



SR 70 PD&E Study

From Jefferson Avenue to County Road 29

Highlands County

FPID: 414506-1-22-01

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, invites you to a public hearing for the S.R. 70 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from Jefferson Avenue to C.R. 29 in Highlands County. The public hearing will be held on **October 22, 2026**, in-person beginning at 5 p.m., and virtually on **October 27, 2026**, beginning at 6 p.m.

The objective of the PD&E study is to evaluate widening the existing two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway. Project improvements associated with widening will also include wildlife crossing features, roadway signing and pavement markings, a shared use path, and the construction of stormwater management facilities, including treatment ponds and floodplain compensation sites.

How to Participate

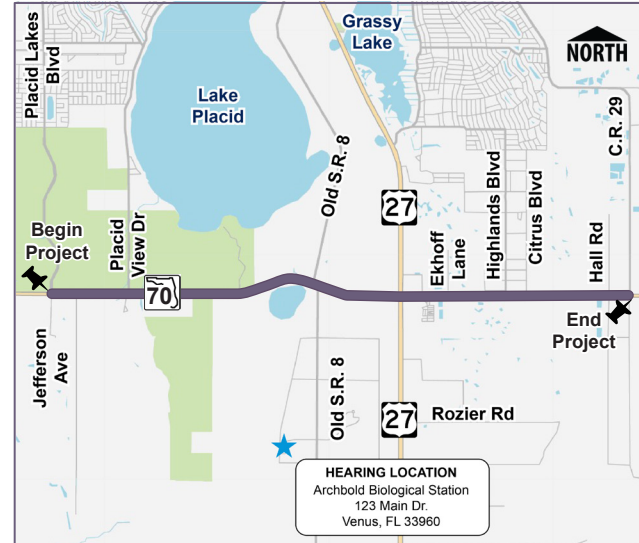
The FDOT offers three ways to participate in the public hearing and submit comments: in-person, live online, or by viewing hearing materials on the project website. The same material will be displayed at both the in-person and virtual hearing.

While comments about the project are accepted at any time, please note that comments must be received or postmarked by November 9, 2026, to be included in the formal hearing record.

IN-PERSON OPTION: On **October 22, 2026**, the in-person public hearing will be held at the Archbold Biological Center, 123 Main Drive, Venus, FL 33960. From 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., there will be an open house, followed by a formal presentation and comment period beginning at 6 p.m.

LIVE ONLINE OPTION: On **October 27, 2026**, beginning at 6 p.m., the online public hearing can be accessed through the project's website or at bit.ly/SR70VirtualHearing. For more information on attending the hearing online, please see the panel on the right.

WEBSITE OPTION: All hearing materials, including the presentation, will be available online by October 15, 2026. Comments can also be provided through the project website.



How to Attend Online

To attend online on October 27, 2026, please register in advance through one of the following methods:

- Visit bit.ly/SR70VirtualHearing
- Visiting the project website at www.swflroads.com/project/414506-1
- Scanning the QR Code below

Once registered, attendees will receive a confirmation email with information on how to join the hearing online.



How to View Our Technical Documents

Project documents will be posted to the project website by September 30, 2026.

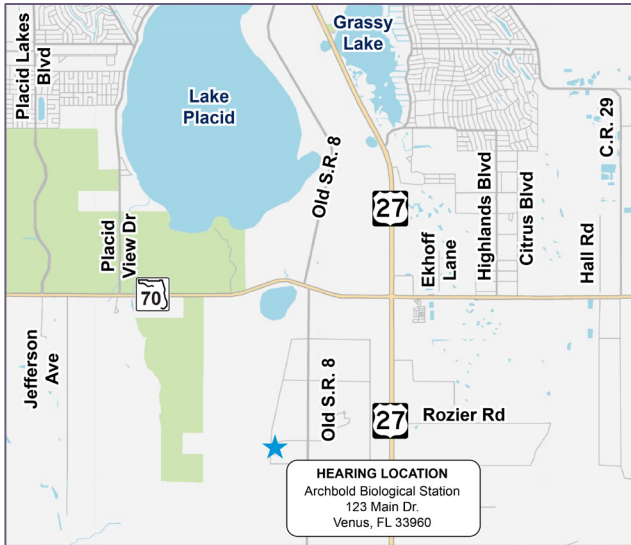
These documents will also be available to the public from September 30 to November 9, 2026, at two locations:

- Lake Placid Memorial Library, 205 W. Interlake Boulevard, Lake Placid, FL 33852
- FDOT District One, 801 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830

As proposed, the project will impact approximately 46.37 acres of property of the Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area's Lake Placid Scrub Tract. As part of the project development process and in accordance with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, the FDOT is seeking comments from the public concerning the effects of the project on the activities, features and attributes of this park. The FDOT intends to make a de minimis impact determination for this resource.



SR 70 PD&E Study
Joe Lauk, P.E., MS 1-41
Florida Department of Transportation
801 N. Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33831



Public Hearing Information

In-person Hearing

Date: October 22, 2026

Time: 5 p.m. Open House
6 p.m. Presentation
and Comment Period

Location:
Archbold Biological Station
123 Main Dr.
Venus, FL 33960

Online Hearing

Date: October 27, 2026

Time: 6 p.m. Presentation
and Comment Period

Location:
Online at
bit.ly/SR70VirtualHearing

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns about Title VI may do so by contacting Cynthia Sykes, District One Title VI Coordinator, 801 N. Broadway Ave., Bartow, Florida 33830, call (863) 519-2287, or via email at Cynthia.Sykes@dot.state.fl.us.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.