



Bradenton-Palmetto  
**CONNECTOR**  
● ● ● ● ● CONNECTING COMMUNITIES  
ACE / PD&E STUDY

***FPID 444843-1-22-01 -  
Manatee County***

**February 2023**



# Central Manatee Network Alternatives Analysis (CMNAA)

The CMNAA study identified projects to improve mobility, safety, and accessibility on both sides of the Manatee River.

The Summary of Findings in May 2019 recommended the following projects:

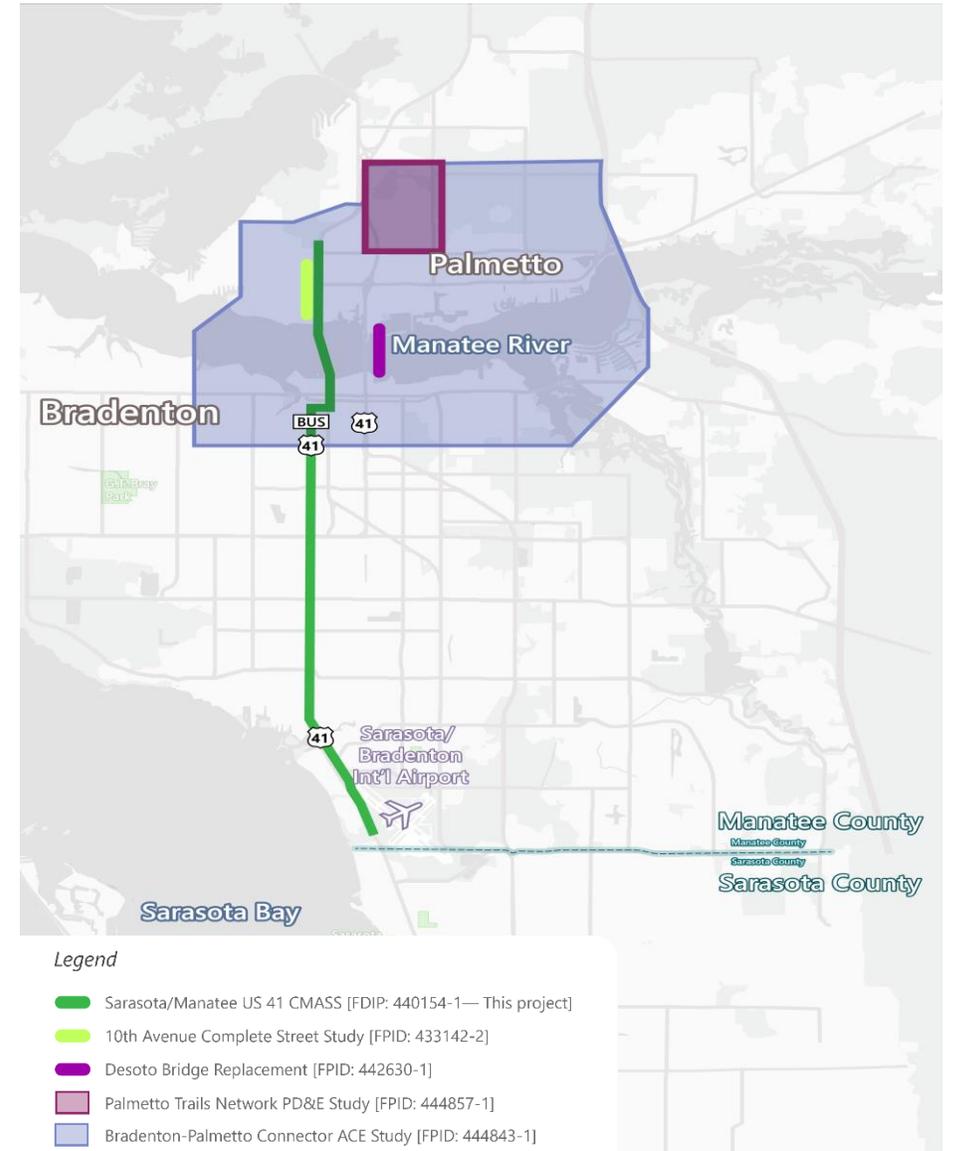
Financial ID	Project Name
442630-1	DeSoto Bridge Study
444807-1	Traffic Operations Improvements in Downtown Bradenton
444843-1	Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study
444857-1	Palmetto Trails Network Study

# Connecting Communities

**Purpose:** Holistically enhance the multimodal transportation network within Sarasota and Manatee Counties.



## DeSoto Bridge PD&E Study



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study



## Two phased approach:

- Phase 1 - Conduct an Alternatives Corridor Evaluation (ACE) Study
- Phase 2 - Conduct a PD&E Study



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Public Engagement – Project Kick-Off

Sarasota Manatee MPO Chamber Retreat	09/19/2019	Sarasota Manatee MPO Board Meeting	02/28/2022
Sarasota Manatee MPO Board Meeting	09/23/2019	City of Bradenton CRA (TEAMS)	03/09/2022
Phone Update to Representative Wengay Newton	09/25/2019	Sarasota Manatee BPTAC Meeting	04/19/2022
City of Palmetto City Council Meeting	10/07/2019	Sarasota Manatee TAC Meeting	05/09/2022
City of Bradenton	10/09/2019	Sarasota Manatee MPO Board Meeting	05/23/2022
Town Hall Meeting (Commissioner Bellamy)	11/21/2019	City of Bradenton Council Meeting	06/15/2022
Riviera Dunes Community Meeting	06/11/2020	City of Palmetto (Informal) Meeting with Lead Staff	06/15/2022
Manatee NAACP President	10/22/2020	City of Palmetto Council Meeting	06/27/2022
Manatee NAACP General Meeting	09/21/2021	City of Bradenton – BPC & DeSoto Bridge Meeting	08/22/2022
Meeting with Commissioner Bellamy (TEAMS)	02/17/2022	Sarasota Manatee MPO Staff Presentation	01/25/2023

# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Potential Project Champions

### Manatee County:

- District 2 – Commissioner Amanda Ballard
- Planning Commission – William Conerly
- Public Works Director – Chad Butzow



### City of Bradenton:

- Ward 4 – Lisa Gonzalez Moore
- Ward 5 – Vice Mayor Pam Coachman
- Infrastructure Engineer – Kim Clayback
- CRA Executive Director – Katerina Gerakios-Siren



