

2026 Corridor Alternatives Public Meeting

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How will environmental resources, wetlands, and wildlife be protected?

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) acknowledges the ecological significance of this region and is committed to evaluating potential environmental impacts as part of the study process. FDOT follows federal and state requirements, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Endangered Species Act, to identify, assess, and disclose potential impacts on environmental resources. Additional environmental field studies will be conducted in future phases of the study to better understand potential impacts and identify potential opportunities to avoid, minimize, or mitigate them.
- Potential impact levels (low/medium/high) for each corridor were developed based on the extent, severity, and likelihood of disturbance to these resources as determined through a preliminary environmental desktop analysis performed with current available data.

2. Will this project lead to growth and development in rural areas?

- Rezoning, development approvals, and land-use changes are determined by county and municipal governments. FDOT coordinates closely with local jurisdictions to ensure transportation plans align with their adopted comprehensive plans. The potential roadway under study is being proposed as a limited-access roadway, with the only access points being S.R. 70 and S.R. 66. This approach will support smoother traffic flow, as direct driveways or crossroad connections will not be permitted.

3. Why can't existing roads simply be improved instead of building a new corridor?

- While improving existing roadways may benefit daily traffic operations, it does not address the purpose of this study, which is to enhance regional transportation system linkage, accommodate transportation demand by providing for regional freight activity, and enhance roadway network safety conditions through improved evacuation capabilities. Improvements to existing roadways alone may not fully address these regional transportation needs or provide additional network redundancy during emergencies and major disruptions.
- Transportation system bottlenecks remain unchanged, leaving evacuation performance fundamentally limited. Likewise, because upgrades to existing facilities do not create new connections or parallel corridors, the

region retains the same vulnerabilities to congestion, disruptions, and single-point failures. In some cases, operational improvements may even increase routine traffic volumes through induced demand, further straining evacuation routes without improving their structural capacity. To achieve meaningful improvements in regional connectivity emergency preparedness, improvements must focus on projects that add new routes, enhance connectivity, and strengthen overall network redundancy rather than relying solely on enhancements to the existing roadway system.

4. How is FDOT evaluating impacts to agriculture?

- FDOT recognizes the importance of agriculture to Florida's economy, heritage, and rural communities. Potential impacts to productive agricultural land, farm access, and local economies are being carefully evaluated as part of the corridor evaluation process. FDOT seeks to avoid and minimize impacts wherever feasible and considers public comments essential in identifying community concerns.

5. Has a Preferred Corridor been selected?

- No, a Preferred Corridor Alternative has not been selected at this time.

6. What happens next?

- FDOT is actively reviewing public feedback, evaluating technical data, environmental considerations, and exploring funding opportunities.
- Once a Preferred Corridor is selected we will progress to the next study phase, Phase IV (see Figure 1 below), the Preferred Corridor will be compared to the No-Build Alternative.
- During this phase:
 - Additional environmental studies and field surveys will be conducted
 - Potential impacts and costs will be refined
 - Coordinating with local governments and stakeholders
 - Public feedback will continue to be incorporated into the decision-making process
 - Additional opportunities for public involvement will be provided

7. How can I stay informed and provide future input?

- FDOT is committed to keeping the public informed throughout the study process. Future public meetings, engagement opportunities, and project updates will be announced in advance through the project website, email updates, and other public outreach channels.
- Community input remains an important part of the PD&E Study, and there will be additional opportunities to review information and provide comments as the study progresses.



PD&E Study from S.R. 70 to S.R. 66

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- Public comments can be submitted through the project website.
- You can also request to be added to the mailing list to receive project information or updates regarding future public meetings.
- <https://www.swflroads.com/project/455782-1> or email the Project Representative, David Long, at David.long@dot.state.fl.us, or by mail: 801 N. Broadway Ave., MS 1-41, Bartow, FL 33830.

