

## Public and Agency Involvement Program

The EPD&E study process includes a Public Involvement Program to inform and involve all interested parties in the development of the planned project. This program is now underway, with the study team gathering input from citizens and agencies within the project area. Public involvement activities will continue through the duration of the project, highlighted by an "alternatives public information meeting" and the study's formal public hearing.

Several editions of this project newsletter will be prepared and distributed. The mailing list includes all individuals owning property within at least 300 feet of the centerline of the proposed project; local elected and appointed officials; local, regional, and state agencies; and, individuals who request to be placed on the mailing list. Upcoming newsletters will provide updates on the study progress and will announce future public meetings and the study's formal public hearing.

Persons wishing to be placed on the mailing list should contact either Jim Shepherd or Bonnie Pfuntner. Their contact informa-

tion is shown on the front page of this newsletter.

Several local, regional, state or federal agencies have a concern in this project stemming from jurisdictional review requirements or expressed interest. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida Department of Community Affairs
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Federal Aviation Administration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- Apalachee Regional Planning Council
- NW Florida Water Management District
- Leon County Board of County Commissioners
- City of Tallahassee City Commission

- Tallahassee Regional Airport
- Tallahassee Community College
- Florida A&M University
- Florida State University

Each will be contacted directly by the Blueprint 2000 & Beyond Project Team as part of the study's public and agency involvement program. As other concerned public agencies are identified throughout the study, they also will be listed and contacted.

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- Alternatives for project stormwater management in concert with proposed regional stormwater management facilities.
- Opportunities for retrofit of stormwater management ponds.
- Opportunities for combined green ways/floodplain protection and stormwater improvements.
- Alternatives for potential greenway trail connections, either along or crossing SR 263.



This newsletter is the first in a series prepared by the staff at Blueprint 2000 to help keep the citizens of Tallahassee and Leon County informed about the Capital Circle NW/SW Expanded Project Development and Environment Study.

For more information:

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## Study Begins for Capital Circle Northwest/Southwest

The Blueprint 2000 & Beyond Intergovernmental Agency, a joint organization of Leon County and the City of Tallahassee, has begun a study to examine proposed improvements to a portion of Capital Circle (State Road 263), from south of Orange Avenue (SR 371) to Tennessee Street (SR 10/US 90)—a distance of approximately 2.9 miles. (A location map of the proposed project can be found inside this newsletter.)

The study process is an expanded version of the standard FDOT Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study. Under the normal process, a PD&E study determines the best location or alignment for the project, the best design concept, and the effect the project would have on the natural, physical and social environment. Blueprint 2000's expanded PD&E study includes these elements, but is structured to incorporate other important components, such as retrofit of existing flood controls; enhanced measures for protection of water quality; connection to greenway properties for Blountstown Highway recreational trails; and, contributions to ongoing efforts to restore the Gum Swamp.

For the segment of Capital Circle from Pensacola Street/Blountstown Highway to Tennessee Street, the expanded PD&E effort will also include the development of preliminary design plans, right-of-way maps, and the processing of required environmental permits.

Several improvement alternatives will be studied as part of the expanded PD&E study process, including the following:

- Alternatives for widening the existing roadway to

either four or six lanes and adding sidewalks and/or trails (including alternatives that would enhance the ongoing mitigation improvements to Gum Swamp).

- Alternatives for any necessary improvements at major intersections, including the "footprint" required for a future interchange at Pensacola St./Blountstown Highway.
- Potential widening of major crossroads up to 1000 feet, where required, based on traffic or roadway alignment needs.
- Alternatives for widening or replacing the bridge over the CSX railroad.
- Structural alternatives for crossing Gum Swamp.

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## Join Us! We Want Your Input!

### Public "Kickoff" Meeting

- When:** Tuesday, July 20, 2004
- Where:** Tallahassee Community College, Student Union  
444 Appleyard Drive (see map on page 2)  
Tallahassee
- Time:** Open House from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Presentation at 6:00 p.m.

