

COVE ROAD DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT PUBLIC HEARING
FINANCIAL PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NO.: 441700-1-22-02

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION-
DISTRICT 4

Cove Road Project Development and Environment
Public Hearing was held at the Indian River State
College Chastain Campus, 2400 Southeast Salerno Road,
Stuart, Florida 34997 on Wednesday the 23rd day of April
2025, the doors opened at 4:30 p.m. for an open house
followed by the formal presentation which commenced at
6:00 p.m., and being a Public Hearing.

ATTENDEES:

Vanita Saini, FDOT Project Manager

David Dangel, Ardurra Group Inc., Consult Project
Manager

Shaleese Pitterson, Public Involvement Coordinator,
Kimley-Horn & Associates

Dina Landaverde, FDOT Project Development Engineering
Specialist

Alex Marks, FDOT Environmental Specialist

Geysa Sosa, FDOT Project Development Manager

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Patricia Perrera

Francis Atune

Yolain Veron

Mary Beth Mann

Zin Bryant

Tyrone Monty

Roger Hoskins

Roy Speizer

Peter Zenuchi

Warren Newel

William Austin

1 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: (CONT.)

2 Greg Nulty

3 Luther Fair

4 Martin Green

5 Nancy (Christopher Representative)

6 Derrek Powell

7

8 ALSO PRESENT:

9 Maria Larrazabal, Spanish Interpreter

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1 (Thereupon, the following proceedings were had:)

2 THE REPORTER: We are now on record on
3 Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025, at 5:07 p.m. for a
4 commentary from Mr. George Keaton, who resides at
5 7727 Southeast Fork River Drive, ZIP Code 349977.

6 MR. KEATON: Yes.

7 THE REPORTER: Correct.

8 MR. KEATON: Correct.

9 THE REPORTER: Okay. And your commentary,
10 please?

11 MR. KEATON: Can I speak?

12 THE REPORTER: Go ahead.

13 MR. KEATON: The left turn lanes from Cove
14 Road to Highway 76 -- there are two left turn
15 lanes. The one on the left side of the two was
16 just recently added some time back, and it's
17 shorter than the other one. It needs -- and when
18 they shut that access off to where no one can turn
19 right on the Cove Road anymore with this new
20 project, they need to extend that left-hand turn
21 lane to make it -- make it longer, because traffic
22 backs up now, and it -- they can't get everybody
23 staged for the traffic signal without it backing up
24 way past that intersection there, where it comes
25 out on the Cove Road.

1 And then there is a new left turn lane that
2 allows us to enter a left turn and enter our area
3 back in there, and that, according to the picture
4 or the proposal, looks like they're going to
5 shorten it in length and move it further towards 76
6 than it is now, and it -- that is something that
7 does not need to be done. It needs to be extended
8 back further towards US-1 than it is to allow
9 people to get into our complex since we're going to
10 be stationary and we're not -- only going to be
11 able to do right turns out of there, so everybody's
12 going to have to be turning left, and it needs to
13 be segregated from the rest of the left turns
14 people that are going to Highway 76 to make a left
15 turn.

16 They've tried to do it, and they've improved
17 on what it was, but it needs to be improved a lot
18 more than it is currently.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just the speed.

20 MR. KEATON: Huh?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The speed.

22 MR. KEATON: Yes, and the cars exiting Highway
23 76 onto Cove Road headed towards US-1 are coming
24 down at tremendous rates of speed, which does not
25 allow people to turn left or to turn right out of

1 that feeder road going back into our complexes back
2 there, because you just can't judge the traffic
3 because people were merging off of 76 and just
4 hammer down, and they're coming through there quite
5 high speeds in excess of 50, 55 miles an hour,
6 quite a bit.

7 That's what I wanted to say.

8 THE REPORTER: Okay. We are now off record at
9 5:10 p.m.

10 (A recess was taken.)

11 MS. PITTERSON: Thank you for being here
12 tonight. We are about to start the presentation in
13 five minutes, so if you can take your seat, please.

14 MS. SAINI: Good evening, and welcome to the
15 Florida Department of Transportation Public Hearing
16 for Cove Road Project Development Environment
17 Study.

18 Today is Wednesday, April 23rd, and the time -
19 -

20 THE REPORTER: We can't hear you. We can't
21 understand.

22 MS. SAINI: Okay. Is this better?

23 THE REPORTER: Yes.

24 MS. SAINI: Today is Wednesday, April 23rd,
25 2025, and the time is now 6:00 p.m.

1 My name is Vanita Saini, and I'm the project
2 manager, FDOT project manager for this project.
3 The financial project number, or FM number, is
4 441700-1-22-02, and efficient transportation
5 decision-making, or ETDM, number is 14479.

6 The proposed project involves the widening of
7 Cove Road from State Road 76, Kanner Highway, to
8 State Road 5, US-1 Federal Highway, in Martin
9 County, Florida.

10 The proposed improvements also include
11 accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians
12 throughout the entire project limits and modifies
13 each intersection to improve operations along the
14 project corridor.

15 This public hearing is being held to provide
16 you with the opportunity for the public to comment
17 on the project, so in the next few slides, we will
18 share a few items regarding the logistics for this
19 public hearing, and then we'll begin the formal
20 presentation.

21 At this time, I just want to introduce the
22 PD&E project team. We have David Dangel, who is
23 from Ardurra, and he's the PD&E Consulting Project
24 Manager.

25 I just introduced myself, Vanita Saini, as the

1 DOT project manager.

2 We also have Shaleese Pitterson, who's the
3 public involvement coordinator from Kimley-Horn and
4 Associates.

5 And I also want to just announce, we also have
6 DOT staff here, Dina Landaverde, who's the FDOT
7 Project Development Engineering Specialist, and we
8 have Alex Marks, who's the FDOT Environmental
9 Specialist, and we have Geysa Sosa, who's the FDOT
10 Project Development Manager for the District
11 Planning & Environmental Management Office.

12 And before we continue, I just want to make a
13 request. If the folks that are sitting at the end,
14 if they're able to move a couple seats in so we can
15 get more seating for those that want to sit. If
16 there's any open spots in the middle, if folks can
17 scoot over, if you don't mind, to get more people
18 to be able to have seating where they won't disrupt
19 people trying to get in through the aisle. I
20 appreciate that. Thank you. And we do have
21 seating in the front, anyone who's standing in the
22 back, so you can come close in and find some empty
23 seats.

24 At this time, I would like to recognize if
25 there are any elected federal, state, or county

1 officials who may be present tonight, and if there
2 are any elected federal, state, county officials
3 who would like to be recognized, you can please
4 stand and announce -- and I can announce you.

5 Okay. I'm seeing none, so can move on.

6 So before we begin a formal presentation, the
7 department likes to highlight our compass and the
8 values that we work for as we move projects from P
9 and E to design to construction. So this is --
10 we're highlighting safety, workforce development,
11 technology, supply chain, resiliency, and
12 communities, and these are the key focus areas for
13 the State that are considered for every project.

