

Connection to Collier MPO

Over the past ten to fifteen years, Transportation Planning has conducted many planning projects and corridor studies to provide technical assistance for Collier County. Many of these studies were based on needs in Collier MPO's 2025, 2030, 2035 and 2040 Long Range Transportation Plans. These studies were done in cooperation with local jurisdictions, FDOT and extensive outreach with the private sector and the public. The following list of past projects is meant as a reference with historical information about the project/plan/report or study. In several instances, once the final project/plan/report or study has been presented to the Board of County Commissioners, no further action has been or is anticipated to be taken.

The Collier MPO is in a unique position to create a vision for all of Collier County (including the Cities of Everglades City, Marco Island, Naples and unincorporated Collier County). The MPO's planning across the jurisdictions helps set the plan for Collier County Transportation Planning. The current studies that Collier County Transportation Planning is starting to embark on were derived from the Collier MPO's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Future planning studies identified in the MPO's 2040 LRTP Needs Plan:

- 1. Randall Blvd./Oil Well Road Study Area**
- 2. Green Blvd. Ext./North Belle Meade Study Area**
- 3. CR951 Congestion Relief Study**

The Wilson Boulevard Extension (North Belle Meade Area) Corridor Study is not

currently being re-studied or updated. The information below is for reference only.

At its regularly scheduled June 28, 2005 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) conducted a public hearing regarding short and long term transportation needs in the North Belle Meade Area. At the hearing's conclusion, the BCC adopted the following recommendations:

1. Instruct staff to incorporate the study presented today into its current update of the Collier Long-Range Transportation Plan and the East of CR 951 Study.
2. Instruct staff to continue an open dialogue with the community and the environmental interests to bring a recommended roadway network for the North Belle Meade area to the BCC for approval by April 2006.
3. Require Florida Rock Industries to provide for any needed mitigation required to accommodate their connection to CR 951 in the vicinity of Landfill Road.
4. Require Florida Rock Industries to also develop a haul route connection to I-75 based on an extension of Wilson Boulevard, or secondarily, to Everglades Boulevard south of Frangipani, with possible temporary connection to I-75, if allowed.

These recommendations concluded a process that had been ongoing since the North Belle Meade Overlay was adopted by the County Commission on June 19, 2002, as part of the Rural Fringe Plan Amendments of the Collier County Growth Management Plan. The Wilson Boulevard Extension Corridor Study was required and guided by the Rural Fringe Amendments. In order to be consistent with these requirements, the corridor study has evaluated both east-west and north-south transportation alternatives in the North Belle Meade

area. East-west alignments evaluated included the extensions of Landfill Road, Keane Avenue/Brantley Boulevard, and Green Boulevard, while the north-south alignments evaluated included a connection to Interstate 75 or other service road (such as an extension of Landfill Road).

The Wilson Boulevard Extension Corridor Study was conducted by consulting firms Hole Montes and Wilson Miller under the guidance and oversight of the Collier County Transportation Planning Department. During an early stage of the study, this public/private initiative lead to the development of nine alternatives (including a no-build alternative). These alternatives were presented to the public in a workshop on September 29, 2004.

Those attending the first workshop were asked to express their preference(s) as to the different alternatives proposed. The summary of the results of that input reveals that there was no clear support for any single alternatives and in fact, support was spread out over a number of "favorites", including "all" or "none" of the alternatives. Additionally, 17 percent of the respondents suggested variations in the nine alternatives presented.

After consideration of the alternatives analyses and public input, the Collier County Transportation Division and the consultants developed a preferred alternative. These proposed corridor improvements were defined in two implementation time frames, 2005-2015 and Beyond 2015 in order to distinguish the suggested timing of specific plan components. It is important to understand that all of the alignments depicted are conceptual and that the final location of future right-of-ways would be determined during a future design phase for a specific improvement project. Also, County Transportation staff later determined that a lack of adequate funding would likely require that all major improvements take place in the "Beyond 2015" timeframe.

These Preferred Alternative Corridor Improvements were presented at the study's second public workshop, held on April 13, 2005. 132 persons attended the workshop and numerous others submitted

comments in the following weeks. The workshop and comment forms resulted in substantial feedback, and prompted some revisions to the alternatives before being included in the study's final report and presented to the BCC on June 28, 2005

The study's final report, all comments from the two public workshops, and numerous other maps and graphics are available in the links below (in pdf format). If you have any questions or seek further information regarding the Wilson Boulevard Extension Corridor Study, please contact Transportation Planning staff at (239) 252-8192. To learn more about the Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan.