

FDOT CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE

FLORIDA PANTHER



Photo credit: NPS

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission**
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VERSION 1.0 (March 2026)



ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE ———
TRANSPORTATION DELIVERED



The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding May 26, 2022, and executed by FHWA and FDOT.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report, covering January through December 2025, highlights the actions undertaken by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to support its Conservation Plan for the Florida Panther (Plan). The actions taken by FDOT support the Plan’s suite of conservation measures, tools, and processes carried out in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and other partners. This annual report highlights measurable achievements that advance panther recovery objectives through implementation of wildlife crossings, collision reduction strategies, research partnerships, and public engagement. Building on the foundational accomplishments documented in the inaugural 2024 report, 2025 reflects continued expansion from planning and coordination into active construction, systemwide deployment of tools, and broader statewide engagement supporting long-term panther recovery goals. Key accomplishments include completion and advancement of multiple wildlife crossings, expansion of wildlife fencing and advanced warning systems to improve motorist safety, strengthened coordination with local agencies and universities, and broad outreach through media, conferences, and educational initiatives.

The report aligns with the annual update of priority wildlife crossing locations and methodology outlined in [Appendix E of the Conservation Plan](#) and provides a status update on planned crossings and associated conservation actions (see Appendix A of this document). The report does not include FDOT actions where consultation occurs through the [FDOT Programmatic Approach for Minor Transportation Activities](#), as those actions are addressed through a separate reporting process.



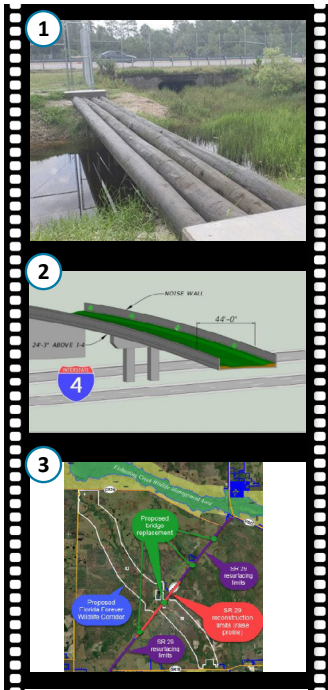
Female Florida panther using an Alligator Alley/I-75 timber bridge canal crossing

The following highlights summarize ten key achievements from 2025 that collectively demonstrate FDOT’s approach to advancing wildlife connectivity, improving roadway safety, and strengthening public awareness in support of the Florida Panther Conservation Plan.



Top 10 Achievements in 2025:

Connectivity and Crossings



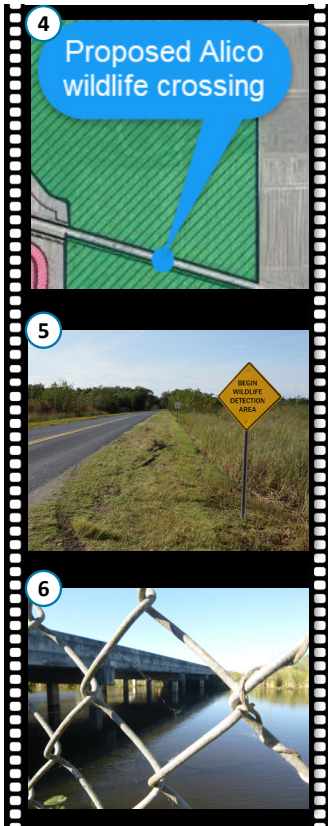
1. Completion of three additional canal crossings on I-75 Alligator Alley
2. Start of construction on two crossings
 - I-4 overpass
 - SR 33 underpass
3. Design began on two crossings
 - SR 29 Owl Hammock
 - SR 29 Chapparal Slough and Lone Pine Creek Bridge

Media and News Releases



7. Wildlife Wednesdays initiated
8. 16 press releases or newsletter articles from 12 different outlets; three live interviews
 - Florida Uncut podcast (available on nationwide podcast outlets)
 - Livestream-Reconnecting Wild Florida
9. Contribution to Films and Documentaries
 - Building Wild Spaces Connectivity on I-4 honored with several film industry awards

Collision Reduction



4. Expanded Local Agency Cooperation
 - FDOT coordinated with Collier and Lee Counties for additional flashing warning signs
 - Cooperation with development company, Alico Inc., for coordinated wildlife corridor and crossing locations on SR 82
5. Completion of Advanced Wildlife Warning System (AWWS) and AWWS study Initiated with UF
6. Improvements to Wildlife Fences
 - Standard Specification and Standard Plans Index for Wildlife Fences released
 - Funding secured for extended fences on I-75 Alligator Alley in Broward County

Conferences and Public Outreach



10. Presence at six major conferences and two major public events with educational material
 - International Conference on Ecology and Transportation
 - Corridor Connect: Comprehensive outreach including workshop, field trip, exhibits, and educational resources.

