REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT
Recognized as the Nature Coast, Levy, Sumter, Citrus and Marion Counties feature a blend of beautiful coastal and inland areas with pockets of rural, urban and suburban communities.

With regional growth anticipated in the double digits, the state must plan and implement an intentional, intelligent and responsible approach toward improvement and resiliency of Florida’s infrastructure, protection of the natural environment and visioning the transportation needs of area residents.

M-CORES APPROACH
The Florida Department of Transportation M-CORES approach is to consider a new multi-use corridor that considers vehicular movement, as well as 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.

STUDY AREA
The Northern Turnpike Corridor study area extends from the northern terminus of the Florida Turnpike northwest to the Suncoast Parkway. The proposed project area includes Levy, Sumter, Citrus and Marion Counties and over 3,800 square miles.

PROGRAM GOALS

- **Alleviate** congestion
- **Support** multiple modes of transportation (shared-use trails, freight and passenger rail, public transit)
- **Connect** rural communities
- **Expand** broadband service
- **Create** jobs
- **Advance** trade and logistics
- **Improve** energy distribution
- **Address** water, sewer and other infrastructure
- **Conserve** wildlife
- **Protect** environmentally sensitive areas
- **Provide** hurricane evacuation routes
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
M-CORES 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 proposed Northern Turnpike Corridor project include access to:

- Fresh Food: Less than 10% of residents in Sumter County, and less than 5% in Citrus and Levy Counties have access to fresh food within 0.5 miles, compared to a statewide average of 30.9%.
- Healthcare: Citrus, Levy and Sumter Counties each have limited access to hospitals (fewer than two) and specialty medical care, requiring many residents to drive to surrounding counties.
- Internet: According to the Federal Communications Commission, 20% of Levy County residents have access to the common standard of broadband speed.

NATURAL RESOURCES
The region's conservation efforts are among the priorities for M-CORES. The area includes preservation sites, wetlands, aquatic preserves, outstanding Florida waters, wildlife corridors, conservation lands, and aquifer recharge areas.

Approximately 40% of the study area is held in conservation, which is approximately 11% more acreage comparatively statewide. Additionally, 35% of the study area has been identified as the Florida Ecological Greenways Network high-priority critical linkage, which provides opportunities to connect conservation lands.

HOW MAY I 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.

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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 Jennifer Stults by email at Jennifer.Stults@dot.state.fl.us or by telephone at (407) 264-3808, at least seven days prior to the meeting.