



**Bradenton-Palmetto Connector
Alternative Corridor Evaluation Study
(ACE)** FPID: 444843-1

**District One Environmental
Management Office**

July 2024



Thank you - Introductions



Jimmy P. Vilcé, P.E., CPM
**Project Development
Manager**
FDOT District One
jimmy.vilce@dot.state.fl.us
(863) 519-2293



Michelle Rutishauser
FDOT Project Manager
Earth Resources, Inc.
michelle.rutishauser@dot.state.fl.us
(813) 380-7121

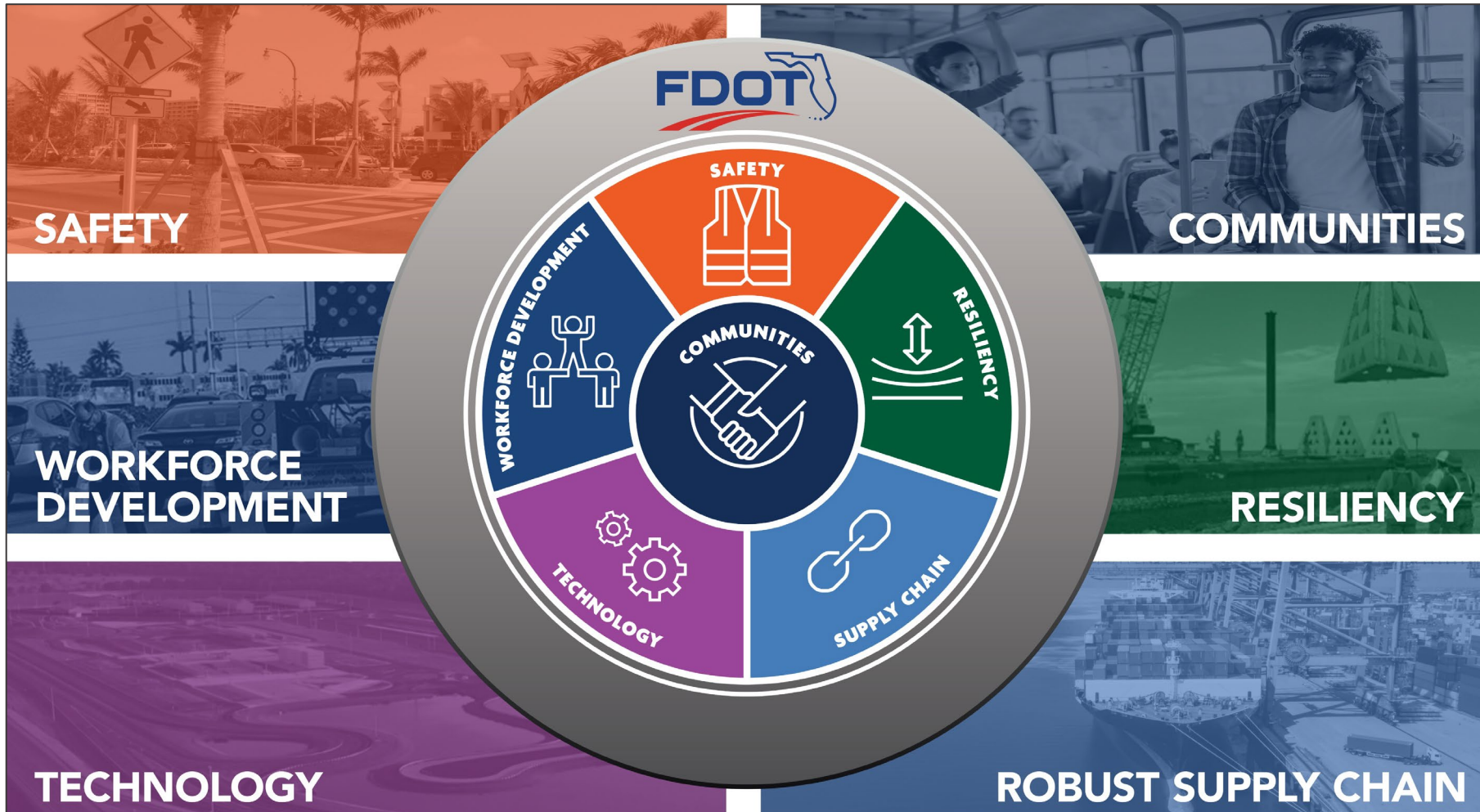


Gail Woods, P.E.
Consultant Project Manager
Vice President
TranSystems
glwoods@transystems.com
(407) 875-8923



Lori Buck
Community Outreach
Quest Corporation
lori.buck@dot.state.fl.us
(727) 224-0511

Meeting is being held in person and online virtually.



Florida Department of Transportation's Guiding Principles



Share Information
Answer Questions
Listen / Gather Feedback

We want to hear your thoughts!



Traffic is growing!

7/9/2024



**We're working
on solutions.**



Population Growth and Tourism - Transportation Demand

We understand the area is growing...

BRADENTON HERALD

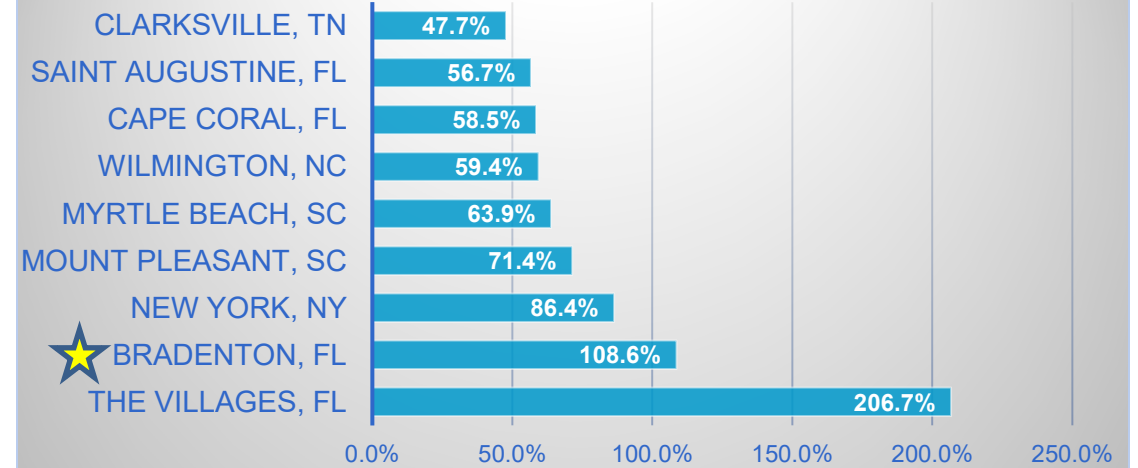
BUSINESS

More tourists than ever came to Bradenton area in 2021, surpassing Pre-pandemic levels

BY JAMES A JONES JR.
FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Nearly 1 million tourists visited Manatee County last year, which had a \$1.3 billion economic impact on the region, reports said.

