

The Joint Charlotte County - Punta Gorda  
and Lee MPO Meeting has changed from  
10:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.



## **JOINT MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD AND LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

**February 22, 2019  
9:30 a.m.**

Lee County Administration East Building  
2201 Second Street, Room 118  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
239-244-2220

### **LEE COUNTY MPO AGENDA - 9:30AM**

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**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

L1. Public Comments will be Taken at Each Item

**Public Hearing Item**

L2. ^\*Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2018/2019 through FY 2022/2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add a Big Carlos Project Phase for FDOT Staff Time (Don Scott)

**New Business**

L3. Federal Certification Close Out Presentation (FHWA)

L4. MPOAC Legislative Update

L5. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

^Roll Call Vote      \*Action Items      \*May Require Action

### **LEE COUNTY/CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO AGENDA – 10:00AM**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
2. [Chairs' Comments/Previous Meeting Summary](#)
3. Public Comments on the Agenda Items

4. Approval of the Agenda
5. [Status Report on the Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements](#)
6. [Status Report on the Babcock Ranch Development and the SR 31 Improvements](#)
7. [Update on the SUN Trail Projects in Lee and Charlotte Counties](#)
8. [Information on the I-75 Purple Heart Highway Designation Efforts](#)
9. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report
10. Next Meeting Date
11. Staff Comments
12. Member Comments
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

All interested parties are invited to appear and be heard on each of the above items. Written comments filed with the MPO will be considered. Copies of all of the above proposed documents are available by calling the Lee MPO Office at 239-244-2220 or the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Office at 941-883-3535.

**THIS NOTICE is published pursuant to the requirements of the Federal Laws, Florida Statutes and MPO Policy. NO STENOGRAPHIC RECORD BY A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER IS MADE OF THIS MEETING. ACCORDINGLY, ANY PERSON WHO MAY SEEK TO APPEAL ANY DECISIONS INVOLVING THE MATTER NOTICED HEREIN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE AT THIS MEETING UPON WHICH ANY APPEAR IS TO BE BASED.**

Public participation is solicited 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 persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Lee MPO at 239-244-2220 or the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO at 941-883-3535 at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

***THE MPO'S PLANNING PROCESS IS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND RELATED STATUTES. ANY PERSON OR BENEFICIARY WHO BELIEVES HE/SHE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY OR FAMILY STATUS MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE LEE MPO TITLE VI COORDINATOR CALANDRA BARRACO (239) 244-2220 OR BY WRITING HER AT P. O. Box 150045, CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA 33915 OR THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO TITLE VI COORDINATOR WENDY W. SCOTT AT (941) 883-3535 OR BY WRITING HER AT 25550 HARBOR VIEW ROAD, SUITE 4, PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33980***

**JOINT MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD AND THE LEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD**

**February 16, 2018**

**10:00 a.m.**

Lee County Administration East Building  
2201 Second Street, Room 118  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
(239) 244-2220

**Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Members Present:**

**Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch**, Charlotte County Commissioner, MPO Board Chair  
**Commissioner Christopher Constance**, Charlotte County Commissioner  
**Commissioner Joseph Tiseo**, Charlotte County Commissioner  
**Councilmember Lynne Matthews**, City of Punta Gorda Council  
**Commissioner James Herston**, Charlotte County Airport Authority

**Lee County MPO Members Present:**

**Commissioner Frank Mann**, Lee County Commissioner  
**Commissioner Brian Hamman**, Lee County Commissioner  
**Commissioner Larry Kiker**, Lee County Commissioner  
**Commissioner John E. Manning**, Lee County Commissioner  
**Councilwoman Gaile Anthony**, City of Fort Myers Council  
**Councilman Johnny Streets, Jr.**, City of Fort Myers Council  
**Mayor Joe Coviello**, City of Cape Coral Council  
**Councilman John Carioscia**, City of Cape Coral Council  
**Councilman John Gunter**, City of Cape Coral Council  
**Councilman Rick Williams**, City of Cape Coral Council  
**Vice-Mayor Tracey Gore**, Town of Fort Myers Beach Council, Lee MPO Chair  
**Vice-Mayor Mick Denham**, City of Sanibel Council  
**Mayor Peter Simmons**, City of Bonita Springs Council  
**Councilman Fred Forbes**, City of Bonita Springs Council  
**Deputy Mayor Peter R. O'Flinn**, City of Bonita Springs Council  
**Councilman William Ribble**, Village of Estero Council

**Others Present:**

Gary Harrell, Lakshmi N. Gurram, Bekie Leslie, Wendy Scott with Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO;  
Don Scott, Ron Gogoi and Calandra Barraco with Lee County MPO; L.K. Nandam, D'Juan Harris, Lawrence  
Massey, Zachary Burch and Keith Slater with FDOT; Derek Rooney as Lee MPO Legal Counsel; Janette  
Knowlton with Charlotte County Attorney's Office; Venkat Vattikuti with Charlotte County Public Works;  
Mitchell Austin with City of Punta Gorda Urban Design; Peter Gerhardt with Charlotte County Planning  
and Zoning Board; Matt Feeney with Bonita Springs Public Works; Douglas Meurer with Lee County

(Assistant County Manager); Wayne Gaither and Levi McCollum with LeeTran; Dave Loveland with Lee County Community Development, Randy Cerchie and David Murphy with Lee County DOT; Sean Corey with Lee County IT; Bob O'Connor and Catherine Coval with SVN/KOVA Fort Myers; John DePalma, consultant with City of Bonita Springs; Alan Mandel with Good Wheels; Richard Walker with GHD; Persides Zambrano with City of Cape Coral.

### **1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Charlotte County Commissioner Deutsch, Chair of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board. The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. The Lee County MPO Board roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **2. Chairs' Comments/Previous Meeting Summary**

Chair Deutsch welcomed everyone present.

### **3. Public Comments on the Agenda Items**

There were no public comments on the agenda items. Public comment was closed.

### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Lee County Commissioner Hamman and seconded by Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann. There were no objections. The motion carried unanimously.

### **5. Status Report on the SR 31 Corridor Improvements**

#### **a. Presentation on the Proposed SR 31/CR 74 (Bermont Road) Intersection Alternatives**

Commissioner Deutsch commented on the seriousness of the safety concerns on this section of regional roadway, especially given the growth of Babcock Ranch and various commercial operations in the area. Keith Slater, District Traffic Operations Engineer for FDOT District One gave a presentation on the proposed SR 31/CR 74 (Bermont Road) Intersection Alternatives. He described troubling increases in recent crash data that revealed 49% of crashes had occurred during the daytime. He said FDOT expects to have a working temporary full signal at the intersection by the end of 2018, rather than the current flashing signal. He noted, in the long term, installation of a roundabout is FDOT's preferred ultimate improvement. Mr. Slater described the following roundabout options:

- Option A - a roundabout at the current location with a gas transmission line on the east side that would require relocation
- Option B – a roundabout constructed west of the existing intersection that would not disrupt the gas transmission line but would require the acquisition of more right-of-way and could involve more environmental impacts

Commissioner Constance was pleased with FDOT's efforts to address this concern, including the ultimate long term roundabout solution. He noted that the curve may make it safer given the deceleration zones. He asked Mr. Slater about typical driving speed limits in the roundabouts and their

deceleration zones. Mr. Slater responded the benefit of realignment is a reduction in speed. Commissioner Mann inquired about the timing and costs of lighting during the interim solution period. Mr. Slater stated that the signal would be in at the end of 2018 and cost would be minimal. Commissioner Mann joined Commissioner Constance in applauding the projected improvements to this intersection, given traffic accidents and flooding at that location. Commissioner Deutsch commented on the dangerous soft shoulders in the area where the roads converge. He asked FDOT staff if some signage warning of this situation was warranted. Mr. Slater stated that FDOT staff could consider it. He noted that when plans for the roundabout commence, the shoulders will also be addressed. Commissioner Deutsch asked FDOT staff for suggestions for what both MPO Boards could do to collectively move this project ahead. FDOT Secretary Nandam noted that given funding constraints, FDOT was pursuing the traffic signal as a temporary solution, while in future years, FDOT can look at future cycles to see about advancing funding.

Don Scott gave a study update regarding ongoing improvements to the SR 31 corridor. He mentioned a Desoto study on connecting SR 31 to US 17 which would be much appreciated on trips to Bartow.

#### **6. Update on the Autonomous Vehicle Evolution and Related Legislative Activities**

Don Scott gave a presentation entitled *Autonomous/Connected Vehicle (AV/CV) Update*. Among the topics covered were:

- SAE Automation Levels
- Potential Benefits
- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2045 Horizon Year/inclusion of Autonomous and Electric Vehicles in the LRTP Update (per State legislation SB 384/HB 981)
- Federal Guidance for MPO LRTP Update
- Federal Legislation for AVs
- States with Enacted Autonomous Vehicle Legislation (21)
- USDOT Upcoming Initiatives
- Current Testing
- Time Frame of Fleets
- Issues for Determining Deployment for Scenarios
- USDOT Driverless Vehicle Guidelines

Commissioner Herston drew a comparison between the advent of the home computer and autonomous vehicles, noting that a 30-year horizon would be about the same. Mayor Peter Simmons questioned how these vehicles could be foolproof and wondered how they communicated with each other. Mr. Scott responded that various companies addressed the issue differently, and cyber security was a concern. He noted that smaller areas, such as the downtowns of cities, would be impacted first, and the Federal government was now reviewing standards. Secretary Nandam observed that it was critical to have LRTPs address AVs, including new ride share and timeshare models. He stated that travel patterns and land use patterns will change. For example, typical parking lots won't be needed. Instead, only centralized parking lots will result. Secretary Nandam stated that LRTP assessments will be important. He observed that the rapid advance of technology is key, and policy professionals must prepare for the problems that will need to be addressed. Commissioner Deutsch stated that an intense AV driver educational program will be needed. Commissioner Herston described how zoning and parking lots will be impacted. Commissioner Constance observed that constantly used vehicles will have a shorter life

span, so vehicles will be cycling through more quickly. He emphasized that Intersections may be bigger if businesses give up parking spaces. He also commented on the potential need for highway autonomous vehicle lanes, as well as likely AV support from Insurance companies.

## **7. Status Report on the Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements**

Don Scott provided a status report on the Lee County portion of the Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements. He referenced a map outlining:

### **Lee County**

- Van Buren Parkway to Charlotte County Line (PD&E FY 2019/2020 and CST 2031-2040)
- North Segment from Diplomat Parkway to Van Buren Parkway (CST complete Spring 2018)
- Central Segment from Tropicana Parkway to Diplomat Parkway (CST 2018)
- South Segment from Pine Island Road to Tropicana Parkway (CST FY 2019/2020)

Commissioner Hamman asked Lee County Transportation staff for an update on safety concerns in the current Burnt Store Road construction zone. Randy Cerchie stated that completion was scheduled for the next week with new widening, new delineation plus signage announcing side streets. He added, the Lee County Cooperative will address the entire corridor's lighting improvements going forward. Commissioner Hamman asked if any additional support was needed from government officials. Mr. Cerchie responded that no additional efforts were necessary. He mentioned, going forward, staff would be meeting with Cape Coral officials at an upcoming FDOT public workshop.

