Study Area Summary

4 Counties, 20 Cities and Towns

- Counties: Citrus, Levy, Marion, Sumter

Land Area: 3,831 square miles

Known as the “Nature Coast”

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; usa.com
Sumter County Highlights

- Sumter County was originally within Marion County until established separately in 1853
- County Seat: Bushnell
- Known to the region as “the Real Florida”
- Webster is the only city in Florida to obtain “Bee City” designation by Bee City USA

Top Industries: Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Government, Accommodation & Food Services, Construction

34th Most Populous County in Florida

Sources: sumtercountyfl.gov; discoversumterfl.com; Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019; BEBR, 2019

Note: Top Industries by 2017 Employment
Citrus County Highlights

- Established in **1887**, nicknames “**Gem of Nature Coast**” & “**The Water Lover’s Florida**”
- County Seat: **Inverness**
- Florida’s Manatee Capital – Crystal River is home to the largest herd of wintering manatees in the US
- First occupied **10,000 years ago**, Crystal River Archeological Site retains 2,000 year old burial mounds

**Top Industries¹:** Education & Health Services; Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Leisure & Hospitality

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Sources: Discoverycrystalriverfl.com; citrusbocc.com; Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019; BEBR, 2019

Note: Top Industries by 2017 Employment

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³ Top Industries by 2017 Employment
Marion County Highlights

- Marion County was established in 1844 out of lands from Alachua, Orange, and Hillsborough.
- County Seat: Ocala
- Known to the region as “Horse Capital of the World”
- One of only four thoroughbred horse centers in the world with 600 horse farms.

Top Industries: Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Government, Accommodation & Food Services, Construction

Sources: marioncountyfl.org; www.ocalamarion.com; Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019; BEBR, 2019
Note: Top Industries by 2017 Employment
Levy County Highlights

- A week after Florida became a state, Levy County was established in 1845.
- County Seat: Bronson
- Known to the region as “Florida’s Natural Paradise”
- Seafood is major staple, with Cedar Key being the largest producer of farm raised clams in country.

Top Industries: Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Government; Construction

46th Most Populous County in Florida

Sources: Naturalnorthflorida.com; levycounty.org; Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019; BEBR, 2019

Note: Top Industries by 2017 Employment
Public Engagement

Task Force Engagement
- Task Force Meetings
- Community Open Houses
- Community Workshops
- Briefings
- Website

Project Development Engagement
- Public Information Meetings
- Public Workshops
- Press Releases
- Public Hearings
- Website

Public Engagement, Engagement, Engagement…
Northern Turnpike Connector:

- Sumter County
- Citrus County
- Marion County
- Levy County