

Project:	MCORES Task Force Meeting #1			
Subject:	Afternoon Session – Northern Turnpike Connector			
Date:	Tuesday, August 27, 2019			
Location:	Tampa Convention Center 333 South Franklin Street Tampa, Florida 33602			
Task Force Members Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tom Byron, FDOT</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Hugh Harling, East Central Florida RPC</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Christina Colon, FDOT</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Scott Koons, North Central Florida RPC</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>James R. Maher, FDEP</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Paul Owens, 1000 Friends of Florida</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mario Rubio, FDEO</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Charles Lee, Audubon Florida</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nancy Brown, FDOE</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Elizabeth Fleming, Defenders of Wildlife Stand-in: Kent Wimmer</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Michael Napier, FDOH</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Zachary Prusak, The Nature Conservancy</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Shannon Wright, FWC</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jason Lauritsen, Florida Wildlife Corridor</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Matt Surrency, FDACS</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jeff Prather, St. Johns River WMD</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mark Futrell, FPSC</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Warren Zwanka, Suwannee River WMD</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tim Vanderhoof, Enterprise Florida Stand-in: Tim Johns</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jennette Seachrist, Southwest Florida WMD</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tim McGrath, FDBPR</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Carol West, Florida Chamber of Commerce</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Michelle Dennard, CareerSource Florida</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Philip Fulmer, Florida Trucking Association</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Scott Carnahan, Citrus County</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Christopher Saliba, Florida Rural Water Association</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rock Meeks, Levy County</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bill Ferry, Florida Internet & Television Association</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Kathy Bryant, Marion County Stand-in: Tracy Straub</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Katie Troncoso, Volunteer Florida</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bradley Arnold, Sumter County</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Danielle Ruiz, FEDC</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Valerie Hanchar, Ocala/Marion TPO</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Curt Williams, Florida Farm Bureau Federation</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jeff Kinnard, Hernando/ Citrus MPO</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dr. Stanley Sidor, Lake-Sumter State College</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mike Woods, Lake-Sumter MPO</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dr. Vernon Lawter, College of Central Florida</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sean Sullivan, Tampa Bay RPC</i>		

Afternoon: Individual Task Force Organizational Meetings

12:30 pm	Welcome and Call to Order	Tom Byron, Chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Byron, Task Force Chair, welcomed everyone to the first Northern Turnpike Connector Task Force Meeting. Mr. Byron reviewed the meeting schedule and Task Force activities, noting that today's meeting is the only one where all three Task Forces will meet together. The FloridaMCORES.com website will have information from all meetings, including information presented today, which will be uploaded as soon as possible. 	
12:35 pm	Roll Call / Safety Briefing	Christine Kefauver, Facilitator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christine Kefauver, facilitator, conducted the roll call and safety briefing and provided an overview of ground rules for meetings to ensure members are actively engaged and participating. 	

12:45 pm	Bill Review / Roles and Responsibility (Video)	Tom Byron, Chair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A video presentation provided a summary of SB 7068 and Task Force role. • A summary of the bill and other legislation were provided in the Task Force folder. 		
12:55 pm	Sunshine Law Video Refresher (Video)	Tom Byron, Chair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A video presentation provided an overview of the Sunshine Law. • Christine Kefauver emphasized the need to not have any outside discussions on any topics related to this Task Force. • Diane Guillemette, a representative from the Attorney General’s office, mentioned that Sunshine questions will be answered before the next meeting. • Ms. Kefauver asked if the three Task Forces are considered separate bodies or one single body? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Guillemette replied that this question will be answered before the next meeting. Until determined, please treat it like it is a single body and do not have outside conversations with members of the other Task Forces. 		
1:00 pm	Products, Work Plan, Roles and Responsibilities including Meeting Schedule & Rules of Engagement	Christine Kefauver, Facilitator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Kefauver reviewed the contents of the Task Force member folders including Task Force membership list, meeting dates, corridor maps, summary of SB 7068 and Florida statutes, Task Force engagement plan, and media information request guidance. • Ms. Kefauver noted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Program goal is to plan for multi-use, multi-modal corridors and develop high-level products to guide future efforts. Potential corridor opportunities include operational or capacity improvements, reconstruction or modernization of existing facilities. ○ Task Force activities will take place throughout the corridor with meeting locations in each county. More details on dates and meeting locations will be provided electronically as they are confirmed. ○ SB 7068 allows the Task Force to look beyond transportation issues and consequently beyond transportation solutions. ○ SB 7068 requires consensus and this effort will develop recommendations using consensus building techniques. • Ms. Kefauver discussed guidelines for interacting with media about the project and referenced materials in folder for more information. • Ms. Kefauver outlined the Typical Recommendation Process, including issue/opportunity identification and finding recommendations to address. 		
1:30 pm	Overview of the Study Area Presentation	Jennifer Stults, FDOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Stults, Production Lead, provided an overview of the study area: 		

