

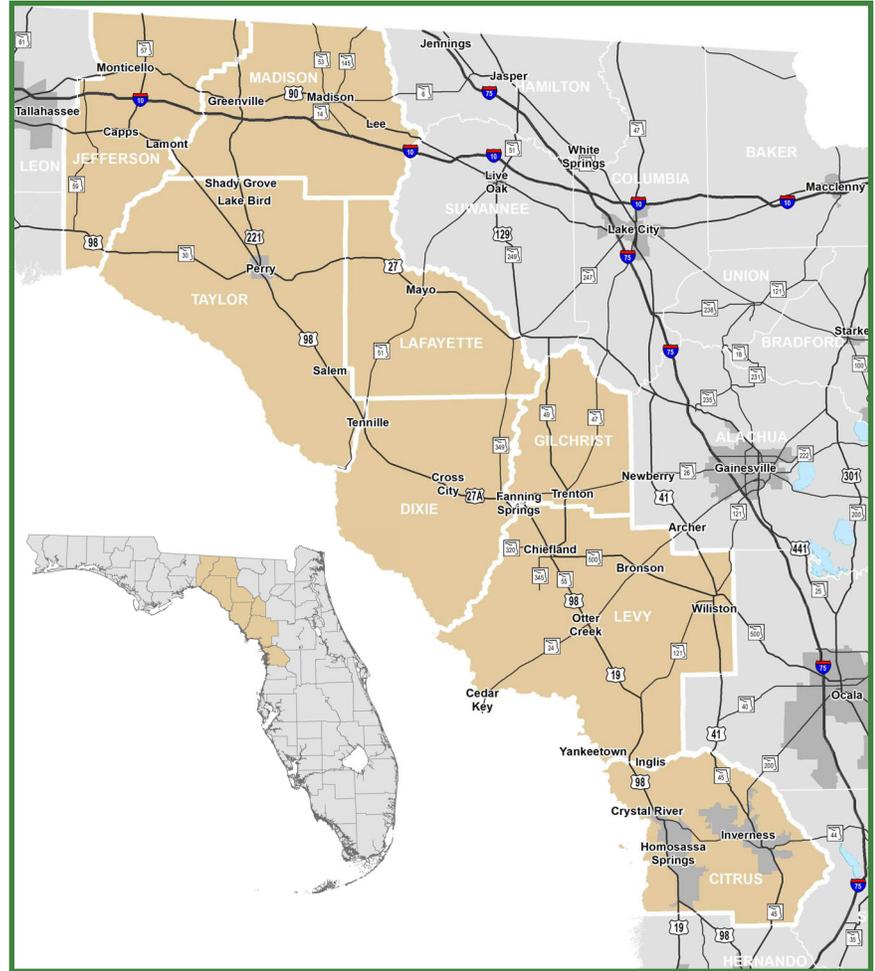
The Suncoast Corridor Study Area

STUDY AREA

The Suncoast Corridor study area is located along Florida's Nature Coast extending from Citrus to Jefferson counties. The eight-county study area is a blend of coastal and inland areas which is mostly rural with scattered suburban communities.

The predominately rural counties located within the Suncoast Corridor study area have been a draw for seasonal and full-time residents alike for decades. This area has many unique features, including a wealth of sensitive and protected natural resources, state parks, and agricultural lands, showcasing the more rural nature of the area.

Florida is the second fastest growing state in the country and is projected to have a population of nearly 34 million by 2070. With this growth, the state must continually and intelligently plan for improvement and resiliency of Florida's infrastructure, protection of the natural environmental and visioning of the transportation needs of area residents.



Homosassa Springs - Citrus County, Florida

Natural lands, springs, and protected resources are present throughout the study area. Conservation lands remain a large consideration regarding the development of the Suncoast Corridor. The study area has over 200 springs, and Spring Priority Focus Areas encompass 20% of the study area.

Agriculture and farming remain critical lifestyle and economic resources for the counties, as these lands account for 68.7% of the total land area. Similarly, there is an average of 16.7% of land set aside for conservation for each of the eight counties, highlighting the responsibility of land stewardship across the study area.



Cattle Farm - Madison County

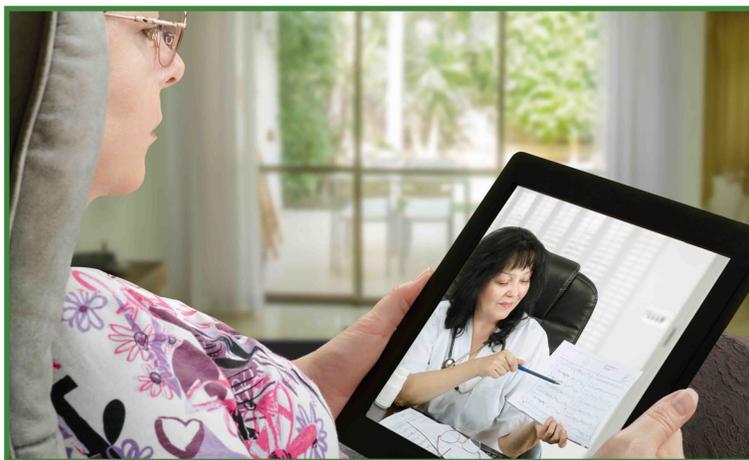
POTENTIAL BENEFITS

M-CORES (Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance) goes beyond roads and takes a look at the well-being of Floridians and their access to vital resources. Some of the areas addressed in the Suncoast Corridor include access to:

Healthcare - According to the Florida Department of Health, physician accessibility within the eight counties is lower than the Florida average. Within Florida there are 310.6 physicians for every 100,000 persons while in Dixie and Lafayette counties, there are only 12 physicians for every 100,000 residents.

Recreation - Access to healthy recreation opportunities is critical for persons of all ages. According to the Florida Department of Health, within the study area, the percentage of the population living within a half-mile of a trail is only 8.6% which is below the state average of 18.2%.

Internet - Broadband access is crucial for education and employment. According to the Federal Communications Commission, all eight counties in the study area are below the Florida average (96.2%) for access to fixed speed broadband internet. For example, only 1% of residents in Dixie County and 20% of residents in Levy County have access to the common standard of broadband speed (25Mbps download).



Telemedicine

HOW MAY I GET MORE INFORMATION OR PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK?

Public participation is vital to the M-CORES process, and there are many ways to share your comments or ideas. FDOT encourages public participation.

MAIL: FDOT Public Information Office EMAIL: FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us
605 Suwannee Street MS 54
Tallahassee, FL 32399

M-CORES APPROACH

The Florida Department of Transportation M-CORES approach is to consider a new corridor that not only focuses on vehicular movement, but also additional benefits such as opportunities for the expansion of water and sewer, broadband connectivity, energy distribution, freight efficiency, mobility and alternative modes of transportation, while mitigating impacts to and enhancing preservation of the natural environment and wildlife.

What are the goals of the M-CORES Program?



Mitigate congestion

Support multiple modes of transportation (shared-use trails, freight and passenger rail, public transit)



Connect rural communities

Expand broadband service



Advance trained workforce availability, trade and logistics



Improve energy distribution, water, sewer, and other infrastructure



Protect or Enhance wildlife corridors and other environmentally sensitive areas



Enhance hurricane evacuation routes and public safety

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Anyone who requires special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or translation services (free of charge) should contact Ryan Asmus by email at Ryan.Asmus@dot.state.fl.us or by telephone at (800) 749-2967, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.