Gary Harrell provided a status report on the Charlotte County portion of the Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements. He referenced a map outlining:

### **Charlotte County**

- Phase I from Scham Road to US 41 - Completed
- Phase II from South of Notre Dame Blvd to North of Zemel Road – ROW – early 2018 and CST 2021-2025
- Phase III from Lee County Line South of Tern Bay Blvd - Completed

Venkat Vattikuti, Charlotte County Transportation Engineer discussed how Charlotte County had received \$1 Million through TRIP funding this year for Burnt Store Road Phase II and would be requesting \$5 Million for future improvements. He noted that the design phase was close to completion and the ROW phase would be done by June /July 2018. The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners had advanced the project. Commissioner Constance stated that there had been a request to use state land for ROW on the western side of Burnt Store Road, but it was denied. He said this would add to the construction expense. Mr. Vattikuti stated that only 3 or 4 parcels would have been needed if park land could have been used. Commissioner Constance commented about the annoying state land requirements that were wasting taxpayer money and impacting citizens' safety over a small amount of needed land that was a tiny percentage of the total park land. He asked how FDOT has dealt with such issues on environmental impact projects involving sensitive land mitigation. Lawrence Massey noted that the challenges were significant and could involve an extensive amount of additional time and lengthy permitting processes. Commissioner Constance felt that this issue should

be reviewed, perhaps by the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC). He stated that the pendulum needs to swing back, especially with active infrastructure. He noted that millions of dollars could be used elsewhere on projects such as Harbor View Road. Mr. Massey cautioned that if federal funding was in use on a project, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires avoidance of sensitive lands. Commissioner Tiseo commented that the matter should be elevated to the federal and state legislative delegations, and agency policies should be revised. Commissioner Constance noted that many policies were developed when America was a wealthy country, which is no longer true, given rising debt. He observed that it now falls upon state and local entities to fund projects, while unfunded mandates are forced upon localities. Commissioner Deutsch referenced a state statute (F.S. 335.06) regarding access roads to the state park system. This statute had been researched to determine if it applied to River Road in Sarasota County which provides access to the Myakka River State Park. Commissioner Deutsch noted that the law states that the State may not be mandated, but may pay for roadway improvements on any road that provides access to property within the state park system. Secretary Nandam was not familiar with the statute, but stated that FDOT staff will investigate the issue. Vice-Mayor Tracey Gore asked Commissioner Constance for clarification on his remarks regarding using environmentally sensitive state property for highway construction. Commissioner Constance stated that in this particular case, only a very small percentage of the land would be needed for the Burnt Store Road project. Commissioner Herston stated that this matter could be of interest to the MPOAC. He requested that a memo be directed to MPOAC Executive Director Carl Mikyska regarding the issue, and Mr. Harrell agreed to meet with Charlotte County Legislative Manager Emily Lewis regarding it.

#### **8. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report**

L.K. Nandam introduced FDOT Liaison D’Juan Harris. Addressing Lee County interests, Mr. Harris announced the following Public Workshop:

*The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, will hold a public meeting to discuss the operational analysis study to identify a series of mobility improvements for State Road (SR) 865 (San Carlos Boulevard) from south of Estero Boulevard to County Road (CR) 869 (Summerlin Road), approximately 3.1 miles, in Lee County. The public meeting is from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at the Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian Church, 100 Chapel Street, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931.*

#### **9. Next Meeting Date**

Board Members from both MPOs agreed to meet at approximately the same time in 2019.

#### **10. Staff Comments**

Gary Harrell thanked Don Scott for his Autonomous Vehicle presentation. He stated that he was eagerly anticipating next year’s planning efforts with the commencement of Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) for both MPOs. Mr. Harrell also thanked staff for their efforts. Don Scott thanked FDOT for Burnt Store Road funding and noted that the corridor had done well.



#### **11. Member Comments**

Mayor Simmons thanked those involved with the Bonita Beach Road project. Commissioner Constance appreciated the opportunity to meet in a joint forum.

#### **12. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

#### **13. Adjournment**

Commissioner Deutsch thanked staff, guests, and all Board Members. He recognized the efforts of FDOT staff headed by Secretary Nandam. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

## **STATUS OF THE BURNT STORE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS**

**Attachments:** Map of Burnt Store Road Corridor in Charlotte and Lee Counties

**Discussion Item:** Burnt Store Road Corridor Improvements Status Report

### **Background**

Burnt Store Road is a north/south two-lane undivided rural roadway that runs from Pine Island Road in Lee County to US 41 in Charlotte County. Capacity improvements to the roadway were recommended in the Burnt Store Road-Veterans Parkway-Colonial Boulevard Bi-County Corridor Study that was completed in 2005. The study called for widening the Burnt Store Road Corridor from two to four lanes from Pine Island Road (SR 78) to I-75 in Charlotte County. The corridor is identified as a critical evacuation route for both Charlotte County and the City of Cape Coral.

### **Project Development - Lee County**

The Lee County DOT segmented the Burnt Store Road project into three different segments from Pine Island Road (SR 78) to Van Buren Parkway using local and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Funding. The Lee County South segment on Burnt Store Road project is from Pine Island Road (SR 78) to Tropicana Parkway. Construction is programmed for next year in the Lee County Capital Improvement Element and the completion is planned for the fall of 2023. The Central Burnt Store Road project is from Tropicana Parkway to Diplomat Parkway and the Construction phase is now underway and the completion is planned for the spring of 2020. The North Burnt Store Road widening to four lanes from Diplomat Parkway to Van Buren Parkway was completed last year. In addition to road capacity improvements, all three segments will include a 10' shared use path on the east side, a sidewalk on the west side, and bike lanes. The remainder of the Burnt Store Road project in Lee County from Van Buren Parkway to the Charlotte County line is programmed for a Project Development & Environment Study (PD&E) that will start next year.

### **Project Development - Charlotte County**

In Charlotte County, capacity improvements include four-laning, with the addition of bicycle lanes and sidewalks on Burnt Store Road from the Lee County line to US 41, divided into three phases. Phases I and III of Burnt Store Road are complete. Phase III is from the Lee County Line to a point north of Zemel Road and Phase I from south of Notre Dame Blvd. to US 41.

