

Purpose

- All Purposes

Draft High-Level Needs

- All Needs

Draft Guiding Principles

- Be consistent with statutorily required statewide, regional, and local plans.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Be consistent with the 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 Florida Transportation Plan (s. 339.155, F.S.).
- Be consistent with the Heartland 2060 regional vision developed and maintained by the Central Florida Regional Planning Council in collaboration with the local governments in inland counties.
- 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.

Maximizing Use of Existing Facilities

Guiding Principle #2

Purpose

- All Purposes

Draft High-Level Needs

- All Needs

Draft Guiding Principles

- Evaluate potential alternatives for addressing statewide and interregional mobility and connectivity needs in this priority order:
 1. Make safety, operational, and capacity improvements to existing transportation facilities and right-of-way.
 2. Develop new transportation facilities.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Identify and advance safety and operational improvements to existing transportation facilities.
- Evaluate potential capacity improvements to existing transportation facilities, including their impact on the surrounding environmental resources, land uses, and communities.
- Evaluate opportunities for co-location of transportation and utility facilities within or adjacent to existing disturbed right-of-way, and other approaches to transforming existing facilities and right-of-way to accommodate additional modes, uses, and functions, including their impact on the 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.

Purpose

- Enhance the Quality of Life and Public Safety

Draft High-Level Needs

- Support anticipated population growth in coastal communities and urban areas.
- Help increase economic activity and economic diversity throughout the region with emphasis on inland and rural areas.
- Enhance access to jobs, workforce training, education, healthcare, and goods and services.
- Create employment opportunities, particularly to assist lower-income residents and help retain younger residents in the area.

Draft Guiding Principles

- **Maintain and enhance community character and quality of life consistent with local and regional plans.**

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Do not impact known cemeteries.
- Do not impact Avon Park Air Force Range and its mission critical lands.
- Do not impact lands owned by known Native American Tribes and associated historical sites not owned by Native American Tribes.
- Do not place new corridor through National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed sites.
- Plan and develop transportation corridors in a manner that improves connectivity to and enhances the quality of existing communities, while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts on these communities and developments.
- Plan and design transportation corridors so that their purpose and scale is compatible with the communities that they serve.
- Consult with Native American Tribes to understand future plans and identify opportunities for enhanced connectivity.
- Consult with the military to understand future plans and identify opportunities for enhanced connectivity.
- Plan transportation corridors to avoid safety impacts to K-12 schools.

Purpose

- Revitalize Rural Communities
- Provide Regional Connectivity
- Enhance the Quality of Life and Public Safety

Draft High-Level Needs

- Help increase economic activity and economic diversity throughout the region with emphasis on inland and rural areas.
- Enhance access to jobs, workforce training, education, healthcare, and goods and services.
- Create employment opportunities, particularly to assist lower-income residents and help retain younger residents in the area.
- Improve access and interregional connectivity for residents, freight, and visitors between communities and markets.

Draft Guiding Principles

- **Advance economic development, business retention and expansion, job creation, and community development, with emphasis on rural areas of opportunity.**

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Work with economic development organizations for opportunities to focus on retention and expansion of existing industries, including ecotourism and recreation industries.
- Work with economic development organizations on opportunities to attract emerging industries.
- Work with workforce development organizations on opportunities to enhance access to jobs and workforce training.
- Plan limited access transportation facilities to serve economic activities dependent on interregional travel.
- Provide connectivity to medical facilities, colleges, universities, and workforce training sites.

Purpose

- Revitalize Rural Communities
- Protect the Environment and Natural Resources
- Leverage Technology

Draft High-Level Needs

- Support agriculture and resource-based industries as major economic drivers and areas of environmental sensitivity.

Draft Guiding Principles

- **Protect, enhance, and minimize impacts to productive agricultural lands and other productive lands with economic or environmental significance.**
- **Improve connectivity and maintain access between working farms, other resource-based industries, their supply chains, and their market destinations.**

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Apply the guiding principle to prime farmlands (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service designation), irrigated cropland/non-irrigated agricultural areas (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) and timber lands, Florida Rural and Family Lands Protection Program lands, and Farmland/Agricultural Preservation Areas designated in local government comprehensive plans.
- Work with owners/operators of agricultural farms, including those with the honorary designation of Century Farm, along with other resource-based industries to understand their needs and plans to address access and fragmentation, and to support effective management of agricultural properties.
- Work with economic development organizations and owners/operators of agricultural farms to understand needs and opportunities to support the agritourism industry.
- Improve transportation connectivity between working farms, other resource-based industries, and their supply chains.
- Improve broadband connectivity to promote and support efficiency, new and emerging technologies, and best practices.