Cities with the Biggest Net Moving Gains



Dawn Kitterman, Sunday, February 13, 2022; 2021-22 Moving Migration Study

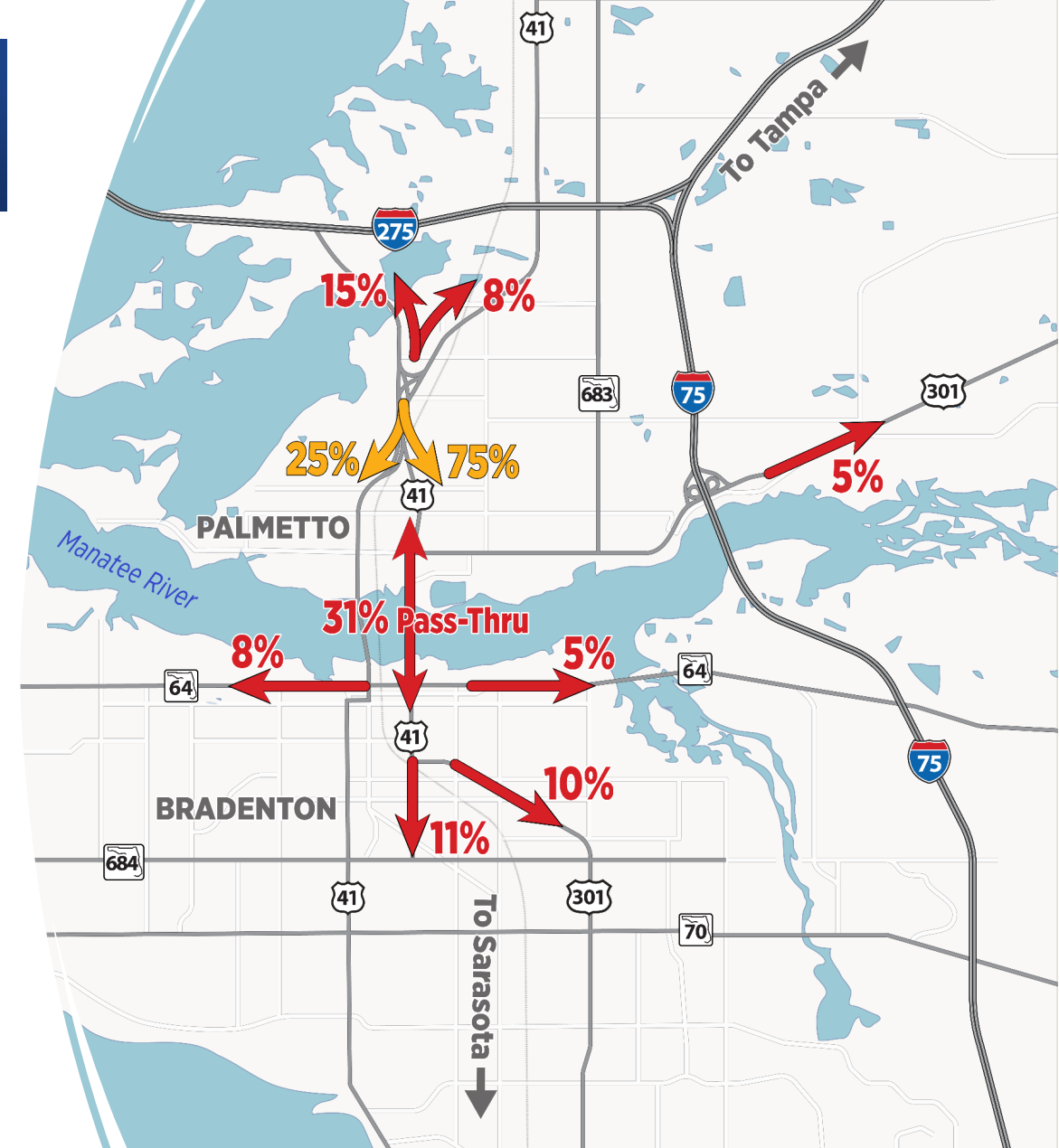
Region	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	1980-2020 Growth Rate
Bradenton	30,228	43,779	49,504	45,546	55,698	184%
Palmetto	8,637	9,268	12,571	12,606	13,323	154%
Manatee County	148,445	211,707	264,002	322,833	399,710	269%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Transportation Demand

Regional Traffic Patterns

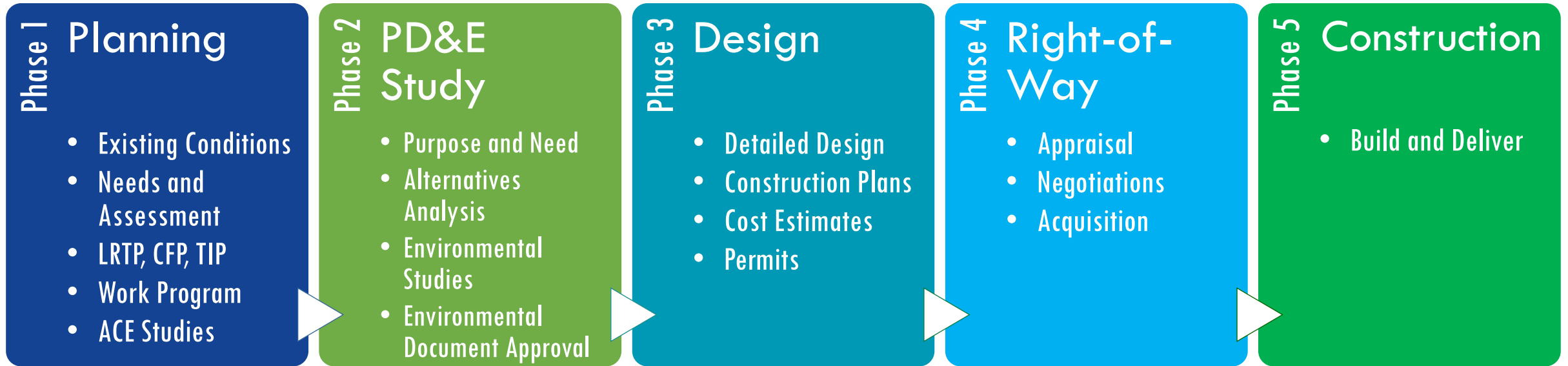
- 31% - Pass through (commuters)
- 15% - Begin AND end in study area (internal)
- 56% - Begin or end in study area (regional)
- 22% of North/South trips use DeSoto Bridge
- 99,500 Total daily bridge trips
- 22,000 Daily DeSoto commuter trips
- 75% of traffic exiting I-275 uses DeSoto Bridge
- Signed for BRADENTON/SARASOTA



Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

Project Development Process

WE ARE HERE

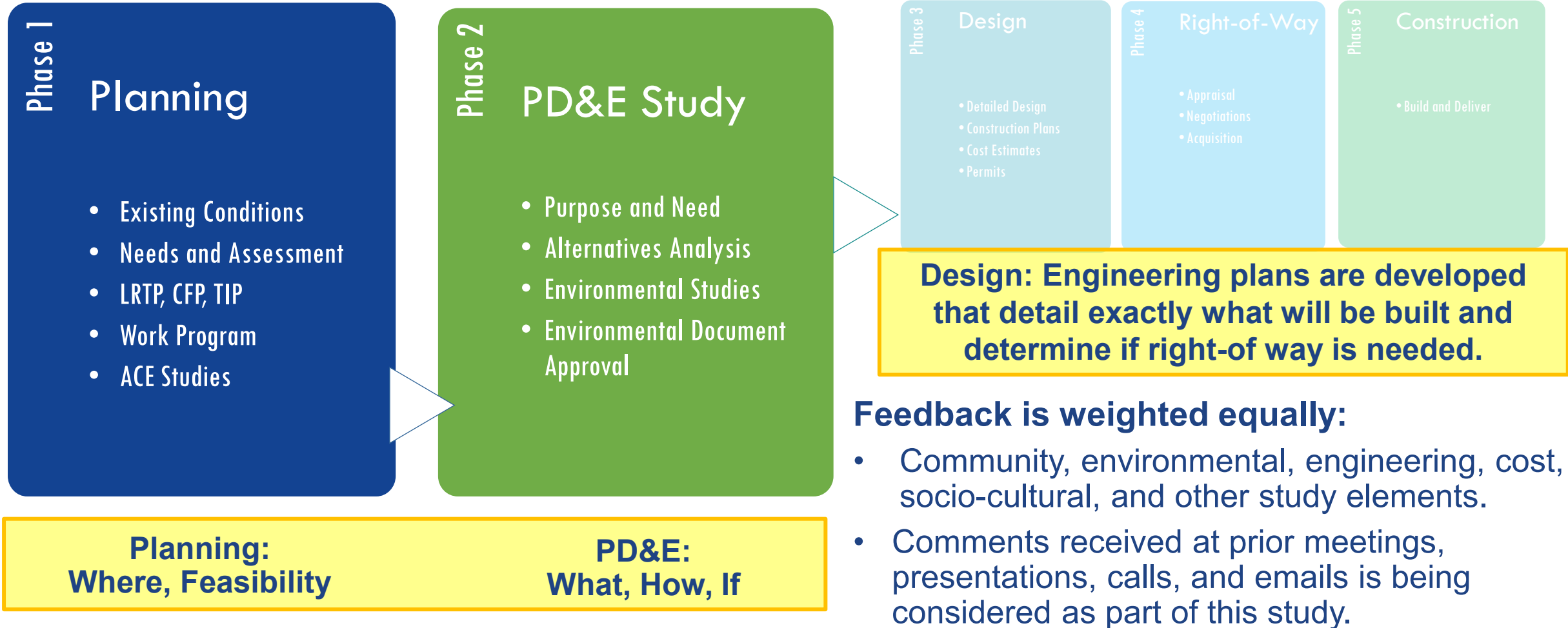


Funded

Not Yet Funded

Community Outreach and Interagency Coordination

Gathering feedback during the Planning and PD&E Study Phases is important for decision-making



What is an Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) Study?

Bradenton-Palmetto
CONNECTOR
ALTERNATIVE CORRIDOR EVALUATION STUDY

Planning Process

- Identify traffic demand and need.
- Analyze the location of potential improvements.
- Recommend alternatives for further analysis.

What is a PD&E Study?

Project Development and Environment (PD&E)

- After an initial planning study, this study is more detailed to further evaluate a potential transportation improvement project.
- Environmental and engineering process.
- Determines social, economic, natural, and physical environmental effects associated with a proposed transportation project.
- Follows prescriptive Federal process – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This process ensures that no single constraint or element will be disproportionately affected.

Gulf of Mexico

PALMETTO

Bradenton-Palmetto CONNECTOR

ALTERNATIVE CORRIDOR EVALUATION STUDY

BRADENTON

History

6 Original Corridors were identified

2020

Community and Agency input identified the need for additional corridors to be studied

4 new corridors were added

Current

Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Alternative Corridor Evaluation Study

Evaluating 10 corridors to provide additional lanes over the Manatee River

* Not all corridors will be built or advanced for further evaluation.

** The study is looking at where, and not how the project would be built.*

** Flyovers are not evaluated during this study phase.*

What we are trying to accomplish

- Improve regional mobility
- Engage community, industry, and agency feedback
- Improve emergency evacuation
- Efficient movement of goods
- Integrate innovative solutions
- Improve traffic congestion
- Strengthen local economy



Bradenton-Palmetto Connector ACE Study



- **Bradenton-Palmetto Connector ACE Study** encompasses a large area of Manatee County
- **Major North / South Connections**

