



### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is continuing its efforts to provide high-quality, high-capacity transit service on an east-west axis in central Broward County. The proposed Central Broward East-West Transit Project would connect the western side of the county to the highly dense coastal area. The proposed project would assist in meeting the anticipated increases in travel demand and help reduce future congestion in the Central Broward area.

After conducting an alternatives analysis, the Broward MPO identified and endorsed a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) to serve the Central Broward Area. The LPA would improve east-west mobility and improve accessibility to two of the largest employment centers in Broward County (the Central Business District in Downtown Fort Lauderdale and the Plantation Midtown District), as well as other major activity centers, such as the South Florida Education Center in Davie, the Sunrise International Business Park, the Sawgrass Mills Mall, and the Bank Atlantic Center. For the proposed project to be eligible for New Starts funding, the federal agency that is involved is required to prepare an environmental document to evaluate the potential impacts of the project, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In the case of the Central Broward Transit study, FDOT is initiating the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and the federal agency is the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), part of the United States Department of Transportation (US-DOT).

The DEIS will evaluate all reasonable alternatives to the project and discuss the reasons why other alternatives, which may have been considered, were eliminated. The DEIS shall summarize the studies, reviews, consultations, and coordination required by environmental laws. The next step after FTA's concurrence will be the Final EIS and approval to enter the Preliminary Engineering phase of project development.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars and plan to attend one or more of our public Scoping meetings. These are open house with a presentation and comment period as indicated. We are hosting three meetings as follows:

**Monday, September 15, 2008 - 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Presentation begins at 6:00 pm**

West Regional Library, Multi-Purpose Room 8601 - W. Broward Boulevard, Plantation, FL 33324

**Wednesday, September 17, 2008 - 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Presentation begins at 6:00 pm**

African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, Auditorium - 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311

**Thursday, September 25, 2008 - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Presentation begins at 6:30 pm**

Broward General Medical Center, Auditoriums A & B - 1600 S. Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316

More information about Scoping and the purpose of these meetings is provided inside this newsletter.

### SELECTED LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Adopted by the MPO on July 13, 2006



The above image represents the preferred alternative approved by the Broward MPO. As part of Scoping, additional alternatives may be identified for evaluation through the environmental analysis.



Images courtesy of EDSA

## PROJECT UPDATE

As part of the DEIS process, FDOT has scheduled three Scoping meetings, which are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Scoping is the formal, early coordination process required by NEPA regulations. It is an open process to identify the affected public and agency concerns and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed during the project. The scoping objectives are to facilitate an efficient EIS preparation process and to define the issues and

alternatives that will be examined in detail, thus, saving time in the overall progression of the project.

The DEIS will address significant key issues such as preferred vehicle (light rail or bus rapid transit) and alignment, including final route and the location of the transit vehicle (on the ground or in the air and next to the curb or in the middle of the street). In addition, station locations and their conceptual design will be identified as part of this process.