14 So these focus areas, if you look at safety,
15 we are committed to providing a safe roadway, and
16 some of the improvements that are under that key
17 focus area is, we are providing new pedestrian
18 features, and we are providing additional lanes
19 along the project corridor to reduce crashes
20 related to heavy congestion. We are providing
21 intersection improvements, and we are also
22 upgrading the existing traffic signals, and we are
23 making drainage modifications to adjust project
24 improvements, and other miscellaneous improvements
25 on the roadway corner as well.

1 Next, I will go over the agenda for this
2 evening's public hearing. The presentation will
3 begin with a meeting format, and -- which -- we had
4 an open house format just earlier, and then we're
5 going to give a formal presentation, which FDOT --
6 we are going to explain the process that we go
7 through for the PD&E study, the project purpose and
8 need, the agency coordination that has taken place,
9 and engineering and environmental analysis
10 regarding the preferred alternative, and also the
11 study schedule.

12 And after the presentation, a formal public
13 comment session will be held where you have
14 opportunity to provide oral statements, or you may
15 continue to provide comments in writing if you
16 don't want to speak in front of the mic.

17 At this time, I will give it over to Shaleese,
18 our public involvement coordinator, to go over the
19 technical information and rules of engagement for
20 this evening.

21 MS. PITTERSON: Thank you, Vanita.

22 Here are a few things to be aware of regarding
23 the meeting format. The Florida Department of
24 Transportation is providing multiple opportunities
25 for you to receive information and provide your

1 input on this product.

2 You can participate in the public hearing
3 using one of the three options shown here. A
4 hybrid model for this public was -- for this public
5 hearing consisting of both a virtual and a face-to-
6 face component.

7 The virtual meeting for this project was held
8 yesterday. A recording of that meeting will be
9 made available in -- on the website in coming days.
10 The same information is being presented during both
11 options, and verbatim transcripts will be made
12 available for your review.

13 During tonight's meeting, you will be able to
14 view the printed exhibit boards during the open
15 house period, followed by a prerecorded
16 presentation, and a formal comment period.

17 During formal comment period, you will have an
18 opportunity to provide oral statements at the
19 microphone, or provide your comments directly to
20 the court reporter sitting on my right, or you may
21 provide your comment in writing at the table in the
22 back.

23 The project presentation will now begin.

24 FDOT VOICEOVER: Welcome to the Florida
25 Department of Transportation Public Hearing for the

1 Cove Road Project Development and Environment, or
2 PD&E Study, Financial Project ID 441700-1-22-02,
3 and Efficient Transportation Decision-Making Number
4 14479.

5 Public notice for this public hearing,
6 including information on how to access the meeting
7 platform, was providing in letter notifications to
8 property owners and tenants within the project
9 area. This public hearing was advertised
10 consistent with the federal and state requirements
11 shown in the slide.

12 In addition, emails were sent to interested
13 individuals, elected and appointed officials,
14 government agencies, and persons on the project
15 contacts list.

16 This public meeting was advertised in the
17 Florida Administrative Register, newspaper, and via
18 social media. Notice was also posted on the
19 project website.

20 The proposed project is being developed in
21 accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
22 Under Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,
23 public participation is solicited without regard to
24 race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion,
25 disability, or family status.

1 Persons wishing to express their concerns
2 relative to the department's compliance with Title
3 6 may do so by contacting FDOT District 4 Title 6
4 Coordinator Sharon Singh-Hagyan at 954-777-4190, or
5 via email at Sharon.singhhagyan@dot.state.fl.us, or
6 FDOT State Title 6 Coordinator Stefan Kulakowski at
7 850-414-4742 or via email at
8 stefan.kulakowski@dot.state.fl.us, or by calling
9 the toll-free number at 866-366-8435, extension
10 4190.

11 The environmental review, consultation, and
12 other actions required by applicable federal
13 environmental laws for these projects are being, or
14 have been, carried out by the FDOT pursuant to 23
15 United States Code 327, and a memorandum of
16 understanding dated May 26th, 2022, and executed by
17 the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

18 This public hearing was advertised consistent
19 with federal and state requirements. A PD&E study
20 is the second phase of FDOT's transportation
21 project development process. Key component to the
22 PD&E study include an evaluation of existing
23 conditions, identification of future traffic needs,
24 development of project alternatives, environmental
25 and engineering evaluations, and public and agency

1 involvement.

2 All findings and recommendations are
3 documented at the end of the study.

4 If a build alternative is selected, then the
5 project moves forward into the design phase.

6 This project is located within unincorporated
7 Martin County. The project limits begin from
8 Kanner Highway and extend approximately 3.2 miles
9 to US-1 Federal Highway.

10 Cove Road is a two-lane roadway providing one
11 12-foot-wide travel lane in each direction. The
12 existing right of way within the project limits
13 varies from 90 feet to 203 feet in width, and the
14 posted speed limit varies from 35 to 45 miles per
15 hour. There are intermittent sidewalks along the
16 project corridor. However, there are no bicycle
17 facilities along this segment of Cove Road.

18 A public kickoff meeting was held March 2023
19 to announce the project, and an alternatives public
20 workshop was held in May 2024 to present the
21 proposed alternatives.

22 This project meets the planning consistency
23 requirements. The project is funded and listed in
24 the Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization, or
25 MPO, for Fiscal Year 2024 to 2029 Transportation

1 Improvement Program, and the 2045 Long-range
2 Transportation Plan.

3 The design and right-of-way phases for this
4 project are currently funded.

5 The primary purpose of widening Cove Road from
6 two lanes to four lanes is to add capacity for all
7 modes of travel, and improve the local
8 transportation network. The need for the project
9 includes supporting economic and social demands,
10 improving system linkage, increasing capacity,
11 improving connections and coordination between
12 different transportation modes, and improving
13 emergency evacuation.

14 Average daily traffic data was collected along
15 the project corridor. Based on the data collected,
16 the existing two lanes along Cove Road are
17 anticipated to operate at a level of service E or F
18 during the a.m. and p.m. peak hours.

19 In addition, traffic along the project
20 corridor is expected to increase by 42 percent by
21 2045.

22 The preferred build alternative will address
23 safety issues and prevent the roadway from failing
24 with the current anticipated growth.

25 The study team has conducted several local

1 government and agency coordination meetings that
2 include several project development meetings with
3 FDOT, the Martin MPO, and county staff.

4 The project team also presented to various
5 residential communities within the project area.
6 Two virtual public meetings and two in-person
7 public meetings were held to provide the public
8 with opportunities to learn about the project, ask
9 questions, and provide comments on the project.

10 Martin County approved the typical sections
11 for the Cove Road PD&E study. Five alternatives
12 were evaluated for this project and presented at
13 the alternatives public workshop held in May 2024.
14 The no-build alternative, which would involve no
15 improvements to the roadway other than routine
16 maintenance will remain a viable alternative
17 throughout the study.

18 The alternatives went through a screening
19 process, which included the evaluation of several
20 factors related to the purpose and need, mobility
21 impacts, property impacts, constructability, and
22 compatibility with adjacent projects. Multiple
23 coordination meetings were conducted with the
24 county and property owners to identify the
25 alternative with least impact.

1 An evaluation matrix compares the potential
2 costs and impacts of the proposed project
3 alternatives. The matrix prioritizes evaluation
4 criteria based on the right of way impacts,
5 natural, environmental and physical impacts and
6 estimated costs to design and construct the
7 project. The project corridor is broken out into
8 two segments. Segment 1 extends from Kanner
9 Highway to Avalon Drive and Segment 2 extends from
10 Avalon Drive to U.S. 1.