- The study area includes four counties – Citrus, Levy, Marion, and Sumter – and 20 cities and towns. Two counties, Citrus and Levy, are overlapping with the Suncoast Connector.
- Spanning more than 3,800 square miles, this study area is larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island.
- Sumter County, originally part of Marion County, was established in 1853. The county seat is Bushnell. Locally known as “the Real Florida,” Sumter County embraces the community-lifestyle and promotes activities for residents and visitors to experience both natural and man-made attractions, including: kayaking, town centers for shopping and dining, flea markets, air boating, and U-Pick Farms for a variety of produce.
- Citrus County was established in 1887 and named after the plentiful citrus trees and booming citrus industry. The county seat is Inverness and County nicknames include “Gem of the Nature Coast” and “The Water Lover’s Florida” for the abundant natural springs and iconic trails.
- Marion County was established in 1844 and the county seat is Ocala. Known as the “Horse Capital of the World,” Marion County contains one of only four thoroughbred horse centers in the world, with nearly 600 horse farms.
- Levy County was founded in 1845 and the county seat is Bronson. Levy County is also known as “Florida’s Natural Paradise”, as birding and fishing are some of the most popular activities for residents and visitors alike. Seafood is a major staple within the County, as Cedar Key is the largest producer of farm raised clams in the country.
- Ms. Stults highlighted that public engagement efforts during the MCORES planning process will include Task Force meetings, community open houses, and workshops. During project development, additional public engagement efforts will be held.

1:45 pm	Member Introductions and Expectations	Christine Kefauver, Facilitator & Members
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christine Kefauver asked Task Force members to introduce themselves, state the name of the organization they represent, and asked how we could enhance the planning process. ● <i>Tom Byron will serve as the Task Force Chair.</i> ● <i>Hugh Harling, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, has served on a previous corridor study task force. He would like to see a presentation from the trucking industry at a future meeting.</i> ● <i>Bradley Arnold, Sumter County, expressed that the Wekiva Parkway process is a good approach.</i> ● <i>Dr. Vernon Lawter, College of Central Florida, wants access to higher education and economic development to be a focus.</i> ● <i>Katie Troncoso, Volunteer Florida, noted emergency preparedness and hurricane evacuation.</i> ● <i>Jennette Seachrist, Southwest Florida Water Management District, is interested in water supply planning and natural resources/springs protection.</i> ● <i>Michael Napier, Florida Department of Health, highlighted public health policy and health in all policy.</i> ● <i>Tracy Straub, serving as stand-in for Commissioner Kathy Bryant, Marion County Board of County Commissioners, is concerned with traffic conditions throughout Florida.</i> 	

