Task Force Member Instructions

- The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- Please enter your PIN to join with audio if you are not using computer audio
- If you are a substitute, please email Marlon Bizerra with your information
- If you experience technical difficulties, please:
  1. Try logging in again, or
  2. Contact technical support
     - Tommy Bull – Tommy.Bull@dot.state.fl.us
     - Marlon Bizerra – Marlon.Bizerra@dot.state.fl.us
Introductions, Update & Agenda Review

Karen Kiselewska, Facilitator
Public Comment Period

• The Public Comment Period begins at 5:00 p.m., or as soon as the agenda items are completed.
• We will receive comments virtually and then subsequently from our two physical public viewing locations.
• Requests to provide comments virtually, received by 4:00 p.m. today, will be addressed during the Public Comment Period.
  • If you have not yet registered, please sign-up on the website under today’s event. If you need the link emailed to you, please use the “Raise Hand” function and one of our team members will email you the link to sign-up.
• Requests to provide comments at one of the public viewing locations can be made by completing a speaker card on-site at the registration area.
GoToWebinar Instructions

• The meeting is being recorded and will be available with other materials on the M-CORES website.

• Task Force Members will remain muted for the presentations and then you will be self-muted during discussion.

• Task Force members can use the “raise hands” feature during the discussion periods to indicate their desire to ask a question or provide comments.

• The facilitator will recognize individual Task Force members to speak. If you have self-muted please be sure to unmute before speaking.

• Do not put the webinar on hold or take another call, as we will hear your hold music.
Today’s Agenda

9:05 AM  Introductions, Update, and Agenda Review

9:20 AM  Public Engagement Activities

9:50 AM  Moving from Task Force Recommendations to Corridor Planning and Project Development

10:45 AM  Break

11:00 AM  Review and Refine Draft Final Report Discuss Florida panther considerations

12:30 AM  Break for Lunch

1:30 PM  Review and Refine Draft Final Report (continued)

3:00 PM  Break

3:15 PM  Review and Refine Draft Final Report (continued)

4:40 PM  Next Steps

5:00 PM  Public Comment

9:20 AM  Break

9:50 AM  Review and Refine Draft Final Report Discuss Florida panther considerations

10:45 AM  Break

11:00 AM  Review and Refine Draft Final Report Discuss Florida panther considerations

12:30 AM  Break for Lunch
Government in the Sunshine Law - Video

Task Force Meeting #8

September 23, 2020
John Fricke
Office of the Attorney General
PL-01 The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

850-414-3300

John.Fricke@myfloridalegal.com
Task Force Member Roll Call

Karen Kiselewski, Facilitator
Public Engagement Activities

Will Watts, FDOT Chief Engineer
We Are Listening

Email us at:
FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us

Your Voice Is Important
• Comments Statistics
• Major Themes
• Corridor Specific Comments
• Addressing the Comments
## Comments Statistics

### AREAS OF INTEREST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment Categories</th>
<th>Number of Individuals Submitting Comments*</th>
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*Number of individuals submitting comments includes both original and distinct emails.
Major Themes

• Environment/ Land Conservation
• Quality of Life/ Economic Opportunity
• Corridor Considerations
• Other Issues
Environment/Land Conservation

• **Wildlife and Native Plants**
  • Avoid fragmentation of habitats
  • Preserve and enhance connectivity of wildlife corridors
  • Avoid threats to endangered wildlife (i.e. panthers, bears, etc.)
  • Protect native and rare plant species and their habitats
  • Avoid actions that can promulgate invasive species

• **Water and Water Resources**
  • Protect against destructions of wetlands
  • Protect important water related resources through design
  • Protect aquifers, springs & watersheds
**Environment/ Land Conservation**

- **Land Conservation and Preservation**
  - Protect against reduction of wilderness areas
  - Avoid disturbing conservation areas
  - Consider purchasing important environmental and wildlife protection areas

- **Other Environmental Considerations**
  - Protect against increased pollution
  - Control light and noise impacts from roadways
• Avoid sprawl
• Preserve rural/ agricultural character
• Preserve historic downtowns
• Balance rural characters with the need for more and better jobs
• Support agricultural activities by improving supply chain
• Protect, expand and promote eco-tourism
• **Location Considerations**
  - Improve existing highways and interstates as a priority
  - Co-locate with existing highways and add capacity when needed
  - Thoughtfully design corridor end points and connections including interchanges
  - Consider the no-build option