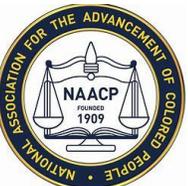
### City of Palmetto:

- Ward 1 – Harold Smith, Commissioner
- Ward 2 – Sunshine Matthews, Commissioner
- Ward 3 – Brian Williams, Commissioner
- Palmetto Public Works Director – Mohammed Rayan
- CRA Director – Xavier Colon



### Local Stakeholders

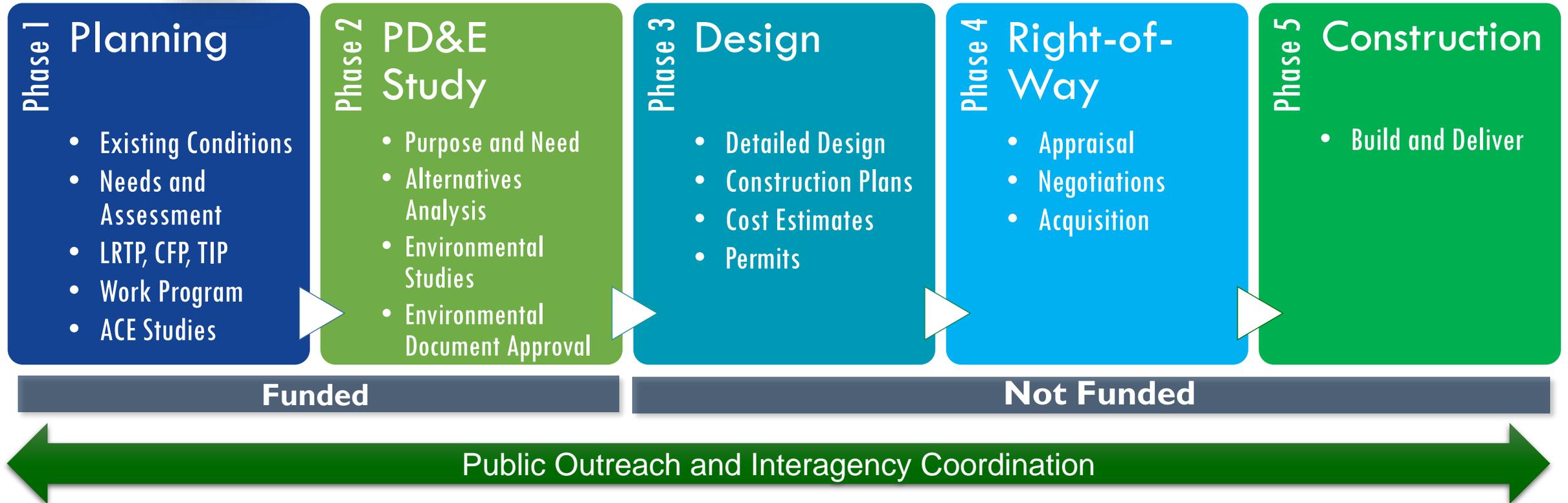
- NAACP President – Luther Wilkins
- Manasota Black Chamber of Commerce – Tarnisha Cliatt
- Sarasota/Manatee MPO
- Riviera Dunes – Fred Sperry
- Local Churches
- Local Neighborhoods
- Local Community Groups



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

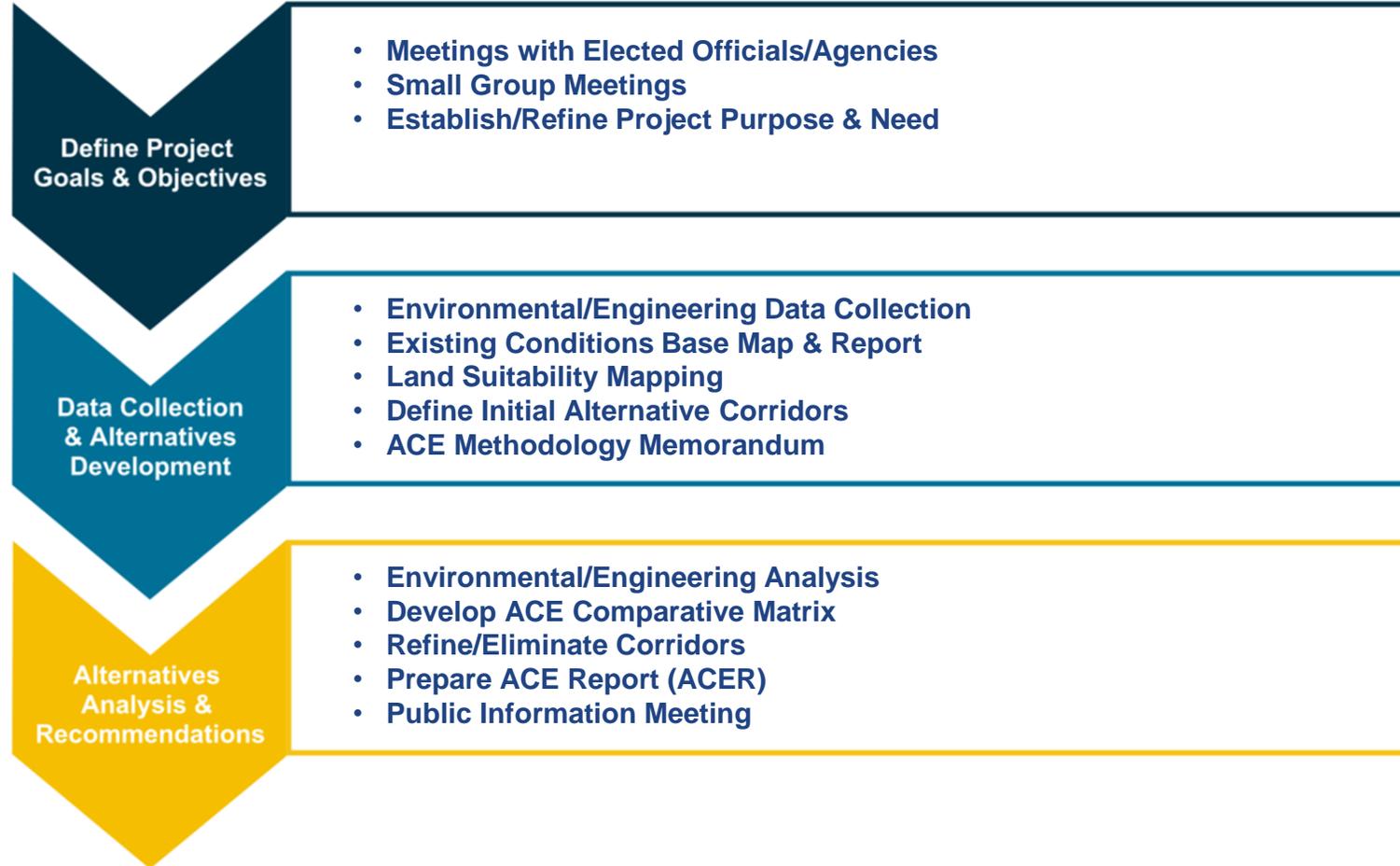
## Project Development Process

WE ARE HERE



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## What is an Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) Study?



