



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:
435471-1-22-01

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting an exciting project in your area. Please review the information below to learn more!

INTRODUCTION

The FDOT is working with state and local partners to complete the 275 mile Coast to Coast Trail. When complete, the trail will connect St. Petersburg on Florida’s west coast with Titusville on Florida’s east coast. The Coast to Coast Trail is a non-motorized, paved multi-use trail, meaning it provides accommodations for all users wishing to walk, bike, roller blade, etc. For more information on FDOT’s trail program, known as SUN Trail, please visit <http://www.fdot.gov/planning/systems/SUNTrail.shtm>.



A critical missing link in the Coast to Coast (C2C) Trail, and the subject of this newsletter, is the 22-mile gap known as the South Sumter Connector Trail. The South Sumter Connector Trail will complete the gap between the Good

Neighbor Trail in Hernando County (currently under construction) and the existing Van Fleet Trail in Sumter County. The route identified for the South Sumter Connector Trail 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 will follow County Road 673 to US 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. The project location map below shows these limits.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you that the study is now underway. The FDOT will be holding a public meeting in early-to-mid-2018; in the meantime, we encourage you to contact the project manager, Lorena Cucek to ask questions, provide input or to schedule a meeting.



THE PROJECT

The overall Coast to Coast Trail is being developed in segments and is in varying stages of development from planning to construction. The South Sumter Connector Trail went through a planning study, which ended in late 2016. The purpose of the planning study was to identify the route the trail would take to connect the gaps listed in the introduction.

The project is now entering the next phase of project development known as a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, discussed in greater detail below. In general, the goal of the 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 residents, local governments and other stakeholders, such as the Withlacoochee State Forest.

Currently, the final design phase, right of way phase and construction phase are not funded. The overall project development process is shown here.



WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

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.



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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. We are also available for small group meetings at your request.

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

More information about the project is available on CFLRoads.com; search by project number 435471-1 to access the project webpage.

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 by phone at (386) 943-5367 or by email at jennifer.smith2@dot.state.fl.us.

Las personas con discapacidades que requieran ajustes especiales bajo la Ley sobre Estadounidenses con Discapacidades, o personas que requieran servicios de traducción (libre de costo) deben comunicarse con la Sra. Cucek, Gerente de Proyecto del Departamento de Transporte de la Florida, per teléfono at (386) 943-5392 o por correo electrónico a lorena.cucek@dot.state.fl.us por to menos con siete (7) dias de anticipación.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT SCHEDULE?

As you can see in the schedule below, the project is just getting underway. The FDOT is currently collecting data, analyzing the conditions in study area, and starting on the engineering and environmental evaluations. A public information meeting will be scheduled in early-to-mid-2018 to present concepts for the multi-use trail.

PROJECT SCHEDULE					
PROJECT MILESTONES	2017			2018	
	April May June	July August September	October November December	January February March	April May June
Begin Study	★				
Public Involvement	[Bar spanning April 2017 to March 2018]				
Data Collection	[Bar spanning April 2017 to October 2017]				
Engineering and Environmental Analysis		[Bar spanning July 2017 to December 2017]			
Alternatives Public Information Meeting				★	
Draft Documentation				[Bar spanning January 2018 to March 2018]	
Final Documentation					[Bar in April 2018]
Approved – Study Completed					★

Schedule is subject to change