11 The Preferred Build alternative for Segment 1
12 of the project is alternative 1B. This alternative
13 includes two 11-foot travel lanes in each direction
14 separated by a 22-foot median. There are no on-
15 road bicycle lanes included. Pedestrians and
16 bicyclists will be accommodated on 12 foot wide
17 shared use paths along both sides of the road.
18 Most of the proposed typical section will be
19 constructed within FDOT's existing right of way.
20 Potential right-of-way needs will be finalized
21 during the design phase.

22 A traffic signal will remain at the
23 intersection of Kanner Highway, Cove Road. The
24 Southwest Gaines Avenue intersection will be
25 converted to provide two-way access at Cove Road.

1 The existing Gaines Avenue extension will be
2 converted to a one-way road to accommodate
3 westbound access to Southwest Gaines Avenue and a
4 new westbound left turn lane from Cove Road. At
5 the Southeast Tres Belle Circle intersection a two
6 lane, four legged roundabout will be added. The
7 signalized intersection will remain at the
8 Southeast Atlantic Ridge Drive intersection, and
9 eastbound left and right turn lane and the
10 westbound left turn lane will be added to Cove
11 Road.

12 The existing signal lines intersection at
13 Southeast Legacy Cove Circle will remain with
14 designated east and westbound right and left turn
15 lanes. A two lane, three-legged roundabout is
16 proposed at Southeast Old Avenue to replace the
17 existing full open median. The existing signalized
18 intersection at Southeast Boulevard will remain
19 with designated east and westbound right and left
20 turn lanes.

21 The preferred build alternative for Segment 2
22 of the project, which extends from Avalon Drive to
23 State Road 5, US-1 is alternative 2C. Alternative
24 2C includes an 11-foot outside travel lane and 10
25 foot inside travel lane in each direction,

1 separated by a 15 and a half foot wide medium. A
2 shared use path will be provided along both sides
3 of the road and varies in width between eight and
4 10 feet to minimize right of way impasse. This
5 typical section requires a minimum of 90 feet of
6 right of away.

7 Potential environmental effects associated
8 with the preferred build alternative were evaluated
9 throughout the PD&E study. No effect was
10 identified for the federally listed plans
11 identified within the study area. The preferred
12 alternative may affect, it will not adversely
13 affect some of the federally listed species within
14 the project area. No adverse effect was identified
15 for the state listed species identified within the
16 study area. The preferred is not anticipated to
17 have any effect on the state listed plants within
18 the project area.

19 Impacts to wetlands, other surface water,
20 contamination sites, cultural resources and flood
21 planes were also evaluated. The preferred
22 alternative will have direct impact to
23 approximately 6.96 acres of wetlands located within
24 the study area. Approximately 1.29 acres of
25 secondary impacts are anticipated. There are no

1 impacts anticipated to the existing contamination
2 sites, cultural resources and flood plains.

3 A noise study was completed during the PD&E
4 study. One noise barrier near the Hibiscus Park
5 Community was found to be a feasible and, or
6 reasonable method to obey traffic noise impacts.
7 The proposed noise wall will extend between Avalon
8 Drive and Cable Drive. During the design phase of
9 the project detailed surveys will be conducted to
10 determine if and where the noise walls should be
11 built.

12 One of the unavoidable consequences of a
13 project such as this is the necessary relocation of
14 families or businesses. On this project we
15 anticipate one potential residential relocation.
16 The relocation is required to accommodate a new
17 pond required with a preferred alternative. All
18 right of way acquisition and relocation will be
19 conducted in accordance with Florida Statute 421.55
20 and the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and
21 Real Property Acquisition Policies act of 1970,
22 commonly known as the Uniform Act. If you are
23 required to move as a result of a Department of
24 Transportation project, you can expect to be
25 treated in a fair and helpful manner and in

1 compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance
2 Act.

3 If a move is necessary, you will be contacted
4 by an appraiser who will inspect your property. We
5 encourage you to be present during the inspection
6 and provide information about the value of your
7 property. You may also be eligible for relocation
8 advisory services and payment benefits, which will
9 be explained by the right of way agent. If you are
10 required to move and you are unsatisfied with the
11 department's determination of your eligibility for
12 payment or the amount of that payment, you may
13 appeal that determination. You will be properly
14 furnished necessary forms and notified of the
15 procedures to be followed in making that appeal.

16 A special word of caution. If you move before
17 you receive notification of the relocation benefits
18 that you might be entitled to, your benefits may be
19 jeopardized. We encourage you to call the FDOT
20 deputy right-of-way manager for production,
21 Christina Brown, at 954-498-7086 or email C-H-R-I-
22 S-T-I-N-A.B-R-O-W-N@D-O-T.S-T-A-T-E.F-L.U-S. or
23 visit the right of way specialist at the in-person
24 venue if you have any questions regarding the right
25 of way acquisition or relocation process.

1 The next step is to incorporate your input on
2 this public hearing into our decision-making
3 process. After the comment period closes and your
4 input has been considered a decision will be made
5 and the final PD&E document will be approved. This
6 project has and will continue to comply with all
7 applicable state and federal rules and regulations.
8 Project documents are available for your review at
9 the Robert Morgan library located at 5851 Southeast
10 Community Drive, Stuart, Florida 34997. The
11 documents will remain on display in the library
12 through May 7th, 2025. Project documents and
13 meeting materials are also available on the project
14 website at www.coveroadstudy.com. Project
15 documents are also available for public viewing
16 during the in-person public hearing this Wednesday,
17 April 23rd, 2025 at the Indian River State College
18 Chastain Campus at 2400 Southeast Salerno Road,
19 Stuart, Florida 34997. Please reach out to Vanita
20 Saini or visit our project website for more
21 information about the project.

22 The department encourages input and
23 participation. There are multiple ways to submit
24 questions and comments to the project team. During
25 the virtual public hearing you may provide your

1 comments by typing your comment in the go to
2 control panel chat box or using the raise hand
3 feature on the control panel to be unmuted. You
4 may also provide your comments and feedback during
5 the in-person public hearing taking place on
6 Wednesday, April 23rd at 5:00 p.m. During the in-
7 person public hearing.

8 You can provide your comments by filling out a
9 speaker card and waiting to be called upon during
10 the formal comment period. You may also provide
11 your comments directly to the court reporter or
12 fill out a comment card and drop it in the comment
13 box at the meeting. Or if you prefer, you may mail
14 your questions and comments to 3400 West Commercial
15 Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33309, or
16 submit them by email to Vanita Saini at V-A-N-I-T-
17 A.S-A-I-N-I@D-O-T.S-T-A-T-E.F-L.U-S. All
18 questions, comments or statements postmarked on or
19 before May 7th, 2025 will become part of the public
20 hearing record. You can also submit your questions
21 and comments directly through the project website.
22 The website address is www.coveroadstudy.com. You
23 can also use the QR code that is being displayed on
24 the screen to access the project website.

