

### **Safety improvements to Gunn Highway within the Keystone-Odessa Community Plan boundary**

Safety on Gunn Highway is a high priority by citizens. The community encourages roadway treatments, and pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements on this roadway. The community does not encourage redirecting of traffic or expansion of existing lineage to Gunn Highway. The community encourages the continuation of redirecting traffic to Dale Mabry and/or the Sun Coast Expressway, east and west at State Road 54, and north and south on US 19.

Connections to the Upper Tampa Bay Trail, Phase 4 extension that includes Brooker Creek are also encouraged that reduce bicycle and pedestrian traffic on Gunn Highway.

Possible Enhancements (without adding capacity or additional through lanes):

- Sidewalks, pedestrian trails and bicycle should be separated from the roadway (including the shoulder) to the greatest extent possible. At a minimum buffered bike lanes with comfort striping is encouraged.
- Cross walk markings/mid block crossings
- Intersection timed lights
- Curbs
- Restriping
- Median improvements
- Turn lanes
- Bulb outs
- Pedestrian scale lighting vs. traffic lighting
- Signing of special features or conditions

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS INFORMATION**

### **Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Element**

- Gunn Highway, Lutz Lake Fern Road, Tarpon Springs Road, Patterson Road, Race Track Road, Keystone Road, and a portion of Hutchinson Road are identified as 2 Lane enhanced roadways; S. Mobley Road is identified as a 3 Lanes; and Veterans Expressway south of Van Dyke Road as 8 Lanes and 6 Lanes north of Van Dyke Road on Map 25 of Hillsborough County Corridor Preservation Plan. (Development along these roadways are required to be set back from the roadway to allow for future lineage expansion or improvement.)

### **Hillsborough County MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan**

- All local two lane roadways in the Keystone-Odessa community plan boundary are “constrained” roads. (Long Range Transportation Plan Map 7-2 Constrained Roads in the Adopted Comprehensive Plans)
- Gunn Highway and Van Dyke Road are identified as “deficient roads”. (Long Range Transportation Plan Map 8-2, 2006 Deficient Roads)
- Tarpon Springs and Van Dyke Roads, within the Keystone-Odessa community plan boundary are identified as 2 Lanes Enhanced – Planned Projects (after 2014). (Long Range Transportation Plan Map 10-4, 2035 Highway Cost Affordable) Although outside, immediately to the east Lutz Lake Fern and Van Dyke Roads are identified as 4 Lanes – Planned Projects (after 2014).
- The Long Range Transportation Plan Sales Tax Option within the Keystone-Odessa community boundary:
  - identifies New & Enhanced Local Bus Routes on Gunn Highway and the Suncoast Parkway up to Van Dyke Road, and on Race Track Road up to the intersection of Boy Scout Road; and,
  - trails west on east along Gunn Highway up to Van Dyke.

### **Keystone-Odessa Community Plan – Streetscape/Roadway, Transportation, Livability/Safety Strategies**

#### **Streetscape/Roadway**

Residents of Keystone-Odessa want an integrated shaded streetscape/roadway system, which visually enhances its corridors. To do so:

- canopy trees along roadways designated as scenic corridors will be protected;
- planting programs of drought tolerant trees and vegetation along roadways identified as scenic corridors and/or greenway trails will

be undertaken to create a sense of place, and to improve or preserve specific views;

- Gateways, located to create a sense of arrival through a change in character from the surrounding landscape are identified. These gateways, developed through local community input are intended to create a lasting impression through:
  - the selection of signage;
  - location of structures;
  - proximity of drought tolerant shrubbery or other vegetation; and
  - roadway layout/configuration; and,
- residents will work with utility providers to determine ways to minimize the use of overhead utilities; and,
- street lighting should not be required nor permitted unless public safety is at risk.

