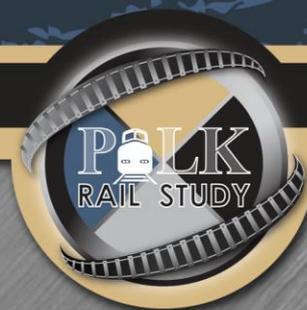


# Polk Rail Study Presentation to the Tampa Bay RPC Board and Regional Collaboration Committee

September 10, 2012

*To improve regional freight and highway mobility while  
enhancing safety and minimizing impacts to urban  
areas and the environment*



*Jennifer A. Stults, AICP CTP  
FDOT District 1 ISD Manager*

# Alternatives Map





# Initial Study Conclusions

## Common Issues for All Relocation Alternatives

- **Freight continues to operate through urban areas**
  - *Local trains continue to operate on the “A” and “S” lines*
  - *Through trains would divert to an alternate route*
- **CSX would have to agree to move operations to any new route**
- **Infrastructure improvements still required on “S” line to serve the ILC**
  - *Lakeland area track sidings*
  - *Numerous rail signal upgrades*
  - *Pollard Road construction to the ILC*

# Initial Study Conclusions

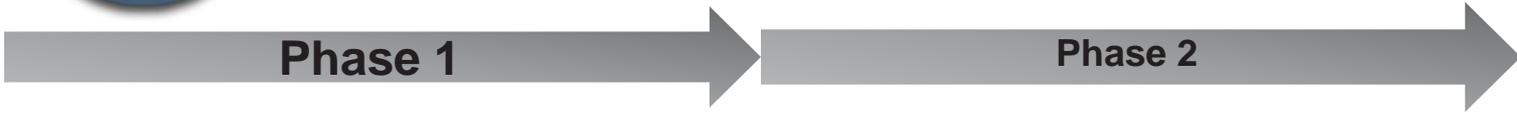


## **Common Issues for All Relocation Alternatives**

- **Potentially shifts impacts to other communities**
- **Significant infrastructure costs**
- **Property acquisition required**
- **Increases operations and maintenance costs**
- **Significant environmental challenges**



# 5 Steps



**STEP 1**  
Coordination

- Goals
- Issues
- Freight and Stakeholders Taskforce
- Mayors Council

**STEP 2**  
Scenario Development

- Data Collection
- Traffic
- Freight Demand
- Safety
- Environmental Concerns
- Noise and Vibration

**STEP 3**  
Refine Solutions

- Finalize Short Term Solutions
- Funding and Finance
- Identify Viable Long Term Solutions

**STEP 4**  
Refine Viable Alternatives

Phase II Alt. Analysis

- Criteria and Methodology
- Rail Operations
- Community Issues
- Agency Issues
- Evaluation of alternatives
- Cost/Benefit

**STEP 5**  
Recommendations

- Alternatives to advance to PD&E
- Funding Plan
- Preferred Package
- Implementation Plan



- Long Term Federal Action (EA/EIS)
- Short Term (SEIR/Cat Ex)
- Early Start Projects

Early Start = Before SunRail  
Short Term = 5+ years  
Long Term





# Public Outreach Opportunities

- **Freight and Stakeholders Taskforce (FAST)**
  - Comprised of government staff and project stakeholders
  - Meet regularly
  - Develop and refine short term and long term projects
- **Mayors Council**
  - Comprised of study area Mayors
  - Predominantly meet via webinar
  - Identify community concerns
  - Project champions
- **Environmental Advisory Group (EAG)**
  - Consists of regulatory agencies
  - Discuss environmental issues along corridors
  - Feed information to FAST and Mayors Council

The logo for Polk Rail Study is located in the top left corner. It features a circular emblem with a film strip border. Inside the circle, the word "POLK" is written in a large, stylized font, with "RAIL STUDY" written in a smaller font below it. The background of the emblem is a mix of blue and yellow. Above the emblem, there is a decorative pattern of small squares in various colors (black, white, yellow, blue).

# Short Term Solutions

- **We currently have several concepts under development**
  - *Quiet Zones*
  - *Noise abatement*
  - *Geometric track improvements*
  - *Grade separations*
  - *Rail signal preemptions*

# Quiet Zones



## Quiet zones

- FRA program
- Grade crossings may need to be closed



# Geometric Track Improvements



- CSX land ownership
- Increased speed
- Less “gate down” time



# Grade Separations



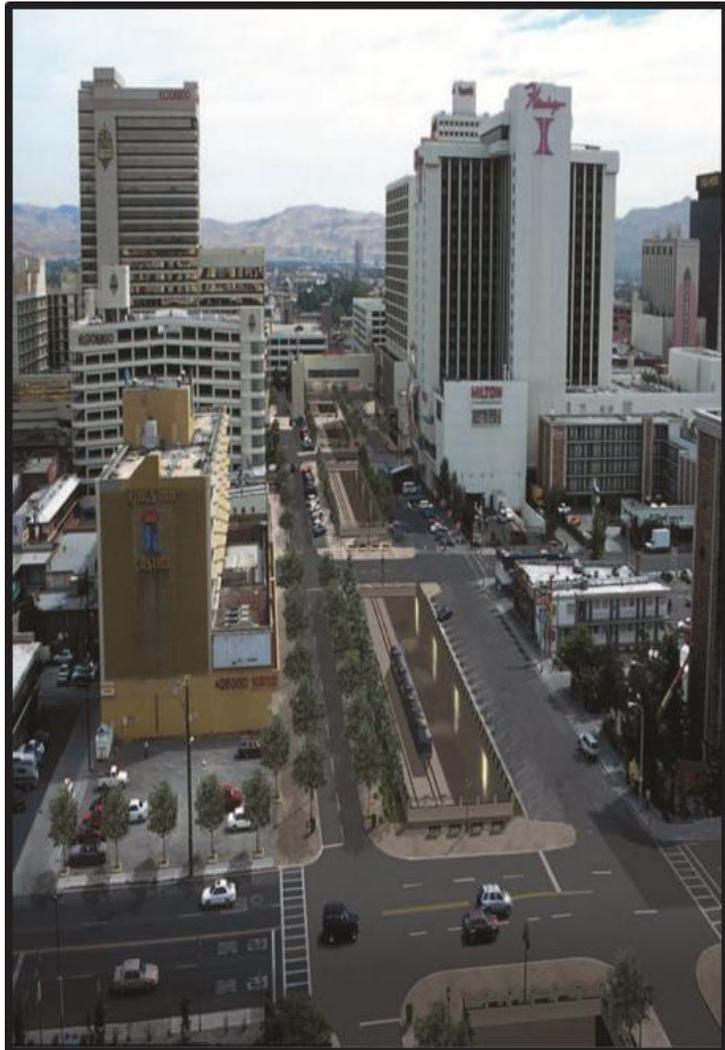


# Bicycle/Pedestrian Accommodations





# Trenching





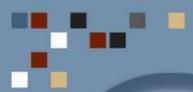
# Signal Pre-emption





# Public Meetings

- September 10, 2012 at the Lakeland Center
  - September 11, 2012 at Fantasy of Flight, Polk City
  - September 13, 2012 at the Bartow Civic Center
- 
- 5 pm to 7 pm each night, formal presentation at 6 pm



# Summary

- Looking at short and long term solutions
- Project will involve extensive public outreach
- Input and participation throughout
  - FAST (Freight and Stakeholders Taskforce)
  - Mayors Council
  - Agency Coordination
  - Public Meetings

**Questions?**  
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