

MONROE COUNTY PD&E STUDIES

SWC (Sandra Walters Consultants, Inc.) was the public involvement coordinator for three consulting teams that conducted Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project development and environmental (PD&E) studies in the Florida Keys to meet federal NEPA standards. SWC also conducted landscape design and land use evaluation. All three projects had full public support at final public hearings.

- **Sombrero Beach Road PD&E Study**
 - Public involvement & landscape design
 - Contact: Vilma Croft, (305) 470-5240
 - Dollar Value: \$350,000.00
 - Duration: 18 months (completed)
- **Lower Matecumbe Key PD&E Study**
 - Public involvement & land use evaluation
 - Contact: Vilma Croft, (305) 470-5240
 - Dollar Value: \$566,000.00
 - Duration: 24 months (completed)
- **Big Coppitt Key PD&E Study**
 - Public involvement & landscape design
 - Contact: John Dovel, (305) 470-5342
 - Dollar Value: \$409,680.00
 - Duration: 18 months (completed)



- SWC responsibilities include:
- ❖ developing public involvement plans according to FDOT guidelines,
 - ❖ designing project logos,
 - ❖ setting up and participating in project kickoff meetings with local government and agency officials,
 - ❖ developing and maintaining project websites,
 - ❖ developing and distributing initial press packages describing the process and project history,
 - ❖ assembling and maintaining stakeholder contact lists,
 - ❖ reviewing local media for related news stories,
 - ❖ designing and distributing newsletters and press releases,
 - ❖ responding to all requests for information and comments,
 - ❖ organizing and facilitating Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings for projects,
 - ❖ organizing public workshops, one-on-one stakeholder meetings, and final public hearings,
 - ❖ providing information hotlines for public questions and comments,
 - ❖ analyzing land uses in the project vicinity, and
 - ❖ creating landscape design meeting FDOT requirements that utilizes low maintenance, xeriscape vegetation

NEWSLETTER
Sombrero Beach Road Being Studied to Improve Roadway Problems

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has begun a study examining alternative design improvements to Sombrero Beach Road, from Southern Boulevard to Avenida Penonsele, located in the City of Marathon (see Figure 1). This newsletter is intended to provide project information, such as project limits, existing conditions and purpose of the study, and to solicit public input, which is critical to the success of this study.

Project History/Need
Sombrero Beach Road became an FDOT Project Development and Environmental Study (PDES) following a direct request from the City of Marathon for the study and upgrade of the corridor. Some of the problems identified include traffic backups at the Southern Boulevard intersection, deteriorated pavement conditions, uneven shoulders, inadequate stormwater drainage, lighting, aesthetics, parking along the side of the roadway, etc.

Existing Conditions
Sombrero Beach Road, within the specified limits, is a 1.7-mile roadway classified as a County Urban Collector. The existing typical section varies slightly, consisting of two travel lanes, a variable width shoulder, and an eight-foot bicycle path along the southbound side of the roadway section.

Existing land use within the project limits includes residential, public lands (municipal), undeveloped lands, commercial (an intersection of US-1 and Sombrero Beach Road), and community facilities—Marathon High School. Residential land use is typically located on the north side of the corridor, with single-family homes and two-story town-dormitories. Institutional uses include Sombrero Beach Park, which is located at the southeast end of the project.

PDES Process & Study Purpose
The PDES process is an integrated work effort involving engineering, planning and environmental evaluation, all accomplished within the context of a public participation program. The general objective of this PDES is to provide and document information needed by FDOT to make a decision on the type, design and location of improvements along Sombrero Beach Road. The study will assess community, land use, and environmental benefits or impacts related to roadway design alternatives. The project team will work closely with the public to develop alternatives that enhance safety, address water quality and drainage issues, and rehabilitate the existing roadway.

The three main steps in a PDES study include: 1) collecting relevant information; 2) identifying and analyzing design alternatives; and 3) selecting a preferred alternative design.

Public Participation
The FDOT recognizes that active participation by the public is essential to the success of this study. The public is invited to provide input on the study by contacting the project team at the following phone numbers:

Project team website: www.fdot.com/monroe
Project team phone: (305) 470-5240
Project team fax: (305) 470-5240

NEWSLETTER
How to Examine Safety Improvements

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is currently conducting a study to examine safety improvements on Lower Matecumbe Key. This newsletter is intended to provide project information, such as project limits, existing conditions and purpose of the study, and to solicit public input, which is critical to the success of this study.

Project Location
The project limits are on Lower Matecumbe Key from Mile 17 to Mile 18 on the Overseas Highway, see the map on back.

Project Objectives
The project team is currently working on a study to examine safety improvements on Lower Matecumbe Key. The project team is currently working on a study to examine safety improvements on Lower Matecumbe Key. The project team is currently working on a study to examine safety improvements on Lower Matecumbe Key.

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