Phase II from south of Zemel Rd to a point north of Notre Dame Blvd is listed for construction in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Charlotte County CIP. Construction plans are 100% complete for this portion. The County is working through the permitting process with SWFWMD for handling storm water retention and run-off and is 100% complete. Right of Way (ROW) acquisition is underway and a court date is scheduled for February 28, 2019 for land acquisition. Construction funds are programmed in the current Charlotte County budget. In the recent FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program, \$1,000,000 in TRIP funds have been programmed for Construction in FY 2018/19. Charlotte County is requesting \$5 million

towards TRIP in the upcoming Project Priorities. The updated cost for construction of this project is \$30.4 million.

The section of North Jones Loop Road from US 41 to Piper Road is also part of the Corridor Study as it connects the Corridor to I-75 and Piper Road. The six-laning of the North Jones Loop Road section is in the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's TIP for a PD&E. The FY 2020-2024 FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program \$1,220,000 advanced the PD&E Study to FY 2019/2020.

*Recommendation*

At the April 12, 2012, Joint Lee/Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO meeting, it was agreed that the Burnt Store Road Corridor is a regional road that is critical to evacuation efforts for Lee and Charlotte Counties. Both Counties have identified funds to complete significant segments of the roadway expansion in the Corridor but more remains to be done. The MPO Boards agreed to make completion of the needed improvements the annual Joint TRIP project priority submitted to FDOT until completion of all segments of the roadway. FDOT should continue to work with the respective County, City and MPO staffs to complete all segments.

## Lee County - MAP

*Yucca Pens  
Unit State  
Wildlife...*

**Van Buren Prky to Charlotte County line**  
**PD&E FY 2019/2020**  
**CST 2031-2040**

**North Segment From**  
**Diplomat Pkwy to Van Buren Pkwy**  
**CST completed last year**

**Central Segment From**  
**Tropicana Parkway to Diplomat Parkway**  
**Under Construction - Completion Spring 2020**

**South Segment From**  
**Pine Island Rd to Tropicana Parkway**  
**CST FY 2019/2020 - Completion Fall 2023**

*Matlacha  
Pass Aquatic  
Preserve*

*Sun Splash  
Family Wat*

## Charlotte County - MAP

**Phase I - Completed**  
**Scham Rd to US 41**

**Phase II From**  
**North of Zemel Rd to**  
**South of North Dame Blvd**  
**ROW - Early 2019**  
**CST - 2021-2025**

**Phase III - Completed**  
**Lee County line South of Tern Bay Blvd**

## **STATUS REPORT ON THE BABCOCK RANCH DEVELOPMENT AND THE SR 31 IMPROVEMENTS**

**Attachments:**

1. Map of SR 31 Corridor in Charlotte and Lee Counties
2. Map from Babcock Ranch – SR 31 Phase I & II

**Discussion Item:**

SR 31 Corridor Improvements Status Report

**Background**

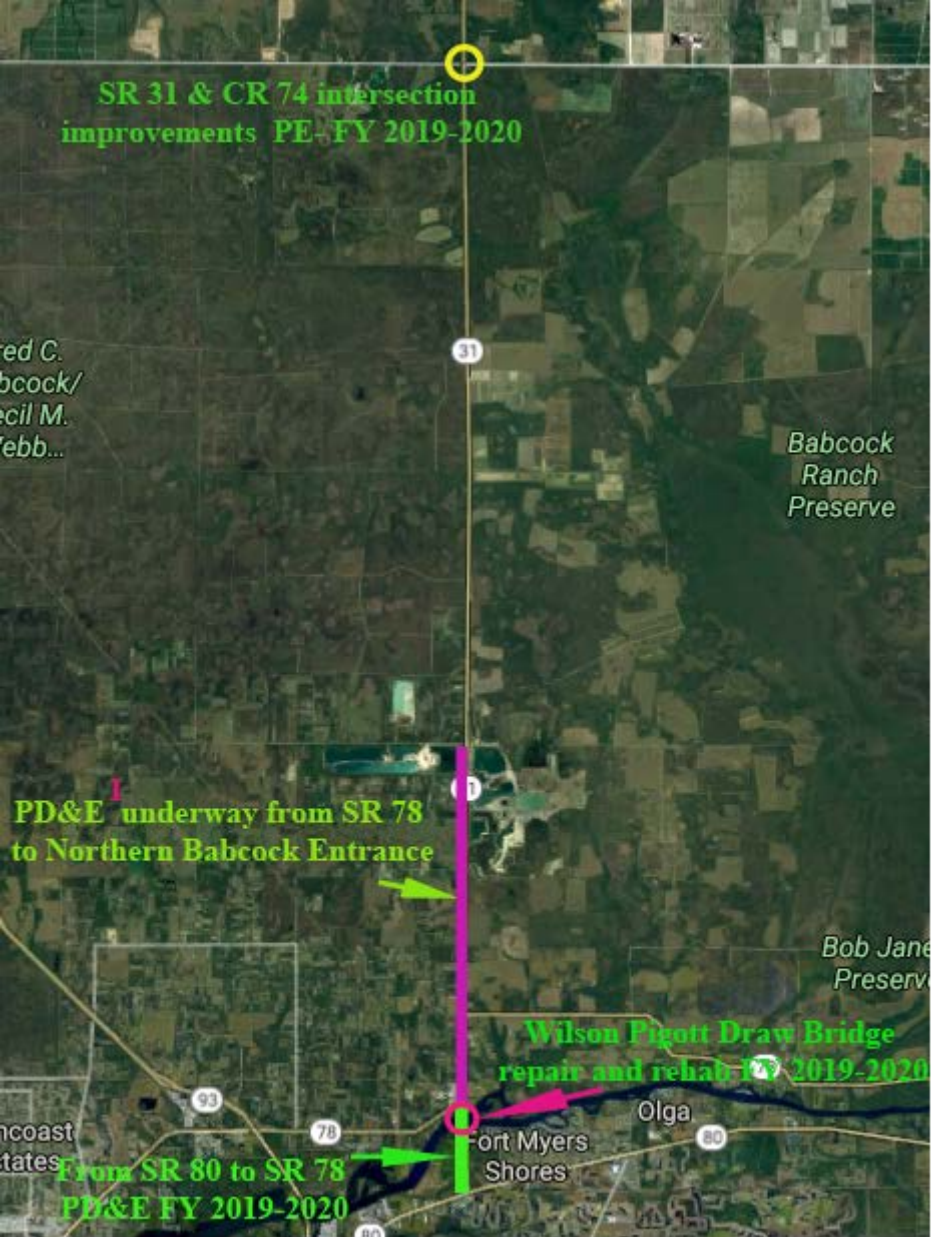
SR 31 is a north/south two-lane undivided rural roadway that runs from SR 80 in Lee County to SR 70 in DeSoto County. The roadway currently carries between 4600-6600 vehicles daily of which approximately 28% are trucks. The roadway was also recently added to the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) as an emerging facility (based on meeting the SIS criteria). Capacity improvements to the roadway are included in the Lee and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda LRTP Cost Feasible plans to meet future traffic needs. There are also future plans to build an extension of SR 31 from SR 70 to US 17 in Arcadia.

