



SR 826/PALMETTO EXPRESSWAY EXPRESS LANES PD&E STUDY

From US 1/SR 5/Dixie Highway to SR 836/Dolphin Expressway
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Newsletter 3 - March 2019

Incluye versión en español

NEWSLETTER This is the third in a series of newsletters about the SR 826 PD&E Study. Through these newsletters, FDOT will notify the public about upcoming meetings and provide periodic updates on study activities.

ABOUT THE STUDY

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Six, is performing a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for State Road (SR) 826/Palmetto Expressway from US 1/SR 5/Dixie Highway to SR 836/Dolphin Expressway, a distance of approximately seven miles (see *Project Location Map*). The PD&E Study is proposing corridor improvements that will add highway and interchange capacity with the implementation of an express lanes system and interchange improvements. The project is located in Miami-Dade County, Florida and is contained within unincorporated Miami-Dade. The PD&E Study will evaluate the implementation of express lanes and potential modification of existing entrance and exit ramps serving the interchanges within the project limits. Intersection improvements will be evaluated along the cross streets to facilitate the ramp modifications and improve the access and operation of the interchanges. The study will evaluate the social, economic, physical and environmental impacts associated with the potential improvements.

SR 826 from US 1 to SR 836 is the final segment of a larger express lanes project for the SR 826 corridor. The northern segment, which extends from SR 836 to I-75, is already under construction. When complete, this regional system will greatly improve capacity, safety, connectivity and peak-hour travel times.

WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

A PD&E Study is the formal process that FDOT uses to ensure that consideration is given to environmental impacts, social impacts, public input, engineering design, and project costs when evaluating improvements. A PD&E Study is required to satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. 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 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.

The PD&E process requires the combined efforts of professional engineers, planners and scientists who collect and analyze project-related information to develop the best solution for a community's transportation needs while minimizing impacts. The process is an integrated work effort involving engineering analysis and environmental evaluation, all accomplished within the context of a public participation program. The following are the key components of the process:

- Data Collection
- Traffic Forecasts
- Alternatives Analysis and Development (including a No-Build Alternative)
- Engineering Analysis
- Environmental Analysis
- Documentation
- Public and Agency Involvement

The final phase of the PD&E process involves the preparation of preliminary engineering and environmental documentation.