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

Define Project  
Goals & Objectives

## Draft Purpose of the Project:

The purpose of this project is to improve regional mobility, enhance safety for all users, and accommodate population growth by providing additional capacity across the Manatee River while relieving congestion from parallel facilities as part of the regional transportation system.

## Draft Need is based on the following:

- ✓ Capacity
- ✓ Transportation Demand
- ✓ Safety



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Capacity

Bridge Target Capacity (LOS D):

- I-75: 2024
- DeSoto Bridge: 2022
- Green Bridge: 2050

The DeSoto and I-75 bridges are at or near full capacity.

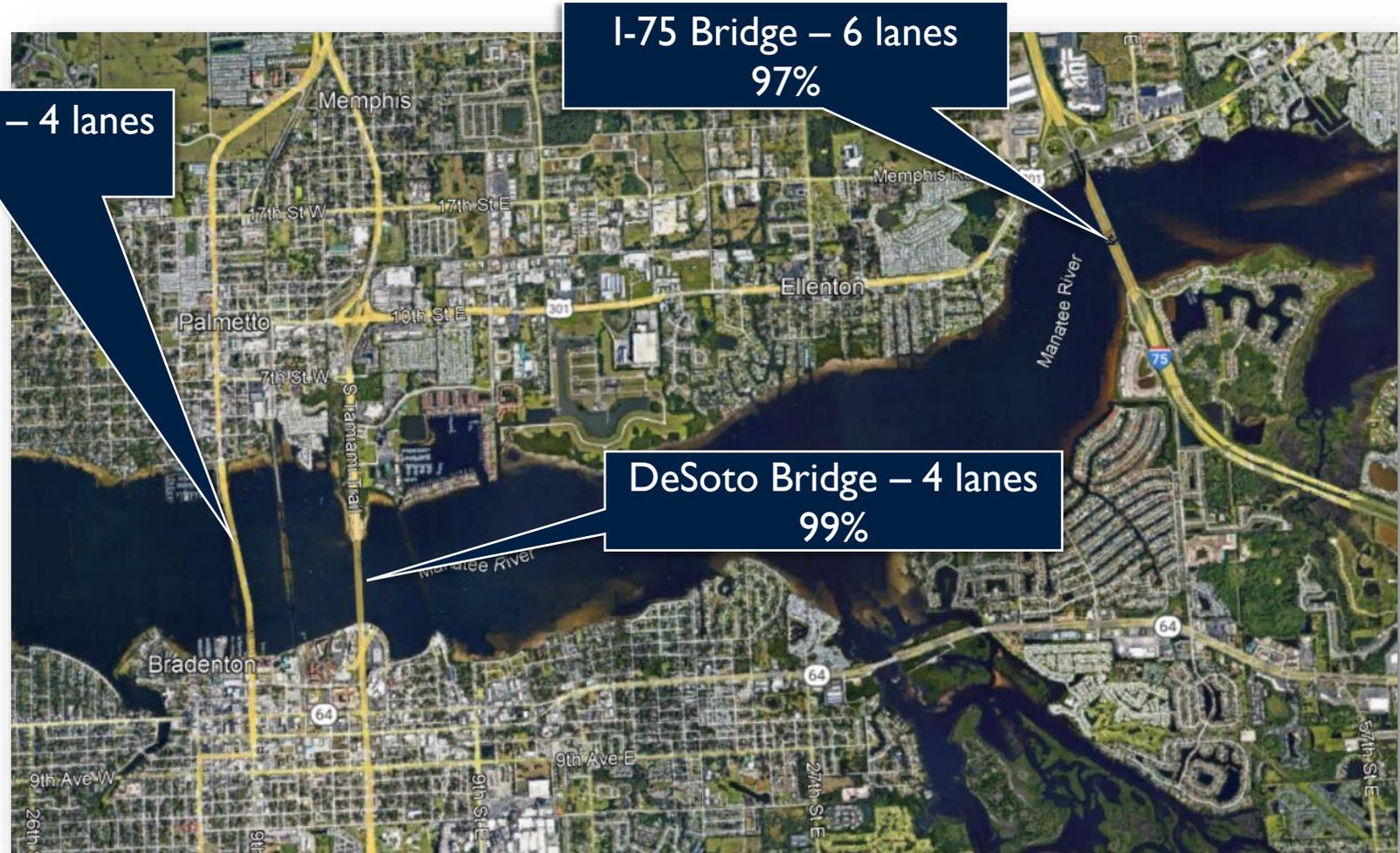


Congestion on US 41 by the DeSoto Bridge

Green Bridge – 4 lanes  
56%

I-75 Bridge – 6 lanes  
97%

DeSoto Bridge – 4 lanes  
99%

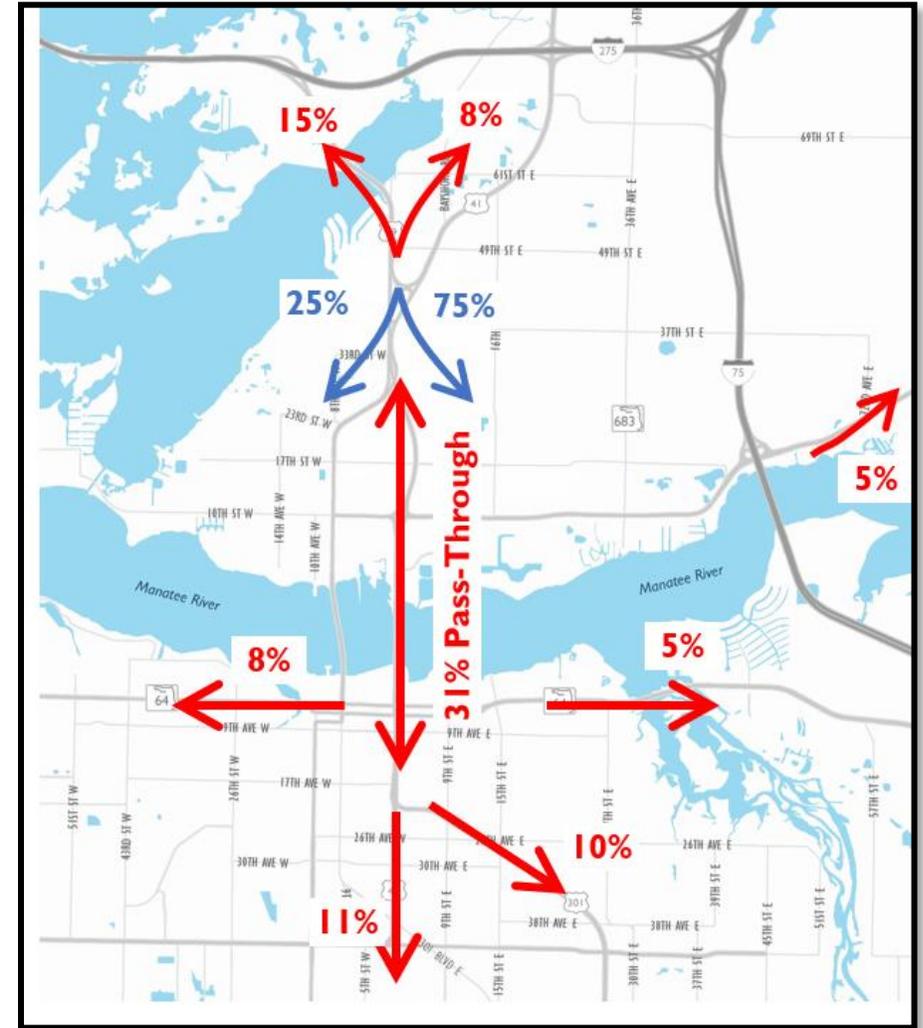


# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Transportation Demand

### Regional Traffic Patterns

- 31% - Pass through (commuters)
