

**Legend**

- PD&E Study Area (FDOT)
- Vision Plan Study Area (PlanCom)
- Arterial BRT Alignment (HART)
- Arterial BRT Potential Stations (HART)





## Fowler Avenue/State Road (SR) 582 Project Development & Environment Study from N. Florida Avenue (U.S. 41) to West of N. 56th Street/SR 583 Work Program Segment No. 448505-1

### Hillsborough TPO Committees Pre-Public Workshop Presentation May/June 2023



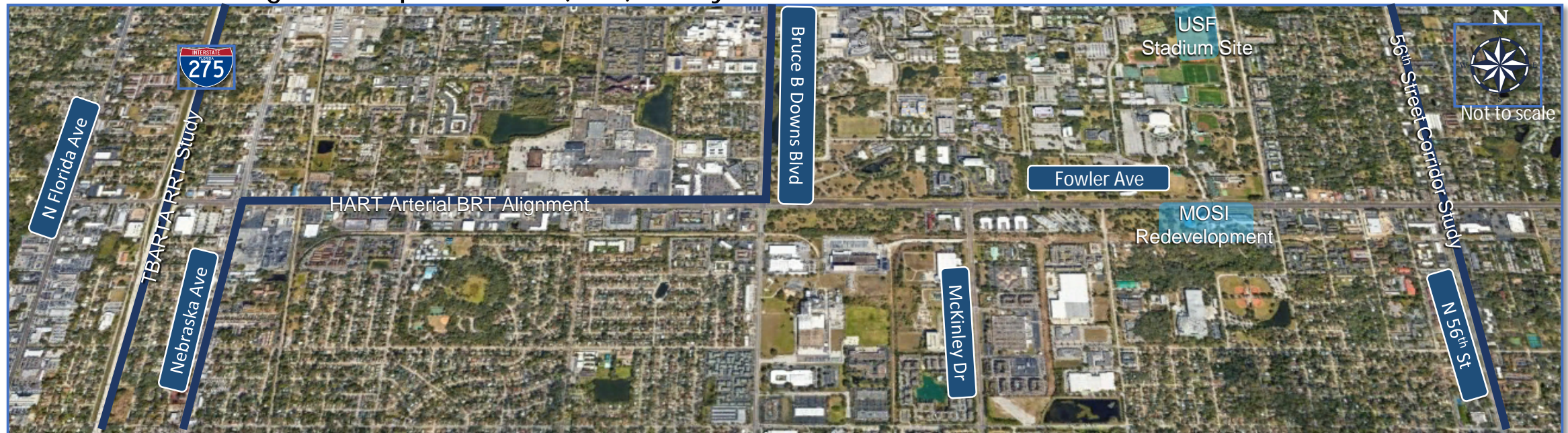


## Related Studies

- HART's Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Alignment
- Hillsborough Planning Commission's Fowler Avenue Vision Plan
- FDOT's N. 56<sup>th</sup> Street / 50<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Study
- FDOT's Smart Corridor project
- TBARTA's Regional Rapid Transit (RRT) Study

## Redevelopment

- Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI)
- USF Football Stadium
- Private redevelopment along corridor





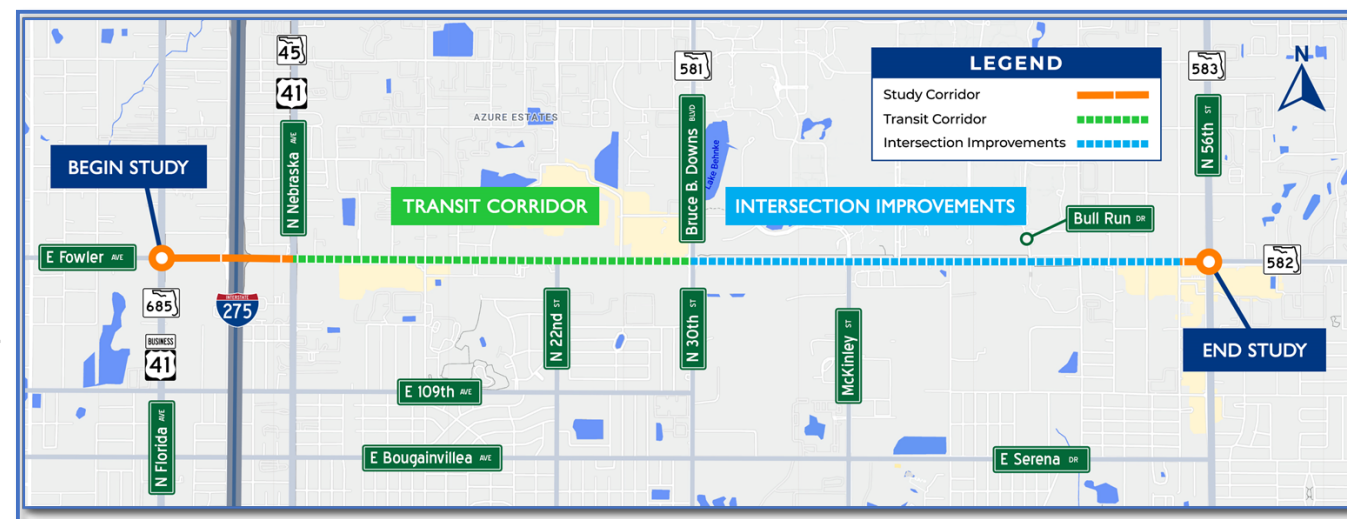
# Fowler Avenue PD&E Study

## Study Purpose

- Improve safety for all users
- Improve traffic operations
- Improve multi-modal accommodations