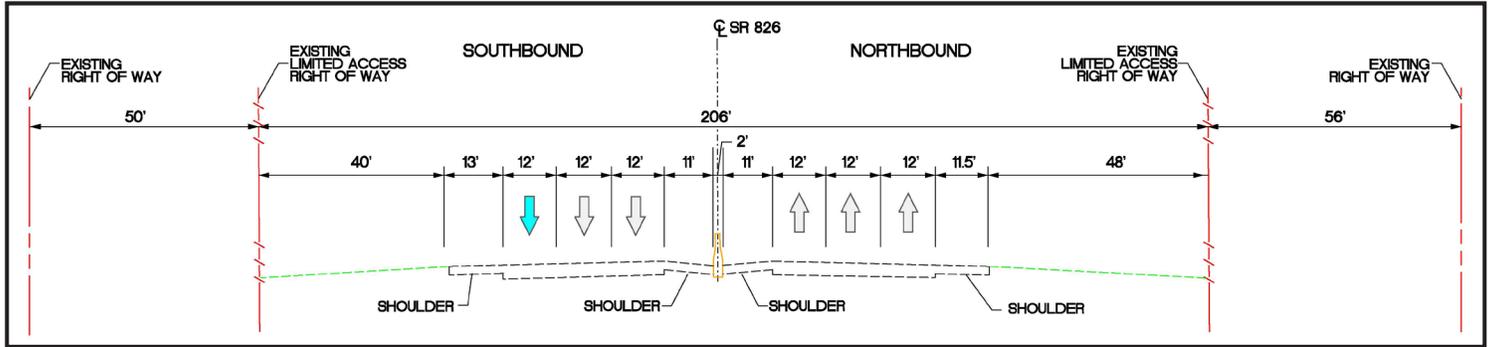


Project Location Map

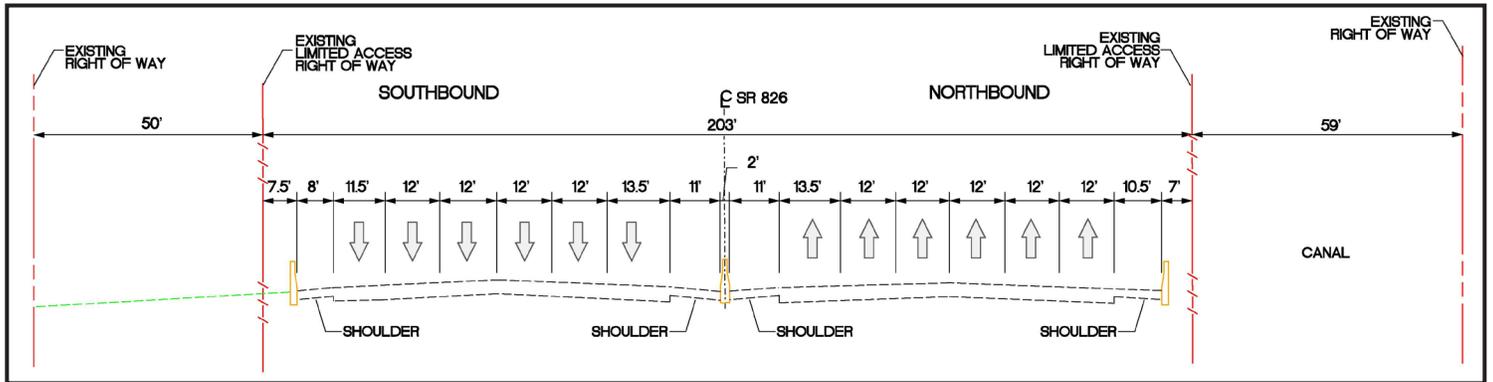
ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

The objective of this PD&E Study is to evaluate alternatives that will address existing and projected operating deficiencies along this section of SR 826. To keep up with the growing traffic demand within the study area, multiple alternatives have been considered, including a No-Build Alternative that maintains the existing roadway configuration and any other planned improvements along the corridor.

