

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q: *What is PD&E?*

A: A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is a process used to evaluate social, economic and environmental impacts associated with a planned transportation improvement. The Florida Department of Transportation the state's procedure for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. MDX must follow the process any time state or federal funds are planned to be used on an MDX project.

A PD&E Study begins with the definition of the Purpose and Need. The purpose is a set of goals and objectives that MDX intends to fulfill by the transportation improvement project under evaluation. The need is the reason(s) why the transportation improvement project is proposed. During a PD&E Study, several improvement alternatives are developed that meet the purpose and need. These alternatives are developed with input from the public, local government and environmental agencies obtained throughout the study process. The intent of the process is to study each valid alternative to the level of detail necessary to accurately assess any potential impacts associated with the proposed improvements and to make a recommendation of the preferred alternative.

## Q: *Why is the project needed?*

A: MDX initiated this PD&E Study in order to address traffic congestion that is projected to significantly increase in northern Miami-Dade County in the next 15 to 20 years. The Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization forecasts a population increase of more than 800,000 persons in Miami-Dade County by 2035. This increase in population will result in more vehicle trips and will likely result in increased congestion on the areas major roadways including I-95, I-75, Palmetto Expressway and Gratigny Parkway. East-west traffic flow in the heavily traveled northern region of the county is currently interrupted by the limited number of existing east-west roadways. Providing improvements to Gratigny Parkway and the existing connection at I-95 will improve east-west regional expressway connectivity and help address future population growth and traffic congestion.

## Q: *How long will the study take?*

A: The study began in July 2010 and is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2012. Future phases of the project including design, right-of-way acquisition and construction would take place as funding becomes available. The project is not currently scheduled or funded for construction.

## Q: *What alternatives are being considered?*

A: Numerous alternatives are being evaluated as part of the PD&E Study to best determine how to meet the need for the project. Five primary alternatives including four options for widening the existing roadway were evaluated; however, four of these alternatives were dropped from consideration because of potential business and right-of-way impacts. An alternative that would remove two-lanes from the existing road and construct four-lanes on an elevated structure is still being evaluated. Various alternatives that will improve the connection at I-95, as well as connections near NW 27th Avenue, are also still under evaluation and are available for review at tonight's workshop.

## Q: *How will the project affect local businesses?*

A: MDX has hired an independent firm to conduct a business impact study. The objective of the study is to:

- Estimate the economic impacts associated with the construction of the project
- Assess the impact changes in traffic will have on businesses located on NW 119th Street
- Determine the long-term impact of not building the project
- Estimate the impact on land-use values
- Estimate construction-related impacts

## Q: *How will the project benefit the local community?*

A: The project is anticipated to provide many benefits to the local community including the following:

- Alleviate future traffic congestion along NW 119th Street
- Reduce travel times and minimize delays on NW 119th Street by separating pass-through traffic from local traffic
- Provide a critical east-west expressway connection in the northern part of Miami-Dade County
- Provide enhancements to the community which may include the removal of existing lanes, more integrated residential and business communities between the north and south sides of NW 119th Street, improved pedestrian connectivity, wider sidewalks, enhanced lighting, bike lanes and landscaping

These potential community benefits are currently being evaluated as part of the study and will factor into the design of the preferred alternative.

## Q: *How do I get involved?*

A: Public participation is encouraged during the entire process of the project, including future project workshops and the Public Hearing. The intent is to keep the public informed on the status of the study as well as to provide opportunities to review study materials and provide comments on the findings of the study before any final decisions are reached. We also encourage you to contact team members with any questions throughout the project. Please feel free to direct your comments to:

Contact: Ms. Tere C. Garcia, Public Information Officer  
Email: [924east@mdxway.com](mailto:924east@mdxway.com)  
Phone: 786.277.9292

## Q: *What are the next steps?*

A: Tonight's Alternatives Public Workshop does not mark the conclusion of the public input process. Over the course of the next several months, the project team will refine and identify a preferred alternative based on input received at tonight's workshop. MDX will then hold a Public Hearing early next summer to present the preferred alternative(s) and the results of the alternatives evaluation. In addition to the Public Hearing, MDX will provide regular public involvement opportunities throughout the duration of the study to ensure the public's input into the selection of the preferred alternative is provided.