

Project: MCORES Task Force Meeting #1
 Subject: Afternoon Session – Southwest-Central Florida Connector
 Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019
 Location: Tampa Convention Center
 333 South Franklin Street
 Tampa, Florida 33602

Attendees (check all in attendance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	L.K. Nandam, FDOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Constance, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Stand-in: Gary Harrell
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tracy A. Hood, FDOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Carpenter, FDEP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Steed, Central Florida RPC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pam Johnson, FDEO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill McDaniel, Southwest Florida RPC Stand-in: Margaret Wuerstle
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Richards, FDOE Stand-in: John Howell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Dickman, 1000 Friends of Florida
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Vick, FDOH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Paul Gray, Audubon Florida
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Graef, FWC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Fleming, Defenders of Wildlife Stand-in: TBD
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Janet Taylor, FDACS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wendy Mathews, The Nature Conservancy
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Futrell, FPSC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Estenoz, The Everglades Foundation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Vanderhoof, Enterprise Florida Stand-in: Tim Johns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Lauritsen, Florida Wildlife Corridor
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Garcia, FDBPR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Starford, Southwest Florida WMD Stand-in: Dave Kramer
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Dennard, CareerSource Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa M. Roberts, South Florida WMD
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rick Wilson, Polk County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Katie Decker, Florida Chamber of Commerce
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Thompson, Hardee County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Keith Walpole, Florida Trucking Association
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elton Langford, DeSoto County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerald Buhr, Florida Rural Water Association
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ron Handley, Highlands County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Ferry, Florida Internet & Television Association
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Doherty, Charlotte County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rechell Johnson, Volunteer Florida
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weston Pryor, Glades County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sherry Ambrose, FEDC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cecil Pendergrass, Lee County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gary Ritter, Florida Farm Bureau Federation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mitchell Wills, Hendry County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Angela M. Garcia Falconetti, Polk State College
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Thaddeus Cohen, Collier County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Glenn Little, South Florida State College	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Colon Lambert, Heartland Regional TPO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Jeff Allbritten, Florida Southwestern State College	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donald Scott, Lee County MPO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matt Caldwell, Maxwell, Hendry & Simmons LLC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne McLaughlin, Collier MPO			

Afternoon: Individual Task Force Organizational Meetings

12:30 pm	Welcome and Call to Order	L.K. Nandam, Chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L.K. Nandam, Task Force Chair, welcomed the group and introduced Tracy Hood as vice-chair and Karen Kiselewski as facilitator. He noted four key items for the task force to consider: avoid, minimize, mitigate, and enhance. 	
12:35 pm	Roll Call / Safety Briefing	Karen Kiselewski, Facilitator

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Kiselewski, facilitator, conducted the roll call and safety briefing. 		
12:45 pm	Bill Review / Roles and Responsibility (Video)	L.K. Nandam, 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)	L.K. Nandam, Chair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A video presentation provided an overview of the Sunshine Law. • John, representative from the Attorney General’s office, was introduced and available for questions. • A question was asked, can members call the chair or vice-chair with questions or comments? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The response was no, they are members of the Task Force. FDOT will develop a communication protocol to address this topic and how data can be shared. • A question was asked, can coworkers on different Tasks Forces talk with each other about Task Force items? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The response was that this topic is being investigated. Out of an abundance of caution, the answer is “no” at this time. This may change and FDOT will distribute answers to Sunshine Law questions when available. 		
1:00 pm	Products, Work Plan, Roles and Responsibilities including Meeting Schedule & Rules of Engagement	Karen Kiselewski, Facilitator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Kiselewski reviewed the information in the Task Force member folders. The Rules of Engagement document included how the final report will be adopted. (Note: Questions were discussed after the “Overview of the Study Area” presentation and are documented here.) • <i>How will the schedule for upcoming meeting dates be determined?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The next two meetings have been scheduled to help plan throughout the rest of the calendar year. If a member has specific dates to avoid, or meeting location recommendations, please share with FDOT. This is also tied to the communication protocol.</i> • <i>How is the issue of alternates being handled?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The agencies can request an approval for a stand-in attendee that must be approved by the FDOT Secretary. Members may also have someone sit in the audience and listen. All meeting information will be posted on the FloridaMCORES.com website to keep members up to date.</i> • <i>How can agencies share information to assist the Task Force in its work?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>This will be clarified through the coordination protocol.</i> • <i>Will there be survey data for typical alignment?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Task Force is providing guidance and will not be looking at alignments. The emphasis is on identifying resources that should be avoided, where impacts are minimized and mitigated, or where they can be enhanced.</i> • Ms. Kiselewski asked if the Work Plan was agreeable with everyone. There was general acceptance. 		

