

COVE ROAD PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY
MEETING

Tuesday, April 22, 2025
5:30 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

Vanita Saini	Project Manager
Monica Diaz	Community Outreach Specialist
Walna Calixte	Public Information Specialist
David Dangel	Consultant Project Manager
	from the Ardurra Group
Shaleese Pitterson	Public Involvement Coordinator
	from Kimley-Horn and Associates
Dina Lopez Landaverde	FDOT Project Development
	Engineering Specialist
Alex Marks	FDOT Environmental Specialist
Geysa Sosa	FDOT D4 Project Development
	Manager for Planning and
	Environmental Management

1 (Thereupon, the following meeting was had:)

2 MS. PITTERSON: Good evening, everyone.

3 Welcome to the public hearing for the Cove Road
4 PD&E Study from State Road 76/Kanner Highway to
5 State Road 5/US-1 in Martin County, Florida.

6 We're now in the open house segment of tonight's
7 public hearing. Please use -- click on the
8 "handout" section on the right control panel to
9 view the exhibits for tonight's public hearing.
10 The presentation will begin at 6 p.m. Thank
11 you.

12 Preparing for the hearing for the Cove Road
13 PD&E Study, we're now in the open house segment
14 of tonight's public hearing. If you'd like to
15 view the exhibits for tonight's project, please
16 click on the right control panel under "handout"
17 section to view the project exhibits. Thank
18 you.

19 Good evening again, everyone. We are now
20 in the open house portion of tonight's hearing.
21 The open house portion of tonight's hearing will
22 continue until 6 p.m., and you can view the
23 exhibits in the "handout" section of the GoTo
24 control panel. At 6 p.m. we'll begin the formal
25 presentation. Thank you.

1 Good evening again, everyone. The presentation
2 will begin in five minutes. Thank you.

3 MS. SAINI: Good evening, and welcome to
4 the Florida Department of Transportation or FDOT
5 public hearing for the Cove Road Project
6 Development and Environmental or PD&E study.
7 Today is Tuesday, April 22, 2025, and the time
8 is now exactly 6 p.m.

9 My name is Vanita Saini. I'm the project
10 manager for this project. The Financial
11 Management Number or FM Number is
12 441700-1-22-02, and the Efficient Transportation
13 Decision Making or ETDM Number is 14479. We
14 appreciate your attendance and participation in
15 today's public hearing.

16 The proposed project involves widening Cove
17 Road from State Road 76/Kanner Highway to State
18 Road 5/US-1 in Martin County, Florida. The
19 proposed improvement will also provide
20 accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians
21 throughout the entire project limits and modify
22 each intersection to improve operations along
23 the corridor.

24 This hearing is being provided to you with
25 the opportunity for the public to comment on

1 this project. In the next few slides, we will share a
2 few items regarding the logistics for the
3 webinar and some housekeeping items. After that
4 a formal presentation will begin.

5 I want to take this opportunity just to
6 introduce the project team. The Consultant
7 Project Manager, David Dangel, is from Ardurra,
8 and I'm also joined by Shaleese Pitterson, who
9 is the Public Involvement Coordinator with
10 Kimley-Horn and Associates.

11 And we also have from the FDOT Project
12 Team, Dina Lopez Landaverde; Alex Marks, Geysa
13 Sosa, who are from the FDOT District Four
14 Project Development Management -- Planning and
15 Environmental Management. Next slide, please.

16 At this time I would like to recognize any
17 elected federal, state, or county officials who
18 may be present tonight. Federal, state, county
19 officials who would like to be recognized,
20 please submit your name, title, and affiliation
21 in the question box that is located on the
22 right-hand side of the panel, and you will be
23 recognized later in the presentation. Next
24 slide, please.

25 Before we begin the formal presentation, we

1 want to showcase the FDOT compass, which highlights the
2 focus areas for the state that are considered in
3 every project. These focus areas are safety,
4 workforce development, technology, resiliency,
5 robust supply chain, and communities.

6 At the center of the compass is a
7 community, as everything we do impacts the
8 community we serve, and this project focuses on
9 all the areas by providing additional lanes
10 along the project corridor to reduce crashes
11 related to heavy congestion, and that's our
12 safety.