- *Curt Williams, Florida Farm Bureau Federation, wants voices of farming families to be heard in the process.*
- *Tim McGrath, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, asked, how can this project assist stakeholders in business community?*
- *James Maher, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, sees this as an opportunity to build consensus. He wants to look at protecting springs and opportunities for mitigation to further protect springs.*
- *Mario Rubio, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, wants to look at economic development of these areas.*
- *Tim Johns, serving as stand-in for Tim Vanderhoof, Enterprise Florida, is interested in economic development.*
- *Christina Colon, FDOT, would like to see a collaborative approach to the process and obtaining public input on corridors.*
- *Shannon Wright, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, is interested in a balanced approach to multi-use and multi-modal corridors and protecting natural resources/corridors.*
- *Mike Woods, Lake~Sumter MPO, brings experience with Suncoast Parkway multimodal corridor.*
- *Warren Zwanka, Suwannee River Water Management District, wants to include a scientific element to planning process.*
- *Nancy Brown, Florida Department of Education, is focused on seeing-impaired populations and other ADA population needs.*
- *Jeff Prather, St. Johns River Water Management District, was involved with Wekiva Parkway project.*
- *Philip Fulmer, Florida Trucking Association, is focused on trucking interests and related infrastructure.*
- *Danielle Ruiz, Florida Economic Development Council, supports Duke Energy economic development and the need to move goods and people.*
- *Commissioner Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners, worked with FDOT on Suncoast Connector and is excited to participate.*
- *Sean Sullivan, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, is interested in Tampa Bay regional significance.*
- *Vice-Mayor Valerie Hanchar, chair of the Ocala/Marion County TPO, is interested in how these corridors will affect Dunnellon and SW Marion County.*
- *Paul Owens, 1,000 Friends of Florida, strongly opposes this legislation and considers it a threat to Florida's wildlife and nature. He is interested in carefully managing Florida's growth.*
- *Mayor Matt Surrency, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, of brings experience as the Mayor of Hawthorne and works with Florida League of Cities and Department of Agriculture.*
- *Commissioner Rock Meeks, Levy County Board of County Commissioners, sees the project as opening up areas for economic opportunities while protecting important resources.*
- *Commissioner Jeff Kinnard, chair of the Hernando/Citrus MPO, is supportive of project.*

- *Dr. Stanley Sidor, Lake-Sumter State College, offers experience of working with small isolated communities.*
- *Mark Futrell, Florida Public Service Commission, is interested in the cost of utilities services.*
- *Jason Lauritsen, Florida Wildlife Corridor, is focused on protecting wildlife and habitat for future generations.*
- *Bill Ferry, Florida Internet and Television Association, brings experience with Comcast, wireless technologies, and 5G.*
- *Charles Lee, Audubon Florida, believes conserving habitat and consensus building are important.*

2:45 pm	Break	
3:00 pm	Study Area Considerations Presentation	Jennifer Stults, FDOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Stults presented study area considerations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current population by county, projected population growth through 2044, and statewide growth projections through 2070. All counties are expected to grow, particularly Sumter at twice the state average. Florida will have 12.5 million more residents by 2070. ○ Additional statistics were presented by county on high school graduation rate, bachelor’s degree attainment rate, current median household income, current unemployment rates, percent of population below the poverty line. ○ Employment in the study area is highest for service industries and government. Agriculture is the highest percent of existing land use within the study area. ○ Wetlands (22% of total land area), aquatic preserves, Outstanding Florida Waters. ○ Existing environmental protection areas: wildlife corridors, conservation lands, aquifer recharge areas, Florida Forever Lands, natural springs (200), threatened species. • Ms. Stults highlighted that other transportation modes will be considered and emerging technologies will be incorporated into any roadway design (AV/CV, Smart Roads and bridges infrastructure, broadband infrastructure). Demands on facilities will continue to grow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency evacuation needs during hurricane and other storm events. ○ Congestion anticipated to grow throughout study area. ○ Trade and logistics (freight tonnage anticipated to increase). 		
3:15 pm	Study Area Considerations Discussion	Christine Kefauver, Facilitator & Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Kefauver introduced the study area considerations discussion for Task Force members. • <i>Charles Lee wants a GIS based tool available to all task forces, as well as the public. He referenced the Defenders of Wildlife GIS map so you can see what resource may be impacted along proposed corridor location. He suggests discussing lessons learned on the Wekiva Parkway task force. This project used co-location of a new expressway route and existing state roadway. He considers this to be the most difficult of the three task forces due to conservation of existing protected lands and environment.</i> 		