1:30 pm	Overview of the Study Area Presentation	Marlon Bizerra, FDOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlon Bizerra, Production Lead, presented an overview all the study area counties. • Mr. Bizerra emphasized public engagement opportunities through the planning phase and project development phase. • <i>A comment was made that it was surprising to not see mining and agriculture listed in the study area overview.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>This information is covered in the second presentation.</i> 		
1:45 pm	Member Introductions and Expectations	Karen Kiselewski, Facilitator & Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Kiselewski asked Task Force members to introduce themselves. • <i>Jennifer Carpenter, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, represents the state agency charged with protecting air, land, coastal waters, springs, lakes and rivers, and enforces the laws to protect resources.</i> • <i>Keith Walpole, Florida Trucking Association, is interested in moving things safely throughout the state.</i> • <i>Patricia Steed, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, is the executive director, as well as the staff services direct of Heartland Regional TPO. The 2060 Regional Vision includes inland counties and focus is on education pipeline, environment, natural resources, transportation.</i> • <i>Katie Worthington Decker, Florida Chamber of Commerce, directs the Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce, second largest city in Polk County.</i> • <i>Gerald Buhr, Florida Rural Water Association, works with utilities throughout state to offer affordable water for rural areas. He also serves as city attorney for cities, several in the corridor.</i> • <i>Matt Caldwell, Maxwell, Hendry & Simmons, LLC, is a real estate agent and expert witness in right-of-way acquisition. He is a previous member of the Florida House of Representatives with transportation experience.</i> • <i>Mark Futrell, Florida Public Service Commission, was appointed by the governor to oversee electric, natural gas, water/wastewater, service providers, establish rates, and review long term plans of electrical utilities for future power plants.</i> • <i>Dr. Paul Gray, Audubon Florida, states that Audubon is interested in protecting birds and conserving their habitats.</i> • <i>Margaret Wuerstle, Executive Director of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, is standing in for Bill McDaniel.</i> • <i>Ed Garcia, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, is a field office manager for the region and regulates and licenses professionals.</i> • <i>Randy Cerchie, Lee County Director of Transportation, is standing in for Cecil Pendergrass, Lee County Board of County Commissioners.</i> • <i>John Howell is standing in for Robert Richards, Florida Department of Education. Their role at the agency is to assist people with disabilities to find employment, with transportation being a major barrier.</i> 		

- *Glenn Little, South Florida State College, states that the college serves three counties in the corridor and helps to provide access for workforce training and economic development. He is very much interested in connectivity (broadband) and access for students.*
- *Pam Johnson, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, collaborates in advancing Florida's economy by supporting the state's workforce and economic development vision, and helping citizens/businesses in state.*
- *Colon Lambert, Heartland Regional TPO, serves on the TPO and the Hardee County Commission.*
- *Mike Thompson, Hardee County Board of County Commissioners, is the Chair of the Board of County Commissions, representing citizens.*
- *Andrew Dickman, 1,000 Friends of Florida, is a land use attorney in Naples that serves on the Board of 1,000 Friends of Florida.*
- *Rick Wilson is a commissioner on the Polk County Board of County Commissioners.*
- *Mitchell Wills, Hendry County Board of County Commissioners, represents Hendry and interested in helping Florida get new means of transportation.*
- *Dave Kramer is standing in for Brian Starford, Southwest Florida Water Management District. He is the Bureau Chief for water management interests in protecting public health/welfare of citizens and resources.*
- *Anne McLaughlin, Collier MPO, is standing in for the MPO board until they assign a permanent task force member in September.*
- *Stephanie Vick, Florida Department of Health, is the Administrator for Collier and covers multiple areas including preparedness (i.e. wildfires, disease, hurricane), health promotion/protection and some regulations (i.e. septic, pools).*
- *Jeff Allbritten, Florida Southwestern State College, is the president of the college which covers five of the nine counties in the corridor with 22,000 students and is interested in access to school.*
- *Melissa Roberts, South Florida Water Management District, is the Regional Administrator for the Fort Meyers Service Center and balances natural resources in 16-county area.*
- *Gary Ritter, Florida Farm Bureau Federation, addresses state, federal, water natural resource issues with agriculture in 18 counties.*
- *Donald Scott, Lee County MPO, is the Executive Director. The MPO performs short/long range transportation plan in Lee County.*
- *Thaddeus Cohen, Collier County, is sitting in before a representative is appointed when the Collier County Commission next meets. He is the former Department of Community Affairs Secretary.*
- *Wendy Mathews, Nature Conservancy, is a conversation biologist working for the Nature Conservancy to conserve land and waters.*
- *Ron Handley, Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, is a county commissioner and is excited to see the effort move forward.*
- *Janet Taylor, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, states that the department promotes agriculture. Hendry County is 72% agriculture and she is trying to get more involved in process.*

