

2026 Corridor Alternatives Public Meetings Summary

Project Overview

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for proposed improvements west of U.S. 27 and East of U.S. 17 between State Road (S.R.) 70 and S.R. 66 in Hardee, DeSoto, and Highlands Counties. Building on the findings of the Highlands County Feasibility Study, the PD&E will assess a potential new alignment to better accommodate the evolving nature of U.S. 27 and address key needs such as network connectivity, freight movement, and regional evacuation.

Public Engagement Overview

Public Meeting	Location	Date
DeSoto County In-Person Corridor Alternatives Public Meeting	Turner Agri-Civic Center	January 15, 2026
Hardee County In-Person Corridor Alternatives Public Meeting	Hardee Agri-Civic Center	January 22, 2026
Highlands County In-Person Corridor Alternatives Public Meeting	Town of Lake Placid Government Center	January 29, 2026
Virtual Meeting Room	Via project website	January 15 – February 12, 2026

Public Participation:

 **3**
**In-Person
Public Meetings**

 **80**
Attendees

 **3,337**
**Virtual Meeting
Room Visitors**

 **983**
**Public comments
/inputs received**

Comments were received from residents, property owners, businesses, agricultural groups, environmental organizations, local/state government, and other stakeholders. Comments/inputs were received through written submissions, both in-person and via email, online comment form, mailed comments, and a virtual meeting room online survey. All comments received will be taken into consideration and included in the project record.

Desoto County In-Person Meeting: Turner Agri-Civic Center



Hardee County In-Person Meeting: Hardee Agri-Civic Center



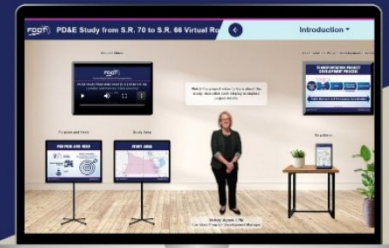


**Highland County In-Person Meeting:
Town of Lake Placid Government Center**

Social Media Marketing

Join the Virtual Room

FPID NUMBER: 455782-1



The Virtual Room is open until

February 12, 2026

What We Heard

Environment & Conservation

- Protect species, wildlife habitat, and wetland systems
- Preserve conservation lands

Community Character

- Maintain rural character
- Concerns about growth and development pressures

Agriculture

- Protect farmland and agricultural operations
- Maintain farm access

How FDOT is Turning Feedback into Action

- Avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating environmental impacts
- Coordinating with local governments and stakeholders on future land use
- Assessing effects on agricultural resources
- Continuing corridor refinement and technical analysis
- Incorporating public feedback into decision-making

Thank You for Sharing Your Voice

Thank you to everyone who shared their perspectives, including those expressing opposition. We hear your concerns. This feedback is valuable to us, and all comments will be carefully considered during Phase IV of the PD&E process, which will occur after a preferred alternative is selected and compared to the No-Build Alternative.

Next Steps

- FDOT is actively reviewing public feedback, evaluating technical data, and exploring funding opportunities.
- Corridor alternatives will be narrowed down to one Preferred Corridor and compared to the No-Build Alternative. No Preferred Corridor Alternative has been selected at this time.
- Additional environmental studies will be completed.
- Future public engagement opportunities, including a public hearing, will be announced as the study progresses.