- *Ms. Kefauver asked the Task Force if a discussion on the Wekiva Parkway project would be helpful. This suggestion received positive feedback.*
- *Mike Woods thinks it would be useful to see the long-range plans and what has been adopted within the study area. The Task Force should consider future growth and what cost feasible projects are planned.*
 - *Ms. Kefauver explained what the MPO/TPO long range plans are. These could become the basis of the new corridor, to use what is planned and where they can build on.*
- *Mr. Woods noted that portions of the Wekiva Parkway weren't co-locations, but replaced state roads.*
- *Jeff Prather mentioned that the Wekiva Parkway incorporated elevated portions of the roadway to facilitate wildlife corridors. The road should be designed for treatment and attenuation of stormwater in mind.*
- *Dr. Stanley Sidor asked if the population growth could be represented by demographic. It is important to see where there is growth, if these are younger or older communities. If the growth is based on older populations, a new roadway may not be justified.*
 - *A comment was made that population data is available in the presentation.*
- *Paul Owens would like to see an inventory of existing transportation concepts, as well as FDOT statistics on corridors within the study area (capacity, volume, if it's able to handle other aspects of the legislation, right of way and crash data).*
- *Katie Troncoso asked if there was data regarding human trafficking or increase in crime/decreased safety in areas surrounding interchanges.*
 - *This data has not been examined, but may be acquired moving forward.*
- *Hugh Harling wants to see percentage of truck traffic that will be using these systems and how the truck traffic will operate on them. He would like to know trucking regulations to help accommodate these types of drivers. He believes that technology will continue to advance, but there will always be people using older technology. He added the need to incorporate newer and older technology on these corridors.*
- *Ms. Kefauver mentioned resiliency. Where is the future of transportation going and how to adapt it to today's problems? Group indicated that this discussion is important.*
- *Commissioner Rock Meeks asked, are there any ideas of where these corridors will be? What existing corridors will be impacted? He would like to bring information back to his county on which areas will be affected.*
 - *Tom Byron responded to use the comprehensive plans to determine where the roadways should go that line up with the county needs. How can this new roadway be incorporated into the already planned improvements?*
- *Mayor Matt Surrency asked, how can these communities get access to the fiber optic cable running along state highways?*
 - *Mr. Byron explained these new roadways will be state corridors, so there will be fewer restrictions on providing broadband access to communities.*

- *Bill Ferry wants to poverty statistics at a granular level and asked, where are low income families concentrated? Knowing where these communities are will help allow for the services they need, while also being respectful of them.*
- *Philip Fulmer indicated that the biggest problem for trucking is parking, either at rest stops or truck parks. Drivers are forced to stop at certain times and spend hours looking for parking. How can this issue be accommodated on future corridors? Mr. Fulmer noted The Ray project in Georgia which contains lots of innovative solutions.*
- *Nancy Brown works with the blind and visually impaired. Will any of these corridors, either highway or trail, affect employment opportunities and transportation for these impaired individuals? A presentation could be beneficial if the task force requested.*
- *Shannon Wright would like access to gas line layout information.*
- *Jennette Seachrist thought it would be helpful to have the springs areas and important recharge areas available. She reiterated that a presentation on the Wekiva Parkway, including process and outcomes, would be helpful.*
- *Vice-Mayor Valerie Hanchar indicated the presence of sinkholes within the study area and asked, where are these and other important geological areas in the study area?*
- *Vice-Mayor Hanchar wanted to make sure that the projects that have been allocated funds will not have those funds cut to fund this project instead.*
 - *Mr. Byron said not at this time. There is still a question of where some money may come from in the future.*
 - *Another comment was made that the bill defines that the transportation component would be provided through FDOT.*
- *Sean Sullivan discussed resiliency of the roadway in the Tampa Bay area based on weather and heat.*
- *Michael Napier noted that no one from the state emergency management is present on the task force, but should be a consideration for population growth. The design of these new roadways should be able to handle the growth during evacuations.*
 - *Mr. Byron indicated that FDOT usually assumes these responsibilities.*
- *Tracy Straub, serving as stand-in for Kathy Bryant, expressed difficulties in communicating with FDOT and hopes there will be an effort to improve these conversations. She would like to build in evacuation mitigation from the beginning to reduce pinch points.*
 - *Paul Owens indicated that a board member at 1000 Friends of Florida would be happy to discuss the Wekiva Parkway.*
- *Mike Woods asked, are we able to narrow down the study area through this process?*
 - *A response was given that the study area won't be narrowed, but areas can be removed from the discussion as we determine which areas are prioritized and which should be avoided.*
- *Tim Johns, serving as stand-in for Tim Vanderhoof, asked, do we know how many people in the study area are on septic? FDOH should have this information. He asked, can we get the whole study area off septic?*
- *James Maher wants new technologies to be looked at as we develop these areas.*

