US-1 Express

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study

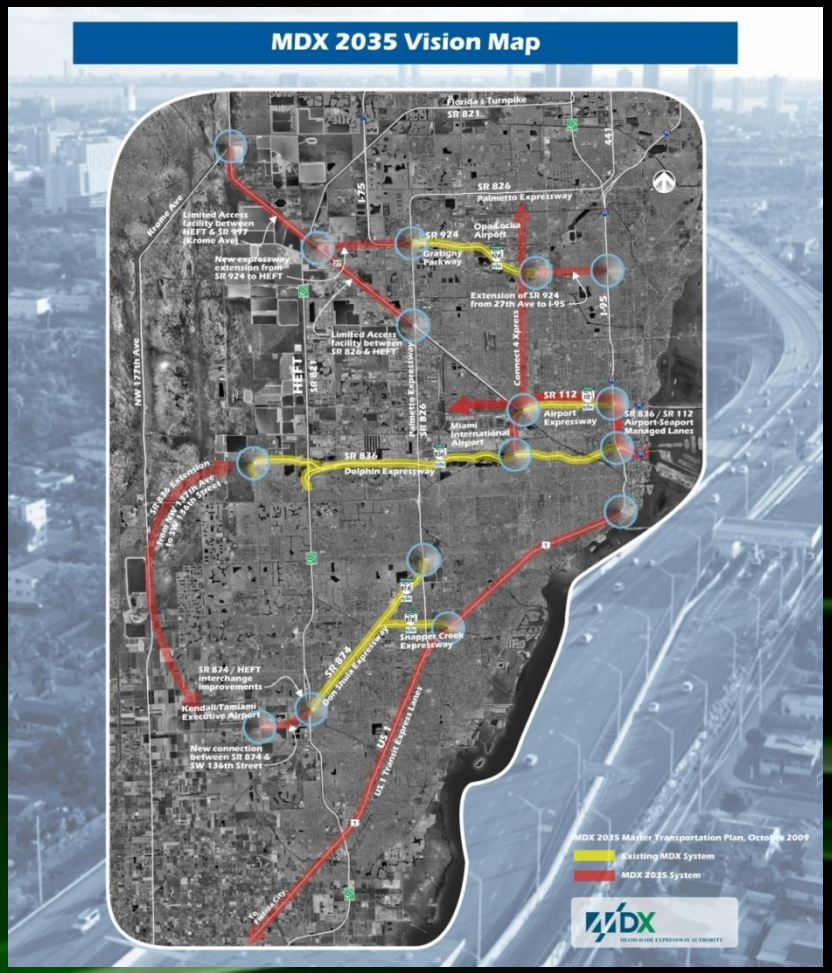
MIAMI-DADE EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY

Board Workshop

April 27, 2010

Overview

- MDX vision projects developed and prioritized by MDX Board in 2007
  - Blue Ribbon Committee
- US-1 Express project included in 2035 Miami Dade MPO Long Range Plan (October 2009) and in Work Program for PD&E study
- PD&E studies comply with FDOT standards and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements

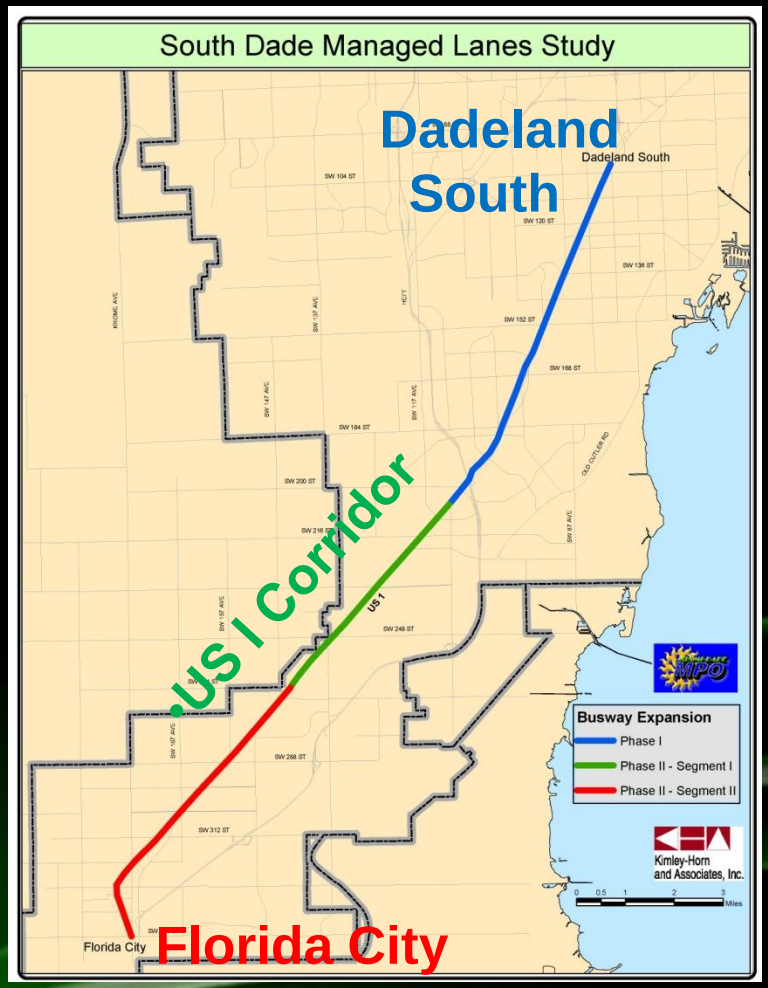


Overview

- Using available capacity of the South Dade Busway to incorporate managed lanes
  - Manage demand by variable toll pricing
    - Private vehicles using the busway lanes would pay a toll / buses would travel free
  - Provide free flow option
  - Provide linkage to expressway
  - Preserve envelope for future premium transit