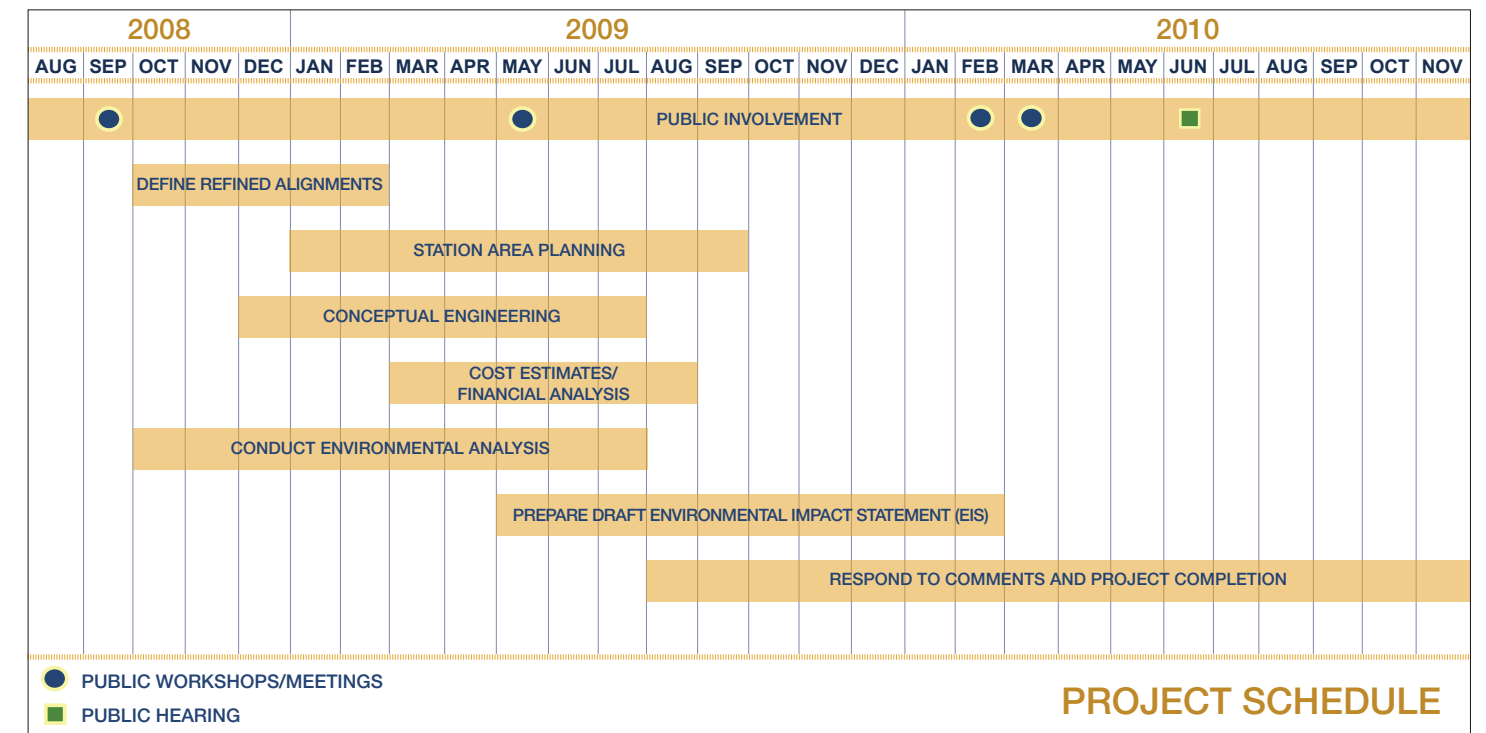
## IMPACTS TO BE ASSESSED

The following impact categories will be evaluated:

SOCIAL EFFECTS	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	ECONOMIC EFFECTS	TRANSPORTATION EFFECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use and socio-economics</li> <li>• Neighborhood, community services and community cohesion impacts</li> <li>• Property acquisition and displacement</li> <li>• Visual and aesthetics conditions</li> <li>• Cultural resources</li> <li>• Park land and recreation areas</li> <li>• Safety and security</li> <li>• Environmental justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geologic resources</li> <li>• Water resources (floodplains, coastal zones, navigable waterways, wetlands, and water quality)</li> <li>• Biota and habitat</li> <li>• Rare, threatened, and endangered species</li> <li>• Farmlands</li> <li>• Air quality</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Vibration</li> <li>• Hazardous and Regulated materials</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Utilities distribution systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic conditions</li> <li>• Station area development</li> <li>• Development effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on transit</li> <li>• Effects on roadways</li> <li>• Effects on other transportation facilities and services</li> </ul>

## GOALS OF THE PROJECT

- Enhances east-west mobility in central Broward County
- Supports economic growth and development
- Ensures compatibility between land use policies and transit service
- Efficiently uses available financial resources
- Consistent with the needs and desires of the residents of Broward County
- Enhances and preserves the social and physical environment



## WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT THE STUDY

This study is being conducted by the Florida Department of Transportation, District 4. Mr. Scott Seeburger is the Department's Project Manager. Mr. Seeburger is being assisted on this project by the consulting firm of Jacobs. Mr. Zafar Alikhan is the project manager for Jacobs. These individuals can be contacted as follows:

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