13 And then intersection improvements. It
14 also is going to provide new and enhanced
15 pedestrian features, upgrades to existing
16 traffic signals. It's going to provide drainage
17 modifications to address project improvements,
18 and there will be other miscellaneous
19 improvements presented today and illustrated in
20 the study display board.

21 Next I will go over this evening's agenda.
22 The presentation will begin with a meeting
23 format and how to participate today. A formal
24 project presentation video will be played
25 explaining FDOT processes, the project purpose

1 and need, agency coordination that has taken place,
2 engineering and environmental analysis regarding
3 the preferred alternative, and the study
4 schedule.

5 After the presentation a formal public
6 comment session will be held where you will have
7 the opportunity to provide oral statements
8 virtually, or you may continue to provide your
9 comments in writing.

10 At this time we will now have Shaleese, our
11 public involvement coordinator, go over the
12 technical information and rules of engagement
13 for this evening. Thank you.

14 MS. PITTERSON: Thank you, Vanita. Here
15 are a few things to be aware of regarding the
16 meeting format. The Florida Department of
17 Transportation is providing multiple
18 opportunities for the public to receive
19 information and provide input. You can
20 participate in the public hearing using any one
21 of the three options shown here.

22 Two public hearings are being held that
23 consist of a virtual or online meeting and an
24 in-person meeting. If you choose to attend
25 tonight's public hearing virtually, you will be

1 able to view the presentation on your computer, tablet,
2 or smart phone. You will not be on camera. You
3 will remain muted throughout the hearing except
4 for the formal public comment period at the end
5 of the presentation where you will have an
6 opportunity to provide oral statements or
7 provide a written comment.

8 You must state your name and address when
9 providing feedback, asking a question, or making
10 comment in order to be included as part of the
11 public hearing record. Please note, comments or
12 questions will not be answered tonight but will
13 be addressed at a later date via email or mail.

14 Dial-in attendees not using a smart phone
15 are in listen-only mode. For dial-in attendees,
16 during the video portion of tonight's public
17 hearing, you will not be able to hear the video.

18 You can provide written comments by mail,
19 email, or the project website. The in-person
20 meeting is taking place tomorrow, April 23, at
21 5 p.m. at the Indian River State College,
22 Chastain Campus, located at 2400 Southeast
23 Salerno Road, Stuart, Florida, 34997.

24 At the in-person hearing, you will be able
25 to view the printed exhibit boards during the

1 open house, followed by a prerecorded presentation and
2 a formal comment period. During the formal
3 comment period, you will have an opportunity to
4 provide oral statements at the microphone or
5 provide them directly to the court reporter, or
6 you may provide your comment in writing. Next
7 slide, please.

8 The virtual public hearing is being
9 recorded and will be posted on the project
10 website after the hearing. If you experience
11 technical difficulties, you can contact the help
12 line at (800) 418-0524 so that a member of our
13 technical team can support you.

14 All attendees will remain muted throughout
15 the meeting except for the formal comment
16 session. To provide a comment or ask a question
17 during the formal comment section, please use
18 the "raise hand" button on the GoTo Webinar
19 panel. Once your microphone is un-muted, please
20 provide your full name and address followed by
21 your comment or question.

22 Attendees are welcome to submit comments
23 and questions using the GoTo Webinar question
24 panel. Responses to comments or questions will
25 be provided after the ten-day comment period

1 following the in-person public hearing. Next slide,
2 please.

3 On your computer or device screen, you
4 should see something that looks like this
5 control panel in the upper right-hand corner.
6 You will use the control panel to participate in
7 the meeting by typing a question or comment in
8 the "questions for staff" box or by selecting
9 the "raise hand" button during the formal
10 comment session to be temporarily un-muted so
11 that you may speak. Information on how to
12 submit your comments in writing will be provided
13 at the end of this presentation. Next slide,
14 please.

15 To listen to the meeting, your computer or
16 device speakers are selected by default. If you
17 prefer to listen by phone, select "telephone" or
18 "phone call" in the audio pane of the control
19 panel and the dial-in using the information
20 display. This presentation is also available
21 for download from the project website located at
22 www.coveroadstudy.com.

23 If you happen to experience technical
24 difficulties during this meeting, please type
25 the issue in the question pane on the control

1 panel to report it. You can also send an email to
2 walna@iscprgroup.com. That is
3 walna@iscprgroup.com. Or call
4 (800) 418-0524, and our staff will do their best
5 to assist you.