- *Danielle Ruiz noted that 18-wheeler trucks don't typically like to use toll roads and would like to see traffic counts and existing conditions of co-location to take on less investment. She would like to know the destinations of users coming into the state, both commercially and otherwise.*
- *Commissioner Rock Meeks stated that high performance pipes can be more expensive when going through high poverty areas and cautioned to be mindful of this. It's not just the capital cost, but the maintenance as well.*
- *Michael Napier is interested in where the ports are growing and asked, where does the cargo go once it makes it off the ships? This information can help determine where we need to build roads.*
- *Tracy Straub, serving as stand-in for Kathy Bryant, indicated these corridors will be great for sewer and utilities. She asked, where are the existing distribution centers in the area?*
- *Jennette Seachrist said that different entities have efforts already in place which may help with acquisition or restoration.*
- *Commissioner Meeks indicated a shortage of hands-on workforce employees. He lobbies for technical skills courses as part of this legislation.*
- *Ms. Kefauver asked is the study area communities have the workforce needed in the long run?*
 - *Nancy Brown stated that depending on the nature of the corridor, people with disabilities could be members of the workforce. She would like to hear information on potential workforce improvements.*
 - *Tracy Straub, serving as stand-in for Kathy Bryant, asked, are there lessons learned from the I-4 corridor development project?*
 - *Dr. Stanley Sidor noted that technical skills can be learned at any two-year university program. There will be a need for skilled workers, electricians, etc. Need to build on skill sets in order to build these facilities. There will be fewer skilled workers in the future.*
- *Vice-Mayor Valarie Hanchar asked about future greenways, trails, and parks. What is in the future for these types of facilities and projects?*
- *Tracy Straub, serving as stand-in for Kathy Bryant, asked, is there a way to connect community trails and parks to these newly created ones for trail connectivity?*

4:30 pm

Next Steps

Tom Byron, Chair /
Christine Kefauver, Facilitator

- Tom Byron reviewed highlights from the discussion.
- Ms. Guillemette, representative from the Attorney General's office, clarified that regarding making GIS available as a single inventory, Sunshine Laws affect not only what is shown, but also what is excluded.
- The following action items came from the discussion:
 - **Wekiva Parkway 101 – Try to provide information on the planning and development process at an upcoming meeting.**
 - **Long-range transportation plans for study area maps (potentially include in GIS inventory).**
 - **Data on freight and goods movement, trucking, emerging technology data.**

- **Enhancements with utilities (wastewater, water, and telecom/broadband) – Where are the existing utility corridors, include as GIS layers?**
- **Try to make data available on the MCORES website.**
- Members were encouraged to flip the perspective on this corridor project. How can we leverage this project for the advantage of the communities it impacts?
- Next Task Force meeting is at the College of Central Florida Citrus Learning and Conference Center, 3800 S Lecanto Hwy, Lecanto, FL in Citrus County. Time TBD.
- Members were asked to please complete their evaluation form on this meeting.