## Improvements Being Evaluated

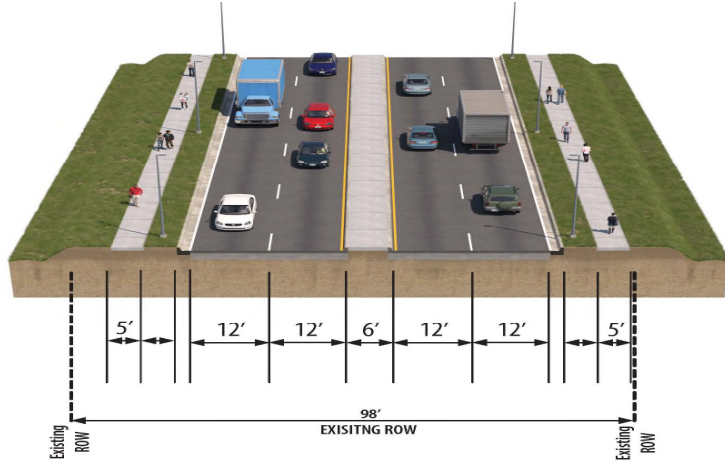
- 3 Transit Alternatives - Nebraska Ave to Bruce B. Downs Boulevard
  - Business Access & Transit (BAT) Lanes
  - Frontage Lanes
  - Median Guideway
- Intersection Improvements – Bruce B. Downs Boulevard to west of N. 56<sup>th</sup> Street
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



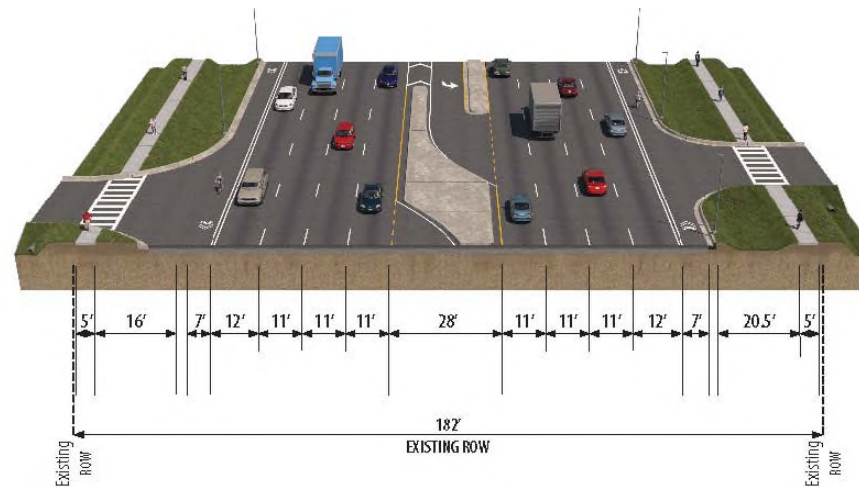


# Fowler Avenue Existing Typical Sections

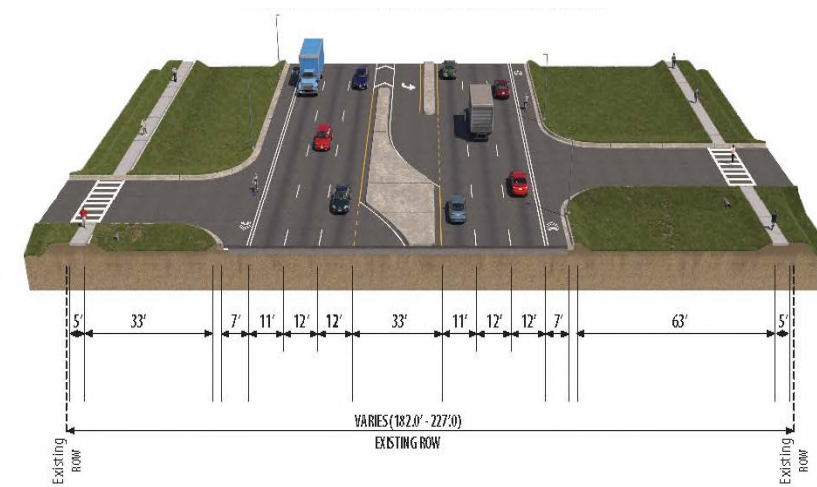
N. Florida Avenue to  
W of Nebraska Avenue  
Posted 40 MPH



Nebraska Avenue to  
Bruce B. Downs Boulevard  
Posted 45 MPH



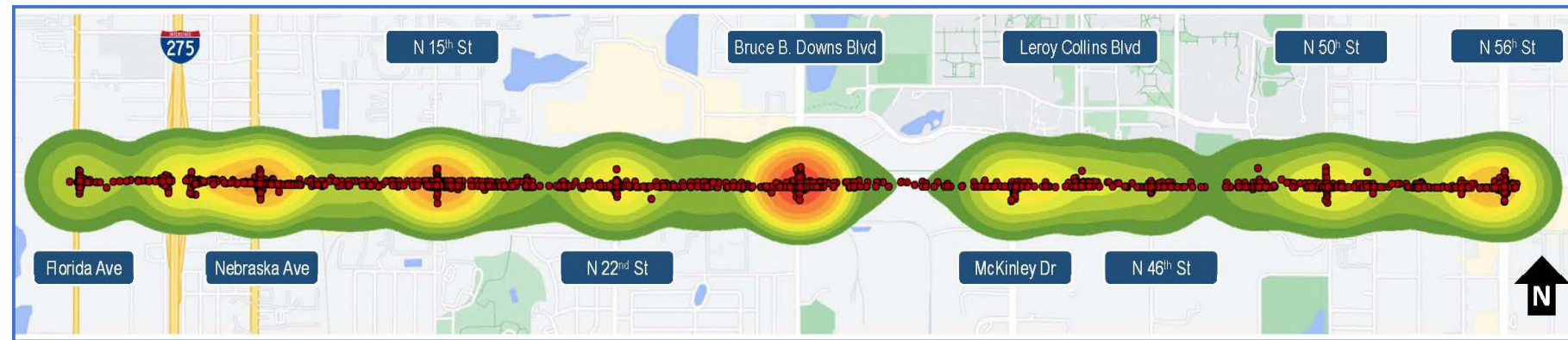
Bruce B. Downs Boulevard to  
west of N. 56<sup>th</sup> Street  
Posted 50 MPH