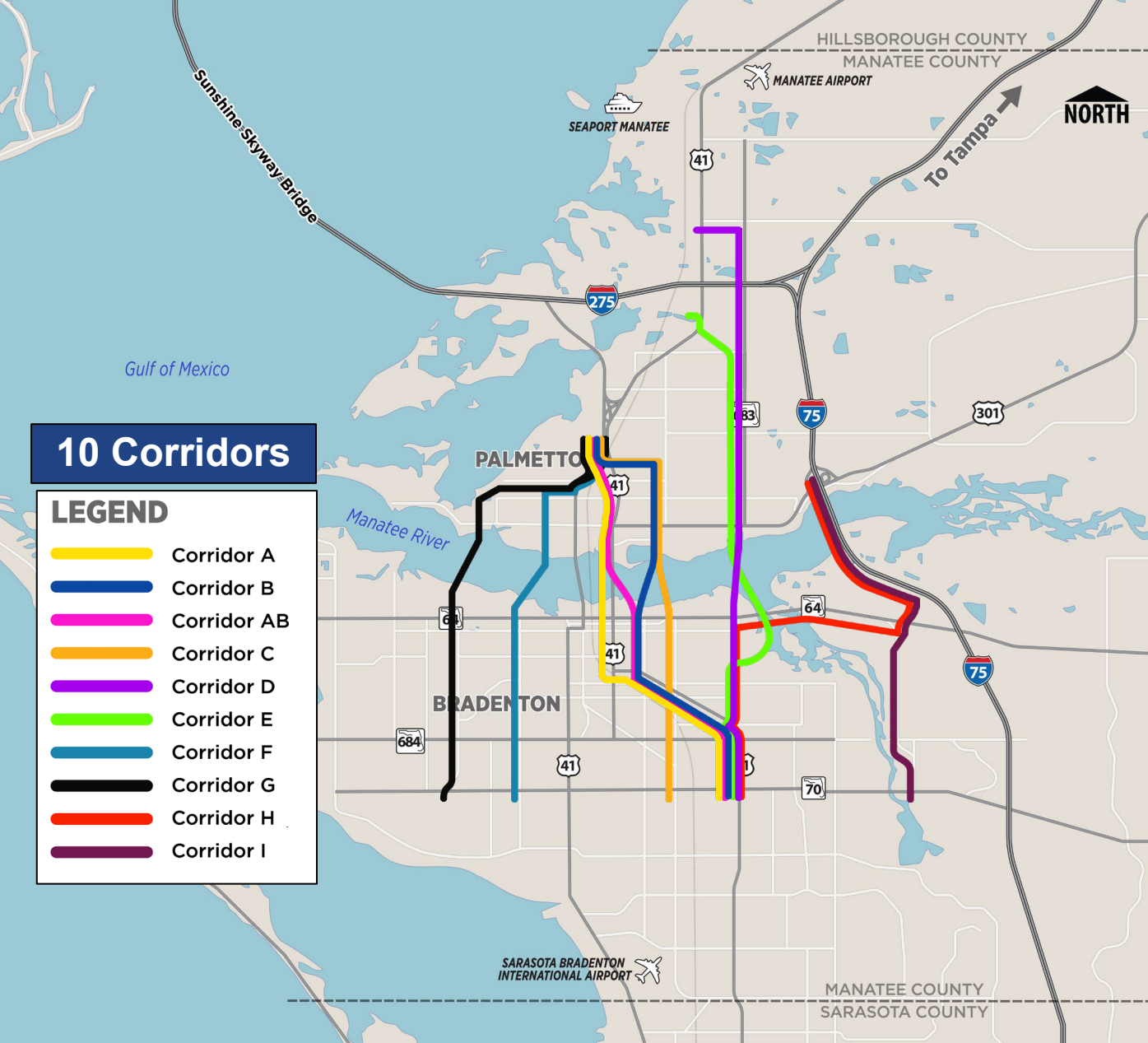
Bradenton-Palmetto Connector ACE Study

- 10 corridors - comparison
- One or more corridors will be selected to move to the next study phase – PD&E
- PD&E study(s) will determine a preferred corridor or multiple corridors
- The replacement of the DeSoto Bridge will take place while corridors continue to be evaluated through the PD&E study

10 Corridors

LEGEND

- Corridor A
- Corridor B
- Corridor AB
- Corridor C
- Corridor D
- Corridor E
- Corridor F
- Corridor G
- Corridor H
- Corridor I



Corridor Descriptions

Bradenton-Palmetto
CONNECTOR
ALTERNATIVE CORRIDOR EVALUATION STUDY

CORRIDOR A

8.75 MILES

SR 70 (53rd Avenue East) to the US 19/US 41 Split



Utilizes Existing Roadways

- US 301 & US 41
(includes the DeSoto Bridge)

Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON / PALMETTO

- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship
- CSX Rail

BRADENTON

- Manatee Memorial Hospital
- City of Bradenton Water
- Pal Academy Charter Middle School

PALMETTO

- Palmetto Marriot Resort and Spa
- Bradenton Convention Center
- Lincoln Park
- Lincoln Memorial Middle School
- Palmetto Estuary Nature Preserve

** Does not include all constraints.*

CORRIDOR B

8.55 MILES

SR 70 (53rd Avenue East) to the US 19/US 41 Split



Utilizes Existing Roadways

- US 301 & US 41 except for a new river crossing that will connect from 9th Street East to US 41 on a new alignment

Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON / PALMETTO

- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship
- CSX Rail

BRADENTON

- Tropicana Plant
- Bealls Distribution Center
- Manatee Historic Buildings

PALMETTO

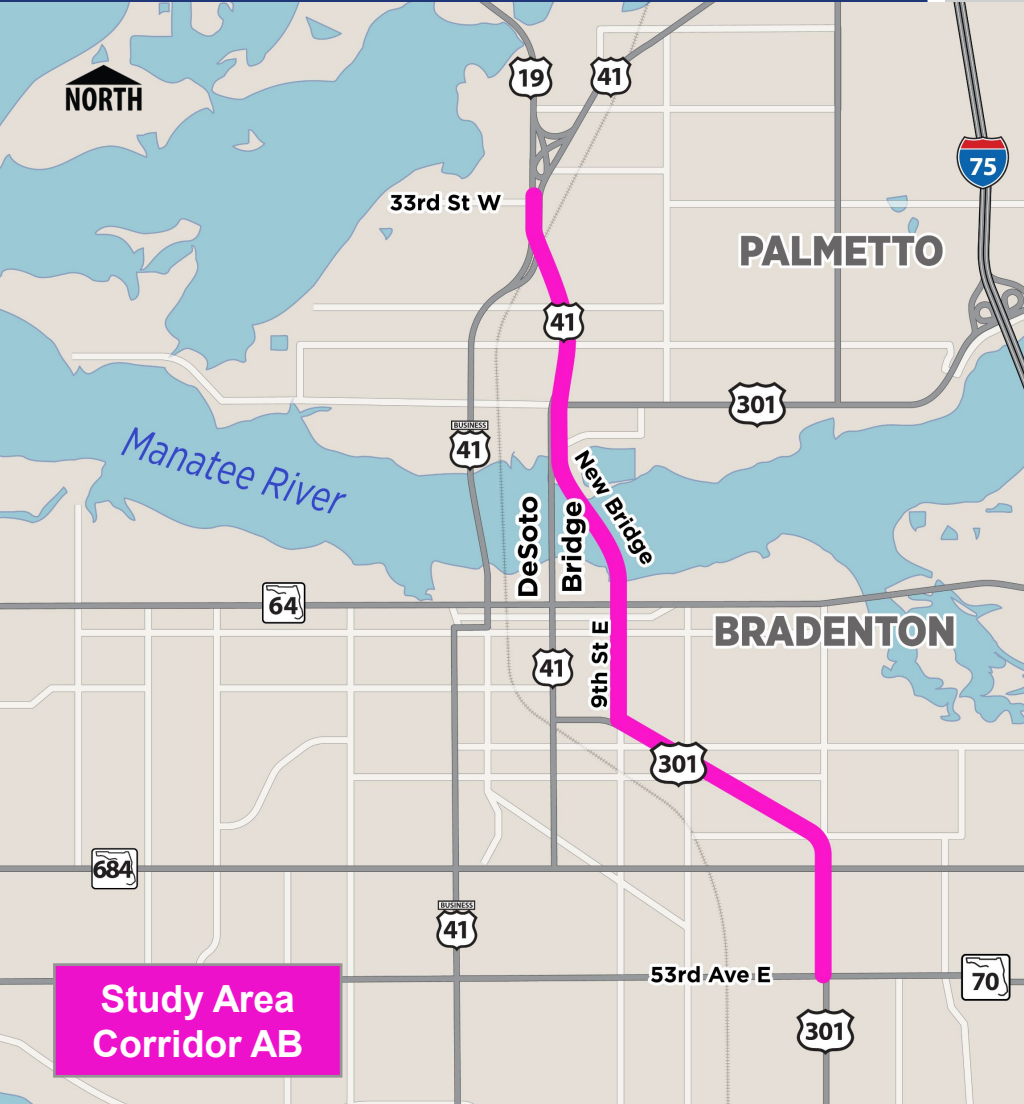
- James Tillman Elementary School
- Manatee School of Arts
- Washington Park Neighborhood
- Memphis Heights

* Does not include all constraints.