- *Chris Constance, Charlotte County-Punta Gordo MPO, is interested in seeing process move forward.*
- *Elton Langford is a commissioner on the DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners.*
- *Angela Garcia Falconetti, Polk State College, is the president of the college serving Polk County and 16,000 students seeking credits or short-term training.*
- *Bill Ferry, Florida Internet and Television Association, is a Comcast Cable Senior Director, the state's largest internet provider. Comcast is currently rolling out 5G.*
- *Tom Graef, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, is the Southwest Regional Director for 12 counties with headquarters in Lakeland and is charged with ensuring long term wellness of wildlife.*
- *Jason Lauritsen, Florida Wildlife Corridor, represents the nonprofit with charges to protect, connect and restore wildlife corridor and habitat.*
- *Rechell Johnson, Volunteer Florida, is a financial analyst with Volunteer Florida, the lead agency of volunteerism, such as AmeriCorps.*
- *Shannon Estenoz, Everglades Foundation, is the COO and Vice President of Policy, dedicated to restoration of the Everglades. She previously worked with regional and national agencies with similar missions.*
- *Ken Doherty, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, is the chairman of the Board and a civil engineer.*
- *Nat Birdsong, Polk TPO, is chair of the TPO and Mayor Pro Tem for Winter Haven. He believes water, roads, and transportation are key issues*

2:45 pm	Break	
3:00 pm	Study Area Considerations Presentation	Marlon Bizerra, FDOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marlon Bizerra presented study area considerations. • <i>A request was made for data and analysis to be made available, particularly for previous studies as referenced in the morning session.</i> • Some members requested access to data and information prior to meetings to prepare. 		
3:15 pm	Study Area Considerations Discussion	Karen Kiselewski, Facilitator & Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Kiselewski asked Task force members, what opportunities could a multi-modal, multi-use corridor provide and what ideas should be considered when planning a multi-modal, multi-use corridor? • <i>Jason Lauritsen asked to start by identifying the wildlife corridors. He would like to include strongly up front what are natural resources to protect and which places on a map really provide connectivity for wildlife and natural resources.</i> • <i>Pat Steed envisions including things that haven't been previously included such as various modes that can travel on corridor. She also noted utilities and has seen in past corridors that government ROW corridors i.e. interstates exclude the public use of utilities within the corridors. Broadband – options for future pipelines, electric, not just water/sewer.</i> 		

