

Tamiami Trail Petroleum Brownfields and Land Revitalization Initiative, Manatee and Sarasota Counties, Florida

The Tamiami Trail (U.S. Highway 41) Petroleum Brownfields Revitalization Initiative is intended to advance local economic development projects and greenspace projects and support historic preservation efforts along the 70 miles of this scenic highway. The corridor includes the Cities of Bradenton, North Port, Palmetto, Sarasota, and Venice. EPA Region 4 and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection are working with other federal, state and local partners to provide technical assistance to communities in Florida's Manatee and Sarasota Counties, with the goal of revitalizing abandoned or underused properties, primarily former gas stations that may be contaminated with petroleum and related contaminants.

Under EPA's Petroleum Brownfields Action Plan and with funding from the Land Revitalization Program, the Agency supports targeted projects to redevelop petroleum brownfields in defined corridors, and provides technical assistance to help with site identification, assessment, cleanup, redevelopment planning, community outreach, and other needs identified by communities.

The Tamiami Trail initiative began with a kick-off meeting in March 2009, a workshop in June 2009, and subsequent outreach meetings to convey the initiative's objectives. The Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the leadership vehicle for community engagement, working with representatives from local municipalities, the Florida Department of Transportation, nonprofit organizations, education institutions, chambers of commerce, and a host of other interested stakeholders.

EPA funded the development of an integrated, user-friendly inventory tool and provided it to the MPO and local governments to assist with this effort. Inventories of existing and former gas station sites and other brownfields will assist in prioritizing properties that may need environmental site assessment. Property inventories will create a portfolio for identifying land revitalization opportunities. EPA also is providing contractor assistance in the form of Targeted Brownfields Assessments. Eight Phase I and two Phase II environmental site assessments that include environmental sampling have been conducted to characterize the extent of contamination, if any, and to identify cleanup needs.

Among the priorities of the local efforts are preserving the quality, character, and integrity of historic structures on contaminated sites and helping local governments develop design standards that are compatible with the vision and corridor management plan. Existing strategic and community plans provide a road map for short-term and long-term activities along the corridor.

The initiative's plans include expanding the partnership to include other state and federal agencies, nonprofit groups, business, environmental consultants, underground storage tank owners and operators, cleanup contractors, site managers, and additional communities along the corridor. Additional leveraging of resources also is planned.



Abandoned gas station along the Tamiami Trail