

Purpose

- All purposes

Draft High-Level Needs

- All needs

Draft Guiding Principles

- ***Be consistent with statutorily required statewide, regional, and local plans including the local government comprehensive plans, Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs), Regional Planning Council (RPC) Strategic Regional Policy Plans, and Florida Transportation Plan (FTP).***

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Be consistent with goals, objectives, policies, and resources identified in local government comprehensive plans (s. 163.3177, F.S. and s. 163.3178, F.S.), metropolitan long range transportation plans (s. 339.175, F.S.), and strategic regional policy plans (s. 186.507, F.S.), placing emphasis on future land use maps and growth projections, as well as regional and community visions as adopted into strategic regional policy plans and/or local government comprehensive plans.
- Be consistent with the vision, goals, and strategies of the FTP (s. 339.155, F.S.).
- Coordinate among agencies to address differences among statutorily required state, regional, and local plans related to transportation corridors and future growth and development projections, including differences related to the timing and horizon years of plan updates as well as the geographical areas covered by regional plans.
- Identify needs to update statutorily required plans to address Task Force recommendations, such as designation and management of transportation corridors (s. 337.273, F.S.), and consideration of whether areas around potential interchange locations contain appropriate land use and environmental resource protections (s. 338.2278, F.S.); coordinate among local governments, regional planning councils, metropolitan planning organizations, and FDOT on plan updates.
- Provide technical support to coordinate with local governments for best practices to implement as part of plan updates.

Purpose

- All purposes

Draft High-Level Needs

- All needs

Draft Guiding Principles

- *Evaluate potential alternatives for addressing the M-CORES purposes and interregional statewide connectivity and mobility needs in this priority order:*
 1. *Make safety and operational improvements to existing transportation facilities.*
 2. *Add capacity to existing transportation facilities or other publicly owned right-of-way in or near the study area, including co-location of facilities within existing disturbed right-of-way and other approaches to transforming existing facilities and right-of-way to accommodate additional modes, uses, and functions.*
 3. *In circumstances where purpose and need, and/or other guiding principles cannot be addressed, by operational or existing facility improvements, then new alignment alternatives may be evaluated.*

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Identify and advance safety and operational improvements to existing transportation facilities; particularly those that would be adjacent to a new or improved north-south corridor.
- Evaluate potential capacity improvements to a broad range of existing transportation facilities (rail and roadway) in or near the study area, including their impact on surrounding environmental resources, land uses, and communities.
- Evaluate opportunities for co-location within or adjacent to existing disturbed rail, utility, and roadway right-of-way in or near the study area, including their impact on surrounding environmental resources, land uses, and communities.
- Assess connectivity gaps between existing transportation facilities and areas identified as priorities for attraction, and potential opportunities for closing those gaps.
- Advance specific improvements that support a system meeting the long-term needs of statewide and interregional flows of people and freight.
- Collaborate with local governments on operational improvements, existing facility enhancements, and, if needed, interchange locations to ensure consistency with local government comprehensive plans. This collaboration should consider how proposed improvements can help enhance the vitality of the residential and business communities and provide access to vital resources (police, fire, shelters, etc.).

Purpose

- All purposes

Draft High-Level Needs

- All needs

Draft Guiding Principles

- ***Incorporate technology into corridor planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance.***
- ***Accommodate emerging vehicle and information technologies such as autonomous, connected, electric, and shared vehicles (ACES) and mobility as a service (MaaS).***

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Leverage existing technology to help avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts from the corridor.
- Consider how future and emerging technologies, such as electronic and automated vehicles, may be accommodated.
- Apply innovative planning and design strategies such as using state-of-the-art and/or energy efficient methodologies, technologies, and materials to develop the corridor.
- Plan and design the corridors to accommodate technologies/applications, considering their ability to evolve/adapt over time.

Purpose

- All purposes

Draft High-Level Needs

- All needs

Draft Guiding Principles

- *Plan and develop corridors that consider vulnerability to risks such as inland flooding, storm surge zones, and changing coastlines/sea level rise.*
- *Design and construct infrastructure to withstand and recover from potential risks such as extreme weather events and climate trends.*

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Identify sea level rise projections appropriate to the planning horizon of road and bridge infrastructure.
- When developing and evaluating corridors, place a high priority on the ability of existing, co-located or new infrastructure to withstand and recover from risks such as storm surge (tropical storm through Category 5), inland flooding, extreme weather events, and climate trends.

Purpose

- All purposes

Draft High-Level Needs

- All needs

Draft Guiding Principles

- ***Plan, design, construct and operate a corridor that accommodates multiple modes of transportation.***

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Consult with local communities and the public on needs and preferences for multimodal forms of transportation that could be included with the corridor.
- Consider innovative planning and design strategies to accommodate multiple modes of transportation.
- Enhance mobility and accessibility in areas with high concentrations of transportation-disadvantaged populations.
- Review applicable metropolitan planning organization long range transportation plans, local government comprehensive plans, and transit development plans. Use these plans to help inform and refine the corridor's purpose and need for evaluating modal solutions and identifying potential alternatives.

