

### **Need More Information?**

If you have questions or comments about the project, please contact:

# John McShaffrey, APR Public Information Officer

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Para preguntas en Español: Valoramos la opinión del público sobre este proyecto. Sí usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o sí simplemente desea más información sobre este proyecto, llamar a Zenia Gallo al teléfono (813) 975-6713.

For additional project information, please visit our website at:





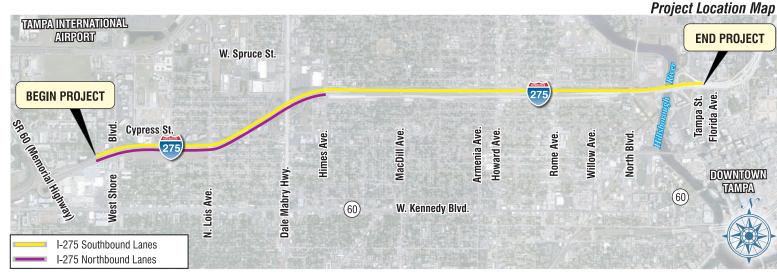
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Any person who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may contact the Title VI /Title VIII Coordinator, Florida Department of Transportation, 11201 North McKinley Drive, Tampa Florida 33612 or the Florida Department of Transportation Equal Opportunity Office, 605 Suwanee Street, MS 65, Tallahassee, Florida 32399. If you require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please submit your request to Joyce Jolliff, 4902 East 10th Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33605-4739, (813) 233-3815 or joyce.jolliff@dot.state.fl.us, seven (7) days prior to the Public Meeting.



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION I-275 CONSTRUCTION OPEN HOUSE

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) invites you to participate in a public open house regarding the I-275 reconstruction project from east of the State Road 60/Memorial Highway interchange to the Hillsborough River (downtown Tampa). The purpose of this open house is to allow you to better understand what is being built during this project. You are invited to drop in for any portion of the two-hour open house; no formal presentation will be made. FDOT representatives will be available to discuss the project one-on-one with you. Display materials will include project maps, sketches and related information.



# I-275 Improvements to Relieve Traffic Jams on Tampa Interstate System

The I-275 design features additional through lanes with a wide median that allows for future expansion without the purchase of additional right-of-way. The future improvements will allow for up to six new lanes, as well as room for rail or other transportation needs. The design will also improve interchange movements. The project includes Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) features to enhance traffic flow. ITS features include overhead changeable message signs and traffic cameras on I-275 and some crossroads to provide information to drivers about traffic conditions on I-275. Construction will begin in October 2012.





### **OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION**

Please join us:

### **Westshore Plaza Center Court**

(main corridor between Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's, JC Penney, and the Food Court)

250 Westshore Plaza, Tampa, Florida 33609 Tuesday, October 23, 2012 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

There will be no formal presentation.

Please drop by any time during these two hours.



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

# After northbound I-275 was rebuilt from Himes Avenue to the Hillsborough River, why did work stop?

No project was "stopped." The original plan was to rebuild the entire corridor from State Road 60 to the Hillsborough River under one construction contract. When bids came in above budget, the reconstruction was divided into smaller projects that could logically be built as the money became available. The first two projects have been completed (northbound from Himes Avenue to the river and a major drainage project). The current project will now complete the reconstruction that was originally planned.

### How much will this project cost?

Skanska-Ajax Joint Venture was awarded the contract to complete the design and construct the improvements for \$215.4 million.

### How will I be affected during construction?

#### For Residents and Businesses

- Temporary impacts may include noise, vibration, and the presence of equipment, materials and workers.
- The project team inspectors and the contractor will monitor construction activity to reduce the impact and follow acceptable standards.

#### For Motorists

- Expect night lane closures, detours and traffic pacing.
- Doing closures at night helps keep the traffic flowing as best as possible during heavy use daytime hours.
- A detailed traffic control plan will lessen impacts.

# How do I find out when traffic impacts, such as lane closures, are scheduled?

Each week closure information is posted on myTBI.com for all interstate projects in the Tampa Bay area. If you don't want to go to the site each week, you can sign up there one time to receive email notices about the closures.

### When will the construction be completed?

Late 2016, unless there are major weather delays (such as hurricanes).

#### I've heard this project is a 'Design/Build'. What does this mean?

A design build project is one in which the FDOT has a single contract with a company (or a team of companies joined as one for the contract) to engineer and build the improvements. This is different from the older, more common way of hiring a design company and then awarding the construction part to a company bidding the lowest dollar amount. Design build projects have been found to be easier to manage with better quality construction.

## Will I-275 be more level so it doesn't have "humps" at every crossroad?

The improvements will flatten out the roadway profile so it won't feel like a "roller coaster" when driving over every crossroad. This will improve the sight distances and decrease the potential for crashes. The improvements will tie into and be similar to the work already completed on the northbound lanes from Himes Avenue to the Hillsborough River.

### BRAIDED RAMPS (UNDERPASS) – an example of smart design



### **Traffic Control Plan (TCP)**

A detailed Traffic Control Plan has been developed to maintain safe and efficient traffic flow at all times during construction. This plan will help to reduce the delays and congestion that can be common during construction. Unfortunately, lane closures and detours are necessary to support the construction activities. However, this plan has been created to ensure that we have the same number of lanes and ramp connections in both directions during the daytime as we do today. During construction over the next four years, motorists can expect three major traffic shifts as described below.

#### PHASE 1► FIRST 2 YEARS

Traffic will be close to where it is today; however, the extra lanes that are being used today for the exits to Himes Avenue and Howard/Armenia avenues will be eliminated and a left exit will be created for this interchange. Over 50% of the project will be completed in this phase.

#### PHASE 2► NEXT 1½ YEARS

At the beginning of Phase 2 the first major traffic shift occurs where traffic is moved onto the newly constructed roadway allowing us to add new lanes and enjoy some of the added space. Traffic will then be better than it is today.

### PHASE 3► LAST 8 MONTHS

For Phase 3, traffic is shifted to the roadway segments that were constructed in Phase 2. Work in this phase will include local road improvements, landscaping and other decorative work, and completion of the I-275 median. The entire mainline is complete and all mainline traffic can be shifted into its permanent location after 3 years of construction.

The Design-Build Team developed this approach to minimize the level of confusion that drivers normally experience during construction, while reducing the overall construction time. The Traffic Control Plan will also account for special events to ensure access is maintained. Lane closures and traffic shifts will be announced on signs along the corridor, on the website (www.myTBl.com), and through the media.

### 'The Look' is an Important Part of Design

We know the importance of designing I-275 to reflect the character of the surrounding community. Input received at past meetings assisted in developing appropriate aesthetic treatments for the project, as outlined in the Tampa Interstate Study, Urban Design Guidelines. Working through a design review committee, the DOT is partnering with the City of Tampa to further enhance the community with improved pedestrian and bike paths/sidewalks, landscaping, and other elements (such as specialty lighting and decorative walls at bridges).

# **FDOT Strives to Preserve the Historic Character of Local Community**

The reconstruction project goes through historic west Tampa, a portion of which was listed as a National Register Historic District in 1983. Howard and Armenia avenues connect the northern and southern portions of the historic district and also provide a gateway to the district for the traveling public. As part of the previous construction project, two historic homes were relocated and rehabilitated in 2006. Design treatments such as brick towers and specialty walls have been included at the Howard/Armenia interchange area to blend in with the historic neighborhood.