6 As a reminder, the meeting is being
7 recorded and will be available after the
8 meeting. The project presentation will now
9 begin. Thank you.

10 (Video begins.)

11 VIDEO SPEAKER: Welcome to the Florida
12 Department of Transportation public hearing for
13 the Cove Road Project Development and
14 Environment or PD&E Study, Financial Project ID
15 441700-1-22-02 and Efficient Transportation
16 Decision Making Number 14479.

17 Public notice for this public hearing,
18 including information on how to access the
19 meeting platform, was provided in letter
20 notifications to property owners and tenants
21 within the project area. This public hearing
22 was advertised consistent with the federal and
23 state requirements shown on the slide.

24 In addition, e-mails were sent to
25 interested individuals, elected and appointed

1 officials, government agencies, and persons on the
2 project contacts list. This public meeting was
3 advertised in the Florida Administrative
4 Register, newspaper, and via social media.
5 Notice was also posted on the project website.

6 The proposed project is being developed in
7 accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
8 Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,
9 public participation is solicited without regard
10 to race, color, national origin, age, sex,
11 religion, disability, or family status.

12 Persons wishing to express their concerns
13 relative to the department's compliance with
14 Title VI may do so by contacting FDOT District 4
15 Title VI Coordinator, Sharon Singh-Hagyan, at
16 (954) 777-4190 or via email at
17 sharon.singhhagyan@dot.state.fl.us. Or FDOT
18 State Title VI Coordinator, Stefan Kulakowski at
19 (850) 414-4742 or via email at
20 stefan.kulakowski@dot.state.fl.us. Or by
21 calling the toll free number at (866) 366-8435,
22 extension 4190.

23 The environmental review, consultation, and
24 other actions required by applicable federal and
25 environmental laws for these projects are being

1 or have been carried out by the FDOT pursuant to 23
2 United States Code 327 and a Memorandum of
3 Understanding dated May 26, 2022, and executed
4 by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

5 This public hearing was advertised
6 consistent with federal and state requirements.
7 A PD&E Study is a second phase of FDOT's
8 transportation project development process. Key
9 components of the PD&E Study include an
10 evaluation of existing conditions,
11 identification of future traffic needs,
12 development of project alternatives,
13 environmental and engineering evaluations, and
14 public and agency involvement. All findings and
15 recommendations are documented at the end of the
16 study. If a build alternative is selected, then
17 the project moves forward into the design phase.

18 This project is located within
19 unincorporated Martin County. The project
20 limits begin from Kanner Highway and extend
21 approximately 3.2 miles to US-1/Federal Highway.

22 Cove Road is a two-lane roadway providing
23 one 12-foot wide travel lane in each direction.
24 The existing right-of-way within the project
25 limits varies from 90 feet to 203 feet in width,

1 and the posted speed limit varies from 35 to 45 miles
2 per hour. There are intermittent sidewalks
3 along the project corridor. However, there are
4 no bicycle facilities along this segment of Cove
5 Road. A public kickoff meeting was held March,
6 2023, to announce the project, and an
7 alternatives public workshop was held in May,
8 2024, to present the proposed alternatives.

9 This project meets the planning consistency
10 requirements. The project is funded and listed
11 in the Martin Metropolitan Planning
12 Organization, or MPO, for fiscal year 2024 to
13 2029 transportation improvement program and the
14 2045 long-range transportation plan. The
15 design and right-of-way phases for this project
16 are currently funded.

17 The primary purpose of widening Cove Road
18 from two lanes to four lanes is to add capacity
19 for all modes of travel and improve the local
20 transportation network. The need for the
21 project includes supporting economic and social
22 demands, improving system linkage, increasing
23 capacity, improving connections and coordination
24 between different transportation modes, and
25 improving emergency evacuation.

1 Average daily traffic data was collected along
2 the project corridor. Based on the data
3 collected, the existing two lanes along Cove
4 Road are anticipated to operate at a level of
5 service E or F during the a.m. and p.m. peak
6 hours.

7 In addition, traffic along the project
8 corridor is expected to increase by 42 percent
9 by 2045. The preferred build alternative will
10 address safety issues and prevent the roadway
11 from failing with the current anticipated
12 growth.