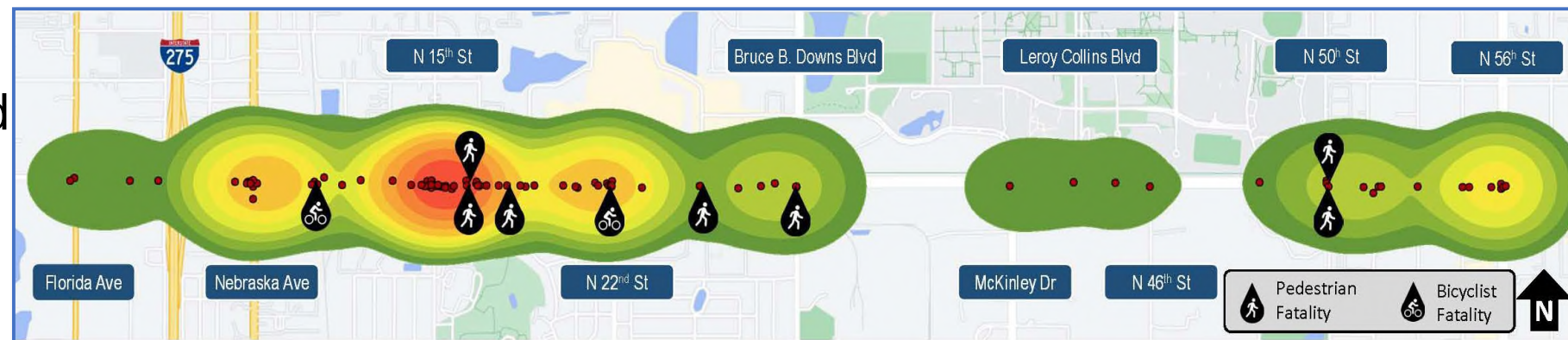


# Crash History

2015-2019 Five-Year Total Crash Data

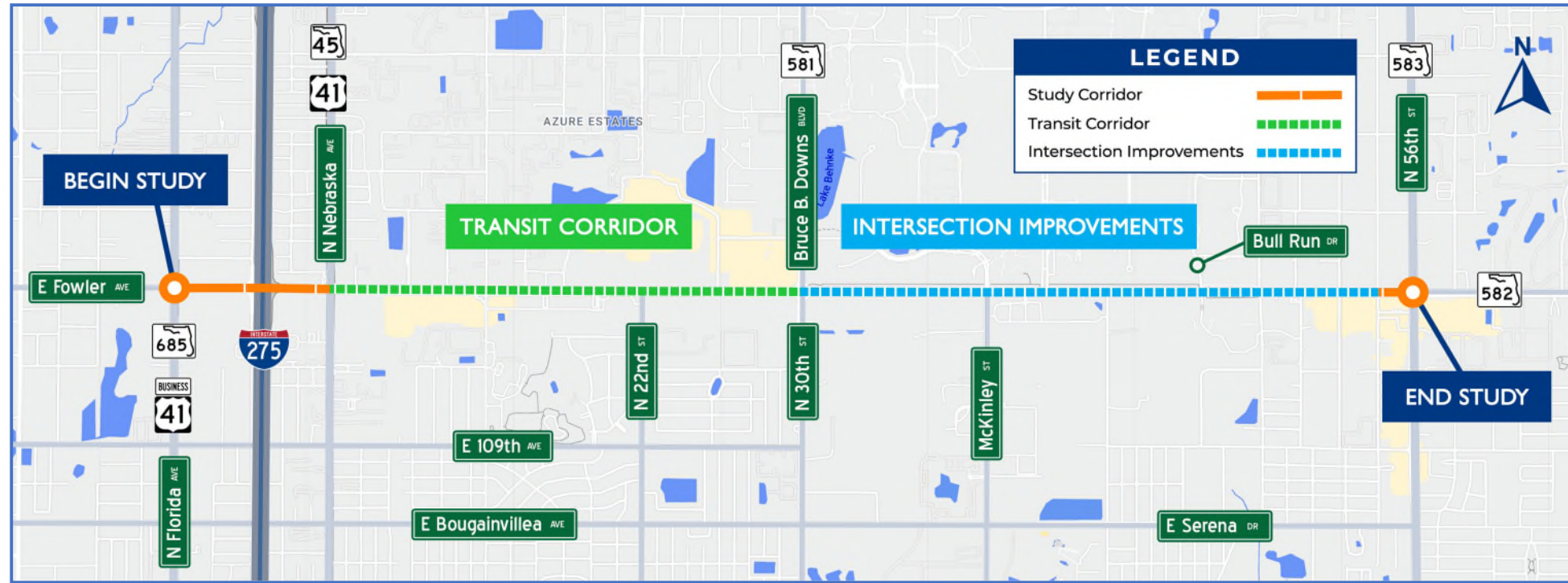


120 - Total Crashes Involving Bicycle/Pedestrian



- **3,320 - Total Crashes**
- **120 – Total Crashes with Bicycle/Pedestrian**
- **53** severe crashes
  - **9** fatalities (All Bicycle/Pedestrian)
  - **46** incapacitating injuries (17 Bicycle/Pedestrian)
- 75% of crashes associated with 10 intersections
- 56% rear end; 20% angle and left turn