CORRIDOR AB

7.74 MILES

SR 70 (53rd Avenue East) to the US 19/US 41 Split



Utilizes Existing Roadways

- US 301 & US 41 except for a new river crossing that will connect from 9th Street East to US 41 on a new alignment

Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON / PALMETTO

- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship
- CSX Rail

BRADENTON

- Tropicana Plant
- Bealls Distribution Center

PALMETTO

- Lincoln Park
- Lincoln Middle School
- Palmetto Marriott Resort and Spa
- Manatee County Convention Center
- Palmetto Estuary Nature Preserve

* Does not include all constraints.

CORRIDOR C

7.82 MILES

SR 70 (53rd Avenue East) to the US 19/US 41 Split



Utilizes Existing Roadways

- except for a new river crossing that will connect from 15th Street East to US 41 on a new alignment

Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON / PALMETTO

- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship
- CSX Rail

BRADENTON

- Manatee Burying Ground
- First Settlers Homesite
- Residence at Bay Vue
- Manatee Village Historical Park
- First Manatee County Courthouse

PALMETTO

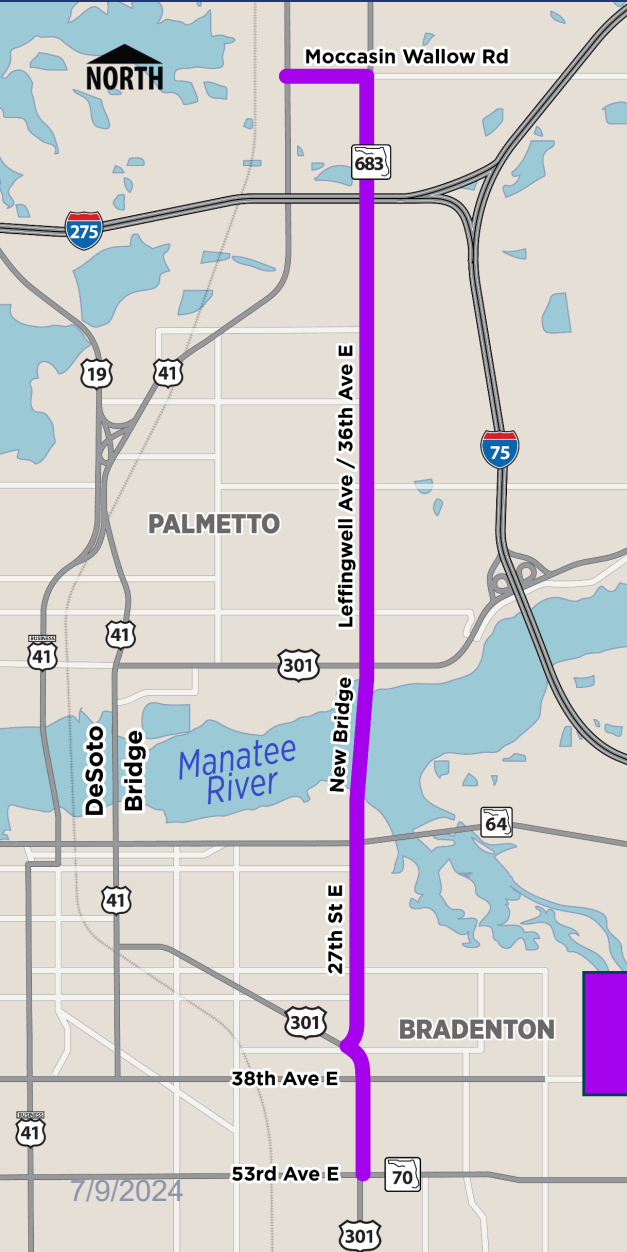
- James Tillman Elementary School
- Lincoln Middle School
- Washington Park Neighborhood
- Memphis Heights
- Manatee School of Arts

* Does not include all constraints.

CORRIDOR D

11.51 MILES

SR 70 (53rd Avenue East) to the US 19/US 41 Split



Utilizes Existing Roadways

- except for a new river crossing that will connect from 27th Street East to Leffingwell Avenue on a new alignment

Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON / PALMETTO

- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship
- CSX Rail

BRADENTON

- Braden Castle Park (Mobile homes/RVs)
- Pittsburgh Pirates City Training Facility
- Mixon Fruit Farms

PALMETTO

- Mansion Memorial Gardens Cemetery

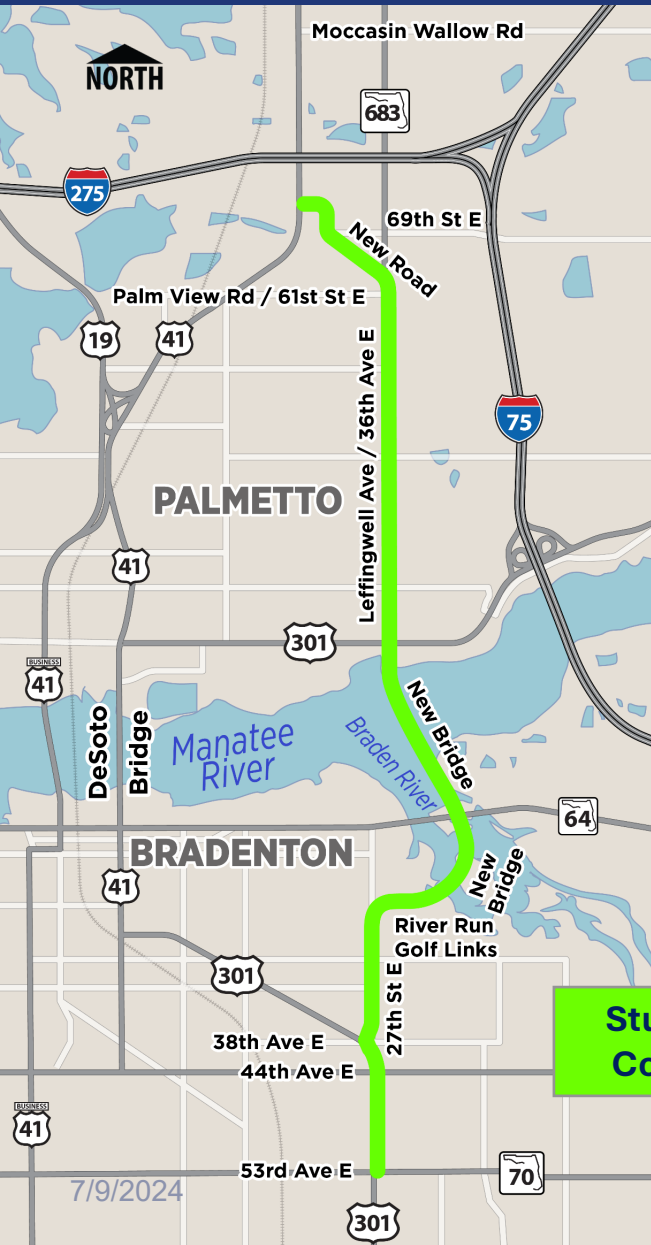
* Does not include all constraints.