- *A comment was made to overlay water/sewer. How would ramp exit locations help existing infrastructure?*
- *Dave Kramer recommended to look at natural water flows and prioritize it.*
- *A comment was made that there is an east-west wildlife corridor from Charlotte Harbor to Lake Okeechobee with eight cuts. Should we make new cut and what are the restrictions on how they were built? What are the restrictions in terms of how roads are constructed, what flexibility do we have?*
- *A comment was made that it is not clear how the different types of corridors can be bundled (e.g., transportation, electric, gas, railroads, broadband). What is the relationship between FDOT and the various providers? If the Task Force recommends a corridor, does that influence people who are making their own linear projects or will this be the only cut?*
 - *The response was that there are actions that will be taken by FDOT versus partners.*
- *Members discussed economic opportunity for rural areas. A comment was made that the Task Force should look at how routes will affect traffic patterns and impact communities, positively or negatively.*
- *Shannon Estenoz discussed economic information and data. She suggests the Task Force be given this data to educate themselves. She noted the costs of the alternatives.*
 - *The response was that the Task Force may not get to the cost benefit analysis level since this is typically done during project development.*
- *Stephanie Vick recommended that the Task Force look at implications of everything around the corridor (wagon wheel), not just the corridor. East-west as well as north-south and health and economics, etc.*
- *A request was made for additional information about non-transportation services such as broadband.*
- *A question was asked, can the Task Force have information on population projections, 2070 and 2060, as well as Comprehensive Plans to understand community visions and land uses?*
- *Jennifer Carpenter noted that the Task Force will come up with what it should be and what it shouldn't be, but property owners and citizens want to know we are committed to long-term sustainability. She asked, how specific can we get in our recommendations? How specific can we get to recommend innovative ways understanding that we aren't drawing on a map? How much will it cost?*
 - *The response was that a **briefing on the Wekiva Parkway project** may help.*
- *Elton Langford asked, can the Task Force get data on what land is publicly vs. privately owned?*
- *Don Scott asked, will funding for the corridor be new funding or pull from existing LRTP projects? He would like funding clarifications.*
- *Jason Lauritsen asked, can we have wildlife/vehicle collision information?*
- *A comment was made that the Task Force should consider agricultural land and how they provide wildlife corridors as well.*
- *Pat Steed asked, can the Task Force understand how evacuations work now on our transportation systems and what might be different?*
- *Mike Thompson asked, where do we start and stop in the study area? Can we have recommendations on these two points if it's available?*

- A question was asked on how the Task Force will be provided data.
 - The response was that data may be available on the Florida MCORES website.
- A comment was made that the Florida ecological greenways data set and agriculture should be added to the list of requested information.
- Shannon Estenoz noted that an overview of FDOT's wetland mitigation requirements would be helpful.
- Dave Kramer stated that the Task Force should consider red tide, algae blooms, and water quality, and how it can help mitigate this.
- Matt Caldwell asked if the project is intended to get people through this area or to this area? He noted that the Task Force should consider the corridor's purpose.
- Thaddeus Cohen asked for presentations from the affected communities on their vision and goals? He stated that this information will help define what the corridor is. He asked, is it possible to have multiple corridors and is there an opportunity to look outside the corridor for additional connectivity – primary corridor and partnership for secondary set of goals?
- A request was made to hear from FDOT staff on how far improving existing facilities could go.
- Matt Caldwell asked, what metrics will be used to measure when making recommendations?
 - The response was to focus on avoid, minimize, mitigate, and enhance.
- A comment was made that the Task Force should discuss economic development in rural communities, as well as revisiting intermodal logistics centers and goods movement.
- Anne McLaughlin noted that the Task Force is talking about the future and asked, how will automated, connected, and shared vehicles influence the corridor? She added that technology is being included in MPO long range plans.
- Shannon Estenoz stated that local governments are establishing offices/officers for resilience and sustainability. She noted that information on their resiliency plans and resources would be helpful.
- A comment was made regarding broadband. Much of the area is connected to serve government, hospitals, etc. The Task Force should consider opportunities to work with what is already in place throughout the state, such as Florida LambdaRail.
- L.K. Nandam stated that safety is FDOT's number one priority.

4:30 pm

Next Steps

L.K. Nandam, Chair /
Karen Kiselewski, Facilitator

- John Kaliski, Subject Matter Expert, provided a review summary of the Task Force discussion, categorizing comments into themes: Mobility, Connectivity, Opportunity, Resilience, Environment, Safety. (Note: See separate slides.) The task force provided comments and additional ideas for future meetings:
 - Connectivity is more than just transportation connectivity. There are wildlife corridors and workforce development and training. Some topics seem to fall in multiple categories.
 - Need information on existing infrastructure (multi-use) and local government long range plans.