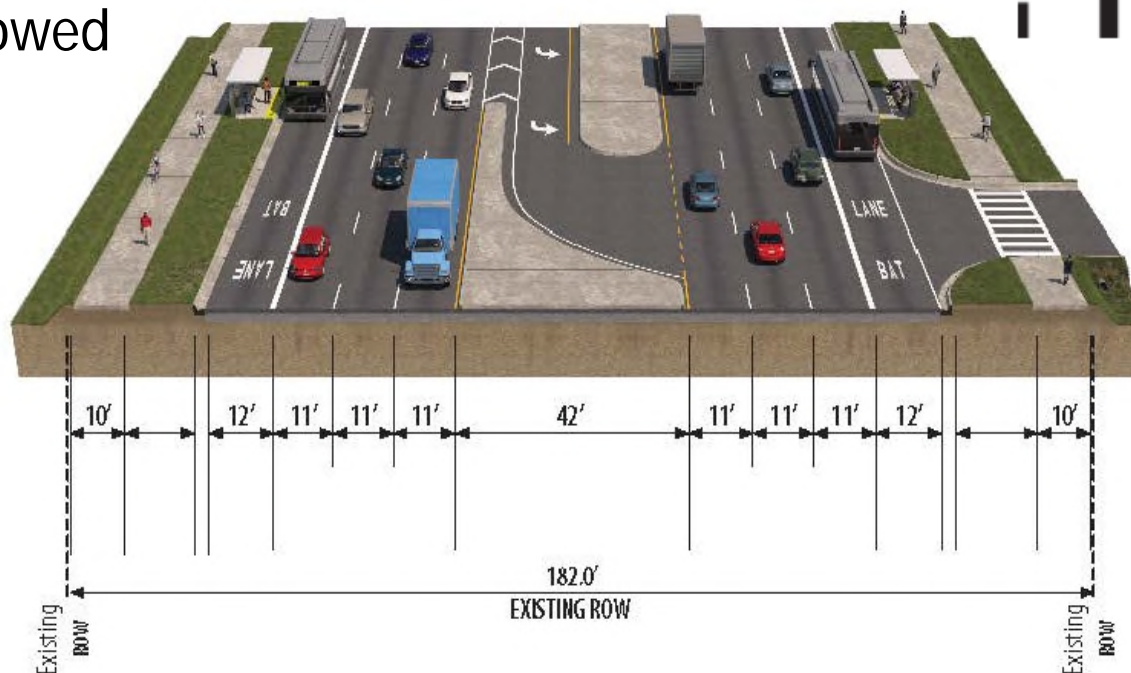
# Study Alternatives





# Alt. 1) Business Access & Transit (BAT) Lanes Nebraska Ave to Bruce B Downs Blvd

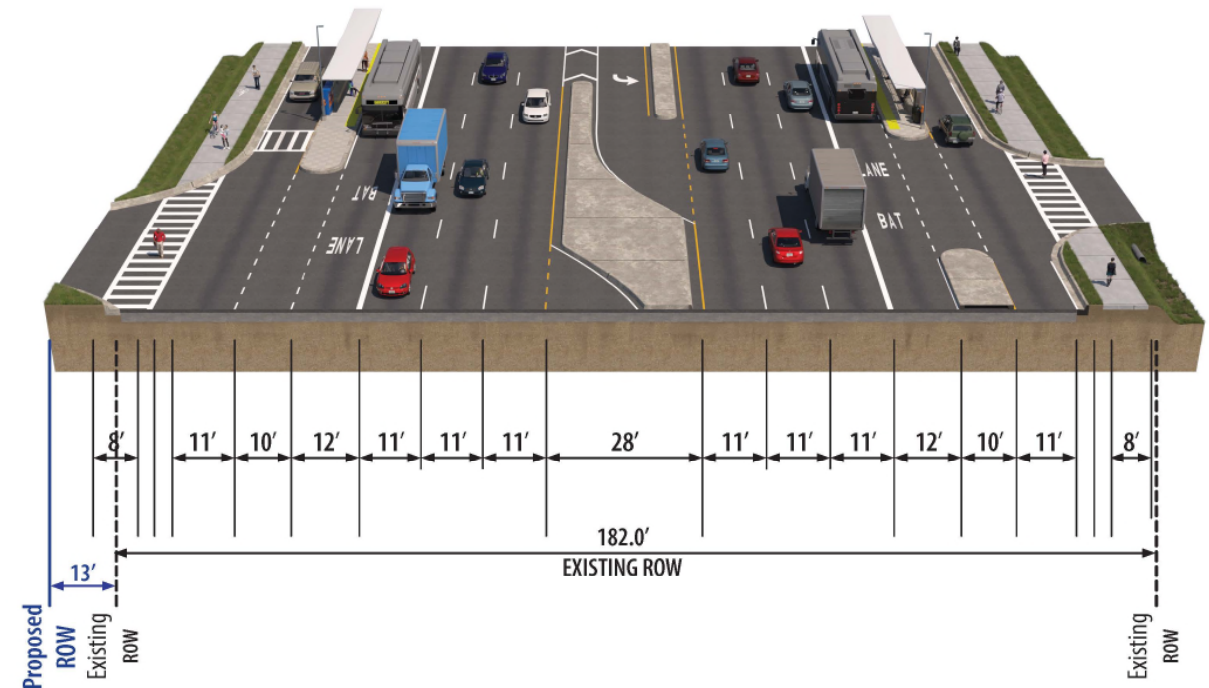
- Transit vehicles can make through movements
- General purpose vehicles can make right turns into driveways and at intersections
- General purpose vehicles not allowed to make through movements
- 10-foot sidewalks located along both sides
- Minimal right-of-way needed at intersections



# Alt. 2) Frontage Lanes

## Nebraska Ave to Bruce B Downs Blvd

- Frontage lanes are located parallel and separate from Fowler Avenue mainline
- Bus operates in mainline outside lane with transit stops/stations located at or near intersections
- Ingress/egress to frontage lanes at appropriate locations
- 8-foot sidewalks located along both sides
- Right-of-way required

