



# SR 9/I-95 Interchange at 45<sup>th</sup> Street Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

Palm Beach County, Florida

Financial Management No.: 436519-1-22-01

Federal Aid Project No.: 0951-682-1

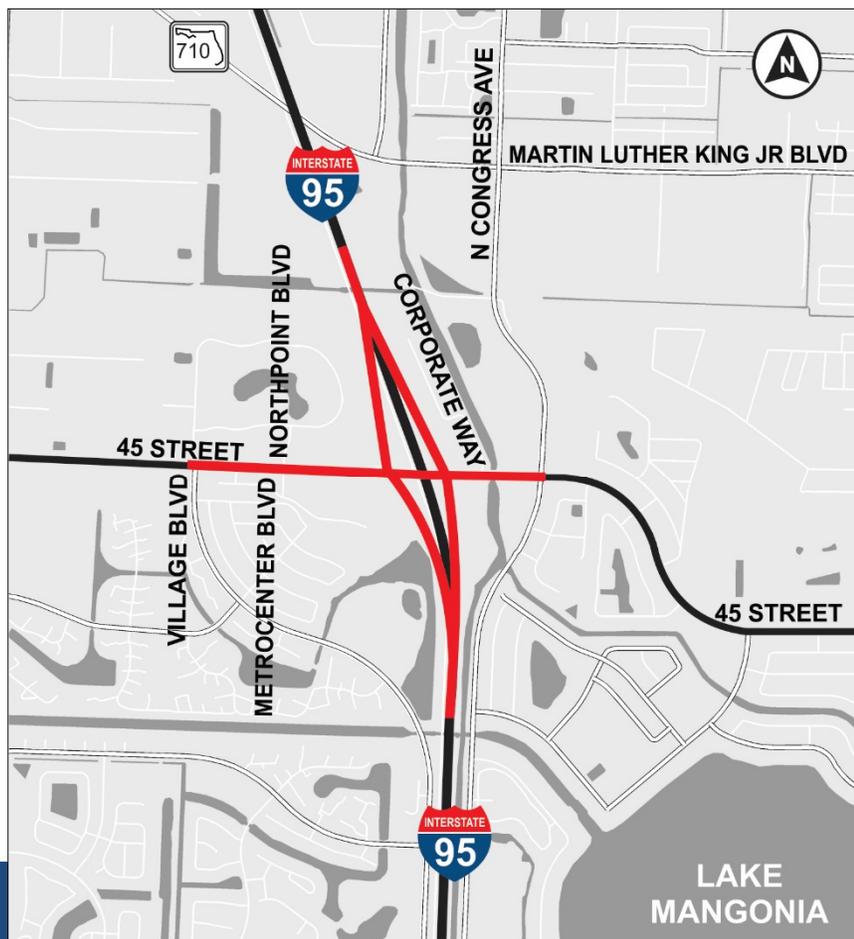
Efficient Transportation Decision Making No.: 14225

## Project Description

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for the SR 9/I-95 Interchange at 45<sup>th</sup> Street in Palm Beach County, Florida. The purpose of the study is to identify the short-term and long term needs of I-95 and develop design concepts to address traffic spillback onto I-95, improve interchange operations, reduce congestion, and increase safety at the study interchange. This study will also consider Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) connector improvements needed within the project area and is consistent with plans for the I-95 mainline, including the potential extension of I-95 Express lanes through Palm Beach County. This proposed study will investigate alternatives to improve the overall operating conditions and enhance safety within the interchange.

