



# South Sumter Connector Trail PD&E Study

from the Good Neighbor Trail in Hernando County  
to the Van Fleet Trail/South Lake Trail in Sumter County

Financial Management Number:  
435471-1

NEWSLETTER #2

September 2018

## PROJECT UPDATE

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is working with state and local partners to complete a critical missing link in the 275 mile Coast to Coast Trail known as the South Sumter Connector Trail. This segment of the trail is proposed to connect the 22-mile gap between the recently completed Good Neighbor Trail in Hernando County (scheduled for completion in 2018) and the Van Fleet Trail in Sumter County (see map).

The goal of the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is to identify a specific route and concept for the trail that minimizes impacts to the surrounding environment and receive input from Sumter County, local governments, residents and other stakeholders, such as the Withlacoochee State Forest.

Currently, only the final design phase is funded - the right of way phase and construction phase are not funded. The overall project development process is shown on the next page.



The route identified in a 2016 study starts where the Good Neighbor Trail ends just west of the Withlacoochee River, crosses the river on a new pedestrian bridge, passes under Interstate 75 and connects to County Road 673 just east of Interstate 75. From that point, the route of the trail is proposed to follow County Road 673 to U.S. Highway 301, then proceed north to County Road 478, where it will continue east into the Town of Webster and connect to State Road 471. At State Road 471, the trail will head south along the roadway and connect with State Road 50, ultimately providing a connection to the Van Fleet Trail.

## YOU'RE INVITED TO AN ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, October 23, 2018  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Webster Community Hall  
49 S.E. First Street  
Webster, Florida 33597

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the proposed alternatives to the public and receive input that will help determine a preferred alternative to move forward into design. The meeting will be an open house from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity throughout the evening to view a continuous looping presentation with information about the project, as well as project displays and other documentation. Members of the project team also will be available to discuss the project and answer questions.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

There is no need to wait until a public meeting to provide your input. Public comments and questions are welcomed at any time throughout the study (see contact information on the next page). We are also available for small group meetings at your request.



For more information go to [www.CFLRoads.com](http://www.CFLRoads.com), type 435471-1 in the search box, hit "GO" and click on the project name.



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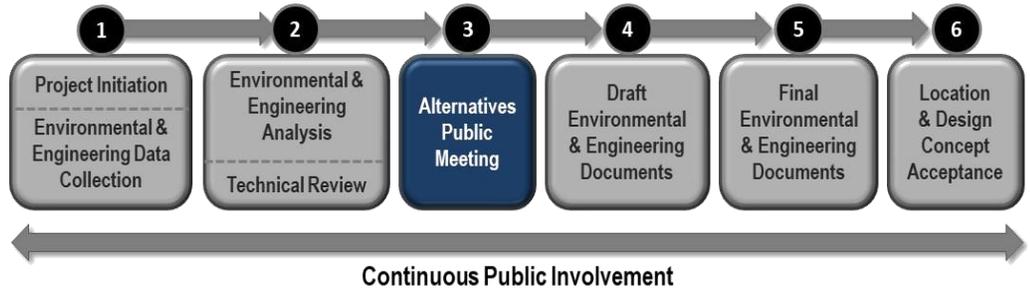
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## PD&E STUDY PROCESS

A PD&E Study is a process conducted by the FDOT that meets state and federal requirements put into place as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. This process involves a combination of planning, engineering analysis, environmental analysis, public outreach and documentation. The end result is a project that meets the transportation need while minimizing impacts to the environment. These results are then carried forward into the final design phase, where construction plans are produced.



PROJECT SCHEDULE										
PROJECT MILESTONES	2017			2018			2019			
	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep
Begin Study	★									
Public Involvement	[Bar]									
Data Collection	[Bar]									
Engineering and Environmental Analysis		[Bar]								
Alternatives Public Information Meeting							★			
Draft Documentation							[Bar]			
Final Documentation									[Bar]	
Approved – Study Completed										★

*Schedule is subject to change*

## WHERE ARE WE NOW? WHAT'S NEXT?

The FDOT has been collecting data, analyzing the conditions in the study area and the potential environmental impacts, developing viable engineering alternatives, and analyzing the preliminary impacts associated with those alternatives. Based on the information collected and the analysis done to date, as well as the comments received from the public, local leaders and agencies, a preferred alternative will be selected. Once the preferred alternative has been approved, the project will move into the final design phase.

## WHO CAN I CONTACT TO LEARN MORE?

For more information about the project or to schedule a group meeting, please contact:

Ms. Lorena Cucek  
FDOT Project Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation District Five  
719 South Woodland Boulevard  
DeLand, Florida 32720  
Phone: (386) 943-5392  
Email: [lorena.cucek@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:lorena.cucek@dot.state.fl.us)

*Persons with disabilities who require accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the FDOT Project Manager Lorena Cucek, by phone at 386-943-5392 or via email at [lorena.cucek@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:lorena.cucek@dot.state.fl.us) at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact us by using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice).*

*Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns relative to FDOT compliance with Title VI may do so by contacting Jennifer Smith, FDOT District Five Title VI Coordinator at [jennifer.smith2@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:jennifer.smith2@dot.state.fl.us).*