• **Hurricane Evacuation**
  - Provide congestion relief during hurricane evacuation
  - Assess existing road adequacy for hurricane evacuation
  - Support sheltering rather than evacuation to enhance life safety
  - Improve evacuation routes in the center of the state
• **Tolling**
  • Concern over equity impacts of tolling
  • Support for toll as an alternative to tax-based funding

• **Broadband and Utilities**
  • Assist communities in securing high-speed internet and cellular coverage
  • Expansion of broadband can be achieved without constructing a new road
  • Support hookup opportunities for water and sewer

• **Multi-modal Considerations**
  • Consider high-speed rail and alternative modes of transportation
  • Expand public transit services instead of roads
  • Consider the impacts of connected and autonomous vehicles
  • Improve bike-ped safety
• Conduct financial and environmental analysis
• Identify impacts of M-CORES on available funding sources
• Develop detailed transportation need for the corridors
• Provide more information on eminent domain and relocation of residents and businesses
• Concerns over the impacts of COVID-19 on funding and resource allocation
• The program supports economic development
• Protect the Florida panther habitat
• Avoid impacts to the Everglades
• Protect Lake Wales Ridge species which are extremely rare
• Co-locate along US 27
• Fund Polk Parkway
Addressing the Comments

• High-Level Needs
• Guiding Principles
• Instructions for Project Development and Beyond
• Action Plan
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>North Collier Regional Park – Exhibit Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15000 Livingston Road</td>
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<td>Tuesday, October 20</td>
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A virtual option is available for all community open house dates at [FloridaMCORES.com](http://FloridaMCORES.com)
Email us at:
FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us

Mail us a comment:
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street, MS 54
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Moving from Task Force Recommendations to Corridor Planning and Project Development

Will Watts, Chief Engineer, FDOT
• Developing and advancing illustrative paths/courses
  • Co-location opportunities
  • Potential bypasses
  • Enhancement features
  • Interchange locations

• Environmental and economic feasibility
Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM)

- Purpose and Need
- Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT)
- ETDM planning and programming screens
- Preliminary Environmental Discussion (PED)

Environmental feasibility during the planning process

- Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) and Report (ACER)
- Corridor Segmentation
Example of Existing Roadway, Utility and Railroad Facilities

Example Southern Area - Existing Railroad and Utility Facilities

Hendry County Long Range Transportation Plan Update
Future Corridors (Multi-Use Recreational Trail)
Potential Bypasses to Evaluate and Coordinate

**US 17 / SR 31**
- Bartow
- Ft. Meade
- Bowling Green
- Wauchula
- Zolfo Springs
- Arcadia
- Ft. Myers

**US 27 / SR 29**
- Haines City
- Lake Wales
- Frostproof
- Avon Park
- Sebring
- Lake Placid
- LaBelle
- Felda (Hendry County)
- Immokalee (Collier County)
Polk County Bypass Opportunities

Polk County – Road Improvements

Polk County Courthouse in Bartow
Highlands County Bypass Opportunities

Proposed Roads

- Highlands County
- Lake Placid Tower
- Sebring Int’l Raceway
- Jacaranda Hotel in Avon Park
Collier County Bypass Opportunities

Collier County – Needed Road Improvements

Immokalee Farm Worker Village
Potential Early Phased Enhancement Features

Conservation Lands

• Leverage s. 338.2278, F.S. acquisition authority to identify and preserve additional land prior to or parallel to corridor development
• Coordinate with entities to prioritize these targeted acquisitions
• Right-of-Way funds available in FY2021, FY2022, and FY2023

Florida Panther and Wildlife

• Coordinate with the Florida PRIT to prioritize connections and implement additional crossing features and locations

Water Resources

• Prioritize and implement regional storm water improvements
Potential Early Phased Enhancement Features

**Broadband**
- Leverage HB 969 to develop projects that assist with broadband infrastructure within or adjacent to the multiuse corridor

**Staging Areas for Emergencies**
- Leverage SB 7018 to identify and provide strategic spaces to support disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery

**Consistency with Local Plans**
- Review local government comprehensive plans to address potential interchange locations with land use management plans and environmental resource protections

Number of High-Speed Internet Carriers
New Interchanges

- **Purpose and Need**
- Maintain consistency with local and regional plans
- Include surface street access management plans
- Coordinate with local agencies for local land use regulations and environmental resource protections
- Meet minimum spacing requirements
Environmental Feasibility Components

The process to develop and evaluate potential alternatives must also seek public and stakeholder input. See Part 1, Chapter 11, Public Involvement for guidance regarding public involvement for a project.

