



The **community's connection** to our on-going studies...
from introduction, through alternatives, to final recommendations

EDITION 2
JULY 2003

Kickoff Meetings Attract Large Crowds...



May 7 Meeting...

Begins the Process

An estimated 240 residents, business owners and interested parties attended the public kickoff meeting on May 7, 2003 for the West Virginia Corridor Study and the I-95 Crossing Study. The meeting was held in the Port St. Lucie Community Center to discuss proposed project improvements.

The two projects include an Interchange Justification Report for a new interchange at I-95 and the West Virginia Corridor Study which proposes a new corridor from the proposed I-95 interchange, along Juliet Avenue, crossing over Florida's Turnpike, along West Virginia Drive to Floresta Drive.

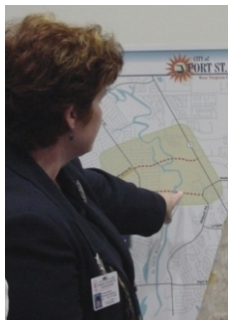
Preliminary project information was provided including aerial photographs with proposed project alignments. A preliminary cross-section of the new corridor was also available for review. The new section, ranging from 280 ft to 330 ft in width, revealed a 4 lane roadway section with a wide landscaped median. Meandering 8-foot multi-use sidewalks with landscaping flanked both sides of the roadway. Landscape berms were also illustrated to buffer the residential areas from the new corridor.

(continued on page 2)

Public Kickoff meetings were held during May and June for the Third East West Transportation corridor projects. These meetings signal the beginning of the study process for three of the largest road projects the City of Port St. Lucie has ever undertaken. The three projects collectively propose a new east-west transportation corridor to provide relief to the ever-increasing traffic congestion within the City.

"We have been planning these projects for more than 15 years," said City Engineer Walter England. "It is good to finally see them really get started."

The study team of Keith and Schnars, P.A. and Culpepper Terpening, Inc. presented information about the study processes, preliminary project information and proposed project schedules. Informational videos, each tailored for the two meetings, were shown to provide project information. "Since we expected large crowds, we wanted to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to hear all the project information" said Vicki Smith, project director for Keith and Schnars, P.A. "We felt that playing a video continuously during the meeting was the best way to present the information." The four-hour open house meetings also provided an opportunity for the attendees to review the project display information.



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Project Hotline:

*To better serve you,
the project hotline
has been changed to
a "toll-free" number,*

**1-866-StLucie
1-866-785-8243**

Willing Sellers List:

Is your home located along West Virginia Drive or Juliet Avenue? Call to be placed on the Willing Sellers List at:

Property Acquisition Information:

772-344-4386

Selection is currently underway to be a member of the Citizens Discussion Group. Call the project hotline to get more information.

Project Hotline:

**1-866-StLucie
1-866-785-8243**

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May 7 Meeting..

Begins the Process (continued)

Attendees were encouraged to review the project information and to share their thoughts, opinions and suggestions with the City and consultant staff. Thirty-four written comment forms were received ranging from strong support and endorsement of the project to concerns regarding direct impacts to the environment and community and potential noise impacts. All comments received will be evaluated and will become part of the public record.

Currently, the City proposes to fund the West Virginia Corridor Study that has an



expected completion date of 12 months. In an effort to obtain state and federal funding for the design and construction of the proposed interchange at I-95, this study must follow Florida Department of Transportation procedures and is expected to take about 24 to 30 months to complete.

June 5 Meeting was held for the...

Third East-West River Crossing Study

The third study in the east west trilogy is to provide a new river crossing within the City. This study was unveiled at the Public Kickoff meeting on June 5, 2003 in the Port St. Lucie Community Center. Over 250 residents, business owners and interested parties reviewed available information during the four-hour open house.

Following the same format as the May 7th meeting, information was presented about the study process, as well as, preliminary project information and the project's schedule. The River Crossing project proposes to utilize state and federal funds and will be processed as a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. This PD&E Study will evaluate the need for a third east-west crossing over the North Fork of the St. Lucie River to connect US 1 to the proposed West Virginia Corridor.

Information regarding the PD&E study process was provided including listings of the topics to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement, the highest level of investigation as required by the federal and state governments. The study will evaluate the potential impacts to the natural, physical and social

environments and examine engineering solutions to avoid or minimize those impacts. Multiple potential alignments will be evaluated, as well as, a no build scenario. The ten-minute video provided an overview of the study and the PD&E process.

