UNIVERSITYCITY PROSPERITY PROJECT
PUBLIC MEETING

October 25, 2013
The University City Prosperity Project

US DOT TIGER funds will be used to support an innovative package of technology, sidewalk, streetscaping, and transit improvements to connect Sweetwater with FIU.

- Construction of a new signature, pedestrian bridge over a busy arterial road (US 41/ SW 8th Street at the intersection with SW 109th Avenue).
- Improvements designed to increase access to jobs, create safe transit, and link two portions of FIU’s campus that are currently disconnected.
- Improvements expected to support economic growth of FIU as a major public research university and the adjacent City of Sweetwater.
- Improvements expected to support a student population increase of 2,000 students per year to a projected Enrollment Capacity of 60,000 students by 2018.
The Student Population Growth is Projected to reach an enrollment Capacity of 60,000 Students by 2018.

- Reduce Congestion, Accidents and Travel Costs
- Contribute to Regional Economic Development
- Create Mode Shifts to Transit/Biking/Walking – Transit Oriented Development
- Create More Affordable Living Opportunities
- Improve Pedestrian Safety and Comfort
- Reduce Pollution and Energy Use
- Project is located in southwestern Miami-Dade County and lies entirely within the City of Sweetwater and the FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

- Project limits are along SW 109th Avenue from the ECS Building south of SW 8th Street to SW 5th Street, in Sweetwater, Florida.
SMART PARKING GARAGES AND AIMS

- Existing Parking Garages offer No Reserved Parking, No link to Transit.

- New Parking Garages will be Smart, Integrated with ITP System to provide Reserved Parking, Pay Ahead System, and Integrated Transit Station.

- Benefits will be Reduced Travel Time and Comfortable Direct Access to Bus-rapid Transit System.

- Affected Population will include FIU Staff and Student Body, and Subscribers to the ITP System
ALTERNATIVES
ALTERNATIVES

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER U.S. 41 (SW 8th Street)

- Current Infrastructure is dangerous for Pedestrian Crossing.
  - Average of One Pedestrian/Vehicle Accident Per Year
  - Moderate to Serious Injuries
  - The Maximum Abbreviated Injury Scale (MAIS) at this intersection determined to be between 3 - 4 out of a scale of 6.

- Single Pylon, Cable Stayed Bridge with Elevator Towers

- Additional Street Improvements, Traffic Calming, At-grade Improvements, and Plazas.

- Affected Population includes Sweetwater Residents that commute to and from the FIU Campus
ALTERNATIVES

Pedestrian Bridge over U.S. 41

North Plaza

South Plaza
ALTERNATIVES

IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN FEATURES

- Traffic calming through narrowed travel lanes to reduce speed – safer for pedestrians
- Landscape and hardscape features to promote pedestrian oriented environment.
- Highly visible crosswalks
- Improved signage
- Higher lighting levels for increased visibility
- Widened and improved sidewalks to comply with ADA.

Improved Pedestrian Environment will:

- Create pedestrian friendly spaces
- Reduce Pedestrian Accidents
- Reduce Travel Time to and from FIU
- Reduce GHG and Non-GHG Emissions
COMMUNITY TRANSIT VEHICLES

- No transit component exists to transport passengers to and from FIU Campus and Sweetwater.

- Retool existing transit vehicles to operate exclusively along the SW 109th Avenue Corridor.

- New modal options will result in reduced travel time from FIU and less personal vehicles, resulting in reduced GHG and Non-GHG emissions.

- The target population includes those that reside in Sweetwater and commute to the FIU Campus and FIU students/staff traveling to Sweetwater for eating/entertainment.
WHAT IS NEPA?

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

- Signed into Law on January 1, 1970
- Established our national policy for environmental responsibility
- Created an systematic, interdisciplinary framework for federal planning and decision-making
- Established procedures to require federal agencies to consider environmental factors
- Introduced the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as a public policy tool
- Established the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ)

*Work with interested parties to address environmental concerns and issues.*
WHAT TRIGGERS NEPA?

