



and coordination to evaluate these alternatives. The following sections briefly describe the previous studies and current efforts performed in relation to the subject interchange.

1.4. PURPOSE AND NEED

The Purpose and Need stated in the 2013 PD&E Study and in the 2013 IMR is still applicable for this IMR Re-evaluation and is summarized in this report for reference. I-75 is an integral part of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) providing for high-speed and high-volume traffic movements along the west coast of Florida and connecting the metropolitan areas of Naples and Miami. Collier Boulevard is the eastern most major north-south arterial of the Naples metropolitan region and connects densely developed areas such as Marco Island and Golden Gate to I-75. The Collier Boulevard interchange at I-75 is the last access point prior to the Alligator Alley entry toll gate. Therefore, the aim of the interchange modification is to improve the safety, LOS, and traffic operations at the I-75/Collier Boulevard interchange and adjacent intersections.

From the analysis conducted during the preparation of the 2013 PD&E Study it was determined that the interchange of I-75 with Collier Boulevard operated at acceptable LOS in 2011. Although along Collier Boulevard moderate levels of congestion were observed south of I-75 through the Collier Boulevard/Davis Boulevard intersection (located approximately 1,300 feet south), overall acceptable LOS were also estimated. However, for the year 2035 the No-Build Scenario showed that several intersections along Collier Boulevard would operate below acceptable LOS. In other words, the 2013 analyses determined that the capacity deficiency was not displayed in the existing conditions evaluation, but it is expected to occur by the year 2035 along the SR 951/Collier Boulevard limits.

Other goals of the project are to:

1. Preserve the operational integrity and regional functionality of I-75 (and, therefore, the regional transportation network).
2. Enhance emergency evacuation and response times.