Study Area
Corridor D

CORRIDOR E

10.19 MILES

SR 70 (53rd Avenue East) to the US 41



Combines existing roadways with new alignments

New alignment locations:

- the river crossing from 27th Street East to Leffingwell Avenue, which passes through River Run Golf Links-Bradenton Recreational Park and crosses the Braden River and SR 64
- the new connection between Palm View Road/61st Street East and 69th Street East

Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON / PALMETTO

- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship
- CSX Rail

BRADENTON

- River Run Golf Links
- Pittsburgh Pirates City Training Facility

PALMETTO

- Mansion Memorial Park Cemetery

* Does not include all constraints.

Study Area
Corridor E

CORRIDOR F

8.28 Miles

53rd Avenue West to the US 19/US 41 Split



Combines existing roadways with new alignments

New alignment locations:

- the river crossing from 26th Street West to 14th Avenue West
- the new connection from 21st Street West to US 41

Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON / PALMETTO

- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship

BRADENTON

- CES Academy Bradenton
- Bradenton Charter School

PALMETTO

- North River Fire District
- Palmetto Historic District
- CSX Rail
- Palmetto High School
- Old Palmetto Cemetery
- Palmetto Cemetery
- Blackstone Park
- Manatee County Fairgrounds

* Does not include all constraints.

CORRIDOR G

9.23 Miles

53rd Avenue West to the US 19/US 41 Split



Combines existing roadways with new alignments

New alignment locations:

- the river crossing from 43rd Street West to 28th Avenue West
- the new roadway from 28th Avenue West to 21st Street West

Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON / PALMETTO

- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship

BRADENTON

- Miller Elementary School
- Fogartyville Cemetery
- Adams and Roger Cemetery
- Bradenton Country Club

PALMETTO

- CSX Rail
- Palm Farm
- Tropic Isles
- Blackstone Park
- Palmetto High School

* Does not include all constraints.

CORRIDOR H

13.14 Miles

SR 70 (53rd Avenue E) to the I-75/US 301 Interchange



Combines existing roadways with new alignments

New alignment locations:

- a new connection from Kay Road to I-75 and a parallel collector-distributor system alongside I-75
- new bridge structures parallel to the existing I-75 bridges across the Manatee River

Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON

- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship
- Pittsburgh Pirates Training Facility

** Does not include all constraints.*

CORRIDOR I

10.31 Miles

SR 70 (53rd Avenue E) to the I-75/US 301 Interchange



Combines existing roadways with new alignments

New alignment locations:

- the connection from 57th Street East to Cypress Creek Boulevard
- the connection from Kay Road to I-75
- a collector-distributor system to run parallel to I-75
- new bridge structures parallel to the existing I-75 bridges over the Manatee River

