

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Following extensive reviews by the Florida Department of Transportation Central Environmental Management Office, the Gulf Coast Parkway Draft Environmental Impact Statement was approved for public availability on February 20, 2014. Public hearings were held on May 6 and 8, 2014 in Gulf and Bay Counties to present the project alternatives and FDOT's recommendation for a preferred alternative. The FDOT made the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and supporting technical documents available for public inspection for a period of 30 days prior to the project's public hearings at the Bay and Gulf County libraries.

Following the public hearings a 15 day comment period allowed the public, elected officials, and agencies to provide input regarding the project and any recommendations. As a part of this comment period significant coordination was continued with Bay and Gulf counties. From May of 2014 through February 2016 the two counties have worked with FDOT staff on the project's recommended alternative. In August of 2015, Gulf County submitted a resolution supporting Alternative 19 as the recommended alignment, in March of 2016 Bay County followed with a similar resolution.

With both counties in support of the same project alternative FDOT is continuing to work with the Federal Highway Administration and the state and federal resource agencies to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement and complete the PD&E study.

PROJECT HISTORY

In June 2009, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the Corridor Alternatives Evaluation Summary Report. Of the twelve corridors screened in this report four were recommended to be advanced for further analysis. Also, based on regional, state, and federal agency feedback a fifth alternative option was created. Based on these results, five alternative roadway alignments were designed for more detailed examination.

These alternative roadway alignments were developed based on the corridors and analyzed and compared for their potential involvement with the social, physical, and natural environmental surroundings.

The PD&E Study will compare the alternative roadway alignments and, with involvement from the public, help to identify the preferred alternative. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to document the evaluation of alternatives and the selection of a preferred alternative for the roadway.

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The Gulf Coast Parkway would provide what is essentially a missing link in the regional transportation network and would:

- Stimulate economies within the region
- Enhance regional mobility and hurricane evacuation
- Increase Tyndall Air Force Base security
- Relieve traffic congestion

If you have questions, please contact [Rosemary Woods](#), Project Manager, at 850-575-1800, ext. 7891 or email her at rewoods@pbsj.com.