- *This new corridor can give consumers more options on where they live versus what they can afford, or for urban decentralization and sea level change.*
- *The origination/destination data would help understand how people are moving and the attractions.*
- *With the stakeholders at the table, there is data available to share with the Task Force and the corridor recommendations need to fit with existing plans.*
- *Further explanation needed on “safety.”*
 - *For example, how does freight exist safely with other modes. Safety impacts how a road is built and many of these elements are addressed in design. The Task Force may consider wildlife crossings and how/where they are appropriate.*
- *A comment was made that it is good to hear the Task Force considering green connectivity and enhancement opportunities; this is why this a broad-reaching planning effort is great.*
- *Several years ago, SWFWMD and FDOT had a partnership to address water quality when stormwater infrastructure was implemented.*
- *A request was made for additional education on the difference between wildlife corridor and wildlife crossing.*
- Mr. Kaliski presented action items from the meeting. (Note: See separate slides.)
- Task Force members were asked to share key thoughts on this meeting and the future of the Task Force:
 - *Clarification on the purpose of the Task Force was helpful. Originally thought the Task Force would be involved in the design of the corridor. Pleased with the opportunity to provide input that will help develop and build the corridor.*
 - *Similar comment, would like to add they are pleased with the good discussion. With more information, the Task Force will be better prepared to contribute.*
 - Karen confirmed that the Task Force purpose and results are clear.
 - *Thought provoking day.*
 - A couple members expressed disappointment that Task Force is not determining alignment. A MPO questioned whether corridor information will be presented to the board.
 - *The response was that in addition to the Task Force, the project development phase will have opportunities for stakeholders and the public to provide input.*
 - *Excited about opportunities to enhance water quality and water flow.*
 - *Looking forward to wildlife conversation aspects.*
 - Several members noted that it was enlightening to hear the thoughts from a broad set of stakeholders and it was nice to be exposed to various ideas they hadn't considered. They are interested and excited to see where and how everyone's ideas will come into play.
 - *This is more of a planning effort than an engineering effort. As FDOT develops concepts, can the Task Force see options? It would help the engineer-types in the room.*

- *It's important to know others' perspectives and how x affects y. Looking forward to the process moving forward.*
- *Experienced group, it might not take a year. Our input will drive the lines on the map. There are rural communities that should have people going to them. The Task Force needs to ensure property owners feel comfortable.*
- L.K. Nandam expressed gratitude for the ideas generated and noted that the Task Force is off to a great start. He thanked Task Force members for participating today and in future meetings. He reminded them of the October 30th meeting and the need to follow Sunshine Laws. He asked them to complete the meeting evaluation form.
- The Task Force took a break, reconvening at 4:45.

4:45 pm	Public Comment	L.K. Nandam, Chair / Karen Kiselewski, Facilitator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barbara Toepke, Sierra Club, requested the Task Force to avoid building the toll road. She asked, why not use money to replace existing roads or use money to increase level of service? She is concerned about replacing wetlands with a new toll road and would like the state to buy more environmentally sensitive land. ● Carlton Ward Jr., Florida nature photographer, is thankful that wildlife is now part of the discussion. He noted that Florida is being pushed to a tipping point. He urged the Task Force to look at the Florida Statewide Wildlife corridor plan as a guide and to not undermine that progress. He noted it is a pivotal time with the Florida panther and there is the need to connect swaths of greenspace for the future. ● Meredith Budd, Florida Wildlife Federation, is focused on safe passage. She stated that roads are one of the greatest threats. She added that roads will incentive development and affect water quality and run off. She asked the Task Force to please consider the decades of work already complete ● Sharon Boozer Garrett, landowner and farmer, stated that she been through the PD&E process multiple times. She requested the Task Force improve the existing corridor. She suggested making US 27 a double decker highway. She noted that US 17 and US 92 in Haines City is a parallel route to I-4. She suggested the Task Force try signalization to help congestion. She asked the Task Force to not take her land because it created congestion. ● Malia Byrtus, resident of Brevard County, noted that there's a lot at stake for younger generations in terms of environmental consequences. She is concerned about how the state is going to protect wildlife and keep habitats safe. She requested that the Task Force think about impacts to youth. ● Tori Linder, resident, stated her family has been involved in agriculture for seven generations. She has watched cow ranches turn into hotels and toll roads. She said that history shows development follows roads. She requests the Task Force to consider what infrastructure plays in our future with sea level rise, etc. She noted a recent National Geographic article highlights effects of these roads on the environment. ● Carol Pratt, resident, is concerned about the taking of natural land for roads. She is concerned there will be nothing left at this rate of development. She believes Governor DeSantis' goals on environment and roads do not make sense. She said that three out of four Floridians care about wildlife conservation and that these toll roads would impact our state in a big way. She believes too 	

much time and effort are spent on bad decisions. She is concerned that these toll roads will lead to more development.