4:45 pm

Public Comment

Tom Byron, Chair /
Christine Kefauver, Facilitator

- Carlton Ward Jr. introduced himself as a photographer and journalist focusing on the Florida Panther for National Geographic. This task force is deciding the future of wild Florida. Florida 2070 study projections show a population of 35 million, five million acres will be needed to support this growth. Florida Wildlife Corridor plan looks the Florida panther and black bear as part of this study. He noted the difference between wildlife corridor and wildlife crossing. He stated the need to protect greenspace first to ensure unintended consequence of destroying habitat.
- Katrina Shadix, Director of Bear Warriors United and 2nd generation resident, has seen development and urban sprawl, and the impacts of domestic migration into the state at the expense of state residents. She noted that money goes towards development instead of conservation leading to the destruction of habitat and natural resources. She believes an elevated speed rail is needed and focus should be on increasing density in urban areas. Additional project considerations should include wildlife underpasses, solar powered signage, and covered parking for electric charging stations for vehicles.
- Chris Costello, National Sierra Club representative, stated that neither supporters nor the Legislature has demonstrated the transportation need for these corridors. He believes the Task Force should recommend the no build option.
- Carol Pratt, resident, is concerned if toll roads happen, there will be no natural resources left. She is concerned with water quality and wildlife impacts due to toll roads. She stated that these toll roads will impact our environment and can never be corrected.
- Travis Thompson, Cast and Blast Florida, provided an example of a water balloon and how when you throw it, everyone but you gets wet. He appreciates the Task Force members' participation. As a hunter and fisherman, he is discouraged by lack of hunting and fishing groups represented on the Task Forces. He thinks the state should handle other issues before this larger issue that we don't need.
- Peter Arcuri, resident, noted main area of concern is the public lands and wildlife areas within the study area. He is concerned about the preservation areas located in the center of the study area. As a hunter who utilizes these lands, he knows many other people use these lands for recreational purposes. He is concerned that there will be no way to avoid these areas without creating a significantly longer corridor or large bypass. He noted the important source of water in the Big Green Swamp for the entire region and encouraged efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife in these areas.
- Tiffany Grantham, Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida and resident of Broward County, remembers when Broward County had more environmental areas and less roadways and

development. Now, 20-30 years later, millions of residents have replaced the conservation areas and it's 100% built-out with strip malls, residential development, and malls all the way to the Everglades. She's concerned that the study area could turn into the same condition as Broward County. She stated that the ecosystem in Florida needs fixing and that if the state wants to build the roadways, we should fix current issues first, such as blue green algae in Central Florida.

- Russell Conn, Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida, is concerned about all three toll roads and stated that this is not smart development or a plan for smart growth. He believes this will deplete already limited water aquifers and bring in more taxes at the expense of natural resources, air quality, wildlife migration. He is concerned that this process will have true accountability. Task Force members should make decisions that are not tied to the state legislature. He believes this will have repercussions for Florida for generations and that this project will destroy the wilderness if the proper protections are not taken.
- Chris Wild, resident, concurs with the no build comment. He stated Florida has an unreliable transportation network and that he must add additional time for travel. He encouraged the Task Force to look at workforce opportunities for all types of jobs, not just technical. He feels the need for corridors, but is not sure that 500-foot-wide corridors are appropriate. He is looking for recommendations that are innovating and potentially aligned to reduce impacts such as using existing ROW.
- Nancy Watters, resident, stated that she is opposed to expansion of toll roads and is concerned about impacts to Florida's waterway and wildlife habitats. These corridors must be studied by knowledgeable agencies. She stated that money spent on this study could be spent on improving our natural resources and protecting against sea level rise. She believes Floridians do not want more roads or more urban sprawl. She sees a need for more comprehensive environmental protection in Florida.
- Ginger Goepper, resident, believes wildlife deserves a voice in this process. While waiting at a red light on Gandy Boulevard, she noted a FDOT project removed a small wetland area and saw an eagle sitting on a telephone pole. She encouraged projects to look at nesting season when evaluating habitat and recommended budgeting for elevated tollways to allow for animal migration through habitat areas.
- Lindsay Cross, Florida Conservation Voters, believes the future of the state and the legacy we leave will be based on the Task Force's recommendations. She stated that the golden promise of economic development and protection of natural resources will be negated by the loss of wildlife, natural resources, and water quality. She described the 300 new road miles bringing shades of grey to the state. She is concerned that the Task Forces are ignoring I-75 task force recommendations of expanding existing roadways. She believes this project will bring cookie cutter subdivisions named after ranches and plantations, air pollution, bypassed cities, and a loss of funds to use to enhance existing infrastructure.
- Sarah Putnam, Florida Field Campaign for Conservation, is concerned about all three proposed toll roads. She listened to all the points during the Task Force discussion and while coastal resiliency and inland flooding were discussed, nothing was said about sea level rise. Hurricane evacuation was discussed, but preparedness discussions don't always discuss the privilege of evacuation. She noted that expense and opportunity to evacuate are not available to all populations. She would like to see shelter in place options and an inventory of options for all residents. She noted Wekiva Parkway as an