25 Get involved today. The Florida Department of

1 Transportation is kicking off its 2055 Florida
2 Transportation Plan, FTP update. The 2055 FTP is a
3 comprehensive statewide blueprint guiding Florida's
4 30-year transportation future. The FTP
5 Transportation policy lays the foundation for
6 investments in the FDOT work program, which is
7 updated every five years. The plan will be
8 developed through steering committee guidance,
9 focus group support, and comprehensive community
10 engagement with partner and public engagement.

11 This plan update will be adopted by November
12 2025. Our goal is that the FTP will be a plan in
13 which Florida's communities can see themselves and
14 our stakeholders can use to develop their
15 transportation plans and strategies. We welcome
16 you to join the process by participating in one of
17 the five diverse focus groups, safety, resilient
18 infrastructure, economic development, workforce
19 development, and technology, attending one of our
20 regional workshops or one of our statewide
21 webinars. Please visit the FDOT 2055 Florida
22 transportation plan website at www.floridaftp.com
23 for more information on meeting dates.

24 Before we conclude this presentation, the
25 department would like to share its monthly safety

1 campaign, which in this case is National Distracted
2 Driving Awareness Month. Please remember that you
3 can set your phone to do not disturb and start your
4 playlist before buckling up and shifting into gear.
5 This concludes the video portion of the
6 presentation.

7 MS. SAINI: So before I get started, I just
8 wanted to announce that we do have Christina Brown,
9 who's our DOT by the way manager here. So if
10 anyone has any questions on our by the way process,
11 she's here to answer them. And she's in the back
12 and you can see her after -- you can see her now or
13 after the comment period.

14 So now we're going to begin the public comment
15 period. And if anyone that wishes to make a
16 comment and they have not filled out a speaker
17 card, we have a project form representatives that
18 can come by and give you a speaker card. If you
19 raise your hand, you can fill it out. And I see
20 some hands raised. So there's one.

21 And the way we're going to do this is we're
22 going to call the names by two. And then -- by
23 two. And then you have three minutes to state your
24 name, your address and then proceed with your
25 comment. And you will be given three minutes to

1 speak. So I'm just going to repeat again the
2 different ways to provide comments. The Department
3 encourages input and participation. There are
4 multiple ways to submit questions for our end
5 comments to the project team.

6 You may provide a comment tonight by filling
7 out the speaker card which many of you have done,
8 and we appreciate that. And then you'll be --
9 you'll just wait to be called upon. And then you
10 can proceed to the mic up front to relay your
11 comment. And then if you do not want to speak in
12 the mic up front, you can also submit your comments
13 online on the project website or you can provide --
14 send me an email and provide comments that way.
15 And my email again is Vanita, V-A-N-I-T-A.S-A-I-N-
16 I@D-O-T.state.F-L-U-S.

17 We also have a court reporter here who can
18 take your comments. If you do not want to speak
19 publicly, you can probably she will put your
20 comments as well. And she's in the front right-
21 hand side. And you can give your comment that way
22 as well. You can also mail your comments to myself
23 at 3400 West Commercial Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale,
24 Florida 33309. And now we will begin the formal
25 hearing.

1 MS. PITTERSON: Patricia Perrera, you're up,
2 and followed by Francis Atune.

3 MS. PERRERA: I did not even know this was
4 happening until five minutes before I walked in the
5 door. So I just wrote some notes. I moved into
6 the preserves of Park Trace on the Cove Road. I
7 moved into the preserves of Park Trace here on Cove
8 Road. And the first thing that I heard is how
9 dangerous Cove Road is, and especially at night. A
10 few of the things is the little cutouts where
11 people sometimes if you're going from US-1 to
12 Kanner Highway, if people are drunk or if they just
13 can't see well or they're elderly, they'll start
14 coming head on towards you. So I'm not here on the
15 side of anyone except for safety with my background
16 in law enforcement for 25 years.

17 I understand everybody's concerns. If I lived
18 on Cove and my backyard was right there, I'd be
19 very upset that you're widening the road. So I
20 completely understand that. But I think overall
21 safety wise, it will benefit all of us, especially
22 I like the idea of the roundabouts. If you weren't
23 doing the roundabouts, I would be concerned. But
24 I'm hoping that those roundabouts will slow people
25 down. An example in the last week, we've had two

1 deer hit on Cove Road. One that I believe was
2 pregnant, and they were killed. Two sandhill
3 cranes in the last couple weeks were killed. One
4 was hit and was missing half the leg. And I know
5 because they fly into my backyard. And it's sad,
6 but we've had, I believe one fatality in the last
7 few months also, and people need to slow down.
8 It's a dangerous road. People cut through from
9 Kanner to US-1 and back and forth.

10 With the new Costco opening, I live right at
11 Willoughby. I know the traffic is going to
12 increase. So I do believe it's a good project and
13 it's necessary. One thing I would suggest is
14 because we are a reserve where I live, there's 40
15 acres surrounding us. We have gators, we have
16 deer. We have deer. We have deer. And perhaps
17 the walls are not just for sound, but maybe some
18 particular type of barrier that would keep the
19 animals from crossing Cove Road, because they're
20 getting -- and it's go for tortoises that are
21 protected. And it's like I said, deer, gators,
22 everything.

23 So I know that there's going to be back and
24 forth. There's people that report, there's people
25 -- I honestly walked in here and not even knowing

1 what the deal was. And I'm just looking at it as a
2 safety perspective. And I think that it'll benefit
3 to put those roundabouts in to slow people down.

4 MS. SAINI: Thank you.

5 MS. PERRERA: Thank you.

6 MS. SAINI: I appreciate it. I appreciate if
7 the folks that are talking, if you can take the
8 conversation outside and just respect the people
9 that are coming up to speak so everyone can hear
10 the person who's speaking. And I would appreciate
11 that very much. Thank you.

12 THE REPORTER: Francis Atune?

13 Just a reminder, please state your name and
14 address before you speak so we can have it
15 recorded.

16 And then I have Yolain Veron, you're up next.

17 MS. ATUNE: My name is Francis Atune. I live
18 on Brighton (phonetic) Place in Stuart in the
19 Summerfield Development. And my only comment is
20 that you consider adding a traffic light to our
21 entrance and exit road on Cove Road. It is -- in
22 the morning it's nearly impossible to pull out.
23 The traffic is from Willoughby all the way down to
24 Route 1. And you are at the mercy of a kind driver
25 to permit you to turn on to go for. That's my only

1 comment. Thank you for your time and
2 consideration.

3 MS. SAINI: Thank you for your comment.

4 THE REPORTER: Yolain Veron?

5 MS. VERON: Yes. I was going to object to
6 safety. That was it.

7 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

8 I have Mary Beth Manning, followed by Mr.
9 Zindaya Bryant.

10 MS. MANNING: Hi. Mary Beth Manning, 2400
11 Southeast Cove Road. I'm at the intersection of
12 Willoughby and Cove Road.

13 What are the future plans for during this
14 construction time with the impact to the amount of
15 traffic that is currently between three and 6,000
16 cars at the peak hours of both times, 7:00 to 9:00,
17 you could wait 20 minutes to get out of the
18 driveway in the mornings, and in the afternoons,
19 just to go from Kanner to U.S. -- or to Willoughby,
20 it's a two-mile stretch, could take you 20 minutes
21 with the amount of schools and traffic.

