



CITY of PORT ST. LUCIE

I-95 Crossing Study, West Virginia Corridor Study,
Third East West River Crossing PD&E Study
Engineering Study Projects

The *community's connection* to our on-going studies...
from introduction, through alternatives, to final recommendations

EDITION 1 - Volume 1
APRIL 2003

Public Kickoff Meeting You're Invited...

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The City of Port St. Lucie is hosting a public kickoff meeting about the *West Virginia Corridor Study* and the *I-95 Crossing Study*. This meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 7, 2003** in an "open house" format from **4:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at the **Port St. Lucie Community Center located at 2195 SE Airoso Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, FL.**

This transportation improvement will provide a continuous corridor from I-95 to Floresta Drive and is divided into two projects. The first project, the *I-95 Crossing Study*, consists of an Interchange Justification Report, which will be conducted to review the need for a new interchange along I-95; to establish the configuration of the proposed interchange; and to review any impacts to the environment that may occur. The second study, the *West Virginia Corridor Study*, includes the review of a continuous corridor, extending from the proposed I-95 interchange, along Juliet Avenue, crossing over Florida's Turnpike, along West Virginia Drive and terminating at Floresta Drive. (A kickoff meeting for the third project, the *Third East West River Crossing PD&E Study* will be held June 5, 2003.)

Information about the study processes, preliminary project information, aerial photographs, potential typical sections and project schedules will be on display at the public meeting. A short video will be on continuous play throughout the evening to provide an overview of the project.



What: Public Kickoff Meeting
When: May 7, 2003 - 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Where: Port St. Lucie Community Center
2195 SE Airoso Boulevard
Port St. Lucie, Florida

Representatives from the City of Port St. Lucie and the consulting team will be available to answer your questions and receive comments. You may also submit written comments about the projects on the forms provided at the meeting(s). An extensive public outreach program is planned for these projects. See article on Page 3 for more information.

Persons requiring special accommodations under the American Disabilities Act of 1990 should contact (Vicki Smith at 1-888-797-1616). Special accommodations requests should be made at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Public Information Meetings:

May 7, 2003

West Virginia
Corridor Study
and
I-95 Crossing Study

June 5, 2003

Third East West
River Crossing

City to Study

West Virginia Corridor

Schedule

(Begins March 5, 2003)

I-95 Crossing Study

30 Months

West Virginia Corridor Study

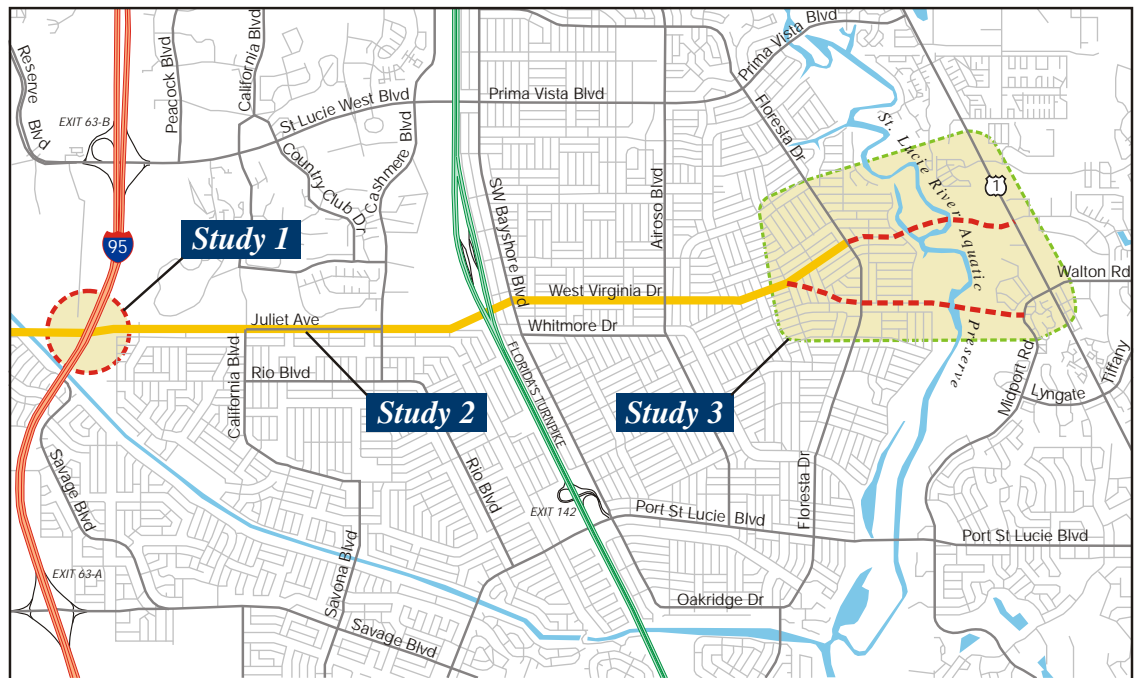
12 Months

Third East-West River Crossing PD&E Study

36 Months

The City of Port St. Lucie has launched three separate studies to develop a third east-west transportation corridor within the City. The City, along with the engineering firms of Culpepper & Terpening, Inc. and Keith and Schnars, P.A., will be evaluating an area that will extend from I-95 to US 1. The three studies consist of the ***I-95 Crossing Study***, the ***West Virginia Corridor Study***, and the ***Third East/West River Crossing PD&E Study***.