### **Transportation**

The Keystone-Odessa community is presently served by a system of two-lane roadways. Gunn Highway is a primary north/south roadway with Boy Scout, Patterson and Race Track Road all serving in that similar capacity. Van Dyke, Lutz-Lake Fern, Tarpon Springs, North and South Mobley roads all provide east to west travel. Several other significant roadways serve the community: Hutchinson, Tobacco, Lakeshore, Lake LeClare Roads are just a few. In recent years, the Veterans Expressway has been constructed through the community providing limited access at Van Dyke, and Hutchinson Roads. In 2001, the Suncoast Expressway will tie into the Veterans Expressway with an improved intersection at Van Dyke Road and eventually an access to Lutz-Lake Fern Road.

These limited access facilities should be seen as relief for the heavily traveled roadways in the Keystone-Odessa community, particularly for Gunn Highway, which serves Pasco County travelers, as well as Hillsborough County. The Keystone-Odessa community borders both Pasco County and Pinellas County, both of which are experiencing suburban growth close to the Keystone-Odessa area. The Suncoast Expressway, the improved Dale Mabry, and U.S. 41 Highways all provide or will provide substantial north/south access between Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. East-west traffic from Pinellas has limited choices, but an extension to Linebaugh Avenue into northern Pinellas will eventually provide an additional choice for travelers headed into Hillsborough County.

Residents want to retain the existing roadways as two-lane facilities geared to primarily serve local traffic. While it is understood that over time some changes to roadway configuration may be needed for safety, the residents want to limit those changes to turn lanes, pedestrian/equestrian crossings or traffic control mechanisms rather than widening the roadways.

Gunn Highway will be identified as a County roadway, which cannot be widened further due to social, economic, policy and environmental constraints. The identified and designated constrained corridors list found in the Transportation Element will also be recognized. The provision to eliminate the truck route on Gunn Highway from the Pasco County Line to Van Dyke, when the Suncoast Corridor is completed, will be enforced as set out by the adopted Hillsborough County Truck Route Ordinance. Equestrian trail connections are important and should be considered in-line with future improvements. Measures such as traffic calming, inter-modal connections to disperse impacts, and diverting traffic to the Suncoast Expressway are also to be considered.

### **Livability/Safety**

In order to ensure livable roadways in the community the County shall encourage development of pedestrian and equestrian trails along roadways identified in the 2015 Scenic Corridor Map, in the Future Land Use Element. Off-road pedestrian/equestrian trails and bikeways will developed whenever possible in the preserved greenway corridors identified in Hillsborough Greenways Master Plan. Off-road trails and bikeways will be developed when possible in these greenways. The 1995 Greenways Master Plan was used in identifying pedestrian trails, which should be included to provide connectivity.

There is existing and planned industrial and residential development to the north in Pasco County on Gunn Highway. Traffic on the Pasco County side can be encouraged to go east and west on State Road 54 rather than south on Gunn Highway.

Lutz Lake Fern Road and Van Dyke Road east of the Keystone-Odessa community plan boundary are in the 2035 Cost Affordable Long Range Transportation Plan as 4 Lanes – Planned Projects (after 2014) and a section from Dale Mabry Highway to just before the Suncoast Parkway is identified as part of the Sales Tax Option(s). Although outside the area some traffic will continue past the Suncoast Parkway to Gunn Highway.

## LONG RANGE BACKGROUND

Ned Baier, Manager, Transportation & Land Dev. Review Div., P&GM Dept.

- Constrained Roads
- Deficient Roads
- 2035 Highway Cost Affordable improvements
- HC Corridor Preservation Plan
- Sales Tax Option
- Gunn Highway treatments

## GUNN HIGHWAY SAFETY

Chris Bridges, P.E., Design and Engineering Support Sect., HCPW

- Current projects and planned future projects
- Gunn Highway treatments

Bill Hand, Project Manager, Real Estate Department

- Hillsborough Greenways System, Upper Tampa Bay Trails, Phase 4 (proposed paved trail for Brooker Creek Headwaters) and community pedestrian and bicycle connections to that trail system

Gena Torres, Senior Planner, MPO

- Gunn Highway treatments

Pedro Parra, Principal Planner, TPC

- Gunn Highway treatments

## SCENIC CORRIDOR MAP UPDATE

Marcie Stenmark, Senior Planner, TPC

- Overview of update process
  - Comprehensive Plan
  - Land Development Regulations