These achievements, and the others listed within the report, reflect the successful implementation of the Conservation Plan, and demonstrate FDOT's commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to support the recovery of the Florida panther.



CONSERVATION MEASURES

The FDOT Conservation Plan for the Florida Panther includes many conservation measures and associated actions. The following reiterates these measures and actions and provides the report of specific achievements throughout 2025.

The following conservation measures may be used to support the transportation program while meeting specific USFWS recovery actions for the panther. Each conservation measure has identified actions associated with it. FDOT has been undertaking many of these actions over the years (indicated with an *), while others are conservation measures or actions that FDOT, USFWS, and FWC agree will likely also further panther conservation and recovery goals.

Conservation measures outlined within this Plan serve as a guide for meeting the goals and objectives of the program and do not obligate any party, including the action agency, to undertake specific actions at specific times. Rather, implementation of these conservation measures is contingent upon opportunities within the annual work program budget and/or other budgetary constraints.

Actions undertaken by FDOT to support specific conservation measures will be reported to USFWS and FWC annually. If additional conservation measures are identified that would support panther conservation and recovery goals through FDOT’s transportation program, this Plan can be updated to reflect them.

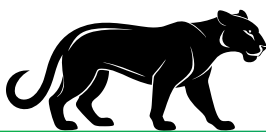
Recovery Objectives 1 and 2:

Recovery Objective 1: To maintain, restore, and expand the panther population and its habitat in south Florida and expand the breeding portion of the population in south Florida to areas north of the Caloosahatchee River

Recovery Objective 2: To identify, secure, maintain, and restore panther habitat in potential reintroduction areas within the historic range, and to establish viable populations of the panther outside south and south-central Florida.

The following conservation measures and actions are intended to support Recovery Objectives 1 and 2:

Conservation Measures Supporting Recovery Objectives 1 and 2



Conservation Measure 1. Tools and Procedures to Support Wildlife Crossings

FDOT will continue to develop and update tools and procedures for use by environmental and design staff for transportation projects including wildlife crossings. Throughout this section, the use of the term “wildlife crossing” will also include other wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVC) reduction infrastructure and technology (e.g., fencing, road-side animal detection systems).



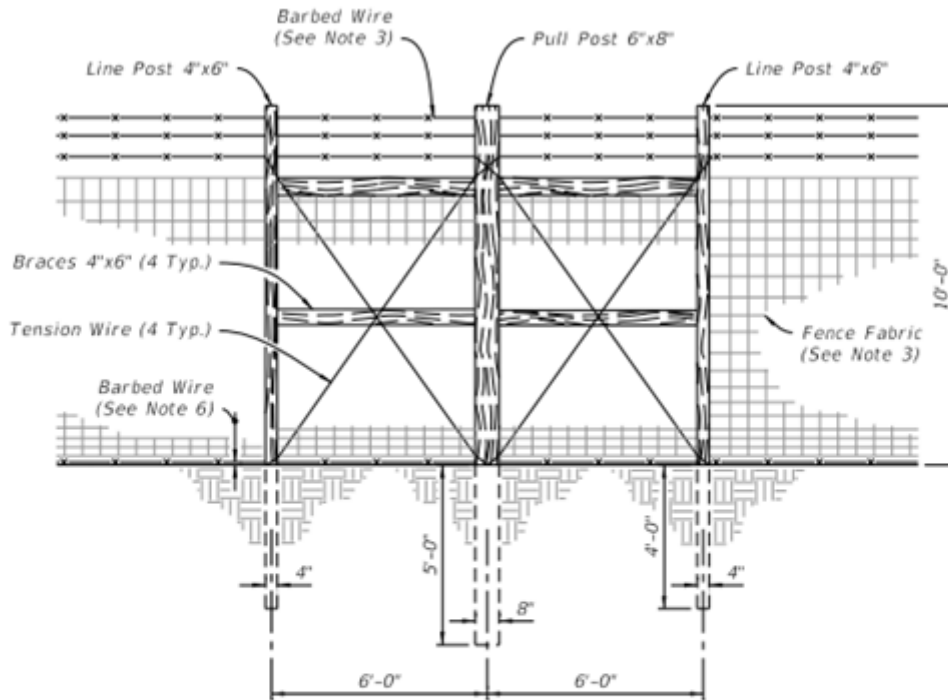
ACTIONS NOTED IN THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATION PLAN:

- 1.1. Wildlife Crossing Guidelines*** – FDOT will continue to work with USFWS, FWC, and other stakeholders to maintain up to date guidelines.
- 1.2. FDOT Design Manuals*** – FDOT will continue to review and update manuals such as the FDOT Design Manual and Structures Design Guide for opportunities to include guidance to designers as it relates to incorporating wildlife crossings into designs.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Wildlife Fencing Standard Plans (July): The Standard Specification and Standard Plans Index for fences were updated to add standards for wildlife fencing. The standards were published and available for use with July 1, 2025 release of the updated specifications and plans.



