



This newsletter is the second 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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Project Status Report

**Traffic Analysis Nearly Complete, Environmental Work Underway**

Since the Capital Circle NW/SW Study began last summer, several key activities have taken place, including production of the study's Traffic Analysis Technical Report and the beginning of survey work and environmental data collection.

**Traffic Analysis**

Project Development & Environment studies involve the preparation of several technical reports documenting various engineering and environmental factors. One of the key early reports is the traffic analysis report, which documents the predicted future traffic volumes on the subject roadway, and the volumes and number of turning movements predicted at each intersecting street. It also reports on the mixture of cars and trucks, the direction they're heading, hours of peak travel, and other kinds of traffic related information.

The Traffic Analysis Report is important because it provides the detailed information necessary for other technical reports and engineering analyses. The extent and type of improvements, both at intersections and along Capital Circle, are dependent on knowing the amount of traffic that will be using the facility in the future. Likewise, environmental analyses of air quality and noise impacts also rely on estimates of future traffic. With this report now complete for the Capital Circle NW/SW Study, a wide variety of environmental and engineering work can now begin. This work will be documented in future editions of this newsletter.

**Data Collection**

Some of this work is already underway. For example, you may have seen some of our surveyors in and about the study area (from Orange Avenue to Tennessee Street). These individuals are surveying the existing facility and adjacent terrain, allowing the engineers to begin their work in developing concepts for how the roadway might be upgraded. Environmental specialists have also been in the study area, gathering information on such items as wetland areas, floodplains, trees, and the presence of threatened and endangered species. Our urban planners have been gathering land use and right-of-way information, along with information about the presence of hazardous materials that could affect the project.

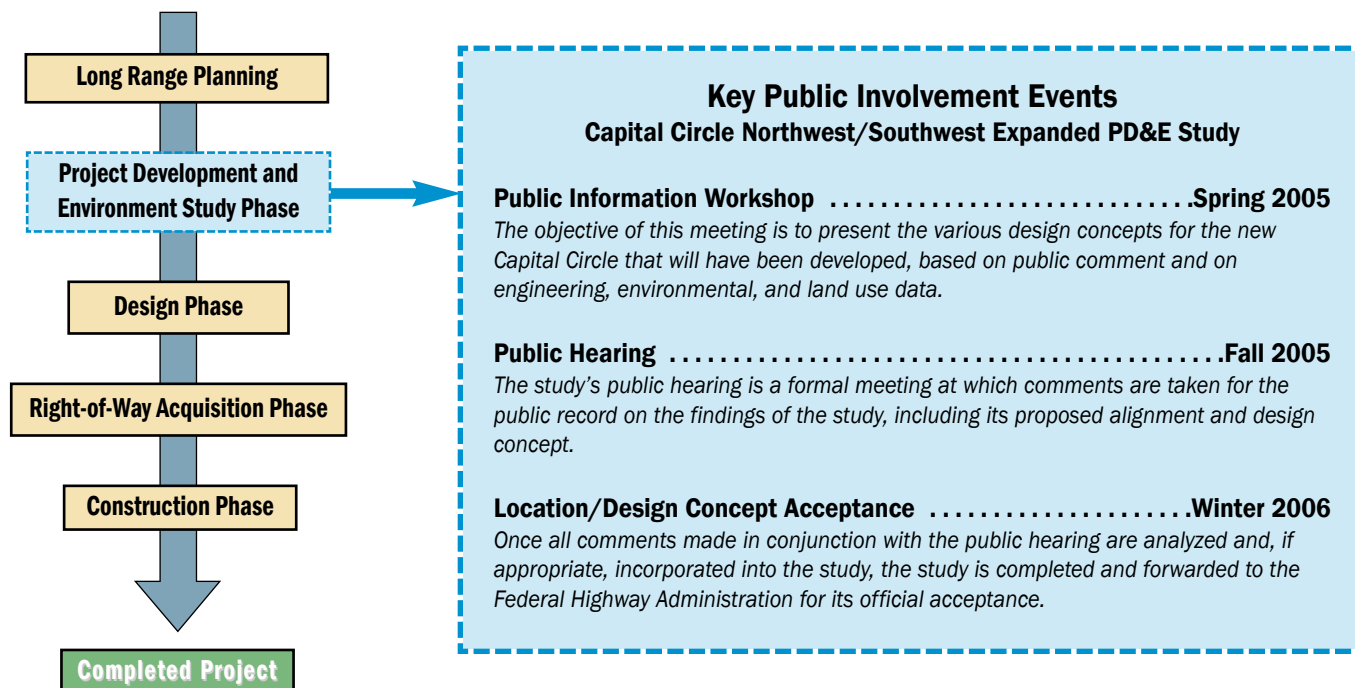


A typical evening traffic back up on Capital Circle NW. A detailed analysis of existing and future traffic volumes is an important early step in the Capital Circle NW/SW Study. Estimates of future traffic volumes are used to develop design concepts and to identify the project's air quality and noise impacts.