Purpose

- Enhance quality of life and public safety

Draft High-Level Needs

- Preserve and improve the rural character and quality of communities

Draft Guiding Principles

- ***Seek opportunities to maintain and enhance the rural character and quality of life in communities, and ensure the corridor provides for their future vitality.***

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Work with communities on preferences to enhance and maintain safety, quality of life, and character of communities. Community preferences for incorporation into corridor planning, interchange locations, additional infrastructure needs, and project development may include:
 - access (toll vs. limited access and access locations),
 - aesthetics (including signs, billboards, etc.) and native landscaping,
 - branding, and
 - signage.
- Explore opportunities to view, understand, and access the environmental uniqueness of the Big Bend Ecosystem.
- Plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain corridors that recognize and incorporate the surrounding community character (including downtown areas, social and cultural centers) while accommodating potential growth and development. Balance the need to move vehicles safely and efficiently while preserving and enhancing scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources.

Purpose

- Protect the environment and natural resources

Draft High-Level Needs

- Preserve and improve the rural character and quality of communities

Draft Guiding Principles

- ***Avoid adverse impacts to these identified resources:***
 - ***Known cultural sites with human remains***
 - ***Known cemeteries***
 - ***Known lands owned by Native American Tribes***
 - ***Historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)***
- ***If new resources are discovered, they will be addressed consistent with state and federal policies and regulations.***

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Work with communities and their stakeholders to identify needs for enhancement or protection of historic and cultural resources.
- Follow (FDOT) Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Manual; Part 2 Chapter 8, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended; 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800; and the Florida Historical Resources Act (FHRA), Chapter 267, Florida Statutes (F.S.), for coordination of involvement with historic and cultural resources, including lands owned by Native American Tribes.

Purpose

- Protect the environment and natural resources

Draft High-Level Needs

- Protect, restore, enhance, and connect public and private environmentally sensitive areas and ecosystems

Draft Guiding Principles

Avoid adverse impacts to these identified resources:

Do Not Impact:

- *Springheads*
- *Named Lakes*
- *High Risk Coastal Areas*

Apply the following priority order for all of the below listed resources:

1. *Avoid negative impacts to these resources*
2. *Restore, connect, and enhance these resources while continuing to avoid negative impacts*
3. *Minimize and mitigate negative impacts to these resources*

FDOT will consider these resources during the development, analysis, and comparative evaluation of project alternatives including the no-build. Resources include:

Do not develop a new corridor through:

- *Coastal Areas*
- *Aquatic Preserves*
- *Mitigation Banks*
- *Florida Forever Acquired Lands*
- *Managed Conservation Areas*
- *State Forests*
- *State Parks*

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

GENERAL

Place a high priority on avoiding impacts to:

- Florida Ecological Greenway Network - Priority 1 and 2 lands
- High Priority Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP) lands

CONSERVATION LANDS

- Continue to identify and prioritize private and public conservation lands for enhancement or avoidance.
- Coordinate with agencies and partners early in the project development process to identify land acquisition plans and identify strategic opportunities to advance acquisition priorities [including s. 338.2278 (3)(c) 6 & 8, F.S.] with the intent to acquire lands prior to or in parallel with corridor development.
- Coordinate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies for Florida Forever Program projects that are in the highest priority for acquisition (including consideration for Florida Ecological Greenway Network Priority 1 & 2), potential Water Management District lands, conservation easements by land trusts, and lands within the optimal boundaries of the adopted management plan for regional, state and national parks, forests, refuges, and water management areas.

WILDLIFE HABITATS

- Continue to identify and prioritize wildlife areas for enhancement or avoidance.

Purpose

- Protect the environment and natural resources

Draft High-Level Needs

- Protect, restore, enhance, and connect public and private environmentally sensitive areas and ecosystems

Draft Guiding Principles

Additional resources identified as priorities by Task Force members:

- *Waccasassa Flats*
- *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodways*
- *Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Surface Water Sites*
- *SWFWMD Groundwater Sites*
- *SWFWMD Atmospheric Sites*
- *SWFWMD Proposed Well Sites*
- *Water Management Lands (including Fee and Conservation Easements)*
- *State Owned Lands*
- *Other Park Boundaries*
- *Wildlife Refuges*
- *Florida Forever Targeted Property*
- *Prime Farmland*
- *Springs Priority Focus Areas*
- *Tri-Colored Bats, Critical Wildlife Areas*
- *Florida Ecological Greenway Network – Priority 1 & 2*
- *Aquifer Recharge Priorities*
- *Surface Water Resource Priorities*
- *Rare Species Habitat Conservation Priorities*
- *Preservation 2000 Lands*
- *Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs)*
- *Natural Resources of Regional Significance*

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Ensure corridor minimizes impacts to wildlife corridors and gives high priority to design features that establish functional wildlife crossing that maintain connectivity of critical linkages to provide for adequate wildlife/water passage.
- Use best available technology to limit impacts to wildlife including road kills and notify vehicles of other hazards such as smoke from prescribed burns and wildfires.