**Projects in Lee and Charlotte County**

- SR 31 from SR 80 (Palm Beach Blvd.) to SR 78 (Bayshore Road) – A Project Development and Environment Study is programmed to start this year.
- SR 31 at Wilson Pigott Draw Bridge – Bridge repair and rehabilitation is programmed for FY 2019/2020.
- SR 31 from SR 78 in Lee County to the Northern Babcock Entrance in Charlotte County – Currently there is a Project Development and Environment Study being conducted by FDOT looking at the road widening alternatives. The road will be constructed by the Babcock Ranch Independent Special District.
- SR 31 at CR 74 – A high crash intersection that includes Design for Intersection Improvements is programmed for FY 2019/2020 in the Charlotte County Draft Tentative Work Program. Construction of a roundabout, the recommended improvement is yet to be programmed.
- SR 78 from I-75 to SR 31 – A Project Development and Environment Study is programmed to start next year.

Development of Babcock Ranch will have a significant impact on improvements to SR 31. Gary Nelson, Sr. V.P. Planning & Development, Babcock Ranch, Kitson & Partners will present a brief update on the current development status of Babcock Ranch.





- 1 This ongoing PD&E study is divided into 2 phases as shown in the next slide



- 
- B) Phase II: SR 31 From North River Road (CR 78) to North of Cook Brown Road**
- 2 to 4 Lanes
  - 3.6 Miles

- A) Phase I: SR 31 From SR 78 to North River Road (CR 78)**
- 2 to 4 Lanes
  - 1.53 Miles

Babcock  
Ranch

S.R. 31

C.R. 78

S.R. 78

S.R. 80

75



## **UPDATE ON THE SUN TRAIL PROJECTS IN LEE AND CHARLOTTE COUNTIES**

**Attachment:**

- A. SUN Trail Network
- B. SUN Trail Power Point Brief for Charlotte County

**Discussion:**

Status of the Sun Trail projects in Lee and Charlotte County

Two proposed projects in Charlotte County and two in Lee County were awarded Shared Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Program funds during the 2016 funding cycle. In addition, a trail feasibility study was awarded to Charlotte County during the 2018 funding cycle. To qualify for SUN Trail funds, projects must be along trails identified in FDOT's SUN Trail Network (Attachment A).

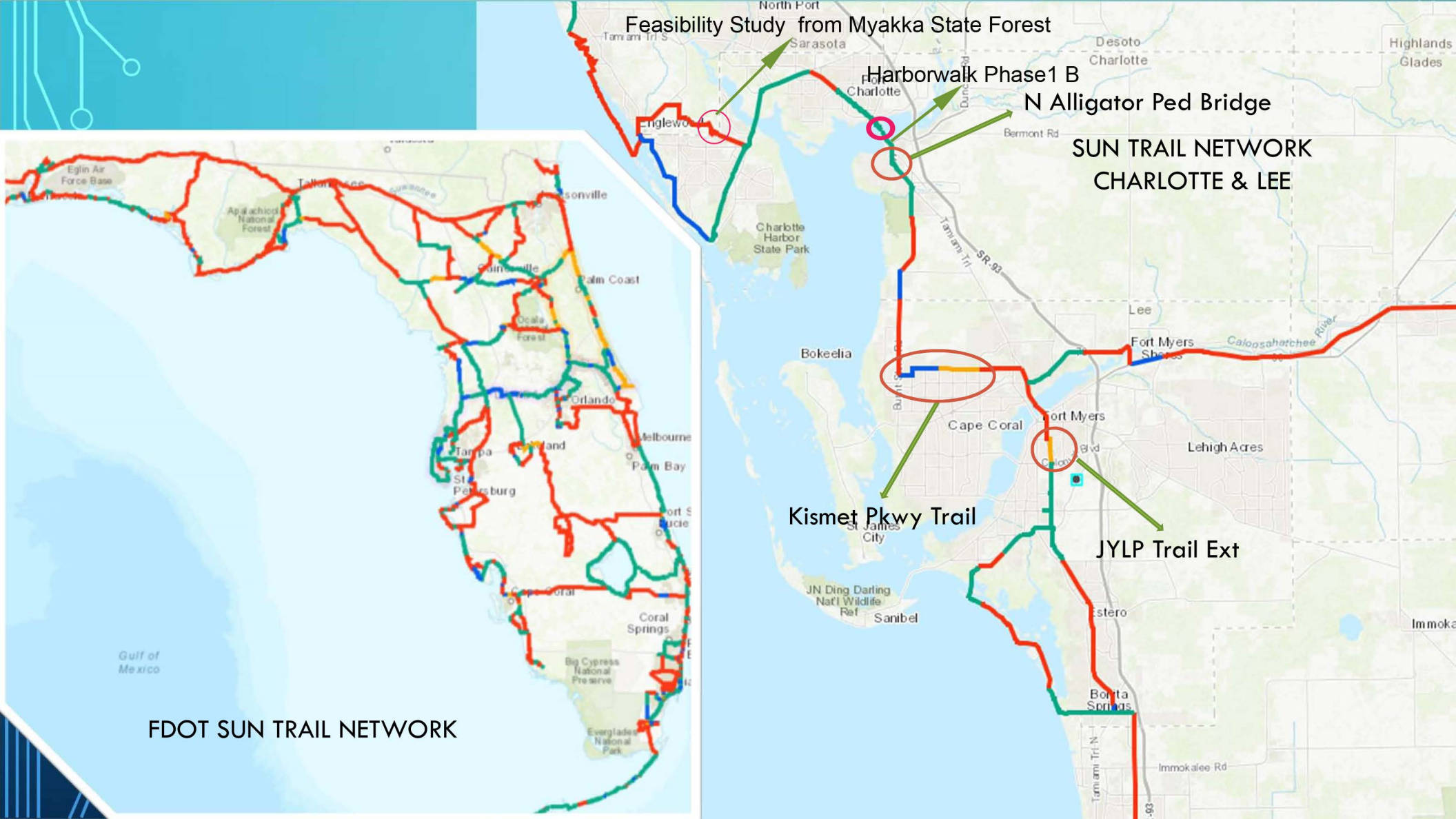
The status of the three (3) SUN Trail funded individual trail projects in Charlotte County are as follows (Attachment B):

