

BRADENTON-PALMETTO CONNECTOR PD&E STUDY PROJECT SCHEDULE								
	2025				2026			
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
	Jan-Feb-March	April-May-June	July-Aug-Sept	Oct-Nov-Dec	Jan-Feb-March	April-May-June	July-Aug-Sept	Oct-Nov-Dec
PD&E Study Start	★							
Traffic Analysis & Data Collection								
Develop & Evaluate Alternatives								
Public Workshop					✉	💬		
Draft Documents								
Final Documents								
Public Hearing						✉	🗳	
Study Approval (LDCA)								📁 LDCA
Continuous Public Involvement								
Preliminary - Subject to change								

★ Milestone ✉ Newsletter 💬 Public Workshop 🗳 Public Hearing 📁 LDCA
(LDCA: Location and Design Concept Acceptance)

HOW TO COMMENT

You may share your comments in several ways:

- Complete a speaker card available at the sign-in table and make an oral comment at the microphone, or by using the GoToWebinar during the formal comment portion of the hearing.
- Make a verbal statement to the court reporter during the open house portion of the hearing.
- Complete a comment form and place it in the comment box at the hearing.
- Mail: Florida Department of Transportation, 801 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830
ATTN: MS 1-40, Bradenton-Palmetto Connector PD&E Study
- Email: Michelle Rutishauser, Project Manager at Michelle.Rutishauser@dot.state.fl.us
- Complete the online comment form at www.swflroads.com/project/444843-1

Comments received via email or postmarked by **Monday, July 27, 2026**, will be included in the official meeting record.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Michelle Rutishauser
Project Manager, Florida Department of Transportation
801 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830, Attn: MS 1-40, Bradenton-Palmetto Connector PD&E Study
Email: Michelle.Rutishauser@dot.state.fl.us

PROJECT TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

Project documents are available for public viewing from Thursday, June 25, 2026 to Monday, July 27, 2026, online at www.swflroads.com/project/444843-1 or in-person during normal business hours at the following locations:

Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Boulevard West, Bradenton, FL 34205

Palmetto Branch Library, 923 6th Street West, Palmetto, FL 34221

FDOT Manatee Operations Center, 14000 East S.R. 64, Bradenton, FL 34212



FDOT solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. People who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Cynthia Sykes, District One Title VI Coordinator, at (863) 519-2287, or email at Cynthia.Sykes@dot.state.fl.us at least seven days prior to the public meeting.

The Environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (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.

Para Materiales del Proyecto En Español
Por favor contacte a Karina Della Sera para información en español: (Karina.DellaSera@dot.state.fl.us o 863-519-2750).

Welcome to the public hearing for the Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. The purpose of the hearing is to present the Preferred Alternative and give interested persons an opportunity to express their views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed improvements. Project information is available for public review this evening and team representatives are available to discuss proposed improvements, answer questions, and receive comments. While comments about the project are accepted any time, comments received or postmarked by July 27, 2026 will be included in the public hearing record.

ABOUT THE STUDY

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One began a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study in early 2025 for the Bradenton-Palmetto Connector along U.S. 301/U.S. 41, from 9th Street East in Bradenton to north of 25th Street in Palmetto, Manatee County.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate alternatives to improve regional mobility, enhance safety for all users, and accommodate current and future transportation demand across the Manatee River. A No-Build Alternative is also being considered. During the PD&E study, the project team assessed the natural, social, cultural, and physical environmental impacts associated with the proposed corridor and met with agencies and stakeholders throughout the process to gather input.

The proposed project is subject to the requirements of Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act, and the project may result in a use within the meaning of Section 4(f). FDOT is seeking public review and comment on potential effects to protected activities, features, or attributes of Section 4(f) properties.

WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

A PD&E study is the formal process where options are developed and compared with each other to determine which best meets the project’s needs, while minimizing impacts to the community, and natural and physical environments. A key part of the PD&E process is obtaining public input. All studies are developed to follow the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This hearing is being held to allow the public an opportunity to provide feedback on the PD&E Alternatives.