PULL POST DETAIL

10' WILDLIFE FENCE - GENERAL DETAILS

FENCE TYPE A

INDEX	SHEET
550-001	4 of 5

Example from the 2025 edition of the FDOT Standard Plans Index for wildlife fencing.



1.3. Wildlife Crossing Considerations Geodatabase* – FDOT will continue to maintain, develop, and collect GIS data best suited to support determining the most effective locations for wildlife crossings. Currently there are data layers related to WVCs, hot spot modeling, and conservation lands, to name a few. These data layers include panther specific information developed by the Panther Recovery Implementation Team (PRIT) – Transportation Sub Team such as:

- Least Cost Pathways
- 2022 Southwest Florida Roads Hot Spots
- I-4 Permeability locations



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Panther Hotspots Update (January): The Southwest Florida Roads Hot Spot Map was updated with panther-vehicle collision data from 2024. This data resource was initiated in 2016 and is updated annually in January.

Creation of Historic Wildlife Vehicle Collision (WVC) Database (January): District 1 researched to develop a database of WVCs. This database covered time period between 2014 and 2023 for the state of Florida.

Inventory of Panther Warning Signs (February): FDOT mapped existing panther and bear warning signs and nighttime speed zone signs within District 1’s southern counties. A GIS shapefile was developed and made publicly available through the Florida Geo-database Library (FGDL) website.

The screenshot shows the FGDL Current Data Catalog interface. At the top, there are logos for UF Geoplan Center and FGDL. Below the search bar, two filters are applied: 'Search for 'FDOT'' and 'Search for 'signage''. The main table displays the following data:

FGDL Layername	Source	Title	Download
1 PANTHER_CROSSING_SIGNS_AUG24	FDOT	FDOT Florida Panther Roadway Signage - August 2024	

Florida Panther Roadway Signage Data in the Florida Geo-Database Library.

FDOT Environmental Screening Tool Added Functionality (July): The Wildlife and Habitat layers of the Environmental Screening Tool (EST) on the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) website provides GIS data layers essential for assessing potential locations of a wildlife crossing within the landscape. An option to create a Wildlife Crossing Potential Report was added in 2025. This report is generated based on an area of interest which directs EST to scan data layers such as wildlife corridors, greenways, conservation lands and geographic species data. The report generates prioritized locations for further consideration of potential crossings.

The screenshot shows the Environmental Screening Tool (EST) interface. The header includes 'Home > Home', 'Environmental Screening Tool', and 'Map' and 'Export' buttons. The main content area features the ETDM EST logo and a date of 07/11/2025. The text below the logo reads: 'We are excited to announce the release of the Wildlife Crossings Potential Report in the Environmental Screening Tool! This comprehensive report is divided into four key tiers of data, arranged by the most relevant decision-making factors:'

- **Tier 1: Wildlife Connectivity** - Property Boundaries/Ownership & FL Ecological Greenway Network Rating
- **Tier 2: Wildlife-Vehicle Collision/Hotspots** - Wildlife-Vehicle Incidents & Patterns
- **Tier 3: Habitat, Wetlands, and Species Occurrence** - Habitat & Species Presence
- **Tier 4: Crossing Opportunities and Conflicts** - Partnerships (multi-use crossings) & Conflicts (utilities)

Additionally, a new thematic map for **Section 4(f) Potential** has been created and is now available. You can find it here: **Saved Maps -> Thematic Maps -> Cultural and Tribal -> Section 4(f) Potential**

We welcome you to explore these new features in the EST and share your thoughts - we look forward to your feedback!

Wildlife Crossing Potential Report in the Environmental Screening Tool.



1.4. Wildlife Crossing Prioritization Methodology – FDOT will utilize and update the methodology annually in coordination with USFWS and FWC to identify and prioritize locations that can most likely reduce wildlife mortality, improve traffic safety, and support range expansion of the species, taking into consideration priority land acquisitions and anticipated land use conversions. See [Appendix E of the Conservation Plan](#) for additional information.

