

## **Burnt Store Road**

### History

During the late 1969 to 1970 timeframe, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completed construction of Burnt Store Road lying between U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail) and the Lee County line. In subsequent years, FDOT conveyed road and drainage maintenance responsibilities to Charlotte County. The road cross-section was typical 1960's road standards and design being of rural nature – 2 lane (total asphalt width 19-20 ft +/-), including drainage ditches on both sides of the roadway.

The road is a vital transportation link connecting Charlotte County, portions of the City of Punta Gorda, City of Cape Coral/Lee County to U.S. 41 and I-75. It is also a critical hurricane evacuation route to enable expeditious traffic flows out of this region during times of such an emergency.

Traffic volumes on this road have increased tremendously over the past decade and have made it apparent the road needs to be widened to 4-lanes meeting current FDOT safety and design standards, with potential to add 2 more lanes (ultimate 6 lane configuration) in each direction to accommodate future growth.

At the April 12, 2012 joint Lee/Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO meeting it was agreed that the Burnt Store Road corridor is a regional road that is critical to evacuation efforts for Lee and Charlotte Counties. However, funds have not been identified to fully complete the needed roadway expansion to serve growth in the corridor. The MPO boards have agreed to make completion of the needed improvements their top project priority to be submitted annually to FDOT until completion of all segments of the roadway improvement are funded and completed.

### Improvements

In 2012, Charlotte County completed widening phase 1 of the project that lies between U.S. 41 and Notre Dame Boulevard. Part of the funding for phase 1 was derived from \$4m in FDOT grants.

The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners recently awarded a construction contract for phase 3 which is the road segment that lies from just south of the Tern Bay development to the Lee County line. Construction is ongoing.

### Request

Phase 2 is the remaining unfinished portion between phases 1 and 3. The length of phase 2 is approximately 4.8 miles. Total project costs comprised of; engineering & permitting; land acquisition; road, drainage and utilities construction are approximately \$56,000,000. The county is requesting from the state, funding assistance in the amount of \$28,000,000 which equates to 50% of the estimated total project costs.

November 6, 2014