- 15% - Begin AND end in study area (internal)
- 56% - Begin or end in study area (regional)
  
- 22% of N/S trips use DeSoto Bridge
- 99,500 Total daily bridge trips
- 22,000 Daily DeSoto commuter trips
  
- 75% of traffic exiting I-275 uses DeSoto Bridge
  - Signed for BRADENTON/SARASOTA



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Transportation Demand

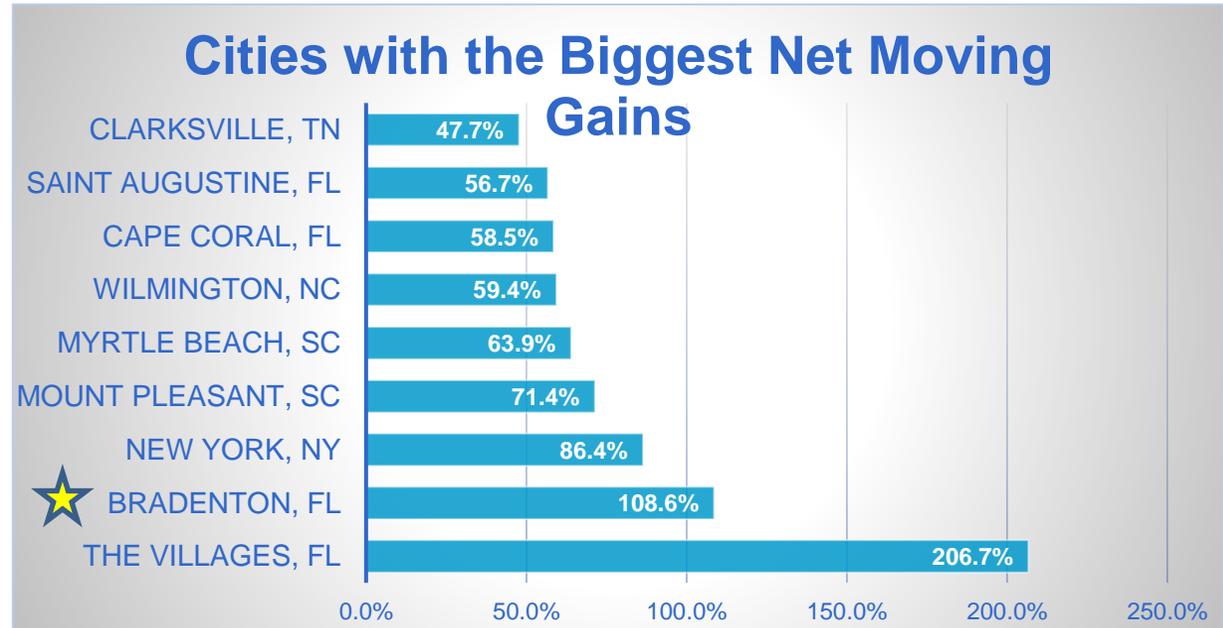
### Record Tourism In Bradenton Area In 2021 Despite COVID-19: Report

Nearly 1 million tourists visited Manatee County last year, which had a \$1.3 billion economic impact on the region, reports said.



Tiffany Razzano, Patch Staff

Posted Fri, Feb 18, 2022 at 11:27 am ET



Dawn Kitterman, Sunday, February 13, 2022; 2021-22 Moving Migration Study, HireAHelper

Region	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	1980-2020 Growth Rate
Bradenton	30,228	43,779	49,504	45,546	55,698	184%
Palmetto	8,637	9,268	12,571	12,606	13,323	154%
Manatee County	148,445	211,707	264,002	322,833	399,710	269%