The alternatives analysis of a PD&E Study must consider the following alternatives:

1. No-Action Alternative, or No-Build Alternative
2. TSM&O Alternative
3. Multimodal Alternative
4. Build Alternative(s)

- Focuses on the Natural, Physical, Cultural, and Social Environments
- Further refinement of corridor alternatives to develop alignments based on typical section widths
- Evaluation of Alternatives
  - Build or No-Build
  - Additional Public Engagement
Project Costs

- Preliminary costs from PD&E Study
- Project costs are refined during Final Engineering Design
- Final project costs include many elements
  - Planning
  - PD&E
  - Design
  - Right of way
  - Construction
  - Engineering inspection
  - Environmental mitigation
  - Utilities
  - Permitting
  - Toll equipment
  - Landscaping
  - Noise walls
  - Other project specific costs
Economic Feasibility Process

- Determined in the design phase based on project features
- Requires net revenue forecast
- Helps establish prioritization and segmentation
- Leverage s. 338.2278 for funding sources: construction bonds, FDOT Financing Corporation, public-private partnerships, other

Estimate Net Revenue
- Investment-Grade Level Traffic & Revenue Study

Determine Turnpike Funding Contribution

Address Funding
- Project Cost
- Other Funding
Questions?
Moving from Task Force Recommendations to Corridor Planning and Project Development

Huiwei Shen, Chief Planner, FDOT
Revised based on Meeting 7 discussion to focus on TF findings and guidance

Report Outline
- Introduction
- Task Force Overview
- Study Area Overview
- Recommendations
  - Approach/Framework
  - High-Level Needs
  - Guiding Principles/Instructions
  - Action Plan
First complete draft for review today

Report Outline

• Introduction
• Task Force Overview
• Study Area Overview
• Recommendations
  • Approach/Framework
  • High-Level Needs
  • Guiding Principles/Instructions
  • Action Plan
Report Outline

- Introduction
- Task Force Overview
- Study Area Overview
- Recommendations
  - Approach/Framework
  - High-Level Needs
  - Guiding Principles/Instructions
  - Action Plan
Recommendations from Task Force on how to move forward

Action Plan

Commitments from FDOT for future action; incorporates all guiding principle and instructions by reference
1. Evaluate needs
2. Identify and evaluate alternatives
3. Support consistency, review and updates of local and regional plans
4. Assess economic feasibility and identify potential funding sources
5. Advance innovative land acquisition concepts
6. Advance multi-use opportunities
7. Continue robust partner and public engagement
8. Commit to transparency and process improvement
1. **Evaluate needs**
   - Conventional transportation needs and co-benefits
   - Robust traffic needs analysis consistent with Task Force recommendations

2. **Identify and evaluate alternatives**
   - Corridor planning and PD&E
   - Full range of alternatives including “no build” option
   - Economic, environmental, land use & emergency management impacts
   - High level, preliminary identification of potential costs and funding approaches
   - Consistent with Task Force guiding principles & instructions
3. Support consistency review and updates of local/regional plans
   • Early and ongoing coordination through all steps
   • Statutory requirements for local comprehensive plan review by 12/2023

4. Assess economic feasibility and identify potential funding sources
   • Ability to meet statutory requirements for Turnpike projects (30% design)
   • Required costs - engineering, right-of-way, construction, mitigation, enhancement, utilities
   • Potential funding sources for corridor alternatives
5. **Advance innovative land acquisition concepts**
   - Consultation with DEP, FWC to incorporate land acquisition principles/instructions
   - Opportunities to advance prior to or in parallel with corridor construction