An important early step in any PD&E study is to obtain an accurate survey of existing boundaries in the study area. Lucious Andrews, III (left, with survey instrument) and Shantell Ingram, of Diversified Design & Drafting Services, Inc., are pictured during their survey work for the Capital Circle NW/SW Study. This work included the boundaries of the road's right-of-way line, as well as property lines and the exact location of other important features in the landscape, such as wetland edges and railroad boundaries.

**The Transportation Development Process**



# Public Involvement Activities Underway

The Capital Circle EPD&E Study includes several public involvement opportunities, including a general public information workshop and a formal public hearing (see back page). Another important element is the study's Project Advisory Group, or "PAG," which includes representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups in the study area, as shown in the box on the next page. The basic purpose of the group is to provide a method for communication between the Blueprint 2000 project team and those who live and work in the northwest and southwest Capital Circle area (Tennessee Street to Orange Avenue).

The first meeting of the PAG took place on November 10 at the Blueprint 2000 & Beyond offices. The meeting began with a round of introductions, and then an explanation of the Group's ground rules and other considerations about how the group will function. Next, an overview of Blueprint 2000 & Beyond was given, followed by a general description of the proposed project and details of its study process.

The highlight of the meeting was a roundtable discussion about the study. Each PAG member was asked to describe the Capital Circle

- concerns about areas of limestone that are beneath the surface in the Capital Circle area, and the environmental sensitivity required in these areas
- the level of detail that will be used in determining the project's environmental and community impacts

The project team will now use this information to help focus the impact assessments that will be conducted as part of the EPD&E Study. The anticipated topics for the remainder of the PAG meetings are as follows:

- January .....Traffic, Intersections, Cross Sections
- February .....Environmental Data Collection
- March .....Environmental Analysis
- April .....Design Concepts, Stormwater Ponds
- May .....Public Meeting Preview
- June .....Access Management
- July .....Preferred Alternative, Potential Greenways
- August .....Preferred Alternative, Engineering Report
- September .....Public Hearing Preview
- October .....Environmental Documents
- November .....Right-of-Way Acquisition, Interchanges

The next meeting of the Advisory Group will be on Thursday, January 20, at the Tallahassee Community College. Blueprint 2000 & Beyond welcomes members of the general public to attend PAG meetings to observe the proceedings of the Group.

### Other Public Involvement Activities

In addition to the formation of the PAG and its first meeting, other public involvement elements have taken place or are underway, including development of the Study's website and the holding of the study's "kickoff" meeting.

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Mr. Jim Davis, Executive Director of Blueprint 2000 & Beyond, presents background information at the Study's first Project Advisory Group meeting. Also pictured are PAG members Jeff Horton (seated, left) and Rick Grant (center).

study area and to identify the features that should receive special attention during the study. Some of the topics raised for discussion by the Group included:

- the project's economic effects, including the importance of improving access to the airport
- the effect the project may have on side streets that intersect Capital Circle
- the broader planning efforts that are underway, beyond just the study portion of Capital Circle
- the control of access to and from Capital Circle, and whether service roads are being considered as part of the proposed improvements



Study area residents review project mapping at the Study's "kickoff" meeting.

# Additional Images from the Study...



Traffic on Capital Circle SW using the shoulder to go around a car waiting to make a left turn. The proposed improvements would eliminate irregular maneuvers such as these.



Torryn Battle (left) and Frank Reid from Diversified Design & Drafting Services, Inc., ensuring that property boundaries are accurately identified.



You may have seen a survey crew from Diversified in the field, marking a variety of boundaries important to the Capital Circle NW/SW Study.

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Early in 2005, the project website will be added as a link on the Blueprint 2000 & Beyond site, at [www.blueprint2000.org](http://www.blueprint2000.org). The site will contain general information about the project, and will also include summaries of the various public involvement events, as they take place over the course of the study.

The Study's official "kickoff" meeting was held this past summer at the Tallahassee Community College Student Union. The purpose of the meeting was to announce that the Expanded Project Development & Environment Study was beginning, and to receive comments from the community about the study and the project's possible effects. The comments received included concerns about how the proposed improvements will interconnect with other area projects; about how existing traffic flows will be maintained during construction; and about how stormwater runoff from Capital Circle will be treated.

### Capital Circle NW/SW EPD&E Study Project Advisory Group

Name	Representing
Ronnie Manning	.....Lazy J Mobile Home Park
Gayle Smidt	.....Uncle Bob's Storage
Laurie Thomas	.....Florida State University
Larry Cliett	.....Tallahassee Community College
Judy Goldman	.....The Audubon Society
Linda Jamison	.....The Sierra Club
Bill McCord	.....Leon County
Jeff Horton	.....Seminole Manor Homeowners
Rick Grant	.....Municipal Code Corp.