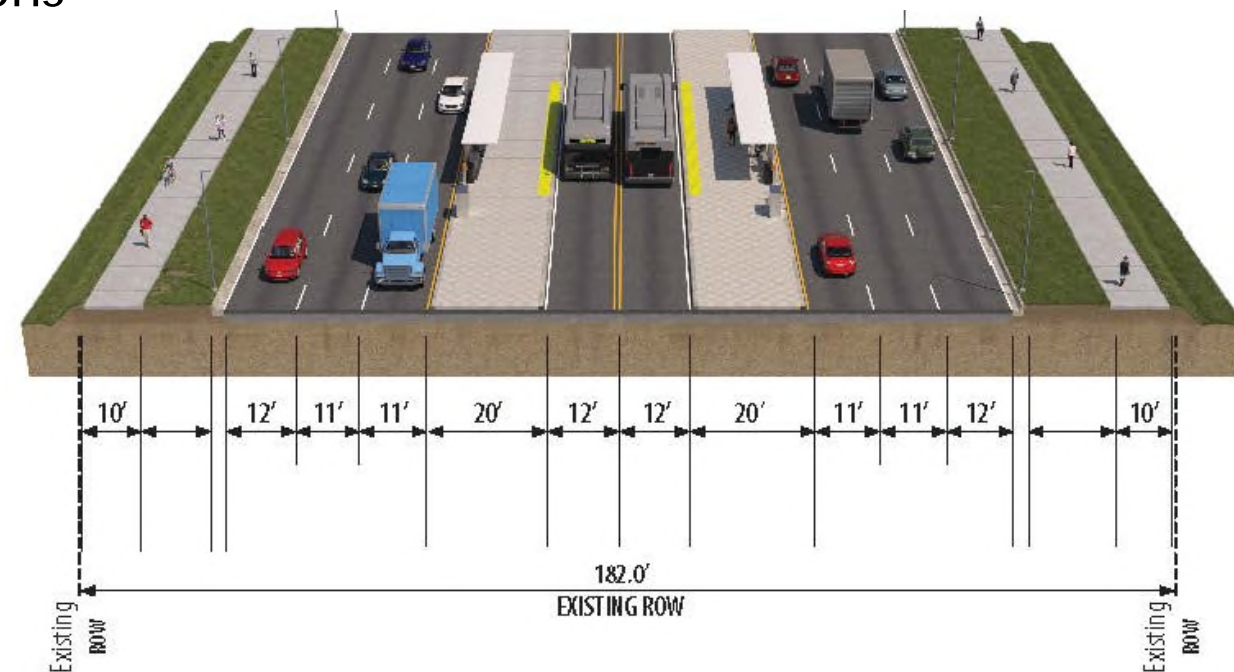




# Alt. 3) Median Guideway

## Nebraska Ave to Bruce B Downs Blvd

- Bus only lanes located within median
- Stops/stations located at or near intersections
- Median U-turns allowed at designated locations
- 10-foot sidewalks located along both sides
- Minimal right-of-way needed at intersections



# Intersection Improvements

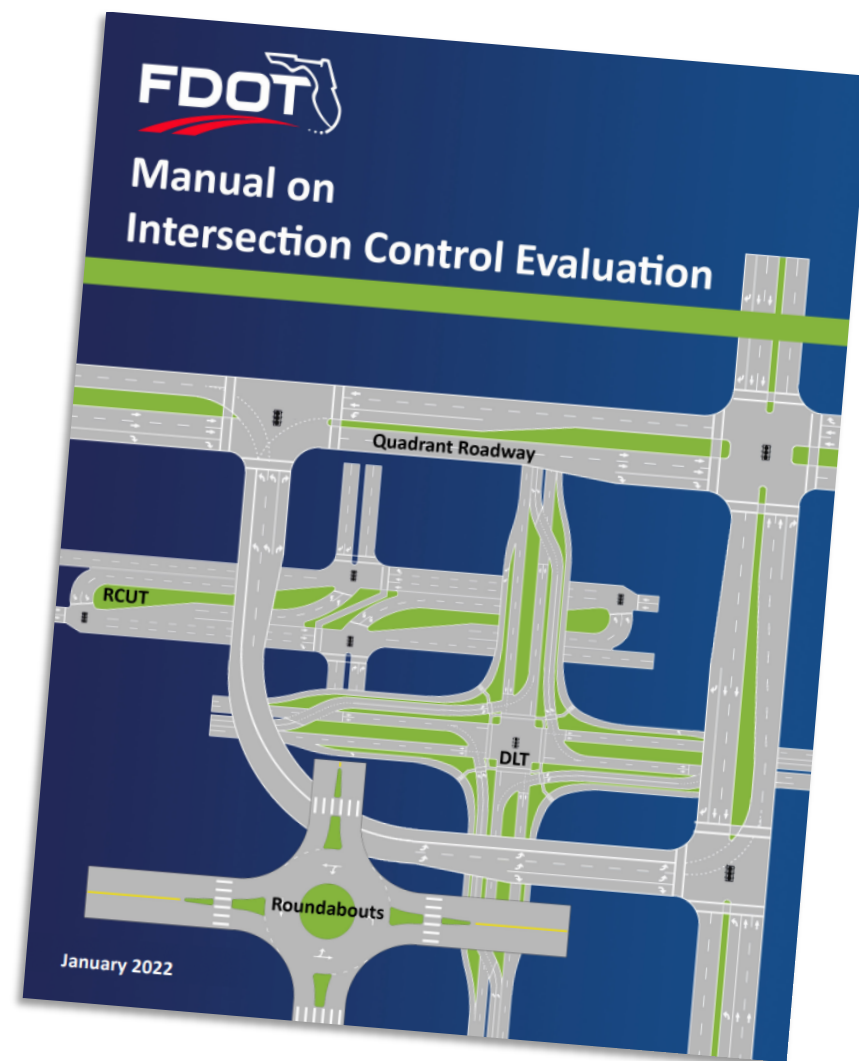
## Bruce B Downs Blvd to W of N 56<sup>th</sup> St

- Innovative Intersections considered
  - Intended for major streets with high traffic volumes
  - Improve vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian movements
  - Reduce delay, increase efficiency
  - Safer for all road users

### Examples include:

- R-Cut
- Thru-Cut
- Displaced Left Turn
- Single Loop

Note:  
No Innovative  
Intersection designs  
were found to be  
feasible.