22 How are you going to detour that traffic
23 during all this construction time? What are --
24 what are the plans for that?

25 Also, the church traffic on Sundays. It's

1 also a lot of traffic. How are we -- what are we
2 going to do with all of the traffic during those
3 peak times?

4 In addition is, how will it affect property
5 zonings on Cove Road?

6 That -- those are my questions. Thank you.

7 MS. SAINI: Thank you.

8 THE REPORTER: Ty Monty, you're up next,
9 please.

10 MR. BRYANT: Good evening. I'm Zin Bryant,
11 Hibiscus Park. The -- I went to school in a large
12 city. One of the most horrific things that I
13 witnessed was a cat that had been run over in a
14 four-lane highway like this composition, what's up
15 there. That kind of stuff sticks with you.

16 One of the things that I've seen in the past
17 two months are raccoons killed, deer killed,
18 unidentifiable birds, possums, rodents. Extending
19 the number of lanes will confuse animals and kill
20 more of them off.

21 We do have the Sandhill Cranes that like to
22 frequent the area. I don't think this is going to
23 be very good for them.

24 One of the best things that Martin County has
25 going for are open spaces. A lot of people, a lot

1 of my -- one of my neighbors have come back to
2 Stuart from developed areas talking about how bad
3 it is, and they're hoping that we won't have that
4 urbanization so rapid here.

5 I frequent the stretch from US-1 to Kanner
6 Highway on Cove Road. I take my bicycle there. I
7 walk there. I know how it is to wait for traffic.
8 However, these plans are not really going to
9 translate that well to practical traffic measures.

10 One of the things that young kids like to do,
11 well, they like to race. If you open up two lanes,
12 you're going to have kids who are being aggressive.
13 They're going to do what kids do, and you're going
14 to have more fatalities

15 Getting back to the selling points from Martin
16 County about its open green fields and pastures.
17 There's not really a lot of space to widen the
18 roads as you're -- as you're talking about. I
19 can't see you doing it.

20 Honestly, you're taking away the best aspects
21 of Martin County to throw some more pavement down.

22 Quite frankly, there's one point, too.
23 Requiring a resident to relocate is just
24 unconscionable.

25 I just think that these plans are too

1 destructive, too dangerous, and they come at too
2 much of a cost.

3 If you do the no building plan, then it'll
4 keep Cove Road one lane each direction. I think it
5 will save a lot more lives. I think it will
6 preserve the aesthetic nature of the kind that we
7 call home.

8 MS. SAINI: Thank you for your help.

9 MR. MONTY: Good evening, and thank you for
10 this opportunity. I'm Tyrone Monty. I live at
11 6050 Southeast Martinique Drive in Montego Cove.
12 I'm a board member of the condo association, and
13 secretary of the Treasure Coast Condo Alliance.

14 First, a statement. I personally totally
15 repudiate the premise that this project has
16 targeted Cove Road as the best possible alternative
17 for the future needs of expediting traffic that
18 will be transiting essentially from I-95 to US-1
19 and back as nothing more than a sophisticated ramp.

20 So I repudiate the premise. And I would love
21 to know what the process is for revisiting this
22 project and evaluating the possibility of routing
23 this traffic and this project further north up by
24 Pomeroy or somewhere in that vicinity.

25 My question now regards Montego Cove, which

1 sits within proximity of a crunch zone, Cove Road
2 and US-1. We have only one entrance in and out.
3 We have no traffic light. Even now, with just two
4 lanes, it becomes a real test to have to make a
5 right turn to go towards US-1, and even worse, to
6 make a left turn to go towards Kanner.

7 Once again, just as I said back in May, we
8 demand a traffic light. We want a traffic light.
9 There's nothing ambiguous about the signal that one
10 will see with a traffic light. If it's red, it
11 means stop. Most of us are not mind readers. We
12 can't discern that the other driver that's
13 intersecting in front of us is actually giving us
14 an opportunity to make a left or right turn.

15 Furthermore, the design plans that I've seen
16 show that, just as we have in front of South River
17 on Kanner, we are going to have to be compelled to
18 make a right turn in order to get into a stacking
19 lane, and then turn around if we're headed towards
20 I-95 or Kanner. To me, that is an absurdity.
21 You're not going to have enough footage to stack
22 those cars.

23 And also, we are a gated community, so that if
24 somebody comes up to our gate, they might actually
25 be fumbling because they're a visitor or a delivery

1 person, and we'll have traffic stacking outside.
2 And that's basically my statement and my question,
3 and thank you.

4 MS. SAINI: Thank you for your comment.

5 THE REPORTER: I have Patrick Danielle, and
6 then Roger Hoskins, you will be next.

7 Patrick Danielle still here?

8 All right. Roger Hoskins, will you please
9 come up?

10 MR. HOSKINS: Hi. Thank you. I'm a little
11 taller. I went to -- I'm Roger Hoskins. I live
12 6011 Southeast Martinique Drive, and I'm president
13 of Montego Cove Condo Association.

14 I would like to add to my colleague Ty Monty's
15 comments there. One of our major, major concerns
16 in regard to the widening of Cove Road is the
17 stacking of traffic in our entryway.

18 Currently, where our gate is, you can get two
19 cars in there. If you're about to take that apron
20 away and move it the road up to where the wall is,
21 they can get enough room for one vehicle. If any
22 other vehicles are turning off of Cove Road,
23 they're not going to be able to turn in. That's --
24 that traffic will be stacked up along Cove Road.

25 We had addressed this in the past to you guys,

1 and we don't see any response or change in the
2 plans, or suggestions or anything that we could
3 use.

4 It's another quick comment in regard to the
5 sound, and we'd just like to have an answer on
6 that. We have a short drawing here that shows a
7 possible sound wall along Cove Road by Montego
8 Cove.

9 And I might also add, before I say that, along
10 our section by Montego Cove is the biggest squeeze
11 in this entire -- probably the most difficult part
12 of the project, so I don't envy you. You guys try
13 to put something together where you have to take 12
14 pounds of an eight-pound bag. It is very tight
15 down there. There's a lot of things that have to
16 happen to make that work. But it's getting a bit
17 too tight. And the Cove Road drawing shows across
18 the way a sound wall, a possible sound wall, but
19 nothing for our side.

20 This traffic's going to -- the traffic is
21 going to be right on -- about 20 feet outside that
22 building -- those buildings where people live now.
23 20 feet. So that's pretty close. We'd like to see
24 a sound wall, too.

25 But our most important issue is dealing with

1 the entry here, which we only have one, and we
2 don't have several hundred thousand dollars to move
3 everything back to do that kind of work, and we'll
4 be looking for some help in that regard.

5 We also have some concerns about the drainage
6 because of the hard surface runoff and the new road
7 has expanded along with the drainage that comes
8 from our two ponds as well as our neighbors, that
9 that capacity is sufficient.

10 And I think Ty Monty covered the rest, so
11 thank you very much.

12 MS. SAINI: Thank you.

13 THE REPORTER: Up next I have Ray (sic),
14 middle initial M, please. It's a little hard to
15 read your last name. And then followed by Peter
16 Zenuchi.