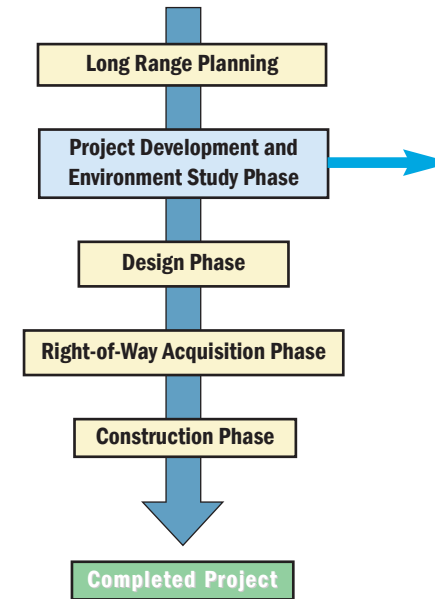
The purpose of this Kickoff Meeting is to announce the beginning of the study, to explain the study's details, and to hear your comments and suggestions.

For more information, contact Bonnie Pfuntner, at Blueprint 2000, 1311 Executive Center Dr., Suite 109, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Phone (850) 891-1880, email: pfuntneb@blueprint2000.org.

The public meeting will be held in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Anyone requesting special accommodations may call Bonnie Pfuntner at (850) 891-1880, at least 7 days prior to the meeting. TDD users may call 711 for assistance.



**The Transportation Development Process**



**Key Public and Agency Involvement Events**  
 Capital Circle Northwest/Southwest Expanded PD&E Study

- Agency Partnering Meeting** ..... July 20, 2004  
*The purpose of this meeting is to present the project to representatives of regulatory agencies who have jurisdiction over the project, and to receive comments about potential concerns and preferences.*
- Public Kickoff Meeting** ..... July 20, 2004  
*As mentioned in the announcement on the front page of this newsletter, the purpose of this meeting is to present the project and the EPD&E study to the citizens of Tallahassee and Leon County, and to hear from those who have questions or comments.*
- Public Information Workshop** ..... Spring 2005  
*The objective of this meeting is to present the various design concepts for the new Capital Circle that will have been developed by the spring of next year.*
- Public Hearing** ..... Fall 2005  
*The study's public hearing is a formal meeting at which comments are taken for the public record on the findings of the study, including its proposed alignment and design concept.*
- Location/Design Concept Acceptance** ..... Winter 2006  
*Once all comments made in conjunction with the public hearing are analyzed and, if appropriate, incorporated into the study, the study is completed and forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration for its official acceptance.*

**About Blueprint 2000 & Beyond...**

The Blueprint 2000 & Beyond Intergovernmental Agency (Blueprint 2000) was created by the City of Tallahassee and Leon County to implement transportation, water quality, environmental and green space projects. These projects will incorporate trails and recreational opportunities where appropriate. Blueprint 2000 was created as a result of a November 2000 referendum in which Tallahassee and Leon County voters approved the extension of a one-cent local option sales tax from 2004 to 2019 to finance specific infrastructure improvements, including multi-lane improvements to Capital Circle. Because Capital Circle is a State Road, Blueprint 2000 will meet all State and Federal requirements for planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.

One of the first projects to be undertaken by Blueprint 2000 will include improvements to Capital Circle (State Road 263), from south of Orange Avenue (SR 371) to Tennessee Street (SR 10/US 90). This project will include a PD&E study; the preparation of preliminary design plans; the submittal and approval of all necessary permits; and, the preparation of right-of-way maps.

Blueprint 2000 has divided Capital Circle into "manageable" segments, based on the projected availability of funding.

Blueprint 2000 recognizes that in order to construct projects that are desirable and valuable to the community, Blueprint 2000 must be more than just a "road builder." Blueprint has characterized this philosophy as a holistic approach to corridor improvements. The mission is to seek out ways to incorporate environmental resources (such as trails, bicycle paths, parks, lakes, wetlands, floodplains, water quality, karst features, habitat areas, forests, landscaping, etc.) into our projects. In most instances the plan will be to provide connections

between, or to help further develop, resources that already exist. In some cases, Blueprint 2000's role will be the opposite: to acquire property in order to preserve the important resources that may be endangered.



View of Capital Circle within the study limits. This portion of Capital Circle currently carries an average of 32,000 vehicles per day. This volume is expected to increase significantly by the project's 2030 "design year."