



### 1. How does this project relate to the other projects happening in LaBelle?

**Answer:** There are currently three ongoing projects happening within or near the City of LaBelle. They can be identified by their respective Financial Project Identification (FPID) numbers and titles.

- a. 447878-1 SR 80 from North of Captain Hendry Dr to West of Forrey Dr: This project covers the corridor along SR 80 from north of Captain Hendry Drive to west of Forrey Drive. It is currently in the Design phase and aims primarily to improve safety along the target corridor. This is the project at the focus of this FAQ document.
- b. 417878-8 SR 29 Concept Re-evaluation: This project is reevaluating a project Development & Environment study along SR 29 from CR 80A (Cowboy Way) to north of CR 731 (Whidden Rd). This project aims to explore several alternatives that will serve to enhance safety and mobility along SR 29, including a no-build alternative. This project held a public hearing on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. More information can be found at its dedicated project website [www.swflroads.com/project/417878-8](http://www.swflroads.com/project/417878-8)
- c. 453578-1 SR 29 LaBelle Bypass Feasibility Study: This study aims to evaluate the feasibility of an alternative corridor to SR 29 that would bypass the City of Labelle. There is a stakeholder meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2025. More information can be found at its dedicated project website [www.swflroads.com/project/453578-1](http://www.swflroads.com/project/453578-1)

### 2. Why is this project being conducted?

**Answer:**

- a. This project is being conducted to address a critical safety issue on SR 80, which consistently ranks as the number one segment in Hendry County for serious injuries and fatal crashes, bicycle and pedestrian incidents, and two-way left turn lane collisions. The proposed raised median aims to reduce these high crash rates by minimizing conflict points, simplifying driver decisions, and preventing severe crash types, with studies suggesting a potential 54% reduction in fatal and injury crashes (*Source: Federal Highway Administration, Reduced Left-Turn Conflict Intersections*)

### 3. How did the project team decide where to place the directional median openings?

**Answer:** Design of these improvements was initially guided by an Access Management Study finalized in March of 2024. This study reviewed the existing safety and operations within the corridor to determine the appropriate median openings and street connections. When initially determining the proposed locations, the analysis considerations included – but was not limited to – the following: turn-lane spacing requirements defined in the FDOT Access Management Guidebook; alternate routes provided by the existing roadway grid network; the existing peak season traffic turning movement volumes; the crash history along the corridor; the proposed signalization of SR 80 at Shady Oaks Avenue / Dr Martin Luther King Boulevard; and prioritizing access to the public side streets over private driveways.

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Throughout 2024 and 2025, the design team met with various stakeholder groups and held a public workshop to receive community feedback and discuss potential changes to the median access locations. The project team revised the original median locations in consideration of the feedback received while prioritizing safety and balancing operational, business, and sight distance concerns.

#### 4. How will directional median openings and U-turns improve safety?

**Answer:**

- a. Limiting the number of potential turning locations along the roadway will reduce the overall number of conflict points.
- b. Turning vehicles become much more predictable, reducing driver confusion overall.
- c. Crashes causing injuries are reduced by more than 25% by encouraging right-turns followed by U-turns, compared to direct left-turns. For more information, please refer to the FDOT Access Management Guidebook and Resources shared under the F-A-Qs section of this project website.

#### 5. When will the project be completed?

**Answer:** The project team anticipates submitting final plans early in the first quarter of 2026. The letting date for construction is February 25th, 2026. Construction typically begins 3 months after letting, though the actual start date may vary due to material acquisitions.