ALTERNATIVES CORRIDOR EVALUATION REPORT

Florida Department of Transportation

District X

Project Title

Limits of Project

County, Florida

Financial Management Number: XXXXX-X

ETDM Number: XXXXXX

Date

<<Delete if there will be no federal action on the project>>The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016, and executed by FHWA and FDOT.

This planning product may be adopted into the environmental review process, pursuant to Title 23 USC § 168, or the state project development process.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Limit to 1-2 pages.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION 1-1

1.1 Purpose of Alternatives Corridor Evaluation Report (ACER) 1-1

1.2 Project Background 1-1

1.2.1 ETDM Screening 1-1

1.2.2 Project Status 1-1

1.3 Project Description 1-1

1.4 Other Related Studies and Projects 1-1

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED 2-1

2.1 Project Purpose 2-1

2.2 Project Need 2-1

3.0 EXISTING AND FUTURE CONDITIONS 3-1

3.1 Description of Environmental Setting 3-1

3.2 Roadway Characteristics 3-1

3.3 Traffic Characteristics 3-1

3.4 Crash Data 3-1

4.0 ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION METHODOLOGY 4-1

5.0 INITIAL CORRIDORS AND ALTERNATIVES 5-1

5.1 Design Controls 5-1

5.2 Description of Alternatives 5-1

6.0 ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION 6-1

6.1 Purpose and Need Evaluation 6-1

6.2 Environmental and Engineering Evaluation 6-1

6.2.1 Environmental Evaluation 6-1

6.2.1.1 Natural Resources Evaluation 6-1

6.2.1.2 Social and Economic Evaluation 6-1

6.2.1.3 Cultural Resources Evaluation 6-1

6.2.1.4 Physical Resources Evaluation 6-1

6.2.2 Engineering Evaluation 6-1

6.2.2.1 Engineering Feasibility 6-2

6.2.2.2 Construction Cost 6-2

6.2.2.3 Right-of-Way Needs 6-2

7.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION 7-1

7.1 Agency Coordination 7-1

7.2 Public Comments 7-1

7.3 Outstanding Issues 7-1

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS 8-1

8.1 Alternatives Eliminated 8-1

8.2 Alternatives Recommended for PD&E Study 8-1

8.3 Recommended Systems Management and Operational Strategies 8-1

9.0 APPENDICES 9-1

**LIST OF FIGURES**

FigurePage Number

**LIST OF TABLES**

TablePage Number

**APPENDICES**

# INTRODUCTION

## Purpose of Alternatives Corridor Evaluation Report (ACER)

State the goals of the ACE, identify the decision points/milestones (elimination of unreasonable alternatives and recommendation of alternatives that will be evaluated in detail during PD&E phase). Begin with how 23 CFR Part 450 Appendix A allows statewide and metropolitan transportation planning to serve as the foundation for highway and transit project decisions.

Explain how information, analysis, and products from transportation planning can be incorporated into and relied upon in NEPA documents under existing laws, regardless of when the Notice of Intent has been published. State that this Report, Methodology Memorandum (MM) and previous documents (used in developing MM) were made publicly available and disclosed the results and planning decisions in this report would be carried forward as a basis for the subsequent NEPA or PD&E Study analysis. State which agencies were cooperating agencies and their involvement/concurrence in the elimination of alternatives.

## Project Background

### ETDM Screening

Provide a summary of ETDM Screening results.

### Project Status

Discuss if the project is included in the Long-Range Transportation Plan (fiscally constrained cost feasible plan or needs plan) and Local Government Comprehensive Plan (if applicable). Include discussion of scheduling of the future project development phases. Identify previous studies that may have occurred in the study area.

## Project Description

The project description must include:

• The name of the facility (with alternate names if applicable).

• Limits of the proposed project (length and logical termini) or Limits of the sub area study.

• Names of City and County where the project is located.

• A brief description of the existing facility (if applicable).

• A brief description of the proposed improvements.

## Other Related Studies and Projects

Discuss (and reference) other related studies and projects that could impact logical termini, intermodal connections, etc.

Include a map illustrating related studies.

# PURPOSE AND NEED

## Project Purpose

Describe the purpose of the project.

## Project Need

Summarize data to support the need for the project.

# EXISTING AND FUTURE CONDITIONS

Briefly discuss the purpose of identifying the existing and future conditions that will impact the transportation system and network. Identify factors, such as future developments and/or future land uses, that may significantly change travel demand and impact the transportation system.

## Description of Environmental Setting

Provide an overview of existing environmental resources within the project area. Identify and describe critical environmental issues within the project limits that may affect development of alternatives. Discuss any outreach efforts that have included environmental groups in the past. Include maps of threatened and endangered species, wetlands, floodways, cultural resources, soils, and consultation areas.

## Roadway Characteristics

Discuss the overview of existing transportation system, such as number of lanes, lane width, right-of-way, shoulder width, etc.; and identify location of deficiencies (e.g. lane width, shoulder width, vertical clearance) on a map as well as in tables.

## Traffic Characteristics

Discuss the overview of the transportation network, such as AADT, truck factors, Level of Service (LOS), etc. Identify deficiencies in performance of the existing transportation system (e.g. not meeting LOS targets).

Document assumptions such as forecast method and version of the travel demand model used; forecast year; land use and socio-economic data; and transportation network. Identify deficiencies in performance of the transportation system in meeting future travel demand.

For new alignments where existing conditions are not available, use the nearest adjacent roadways (from which traffic would divert) to estimate the traffic characteristics.