13 The study team has conducted several local
14 government and agency coordination meetings that
15 include several project development meetings
16 with FDOT, the Martin MPO, and county staff.
17 The project team also presented to various
18 residential communities within the project area.

19 Two virtual public meetings and two
20 in-person public meetings were held to provide
21 the public with opportunities to learn about the
22 project, ask questions, and provide comments on
23 the project. Martin County approved the typical
24 sections for the Cove Road PD&E Study.

25 Five alternatives were evaluated for this

1 project and presented at the alternatives public
2 workshop held in May, 2024. The no-build
3 alternative, which would involve no improvements
4 to the roadway other than routine maintenance,
5 will remain a viable alternative throughout the
6 study.

7 The alternatives went through a screening
8 process, which included the evaluation of
9 several factors related to the purpose and need,
10 mobility impacts, property impacts,
11 constructability, and compatibility with
12 adjacent projects. Multiple coordination
13 meetings were conducted with the county and
14 property owners to identify the alternative with
15 least impact.

16 An evaluation matrix compares the potential
17 costs and impacts of the proposed project
18 alternatives. The matrix prioritizes evaluation
19 criteria based on the right-of-way impacts;
20 natural, environmental, and physical impacts;
21 and estimated costs to design and construct the
22 project.

23 The project corridor is broken out into two
24 segments. Segment one extends from Kanner
25 Highway to Avalon Drive, and segment two extends

1 from Avalon Drive to US-1. The preferred build
2 alternative for segment one of the project is
3 alternative 1-B.

4 This alternative includes two 11-foot
5 travel lanes in each direction separated by a
6 22-foot median. There are no on-road bicycle
7 lanes included. Pedestrians and bicyclists will
8 be accommodated on 12-foot wide shared use paths
9 along both sides of the road. Most of the
10 proposed typical section will be constructed
11 within FDOT's existing right-of-way. Potential
12 right-of-way needs will be finalized during the
13 design phase.

14 A traffic signal will remain at the
15 intersection of Kanner Highway and Cove Road.
16 The Southwest Gaines Avenue intersection will be
17 converted to provide two-way access at Cove
18 Road. The existing Gaines Avenue extension will
19 be converted to a one-way road to accommodate
20 westbound access to Southwest Gaines Avenue and
21 a new westbound left turn lane from Cove Road.

22 At the Southeast Tres Belle Circle
23 intersection, a two-lane four-legged roundabout
24 will be added. The signalized intersection will
25 remain at the Southeast Atlantic Ridge Drive

1 intersection. An eastbound left and right turn lane
2 and a westbound left turn lane will be added to
3 Cove Road.

4 The existing signalized intersection at
5 Southeast Legacy Cove Circle will remain with
6 designated east and westbound right and left
7 turn lanes. A two-lane three-legged roundabout
8 is proposed at Southeast Ault Avenue to replace
9 the existing full open median. The existing
10 signalized intersection at Southeast Willoughby
11 Boulevard will remain with designated east and
12 westbound right and left turn lanes.

13 The preferred build alternative for segment
14 two of the project, which extends from Avalon
15 Drive to State Road 5/US-1 is alternative 2-C.
16 Alternative 2-C includes an 11-foot outside
17 travel lane and 10-foot inside travel lane in
18 each direction separated by a 15-and-a-half foot
19 wide median.

20 A shared use path will be provided along
21 both sides of the road and varies in width
22 between 8 and 10 feet to minimize right-of-way
23 impacts. This typical section requires a
24 minimum of 90 feet of right-of-way.

25 Potential environmental effects associated

1 with the preferred build alternative were evaluated
2 throughout the PD&E Study. No effect was
3 identified for the federally-listed plants
4 identified within the study area.

5 The preferred alternative may affect,
6 though will not adversely affect, some of the
7 federally-listed species within the project
8 area. No adverse effect was identified for the
9 state-listed species identified within the study
10 area. The preferred is not anticipated to have
11 any effect on the state-listed plants within the
12 project area.

13 Impacts to wetlands, other surface water,
14 contamination sites, cultural resources, and
15 floodplains were also evaluated. The preferred
16 alternative will have direct impact to
17 approximately 6.96 acres of wetlands located
18 within the study area. Approximately 1.29 acres
19 of secondary impacts are anticipated. There are
20 no impacts anticipated to the existing
21 contamination sites, cultural resources, and
22 floodplains.