HEARING AGENDA

5-6 p.m. – Open House

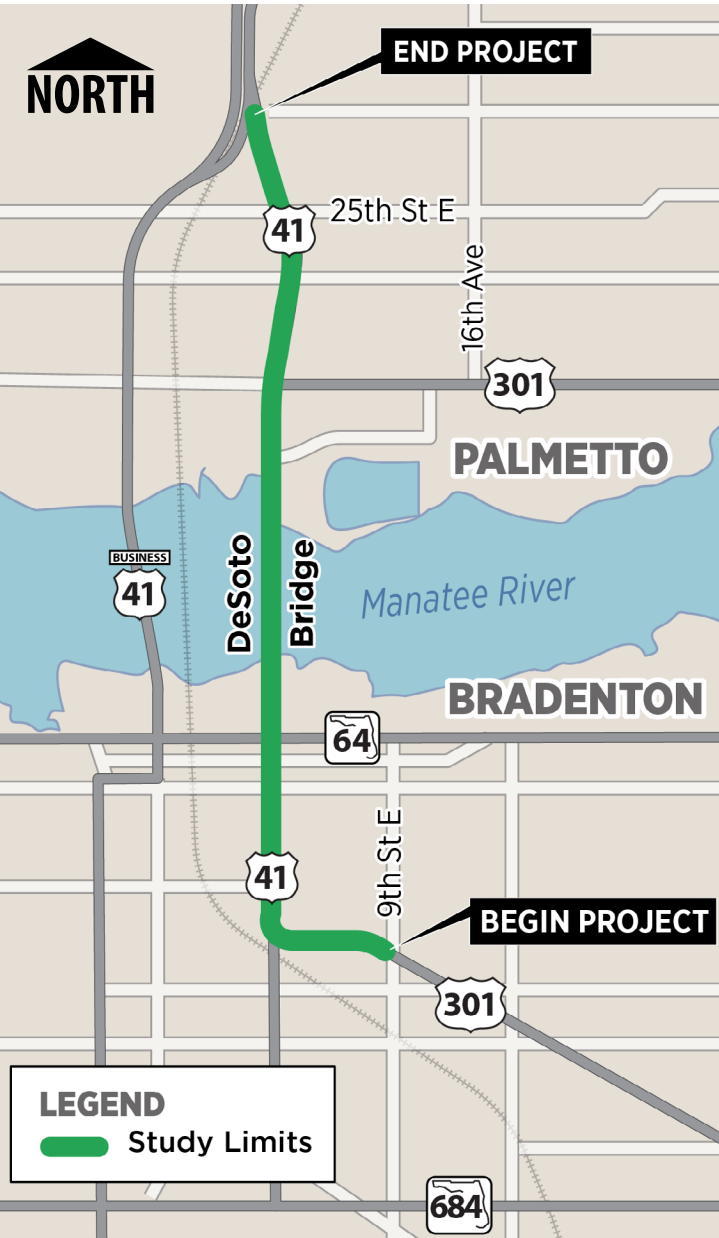
- View project displays
- View project video
- Provide Speaker Card for verbal comments
- Staff are available to answer questions

5:45 p.m. – Virtual Meeting Begins

6 p.m. – Formal Presentation (In-person/virtual online)

- 10-minute intermission
- Testimony/Comments

While comments about the project are accepted at any time, please send your comments by **July 27, 2026**, to be included in the formal hearing record.

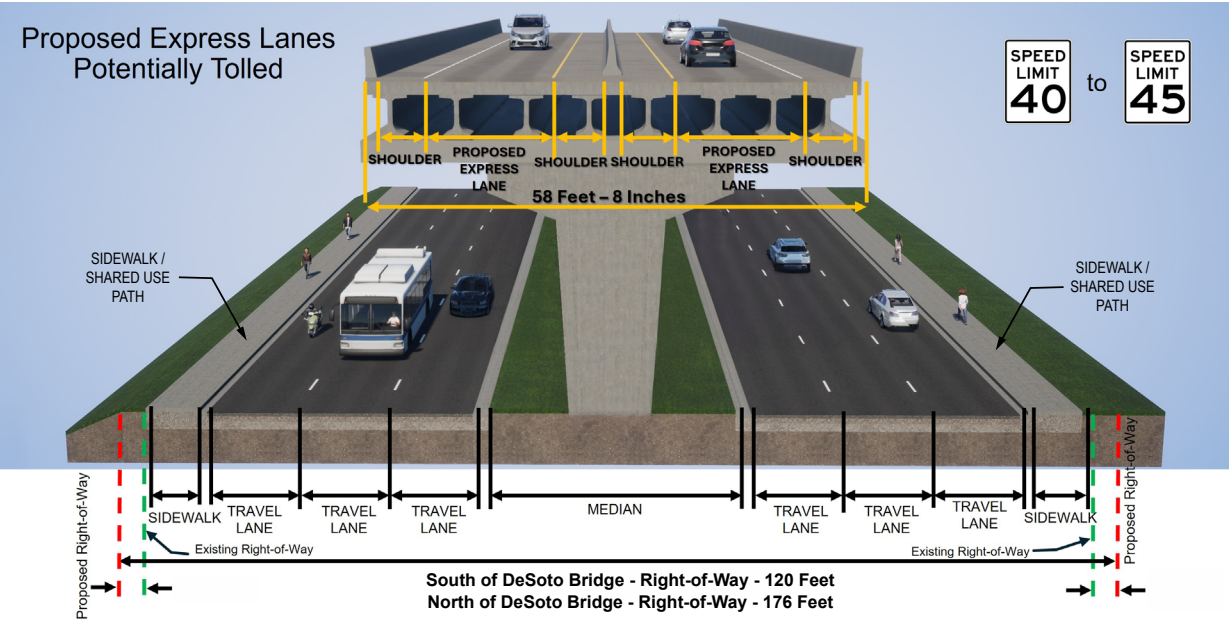


NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE

Throughout this study, a “No-Build” Alternative was considered. The No-Build Alternative assumes that no improvements are made through the year 2045, except routine maintenance. However, the DeSoto Bridge would be replaced in its current configuration but with the addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other safety improvements.