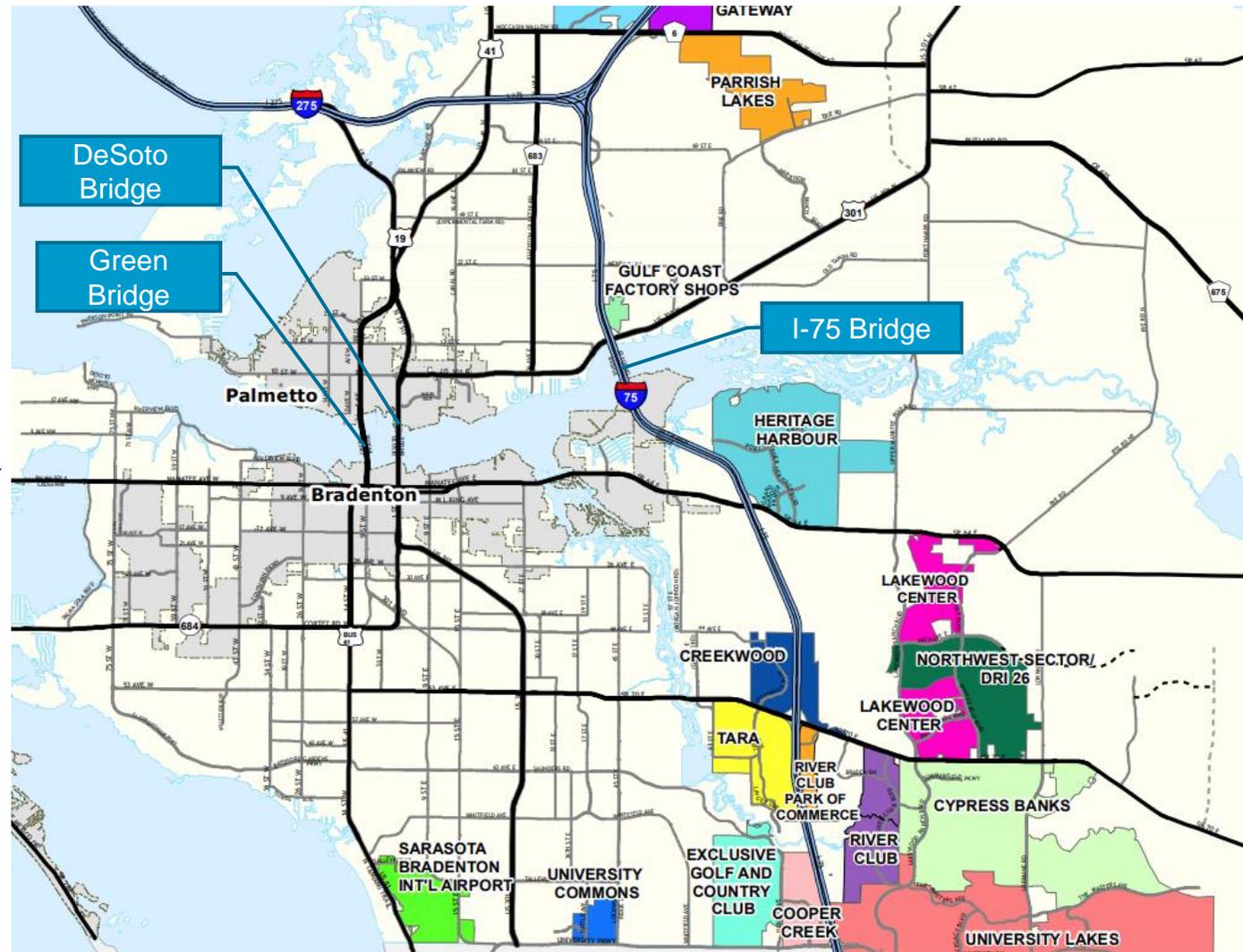
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Population Growth

Population is moving east

- |   |                                 |   |                                  |
|---|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
|    | ARTISAN LAKES # 21              |  | NORTHWEST SECTOR / DRI 26        |
|    | COOPER CREEK                    |  | PARRISH LAKES                    |
|    | CREEKWOOD                       |  | RIVER CLUB                       |
|    | CYPRESS BANKS                   |  | RIVER CLUB PARK OF COMMERCE      |
|    | EXCLUSIVE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB |  | ROBINSON GATEWAY                 |
|    | FOUR CORNERS MINE/LITMAN TRACT  |  | SARASOTA BRADENTON INT'L AIRPORT |
|    | FOUR CORNERS MINE               |  | TARA                             |
|    | GULF COAST FACTORY SHOPS        |  | UNIVERSITY COMMONS               |
|    | HERITAGE HARBOUR                |  | UNIVERSITY LAKES                 |
|    | LAKEWOOD CENTER                 |  | WINGATE                          |
|  | PROPOSED OR ADDITIONS           |   |                                  |



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Crash Data

### US 41B – Green Bridge

- **Total Crashes:** 1,056
- **Fatalities:** 4 (2 Pedestrian)
- **Serious Injuries:** 22
- **Predominant Type:** Rear End (34.9%)

### I-75

- **Total Crashes:** 1,218
- **Fatalities:** 5
- **Serious Injuries:** 79
- **Predominant Type:** Rear End (38.7%)

### SR 45/US 19 – DeSoto Bridge

- **Total Crashes:** 633
- **Fatalities:** 2 (1 Cyclist)
- **Serious Injuries:** 10
- **Predominant Type:** Rear End (60.1%)

### SR 64\*

- **Total Crashes:** 1,508
- **Fatalities:** 7 (1 Pedestrian – 1 Cyclist)
- **Serious Injuries:** 35
- **Predominant Type:** Rear End (40.5%)

\*High Crash Intersection with SR 45

## Rear End Crashes related to congestion

Crash data was obtained from Signal 4 Analytics between the dates of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022.

# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Natural/Environmental Considerations

Data Collection  
& Alternatives  
Development

- Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve
- Palmetto Preserve
- Gamble Plantation Historic State Park & Sugar Mill
- Lincoln Park
- Blackstone Park, Riverwalk
- Manatee Mineral Springs Park
- River Run Golf Links



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Social and Economic Considerations



- Residential
  - Neighborhoods
  - Waterfront Condominiums
  - Apartments
- Businesses
  - Hospital/Health Centers
  - Banks
- Schools
  - Elementary
  - Middle
  - High
- Religious Centers/Community Centers

### Study Area Neighborhoods



Tropicana Plant Bradenton



St. Mary's Baptist Church

- Downtown Bradenton
- East Bradenton
- East Palmetto
- Ellenton
- Lincoln Estates
- Manatee
- Memphis
- Sanctuary Cove
- Wares Creek
- West Palmetto