- Karen Michalski, resident, is concerned that rural quality of life will be destroyed with these toll roads. She believes the state should repair the roads that exist. She questions if the project can happen in the one year given by the bill. She noted that in regard to the agreements for consensus, Task Force members will be reminded of the decisions they made.
- Christopher Gleason, resident, stated that if these roads were so important, they would not be toll roads. He noted that previous studies have not shown a need for the roads and that the evacuation arguments go against expert advice. He is concerned that the state is trying to dictate development and what makes Florida so special will be lost forever.
- Julianne Thomas, Conservancy of Southwest Florida, noted that the Heartland Parkway study determined it was not feasible. She stated that it is important to understand what happened 12 years ago. She is concerned that the road can critically impact Florida panthers, which need to be protected. She asked the Task Force to please consider that this toll road is not necessary.
- Steven Rybicki, Seminole Electric Cooperative, wants to work with the Task Force in assisting in their effort.
- Dan Harvey Jr., resident, is concerned that the process is too fast for something that's about the whole state. He stated that 13 months is ridiculous and suggested combining the three Task Forces. He stated that this is for fast tracking and that there should be a Task Force for all three Task Forces.
- Adam Bass, resident of Lake Wales, stated he is a concerned citizen. He noted the project is at a conceptual point here. He stated that since 2008, Florida has not cared about the environment and he has very little confidence when Florida Forever can't get funding. He is concerned that the Task Force isn't making the decision. He requested the Task Force think longer than 10, 60 years and asked what are we going to have? Will we have what makes Florida great?
- Travis Thompson, Cast and Blast Florida, stated he goes all over the state talking about this stuff. He stated that Florida is doing a terrible job with infrastructure. He notes that he is in favor of growth, so it's hard for him to say "no" to this. He asked, where is the sportsman group? Were they left out intentionally?
- Russel Conn, Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida, noted that he spoke with legislators. He stated that Senator Galvano is saying the legislature knows how to do your job better than you do. He is concerned that this project will decimate Florida's economy by destroying the wildlife. He asks the Task Force to not sign off on these plans that will damage Florida for decades to come. He noted that too many other needs should be addressed.
- Frank Jackalone, Sierra Club, described three reasons to recommend a "no build" alternative. He said it's putting the cart before the horse and that no one recommended it. He noted impacts on wildlife and that the state already has things that need help such as invasive species, sea level rise, and red tide that should take priority. He said that if you build road through ranch land, they will sell. He is concerned that this road will completely transform once the ranchers sell to developers and that it will devastate the local communities, wildlife. He asks the Task Force to adopt a "no build" recommendation.
- Daniel Zydck, Extinction Rebellion member, notes that building roads does not alleviate congestion. He stated that if the Task Force members cared about transit, there would be public transportation.

He stated that toll roads only serve the privileged. He asked the Task Force to serve the public and provide something useful.