6. **Advance multi-use opportunities**
   - Coordination with local governments, RPCs, other state agencies, industry to advance guiding principles/instructions
   - Early emphasis on broadband and other utility co-location opportunities
7. Continue robust partner and public engagement (ongoing throughout process)
   • Efficient Transportation Decision Making process
   • Opportunities for organizations involved in Task Force to remain engaged
   • Multiple ongoing opportunities for public involvement; maintain web site

8. Commit to transparency and process improvement (ongoing throughout process)
   • Periodic report on decision points and status of guiding principles/instructions
   • M-CORES budget as part of FDOT’s annual work program presentation
   • Continued improvements to planning, PD&E, and other processes to fully implement M-CORES statute and Task Force recommendations
Today’s Key Activities

- Review changes to introductory sections and high-level needs
- Refine guiding principles and instructions
- Discuss action plan
- Provide guidance to staff for preparing public comment draft of Task Force report
- Identify areas where additional discussion is needed as we work toward consensus
• Recommendations will be adopted at the final meeting.
• The Task Force will strive for consensus on the recommendations as a package to be included in the final report.
• Consensus will be defined and documented as members being able to support, accept, live with, or agree not to oppose the package of recommendations for the final report.
• The final report will be submitted following the conclusion of the last Task Force meeting.
What Does Consensus on the Report Mean?

• Advancing the Task Force’s recommendations for the M-CORES program
  • High Level Needs (including how needs should evaluated)
  • Guiding Principles
  • Instructions
  • Action Plan

• Project-specific needs or environmental and economic feasibility are not fully developed at this point in the process
Questions?
Break

Task Force Meeting #8

September 23, 2020
Review and Refine Draft Final Report

Task Force Discussion
Discuss Florida Panther Considerations

Chris Dailey, Senior Environmental Scientist, RS&H
Brent Setchell, District Drainage Design Engineer, FDOT
338.2278 Florida Statute Language:

7. The Southwest-Central Florida Connector corridor task force shall:
   a. Address the impacts of the construction of a project within the corridor on panther and other critical wildlife habitat and evaluate in its final report the need for acquisition of lands for state conservation or as mitigation for project construction; and
   b. Evaluate wildlife crossing design features to protect panther and other critical wildlife habitat corridor connections.
Avoid negative impacts to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Panther Focus Area

Goals
- Reduced typical section in Primary Zone or high-quality habitat
- Connect and enhance existing and adjacent habitats
- Fencing within Primary Zone or high-quality habitats
**Florida Panther Discussion**

**Conservation**

**Restore, connect and enhance existing and adjacent habitats**

**Develop a List of Potential Conservation Projects**

**Step 1:** Review Florida Forever Priority List. Select projects to benefit the panther.

**Step 2:** Review and Inventory stakeholder priorities

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<th>Project*</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>% Available</th>
<th>Florida Forever Priority Rank (1 is highest priority)</th>
<th>Priority Ecological Greenways Network Priority (1 is highest priority)</th>
<th>Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas Priority (1 is highest priority)</th>
<th>County Preservation Target</th>
<th>Florida Wildlife Corridor Identification</th>
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<td>Hendry, Glades</td>
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<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
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*FDOT will evaluate partial funding, or fully funding future conservation acquisitions.*
Develop a List of Potential Conservation Projects

**Step 1:** Review Florida Forever Priority List

**Step 2:** Review additional inventories

**Step 3:** Develop Instruction Narrative

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Potential Conservation Projects
Florida Forever (Acquired)
Existing Managed Lands
### Selection of Conservation Targets

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panther Glades</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bealle Meade</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Circle L Ranch</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devil's Garden</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caloosahatchee Ecoscape</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twelvemile Slough</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHH Ranch</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Panther Corridor</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FDOT and Corridor Advisory Group
- FDOT and Corridor Advisory Group
- FDOT and Panther Recovery Team
  - Benefits to the Florida panther
  - Project impacts
  - Proximity to impacts
  - Availability
  - Acquisition & Maintenance Cost

### FDOT, FWC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- FDOT, FWC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
b. Evaluate wildlife crossing design features to protect panther and other critical wildlife habitat corridor connections.

