

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members AGENDA ITEM 7

From: Council Staff

Date: April 16, 2010 Regional Planning Council Meeting

Subject: I-95 Transportation Alternatives Study Update - Presentation by Bob Hamm, Wilbur Smith Associates

Introduction

The purpose of this item is to provide an update regarding the I-95 Transportation Alternatives Study, which is being undertaken by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). This study is designed to assess the travel demand and freight moving along the I-95 corridor in Florida against four measures: transportation, emergency management, homeland security, and economic development. The project identifies a 12-county study area, including Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia, Nassau, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. Additionally, the study will identify cost effective strategies to alleviate congestion, facilitate emergency and security response, and foster economic development of the state of Florida. The anticipated completion date for the study is June 2010.

An overview of the project will be presented to Council by Mr. Bob Hamm, P.E. Mr. Hamm is the senior transportation planning manager for Wilbur Smith Associate's Tallahassee office and is currently serving as the project manager for the I-95 Transportation Alternatives Study for the FDOT Systems Planning Office. Bob earned both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Texas A&M University and has more than seventeen years of experience as both a traffic engineer and transportation planner. FDOT representatives will also be in attendance.

It has been requested Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) staff participate in the study to provide land use information and technical oversight.

Background

The FDOT is required, as part of recently passed legislation, to conduct a transportation alternatives study of the I-95 corridor by June 30, 2010. House Bill 1021 was signed by Governor Crist on May 27, 2009 adding Section 26, Chapter 2009-85, Laws of Florida.

The Technical Memorandum: Identification of Corridor Conditions and Needs, is the first in a series of documents describing the development of the study. This document identifies existing conditions along the I-95 corridor from different perspectives, including transportation, demographics, emergency management, homeland security, and economic development. The document also describes deficiencies from each of these perspectives and identifies respective corridor-related needs. During the development of the Needs Plan, the TCRPC was asked to provide data, information, and/or other input into the study process to ensure the study team is aware of current issues and activities relating to I-95.

The second document in the series is scheduled for completion this spring and will include a discussion of transportation alternatives or different approaches to solve the identified needs, along with the policy implications of implementing those alternatives. The second document will not discuss specific projects or recommend solutions, but rather it will present a comprehensive list of alternative approaches to improve mobility, emergency response, and economic development within the 12-county study area. A final report document summarizing the I-95 Transportation Alternatives Study will conclude the series by late spring.

Conclusion

I-95 is a significant and important transportation facility in the Treasure Coast Region, and the FDOT Transportation Alternatives Study is one means by which the demands on the facility can be understood, as well as a consideration of necessary improvements over time. Council's continued participation in the study will assist FDOT in its assessment of the corridor and help broaden public participation, especially by local governments in the region.

Recommendation

Council should review the presentation and provide comments.

Attachments

I-95 Transportation Alternatives Study



Welcome to the I-95 Transportation Alternatives Study web site. This site will serve to document the study progress and provide information regarding the development of the study. The Department of Transportation is required, as part of recently passed legislation, to conduct a transportation alternatives study of the Interstate 95 (I-95) corridor by June 30, 2010. HB 1021 was signed by Governor Crist on May 27, 2009 adding Section 26, Chapter 2009-85, Laws of Florida.

The purpose of the study is to assess the travel demand and freight moving along the I-95 corridor in the State of Florida against four measures: transportation, emergency management, homeland security, and economic development. Additionally, the study will identify cost effective strategies to alleviate congestion, facilitate emergency and security response, and foster economic development of the state of Florida.

As identified in HB 1021, the I-95 Transportation Alternatives study will be carried out in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Community Affairs, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, affected metropolitan planning organizations, and regional planning councils within the I-95 corridor. The nature of the study requires strong inter-agency coordination.

Project Deliverables

NEW!!! – March 2010

DRAFT Technical Memorandum: Identification of Corridor Conditions and Needs is now available for review and comment. [Click here](#) to download a pdf of the draft report to review (note: pdf file is 14 MB in size). Comments can be provided to the FDOT Project Manager via email, mail, or telephone.