Purpose

- Protect the Environment and Natural Resources

Draft High-Level Needs

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

Draft Guiding Principles

- Apply the following priority order for existing conservation lands (including conservation easements and mitigation lands):
 1. Avoid negative impacts to them;
 2. Restore, connect, and enhance these lands while continuing to avoid negative impacts to them; and
 3. Minimize and mitigate negative impacts to them.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Do not place new corridor through Preservation 2000 Lands, National Parks, State Parks, State Forests, State-owned Mitigation Banks, and Florida Forever Acquired Lands.
- Leverage s.338.2278 (3)(c) 6, F.S. acquisition authority and other conservation programs to identify and preserve additional land to accomplish multiple purposes with the intent of acquiring property near or adjacent to the corridor prior to or parallel to corridor development.
- Coordinate with other entities to identify and prioritize targeted acquisitions such as those on the Florida Forever targeted list, other state recognized planned conservation land lists, and other locally recognized conservation land lists.
- Coordinate with landowners to apply the guiding principle to non-state-owned conservation easements and mitigation lands to serve multiple purposes.
- Coordinate with landowners and operators of agricultural lands that also serve a conservation purpose.
- Work with management agencies to obtain funding and to implement Best Management Practices (BMP).
- Coordinate with the Division of Forestry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to preserve the ability to use prescribed fire on public and private managed lands.
- Identify and prioritize opportunities to restore the purpose of existing conservation lands by reversing the negative impacts of existing transportation facilities.

Purpose

- Protect the Environment and Natural Resources

Draft High-Level Needs

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

Draft Guiding Principles

- 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.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- 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 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.

Purpose

- Protect the Environment and Natural Resources

Draft High-Level Needs

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

Draft Guiding Principles

- Encourage biodiversity by applying the following priority order to habitats for all federally and state protected species, including wildlife and endemic plants:
 1. Avoid negative impacts to these habitats;
 2. Restore, connect, and enhance these habitats while continuing to avoid negative impacts; and
 3. Minimize/mitigate negative impacts to these habitats.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Do not place new corridor through National Wildlife Refuges.
- Leverage s.338.2278 (3)(c) 6, F.S. acquisition authority and other programs to identify and preserve additional land to achieve multiple purposes including improving wildlife connectivity with the intent of acquiring property near or adjacent to the corridor prior to or parallel to corridor development.
- Design transportation corridors to restore and provide wildlife and plant habitat connectivity through adding new design elements such as elevated roadway segments, wildlife crossings, and properly placed wildlife corridors sited based upon the best available data concerning wildlife movement patterns to existing and new facilities.
- Enhance existing transportation corridors to address negative impacts of prior projects.
- Minimize fragmentation of large contiguous properties that function as wildlife corridors.
- Minimize corridor lighting impacts on nearby wildlife habitats and communities.
- Place a high priority on avoiding adverse impacts to Wildlife Management Areas and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission managed lands not covered by other instructions.
- Place a high priority on avoiding adverse impacts to Lake Wales Ridge.
- Place a high priority on continuing to reduce invasive plant species along the transportation corridor.

Purpose

- Protect the Environment and Natural Resources
- Enhance the Quality of Life and Public Safety

Draft High-Level Needs

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

Draft Guiding Principles

- Apply the following priority order for water resources:
 1. Avoid negative impacts to them;
 2. Restore, connect, and enhance them while continuing to avoid negative impacts; and
 3. Minimize and mitigate negative impacts to them.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Do not impact springheads, lakes, and Everglades National Park.
- Be consistent with regional water supply plans (s. 373.709, F.S.).
- Be consistent with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Projects, the Kissimmee River Restoration Project, and any other water quality or hydrologic restoration project in the South Florida Water Management District.
- Leverage s.338.2278 (3)(c) 6, F.S. acquisition authority and other programs to identify and preserve additional land to restore and enhance water quality, quantity, and flow including through and to the Big Cypress National Preserve, with the intent of acquiring property near or adjacent to the corridor prior to or parallel to corridor development.
- Design transportation corridors utilizing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to restore and enhance water quality, quantity, and flow including possible design elements such as segments of elevated roadways and longer structures.
- Design transportation corridors utilizing BMPs to restore watershed integrity and minimize fragmentation of large contiguous properties that function as hydrologic watersheds.
- Place a high priority on avoiding adverse impacts to freshwater resources, aquifer recharge areas, Outstanding Florida Waters, wetlands, floodplains, existing conservation easements, wetland restoration project areas, and other surface waters.
- Pursue regional or landscape-scale water resource management approaches.
- Coordinate with Water Management Districts with a high priority of avoiding adverse impacts to monitoring site locations and water quality and restoration plan projects.
- Develop efficient water distribution plans that align with expected population locations.

Purpose

- Provide Regional Connectivity
- Encourage Job Creation
- Enhance the Quality of Life and Public Safety

Draft High-Level Needs

- Improve access and interregional connectivity for residents, freight, and visitors between communities and markets.
- Improve safety and mobility.

