**Purpose**

The purpose of the Express Bus in Tampa Bay Express Lanes study is to evaluate operating premium express bus service within proposed tolled interstate express lanes. Two primary project goals include providing regional, long-distance service that quickly moves commuters between key destinations and increasing the overall capacity of the interstate. This study also looks at the possibility of providing regional transit service to beaches, business districts, and multimodal centers.

**Corridor Description**

The corridor under study (left) provides regional connections to Wesley Chapel, Downtown Tampa, University of South Florida, Westshore, the Greater Gateway Area, and Downtown St. Petersburg via parts of I-75 and I-275. The study question asks if it is practical for premium express bus to operate in proposed tolled express lanes within the interstate right-of-way.

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**Note:** For informational purposes only.
Source: Major Roadways—Florida Department of Transportation (December 2013)
County Lands: GIS Departments of Hillsborough County, Pinellas County, Pasco County and Florida Geographic Data Library
Base Mapping: Jacobs

**DRAFT December 3, 2014**
For Management Team Review

- **Express Bus Alignment**
- **Potential Study Area**
- **1 Mile**
- **Beach Connections**
What is Premium Express Bus Service?
Premium express bus service is a regional, long-distance commuter service that operates on major roads or interstates. From express lanes, premium express bus service can use slip ramps to access Park-and-Ride lots and transit stations where riders can purchase tickets, make seamless connections to local buses, and experience other amenities.

What are the benefits?
Premium express bus provides a regional, long-distance service that moves commuters quickly between key destinations. The benefits are realized through advanced technologies and infrastructure improvements, such as using proposed tolled express lanes to avoid traffic congestion. The service under study connects three counties and their transit systems: Pasco County Public Transit (PCPT), Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART), and Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA).

Who is involved?
This study is being conducted through a funding partnership between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Tampa Bay Express Lanes, and the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Additional direction is provided by the Pinellas and Pasco County MPOs.

Throughout the study process, the technical team will coordinate with a variety of stakeholders such as PCPT, HART, PSTA, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority, and community leaders. The direction provided by each will shape the outcome of the study.

When will it be completed?
The study was initiated in January 2014 and will be completed by the fall of 2014.

How to get involved?
For more information about this study, please contact Lee Royal at FDOT.

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