**EMAIL SUBJECT LINE:**

440749-1 US 41 at CSX Grade Separation: Agency/Elected Officials Kick-off Meeting

**US 41/SR 45/South 50th Street at CSX Grade Separation PD&E Study from South of Causeway Boulevard to North of Causeway Boulevard in Hillsborough County, Florida**

FDOT District Seven - WPI Segment Number: 440749-1

The **Florida Department of Transportation** (FDOT) will hold an agency/elected officials kick-off meeting on Friday, December 7th, 2018 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. The meeting will take place at the Port Tampa Bay Board Room, 1101 Channelside Drive, Tampa, FL 33602.

The purpose of this kick-off meeting is to discuss the start of this re-evaluation study and to provide agencies an opportunity to express their initial comments and feedback regarding this project.

The project begins just south of the CSX Railroad Crossing and extends to the north of Causeway Boulevard, a distance of approximately 1.5 miles. This project is a re-evaluation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) previously approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 1994. The proposed improvements include consideration of a grade separation of US 41 at the CSX railroad crossing south of Causeway Boulevard.

This re-evaluation will consider a full range of alternatives for improving mobility and safety along US 41, including a grade separation of US 41 and the CSX railroad crossing south of the intersection. This re-evaluation will include a thorough review of natural and social environmental impacts in the study area. The project team will evaluate these effects and compare the effects of each alternative. This project will be using the Statewide Acceleration Transformation (SWAT) process to facilitate key engagement efforts that will ensure timely development of both the recommended alternative and design-phase plans.

 After turning in to the Port Tampa Bay complex, take the first right around the main building. The board room is located in this building. All parking behind the building is available. Signs will be posted to guide you to the meeting entrance.

The design and right-of-way phases for this project are currently funded in FDOT’s Adopted Five Year Work Program beginning in Fiscal Year 2018/2019. For more information about the project, please visit the project website at: <http://active.fdotd7studies.com/us41/csx-to-sr676/> or contact:

Lilliam Escalera Kris Carson

Project Manager Public Information Officer

FDOT District Seven FDOT District Seven

(813) 975-6445 (813) 975-6202 lilliam.escalera@dot.state.fl.us kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact: Alex Henry, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (813) 975-6405 or (800) 226-7220, or via e-mail at alex.henry@dot.state.fl.us at least seven (7) working days in advance of the meeting.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

Sincerely,