

June 17, 2008

## **Sarasota County will hold public hearing on Englewood Interstate Connector June 19**

Sarasota County and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) officials will conduct a public hearing Thursday, June 19, to allow people to comment on proposed design changes for the Englewood Interstate Connector. The public hearing will begin with an informal open house at 4:30 p.m., followed by the public hearing at 6 p.m. in the gymnasium at the Englewood Sports Complex, 1300 S. River Road, Englewood.

The Englewood Interstate Connector extends from State Road 776 in Charlotte County to the River Road / Interstate-75 interchange in Sarasota County.

The open house and public hearing come as a result of a new design change reevaluation report that updates a previous project development and environment study completed in 2003. The new study accounts for changes occurring over the last five years.

The hearing will allow people an opportunity to express their views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic and environmental effects of the proposed design change. The design change reevaluation concerns an 88-foot alignment shift to the east for a portion of the connector, from south of Center Road to north of Venice Avenue, a distance of approximately 1.5 miles.

The draft design change reevaluation report, environmental documents and other pertinent information developed by FDOT is available for public review weekdays through Monday, June 30, at the HDR Engineering offices, 2601 Cattlemen Road, Suite 102, Sarasota. These materials also will be available at the hearing site from 4:30 p.m. until the end of the public hearing. People who want to submit written statements and other exhibits in place of -- or in addition to -- oral statements, may do so at the hearing or by sending them to Jim Ballenger, Sarasota County Public Works Mobility, 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240.

All exhibits or statements postmarked no later than June 30 will become part of the public hearing record.

For more information about the Englewood Interstate Connector, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Public Works Mobility.