- The construction phase for the Harborwalk Phase 1B, Southern Boardwalk under US 41 Bridges, has been completed. Harborwalk Phase 1A was damaged by Hurricane Irma. Official opening of the trail will be held once repairs are complete.
- The North Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge on US 41 is close to being let for construction. The project is being managed by the City of Punta Gorda.
- The trail feasibility study has been included in FDOT's 2019-2024 Tentative Work Program and is programmed in FY 2019/2020. The project calls for a trail from the Myakka State Forest to US 41. The feasibility study will explore possible trails through the Murdock Village CRA and will be managed by Charlotte County.

The status of the two SUN Trail funded individual trail projects in Lee County are as follows:

- 90% design for a 12' wide multi-use Trail on Van Buren Parkway from Burnt Store Road to El Dorado Parkway, El Dorado Parkway from Van Buren Parkway to Kismet Parkway and Kismet Parkway from El Dorado Parkway to Del Prado Boulevard is currently under way. The project is being managed by the City of Cape Coral. Design is expected to be completed by May 2019.
- Construction of the above (except for the Kismet Parkway segment from Nelson Road to Del Prado Boulevard) is programmed this year. Construction is funded with \$3,632,934 in SUN Trail and \$1,445,051 in Lee MPO SU funds. Tentative letting date for construction is summer of 2019.

- Tentative letting date for the design for the John Yarbrough Linear Park Trail Extension from north of Colonial Boulevard to Hanson Street is late March/early April 2019. Design is funded at a cost of \$685,748 and will be managed by the City of Fort Myers. A conceptual design for the proposed trail was developed as part of a feasibility study completed last year. The conceptual design calls for a trailhead at Hanson Street, on street parking on the Palm Avenue cul-de-sac below the Metro Parkway flyover, 12' shared use path within the project limits, and a pedestrian overpass at Colonial Boulevard that will facilitate a safe connection from the proposed trail to the existing JYLP trail south of Colonial Boulevard.



