

Hillsborough County Constrained Roads Study
Project Update
February 2007

Purpose of Study

At the request of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the *Hillsborough Constrained Roads Study* is being conducted to re-evaluate the status of constrained roads within the County, particularly within the Brandon, South County and Northwest County areas. Constrained roads are those that are considered unfeasible for future widening or improvement due to high cost, negative community or environmental impacts, government policy or other reasons. Many of these roads that have been identified as constrained have been grandfathered in from previous long range transportation plans as much as twenty years ago. As a result, this study is evaluating whether or not these constraints still apply.

Methodology/Alternative Analysis

Once future year (2025) congestion was identified using the travel demand model, seven alternative model runs were completed testing various packages of transportation improvements on both constrained and unconstrained roads. These model results were used to evaluate the impacts on travel demand. In addition, safety, environmental, right-of-way, and public input were also included as evaluation criteria for each alternative. Additionally, a windshield survey was conducted at the beginning of the study to assist in identifying constrained corridors that could potentially be removed from the constrained roads list. State routes that were previously constrained solely due to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) policy were removed from the constrained roads list as the FDOT policy limiting state routes to six lanes was rescinded. These alternatives and preliminary thoughts on changes to the constrained roads list were presented to the public in November 2006.

Preliminary Recommendations

After the November public workshops, evaluation of the alternatives was completed, including incorporation of feedback received from the public. Subsequently, two final model runs were conducted and preliminary recommendations have been developed. These recommendations include removing certain roads from the list, as well as the addition of other roads not currently on the list. Please see the attached map for details. In addition, it is being recommended that the County restrict future widenings of County roads to more than six lanes.

Public Workshops in February

The purpose of the February 2007 workshops is to present the preliminary recommendations for a refined list of constrained roadways, based on the results of public comments and the evaluation process. These are the last series of workshops before a final recommendation is made to the BOCC in April 2007. The workshops are scheduled as follows:

1. Tuesday, February 20, 2007, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Brandon Community Center)
2. Wednesday, February 21, 2007, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Folsom Elementary School Cafeteria)
3. Thursday, February 22, 2007, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Jimmy B. Keel Library Auditorium)

Next Steps

After the public workshops listed above, the preliminary recommendations listing which roads should be removed or added to the constrained roads list will be finalized and presented to the BOCC for approval in April 2007. For further information, please contact Ned Baier, AICP, Project Manager, Hillsborough County Planning and Growth Management, at 813-272-5849.