WATER RESOURCES

- Work with local jurisdictions (including the water management districts) to ensure best management practices (BMP) and emerging technologies are utilized to maintain, restore, and enhance water quality within the corridor.
- Continue to identify and prioritize water resources for enhancement or avoidance.
- Look for opportunities to improve water quality as part of new corridor construction as well as upgrades to existing facilities that do not have the benefit of environmentally friendly design and modern stormwater improvements.

ECOSYSTEM CONNECTIVITY

- Continue to identify and prioritize ecosystems for enhancement or avoidance while considering wildlife crossing linkages and overall ecosystem connectivity.
- Work with local organizations and businesses to understand the needs for ecotourism improvements and protections.

Purpose

- Revitalize rural communities
- Encourage job creation
- Enhance quality of life and public safety

Draft High-Level Needs

- Enhance economic and workforce development, access to education, and job creation

Draft Guiding Principles

- ***Maximize opportunities to enhance local community and economic development with an emphasis on rural areas.***
- ***Avoid and minimize adverse economic impacts to individual communities, businesses, and resources.***

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Be consistent with economic development elements of local government comprehensive plans (s. 163.3177, F.S. and s. 163.3178, F.S.), and comprehensive economic development strategies developed by regional planning councils in their capacity as federal economic development districts.
- Conduct early outreach to communities and the public and private sectors to fully understand economic development needs including job training, education, and workforce development.
- Give priority to, and enhance potential economic development opportunities and employment benefits in the study area by providing, improving, or maintaining accessibility to activity centers, employment centers, learning institutions, and agricultural lands, and locating interchanges in a manner that is consistent with the local government existing and future land uses.
- Build on existing economic development priorities and plans by state and local organizations including economic development organizations, partnerships, chambers of commerce, and regional planning councils. Work with the community and organizations to look for opportunities for the corridor to help them reach their economic development goals.
- Review analysis done by the Land and Water Conservation Fund to support opportunities for recreational tourism.

Purpose

- Revitalize rural communities
- Encourage job creation
- Protect the environment and natural resources

Draft High-Level Needs

- Improve connectivity to agricultural businesses, manufacturing, warehousing, freight terminals, and intermodal logistic centers

Draft Guiding Principles

- ***Plan and develop transportation corridors in a manner that protects the region's most productive agricultural lands and other rural lands with economic or environmental significance.***
- ***Improve transportation connectivity to, from, and between working farms and other economically valuable rural lands.***

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Work with landowners/operators of agriculture, silviculture, mining, equine, aquaculture, horticulture, and nursery lands to understand their needs and plans.
- Emphasize protection and enhancement and coordinate any impacts of farmland preservation areas designated within local government comprehensive plans and lands in the Florida Rural and Family Lands Program.
- Minimize the fragmentation of agriculture, forestry tracts, and facilities and consider how the project could affect the mobilization of equipment and prescribed burning activities.

Purpose

- Enhance quality of life and public safety

Draft High-Level Needs

- Enhance travel options and safety for all transportation users

Draft Guiding Principles

- ***Plan, design, construct, and operate a corridor that safely accommodates multiple modes of transportation and types of users.***

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Reduce transportation incidents and improve response by using advanced safety strategies including innovative technology, design, and operations.
- Consult with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) and counties to determine current bottlenecks/safety hazards and mitigate or correct these issues during the Design phase.
- Consider the provision of truck parking facilities.

Purpose

- Enhance quality of life and public safety

Draft High-Level Needs

- Enhance emergency management at the local, regional, and state levels

Draft Guiding Principles

- ***Support and enhance local, regional, and state emergency management plans in all phases: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.***

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Evaluate the immediate and long-term needs and demand for emergency evacuation and sheltering at the local, regional, and state levels for natural and man-made disasters (including but not limited to flooding, hurricanes, wildfires, terrorist threats/attacks, industrial accidents/chemical spills, etc.).
- Consider both existing emergency response plans and ongoing updates to the Statewide Regional Evacuation Studies underway by the regional planning councils, including updated data being developed on travel behavior during emergencies.
- Support emergency evacuation needs by enhancing emergency evacuation and response time including providing, maintaining, or expediting roadway access to emergency shelters and other emergency facilities.
- Conduct additional emergency management needs analysis as part of the project related traffic studies.
- Consider fueling facilities and charging stations.

Purpose

- Revitalize rural communities
- Encourage job creation
- Leverage technology

Draft High-Level Needs

- Expand rural broadband infrastructure and access to broadband service

Draft Guiding Principles

- *Plan and design the corridor to enable co-location of broadband and other utility infrastructure in right-of-way.*
- *Plan for broadband and other utility needs at a regional scale, independent from the transportation facility; address these needs through the corridor, where feasible.*

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Ensure broadband provider access to FDOT right-of-way is non-discriminatory and competitively neutral.
- Coordinate with private internet service providers (ISPs) to determine how construction of the corridor identifies opportunities for reducing rural broadband deployment costs.