Existing Roadway Typical Sections

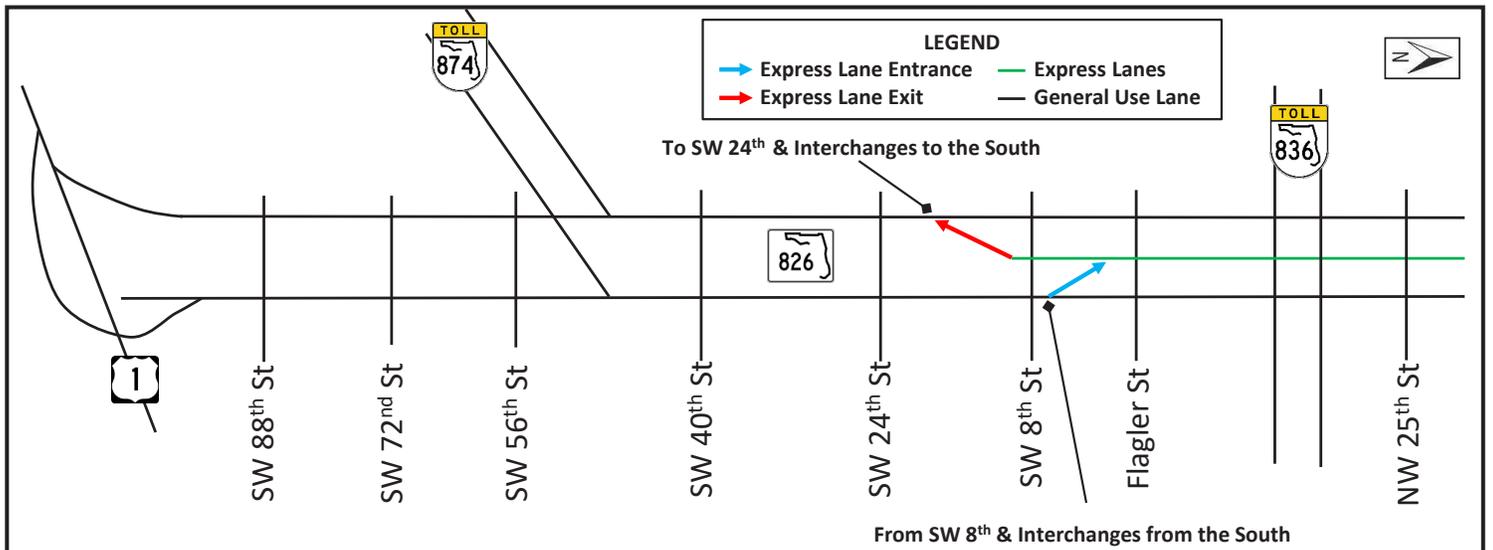


Section between US 1 and SR 874



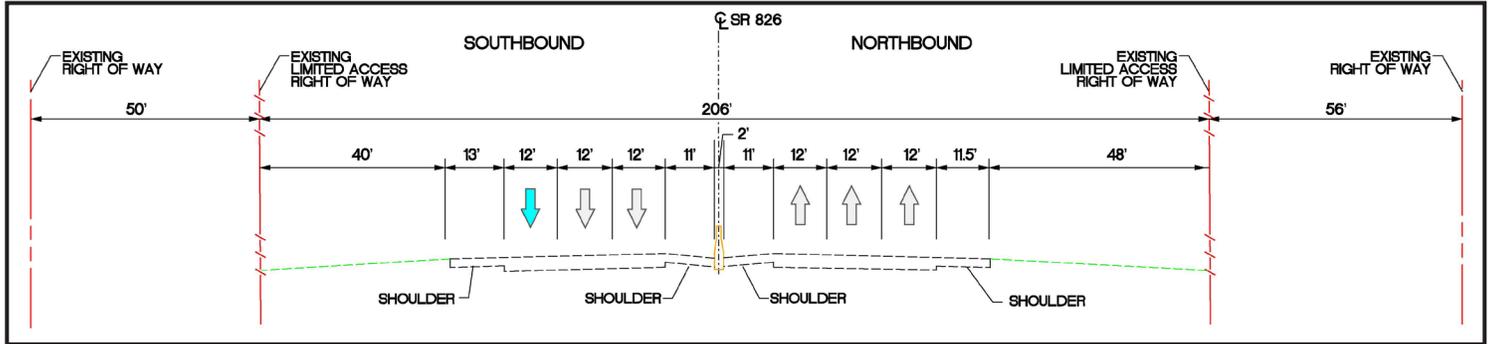
Section between SR 874 and SR 836

No-Build Alternative Line Diagram

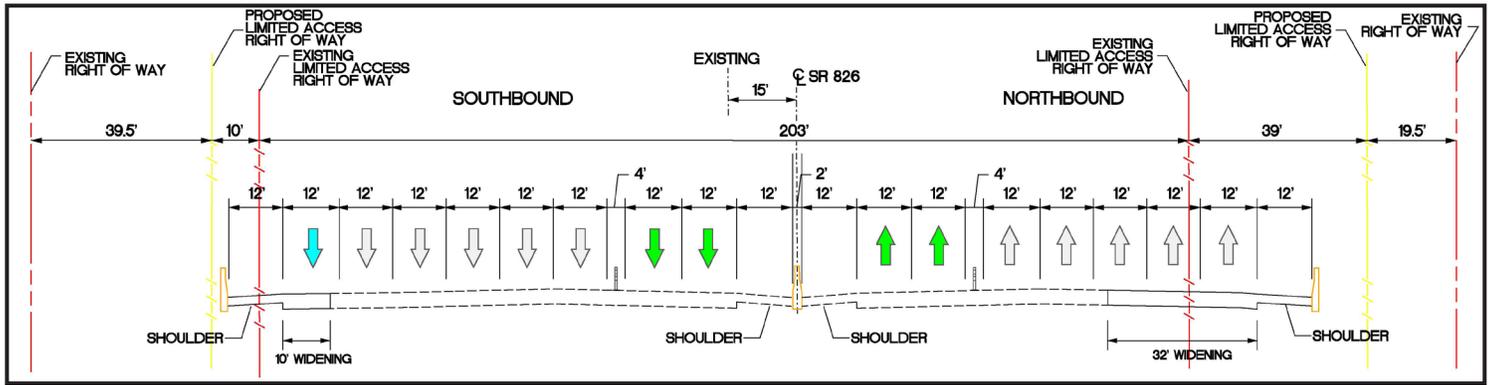


Three build alternatives were evaluated in this PD&E Study. All the alternatives propose to add express lanes along this segment of SR 826 with access points at selected locations to enter and exit the express lanes system.

