


**DATE:** February 3, 2020  
**TO:** Matt Jordan, General Manager  
**FROM:** Charles H. Carden, Chief Operating Officer   
**SUBJECT:** South-Central Hillsborough County Pipeline Corridor Study – *Status Report*

**SUMMARY**

South-Central Hillsborough County is experiencing significant growth which requires changes or additions to Tampa Bay Water's existing delivery capacity, and actions by the County downstream of Tampa Bay Water's existing Points of Connection. The Board has approved multiple actions that will position Tampa Bay Water to continue meeting the County's needs in the short- and long-term. Pipeline route corridor studies have been performed and staff will present the results of the corridor studies and next steps in the pipeline project.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive status report on pipeline corridor studies and project schedule.

**DISCUSSION**

Tampa Bay Water and Hillsborough County staff have been meeting since 2016 to determine the most effective way to meet the County's growing demands for drinking water in the South County service area. Tampa Bay Water is evaluating two pipeline options to connect the South-Hillsborough County service area with the regional system—one scenario would connect the High Service Pump Station to the existing Point of Connection in Lithia and one scenario would connect the High Service Pump Station to a new Point of Connection at a potential new county water campus south of Lithia. Both options provide significant project challenges and long schedules because of the complexity and length of the pipeline routes and the need to acquire and potentially condemn property.

The proposed pipeline diameter for each scenario is 60-inches for a new transmission capacity of 50 million gallons per day. As part of the process to evaluate corridors, Tampa Bay water conducted a web-based public outreach effort which resulted in 675 responses. Tampa Bay water also retained two consulting engineering firms to evaluate pipeline corridors.

The evaluation criteria evaluated in both public outreach and the engineering studies included:

- Public inconvenience
- Environmental impact/wetlands
- Cost
- Safety



- Major road and water crossings
- Long-range planning
- Right of way/easement availability
- Operations and maintenance
- Geotechnical considerations
- Pipeline length
- Special construction
- Permitting/implementation

The evaluation criteria were identical for both consultants, which included use of a criteria weight factor from an average of evaluators. Criteria weights were then multiplied by quantifiable criteria, such as feet of major crossings, % of route requiring easement, etc.

## **CORRIDOR STUDY RESULTS**

The results of the corridor studies and the recommend routes are listed below.

### **Scenario 1- Connect the High Service Pump Station to the Lithia Point of Connection**

Route	Length (Miles)	Easement Acreage	Special Crossings (feet)	Estimated Cost (Million)
2.1	13.8	57.6	1000-2000	\$117
2.2	12.8	56.2	1000-2000	\$112.5
2.3	16.1	65.4	2000-3000	\$139.1

### **Scenario 2- Connect the High Service Pump Station to a proposed County Water Campus at a new Point of Connection**

Route	Length (Miles)	Easement Acreage	Special Crossings (feet)	Estimated Cost (Million)
A	22.3	97.7	2000-4000	\$206.4
B	24.8	74.7	2000-4000	\$200.6
C	22.4	48.8	2000-4000	\$183.2

## **SYNERGY BETWEEN CORRIDOR ROUTES**

Early in the corridor studies, Tampa Bay Water and County staff discussed the location of the proposed water campus. Although the official selection of the campus site awaits approval by the County's Board of County Commissioners, for purposes of the corridor studies a general site south of the Lithia facility was used. As the corridor studies progressed using the criteria and approach described above, it became apparent most corridor alternatives for the proposed water campus passed by or near Lithia Point of Connection based on the water campus location discussed at the staff level.

Because most route corridors for the proposed water campus pass near the existing Lithia Point of Connection, staff can start preliminary work with major stakeholder of rights of way (TECO, FDOT, CSX and Hillsborough County) on pipeline project segments that can be used in either pipeline scenario. This reduces project risk.

## **PIPELINE PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Now that the route corridor studies have identified the pipeline project complexities for each corridor and for both pipeline scenarios, staff recommends the project schedule be adjusted to start the longest-lead items now, to increase project time availability and reduce overall project risk. Shifting the schedule forward will require earlier project funding for these early-action items but also gives greater certainty the pipeline project, regardless of option selected, will be completed by 2028.

## **PIPELINE PROJECT FUNDING**

Regardless of the scenario selected, the pipeline will allow the wider distribution of alternative water supplies therefore the pipeline project should be eligible for co-funding from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). This is consistent with recent co-funding for the expansion of the High Service Pump Station and other Tampa Bay Water transmission main projects downstream of the High Service Pump Station.

If scenario 2 is selected by Hillsborough County and Tampa Bay Water, the County would be expected to fund that portion of the project which is in addition to the scenario 1 work, consistent with the Master Water Supply Contract. If the county commits prior to the SWFWMD application filing, this scope can be considered for inclusion.

## **NEXT STEPS FOR PIPELINE PROJECT**

Tampa Bay Water and Hillsborough County are reviewing the draft route studies. The project next steps will include:

- Finalize the route studies
- Update CIP using updated costs and revised project schedule
- Present recommended corridor, or corridor ranking to the Tampa Bay Water Board
  - Continue route refinement through more detailed planning

- Prepare a cofunding application for the pipeline project for consideration by the Southwest Florida Water Management District for submittal in October 2020
- Prepare a request for qualifications for design engineer firm(s) for the pipeline project
- Obtain a written commitment from Hillsborough County if the County desires Tampa Bay Water to supply the proposed water campus through a new Point of Connection
  - Develop a Joint Project Agreement if the County elects this option