# Safety Strategies

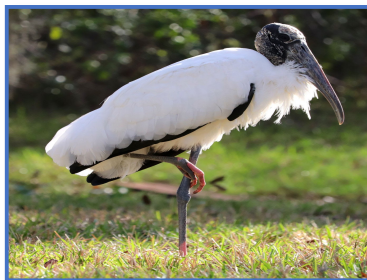
- Speed Management
- Mid-block Pedestrian Crossings
- Separate Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



# Environmental Effects

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- Wetlands and Surface Waters
- Protected Species & Habitat



## CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Archaeological and Historic Resources
- Section 4(f)



## SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

- Land Use
- Community Impacts



## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Air Quality
- Noise
- Contamination





# Evaluation Matrix & Estimated Project Cost

	No-Build Alternative	BAT Lane	Frontage Lane	Median Guideway
<b>Potential Right-of-Way Impacts</b>				
Number of Businesses Relocations	0	0	0	0
Number of Businesses and Residences	0	0	0	0
Additional Right-of-Way for Roadway/Ponds	0	0.01 ac	1.47ac	0.01 ac
<b>Potential Environmental Effects</b>				
Archaeological Sites and Historic Resources	0	2	2	2
Section 4(f) Sites	0	0	0	0
Wetlands	0	LOW	LOW	LOW
Surface Waters	0	LOW	LOW	LOW
Floodplains (Potential for Encroachment)	0	LOW	LOW	LOW
Threatened & Endangered Species	0	NO	NO	NO
Noise	0	LOW	LOW	LOW
Contamination Sites	0	LOW	MED	LOW
<b>Estimated Costs (in millions)</b>				
Right-of-Way Acquisition <sup>1</sup>	\$0.00	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wetland & Surface Water Mitigation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Construction Engineering and Inspection (8%)	\$0.00	\$1.90	\$2.45	\$3.04
Design (7%)	\$0.00	\$1.60	\$2.15	\$2.66
Construction	\$0.00	\$19.50	\$26.10	\$32.30
<b>Preliminary Estimate of Total Costs</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>	<b>\$31.00</b>	<b>\$38.00</b>
<sup>1</sup> Right-of-Way for stormwater management facilities, floodplain compensation sites, and intersection improvements and at Fowler Avenue and Nebraska Avenue.				

# Public Engagement Approach

- Kick-off Meetings
  - Hillsborough County TPO Committees & Board - November 2022/January 2023
- Newsletters
  - Kick-off – November 2022
  - Alternatives Public Workshop – **May 2023**
- Study Website
- Small Group/Stakeholder Meetings
  - University Area CDC – January 2023
  - MOSI – January 2023
  - City of Tampa – April 2023
  - USF (Engineering) – April 2023
  - Hillsborough County TPO Committees – **May/June 2023**
- **Alternatives Public Workshop – June 15, 2023**
- Public Hearing (if necessary) – **Spring 2024**

**BOLD** = Upcoming materials, meetings, & events





# Planning Consistency

- Fowler Avenue - Identified in Hillsborough County TPO Cost Feasible Non-Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) State Roadway Projects for 2020-2045



**Hillsborough TPO  
Transportation  
Planning Organization**



# Funding and Schedule

FDOT Five-Year Tentative Work Program FY 2023/24 – 2027/28

Design	Right of Way	Construction
FY 2023/24	Pending	FY 2025/26

Activity	2022			2023			2024			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Public Involvement		[Blue bar spanning Summer 2022 to Fall 2023]						[Dashed blue bar]		
Data Collection & Existing Conditions Analysis		[Blue bar]								
Alternatives Develop. & Evaluation		[Blue bar]								
Alternatives Public Workshop					[Red star]					
Public Hearing									[Yellow star]	
Study Approval										[Yellow star]





## Next Steps

1. *PD&E Study* Alternatives Public Workshop (June 15, 2023)
2. *PD&E Study* Preferred Alternative selected (August 2023)\*
3. *HART* begins Lane Repurposing process if applicable (Fall 2023)
4. *Vision Plan* Open House #2 (Fall 2023)
5. *FDOT* Design Phase begins (Fall 2023)

\**PD&E Study* receives NEPA approval (Public Hearing if applicable)

## For More Information

### Study website –

<https://www.fdotd7studies.com/projects/fowler-florida-to-56th/>

### Or Contact –

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FDOT Project Manager

(813) 975-6260

(800) 226-7220

[Amber.Russo@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Amber.Russo@dot.state.fl.us)