Feasibility Study from Myakka State Forest

Harborwalk Phase 1 B

N Alligator Ped Bridge

SUN TRAIL NETWORK  
CHARLOTTE & LEE

Kismet Pkwy Trail

JYLP Trail Ext

FDOT SUN TRAIL NETWORK

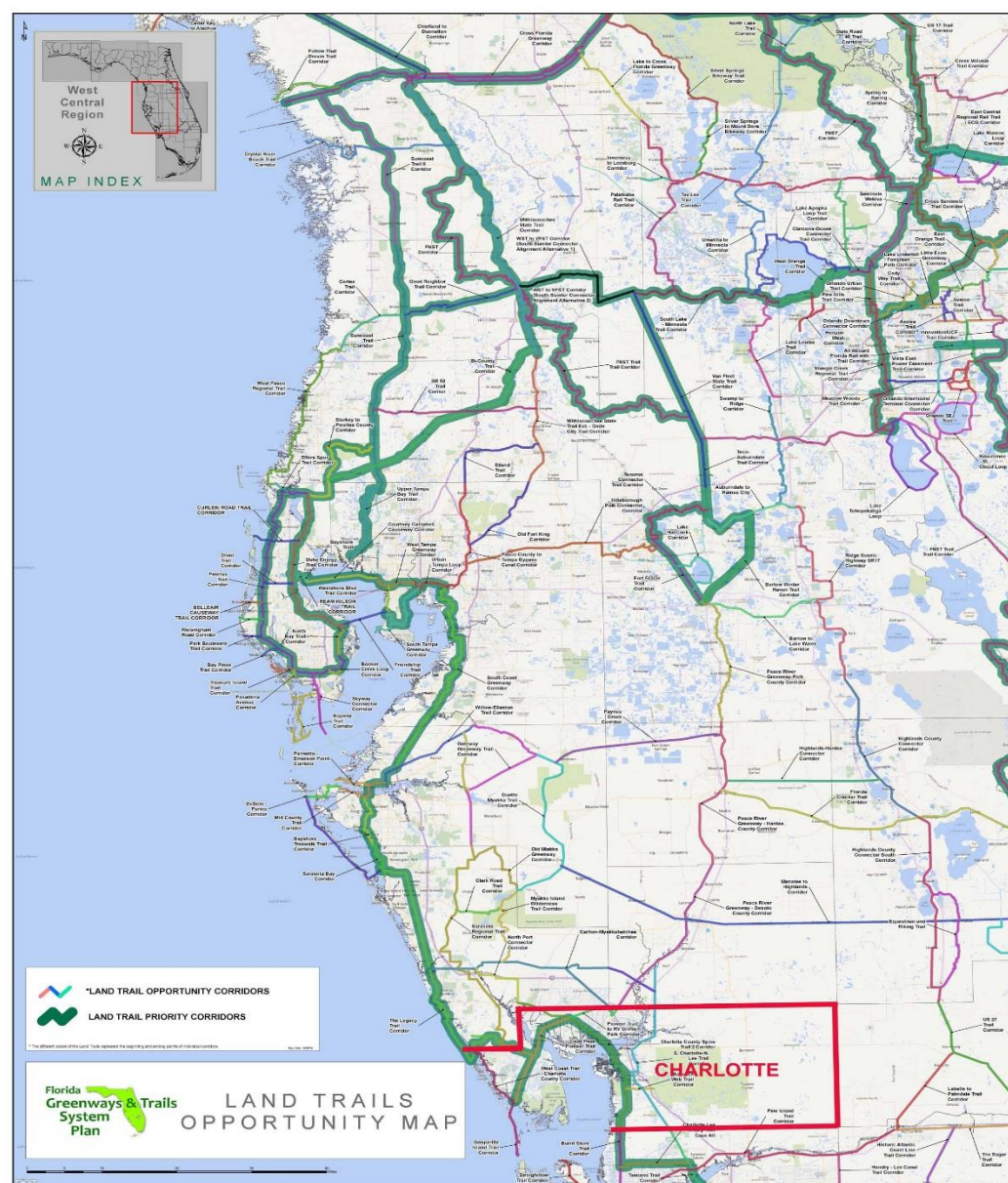
# SUN -Trail Update

## **CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA MPO** FEBRUARY 22, 2019





# Charlotte County in the SW Region



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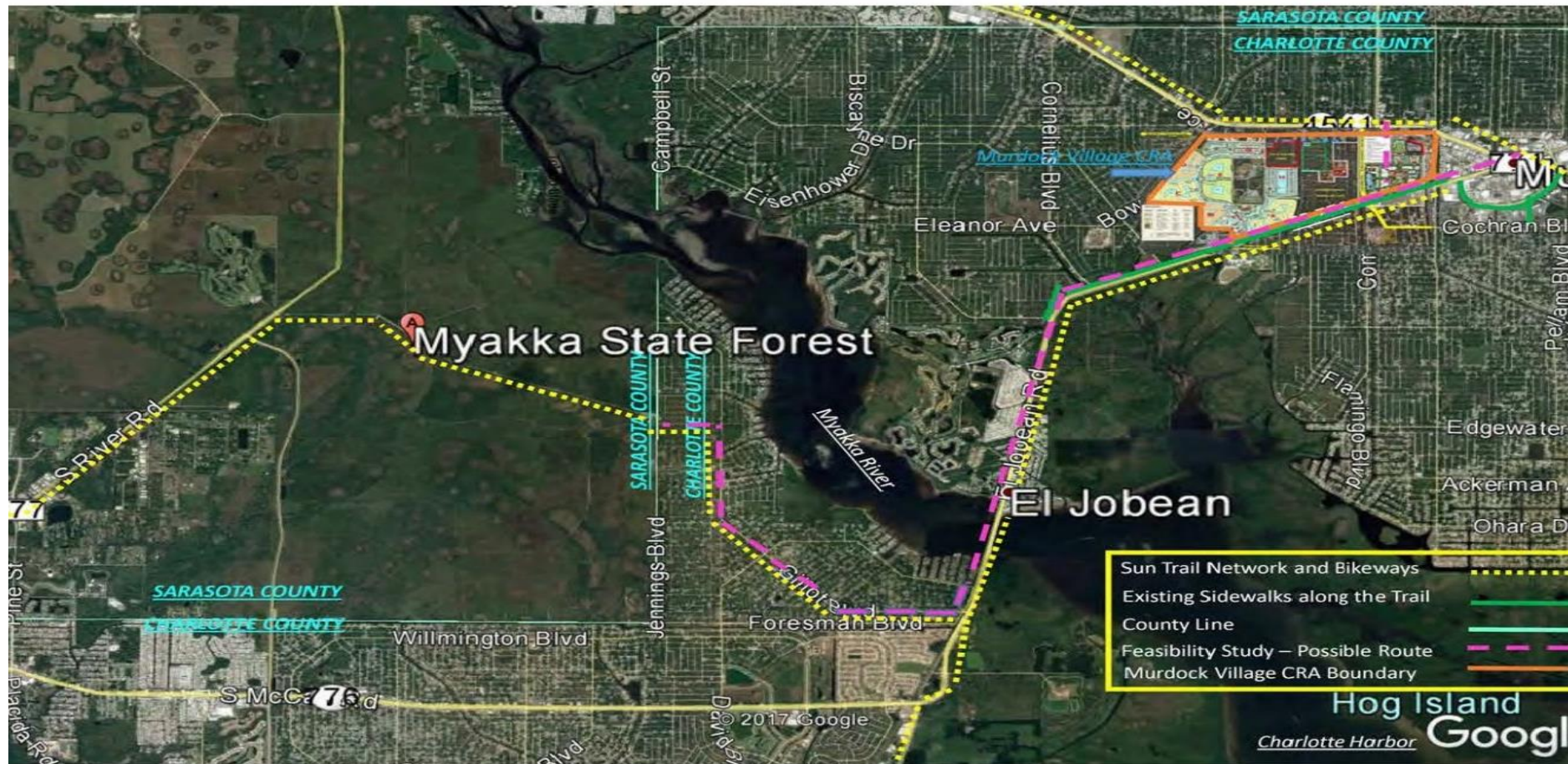
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# Charlotte County SUN Trails- Feasibility Study

## Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Corridor and the Murdock Village CRA Corridor