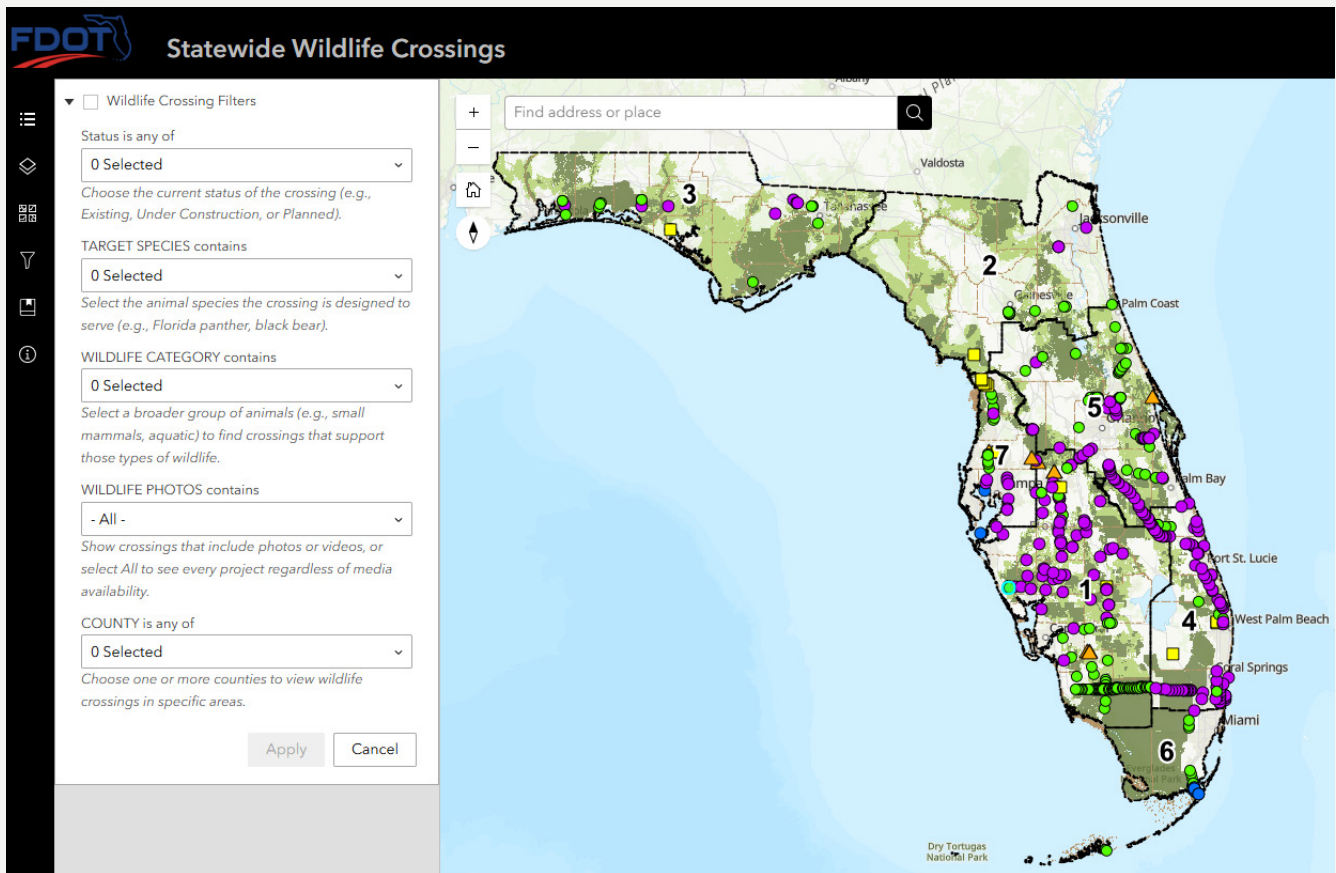


2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Recurring Protected Species Meetings (Quarterly): Meetings with all the FDOT districts are held quarterly to discuss protected species and habitats. This effort helps identify trends or updates across the state in a forum that focuses on FDOT staff participation.

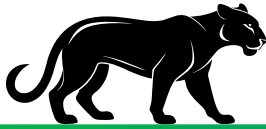
2025 Annual Wildlife Crossing Prioritization Meeting (January): The 2025 Annual Priority Agency Meeting was held on January 27, 2025. Presentations from FDOT’s Office of Environmental Management (OEM), Districts 1, 4, 5, and the Florida Turnpike reported on achievements, project updates and future planning of wildlife crossings. Analysis of panther vehicle collisions over time, data collection methods, databases, and other tools were shared with the group.

Updates to OEM Databases (November): Updates to the Wildlife Crossing List on FDOT’s internal SharePoint is performed throughout the year. The [Statewide Wildlife Crossing Web Map](#) was updated with options for users to search for specific data with the help of filters. For example, crossing data can be searched specifically for a specific species, or a more general wildlife category, among other options.



Statewide Wildlife Crossing Web Map filter options.

Development of District Specific Priorities (December): District 2 developed a draft list of Top 10 Potential New Wildlife Crossings from a wildlife connectivity and vehicle accident reduction standpoint. The list represents a priority list in order of need based upon accepted criteria. This list can be compared to the 5-year work plan to determine the next project that could include a wildlife crossing in the design.



Conservation Measure 2. Support Panther Related Research

FDOT will continue to look for opportunities that support panther related research. FDOT has previously supported universities through state-wide contracts to model WVC hot spots, has conducted a substantial amount of camera trapping for locations on the SHS, and has partnered with other organizations to conduct camera trapping that can inform wildlife crossing locations. This is an important conservation measure to understand the most up to date biological information and technological advances that support USFWS recovery goals.