Braden Castle Park

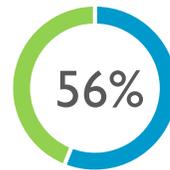
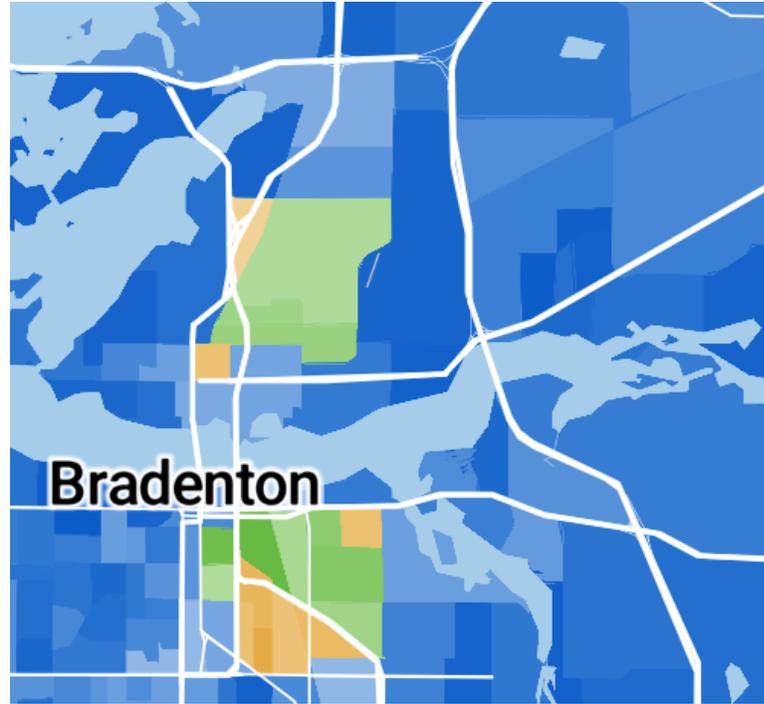


Manatee Burying Ground

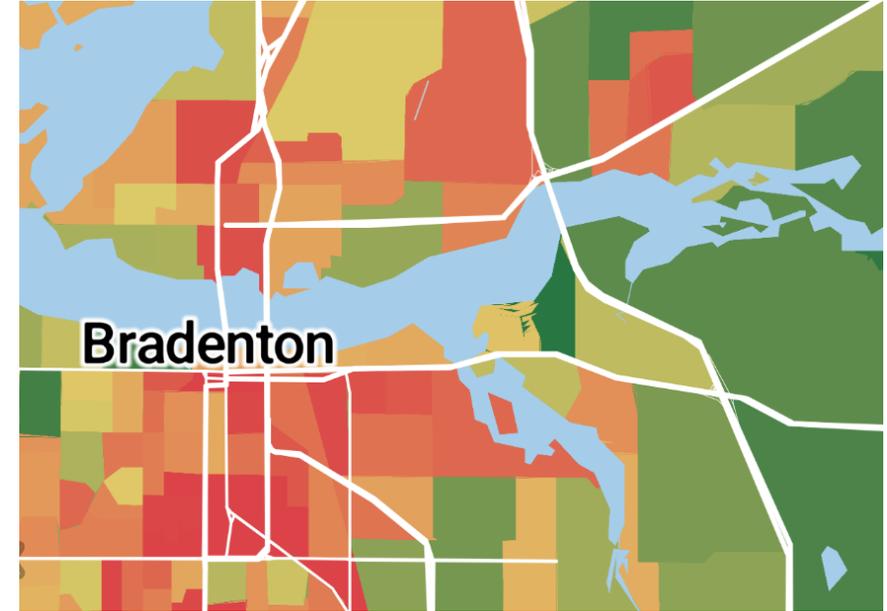
# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Demographic Considerations

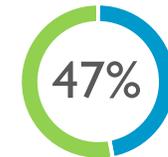
- **Minority Population**
  - Study Area: 56%
  - Manatee County: 29.1%
  - Florida: 46.5%
- **Low Income Population**
  - Study Area: 47%
  - Manatee County: 10.4%
  - Florida: 13.6%
- **Limited English Proficiency**
  - Manatee County: 38.9% Non-English Speaking



Minority Population



Household Income Key



Low Income

U.S. 2020  
Census

# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Corridor Analysis Recommendations



- Community Input
- Traffic/Multimodal Connectivity
- Social/Economic Environment
- Cultural Environment
- Natural Environment
- Physical Environment
- Cost



Evaluation Criteria	CORRIDORS						
	No-Build	Corridor	Corridor	Corridor	Corridor	Corridor	Corridor
<b>COMMUNITY INPUT</b>							
Public/Stakeholder Support							
<b>TRAFFIC/MULTIMODAL CONNECTIVITY</b>							
Daily Traffic Volume (2040 ADT) - Green Bridge							
Daily Traffic Volume (2040 ADT) - DeSoto Bridge							
Daily Traffic Volume (2040 ADT) - I-75 Bridge							
Daily Traffic Volume (2040 ADT) - Proposed							
ADT Reduction on Green Bridge							
ADT Reduction on DeSoto Bridge							
Peak Period North-South Travel Times							
Connections to Local/Regional Transit Services							
Connections to Existing/Planned Ped/Bike							
<b>SOCIAL/ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT</b>							
Residential Parcels Impacted							
Commercial Parcels Impacted							
Residential Displacements							
Commercial Displacements							
% of Alignment Within or Adjacent to Minority Population							
% of Alignment Within or Adjacent to Low Income Population							
Hospitals within Corridor							
Churches/Places of Worship within Corridor							
Schools/Colleges within Corridor							
Publicly Owned Park or Recreation Facility within Corridor							
Provides Direct Access to Employment Centers							
<b>CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL</b>							
NHRP Listed Historic Sites within or adjacent to Corridor							
Potentially Eligible Historic Sites within or adjacent to Corridor							
Cemeteries within or adjacent to Corridor							
<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>							
Wetland and Surface Waters							
Floodplains (Acres)							
T&E Species							
Coastal & Marine Considerations							
<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>							
Number of Noise Sensitive Receptors							
Haz-Mat/Brownfield Sites within Corridor							
<b>COST</b>							
Project Cost							
<b>IMPACTS:    LOW            MEDIUM            HIGH</b>							

MATRIX TO BE COMPLETED DURING ACE PROCESS

# Submit a comment / Receive updates – 2 Options

## Option 1: Environmental Screening Tool (<https://etdmpub.fla-etat.org/est/>)

The screenshot shows the FDOT website's Environmental Screening Tool interface. At the top, there's a search bar for FDOT and a navigation menu with links like Home, About FDOT, and Projects. Below this is the 'Environmental Screening Tool' header. The main content area includes the 'etdm' logo and a 'Welcome!' message. A 'Project Search' dropdown menu is highlighted with a yellow arrow pointing to a callout box on the right. The callout box shows the search options: 'Project Number', 'Project Name', 'Planning Organization', 'County', 'District', 'Degree of Effect', and 'Project Phase'. The 'Project Name' option is selected, and the search results show 'Bradenton Palmetto Connect' with a 'go' button. The 'Help' section on the right provides information about the Welcome Page and the Project Search tool.