# Fowler Avenue Vision Study

## Engagement and Policy Update

May 8, 2023

Jay Collins, AICP  
Alvaro Gabaldon



Hillsborough  
County Florida



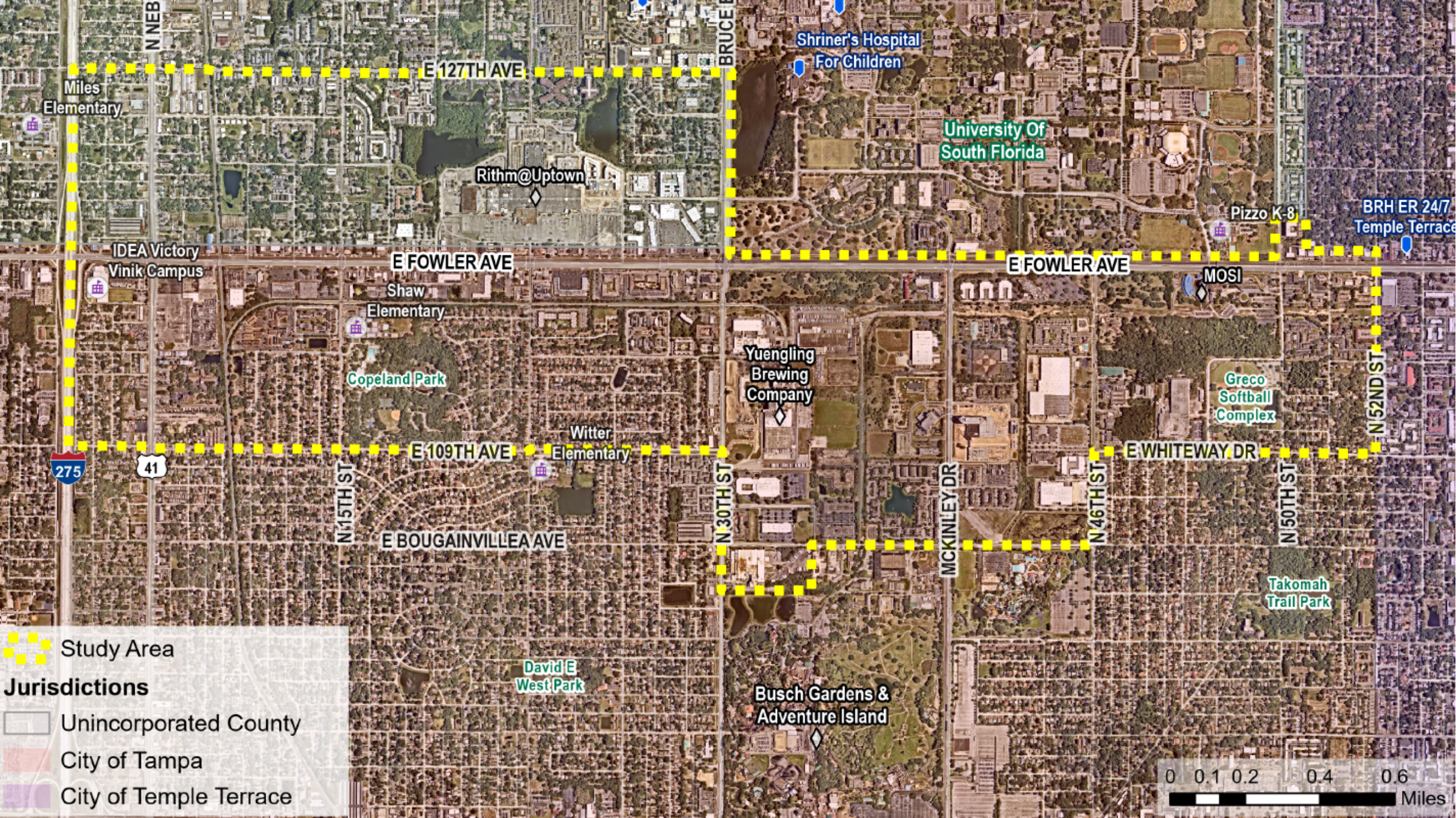
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Hillsborough

# Background/ Purpose

- Fowler Ave is at the intersection of jurisdictional boundaries, with unique planning challenges
- A vision plan for the Fowler Avenue Corridor:
  - Conveys clear and consistent strategies shared across jurisdictional boundaries
  - Enables equitable redevelopment
  - Integrates land use and transportation









# Overall Schedule

## Fowler Avenue Vision Study - Project Schedule

Task	2022/2023			2023/2024			
	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Project Phase	Community Values						
			Corridor Vision				
					Redevelopment Plan		
Public Engagement and Outreach Activities							
Community Workshop #1							
Community Workshop #2							
Online Survey							
Project Website							
Mobile Events							
Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings							
Presentations to Agencies and Boards							



# Fowler Avenue Engagement Timeline

## Spring Engagement Activities

### Mobile Engagement: February - May 2023

- Promote online survey and continue eliciting feedback on the vision
- Includes Walk and Talks and other activities to meet people in the community

### Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings: February - May 2023

- Targeted engagement with businesses, community partners, and neighborhood associations/groups
- Opportunity to identify community leaders for the Ambassador program

### Community Workshop #2: Summer 2023

- Focus on recommendations to support implementation of the Vision Plan





# Spring Engagement Summary

## Progress Update on Spring Engagement Activities

- 3\*** Walk and Talk groups
- 13** Walk and Talk participants
- 6** Stakeholder Focus Group Meetings
- 22** Focus Group Participants
- 259** Survey response



# Fowler Avenue Engagement Insights

## Community

- Diversity of culture - businesses, restaurants, retail are special
- New development is harbinger of displacement
- Lack of identity or collective character
- **Physically and socially divided by Fowler Ave.**
- USF, MOSI, health care facilities don't "face the community"
- Housing in the area is affordable

## Development

- **Inconsistencies between City of Tampa and Hillsborough County permitting processes**
- Difficult to do business in the County along corridor

## Infrastructure

- Stormwater/ flooding issues
- **Buildings are spread out and "far away"**
- Septic systems
- Lighting and beautification
- Lack of green space and recreation



# Fowler Avenue Engagement Insights

## Safety

- **Driving speed**
- Not lit at night
- No mid-block crossings

## Walking/ Biking Conditions

- **Lack of shade**
- Rush hours have major impact
- Moderate amount of bike/ped activity
- Drivers making right turns
- Sidewalk narrow and disconnected

## Transit

- Most bus stops unsheltered
- **No lighting or trash cans**
- Lack of stops in Terrace Park

## Buildings, Connectivity, Aesthetics

- Vacant properties are not maintained and attract further litter
- Signage clutters Fowler Ave
- **Impossible to walk to necessary goods and services**