ACTIONS NOTED IN THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATION PLAN:

2.1. Wildlife cameras* – FDOT will continue to look for opportunities to deploy cameras, or partner with other entities to provide camera trap data to inform wildlife crossing location decision making, implementation of other conservation measures, or adaptive management strategies.



[Click to see videos](#)



[Panther caterwauling on SR 29](#)



[Bobcat using piles on SR 29](#)



[Panther using concrete pile bridge](#)



[Bobcat at SR 777](#)



[Broketail with her large kitten \(almost an adult\)](#)



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Expanding Statewide Wildlife Monitoring Capacity (March): Statewide wildlife monitoring efforts were boosted with the deployment of 42 trail cameras across all FDOT districts. Staff were trained in maintaining albums within the Statewide SharePoint site to streamline photo sharing and improve data accessibility.

2.2. University contracts* – FDOT will continue to look for opportunities to work with universities supporting panther research, wildlife crossing analysis, GIS data development, and other areas of subject matter expertise. The contracts may provide opportunities for funding additional collection of telemetry data.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



University of Florida Research Contract (June): A Task Work Order (TWO) for study of the effectiveness for the SR 29 Advanced Wildlife Warning System (AWWS) was finalized with University of Florida. The study will cover a 48-month period including annual System Performance reports. This study will provide analysis of measurable reduction in wildlife-vehicle related crashes within the detection zone; the reliability of AWWS in correctly detecting target wildlife species; and the effectiveness of the AWWS in eliciting positive driver responses (awareness, vehicle speed reduction, advanced braking) when alerted to a hazard in the roadway.

Animal Related Crash Data (2025): The large animal hot spots throughout the state are being updated with animal related crash data which can support future panther crossings as and when their range expands.

2.3. Fund USFWS Positions* - FDOT, in coordination with FHWA, will continue to fund USFWS staff that can provide expertise on where and how to implement the conservation measures outlined in this Plan. FDOT will seek avenues (including through the existing FHWA agreements) to fund additional USFWS staff as needed to support new functions of this Plan such as USFWS liaisons with local road departments, private landowners, and other agencies supporting this Plan. These current and future staff would also provide additional expertise to FDOT on design of conservation measures such as size and type of crossing, fencing innovations, median funneling techniques, and monitoring support.

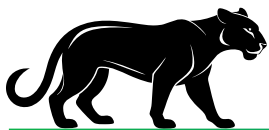
2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



USFWS Environmental Technical Advisory Team (On-going): FDOT and USFWS continue to have a contractual agreement to fund positions that provide expertise on panther and wildlife crossings. FDOT and USFWS are also continuing to explore additional opportunities.

2.4. USFWS Director Fellowship Program (DFP) – this program may offer FDOT an opportunity to support a project or internship that meets panther research or recovery objectives such as providing opportunities for funding additional collection of telemetry data.

2.5. Fund USFWS or FWC Research – as research needs are identified by USFWS or FWC to support this Plan and panther recovery objectives, FDOT will consider participating in funding these projects. Specifically, projects that provide data to support decision-making (e.g., additional GPS collars on panthers or surrogate species) would be of value to this Plan. Other topics such as studies on predator-prey relationships may also provide pertinent information.



Conservation Measure 3.

Construct, Maintain, and Monitor Wildlife Crossings

As noted throughout, FDOT has been constructing wildlife crossings to support the panther for over three decades and currently there are 85 in the panther focus area. Through photo documentation over the last eight years, FDOT has demonstrated the effectiveness of these structures to support a reduction in WVCs, as well as providing habitat connectivity. Construction of wildlife crossings (both project related, and stand-alone retrofit opportunities) will be a focus of this Plan. Throughout this section, the use of the term “wildlife crossing” will also include other WVC reduction infrastructure and technology (e.g., fencing, road-side animal detection systems).



ACTIONS NOTED IN THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATION PLAN:

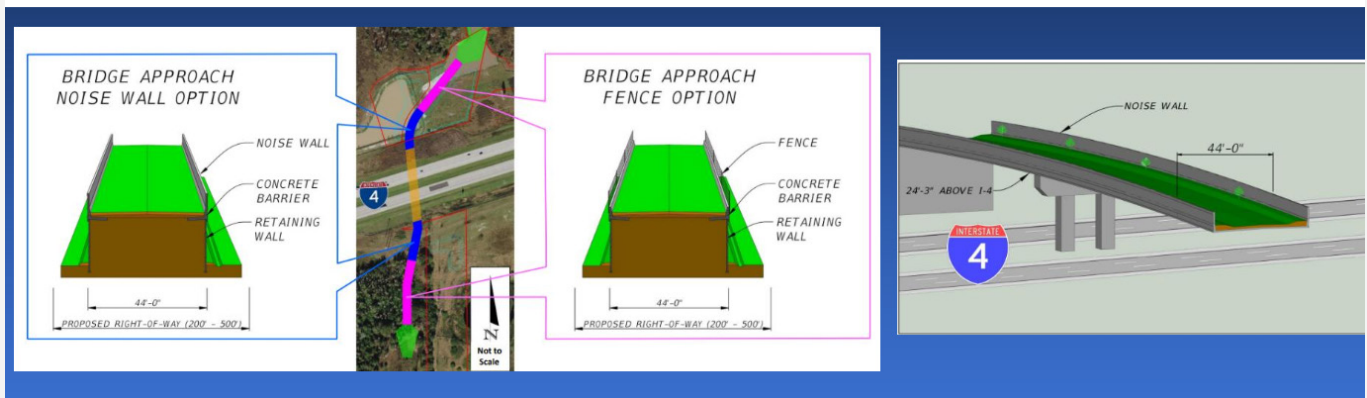
3.1. Construct Wildlife Crossings* – FDOT will construct wildlife crossings that are funded as a result of utilizing the methodology in [Appendix E of the Conservation Plan](#). FDOT will continue to seek out innovative and cost-effective solutions for this action. When designing and permitting retrofit crossings that have impacts to panther habitat, FDOT may utilize the methodology outlined in [Appendix G of the Conservation Plan](#) to address any PHUs required.

2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



I-4 Wildlife Overpass (January): Construction began on the wildlife crossing overpass. The overpass in Polk County (District 1) reconnects fragmented habitat within the Florida Wildlife Corridor, enabling safer movement for panthers, bears, and other species while reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions and improving motorist safety along one of Florida’s busiest transportation corridors.

Structure Details



Structure Details for the I-4 Overpass taken from the fact sheet handout.

SR 25/US 27 Twin Bridges (January): Construction began on two new bridges (FPID 448136-1) in Palm Beach County (District 4). The project is along SR25/US 27 adjacent to the Everglades Agricultural Areas (EAA) Reservoir Inflow-Outflow Canal and the exiting North New River canal. In conjunction with creating a new connection between these two canals, the new bridge structures include wildlife shelves to improve habitat connectivity and facilitate safe wildlife movement beneath the roadway. The South Florida Water Management District (FWMD) is a stakeholder. Coordination for wildlife fencing and gates for FWMD driveways near the crossing was a critical component to the overall functionality of the crossing. Construction is expected to be completed in 2028.

Phased Wildlife Connectivity Improvements on SR 80 (February): District 1 coordinated with its Maintenance and Bridge groups to retrofit Roberts Canal with a wildlife shelf in 2024. Building on that effort, a concept plan for wildlife fencing was developed in early 2025. Funding has been secured, and fence installation is planned for the first quarter of 2026 under FPID 456430-1 (SR 80 Wildlife Fencing).

Funding Secured for Wildlife Fencing Extension (February): A total of \$1.2 million is programmed in 2027 for installation of wildlife fencing from Snake Road to the Collier County line. This project extends the continuous wildlife fencing currently existing throughout Collier County into Broward County and is being delivered as part of Guardrail Project FPID 455434-1.

