Moving from Task Force Recommendations to Corridor Planning and Project Development

Will Watts, FDOT Chief Engineer
Overview

- General definitions and avoidance areas
- Example attraction areas
- Environment – study overview
- Example application of using guiding principles to develop potential illustrative paths/courses
- Potential planning areas
- Northern area – potential illustrative paths/courses
- Southern area – potential illustrative paths/courses
- Next steps
Avoidance Areas

- Potential illustrative paths/courses are a broad geographic area for a multi-use corridor connecting two or more locations.
- First step of potential illustrative paths/courses is to define the avoidance areas.

Map Legend
- Existing Roads
- Existing Railroads
- Will Not Impact
- No New Corridor Through
• Development of guiding principles and instructions help define avoidances and attractions

• Example attraction areas (e.g., Opportunity Zones, Commercial/Industrial/City Areas)
East Portion of Study Region
  • Kissimmee River & Lake Okeechobee

Northern Edge
  • Green Swamp

Center Region
  • Lake Wales Ridge

Southwest Region
  • Coast, Beaches, Barrier Islands & Estuaries
  • Babcock Ranch Preserve

South Region
  • Florida panther habitat
  • Big Cypress National Preserve
East Portion of Study Region
  • Kissimmee River & Lake Okeechobee

Northern Edge
  • Green Swamp

Center Region
  • Lake Wales Ridge

Southwest Region
  • Coast, Beaches, Barrier Islands & Estuaries
  • Babcock Ranch Preserve

South
  • Florida panther habitat
  • Big Cypress National Preserve
East Portion of Study Region
- Kissimmee River & Lake Okeechobee

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East Portion of Study Region
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Northern Edge
  • Green Swamp

Center Region
  • Lake Wales Ridge

**Southwest Region**
  • Coast, Beaches, Barrier Islands & Estuaries
  • Babcock Ranch Preserve

South
  • Florida panther habitat
  • Big Cypress National Preserve
Environment – Study Overview

East Portion of Study Region
  • Kissimmee River & Lake Okeechobee

Northern Edge
  • Green Swamp

Center Region
  • Lake Wales Ridge

Southwest Region
  • Coast, Beaches, Barrier Islands & Estuaries
  • Babcock Ranch Preserve

South
  • **Florida panther habitat**
  • **Big Cypress National Preserve**
• Using guiding principles and instructions related to maximizing use of existing facilities, two major north/south roads are potential illustrative paths/courses
  • US 27 via SR 29
  • US 17 via SR 29, SR 82 and SR 31
• Consistent with other guiding principles

Map Legend
- Existing Roads
- Existing Railroads
- Existing East/West Roads for Enhancement and Connectivity
- Existing North/South Roads for Potential Co-Location
- Will Not Impact
- No New Corridor Through
- Central Polk Parkway (Planned)
- Central Polk Parkway (Previously Approved)
• Similar environmental characteristics
• Bisected by major east/west roads for enhancement and connectivity
Northern Area – Potential Illustrative Paths/Courses

Map Legend
- Existing Roads
- Existing Railroads
- Existing North/South Roads for Potential Co-Location
- Will Not Impact
- No New Corridor Through
- Central Polk Parkway (Planned)
- Central Polk Parkway (Previously Approved)
Task Force Work Plan

• Refine guiding principles and instructions to help narrow potential illustrative paths/courses
• Discuss draft guiding principles and instructions - relate them to communities and potential illustrative bypasses
• Discuss draft guiding principles and instructions - relate them to new potential illustrative paths/courses

Planning / Alternative Corridor Evaluation & Project Development and Environment Studies

• Further prioritize, analyze and refine avoidance and/or minimization and mitigation of impacts
• Coordinate with resource agencies through FDOT’s Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Process