lake Worth High School
- Weaving and traffic turbulence at managed lanes release points
- New Development of Regional Impact (DRI) - Sonoma Isles/Jupiter Country Club
- Toll collection
- Concerns with potential direct connect ramps from Southern Blvd to I-95 Express
- Obstruction to billboard on southwest quadrant of the I-95/SR 80/Southern Blvd interchange
- Socioeconomic impacts of managed lanes implementation
- Past public opposition to improvements adjacent to the airport and neighboring roadways.
- Noise concerns
- Right of way impacts

The key items listed above were considered by the project team during the analysis and development of the alternatives. Modifications to the alternatives were made based on the input received from the agencies and municipalities. Final recommendations are consistent with the corridor preservation goal and proposed segmentation for implementation. The proposed improvements will be implemented in four projects, two of which have funds programmed for the PD&E phase. Details are provided in the Master Plan Technical Document Report, a companion document to this report. No changes to existing local rules, policies or procedures were necessary to validate the proposed corridor improvements.

It is anticipated that the PD&E Project Manager will maintain the appropriate level of public involvement activities in accordance with the PD&E Manual, Part 1, Chapter 11 - Public Involvement. These public involvement activities may include but not be limited to kickoff meetings, information workshops, and public hearings. In addition, coordination meetings with local government, environmental permitting agencies, businesses, property owners, and other stakeholders will be required as this project moves to the PD&E phase.



Appendix A – Project Fact Sheet

(Available Upon Request)



Appendix B – Kickoff Meetings

(Available Upon Request)



Appendix C – Project Coordination Meetings

(Available Upon Request)



Appendix D – Access Points Workshop Presentation

(Available Upon Request)