

on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), FDOT Procedure No. 525-030-160: Approval of New or Modified interchange access to limited access facilities on SIS, Interchange Access Request User's Guide (IARUG) and the FDOT Traffic Forecasting Handbook (Procedure No. 525-030-120).

## 1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of this study is to complete an IMR to determine what improvements can be programmed to improve traffic spillback onto I-95, interchange operations, reduce congestion and improve safety at this interchange location. Improvements are aimed at increasing the efficiency of I-95, MLK and I-95 ramps.

The primary need of the project is to improve existing and future traffic conditions thereby improving safety at the interchange. The interchange of I-95 at MLK is a partial cloverleaf interchange providing full access. It is an important component of the SIS providing access to the City of Jacksonville. Recent traffic projections completed in the region identified increased traffic operations and potential operational deficiencies in the vicinity of the study interchange. Currently in the existing year 2017, I-95 south of MLK is carrying approximately annual average daily traffic (AADT) of 128,900 vehicles and I-95 north of MLK is carrying an approximate AADT of 131,000 vehicles. By year 2045, the AADT along I-95 is expected to increase to 160,600 vehicles daily south of MLK and 165,000 vehicles daily north of MLK. The MLK Northbound On-Ramp to I-95 carries high traffic volume in excess of 17,000 vehicles which is anticipated to exceed 22,000 AADT by year 2045. The operating conditions at the interchange are expected to deteriorate with the projected increase in traffic.

If no operational and safety improvements are made within the interchange area, conditions will become progressively worse as traffic volumes continue to increase, thereby deteriorating access of the interchange.

## 1.3 Project Location

The subject interchange is located in Duval County along I-95 at Milepost 5.20, section number 72020000. The I-95 at MLK interchange is located between the I-95 at 8<sup>th</sup> Street interchange to the south and I-95 at Golfair Boulevard interchange to the north. MLK is approximately 0.6 miles north of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 0.6 miles south of Golfair Boulevard. The project location and the study