- Catherine Price noted that members of the Task Force should listen to the public. She stated that the central Florida area is critical to Florida with some of the last remaining greenspace. She added that the area will be impacted by climate change and will need their land. She is concerned about the roads start destroying land for these reasons. She asks Task Force members to think about this decision made by a few people in Tallahassee.
- Lacy Benton, resident, stated her opposition to the road on behalf of the endangered animals. She believes the state should use what it already has.
- Michael Newitt, Democrat Environment Caucus of Florida, questioned the mentality of these roads and plans. He believes the state has enough concrete and asked, why impact these creatures who probably have never seen humans? He noted that the toll roads are bankrupt in Miami and more crowded than other roads.
- Peter Arcuri, resident, is concerned about urban sprawl from toll roads through rural communities. He researched the documentation provided and questioned the revitalized rural communities. He states that there's nothing wrong with these communities and asked why these communities need revitalization. He noted Babcock Preserve and others shouldn't be affected, but they are in the study area. He asked the Task Force to recognize these areas.
- Shivam Shukla, resident, stated he is opposed to this and that more roads do not equal less traffic. He believes the state should invest in high speed transit and is concerned that this will result in gentrification. He notes that if this plan is not stopped, it will be his generation that will be affected.
- Lindsey Cross, Florida Conservation Voters, stated that the future of the state that we love will be influenced by the Task Force decisions. She notes that the roads will bring new shades of gray, new rooftop, and cookie cutter houses. She requested the Task Force look at upgrading and utilizing existing roads.
- Doug Morrison, resident, thanked the Task Force members for staying. He asked the Task Force to consider a "no build" alternative. He noted that a traffic study should be conducted immediately and is concerned that this road will create linear sprawl. He asked the Task Force to look at these impacts and costs and go with a "no build" alternative.
- Laura Lawson, resident, stated she opposes this project. She is concerned that the roads will go through areas where people can see stars and refers to the project Massive Corridors of Real Estate Expansion. She believes the project is not supported by the plans or needs of people and state. She is concerned it wastes taxpayer dollars and destroys the places residents love.
- Amanda Brown, representing Hillsborough County Commissioner Smith, is opposed to these roads. She is concerned they will decimate the environment. She noted that the Heartland Parkway showed that the project is not feasible and that these roads do not pay for themselves. She urged the Task Force to kill the project.
- Patricia Kemp, Hillsborough County Commissioner, noted that the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners sent a letter to Senator Galvano in opposition to the plan. She stated her opposition to the project and noted that the past has shown it will not be cost effective. She is concerned that the toll roads will serve campaign donors. She noted that the best evacuation is to shelter in place. She added that they need to insist on transit.

- Tiffany Grantham, Broward County resident, noted how the western county was rural but now the two major roads there have built it out. She stated that this is what happens when roads are built. She believes the state needs to fix its ecosystems. She added that people in central Florida are sick from blue green algae.
- Robert Wright, Sarasota Audubon, stated that he grew up in Florida and saw it as a paradise. He has worked in environmental field and seen good choices and bad choices. He notes the north Florida barge, for example, as a bad idea. He stated that these roads fall into the “bad” category and that these roads will do nothing good. He added that some “good ideas” end up being a disaster. He added that the people of Florida did not ask for this and that the areas are rural because they want to be. He stated that the Task Force has the opportunity to stop this legislation.
- Ginger Gepper, resident, would like to be a voice of the voiceless. She volunteers for the birds that are nesting May through August. She stated that we are not only killing this generation of animals but also the next generation. She believes wildlife crossing signs won’t work and that the road must be elevated, so animals can pass through safely on it journey.
- Nancy Watters, resident, is concerned about the harmful effects to Florida environment. She stated that the impacts must be assessed. She would like to use money to clean the waters protecting wildlife and finding solutions. She stated that these toll roads are a death sentence to Florida.
- Laurel Urena, resident, is a small business owner in environmental engineering. She noted that panthers require continuous route to migrate through Florida, not just a wildlife crossing. She believes it is irresponsible development and that climate change is a threat for the entire world. She is concerned that the project relies on fossil fuels and states that there need to be alternatives. She added that only a limited portion of the population will benefit from a toll road.
- Kinsley McEachern, resident, hopes future generations can enjoy Florida nature. She is a student of environmental science and notes that what happens to the ecosystem of animals will eventually happen to humans. She asked the Task Force members to experience wild Florida and reconnect to it. She asked, what do we want to leave as a legacy?
- Sarah Nappier, resident, came to Florida for her studies. She is surprised by how little greenspace there is in Florida and notes there are lots of golf course. She stated that she has seen how pollution led to the demise of habitat and water pollution. She asks the Task Force to consider the years of hard work by previous generations. She added that she would like the Task Force to discuss out of the box ideas.
- Katrina Shadix, Bear Warriors United, notes that residents have witnessed the destruction of Florida and urban sprawl. She views the project as politicians trying to accommodate out of towners. She believes money should be used to purchase lands and conservation. She urges the Task Force to consider other options such as an elevated speed rail between tourist places and increased density in dense areas. She requested the Task Force include wildlife crossings every five miles.
- Chris Costello, Sierra Club, stated that there is no acceptable or best route for any of the toll roads. He recommends a “no build” alternative.
- This concluded the public comment. L.K. thanked everyone for their input. He then again thanked task members, looking forward to the meeting in October. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

6:25 pm

Adjourn

L.K. Nandam, Chair

Text Format:

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

Notes Taken By: Erin Kersh, Michelle Zehnder, and John Kaliski