Draft Guiding Principles

- **Improve connectivity and safety for major freight flows to support economic development.**

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Do not place new corridor that would impact airport operations.
- Improve connectivity to seaports, airports, and rail terminals.
- Implement solutions to improve safety, relieve congestion, and address shifts in freight movements.

Purpose

- Enhance the Quality of Life and Public Safety

Draft High-Level Needs

- Expand transportation options, such as shared-use nonmotorized trails, freight and passenger rail, and public transit.

Draft Guiding Principles

- **Support safe, efficient, and accessible transportation options and/or modes for people and goods.**

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Enhance transportation corridors by supporting multiple modes including trails, through maximizing co-location within existing and new facilities.
- Incorporate any trails included in these corridors as a part of SUN Trail system marketing.
- Coordinate with local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and freight and transit industry operators on opportunities to expand transportation options.

Purpose

- Provide Regional Connectivity
- Revitalize Rural Communities

Draft High-Level Needs

- Improve access and interregional connectivity for residents, freight, and visitors between communities and markets.
- Help rural and underserved areas improve infrastructure for people, freight, and technology.
- Improve safety and mobility.

Draft Guiding Principles

- **Identify opportunities and improve transportation connections between communities and the regional roadway network.**

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Prioritize interchange locations for regional roads.
- Work with local and regional governments to identify opportunities to improve or create connections to communities focusing on the regional roadway networks, areas with compatible land uses, and areas targeted for growth in regional and local government comprehensive plans and economic development plans.
- Develop interchange management plans including appropriate land use and environmental resource protections for areas around proposed interchange locations.

Purpose

- All Purposes

Draft High-Level Needs

- All Needs

Draft Guiding Principles

- Plan and coordinate community development and infrastructure asset creation and management that improves and maintains resiliency, sustainability, and adaptability.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Do not impact high risk coastal zones (Coastal Barrier Resources System).
- Build on the vision, goals, and strategies of the Florida Transportation Plan in addressing resilience, including sea-level rise.
- Develop local and regional plans that address sea-level rise and potential population migration/growth.
- Consider hazards such as flooding, fire, and sea-level rise when designing corridors.

Purpose

- Enhance the Quality of Life and Public Safety

Draft High-Level Needs

- Strengthen disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Draft Guiding Principles

- Strengthen local, regional, and statewide emergency management plans and actions.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Do not place new corridor through Cat2 Storm Surge zones.
- Provide staging areas as part of the program consistent with s.338.236, F.S.
- Strengthen statewide approach regarding the need to maintain or improve evacuation times.
- Strengthen statewide, regional, and local plans for sheltering as appropriate.
- Coordinate with state, regional, and local emergency management agencies including the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study update that is in process.
- Develop the corridor to lessen congestion through small rural communities during evacuation.
- Develop the corridor to support efficient and safe delivery of supplies and recovery services.
- Develop the corridor to maintain or improve access to emergency evacuation shelters.
- Evaluate effects of innovative approaches, including technological advancements and autonomous vehicle projections on emergency evacuation clearance times.

Purpose

- Provide Regional Connectivity
- Revitalize Rural Communities
- Encourage Job Creation
- Enhance the Quality of Life and Public Safety
- Leverage Technology

Draft High-Level Needs

- Help rural and underserved areas improve infrastructure for people, freight, and technology.
- Enhance access to jobs, workforce training, education, healthcare, and goods and services.
- Help increase economic activity and economic diversity throughout the region with emphasis on inland and rural areas.

Draft Guiding Principles

- Support expansion of rural utility infrastructure, including broadband, water, and sewer to enhance quality of life.
- Plan and design enhanced or new corridors to enable co-location of utility and broadband infrastructure in right-of-way.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Enhance and integrate transportation and infrastructure planning processes.
- Maximize co-location opportunities (e.g. add conduit or “dig once”) while still allowing flexibility for service providers to separately install their own conduit and fiber.
- Ensure utility provider access to FDOT right-of-way is non-discriminatory and competitively neutral.
- Leverage partnerships with utility providers.
- Prioritize connections to community anchor institutions.

Purpose

- Leverage Technology

Draft High-Level Needs

- All Needs

Draft Guiding Principles

- Implement infrastructure that supports current and emerging state-of-the-art vehicles, materials, data, and methodologies.

Draft Instructions For Project Development and Beyond

- Design in anticipation of connected and autonomous vehicles, transit, and other modes.
- Provide access to electric vehicle charging stations.
- Consider innovative uses of right-of-way for transportation, energy, and community purposes.
- Employ technologies that enhance infrastructure maintenance and repair efficiencies.
- Design, construct, and maintain the corridor utilizing resilient and energy efficient materials and methods of construction.
- Evaluate technologies for effective corridor management, such as avoiding wildlife collisions.