Alternative 1 Roadway Typical Sections

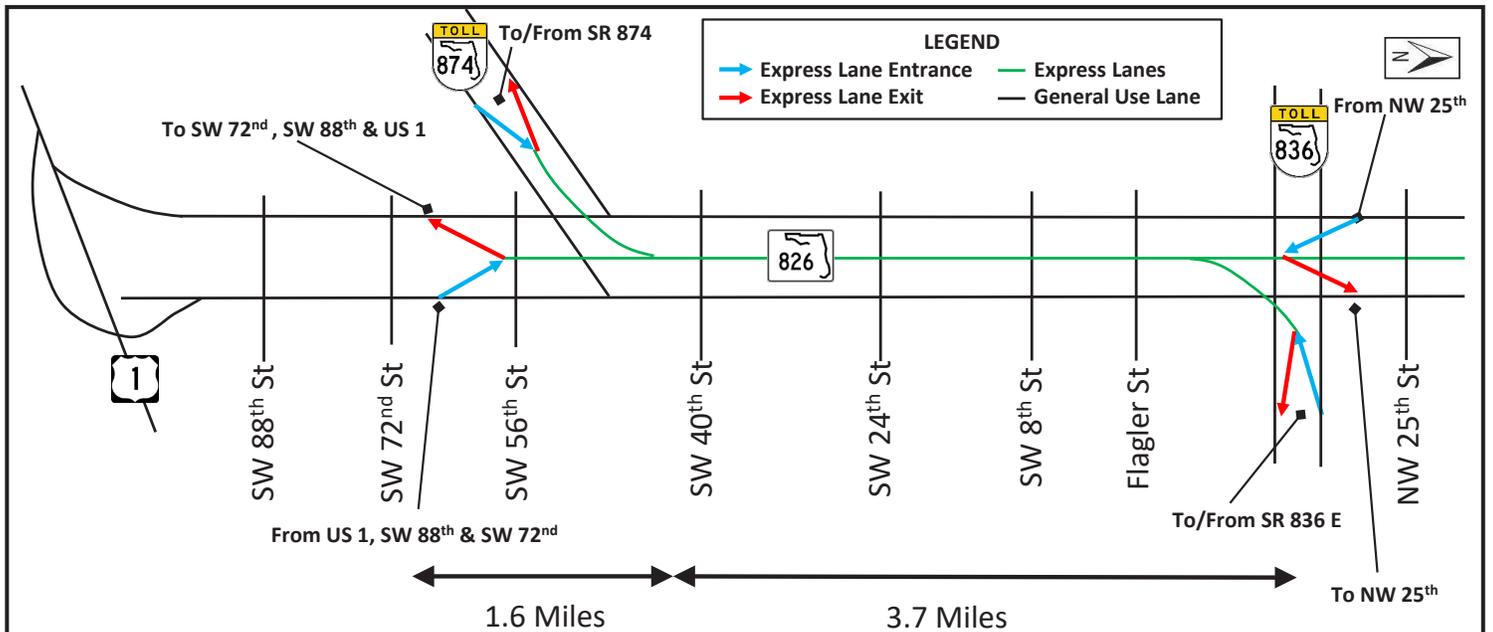


No improvements between US 1 and south of SR 874

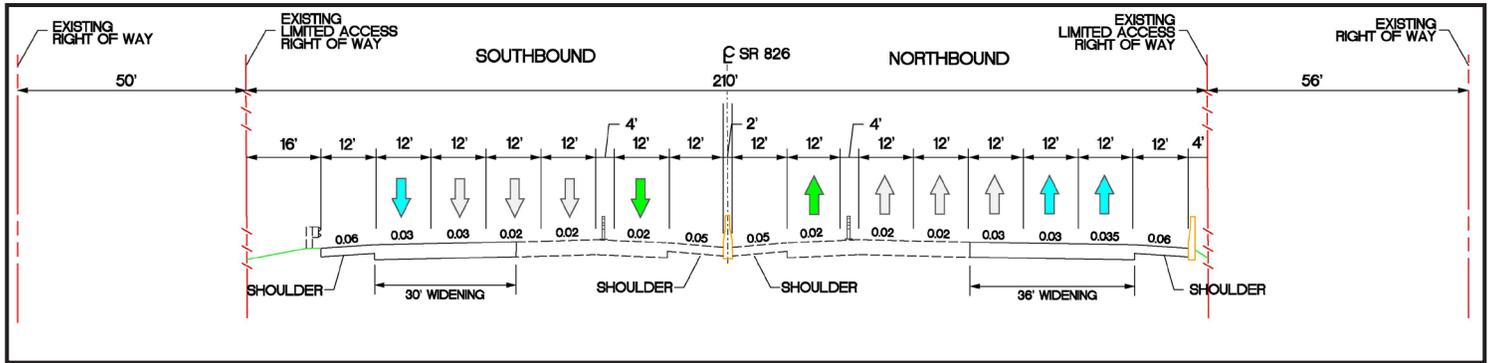


Two express lanes in each direction from SR 874 to SR 836

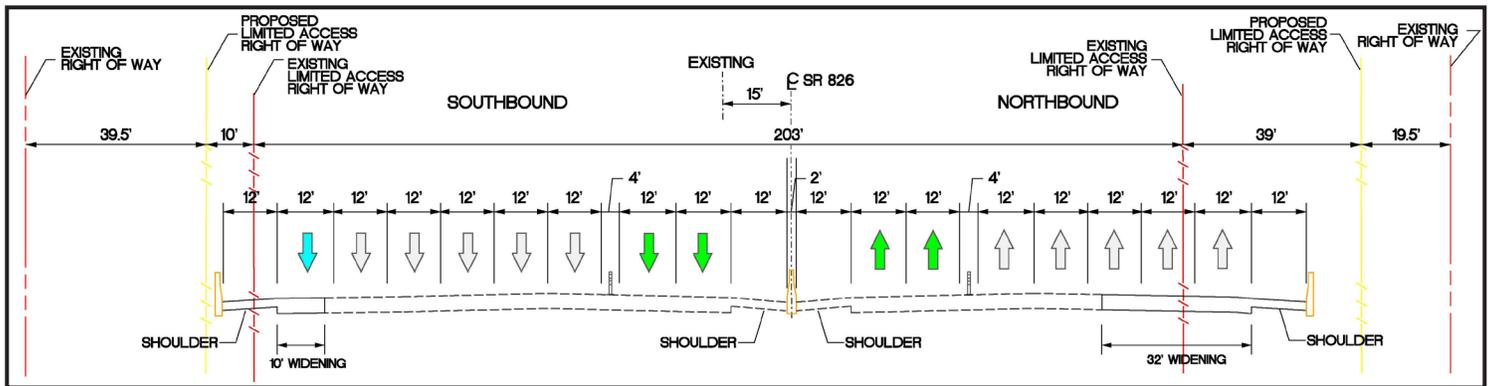
Alternative 1 Line Diagram



Alternative 2 Roadway Typical Sections

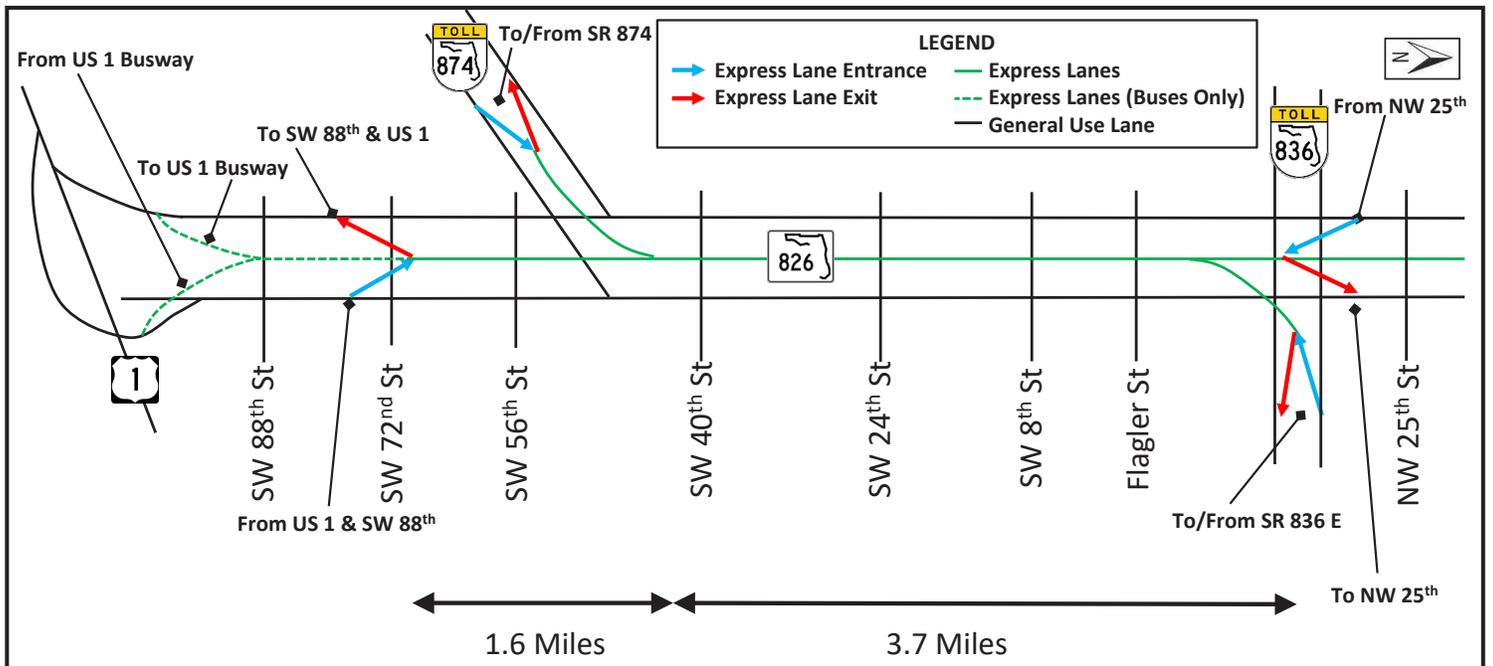


One express lane in each direction from US 1 to SR 874

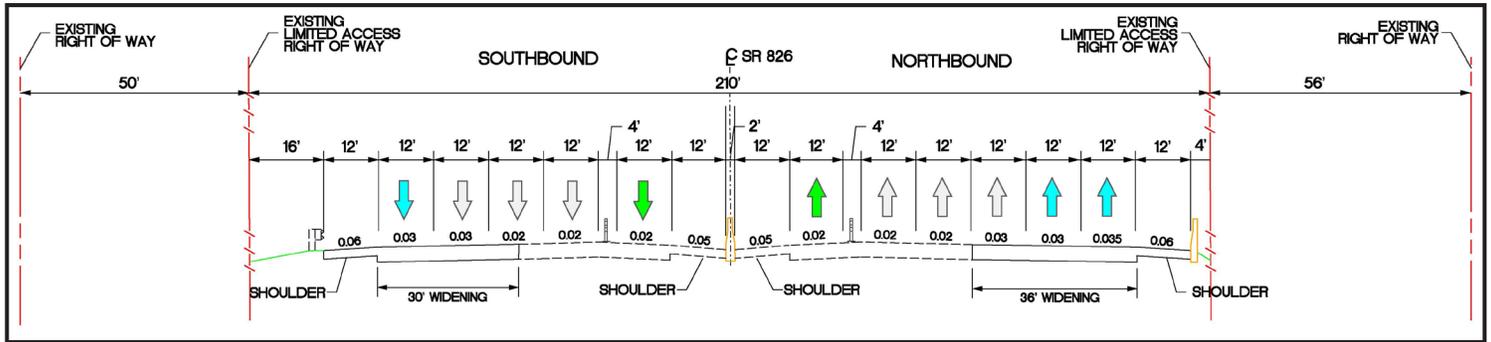


Two express lanes in each direction from SR 874 to SR 836

Alternative 2 Line Diagram

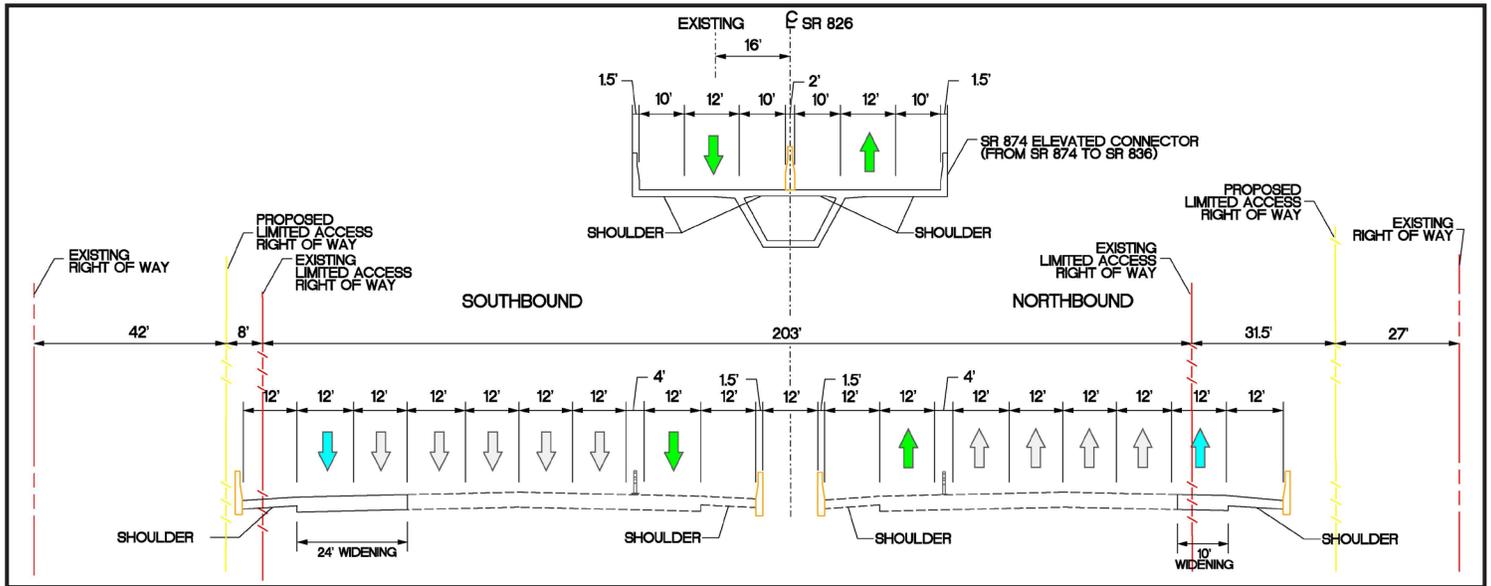


Alternative 3 Roadway Typical Sections



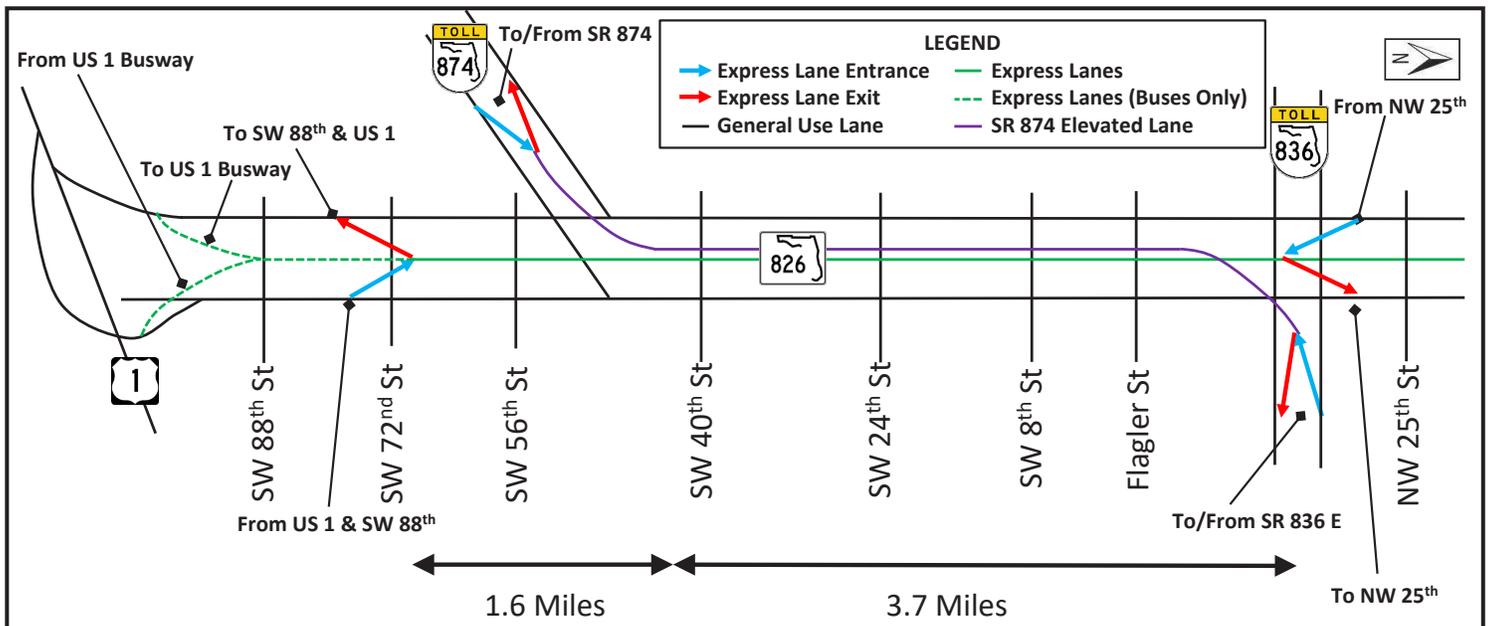