17 DR. SPEIZER: What was the first name?

18 MS. SAINI: Ray or Roy M.

19 DR. SPEIZER: That's me.

20 MS. SAINI: Then Peter Zenuchi, you'll be up
21 next. Thank you.

22 DR. SPEIZER: Hi, good evening. My name is
23 Dr. Roy Speizer. I live in Tres Belle Estates at
24 7575 Southeast Belle Maison.

25 We've been looking at the plans with

1 engineers, and one of the major faults in your plan
2 at the entrance of Tres Belle is, where you're
3 putting the roundabout you're cutting into our
4 front of our property. You're reducing the entry-
5 exit, or the exit, to one lane rather than two
6 lanes.

7 Now, the roundabout, when you have traffic
8 stacked up and there's no gaps, it's backed up from
9 the charter school, which will be expanded. So if
10 you only give us one lane to exit, if somebody
11 wants to make a right turn, they have to wait for
12 someone to get into the roundabout, which is now
13 blocked up during peak hours. So we can't exit,
14 and it is going to stack up and bottleneck us into
15 our community.

16 So what we're requesting specifically is to
17 consider putting in a right turn lane at the
18 entrance. Do not reduce it to one lane. So this
19 way, if someone wants to get into the roundabout,
20 they have the left lane to get in, and if somebody
21 wants to make a right turn, they can use that right
22 turn. There's room there for it.

23 So we're requesting that the engineering
24 planning people, who are not here tonight -- we've
25 met with them at a previous meeting. Would have

1 been nice to have them here. I think it would have
2 been a courtesy to have them, but regardless, we've
3 submitted this in writing. We're going to put it
4 directly tonight that the entrance to Tres Belle,
5 leave it at two lanes. One lane will get into the
6 roundabout. One lane will be a right turn lane.

7 In addition, the common walkway, you have
8 expanded to 12 feet, which cuts into the front of
9 our property. According to the plan, it doesn't
10 require any sound mitigation because we're below
11 the government standards, which are inadequate to
12 begin with.

13 So what we're requesting is that reduce the
14 common walkway to eight feet, which you have
15 further down in Section 2, either eight or 10 feet,
16 which allows us more buffer room in front of our
17 property that we can plant bushes and other sound
18 mitigation vegetation. We want additional room.
19 Otherwise, you're cutting four feet in front of our
20 property, which doesn't allow us much room to plant
21 sound -- for sound mitigation.

22 In addition, there's lighting issues. We need
23 to have trees to reduce the lighting glare and all
24 that.

25 So formally we're requesting leave it two

1 lanes with a right turn lane and an entrance.
2 Leave a wider -- excuse me. A narrower walkway
3 space to allow us to plant sound mitigation plants.
4 Those are the two requests. There's other
5 requests, which we'll put in writing. Thank you.

6 MS. SAINI: Thank you for your comment.

7 THE REPORTER: Warren Newel, you'll be up
8 next, please.

9 MR. ZENUCHI: Ma'am, I'm Peter Zenuchi. I
10 also live in Tres Belle. I'm on 310 Southeast
11 Easton (phonetic).

12 And as Roy was stating, we do have some issues
13 already with sound with the -- with the short wall
14 that we have there, and it's already affected
15 property values, and, you know, caused a number of
16 sales to fall through on homes along the side
17 that's next to Cove Road.

18 So we really do need to do something with the
19 noise mitigation in that area. It's going to be 10
20 times worse once you get a lot more traffic on that
21 road and you have that corner where all the trucks
22 are going to be coming down and cutting off 95 --
23 going across the federal highway are going to be
24 throttling up, coming out onto Cove Road, and
25 basically making a significant amount of noise in

1 that area, and it's going to get even worse with
2 the fact that the road's probably going to be
3 raised at least two to three feet, maybe even
4 worse, while the noise going to just travel up over
5 top of -- over top of the wall that we currently
6 have.

7 So we really need to have some kind of changes
8 in the design to be able to put some noise
9 mitigation wall, trees, something -- to be able to
10 put that there. That's the main thing I want to
11 say.

12 MS. SAINI: Thank you for your comment.

13 THE REPORTER: William Austin, Jr., you would
14 be up after Mr. Newel.

15 MR. NEWEL: Good evening. My name is Warren
16 Newel, 1870 Cove Road. Excuse me. First to thank
17 FDOT. They've been cooperative helping me, and I
18 got to know a all of the staff, but I just wanted
19 to bring my issues to point again.

20 Number one, I think the public needs to know
21 what the ultimate road elevations are going to be
22 on the site. There's been discussion back and
23 forth, but just for the public's knowledge, the
24 road that you see today is going to be much, much
25 higher. In fact, in my property on Cove it could

1 be six feet higher than my property, so the cars
2 will be looking through my bedroom as they drive by
3 all day.

4 The other thing that -- also think about the
5 roundabouts. You know, roundabouts are great
6 little tools to slow down traffic. At the same
7 time they also redirect the lights from the cars
8 into neighborhoods. As they make the turn, the
9 lights actually swing through the neighborhoods in
10 the -- in the houses.

11 The other thing I don't understand -- I've
12 been commenting about, is, the road sections that
13 were developed by the MPO and the county and FDOT,
14 they're more of a suburban urban section. They're
15 very wide. They take more right of way. And yes,
16 there's some issues about safety and the sidewalks.
17 We know about that.

18 But if you're going to impact the
19 neighborhoods, why not try to minimize the impact?
20 Bring your section in tighter, make it smaller.
21 You'll still at four lanes in, still at sidewalks,
22 and not impact the associations, everybody down the
23 road, because this is a very, very wide section.
24 In fact, a lot of the people don't know if they're
25 going to be taking their property in front of their

1 homes.

2 The last thing is flooding. I brought this up
3 numerous times, and last year, a perfect example, a
4 small event, high intensity last year, flooded all
5 the roads, flooded all the homes within the whole
6 Cove Road section to the south.

7 And the reason is because when the State
8 bought the land to the south for the park, they had
9 made a commitment they would not maintain the flow
10 ways to the south. So basically the properties
11 along Cove Road, on -- especially the south side
12 now will flood. There is no outfall and drainage
13 that have been historically to the south. That has
14 been eliminated.

15 So what I've asked, and I continue to ask, is,
16 if FDOT is going to do this study or this PD&E
17 study for the road, it needs to be a basin study.
18 The whole area needs to be studied for future
19 growth and also for drainage issues. We don't want
20 to be here in five years from now when the storm
21 comes, tropical storm, hurricane, and we're all
22 under water. It makes no sense. Why not go ahead,
23 take the time, do the study, and understand what
24 the flow ways that the state has already determined
25 that would be closed to the south.

1 And again, you know, I'm here to help if
2 anybody needs any information, but the reality is,
3 when you do a road like this in this area, you've
4 got to look at more things than simply making the
5 road four lanes. It's a lot of impacts to the
6 neighborhoods. Thank you.

7 MS. SAINI: Thank you for your comment.

8 MS. PITTERSON: Greg Knox (sic), you will be
9 after Mr. Austin.

10 MR. AUSTIN: I'm William Austin from 3280
11 Southeast Cypress Street. Been there since 1978.
12 Seen a dirt road turn into a paved road, Montego
13 Cove to a paved road. I might hear some of your
14 horns beep behind my house because that's where the
15 merge is right there, and we'll be glad that's
16 alleviated.