Study Area

- Limits
  - Would extend from SW 344 Street
    - Allows Homestead area access to managed lanes
  - To Dadeland South Metrorail Station
- Distance
  - 16.7 miles



Purpose and Need

- Optimize transit service and improve traffic operations along the South Dade Busway
- Maximize usage of existing excess roadway capacity and existing right of way
- Mitigate congestion along the US-1 Corridor and traversing streets
- Provide possible funding for future transit improvements

Planning Tasks Completed

- Feasibility Study by MPO- September 2008
  - Determined reasonable alternatives exist for managed lanes along South Miami Dade Busway
- Evaluated revenue generating potential for future transit along South Miami Dade Corridor
- Study consistent with MPO/MDT South Link Alternative Analysis (2006)
- Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Planning Screen completed

Public Outreach

- Briefings to MPO members and district Miami-Dade County Commissioners
- Outreach to other municipalities
  - Resolution from Village of Pinecrest
  - Resolution from City of Palmetto Bay
  - Resolution from Cutler Bay
  - Resolution from Chamber South
  - Homestead
- MPO Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee

Components of US-1 PD&E Study

- Environmental
  - Identification of the study area
  - Environmental analysis and assessment of impacts
  - Natural/Physical - Social / Economic / Cultural / Historic
- Engineering
  - Preliminary conceptual engineering design of managed lanes concept
- Public Involvement
  - Coordination with federal, state and local agencies and governmental entities
  - Outreach to elected officials and the public to provide information and an opportunity to express their views

Components of US-1 PD&E Study

- Transit Analysis
  - Origin-Destination surveys for US-1 and the South Dade Busway
  - Analyze impact to transit travel times
  - Develop new bus service options with managed lanes
  - Identify need for new or modified park and ride lots
  - Coordination with Miami-Dade Transit and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Components of US-1 PD&E Study

- Financial Analysis
  - Funding scenario development including FHWA funds
  - Financial plan consistent with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements for “major project” (cost over $100 million)
  - Non-investment grade revenue forecasting
  - Transit farebox revenue impact analysis
  - Financial risk assessment

Class of Action Determination

- Coordination with FDOT D-6
- Evaluation and Consultation with FHWA
- Consultation with FTA
- Categorical Exclusion Type II

Environmental Issues

- Nature
  - Contamination
  - Wildlife and habitat (threatened and endangered species, biological assessment)
- Physical
  - Noise analysis
  - Air Quality analysis

Environmental Issues

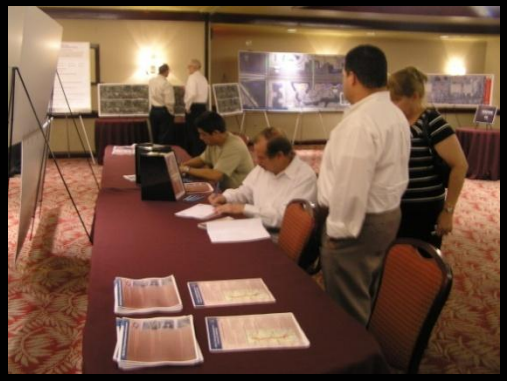
- Social-Cultural
  - Archaeological Sites
  - Historic Sites
  - Parks
  - Recreation Facilities
  - Utilities
  - Community Cohesion
  - Community Features
    - Schools, Churches, Businesses, Cemeteries, Emergency Service Providers, etc.
  - Relocation Potential
  - Environmental Justice populations

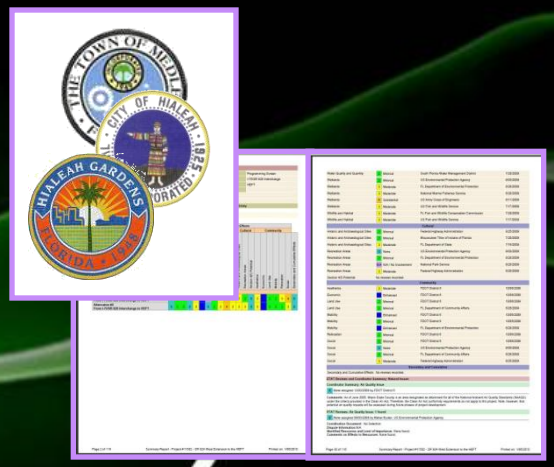
Engineering Issues

- Traffic modeling & operational analysis for potential grade separations/limited access
- Segmentation of corridor based on travel demand
- Phased implementation
- Enhanced safety at intersections
- Tolling
- Managed lane access to/from SR 826, HEFT, and US-1

Public Involvement

- Early & continuous coordination w/ local municipalities
- Public/Agency kick-off meetings
- Technical Project Steering Committee (MDT, FDOT, etc)
- Citizens/Community Advisory Committee
- Alternatives Public Workshop
- Public Information Meetings
- Two Public Hearings (one with MPO Board)





Milestone Schedule

- Project advertised for RSOQ April 9, 2010
- PD&E Notice to Proceed to consultant anticipated Fall 2010
- PD&E Schedule is 24 months
- FHWA approval of Location Design Concept (LDCA) Fall 2012