**Project Search**

← Search by Project Name:  
Bradenton Palmetto Connect

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**Help**

**Welcome Page**

The Welcome Page of the ETDM Public Access Site includes information about the ETDM Process and instructions for finding a project, getting started in using the Site, and how to sign up to receive emails concerning projects of interest. The Welcome Page also includes a Project Search tool for identifying an ETDM project, pull-down menus for accessing Site tools and reports, and links to the Florida Department of Transportation and MyFlorida.com Web sites.

# Submit a comment / Receive updates – 2 Options

## EXAMPLE PROJECT

**FDOT** Florida Department of TRANSPORTATION

To View Project Information

Environmental Screening Tool

**etdm**  
Efficient Transportation Decision Making

Welcome | ETDM Program Information | Project Information | ETDM Contacts

Project Search [new search](#)

Project Detail [view on map](#)

Project Name: #14421 - Palmetto Trails Network Plan  
Phase: Programming Screen  
Planning: FDOT District 1  
Organization: FDOT District 1  
From Location: Unknown  
To Location: Unknown  
District: District 1  
Counties: Manatee County  
Project Type: Traffic Operation Enhancement

Submit Comment  
Request Response

Welcome!

Getting Started  
The Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Web site makes information available about proposed transportation projects in the ETDM Process. The Project Information menu accesses specific information about a project information about the ETDM Process can be found in the ETDM Program Information menu. [For more information about the site](#), see the options in the Welcome menu.

About ETDM  
Florida's ETDM process defines the procedures for planning transportation projects, conducting environmental reviews, and developing and permitting projects. [For more information about ETDM](#), please visit the [ETDM Library](#).

Stay Connected  
[Receive site updates via emails](#) about projects as they move through the ETDM process.

**FGDL** FDOT  
FLORIDA GEOGRAPHIC DATA LIBRARY

**FDOT** Florida Department of TRANSPORTATION

To Submit a Project Comment or To Receive Project Updates

Environmental Screening Tool

**etdm**  
Efficient Transportation Decision Making

Welcome | ETDM Program Information | Project Information | ETDM Contacts

Project Search [new search](#)

Project Detail [view on map](#)

Project Name: #14421 - Palmetto Trails Network Plan  
Phase: Programming Screen  
Planning: FDOT District 1  
Organization: FDOT District 1  
From Location: Unknown  
To Location: Unknown  
District: District 1  
Counties: Manatee County  
Project Type: Traffic Operation Enhancement

Submit Comment  
Request Response

Welcome!

Getting Started

Receive Updates

#14421 - Palmetto Trails Network Plan [Submit Comment](#) | [Request Response](#) | [Watch Project](#)  
District: District 1 Phase: Programming Screen Contact Information: Lauren Peters (863) 519-2515 x2515 [Lauren.Peters@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Lauren.Peters@dot.state.fl.us)

Receive Email Notifications for Updates to Selected Project

Register below to sign up for the ETDM email list to receive email notifications when updated information is available for this project. If you are already signed up to receive notifications, then this project notification setting will be added to your existing preferences.

Email Address:

Project To Watch:

I agree to the [FDOT Privacy Statement](#)

# Submit a comment / Receive updates – 2 Options

## Option 2: Project Website (<https://www.swflroads.com/project/444843-1>)

The screenshot shows the project website for the 444843-1 Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) Study. The page features a navigation menu, a map of the project area, and sections for project details, contact information, and public involvement. A yellow callout box highlights the 'Send a comment or ask a question about this project' button, which opens a modal form for submitting comments or questions.

**Project Details**

- Work Type: New Road
- Phase: Planning
- City: Bradenton
- County: Manatee

**Contact Information**

- Communications Team**  
Communications Office
- Planning Project Manager**  
Michelle Rutishauser  
813-380-7121
- For Media Inquiries Only**  
d1-pio@dot.state.fl.us

**Public Involvement**

Public meetings will be scheduled in 2023, so please check the website for schedule updates. We do welcome your input, and you can email comments to [info@bpconnector.com](mailto:info@bpconnector.com) or fill out the online comment form.

**Modal Form:**

Please submit the form below to send a comment or ask a question about this project.

Your Email Address:

Your Name:

Comment or Question:

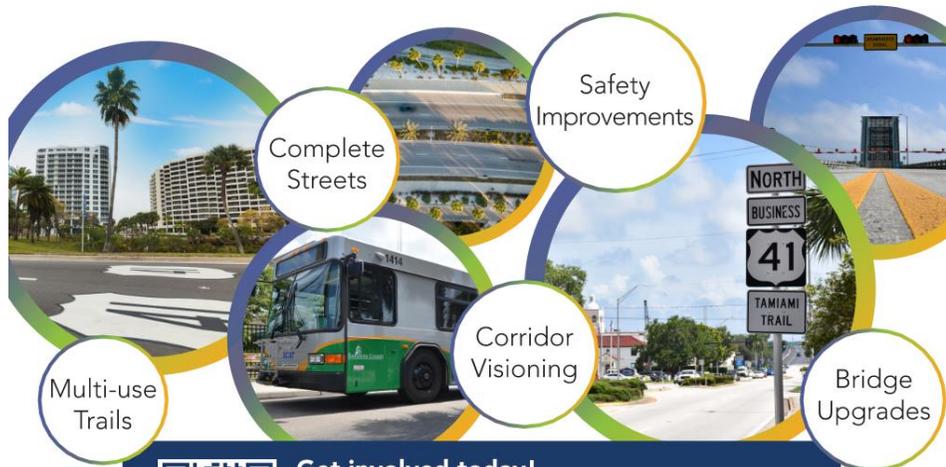
# Connecting Communities Questionnaire



January 2023 - April 2023

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Florida Department of Transportation, District One, is conducting several projects in partnership with the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and local governments to holistically enhance the multimodal transportation network within Sarasota and Manatee Counties as part of the Connecting Communities Program. Major Connecting Communities Program projects include Bradenton-Palmetto Connector, Desoto Bridge, Sarasota/Manatee US 41 Corridor Mobility and Safety Study, Palmetto Trails Network, and 10th Avenue Complete Street. For a map and full list of current area projects included as part of the Connecting Communities Program visit [www.swflroads.com/connectingcommunities](http://www.swflroads.com/connectingcommunities).