17 But I want to know the -- we have city water
18 behind our house on Cove Road that was offered to
19 us. They came and did a project and put city water
20 into the park, and there's a number of people that
21 are hooked to that city water behind our houses.
22 How that would impact if they redo any of that
23 stuff? Could we actually hook to the meters that
24 are now in front of our houses? And also, is FBL
25 going to do anything to upgrade the lines that are

1 there. We are on the hospital grid right now. And
2 whether that's going to be an improvement for us or
3 -- I mean, these are all wooden poles there. And
4 if you're going to do everything else, you might as
5 well upgrade and make it look aesthetically
6 pleasing that way too.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. SAINI: Thank you for your comment.

9 MS. PITTERSON: Luther Fair, you'll be after
10 Mr. Knox (sic).

11 MR. NULTY: Hi, good evening. My name is Greg
12 Nulty. I'm a 46-year resident of Martin County.
13 My wife and I built our house in 1998, 26 years in
14 South Fork Estates. We're at 437 Southeast Ashley
15 Oaks (phonetic).

16 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
17 present the plan and give us an opportunity to
18 comment on it. I think this is the third or fourth
19 large public meeting that you've had. You've also
20 been very gracious to come out and meet with our
21 development. I think we've had two or three
22 meetings. My comment is directed towards the
23 intersection, the proposed intersection of
24 Southeast Gaines Avenue. We've expressed some
25 concerns about needing to -- when we exit onto Cove

1 Road. We need to go right to the tray belt
2 roundabout, and we need to roundabout and come back
3 to the west, to go -- to go west to Kanner Highway.

4 We've asked in every meeting that we've been
5 in, why can't we formalize the turning movements
6 that we have now and be able to create a left hand
7 turn, where we're turning left now. We've not
8 received any kind of answer for any reason. So I
9 have prepared a little graphic and a little sketch
10 that I would like to submit to you. And also I'll
11 provide to Martin County of -- and it's my idea of
12 it and it's not the communities. It's not -- it's
13 not an organized thing. It's just a -- just a
14 thought that we would like -- that I would like for
15 you to consider.

16 Right now the plan is for us to exit Gaines or
17 exit -- yeah, Gaines straight out to Kanner or
18 straight out to Cove and make a left. We have a
19 number of boats, RVs, school buses, traffic
20 trailers, and to make that 90-degree turn at Gaines
21 is just, it's not going to work.

22 You've made our exit now, off to -- off the
23 extension. It is going to be one way. Only going
24 out or no, excuse me, coming in. It -- it's just
25 going to be a traffic nightmare in that area.

1 So again, I would like to submit my plan, for
2 your consideration. I'd also like to -- a couple
3 other things, is, I'd like to echo some of the
4 comments that we've heard tonight about the
5 wildlife. In the last three months or two months,
6 there's been three deer that's been killed. I read
7 the preliminary engineering report and it indicated
8 language about no need for any kind of wildlife
9 corridor. I would strongly disagree with that.
10 The report is completely silent on the Atlantic
11 Ridge State Preserve Park. It's a preserve. It's
12 not a -- it's not a park. And I think that it's a
13 quarter mile away. And I think you really need to
14 reconsider a wildlife corridor in here.

15 Thank you for your time.

16 MS. SAINI: Thank you.

17 MS. PITTERSON: Just a reminder: If there's
18 anyone else that would like to speak tonight,
19 please raise your hand and we'll bring you a
20 comment card, for you to -- a speaker card, sorry -
21 - for you to speak out.

22 MS. SAINI: Go ahead and speak.

23 MR. FAIR: Good evening. My name is Luther
24 Fair. I live at 7075 Southeast Twin Oaks Circle,
25 which is in the -- which is in the Summerfield

1 subdivision.

2 First of all, I'm going to make a suggestion
3 on something for the project that could be done
4 now. There are three lanes on east direction on
5 Kanner. And when you come up on Cove to exit onto
6 a right, excuse me, a left turn onto Kanner,
7 there's two lanes there that are being utilized,
8 but the third lane is a right-only turn lane. And
9 in the peak periods of time, I've seen it
10 firsthand. That lane is used for right turn, maybe
11 1 percent of the time.

12 So I really recommend that lane on the third
13 lane on the right side, as a turn lane and a three
14 lane. And then you strike the road to get into the
15 three lanes. I think that will help a lot with the
16 morning traffic, which is where I have the most
17 water.

18 Second. I know it's been mentioned about
19 flooding, but I didn't see anymore plans about
20 retaining the water, that this extra asphalt is
21 going to prevent to be dealt with. I'm sure you've
22 got a gutter system. I only had about 15 minutes
23 to look over the plans, so I didn't see it, maybe
24 it's there and they're retaining the property, but
25 flooding is probably an additional issue to this

1 retaining water, all that you -- away.

2 Roundabouts. I like -- I'm a fan of
3 roundabouts. They kind of grew on me, over time
4 using them. I exit road here at North Gate, coming
5 out of Summerfield. You've got us designated to
6 turn right and go into the stacking situation to
7 turn and make a left turn to go to Kanner. I would
8 highly recommend that a roundabout -- it seems that
9 other locations have them merited a roundabout.
10 Certain locations did not merit a roundabout. So
11 please give that some additional study.

12 I think that's all I have to say. Thank you.

13 MS. PITTERSON: I have T. Mark Green. You're
14 up next.

15 And Nancy McComb. You'll be right after his
16 turn.

17 MR. GREEN: Thank you so much. Mark Green at
18 1400 Southeast Cove Road at the Treasure Coast
19 Classical Academy. I am the administrator there,
20 one of the administrators.

21 And first of all, I just want to say that,
22 infrastructure is always a great idea, especially
23 with the growing population here in Martin County
24 and all the things. All the people that are moving
25 here to enjoy our beautiful place.

1 Treasure Coast Classical Academy and Dr. David
2 L. Anderson Middle School, services about 2,000
3 students daily. We're about several hundred feet
4 apart. And in the plans, I noticed that it looks
5 like there's going to be adequate turn lanes,
6 turning from west to east and the south side of
7 these campuses, which is great. But I would like
8 to say that if you would all think about adding a
9 school zone, as there's not a school zone now, for
10 these two campuses. We have hundreds of children a
11 day at both campuses that have walkers and scooter
12 riders and bike riders that cross Cove Road. And,
13 of course, when it is added, when those lanes are
14 added, it's going to be more for them to cross.

15 And for directional purposes for the adults
16 driving on Cove Road and for our students not only
17 attending Anderson or Treasure Coast Classical
18 Academy, it will be great for them to have a school
19 zone there to make everybody aware because
20 honestly, the kids aren't looking where they're
21 going, and it is just for the safety of them more
22 than anything.

23 Also, Treasure Coast Classical Academy, over
24 the next few years, we will be expanding as far as
25 building wise. We'd like to add a gymnasium as

1 classrooms to hold -- to house our current
2 population now, to spread them out a little bit.