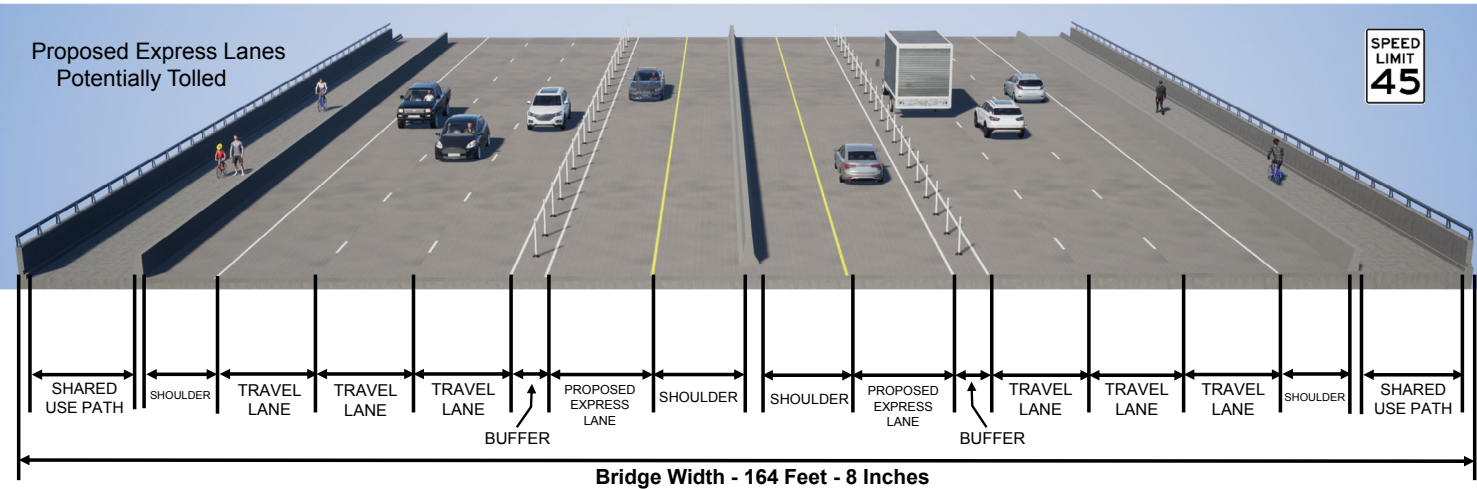
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

During the course of the PD&E Study, FDOT has evaluated various alternatives for this project. Based on public input and the results of the environmental and engineering analyses conducted, FDOT is recommending a Preferred Alternative.



NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE DESOTO BRIDGE

The Preferred Alternative includes six at-grade travel lanes with pedestrian and bicycle accommodations on both sides of the roadway, including a sidewalk on the south side of the bridge and a shared-use path on the north side. The Preferred Alternative also includes two proposed express lanes on an elevated structure that could be tolled.



DESOTO BRIDGE

The Preferred Alternative includes six general-purpose travel lanes with shared-use paths on both sides of the bridge and two buffer-separated proposed express lanes. The lanes would transition to and from the elevated structure.

EVALUATION MATRIX

BRADENTON-PALMETTO CONNECTOR PD&E STUDY			
Evaluation Criteria	No-Build	Preferred Alternative	Interim Improvements
	No Improvements	4 lanes Added (2L at-grade and 2L Elevated)	2 Lanes Added (2L at-grade from S.R. 64 to U.S. 301)
Ability to meet Purpose and Need			
Capacity			
Transportation Demand			
Safety			
Potential Right-of-Way Impacts			
Parcels (# Business # Residential # Other)	-	37 45 18	8 0 2
Area of Impact (acres)	-	27.3	4.4
Residential Relocations (#)	-	21	0
Business Relocations (#)	-	1	0
Utilities (Yes, No)	-	Yes	Yes
Environmental Impacts			
Protected Species (Low, Moderate, High)	-	Moderate	Moderate
Contamination Risk Sites (#) (Medium High)	-	18 4	2 3
Wetland (acres)	-	1.8	1.2
Seagrass (acres)	-	0	0
Surface Water (Low, Moderate, High)	-	Moderate	Moderate
Section 4(f) Resources (#)	-	4	3
Archaeological & Historic Resources (#)	-	5	2
Noise-Sensitive Receptors (#) (Evaluated Impacted)	-	1,128 341	244 72
Estimated Project Costs (2026 \$)*			
Right-of-Way Estimate (\$)*	\$0	\$ 45.0 M	\$ 15.0 M
Design (\$)*	\$0	\$ 73.2 M	\$ 22.1 M
Construction (\$)*	\$0	\$ 732.1 M	\$ 220.5 M
Construction Engineering & Inspection (CEI) (\$)*	\$0	\$ 65.9 M	\$ 19.8 M
Preliminary Estimate of Total Project Cost (\$)*	\$0	\$ 916.2 M	\$ 277.4 M
* ALL COSTS AND VALUES ARE PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE			

*Total estimated project costs does not include utility relocations, environmental permits, contamination remediation, or maintenance.