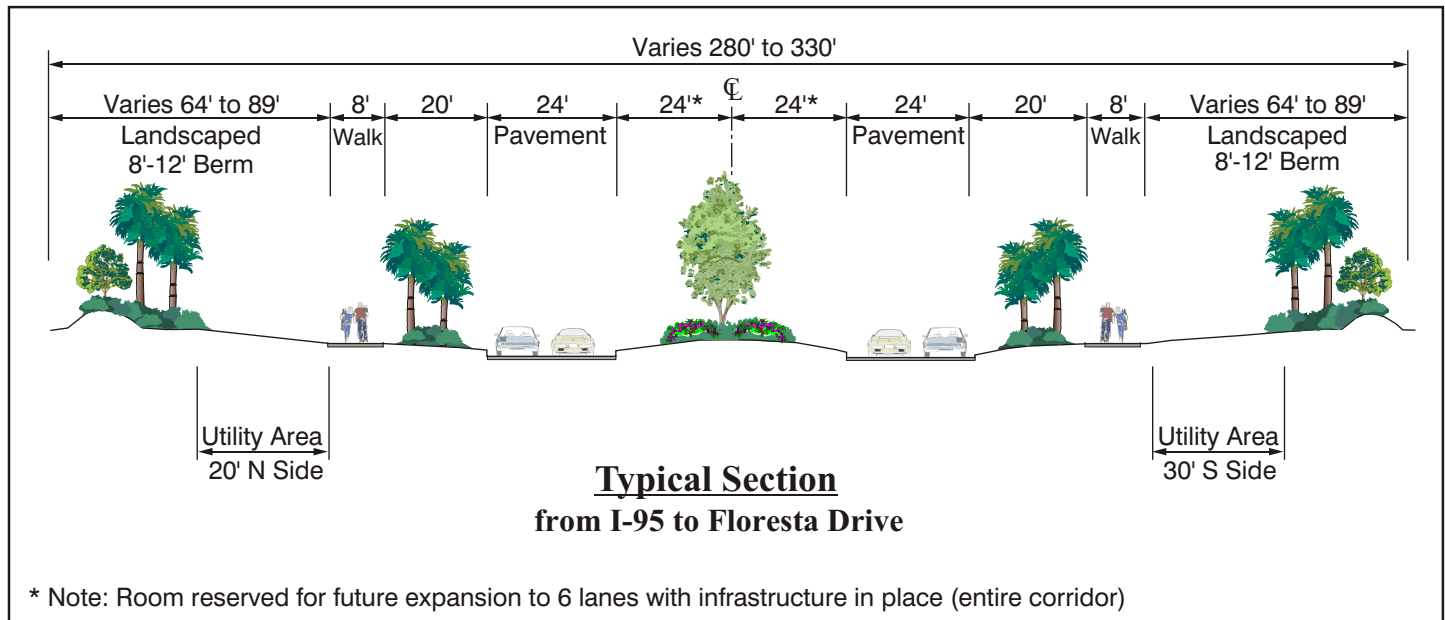
A critical part of selecting alignments and improvement options will be gathered through the public involvement process. "Gaining public support is a big part of the process", said Mr. England. "We know there are a lot of issues to be resolved, but we believe that we can work together to find a solution that works." Forty-six formal written comments were received.

The study is anticipated to be completed in early 2006.



West Virginia Avenue

Proposed Corridor



Direct Link... To Project Information

Want to access current information on the project or find out when the next public meeting will be held? Want another copy of the project newsletter? Can't remember the project hotline number?



Log onto the internet at www.cityofpsl.com, then click on *Third East West Transportation Corridor Studies* to go to the project web page. Once on line expect to find answers to all your questions. The site includes project overviews, the latest project information, maps of the projects, current projects schedules and proposed sequence of construction for all three projects.

Looking for ways to be more involved? Opportunities for you to hear more about the projects and voice your opinions will be provided throughout the study process. Click on *Get Involved-Meetings* to get information regarding upcoming meetings and summaries of previous meetings.

Concerned about potential impacts to your property? Click on *Property Acquisition Information* to access a direct link to the legal department to obtain information regarding the property acquisition process, maps and legal department contacts. Currently, the City is purchasing properties along the proposed corridor from I-95 to Floresta Drive. Click on *Willing Sellers List* to begin the purchase process for your property.

Just got a few minutes and want a quick update on the project? Click on *What's New!* to quickly access the latest postings and highlights about the project. And remember to keep logging back on. This is a dynamic site and information will continually be posted as it becomes available.

Still didn't find the answer to your question? Then click on *Contact Us* to find the toll free project hotline and give us a call. We look forward to hearing from you.



KEITH and SCHNARS, P.A.
ENGINEERS, PLANNERS, SURVEYORS

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Fax: 407-834-8530

Project Hotline: 1-866-785-8243
www.cityofpsl.com

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Public Kickoff
Meetings were held
at the Port St. Lucie
Community Center

The process has begun!

*(see inside for
highlights)*

What's Next...

For Study Project Schedules?

Now that the kickoff meetings for the projects have been conducted, what's next? "For the next several months we will be doing a lot of data gathering and looking at preliminary concepts," reported John Flora, senior project manager for Keith and Schnars. "This is one of the busiest parts of the project schedule." Over the next few months, the project teams for the River Crossing will be in the field evaluating the existing environmental conditions at the North Fork of the St Lucie River and the social environments within the surrounding neighborhoods. All this information is mapped on aerial maps and potential preliminary roadway alignments will be proposed, evaluated and some discarded. Viable alignments will be discussed with the environmental regulatory agencies, presented to the project advisory committees and reviewed with the public.

The West Virginia Corridor project will also be faced with a busy schedule. "Given that the alignment for the roadway is set, it is my job to work on the engineering details of the new roadway," said Stef Matthes, senior vice president for Culpepper & Terpening, Inc. "Once that information is defined, we will be working with the project committee and the public to develop the aesthetics of the corridor."

The I-95 Crossing study will also be working behind the scenes to gather existing traffic data and intersection geometry. Given the detailed nature of the traffic modeling exercises, a report is prepared and submitted to FDOT to gain their approval on the proposed methodology for the study, before running the actual models.

Expect to see public meetings in the fall to provide the next update on the projects.

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