



SR 70 PD&E Study from NW 128th Avenue to US 98 Project Kickoff Newsletter

FINANCIAL PROJECT IDENTIFICATION (FPID) NUMBER: 445254-1



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for proposed improvements to the State Road (SR) 70 corridor in Okeechobee County. The project limits extend from NW 128th Avenue (CR 599) to US 98, a distance of 6.9 miles. The project's purpose is to address traffic safety conditions, including emergency evacuation and incident response times. Other project goals include maintaining important east-west connectivity within the regional transportation network to accommodate freight activity.

WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

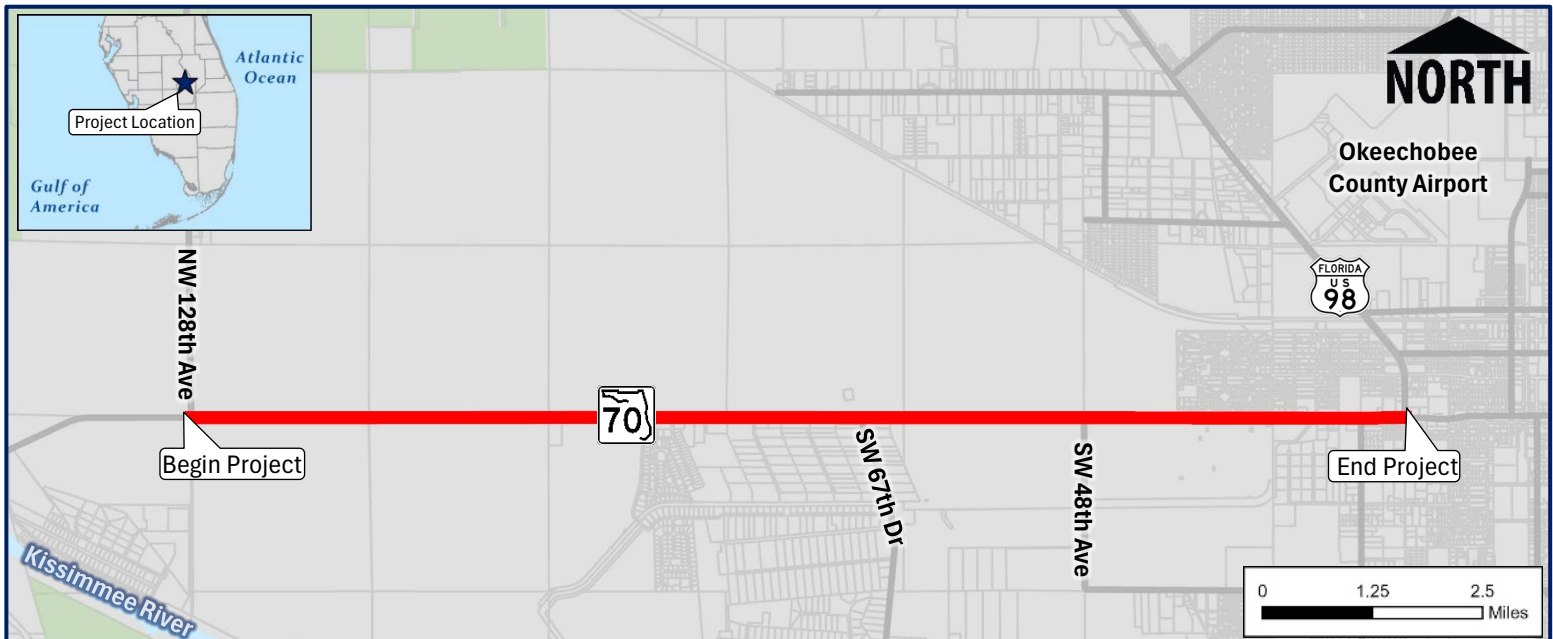
A PD&E Study is the formal process of developing and comparing alternatives against a defined project purpose and need, to determine a preferred action that meets project goals while minimizing impacts on social, cultural, natural, and physical resources. Engaging the public by sharing and receiving information is a key component of this process and is required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

As part of the PD&E process, FDOT alternatives will be evaluated to determine social and environmental impacts, safety enhancements, additional right-of-way, and traffic performance. Currently, alternatives under consideration include widening SR 70 from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway with multimodal facilities, such as a shared-use path, along the project segment.

Throughout this process, FDOT will consider a “no-build” option, which assumes no improvements to SR 70 other than routine maintenance. If the study results in the selection of a “build” alternative, the project can proceed to a design phase, for preparation of construction plans.

As part of the study kickoff, we invite you to participate. As the study progresses, we will use the input we receive from the community to refine alternatives. Questions and comments can be submitted through the project website (address below) or by contacting the FDOT Project Manager. Contact information is on the reverse side of this newsletter.



Study Website: www.swflroads.com/project/445254-1









FDOT solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or person who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Cynthia Sykes, Title VI Coordinator, at (863) 519-2287 or by e-mail at Cynthia.Sykes@dot.state.fl.us. The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by 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.

SR 70 PD&E Study
from NW 128th Avenue to US 98
Kathern Cothern
Florida Department of Transportation
801 North Broadway Avenue, MS 1-41
Bartow, Florida 33830



PROJECT SCHEDULE

Initial activities include collecting data, developing alignment alternatives, and evaluating potential social and environmental effects of the alternatives. The project team will present these alternatives at an alternatives public meeting, tentatively scheduled for summer 2026. A formal public hearing is tentatively scheduled for late 2027. You will receive notifications through the mail prior to each meeting. After the public hearing, FDOT District One will submit project documents to the FDOT Office of Environmental Management for Location and Design Concept Acceptance.

ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	2025			2026				2027				2028
	Apr - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT												
TRAFFIC ANALYSIS												
ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS												
ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC MEETING												
DRAFT DOCUMENTS												
PUBLIC HEARING												
FINAL DOCUMENTS												
STUDY APPROVAL												



CONTACT US

FDOT encourages public participation during the PD&E Study. If you have questions regarding the project, please contact the FDOT Project Manager.

Kathern (Kathy) Cothern, Project Manager

Florida Department of Transportation

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Phone: (863) 519-2331

Email: Kathern.Cothern@dot.state.fl.us

Website: www.swflroads.com/project/445254-1

Para información en español

Si usted necesita más información o tiene preguntas acerca de este proyecto, por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Karina Della-Sera con el Departamento de Transporte de la Florida (FDOT), por teléfono al (863) 519-2750 o enviando un correo electrónico a Karina.DellaSera@dot.state.fl.us.

También puede visitar la página web del proyecto: www.swflroads.com/project/445254-1.



Online Project Announcement



Newsletter



Public Meeting