**QUESTIONS ?**



## **INFORMATION ON THE I-75 PURPLE HEART HIGHWAY DESIGNATION EFFORTS**

**Recommendation:** Discuss and consider passing this initiative to the Boards of County Commissioners making this a regional initiative for the State Legislature

**Attachment:** Florida Purple Heart Highways/Trails Map

**Discussion Item:** I-75 Purple Heart Highway Initiative

### **Background**

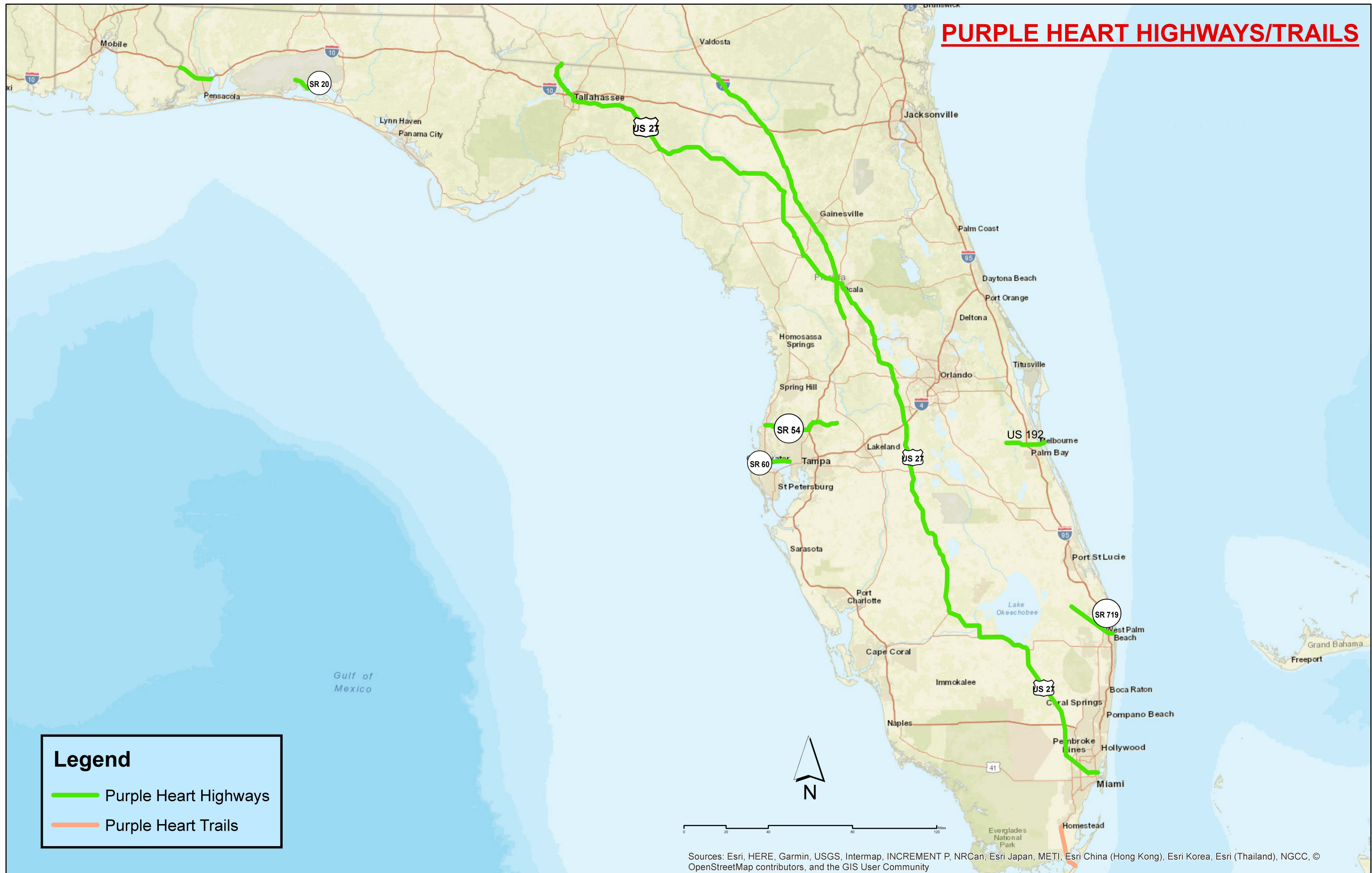
Charlotte County MPO had inquired of FDOT to install signs on I-75 in Charlotte County as a Purple Heart Friendly Community. FDOT policy is to limit extraneous sign messages or information on limited access facilities like I-75. However, designation of a State highway facility is an act of the legislature and has been done in many cases. Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board discussion has considered a regional initiative to designate all I-75 in Florida as a Purple Heart Highway.

Some background, in 1992 the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a national organization, established a program to identify a symbolic "Purple Heart Trail" throughout all 50 States, Puerto Rico and Guam. That has been accomplished. Florida has designated the "Purple Heart Memorial Highway" on I-75 from Ocala City limits to the Georgia State line. US 27 is designated a "Purple Heart Highway" essentially the length of the State. The designations of a transportation facility are an act of the Legislature, and erection of appropriate markers are contingent on appropriate city or county commissions passing a resolution in support of the honorary designation before FDOT installs signage.

An interesting study is the establishment of three Purple Heart Trails in the State of Texas. One is on I-35 from Laredo to Gainesville, Texas on the Red River. The second, I-40 across the Texas Panhandle, and the last I-37 from South Padre Island to San Antonio. The markers were designed, constructed and erected by TxDOT funded entirely by donations raised by San Antonio's Alamo Chapter 1836 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Texas Legislature was required to pass a Senate Bill designating these roadways which was signed into law by the governor of Texas. Donations for the signage was established so that the signs were spaced no greater than 100-mile intervals. For the I-40 and I-37 Interstate Highways the total donated for signage was \$25,212.

Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO is encouraging local county commissions to support making this a regional initiative of the legislature.

## PURPLE HEART HIGHWAYS/TRAILS



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