**NOTES FROM JENNIFER MARSHALL - FDOT**

E-Mail & Phone

I am writing on behalf of the Riviera Dunes Community in Palmetto.  Our residents have a strong interest in your PD&E project because so many of the Alternatives negatively impact our Community.  We are wanting to follow the progress and participate with Public Input where possible.  Since your introduction to our residents at State Representative Wengay Newton’s Transportation Summit in February, we understand that the Florida Legislature approved the PD&E/EMO Study and the Governor signed the funding for FY 2020 ( July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020).  Additionally, you have made several presentations to Manatee County, City of Bradenton and City of Palmetto most recently week of October 7th, 2019.  We have also found the following Project Planned Actions on the FDOT website.  We assume that the project is just getting underway at the end of October and that a PD&E Contract is targeted to be executed by 6/30/2020 with the other Activities to be completed by 10/1/2020.

*We are currently beginning the procurement process for the consultant to perform the work on this project. The project advertises on Monday, 11/18/19 and we will execute the contract in May 2020. The schedule that you show below is showing placeholders until we have an official project schedule in place. We won’t have that official project schedule until after the contract executes in May.*

*The study will be completed in two phases – an Alternatives Corridor Evaluation (also known as an ACE) and the PD&E study (also called an Environmental Assessment or EA). We anticipate the first phase, the corridor analysis, will take between 12-18 months. We anticipate the second phase, the PD&E Study, to take 3-5 years. Please note that these are estimated timeframes and are subject to change once the study begins.*

Our Community is particularly interested in opportunities for Public Input before decisions are made and would like to better understand the detailed plans for evaluating the 11 Alternatives developed by the CMNAA Study.   Also, how is the best way for us to follow the Project?  Are there more detailed monthly or quarterly reports available on the FDOT Website?

*After the consultant is selected and the contract for the project is executed in May 2020, the consultant will prepare a new website for the Bradenton Palmetto Connector Study. This website will be separate from the Central Manatee study website. We will have a kickoff meeting and kickoff announcements that will let everyone know where they can find information on the website. Prior to the project website going live in May 2020, anyone interested in the project can feel free to email or call me for information on the project. Also, as we discussed on the phone, I am available to come out to your community early next year to discuss the project and provide feedback.*

*Please note that the 11 Alternatives that were developed for the Central Manatee Study have been reduced to 6 corridors to be included as a part of the phase 1 of the project, the ACE evaluation. During this phase, we will only be determining the most viable corridors for the proposed roadway improvements, we will not be evaluating at-grade or elevated roadways.*

Finally, David Hutchinson advised us that the “near term” recommendations to improve Downtown Bradenton congestion were also being funded.  Is that also a portion of your PD&E Project or a separate effort?

*The Downtown Bradenton improvements will begin design in May 2020. It is a separate effort from the Bradenton Palmetto Connector Study, which is focused on addressing regional congestion. The design project Manager, Ben Clayton, and I are working closely together to ensure that both projects work in sync with each other.*

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to working with FDOT to develop a mutually acceptable solution to Manatee County’s future traffic needs.