23 A noise study was completed during the PD&E
24 Study. One noise barrier near the Hibiscus Park
25 community was found to be a feasible and/or

1 reasonable method to abate traffic noise impacts. The
2 proposed noise wall will extend between Avalon
3 Drive and Cable Drive. During the design phase
4 of the project, detailed surveys will be
5 conducted to determine if and where the noise
6 walls should be built.

7 One of the unavoidable consequences of a
8 project such as this is the necessary relocation
9 of families or businesses. On this project we
10 anticipate one potential residential relocation.
11 The relocation is required to accommodate a new
12 pond required with the preferred alternative.

13 All right-of-way acquisition and relocation
14 will be conducted in accordance with Florida
15 Statute 421.55 and the Federal Uniform
16 Relocation Assistance and Real Property
17 Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, commonly known
18 as the Uniform Act.

19 If you are required to move as a result of
20 a Department of Transportation project, you can
21 expect to be treated in a fair and helpful
22 manner and in compliance with the Uniform
23 Relocation Assistance Act. If a move is
24 necessary, you'll be contacted by an appraiser
25 who will inspect your property. We encourage

1 you to be present during the inspection and provide
2 information about the value of your property.

3 You may also be eligible for relocation
4 advisory services and payment benefits, which
5 will be explained by the right-of-way agent. If
6 you are required to move and you are unsatisfied
7 with the department's determination of your
8 eligibility for payment or the amount of that
9 payment, you may appeal that determination. You
10 will be promptly furnished necessary forms and
11 notified of the procedures to be followed in
12 making that appeal.

13 A special word of caution. If you move
14 before you receive notification of the
15 relocation benefits that you might be entitled
16 to, your benefits may be jeopardized. We
17 encourage you to call the FDOT Deputy
18 Right-of-Way Manager for Production, Christina
19 Brown, at (954) 498-7086 or email
20 christina.brown@dot.state.fl.us. Or visit the
21 right-of-way specialist at the in-person venue
22 if you have any questions regarding the
23 right-of-way acquisition or relocation process.

24 The next step is to incorporate your input
25 on this public hearing into our decision-making

1 process. After the comment period closes and your
2 input has been considered, a decision will be
3 made, and the final PD&E document will be
4 approved. This project has and will continue to
5 comply with all applicable state and federal
6 rules and regulations.

7 Project documents are available for your
8 review at the Robert Morgade Library located at
9 5851 Southeast Community Drive, Stuart, Florida,
10 34997. The documents will remain on display at
11 the library through May 7, 2025.

12 Project documents and meeting materials are
13 also available on the project website at
14 www.coveroadstudy.com. Project documents are
15 also available for public viewing during the
16 in-person public hearing this Wednesday,
17 April 23, 2025, at the Indian River State
18 College, Chastain Campus, at 2400 Southeast
19 Salerno Road, Stuart, Florida, 34997.

20 Please reach out to Vanita Saini or visit
21 our project website for more information about
22 the project. The department encourages input
23 and participation. There are multiple ways to
24 submit questions and comments to the project
25 team.

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

8 During the in-person public hearing, you
9 can provide your comments by filling out a
10 speaker card and waiting to be called upon
11 during the formal comment period. You may also
12 provide your comments directly to the court
13 reporter or fill out a comment card and drop it
14 in the comment box at the meeting.

15 Or if you prefer, you may mail your
16 questions and comments to 3400 West Commercial
17 Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33309, or
18 submit them by email to Vanita Saini at
19 vanita.saini@dot.state.fl.us. All questions,
20 comments, or statements postmarked on or before
21 May 7, 2025, will become part of the public
22 hearing record.

23 You can also submit your questions and
24 comments directly through the project website.
25 The website address is www.coveroadstudy.com.

1 You can also use the QR code that is being displayed
2 on the screen to access the project website.

3 Get involved today. The Florida Department
4 of Transportation is kicking off its 2055
5 Florida Transportation Plan, FTP, update. The
6 2055 FTP is a comprehensive state-wide blueprint
7 guiding Florida's 30-year transportation future.