example, but also recommended to review the I-75 Relief Task Force as well. She noted that the recommendation from I-75 was to use existing facilities.

- Amanda Brown, legislative aide to representative, stated that constituents are tired of rampant growth and building new roads doesn't necessarily cure this issue. She would like to focus on smart growth and cares about quality of life throughout the entire state. She noted that new construction doesn't just impact immediate areas but reaches outside of the study area. She requests the Task Force make the recommendation to improve existing roads and not build a new road.
- Lynn Fruit, member of the Sierra Club and of the Inspire Outdoors, wants to show kids the real Florida. She is concerned about degradation of springs, aquifer protection and wildlife corridors.
- Ryan Hart represents the Seminole Electric, a rural electric cooperative that serves 1.7 million people and businesses. He noted that Seminole stands ready to assist in the development of opportunities to expand services and opportunities to serve additional residents.
- Barb Toepke, member of the Sierra Club, attended Southwest Connector Task Force. She asked the Task Force to please avoid building the toll road and use money to repair existing roads. She stated please do not minimize the destruction of habitat to build an unwanted road, and please do not minimize the funds needed to build the mitigation. She understands that the loss of a wetland would require mitigation of new wetland. She believes the state does not need a toll road to develop wildlife corridors. Instead, she believes the state should buy land to develop wildlife corridors.
- Tori Linder, resident, stated that she grew up in Central Florida in an agricultural family. She has seen a huge transformation and loss of agriculture for other uses. She is concerned about the lack of diversity in ages of the Task Force members. She noted that younger generations will shoulder the burden of these toll roads and encouraged Task Force members to think about green infrastructure.
- Malia Byrtus, resident, noted the importance of the Florida Wildlife Corridor for future and younger generations, and is concerned that the corridor will be impacted by the new roadways. She noted that recreational users will be impacted by the new corridor. She would like to unite behind the science and encouraged the Task Force to protect existing conservation land instead of putting new lines on the map. She is concerned with potential impacts to the Florida Panther and Florida Black Bear.
- Dan Harvey, resident, stated that the project is being rushed and it's pushed too fast, thinks that dividing MCORES to three taskforces is intentional to divide public opinion. He also commented at the Suncoast meeting: stated that FDOT enacted a Task Force for a toll road to the Georgia state line, but Georgia doesn't know anything about this project. He believes the three Task Forces should be combined. He is concerned at the speed of the project and believes that going forward, the project needs to include many workshops to hear from the public. He believes wildlife corridors are important along with improvement to broadband technology and water/sewer.

Adjourn

Tom Byron, Chair

Text Format:

Regular – Agenda outline; *Italic* – Discussion notes; **Bold** – Action items

Notes Taken By: Stefanie McQueen, Sharisse Kenney, and Bryan St. George