Each study will be conducted separately and proceed according to different time schedules to insure compliance with the processes. All studies will be focused on providing a new transportation corridor to provide relief to the ever increasing traffic congestion within the City.



Study 1 **Reminder!.....Meeting May 7, 2003** 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

I-95 Crossing Study

Located in the westernmost part of the corridor is the ***I-95 Crossing Study***, which will focus on preparing an Interchange Justification Report for a new interchange at I-95 in the vicinity of Juliet Avenue. This report will focus on the need for a new interchange, determine the best location, establish a proposed configuration and review the potential environmental impacts associated with the improvements. This project utilizes regional traffic modeling to determine current and predicted future

traffic levels on the existing road system. If future traffic volumes are predicted that will cause extensive traffic delays in the area, the traffic network will be modified to include the new interchange and the model will be rerun to evaluate the level of improvement. This project is required to follow detailed Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Policies and is anticipated to take approximately 30 months to complete.

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Study 2 **Reminder!.....Meeting May 7, 2003** 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

West Virginia Corridor Study

The *West Virginia Corridor Study* encompasses the middle section of the corridor. This study will evaluate the issues associated with providing a new continuous 6 mile corridor from I-95, along Juliet Avenue, crossing Florida's Turnpike, following existing West Virginia Drive, and terminating at Floresta Drive. The corridor is envisioned as a buffered parkway with limited access. Secondary residential streets would either be separated from the parkway with a cul-de-sac or modified into a right-in, right-out condition. Major intersections would be signalized.

Based on years of discussion and evaluation of potential funding scenarios, the Port St. Lucie City Council voted on December 10, 2002 to "defederalize" this project and to design and build this proposed corridor utilizing City funds. Property acquisition is currently underway along existing West Virginia Drive and Juliet Avenue to obtain the required right of way for the corridor. The acquisition of the properties on both the north and south side of West Virginia Drive will provide for an approximate 330-foot right of way. The typical section east of the Turnpike would consist of a four lane divided highway with landscaped median and linear parks consisting of meandering wide walkways and buffering landscaped berms on both sides. On the west side of the Turnpike, a 120 foot right of way is already dedicated to the City and borders on the south side of St. Lucie West. In order to continue the same roadway cross-section throughout, it is proposed to purchase properties along the south side of Juliet Avenue from I-95 to close to the Turnpike. Noise buffering options will be evaluated along the entire corridor. The corridor study is anticipated to be completed in 12 months.

Study 3 **Reminder!.....Meeting June 5, 2003** 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Third East-West River Crossing PD&E Study

The easternmost end of the corridor is the *Third East-West River Crossing PD&E Study*. This study will be conducted utilizing the FDOT Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study Process as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This study will evaluate the need for a third east-west crossing over the North Fork of the St. Lucie River to connect US1 to the proposed West Virginia Corridor. The study evaluates

the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed improvements and examines ways to avoid or minimize those impacts. Multiple potential alignments of this crossing will be evaluated, as well as, a no build scenario.

Detailed investigation of the existing environmentally sensitive North Fork of the St. Lucie River basin will be conducted to map out existing vegetative cover and habitats. Potential roadway alignments (including those alignments previously studied as well as new alignments) will be evaluated with focus on trying to minimize or avoid impacts to sensitive areas. Close coordination and review with all regulatory agencies will be conducted throughout the study process to ensure adherence to environmental protection and permitting regulations. This study is anticipated to be completed in about 36 months.

Community Input...

Part of the Plan

Public involvement is a major part of the decision making process for the corridor studies. Both the City of Port St. Lucie and the FDOT recognizes the importance of working with the area residents, property owners, business owners and the environmental community to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to work with the study team through the process, to develop viable solutions.

To coordinate and schedule all of the planned public outreach activities, the consultant team of Keith and Schnars, P.A. and Culpepper and Terpening, Inc. has prepared a *Public Involvement Plan* (PIP). The *Plan* outlines a schedule for the various meetings, strategies, and mechanisms to be used to solicit public input. As part of the PIP, an extensive mailing list has been put together to ensure widespread notification of meetings and to distribute information regarding the study. The **project newsletter** will be published every other month throughout the study process, providing updated project information. In addition to the mailings, a **project hotline** has been established. This hot-line, **772-871-5176**, will be manned during the day to answer your questions. After-hours and weekend inquiries will be recorded and *continued on Page 4*

Need Info?

**Property
Acquisition
Information:**
772-871-5255

Project Hotline:
772-871-5176

Website:

Project Site:
coming soon!..May 2003 at:
www.cityofpssl.com



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ATTENTION:

Public Kickoff Meeting

Port St. Lucie
Community Center

May 7, 2003

June 5, 2003

(see inside for details)

Community Input...(continued)

Part of the Plan

responded to on the following business day. Furthermore, the *PIP* calls for a **project web site**. The *web site* will be accessed through the existing City of Port St. Lucie web site, and will provide current information about the studies and enhance public input opportunities. The *web site* is currently under construction and will be operational in May 2003.

Public Kick-off meetings will be held for each project to introduce the projects. During the course of the studies, **Public Workshops** will be held to provide an opportunity for the public to review the latest project information. For the Third East West River Crossing, a formal **Public Hearing** will also be held.

Since public involvement is such a major focus, advisory committees and discussion groups will be formed to provide input to the study team throughout the course of the projects.

As noted earlier, public involvement is a critical component to this project and the City's Team is providing a variety of outreach mechanisms to solicit as much public input as possible. Everyone is encouraged to utilize any or all of these resources to provide input and guidance to these projects throughout their development.

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