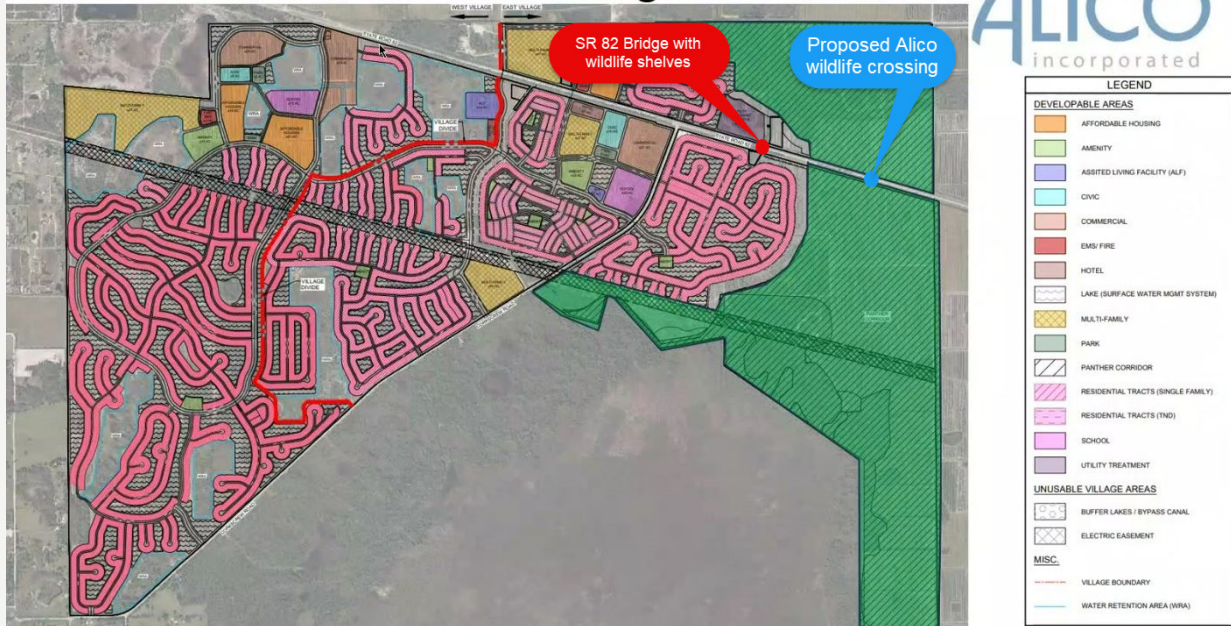


2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



Improved Wildlife Connectivity on SR 82 (July): A three-mile segment of SR 82 began construction to widen from two lanes to four lanes from Hendry County Line to Gator Slough Lane. Wildlife crossing features included two canal locations to be improved with wide, dry shelves, fencing and a wildlife jump out located between the two crossings. The Alico, Inc. wildlife corridor is adjacent to the crossings. After FDOT’s start of construction on SR 82, Alico introduced a plan for their Corkscrew Groves development which would have significantly impacted the viability of FDOT’s proposed SR 82 bridge crossings. Through coordination Alico and FDOT partnered to allow Alico to amend FDOT’s SR 82 design and pay for the construction of a new 16’ wide by 6.5’ tall culvert crossing which lines up with the planned conservation corridor through the Corkscrew Grove community. Working together Alico and FDOT implemented a solution which will ensure long term wildlife connectivity as well as wildlife and motorist safety.

Corkscrew Site Plan: DRAFT Village Boundaries



Corkscrew Groves site plan and new box culvert location.



Completed 16-foot x 6.5-foot wildlife crossing on SR 82 near proposed Corkscrew Groves.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



SR 29 Chapparal Slough and Lone Pine Creek Crossings Receive SFWMD Funds (July): District 1 successfully established a funding source to support wildlife crossing improvements on SR 29 through coordination with the SFWMD. Through development of a Local Funding Agreement (LFA) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), SFWMD provided a monetary contribution as part of a USFWS Biological Opinion associated with the Buffer and Operational Management Area (BOMA) project. The funding supports construction of wildlife crossings at Chapparal Slough (FPID 449149-1) and Lone Pine Creek (FPID 417540-8), both of which are currently in design.

SR 66 Crossing Funded for Design (January): The award of a Federal WCPP grant (in 2025) for the US 27 Venus Wildlife Crossing enabled District 1 to reallocate funding and move forward with design of a wildlife crossing on SR 66, expanding regional wildlife connectivity improvements and advancing an additional high-priority project.

Three new Canal Crossings Completed on I-75/Alligator Alley (October): Three additional canal crossings were completed in eastern Collier County on I-75 Alligator Alley. These canal crossings connect habitat for the Florida panther on the north and south sides of I-75 between the Collier County Toll Both and SR 29.



One of three new timber bridges on the south side of I-75/Alligator Alley.

3.2. Improve Maintenance of Wildlife Crossings – FDOT will evaluate ways to implement specific maintenance activities for existing crossings where issues arise and incorporate those that come on-line in the future to enhance effectiveness of the crossings. This could include removal of exotic or invasive vegetation, removing trash, ensuring appropriate elevations are retained, or reviewing adjacent impediments.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



I-75/Alligator Alley Fence Inspections (January): FDOT's asset maintenance contractors perform checks and maintenance on the nearly 100 miles of wildlife fencing along Alligator Alley annually.

SR 29 Pistol Pond Wildlife Crossing (April): Following a previous maintenance event at the SR 29 Pistol Pond Wildlife Crossing in Collier County that removed overgrown vegetation, FDOT added a wooden pile bridge as a walkway for wildlife. Water levels during the wet season can be up to 18 inches, making it difficult for wildlife to use the crossing. After the pile bridge was installed photos of bobcats, panthers, and black bears have been captured using the pile bridge.



Wooden pile bridge walkway added to SR 29 Pistol Pond Crossing.



Culvert under wooden pile bridge walkway added to SR 29 Pistol Pond Crossing.



Bobcat walking across wooden pile bridge at SR 29 Pistol Pond Crossing.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



Maintenance Access Improved on SR 20 Crossing (August):

Coordination between the Putnam Land Conservancy, FDOT OEM and FDOT District 2's maintenance staff resulted in the addition of a gate in wildlife fencing along SR 20. This gate allows direct access to the existing wildlife crossing for vegetation maintenance. Wildlife cameras will be installed at this location, which is within the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) corridor.



Putnam Land Conservancy Gate

3.3. Monitoring Wildlife Crossing* – FDOT will work with USFWS and FWC to develop monitoring plans for wildlife crossings through the Wildlife Crossings Prioritization Methodology process outlined in the [FDOT's Conservation Plan for the Florida Panther](#).