8 The FTP transportation policy lays the
9 foundation for investments in the FDOT's work
10 program, which is updated every five years. The
11 plan will be developed through steering
12 committee guidance, focus group support, and
13 comprehensive community engagement, both partner
14 and public engagement.

15 This plan update will be adopted by
16 November, 2025. Our goal is that the FTP will
17 be a plan in which Florida's communities can see
18 themselves and our stakeholders can use to
19 develop their transportation plans and
20 strategies.

21 We welcome you to join the process by
22 participating in one of the five diverse focus
23 groups; safety, resilient infrastructure,
24 economic development, workforce development, and
25 technology; attending one of our regional

1 workshops or one of our state-wide webinars. Please
2 visit the FDOT 2055 Florida Transportation Plan
3 website at www.floridaftp.com for more
4 information on meeting dates.

5 Before we conclude this presentation, the
6 department would like to share its monthly
7 safety campaign, which in this case is National
8 Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Please
9 remember that you can set your phone to "Do not
10 disturb" and start your playlist before buckling
11 up and shifting into gear.

12 This concludes the video portion of the
13 presentation.

14 (Video ends.)

15 MS. SAINI: Okay. So I would like to take
16 a moment to acknowledge if there are any elected
17 federal, state, or county officials who may have
18 just logged on that would like to be recognized.
19 You can please submit your name, title, and
20 affiliation in the question box to be
21 recognized. I don't see any --

22 MS. CALIXTE: We do not have any elected
23 officials joining us at this time. We may
24 continue.

25 MS. SAINI: Okay. If you wish to provide a

1 comment tonight, please use the control panel in the
2 upper right-hand corner on your computer or
3 device screen to type a question or comment in
4 the question panel.

5 You may also select the "raise hand" button
6 and wait to be called upon. Once you are called
7 upon, you will be temporarily un-muted so you
8 may speak. Again, please provide your name and
9 address and then proceed with your comment, and
10 each person will have three minutes to provide a
11 comment.

12 The department encourages input and
13 participation, and there are multiple ways to
14 submit questions and comments to the project
15 team. You can submit your comments tonight by
16 typing your question in the comment box or using
17 the "raise hand" feature in the control panel.

18 You may also submit comments at the
19 in-person hearing tomorrow by completing a
20 speaker card and speaking at the microphone.
21 You can also provide comments using a comment
22 form or providing your comment directly to the
23 court reporter.

24 There are other ways after this meeting to
25 submit comments online on the project website or

1 provide written comments through the project website
2 "contact us" section at www.coveroadstudy.com or
3 scan the QR code on this slide to visit the
4 project website.

5 You are also welcome to email me, the
6 project manager, at my email address,
7 vanita.saini@dot.state.fl.us, or you can mail
8 your comments and questions attention to myself,
9 Vanita Saini, at District 4. The address is
10 3400 West Commercial Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale,
11 Florida, 33309, and the contact information is
12 also available on the public meeting information
13 that you received by mail. Thank you. Now we
14 will begin the formal comment period.

15 MS. PITTERSON: If you wish to provide a
16 comment tonight, please use the control panel in
17 the upper right-hand corner on your computer or
18 device screen to type a question or comment in
19 the questions panel. You may also raise -- use
20 the "raise hand" button and wait to be called
21 upon.

22 Once you're called upon, you will be
23 temporarily un-muted so you may speak. Again,
24 please provide us with your name and address and
25 then proceed with your comment. Each person

1 will have three minutes to provide a comment.

2 MS. CALIXTE: Ms. Ellen Osborn, I do see
3 your hand is raised. Please go ahead and click
4 on the red mic next to your name. Ms. Ellen
5 Osborne?

6 MS. OSBORN: Hello?

7 MS. CALIXTE: Hello, we can hear you.
8 Please state your name and address.

9 MS. OSBORN: Oh, okay. My name is Ellen
10 Osborn, 172 Southeast Crestwood Circle, right at
11 the corner intersection of Kanner and Cove Road.
12 Southwest Gaines, you mentioned something about
13 Southwest Gaines.

14 Right now currently, it's like a nightmare
15 to take a right out of there to -- that's our
16 only way out to go left to get onto Kanner. And
17 I want -- you mentioned something about it's
18 going to be you can take a left there now? How
19 are we going to be able to get out of our
20 community?

