



# **Appendix D**

## **Public Officials / Agency Kickoff Meeting Minutes**

## SR 7 CORRIDOR EXTENSION PD&E STUDY

### Meeting Minutes

#### Public Officials / Agency Kick-Off Meeting

July 26, 2005

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Present: Beatriz Caicedo-Maddison (FDOT), Gregor Senger (FDOT), Ann Broadwell (FDOT), Steve Moore (EK), Michael Garau (EK), Sandy Scheda (SEA), Wendy Sotera (SEA), Jean Scott (SFLC), Bill Evans (Stanley), Jerry Greenfield (Ibis Civic Committee), Ray Liggins (Village of Royal Palm Beach), Bill Morris (Village of Royal Palm Beach), Bob Fredrick (Ibis Advisory Board), Harold Stern (Ibis Advisory Board), Rich Walesky (ERM), Randy Whitfield (Palm Beach MPO), Loren Shapiro (City of West Palm Beach), Ron Miedema (USEPA), Herb Fleischman (K-F Group), O'Neal Bardin, Jr. (Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District), Ken Rearden (City of West Palm Beach), Anthony Las Casas (Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District), John Wrubble (USFWS), Al Tsalnaris (Baywinds), George Webb (Palm Beach County), Zig Sledz (Palm Beach County Traffic), Mo Al-Turk (Palm Beach County Traffic), Pat Erdman (Ibis), Vinod Sandanasamy (Palm Beach County Planning), Allan Ennis (Palm Beach County Traffic), Representative Susan Bucher (Florida House of Representatives), Steve Carrier (Palm Beach County Roadway), Stuart Tyrrell (Ibis), Ed McClane (Palm Beach County Traffic), Bogdan Piorowski (Palm Beach County Traffic), Kathleen Farrell (Palm Beach County Roadway), Haney Frakes (Palm Beach County Engineering)

A kick-off meeting for public officials and agency representatives was held on July 26, 2005 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the second floor conference room at the Palm Beach County Engineering Building. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project to local, state and federal representatives and provide a forum for soliciting comments and discussing project issues.

#### Introduction

Ms. Beatriz Caicedo-Maddison welcomed everyone to the meeting and began by providing a brief project overview of the proposed extension. Ms. Caicedo-Maddison emphasized that the proposed level of documentation for this project is currently an Environmental Assessment (EA) but will be revisited with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) once the Class of Action Determination is prepared during the first quarter of 2006. This project is seeking federal funds and must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Ms. Caicedo-Maddison then introduced the consultant project manager, Mr. Steve Moore, from Edwards and Kelcey.

### Project Overview

Mr. Moore provided an overview of the project history, anticipated issues and current status. The project began several years ago with 25 alternative corridors and eventually narrowed down to 8 before the project was postponed. With the project back on track, the efforts made in the past will be utilized to move forward and select a preferred corridor by the end of the year.

Mr. Moore then introduced the environmental task manager, Ms. Sandy Scheda, from Scheda Ecological Associates. Ms. Scheda discussed key environmental issues including potential wetland impacts and mitigation options. Over 90 acres of wetland impacts will result from construction of the Persimmon Boulevard extension project and it is anticipated that another 110 acres could result from extending the County's proposed alignment to Northlake Boulevard. Scheda Ecological is currently in the process of updating and collecting environmental data. No documented contaminated sites are currently on file within the area, but some minor dumping has been noted by the project team and will be evaluated further.

Mr. Moore stressed the importance of everyone in the room serving as a core team to help build community participation and consensus. The public hearing is scheduled in approximately four years and there will be multiple opportunities beforehand for the project stakeholders to reach a consensus. The first public meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of September.

Mr. Moore introduced Mr. George Webb, County Engineer for Palm Beach County, to discuss on-going and future projects within the area. Mr. Webb began with the Persimmon Boulevard Extension Project. The project connects the acreage area with Okeechobee Boulevard and SR 7. Final design has been completed and the County is currently waiting on permit approval from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Proposed mitigation efforts will involve Section 1 in a land swap deal with the Minto development company. Section 1 will be swapped once Minto's development order is approved, currently scheduled during the month of September or October. A new design project has commenced to extend the limits of the Persimmon Boulevard project up to 60<sup>th</sup> Street and the M Canal. The Indian Trail Control District prefers for 60<sup>th</sup> Street to be the main entry into the Acreage.

Mr. Webb then proceeded to discuss the Roebuck Road project. The intent of the project is to provide traffic relief for Okeechobee Boulevard. The project has been advanced forward in the schedule since the volume of traffic on Okeechobee Boulevard has grown faster than anticipated. Okeechobee Boulevard will be ultimately widened to 8 lanes.

Ms. Caicedo-Maddison thanked everyone for their attendance and opened the room for questions or comments.

### Question and Answer Session

Question: Mr. Bob Fredrick (Ibis Advisory Board) – Are there any alignments west of the Ibis development?

Answer: Any corridor at this time is still under consideration. The area of interest falls between 110<sup>th</sup> and the Range Line, which borders both sides of the Ibis development.

Comment: Mr. Ken Rearden (City of West Palm Beach) – The City of West Palm Beach maintains the preserves at Baywinds, Ibis and the water catchment area. Drainage into the preserves will not be allowed. One option is to use a deep well injection system. Another challenge is to get across the M canal. The M canal has a special Act of Legislature controlling it. This may have to be amended to cross the canal.

Question: Mr. Bob Fredrick (Ibis Advisory Board) – Where in this process is traffic considered? Northlake Boulevard will carry traffic from Scripps with two existing signals and a possible third in close proximity to one another.

Answer: The first phase of this project is to establish and document the project need. Traffic projections generated from the future land use will be incorporated into the study. The engineering and environmental analysis will be conducted concurrently during the study.

Question: Mr. Jerry Greenfield (Ibis Civic Committee) – When the farms west of the Mecca site are developed, will that traffic be included into the study?

Answer: The land in question is currently undergoing a zoning change from 1 unit per 10 acres to 1 unit per 1.25 acres. These figures will be considered during the study.

Question: Ms. Ann Broadwell (FDOT) – Who is handling the permitting for Persimmon?

Answer: K-F Group with Jim Schnell.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.