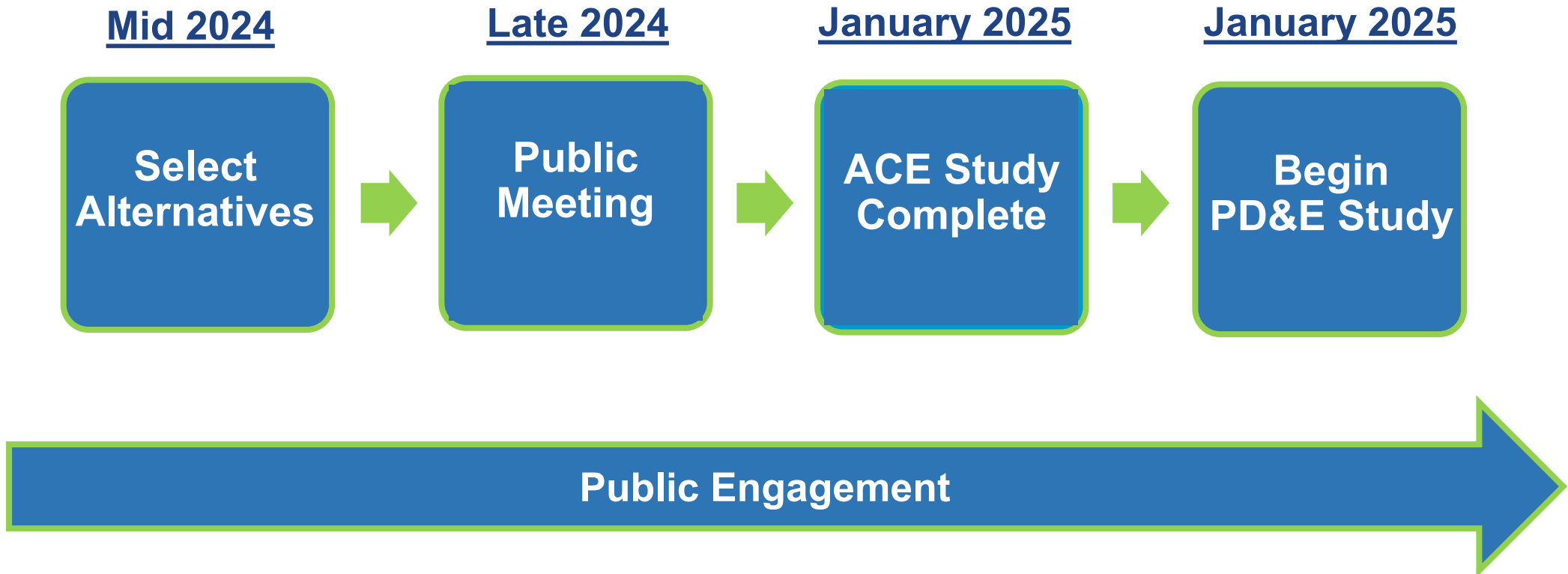
Initial Constraints *

BRADENTON

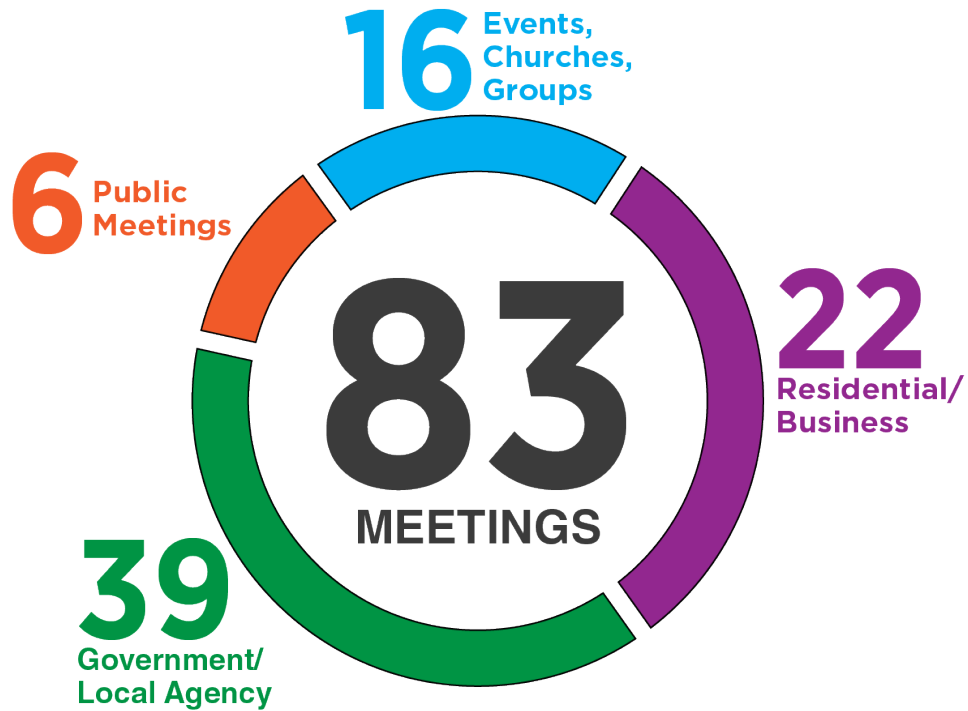
- Numerous residences and businesses
- Places of Worship
- William Bashaw Elementary

** Does not include all constraints.*

Schedule



Engaging with the Community



Share information with your friends and family

What we've heard.

We already gave our opinion.
Why do we need to do this again?

The decision is already made.

How come you don't build a flyover?

Are you building a flyover?

Does my opinion even matter?

Why should I care?
This is years away.

We don't want
another road.

If my property is needed, I will not get adequate compensation.

Tell it like it is...

What we heard

- *The decision is already made.*
- *Government agencies will make the decision regardless of the community.*

What we know

- No decisions on the corridors have been made. A strenuous process must be followed. Considering community impacts, social, cultural, physical, and environmental.
All corridors are analyzed, and the elimination of corridors is documented so there is transparency during the decision-making process.
- While agencies' input is considered, it is not the single deciding factor.
Other elements such as environmental, engineering, community input, cost, and other study factors contribute equally to decisions.
Study elements are weighted equally.

Tell it like it is...

What we heard

- *Does community feedback really make any difference?*
- *Growth in Manatee County is to the east. Why does the historic Black community have to take the burden of growth not occurring in our community?*
- *Why don't you build a flyover?*

What we know

- Yes, community feedback and input are a valuable part of the planning and PD&E process. We conduct extensive outreach during these phases because the community plays a key role in the project's development.
- FDOT has developed ten corridors from Bradenton's west side to the east side near I-75. FDOT will **evaluate, analyze, and eliminate the corridors**. All corridors and public input are weighted equally.
- We are **not** at a point in the process to discuss **how and what** will be built. This will be determined during PD&E and Design.

Tell it like it is...

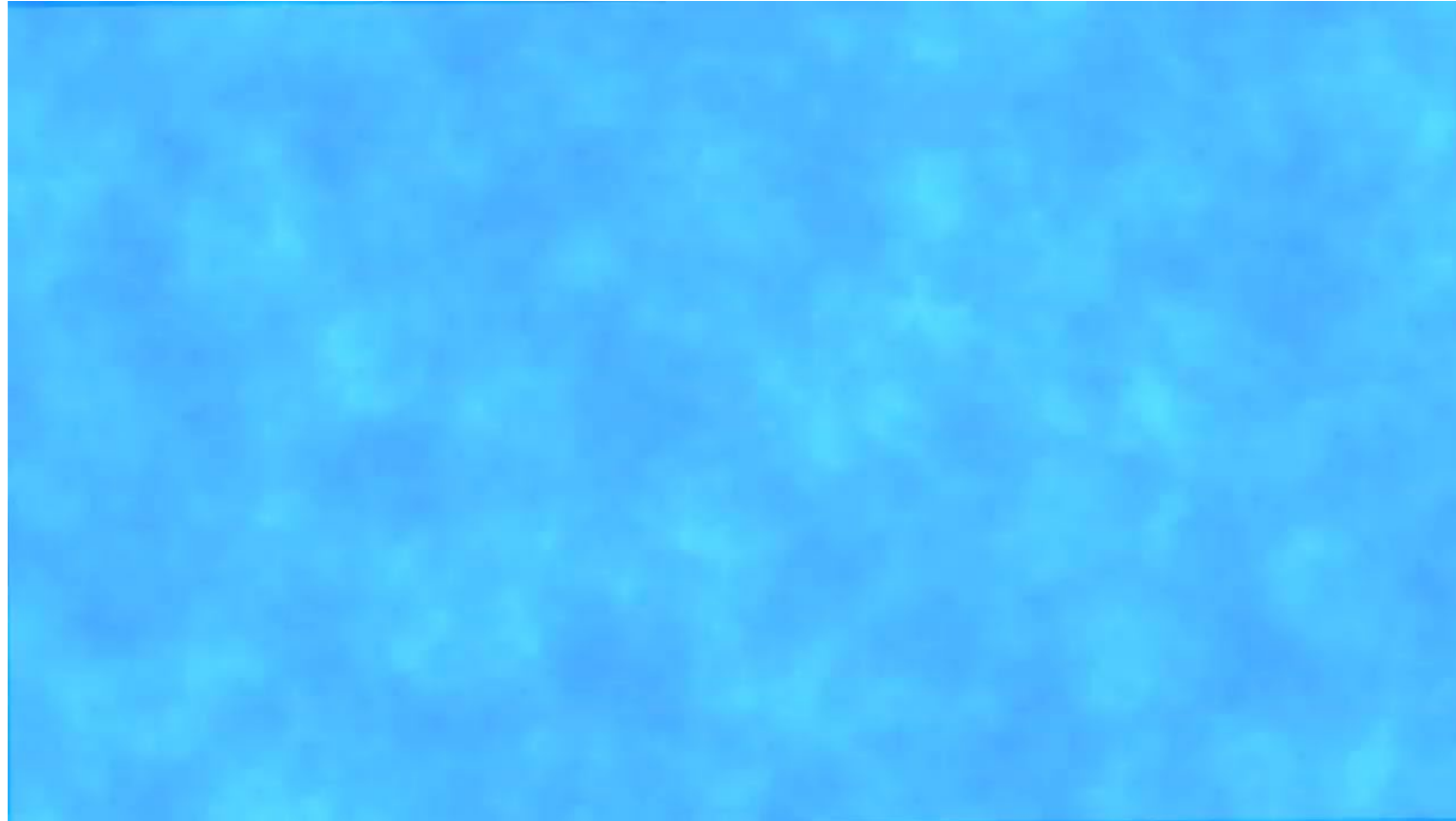
What we heard

- *We have talked about this before. Does my opinion even matter?*
- *Houses will be “taken” for construction.*
- *If my property is needed, I will not be given appropriate compensation.*

