Welcome

Pinellas County would like to welcome you to the Public Alternatives Workshop for the San Martin Boulevard over Riviera Bay Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. The purpose of tonight’s meeting is to provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the alternatives currently under consideration, ask questions, and provide comments.

A brief video presentation will be shown continuously and can be viewed anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Information about the conceptual design and possible impacts of the various alternatives are on display. Project Team representatives are available to answer questions and listen to your ideas.

About the Project

Pinellas County, in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), is conducting a PD&E Study to evaluate the potential rehabilitation or replacement of the existing San Martin Boulevard Bridge over Riviera Bay. The limits of the bridge study are from Tallahassee Drive to Weedon Drive in St. Petersburg, Florida. A second component of the project is to evaluate trail enhancements for the extension of the North Bay Trail from Macoma Drive to Gandy Boulevard.

We Need Your Input

At tonight’s workshop, we are seeking input on various options to replace or rehabilitate the existing San Martin Bridge and alternatives for the extension of the North Bay Trail from Macoma Drive to Gandy Boulevard. We look forward to your input!

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BRIDGE ALTERNATIVES

Replacement of the Bridge

The existing fixed span bridge, which provided approximately 10.5 feet of navigational clearance over the channel, would be demolished and replaced with a new fixed-span, two-lane bridge. For all replacement alternatives, the new bridge would be approximately 9 feet higher than the existing bridge at its highest point and provide approximately 19 feet of clearance over the channel. Each alternative would conform to the conceptual typical section described below (See Figure 1).

Alignment alternatives considered for the new bridge include the following:

- **Left-shifted (West) Alternative:** A new fixed bridge would be constructed shifted to the left (west) of the existing bridge. The bridge would be constructed in stages and San Martin Boulevard would remain open during construction.

- **Centered Alternative:** A new fixed bridge would be constructed on the same alignment as the existing bridge. During construction, San Martin Boulevard would be closed and traffic would be detoured away from the bridge.

- **Right-shifted (East) Alternative:** A new fixed bridge would be constructed shifted to the right (east) of the existing bridge. The bridge would be constructed in stages and San Martin Boulevard would remain open during construction.

No Build Alternative

Only routine maintenance would be performed as needed to keep the bridge open to traffic until safety issues would require it to be closed. Repair or replacement would be deferred to a later date. This alternative would be considered a viable alternative until completion of the public involvement process.

TRAIL ALTERNATIVES

The following alternatives for the extension of the North Bay Trail from Macoma Drive to Gandy Boulevard (1.9 miles) are under consideration:

- **Trail Alternative 1 Left (West) Alignment:** A trail along the west side of San Martin Boulevard would be constructed from Macoma Drive to Gandy Boulevard. The existing trail crossing at Macoma Drive would be maintained and additional crossings of San Martin Boulevard would be added at Weedon Drive and Savona Drive to provide access to the Weedon Island Preserve and the Savona Drive Trail Spur, respectively.

- **Trail Alternative 2 Right (East) Alignment:** A trail along the east side of San Martin Boulevard would be constructed from Macoma Drive to Gandy Boulevard. The existing trail crossing at Macoma Drive would be maintained for pedestrian access from the west on San Martin Boulevard. Additional crossings of San Martin Boulevard would be added north of Weedon Drive and at Savona Drive to provide access to the future Duke Energy Trail and the Savona Drive Trail Spur, respectively.

- **Trail Alternative 3 Hybrid Alignment:** A trail along the east side of San Martin Boulevard would be constructed from Macoma Drive to just north of Weedon Drive then the trail will shift to the west as it continues from north of Weedon Drive to Gandy Boulevard. The existing trail crossing at Macoma Drive would be maintained for pedestrian access from the west on San Martin Boulevard. Additional crossings of San Martin Boulevard would be added north of Weedon Drive and at Savona Drive to provide access to the future Duke Energy Trail and the Savona Drive Trail Spur, respectively.

Alternatives Presented Today

As part of the PD&E Study, the Study Team conducted detailed analysis of the viable bridge alternatives. Separately, a series of trail alternatives were developed and evaluated. Details of each alternative are below.

- **Bridge Alternatives**
  - Replacement of the Bridge
    - Left-shifted (west) Alternative
    - Centered Alternative
    - Right-shifted (East) Alternative
  - No Build Alternative

- **Trail Alternatives**
  - Left (West) Alignment
  - Right (East) Alignment
  - Hybrid Alignment

**Need for Improvements**

The existing bridge was built in 1962 and is nearing the end of its service life. The bridge is functionally obsolete primarily due to its narrow width. The shoulder and sidewalk widths do not meet current design standards. Furthermore, the sidewalks do not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Existing railings along the bridge are substandard. The bridge is considered subject to critical indicating that the foundations of the bridge may be susceptible to undermining during major storm events. Major rehabilitation or replacement of the bridge is needed to keep the bridge open to traffic.

**PD&E Alternatives Analysis Process**

A Kick-off Open House was held on July 14, 2015 to introduce the study to the community and provide an opportunity to comment on the project early in the planning process. The County received more than 65 comments at the Open House and during the post-meeting comment period.

Since this meeting, the project team has evaluated six bridge replacement alternatives and one bridge widening alternative. In addition to engineering issues, this evaluation considered potential social and environmental impacts including: impacts to wetlands, wildlife, habitat, navigation, residential properties, visual impacts, or utilities. The results of the analysis and input from the Kick-off Open House were used to develop the three bridge replacement alternatives for the San Martin Bridge that are being presented today.

Alternatives considered but eliminated included: alternative corridors, rehabilitation/widening of the existing bridge, high-level and mid-level fixed span bridges, removal of the bridge without replacement, and a movable bridge.

**Process and Schedule**

The PD&E Study is approximately halfway through the two-year planning process. It is scheduled to be complete by summer 2017. A construction start date has not been established and construction funding has not yet been identified.

**PD&E Study**

- **Kick-off Open House:** July 14, 2015
- **Public Alternatives Workshop:** July 18, 2016
- **Study Complete:** Summer 2017
- **Design Phase:** 2017-2018
- **Construction:** unfunded

*Construction funding currently deferred pending FY2017 Final CIP Budget approval and future grant acquisition.