**Get involved today!**

**Scan to take our online questionnaire.**

Complete our brief online questionnaire to provide valuable feedback for enhancing the multimodal transportation network.



For more information on the Connecting Communities Program, visit [www.swflroads.com/connectingcommunities](http://www.swflroads.com/connectingcommunities).

The purpose of the questionnaire is to collect your input to enhance the transportation network in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

Complete the brief online questionnaire by **April 30, 2023.**

# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Communication Plan Goals:

- Transparency
- Continue meeting with Project Champions & Stakeholders
- Ensure community feedback is heard
- Build confidence and trust in FDOT's process



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Project Schedule

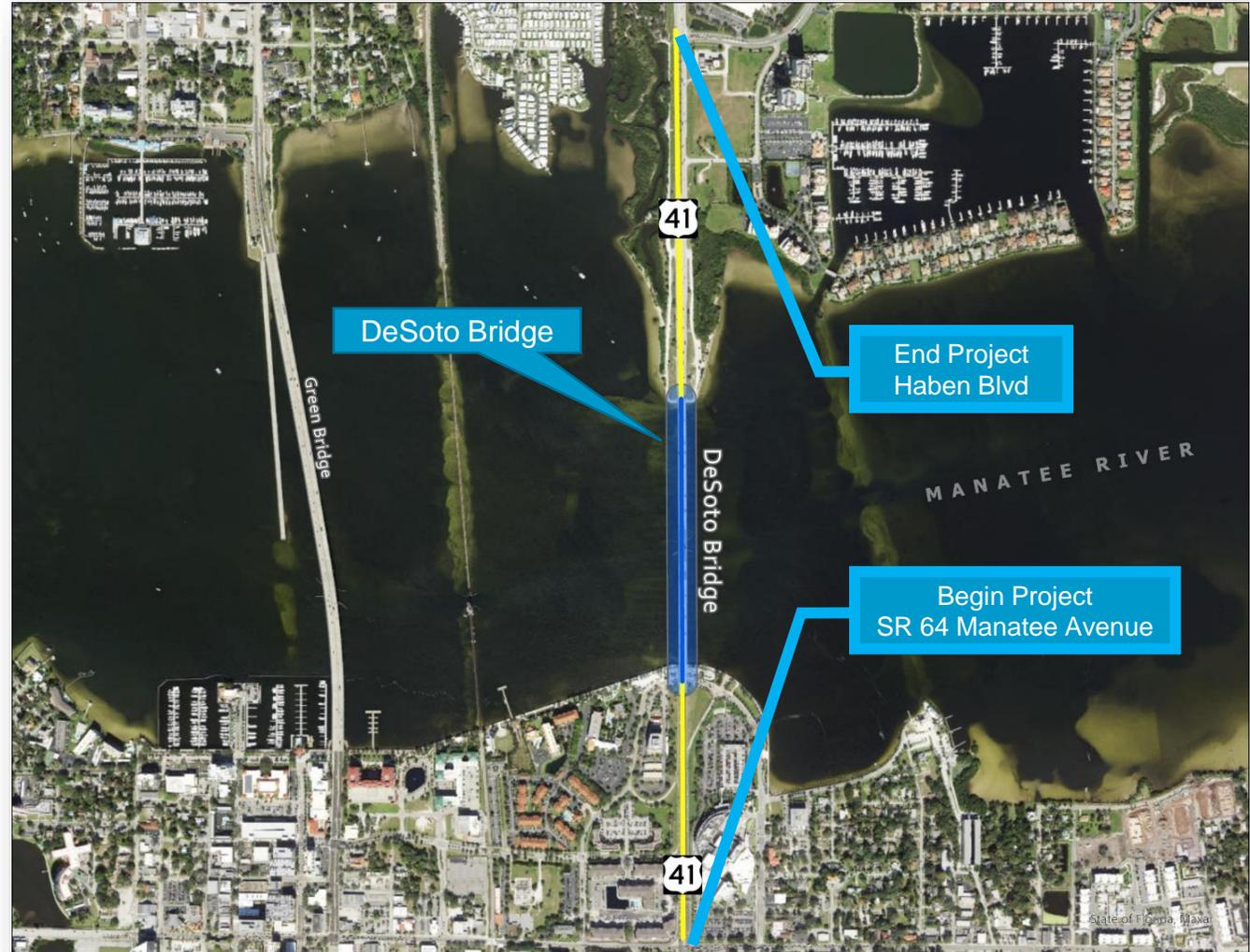
Schedule Task	2022	2023												2024		
	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
Central Office Approval of Purpose and Need		█	█													
Small Group Meetings		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█					
ACE Study			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█				
Public Informational Meeting												█	█			
Revise ACE Study														█	█	
ACE Approval															█	
Begin PD&E																█
Public Engagement Outreach	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

# FPID 442630-1 DeSoto Bridge PD&E Study

- Existing Condition:
  - Two vehicular travel lanes in each direction (total four lanes)
  - Concrete barrier separating traffic
  - No shoulders to pull over
  - No room for pedestrians / Cyclist ride in the road
  - Advanced deterioration under the bridge support
- Proposed Condition:
  - Two vehicular travel lanes in each direction (total four lanes)
  - Inside and outside shoulders to pull over
  - Separate area for bicyclists and pedestrians
  - Project limits are from SR 64 to Haben Blvd.
- Separate Project & Schedule from Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study
- Construction Begins FY 2027
- Four Bridge Studies with staggered construction schedules
  - DeSoto Bridge
  - Anna Maria Drawbridge
  - Cortez Drawbridge
  - Longboat Key Drawbridge

## Future Need

- Capacity
  - Analyzed and addressed in the Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study



# Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

## Contact Information

### **Abra Horne**

FDOT Planning and Environmental Administrator

[Abra.Horne@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Abra.Horne@dot.state.fl.us)

(863)519-2239

### **Michelle Rutishauser**

FDOT Project Manager

[Michelle.Rutishauser@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Michelle.Rutishauser@dot.state.fl.us)

(813) 380-7121