**Utilize FDOT’s Toolbox for Design Features to minimize and mitigate negative impacts to panther habitat.**

**Step 1 (Location):** Utilize the PRIT’s Hotspots and Least Cost Pathways data to prioritize wildlife crossings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panther Collision Hotspots</th>
<th>9+</th>
<th>3-5</th>
<th>6-8</th>
<th>1-2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Wildlife Crossings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FDOT Planned Potential Crossings</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Crossing Location and Design**

- Sears Rd. Canal
- Roberts Canal
- Twelvemile Slough
- Keri Rd.
- Immokakee
- Labelle
- 3 Crossing Location and Design
- 65
b. Evaluate wildlife crossing design features to protect panther and other critical wildlife habitat corridor connections.

Utilize FDOT’s Toolbox for Design Features to minimize and mitigate negative impacts to panther habitat.

Step 2 (Design Features): Evaluate all options to protect wildlife habitat corridor connections.

Step 3: Develop instruction to further evaluate crossing location and design types.
Florida Panther Guiding Principle

7. THE FLORIDA PANTHER

Section 338.2278, F.S. requires the Task Force to address impacts of the construction of the project on the Florida panther, to evaluate the need for acquisition of lands for state conservation or as mitigation, and to evaluate wildlife crossing design features. As such, the Task Force developed a stand-alone guiding principle and associated instructions to address the below high-level need as it pertains to the Florida panther:

- Protect, connect, and enhance environmentally sensitive areas, ecosystems, water resources, and wildlife, including the Florida panther.

**Guiding Principle:** Apply the following priority order to protect the federally endangered Florida panther and its habitat:

1. Avoid negative impacts to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Panther Focus Area;
2. Restore, connect, and enhance existing and adjacent habitats (or habitats within close proximity to the project); and
3. Minimize and mitigate negative impacts to panther habitat.

**Instructions:**

- Coordinate with the Florida Panther Recovery Implementation Team (PRIT) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to place a high priority on acquiring lands that protect panther habitats and connect existing conservation lands and wildlife management areas important to the Florida panther.
- Coordinate with the Florida PRIT to prioritize wildlife corridor connections and implement design features to protect the panther and other critical species.
- Consult the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding potential impacts within the Panther Focus Area.
Lunch

Task Force Meeting #8

September 23, 2020
Southwest-Central Florida Corridor
Task Force Meeting #8

Task Force Member Instructions

- The meeting will resume from lunch break at 1:30 p.m.
- Please enter your PIN to join with audio, if you are not using computer audio
- If you experience technical difficulties, please:
  1. Try logging in again, or
  2. Contact technical support
     • Tommy Bull – Tommy.Bull@dot.state.fl.us
     • Marlon Bizerra – Marlon.Bizerra@dot.state.fl.us

Public Comments
- If you wish to provide public comments virtually, please complete the form on the website https://floridamcores.com/event/southwest-central-florida-corridor-task-force-meeting-8/
- If you are at a public viewing location and wish to provide public comment, please register with staff on-site.
• Requests made online to provide comments virtually, received by 4:00 p.m. today, or via speaker card at the public viewing locations will be addressed during the Public Comment Period.

• If you have not yet registered to provide public comment during today’s virtual meeting and wish to do so, please sign-up on the website under today’s event or by completing a speaker card at one of the on-site public viewing locations.

• If you need the link emailed to you, please use the “Raise Hand” function and one of our team members will email you the link to sign-up.

• Comments can be submitted at anytime to FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us
Review and Refine Draft Final Report (continued)

Task Force Discussion
Break

Task Force Meeting #8

September 23, 2020
Review and Refine Draft Final Report (continued)

Task Force Discussion
Next Steps

L.K. Nandam, Chair
Public Comment

Southwest-Central Florida Corridor Task Force Meeting #8
Public Comment Period

• Requests made online to provide comments virtually, received by 4:00 p.m. today, or via speaker card at the public viewing locations will be addressed during the Public Comment Period.

• When your name is called, we will unmute your line in order for you to provide comment within your allotted time of 3 minutes.

• You will hear 2 tones during the countdown:
  • 30 seconds remaining
  • 3 minutes have concluded

• Only one person at a time will be unmuted; if you have self-muted please be sure to unmute before speaking

• After completion of the virtual public comments we will subsequently move to the public viewing locations

• If you did not submit your request in time to be able to speak today, please email your comments to FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us