3 In plans that have already been submitted
4 before, we will be changing those plans. One of
5 the things was that we were to add internally in
6 ourselves, into our campus. The turn lanes that
7 are going to be added by the Florida Department of
8 Transportation will only take out the turn lanes
9 that were supposedly added by Treasure Coast
10 Classical Academy. It will waste a huge amount of
11 time. It will waste a huge amount of money, of
12 finances that could be helping these children or
13 finances that could be helping to be educate these
14 children.

15 And I would just ask you to reconsider, in our
16 future building plans, that the added turn lanes
17 that FDOT is proposing, that Treasure Coast
18 Classical Academy will not have to add their turn
19 lengths. It's going to be torn up in just a couple
20 of years. That would just not be feasible for
21 anybody.

22 So thank you for your time. We really
23 appreciate you. We really appreciate what you're
24 doing and thank you for enhancing Martin County.

25 MS. SAINI: Is this Nancy?

1 MR. DESANTIS: My name is Christopher
2 DeSantis. I'm representing Nancy McComb.

3 Can you state your address?

4 MS. MCCOMB: Yes. I'm at 7500 Southeast
5 Paulson Avenue, Stuart, Florida.

6 MR. DESANTIS: Ms. McComb is the owner of the
7 property that you want to dedicate to the -- and
8 the reason that she asked me to come here -- the
9 reason that she asked me to come here, is because
10 adjacent to that -- her property, on the other side
11 of the road, is public property that should be used
12 already as a park. And I've already inquired that,
13 you know, in the auditor asking why that property
14 is not being touched. And the answer I got was
15 essentially, is that administratively, it may be
16 more difficult.

17 And my question that she'd like to know is,
18 have you made any attempts to use that property in
19 lieu of her property? Because this is her home,
20 it's been her long-term homestead. And it's going
21 to be very difficult for her to find similar
22 property for what she's doing, just giving her a,
23 you know, a fair market value and compensation when
24 she's not going to be able to find anything else,
25 this isn't going to help it.

1 What have you done, or can you do anything,
2 about seeing that park can be used instead of her
3 lot?

4 MS. SAINI: Thank you.

5 MS. PITTERSON: Just a reminder that we're not
6 addressing questions or comments tonight.

7 MR. DESANTIS: But that is a comment then that
8 it would be is that, she feels that it's
9 unnecessary that you do so. That you pick her up
10 on. Because there is a lot right across the
11 street.

12 She also noted that in your correspondence
13 that there was a reference that her property was an
14 alternate property and she thinks that perhaps you
15 were going to use the -- alternate property.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. PITTERSON: Thank you.

18 Is Mr. Patrick Danielle (phonetic) -- it's a
19 little hard to read your last name, but I -- if you
20 are here tonight.

21 Last call for Mr. Patrick Danielle.

22 Or Derrek Powell, you are up next, please.

23 MR. POWELL: My name is Derrek Powell. I
24 reside at 1155 Southeast Cove Road. And mister --
25 Mr. Green, I just kind of wanted to reinstate the

1 no school zone. I just think it's absurd. I see,
2 you know, 30, 40 kids every day, walking by my
3 house, walking to school. And next year I have to
4 send my youngest, ten years old, to Anderson Middle
5 School. And I don't know if you guys have seen the
6 ten year olds nowadays, but it's not very safe for
7 him to be crossing any roads, let alone before that
8 highway.

9 Speak louder? Okay. And then the other --
10 the other concern is the elevation. So right now,
11 I live in a low-lying area, right there across from
12 my Atlantic Ridge intersection. And I have to
13 constantly bring in more and more drainage plumbing
14 to my house, just to keep up with what I have going
15 on now.

16 And when this -- when this road is elevated,
17 you know, three, four, maybe even six feet, like
18 the gentleman mentioned. You know, it's going to
19 put a lot of impact on things. So I think that
20 should be considered and everything.

21 That's all I have. Thank you.

22 MS. PITTERSON: We've gone through all the
23 speaker cards we have. Is there any other speaker
24 cards out there? Or anyone else wanting to speak
25 tonight, you can raise your hands.

1 MS. SAINI: I want to thank everyone that did
2 come up and speak. And I also want to let everyone
3 know that all comments and questions submitted,
4 either today or if they were previously submitted -
5 - oh, we have one more. Sorry.

6 MS. LARRAZABAL: Yeah. He said he wants to
7 talk to someone, actually.

8 MS. SAINI: Okay. Okay.

9 So I just want to let everyone know, first I
10 appreciate everybody's input, comments and
11 questions. And all comments and questions
12 submitted will be part of the project's public
13 record. And it will be considered by the
14 department during the project decision-making. And
15 we'll be responding to all questions and comments,
16 even the ones that were submitted earlier before
17 the public hearing.

18 And as a reminder, the public comment period
19 for the public hearing will remain open through May
20 7th, 2025. So if you did not have an opportunity
21 or did not feel you want to comment tonight or you
22 want to make a comment, you can up to May 7th,
23 2025.

24 So now that we have here all comments, we are
25 ready to close the meeting. We thank you again for

1 participating in tonight's public hearing. And we
2 hope you found it informative.

3 And once again, I will -- I posted my contact
4 information. My email
5 vanita.saini@DOT.state.fl.us. And you can also
6 mail me any comments or questions. And my address
7 is on the screen. 3400 West Commercial Boulevard,
8 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309. Or you can go to
9 the project website, which is
10 www.coveroadstudy.com, to submit any comments or
11 questions you have on the project.

12 So I thank you again. And this concludes our
13 public hearing. The time is now 7:12 p.m. and on
14 behalf of the Florida Department of Transportation
15 and our presenters, we thank you for joining us
16 today. Have a good evening.

17 MS. PITTERSON: Good job.

18 MS. SAINI: Thank you.

19 THE REPORTER: We are now back on record for
20 commentary from Mr. Juan Abac-Ordonez.

21 We have Maria Larrazabal that will be
22 translating from Spanish to English and English to
23 Spanish.

24 And Juan, if you could just please state your
25 name for the record.

1 MR. ABAC-ORDONEZ: My name is Juan Abac-
2 Ordóñez.

3 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

4 MS. LARRAZABAL: Okay. Ah, okay.

5 There's no exact address for the property, but
6 he is the owner of the property at the intersection
7 of Southeast Cove Road and Southeast Bernadette
8 Avenue.

9 THE REPORTER: Okay.

10 MS. LARRAZABAL: It is a field.

11 THE REPORTER: Okay.

12 MS. LARRAZABAL: And then he would like to
13 receive information regarding any planned
14 improvements for this property in Spanish, please.

15 THE REPORTER: Okay.

16 Okay. All right.

17 MS. LARRAZABAL: Okay.

18 THE REPORTER: Is that it?

19 MS. LARRAZABAL: Yes.

20 THE REPORTER: All right.

21 MS. LARRAZABAL: Okay, perfect. Thank you.

22 MR. ABAC-ORDONEZ: Thank you.

23 Thank you very much.

24 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

25 (Meeting concluded at 7:12 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF MARTIN

I, Monica Goldmann, Court Reporter, certify
that I was authorized to and did report the hearing of
In Re: Cove Road Planning and PD&E Study; and that the
transcript is a true and correct record of my notes.

I further certify that I am not a relative,
employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
financially interested in the action.

Dated this 1st day of May 2025.

Monica Goldmann

Monica Goldmann, Court Reporter

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