What we know

- Community input from the previous study, Central Manatee Network Alternatives Analysis (CMNAA), was incorporated into this study. Yes, your opinion matters, and it's important to be involved early in the process.
- This is a planning study, and we are not at the stage of the process to identify how much or where Right-of-Way will be needed. The selection of properties for potential purchase will occur only after the PD&E and design phases have been finished.
- FDOT follows an extensive process to ensure property owners are treated fairly and receive appropriate compensation.

Right-Of-Way Acquisition Process

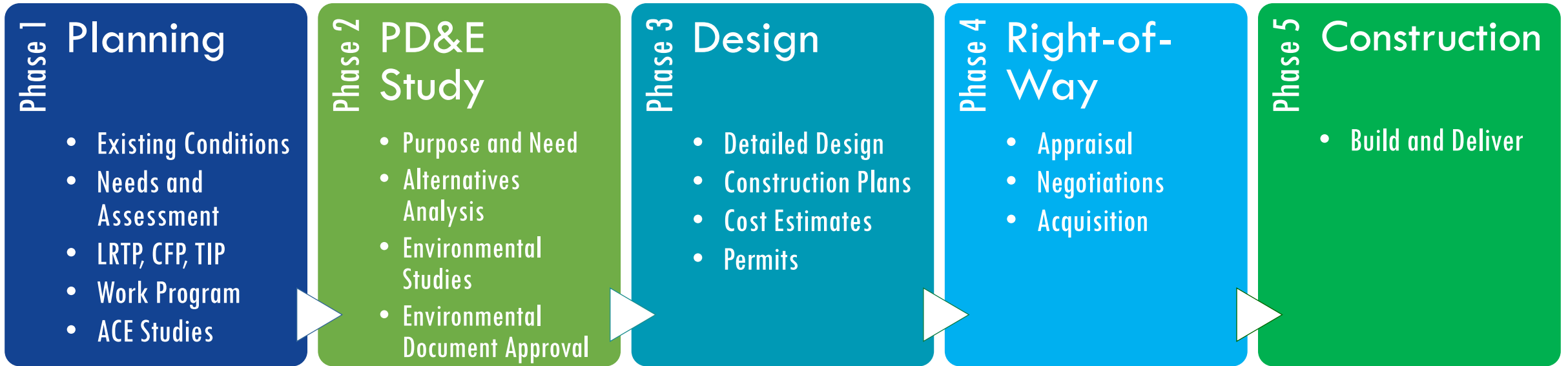


3:26 Informational Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_N-ynavzsk

Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study

Project Development Process



Funded (under Phase 1 and 2) **Not Yet Funded** (under Phase 3, 4, and 5)







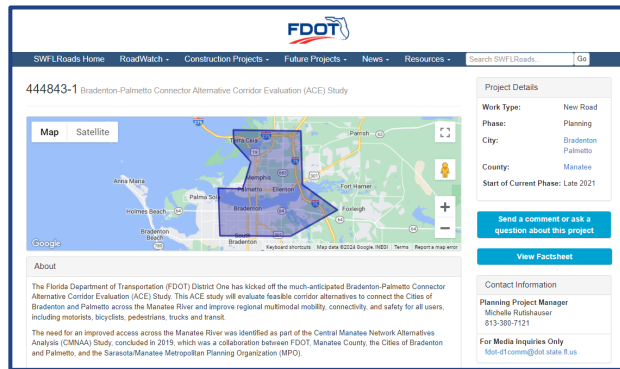
Thank you!

Questions / Feedback

Thank you



Webpage



Contact

Florida Department of Transportation
Michelle Rutishauser
FDOT Project Manager
michelle.rutishauser@dot.state.fl.us
(813) 380-7121

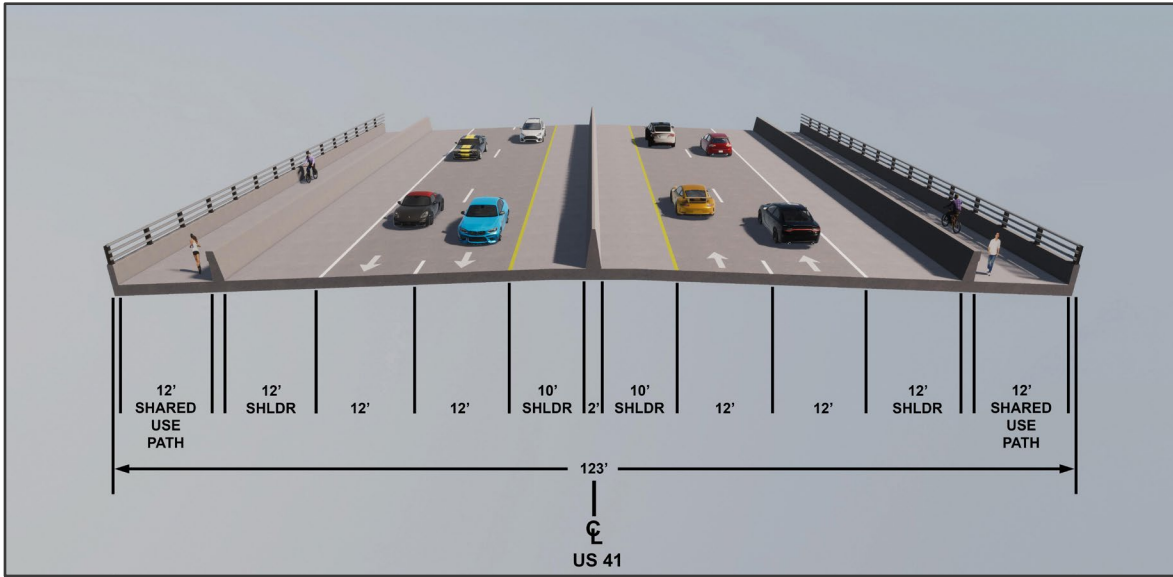
<https://www.swflroads.com/project/444843-1>

**Send a comment or ask
a question about this project**

You may also ask questions or share feedback by completing the Questions/Feedback form on your table or talking with a team member.

Extra Information on the DeSoto Bridge following slide

DeSoto Bridge Replacement



Final Configuration

