



November 27, 2019

In support of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) task force meetings related to the Multi-Use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) Program, the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) offers the below information related to hurricane evacuation routes, emergency response, and broadband during hurricanes and other disasters. It is unknown how the new corridors will affect the traffic patterns in Florida. However, we can assume that traffic patterns will change and the calls for service that the FHP currently experiences will spread to the new corridors.

It should be noted that when new roads are constructed, normal highway patrol responsibilities are required on the new routes. Without additional personnel and equipment for the FHP, the day-to-day patrol capabilities of the FHP are severely impacted.

- Hurricane evacuation routes

During hurricane events, the FHP patrols and secures evacuation routes set by FDOT. The FHP mobilizes resources as required to ensure the security of the chosen routes and safety of the evacuees using them. The proposed corridors will offer additional evacuation routes that will provide a more robust statewide evacuation plan. To take full advantage of these new routes, additional FHP resources, including personnel and equipment, should be provided.

- Emergency response

The FHP utilizes all available routes to navigate to emergency scenes. The proposed corridors would provide additional routes and possibly improve the response times to large scale events. As with the hurricane evacuation routes, to take full advantage of the new routes, additional FHP resources should be provided. These resources aren't just needed in emergency situations, but also during normal patrol as the additional roads will need to be patrolled and emergency response will be required for routine calls for service such as all types of crashes and disabled vehicles.

- Broadband (or lack thereof) during Hurricanes and other disasters

The FHP relies on broadband coverage to ensure online access for the mobile data terminals used by the troopers. Anytime new corridors are constructed, broadband coverage will be required for both the motoring public and first responders. When broadband coverage is compromised during storms, the cellular carriers should have the capability to provide temporary equipment that provides coverage until the permanent infrastructure can be restored.