Project Schedule

FDOT began work on the I-95 Transportation Alternatives Study in October 2009 and, as required by HB 1021, will complete the study by June 30, 2010. The current schedule of tasks and activities to complete the study includes the following:

<http://www.i-95alternatives.com/PublicPages/WelcomePage.aspx>

FDOT Project Manager

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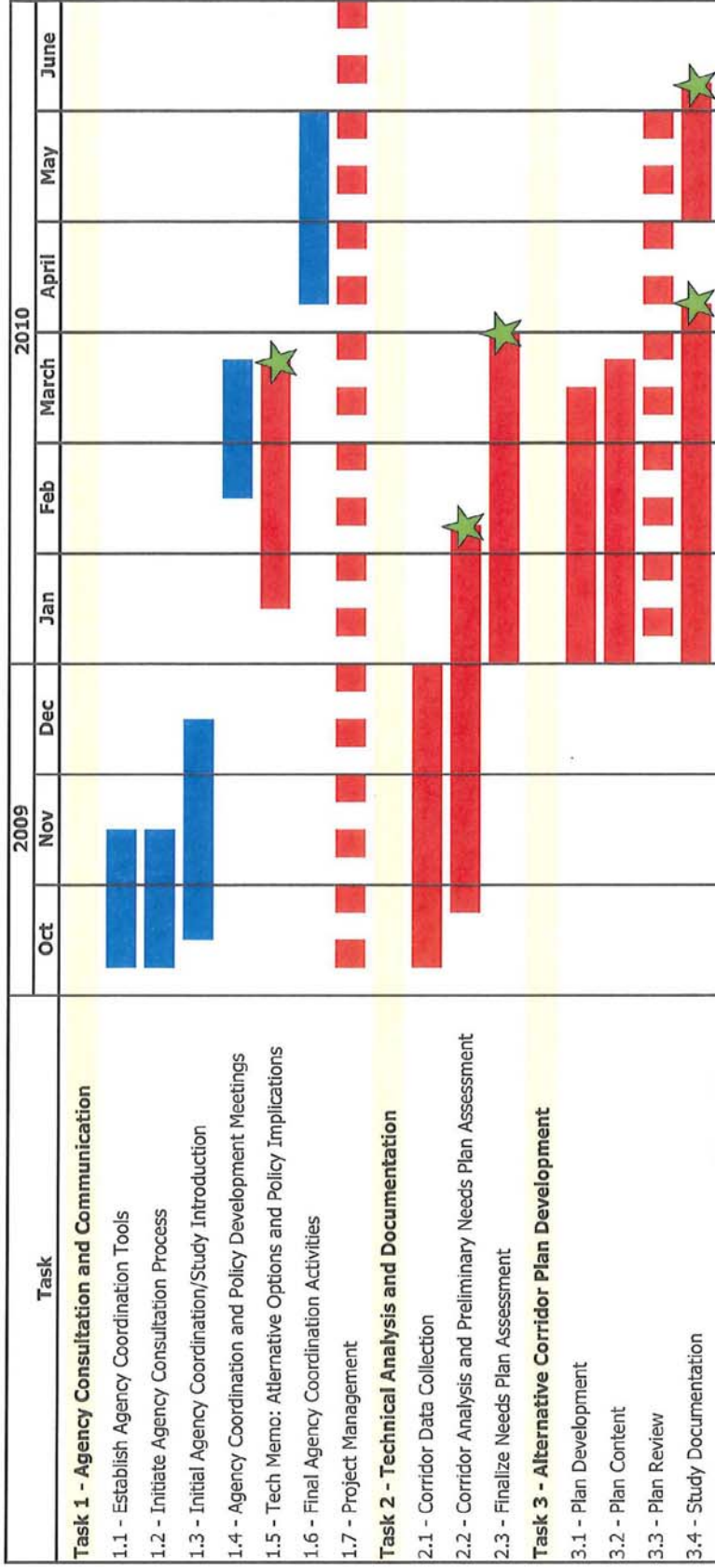
Consultant Project Manager

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- Project Kickoff - October 2009
- Initial Partner Agency Consultation and Involvement - October 2009 to December 2009
- Corridor Data Collection and Analysis - October 2009 to January 2010
- Technical Memorandum: Identification of Corridor Conditions and Needs - February 2010
- Agency Coordination and Policy Development Consultation - February 2010 to March 2010
- Technical Memorandum: Alternative Options and Policy Considerations - February 2010 to March 2010
- Draft I-95 Transportation Alternatives Study Report - April 2010
- Final Agency Coordination and Consultation Activities - April 2010 to May 2010
- Final I-95 Transportation Alternatives Study Complete - June 2010

A graphic version of the project schedule is available [here](#)
PDF file, requires free Adobe Acrobat Reader

Project Schedule



Updated February 26, 2010