Include a map, table or other graphic display presenting locations where transportation system deficiencies are occurring.

## Crash Data

Provide a summary of crash data involving all modes of transportation. For new alignments, use existing crash data on adjacent roadways (from which traffic could divert to new alignment). Use Highway Safety Manual to assess future conditions.

­

# ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Where appropriate, consider using a tiered evaluation process. The evaluation methodology is included in a Methodology Memorandum (MM). Briefly summarize the components of the MM. Attach and reference the MM for detailed methodology. Summarize the approach, process and stakeholder/agency involvement in development of the MM.

Describe the vetting process of the MM. Include a statement such as: The MM was provided to the ETAT and Public as an opportunity to review by the ETAT and Public on [date] and indicated they understood the MM and/or provided comments. The MM was refined based on feedback received and additional coordination and was approved by the Office of Environmental Management (OEM) on [date].

Summarize the criteria used to develop and evaluate alternatives.

# INITIAL CORRIDORS AND ALTERNATIVES

## Design Controls

Discuss roadway functional class and future roadway context classification that controlled development of alternatives.

Discuss access management classification.

## Description of Alternatives

Provide a list and brief description of alternatives and improvement strategies (herein after alternatives) considered. Note that some of these could have been discussed in the MM.

The naming for each alternative should remain consistent throughout the ACER.

Provide Land Suitability Mapping (LSM) map if used to generate preliminary alternatives.

Illustrate location of potential alternative alignments on a conceptual map (no engineering details) or other applicable graphic displays.

If initial corridor alternatives were taken from previously completed planning studies, multimodal corridor plans, vision plans, or master plans summarize and reference the appropriate documents.

Discuss transportation system management and operation (TSMO) strategies that may be applied in the project.

# ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION

## Purpose and Need Evaluation

Use sketch level/planning level analysis tools to develop evaluation criteria and measures to determine if the alternative meets the purpose and need or to rank the ability of each alternative in meeting the purpose and need. Use performance measures and sketch level or planning analysis tools to evaluate whether the alternatives meet the Purpose and Need.

Reference other traffic documents for project with significant travel demand and analysis component.

Provide a discussion of alternatives that do not meet Purpose and Need and hence eliminated from further evaluation.

## Environmental and Engineering Evaluation

Use the criteria discussed in Section 4 to rank the alternatives.

Provide a map with evaluated alternatives that meets the project’s Purpose and Need and discuss any refinements done in the initial alternatives.

Presentation of alternatives evaluation results should be simple enough for the public to understand and structured enough to demonstrate substantiation of the recommended alternatives.

### Environmental Evaluation

Provide evaluation criteria and evaluation matrices for each of the four environmental evaluation categories. Quantify the rankings of each of the four environmental evaluation criteria to provide an overall environmental score and corresponding rank. Discuss potential impacts to environmental resources and any mitigation options (as applicable) for each alternative. Discuss how alternatives were developed (or refined) to avoid or minimize potential environmental effects.

Identify resources expected to require detailed analysis during NEPA/PD&E.

#### Natural Resources Evaluation

#### Social and Economic Evaluation

#### Cultural Resources Evaluation

#### Physical Resources Evaluation

### Engineering Evaluation

#### Engineering Feasibility

Discuss conceptual level evaluation of each alternative, identify and discuss any fatal flaw issues that may prevent implementation of alternatives. The evaluation criteria may include constructability, accessibility, safety, maintainability, or funding shortfall.

#### Construction Cost

Use FDOT cost per mile models or other agreed upon methodology to estimate order of magnitude costs for each alternative.

#### Right-of-Way Needs

Discuss anticipated right of way needs in terms of number, amount, and type of parcel takes and parcel impacts.

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

Describe the vetting process of the ACER, including the date that Draft ACER was provided to the ETAT and Public and how their comments were addressed. Discuss the outreach to the public and local agencies for information before alternatives were even developed and used to prepare the initial alternatives. Unresolved comments should be further discussed and how they will be resolved in the next phase of project development process. Include public meeting information, if applicable.

The level of detail in the analysis of an ACE is higher than that used to prepare a typical planning product, but less than that of a PD&E Study. The ACER must establish, and document criteria and the public involvement process used to evaluate and eliminate alternatives that are not feasible or do not meet the purpose and need for the project. Such documentation is essential to incorporate ACER results into the NEPA process. The cover of the ACER must include the public notice stated in Section 4.2.2.

## Agency Coordination

Discuss involvement of cooperating and participating agencies in the review of this report. Discuss how ETAT comments were addressed during alternatives evaluation.

State when cooperating agencies concurred (or will concur) with the elimination of the alternatives.

## Public Comments

Summarize public involvement process and any public comments received at key decision points.

## Outstanding Issues

Discuss project issues that would require resolutions in the PD&E phase.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Alternatives Eliminated

Include a list of alternatives that are eliminated from further study and the reasons for elimination. Elimination of alternatives has to

## Alternatives Recommended for PD&E Study

Discuss alternatives that will be evaluated during PD&E study and rationale for recommendation.

In situations where ACER recommends multiple PD&E studies, discuss segmentation of PD&E Study corridors or projects. Explain how each segment would meet logical termini and independent utility requirements.

## Recommended Systems Management and Operational Strategies

Recommended TSMO strategies either for immediate implementation (short- and medium-term solutions) or for inclusion with recommended alternatives.

# APPENDICES

Appendix A – APPROVED ACE MM

Appendix B – CONCEPTUAL PLANS