The I-95 Interchange at 45<sup>th</sup> Street is a diamond interchange located in the City of West Palm Beach and near the Town of Mangonia Park and the City of Riviera Beach in north Palm Beach County, Florida. The intersections in the area of influence of the interchange are Village Boulevard and Northpoint Boulevard on the west and Corporate Way and N. Congress Avenue on the east. The adjacent interchanges along I-95 are Blue Heron Boulevard to the north (1.75 miles) and the Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard to the south (2.80 miles). I-95 is a ten-lane divided interstate freeway providing four general purpose lanes and one high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction. Auxiliary lanes are provided on both the northbound and southbound directions between 45<sup>th</sup> Street and Blue Heron Boulevard to the north. Within the study segment, I-95 passes over 45<sup>th</sup> Street on a bridge that accommodates ten lanes. I-95 is a designated SIS Highway Corridor. Both I-95 and 45<sup>th</sup> Street are designated as evacuation routes. 45<sup>th</sup> Street is a six-lane divided roadway with a raised landscape median within the vicinity of the I-95 Interchange. There are two dedicated left-turn lanes in each direction to access the I-95 on-ramps and three through lanes in each direction. A single free-flow right-turn lane is provided eastbound and westbound along 45<sup>th</sup> Street to serve the I-95 on-ramps.

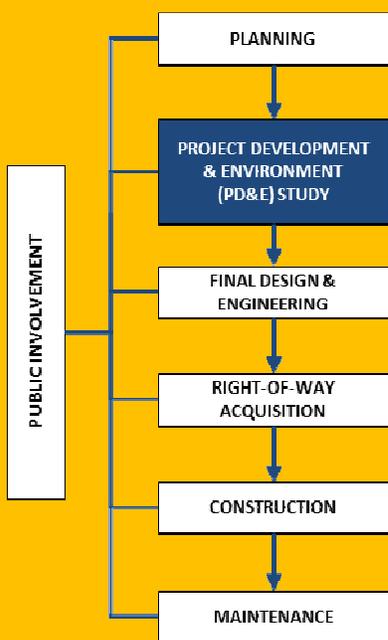
The improvements to the I-95 Interchange at 45<sup>th</sup> Street will provide additional capacity for vehicles travelling east-west as well as operational improvements north-south through the interchange. Local and network connectivity for the City of West Palm Beach, the Town of Mangonia Park and Palm Beach County will be improved.



# What is a PD&E Study?

A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is a process conducted by the FDOT to determine the environmental, social and economic impacts that are associated with proposed transportation improvements. The process, mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is a combined effort by professional engineers, planners, environmental scientists and others who analyze the project-related information to develop the best alternative for a community's transportation needs.

## Project Phases



## Contact Information

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## Website

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## Project Need

The need for this project is to enhance overall traffic operations at the existing interchange of I-95 and 45<sup>th</sup> Street by providing improvements to achieve acceptable Levels of Service (LOS) at the interchange in the future condition (2045 Design Year). LOS is a function of the average time vehicles will be delayed at the intersections. Conditions along 45<sup>th</sup> Street are anticipated to deteriorate below acceptable LOS standards if no improvements occur by 2045; the interchange will have insufficient capacity to accommodate the projected travel demand.

Enhancements include improving safety conditions by providing additional through and turn lanes, as well as interchange ramp improvements, to help reduce conflict points and the potential occurrence of collisions at the interchange; accommodating future growth and development in the area; and enhancing the emergency evacuation and response time by enhancing connectivity and accessibility along I-95 and 45<sup>th</sup> Street and increasing the operational capacity of traffic that can be evacuated during an emergency event.

## Project Schedule

This project began in March 2016. During the development of the study there will be a comprehensive public involvement program, which will consist of several meetings with the public as well as with governmental agencies, elected officials, and other interested parties. The PD&E Study is anticipated to be completed in early 2018.

ACTIVITY	2016					2017					2018							
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Notice to Proceed		●																
Fact Sheet/Newsletter																		
Elected Officials/Agency Kick-Off Meeting																		
Public Kick-Off Meeting																		
Engineering Data Collection																		
Engineering Analysis																		
Environmental Data Collection																		
Environmental Analysis																		
Develop and Evaluate Alternatives																		
Alternatives Public Workshop																		
Engineering Reports																		
Environmental Reports																		
Public Hearing																		
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Review																		
Location and Design Concept Acceptance (LDCA)																		
Continuous Public Involvement																		

A continuous community outreach process is integrated into every step of the project to ensure that the corridor residents, businesses, the traveling public, and other interested parties have meaningful participation in the process. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status.