# Framing the Fowler Ave. Vision

## Community Technical Report

- Describes the study area as it is today through:
  1. Study Area Profile
  2. Existing Plan Review
  3. Equity Analysis
  4. Land Use Characteristics
  5. Regulatory Assessment
  6. Transportation Assessment
  7. Opportunities and Constraints



Available to download:

<https://planhillsborough.org/fowler-avenue-vision-study/>



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# Fowler Avenue Redevelopment Vision

## Overall Corridor Vision:

*The Fowler Avenue Corridor will be an **inclusive and vibrant community** that welcomes a **diversity of people and businesses** by providing those who live, work, and play in the area with **safe, convenient, and accessible options** for housing, employment, transportation, and recreation.*



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# Redevelopment Vision Objectives

1. Create a cohesive community identity
2. Improve mobility and connectivity
3. Improve safety
4. Encourage redevelopment that revitalizes the area
5. Mitigate displacement of current residents and small businesses





# Fowler Avenue Redevelopment Vision

## Character District Map - DRAFT



District 1: Mixed-Use Activity Center



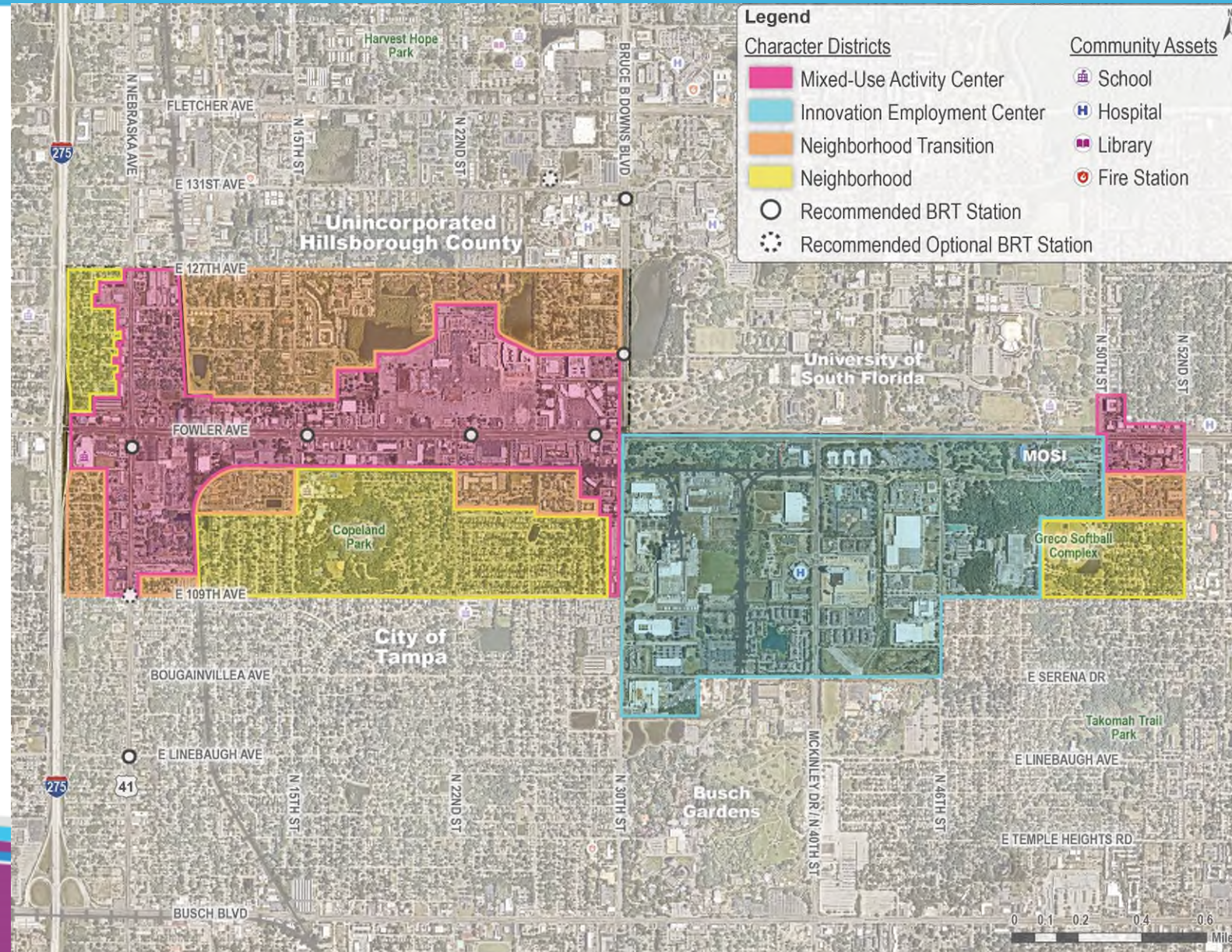
District 2: Innovation Employment Center



District 3: Neighborhood Transition



District 4: Neighborhood





# Fowler Avenue Policy Recommendations

- **Create Density and Intensity Standards**
- **Allow a Varied Land Use Mix**
- **Create a Sense of Place through Urban Design**
- **Enhance Community Support Infrastructure**
- **Increase Mobility and Connectivity**
- **Manage Building Form and Placement**
- **Explore Options for Implementation**



# Next Steps

## Upcoming Engagement and Presentations

- **May to June** – TPO Advisory Committees
- **Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>** – table at Fowler Ave. Alternative Public Workshop with FDOT
- **Summer 2023** - Fowler Avenue Vision Study Open House #2





# Contact Us



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# Thank you!

1. *Fowler Ave PD&E Study* – FDOT
2. *Fowler Ave Vision Plan* – Planning Commission
3. *Arterial BRT Study* – HART



Remember to be **Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow.**  
Safety doesn't happen by accident.