21 Also, I have a comment about the Sandhill
22 cranes. I didn't see that there's any impact on
23 them. Currently, I see dead Sandhill cranes all
24 up and down Cove Road right now.

25 MS. CALIXTE: Thank you for your comment,

1 Ellen.

2 MS. SAINI: And I just want to remind the
3 attendee that we will be responding to all
4 comments at a later date.

5 MS. OSBORN: Oh, okay.

6 MS. CALIXTE: We will now have Ms. Nancy
7 McComb. Please go ahead and click on the red
8 mic next to your name.

9 MS. MCCOMB: Yes, my name is Nancy McComb.
10 My address is 7500 Southeast Paulson Avenue.
11 Hello?

12 MS. CALIXTE: Yes, ma'am, we can hear you.
13 Continue with your question or comment.

14 MS. MCCOMB: Yes, my comment is I have an
15 acre-and-a-half off of Gaines Road and Paulson
16 Avenue, which is scheduled to become a pond.
17 And I'm wondering why --

18 MS. SAINI: I think we lost the connection?

19 MS. CALIXTE: Ms. McComb, can you hear us?

20 MS. MCCOMB: -- considered as part of
21 becoming the pond versus my property.

22 MS. CALIXTE: Can you repeat your question,
23 please?

24 MS. MCCOMB: Yes. My property is scheduled
25 to become a pond in the study, and I'm asking

1 why it wasn't considered to have the acre-and-a-half
2 that is across the street in the park instead of
3 using my property where my house is, which would
4 -- taking that acre-and-a-half would still --
5 it's right next to Cove Road, and it would still
6 leave park area. It would still leave the
7 picnic area. It would still leave the boat ramp
8 area. Why my property was selected, not that
9 acre-and-a-half on the park.

10 MS. SAINI: Thank you for your comment and
11 questions, and we will respond in writing at a
12 later date.

13 MS. PITTERSON: At this time I do not see
14 any other hands raised. Is there anyone else
15 wishing to speak tonight? Please raise your
16 hand and wait to be called upon. I'll give
17 another minute.

18 There are no additional hands raised at
19 this time. All questions and comments submitted
20 as part of -- are made part of tonight's project
21 public record and will be considered by the
22 department during the project decision making.

23 Following tonight's meeting, a recording of
24 the public hearing will be made available on the
25 project's website. As a reminder, the public

1 comment period for the public hearing will remain open
2 through May 7, 2025.

3 MS. SAINI: Now that we've heard all
4 comments at tonight's virtual public hearing and
5 there have been no written comments on the chat,
6 we are ready to close tonight's public hearing.
7 We thank you again for the participation in
8 tonight's public hearing, and we hope you found
9 it to be informative.

10 I want to also remind everyone that all
11 comments and questions received tonight, as well
12 as all comments and questions received either by
13 email or by the project website, will be
14 responded to at a later date via email or
15 letter.

16 And once again, my contact information is
17 Vanita Saini. You can contact me by email at
18 Vanita, vanita.saini@dot.state.fl.us. Or you
19 can mail your comments or questions attention to
20 myself, Vanita Saini, at 3400 West Commercial
21 Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33309. Or
22 you can also call me at (954) 777-4468 or use
23 the toll free number, (866) 336-8435, extension
24 4468.

25 You can also visit the project website at

1 www.coveroadstudy.com or scan the QR code that's on
2 your screen, and that will take you directly to
3 the project website. And just a reminder,
4 tomorrow will be an in-person public hearing at
5 the Indian River State College, Chastain Campus,
6 located at 2400 Southeast Salerno Road, Stuart,
7 Florida, 34997.

8 And anyone who was not able to attend
9 tonight's virtual meeting or who has further
10 questions or comments can meet the project team
11 and attend tomorrow's -- tomorrow evening's
12 meeting. Thank you.

13 So this concludes our public hearing. The
14 time is now 6:43 p.m. And on behalf of the
15 Florida Department of Transportation and our
16 presenters, we thank you for joining us tonight.
17 Have a good evening.

18 (Thereupon, the meeting was concluded at
19 6:43 p.m.)
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25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF MARTIN

I, Rob Worst, CER, certify that
I was authorized to and did report the Cove
Road PD&E Study meeting; 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 the 17th day of May, 2025.



Rob Worst, CER

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