Federal Actions

- Proposals for legislation
- Issuance of a Federal permit, lease or license
- Projects on Federal land or affecting facilities or resources
- Newly authorized, funded projects
  - USDOT TIGER Grant
LEVELS OF NEPA DOCUMENTATION

- Categorical Exclusion (Cat X, CE)
  - Actions that do *not normally* cause significant impacts

- Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
  - To decide if a FONSI is appropriate

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Record of Decision (ROD)
  - Projects that typically cause significant environmental impacts
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

SOCIAL & CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT
- Land Use
- Historic & Archaeological Sites
- Community Services

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- Floodplain
- Water Quality
- Wetlands
- Wildlife And Habitat

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Contamination
- Construction
LAND USE

- Adjacent land uses range from urban to institutional.

- The southern portion is characterized by the FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

- North of the Tamiami Canal (C-4) mix of retail/commercial facilities, single family homes, and low-rise, multiple dwelling units.
HISTORIC RESOURCES

- Protected by Section 4(f) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966

- Two previously recorded historic resources designated potentially National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible.
  - Tamiami Canal (C-4)
  - US 41/Tamiami Trail.

- Locally-significant, historic bridge (Sweetwater Bridge) east of SW 109th Avenue where it crosses the Tamiami Canal (C-4).

- A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey will be conducted along with coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Sweetwater.
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- City of Sweetwater
  - Population of 13,499 residents
  - 4,195 households
  - 96% classified as Hispanic/Latino origin.
  - Median household income of $32,109.
  - 24% of the population is considered to be below the poverty level.

Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau
CONTAMINATED SITES

- Facilities permitted to use or store small quantities of hazardous materials or waste
  - Dry cleaners
  - Photo processing labs
  - Medical/veterinarian facilities.

- Facilities that store petroleum in underground storage tanks
  - Gas stations
  - Auto Repair
NOISE

- Noise Sensitive Land Uses
  - Linear park/greenway
  - Residential units

- A noise analysis will be conducted for the proposed project
### General Project Elements
- Grant award announced
- Project agreements signed
- Official project start date
- Baseline & annual surveys

### Project Infrastructure Implementation
- NEPA Categorical Exclusion Doc. Development
- A/E Design Phase Services
- Project Readiness (Approvals from MPO, FDOT, MDC, SFWMD)
- Obligation of TIGER Grant Funds
- Construction of infrastructure elements

### Transit & ATMS Operation Elements
- Create new routes, maps, and stops
- Operate new express & shuttle routes

### ITP Development and Deployment
- Workplan and Way/forward Strategy Development
- ITP Research and Technical Development, Inc.
- Complete Technical Development and Deployment of ITPA
- Operation of Fully Deployed ITPA Pilot

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**We are here**
THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC MEETING IS TO:

- Share information about the proposed improvements
- Provide an opportunity for the public to express their views concerning the proposed improvements.
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MEETINGS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES HAVE OCCURRED TO DATE:

- Sweetwater Charrette: Más Canosa Center, Sweetwater, FL
  - Presented to the City of Sweetwater
  - November 8, 2006

- FIU Master Plan

- NEPA Advanced Notification
  - Letter distributed to Governmental Agencies
  - March 19, 2012
HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

- Complete a speaker card and make an oral statement at the microphone during the public comment period
- Complete a comment form and drop it in the comment box provided at this workshop
- Mail your comment to the FIU project manager at the address shown on the comment form
- Email your comment to the FIU project manager at the address shown on the comment form or visit the project website (http://cake.fiu.edu/TIGER2013) and submit comments electronically

COMMENT PERIOD

- All written material received at this public meeting and at the FIU office, postmarked no later than ten days following the date of this public meeting will become a part of the public record for this meeting.
Send us your comments, questions or suggestions.
This Public Meeting is being held in accordance with:

- Section 339.155, Florida Statutes
- Section 335.199, Florida Statutes
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990

This public meeting was advertised consistent with federal and state requirements and is being conducted consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
Florida International University is required to comply with various Non-discrimination laws and regulations, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Public Participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.

Persons wishing to express their concerns about Title VI may do so by contacting:

Florida International University
885 SW 109th Avenue,
Sweetwater, Florida 33199

Contact:
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THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

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