



MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 1, 2007 - 9:00 AM
Re: SR 40 PD&E Study
Steering Committee Meeting No. 8

Attendees: See sign-in sheet

Meeting Handouts: Meeting Agenda and PowerPoint Presentation slides

Alex Hull, with Inwood Consulting Engineers, gave some welcoming and introductory statements to the group. He stated that the purpose of the meeting is to walk through the information that will be presented at the Alternatives Public Workshop on August 14th.

Alex directed the group's attention to the PowerPoint presentation. He discussed the matrix evaluation of the build segment alternatives. He mentioned that the matrix will be displayed on a large board at the upcoming Alternatives Public Workshop.

Next, Alex gave an explanation of the build segment alternatives, the costs and showed the group graphics illustrating each of the typical sections.

Brian Stanger, with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), asked why the right-of-way costs for the stormwater management ponds and floodplain compensation have not been included. Alex explained that they do not have the costs yet. He stated that they will add them in once they are ready.

Alex next gave an overview of the alternatives in each segment. He explained that, in Segment 1, the rural typical would be the preferred alternative due to the higher design speed. Alex stated that a meeting with the City of Ocala will be set up in order to discuss the possibility of sharing the cost of the trails in that segment.

Alex mentioned that, in Segment 2, they are not carrying the trail past Wayside Park due to feedback from Marion County and Greg Slay with Ocala/Marion TPO. He added that they will present the information to the Ocala/Marion TPO in order to get their concurrence with the decision.

Alex stated that, in Segment 3, the suburban south widening is more expensive than the others. He explained that the urban /rural pavement savings typical will save money. He stated that the urban roadway typical, in the Forest Corners area, meets the design standards and will save significant right-of-way by reducing the border width.

Brian asked if the urban roadway has been reviewed by others at FDOT. Alex stated that he has discussed it with George Borchik. He mentioned that he will be meeting with George on Thursday for a review before the Alternatives Public Workshop and will discuss it further with him then.

Next, Alex discussed the pond alternatives. He stated that the preliminary pond alternatives are set. Alex explained that they are planning to have a separate pond station at the Alternatives Public Workshop. The station will have a drainage engineer available to discuss the pond alternatives with the landowners and interested attendees. He explained that they have met with the USFS, SJRWMD and FDEP to discuss the pond alternatives. Alex stated that he will draft a letter to SJRWMD from USFS stating that it is acceptable to allow stormwater runoff to discharge into high recharge areas. Alex added that he would send the draft of the letter to Rick Lint and Jim Thorsen, with USFS, for review.

Brian asked if the pond alternatives for each roadway alternative are similar. Alex confirmed that they are similar.

Alex discussed the status of the Ocklawaha River Bridge. He indicated that they are homing in on a mid level bridge. Alex explained that they added an alternative that has a shortened the bridge and a wildlife crossing to provide for an ecotone connection. He stated that the fill and wall costs have caused the cost of a shorter bridge versus the cost of the current length to converge. He mentioned that floodplain compensation and extra pavement costs have not been included and will increase the cost of the shorter bridge. Alex indicated that they will need to look at how much money is being saved by shortening the bridge and evaluate whether or not the tradeoff is worth it. He showed the group the graphics illustrating the bridge typical section alternatives as well as the profile of each. He also showed the group the preliminary cost matrix for the alternatives.

Alex talked about the wildlife crossings committee meetings. He gave an overview of the dates of the meetings and the wildlife crossings approach. He mentioned that the last two meetings were especially productive. Alex showed the group the changes to the project connectivity statement that were suggested at the last wildlife crossings committee meeting. Alex next gave an overview of the wildlife crossing objectives. He explained that the committee screened and evaluated the crossing alternatives to come up with the best alternatives to move forward with more in depth evaluation. Alex explained that the alternatives that were chosen for further evaluation will be presented at the Alternatives Public Workshop.

Next Alex discussed the multi-use crossings requested by USFS. He asked Rick to specify the need for each of the crossings. Rick stated that the crossing on the west will be used by equestrians and ATVs and the crossing on the east will be used by pedestrians and ATVs. Jim asked for a trailhead on the south side of SR 40 and in the Florida Scenic Trail area. He asked that the trailhead be similar to the one that is located on SR 19. Alex mentioned that the crossings are being included in the environmental document for approval and will be funded by other sources.

Next, Alex gave the group an update on Fire and Fuel Management. He explained that the agency meeting that is scheduled for September 12th has been moved to September 19th. Alex stated he is unsure of the status of the Monster Pipe. He then went over the schedule of upcoming events.

The group viewed a draft of the video that will run continuously at the Alternatives Public Workshop. After the viewing, Rick commented that the discussion of the no build section is confusing. He suggested that they mention the work that is being done to design wildlife crossing improvements in order to address the wildlife concerns outside the build area.

Alex thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting ended at 10:00 am.

*Note: The above reflects the writer understands of the contents of the meeting. If any misinterpretations or inaccuracies are included, please contact **Mandy Rankin (407) 971-8850** as soon as possible for resolution and revisions if necessary.*