- GENERAL USE LANE
- AUXILIARY LANE
- EXPRESS LANE

One express lane in each direction from US 1 to SR 874



Two express lanes in each direction from SR 874 to SR 836, one at-grade and one elevated

Alternative 3 Line Diagram



NOISE

The PD&E Study will include the evaluation of potential noise impacts that may result from the proposed improvements. Noise specialists will use the approved federal and state procedure for evaluating whether the existing noise barriers need to be modified or if new barriers would benefit property owners. The analysis identifies qualifying noise barrier locations and preliminary heights. The findings will be documented in a Noise Study Report.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

An Alternatives Public Workshop is scheduled for **Thursday, March 7, 2019**. The purpose of this workshop is to present to the public the initial study results and to obtain comments regarding the alternatives being considered. A Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for Summer 2019. The purpose of this hearing will be to present to the public the recommended alternative and seek public input. Notifications will be distributed prior to each meeting/hearing.

COMMUNITY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

FDOT encourages the public to get involved throughout the study by providing comments, questions and suggestions to the study team. Project-related information will be provided to interested people, property owners, tenants and leaseholders within at least 500 feet of the project limits, including state and local officials, government organizations and other groups. Information will be available through newsletters, website, public information meetings and public inquiries. Newsletters will be available prior to each public meeting/hearing. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. All comments or suggestions may be mailed or emailed to the FDOT project manager at the address noted below.

PD&E STUDY SCHEDULE

STUDY MILESTONES	2017		2018				2019			
	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec
Begin Study	◆									
Data Collection	■									
Project Kick-off Meeting		◆								
Engineering and Environmental Analyses		■								
Alternatives Public Workshop							◆			
Draft Documentation						■				
Public Hearing								◆		
Final Documentation							■			
Location and Design Concept Acceptance (Study Completed)										◆
Public Involvement	■									

Schedule Subject to Change

PROJECT CONTACT

If you would like to obtain additional project information, be added to the mailing list or arrange a meeting, please visit our website at www.fdotmiamidade.com/826expressouth or contact:

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