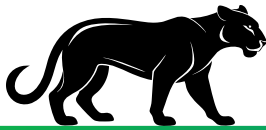
2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



Photos of Broketail Shared (February): FDOT's wildlife cameras captured images of Broketail using SR 29 wildlife crossings.



Wildlife camera footage of the Florida panther nicknamed Broketail.



Conservation Measure 4. Conservation Land

Panthers have large home ranges and can travel long distances. Panthers also need additional land for dispersing northward and expanding their range. Effective wildlife crossings require adequate amounts of conservation lands or appropriate habitat to support both the biological functions of the panther, but also the recovery goals of the USFWS.

ACTIONS NOTED IN THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATION PLAN:

4.1. Conservation Land Funding* – FDOT will evaluate funding or purchase of conservation lands (e.g., in fee, via easement, or for transfer to land management entity) in support of wildlife crossings, land in dispersal zones, or other lands identified as important to panthers may be considered. Support of FWC Non-traditional Section 6 Land Acquisition Grants, or the FWC Florida Panther Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Program may also support this conservation measure.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

New Conservation Easement in Volusia County (January): A wildlife corridor will be preserved in conjunction as part of a design project for two new truck parking facilities on I-4 in Volusia County. The parking facilities will be near the existing wildlife crossing at MP 21.523. To ensure the crossings remain viable following construction a conservation easement will be placed over lands serving as a wildlife corridor leading to the crossing. A total of 110.7 acres of conserved lands is proposed for the westbound and eastbound sites.

4.2. Conservation Land Maintenance – FDOT will evaluate addressing unmet maintenance needs to achieve management objectives (e.g., short sections of lime rock road installation, culvert installation or repair) on public lands may be considered as a conservation measure when support is provided by the FDOT (e.g., through Office of Maintenance).



Conservation Measure 5. Training, Conferences, Technical Support

FDOT will continue to share innovations, project successes, and lessons learned through internal and external training opportunities and conferences attended by the engineering and environmental consulting communities as well as with agency and NGO partners. FDOT has regularly provided presentations on wildlife crossings to these groups including most recently at the Florida Transportation Symposium, Florida Wildlife Corridor Summit, and FWC training events. As time allows, FDOT staff can also provide technical support or engineering assistance to local transportation organizations that may be interested in guidance on planning, designing, or constructing wildlife crossings.



ACTIONS

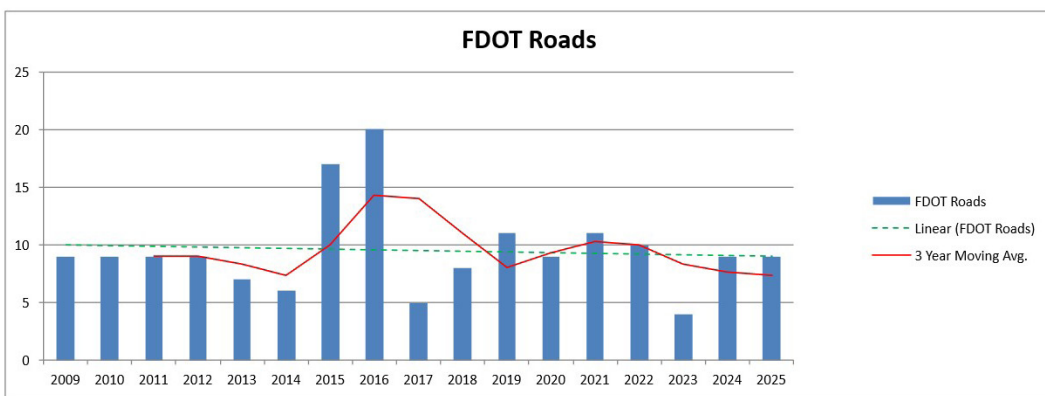
5.1. Provide Training and hold Statewide Meetings* – FDOT will continue to provide opportunities for training regarding engineering, environmental considerations, siting, challenges, and lessons learned from wildlife crossing implementation or other panther related conservation measures. FDOT has been hosting a Florida Transportation Symposium for several years where the topic of wildlife crossings has been presented. FDOT participates in AASHTO committees where other state DOTs learn and share from each other at regular meetings and nationwide annual meetings. FDOT also hosts quarterly Protected Species and Habitat meetings as well as other statewide meetings that may be opportunities for information sharing. FDOT holds occasional training opportunities for Environmental Technical Advisory Team members which could be an avenue for sharing best practices.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

FDOT Staff Experience Wildlife Crossing via Field Trips (2025): District 5 led educational field trips to increase FDOT employee awareness and understanding of ecological issues and wildlife connectivity. Small groups from various departments visited wildlife crossings within the district to learn about crossing design, species use, roadway safety, effectiveness, costs, genetics, and population dynamics. As part of the experience, participants could create plaster casts of wildlife tracks, providing a hands-on connection to the ecological benefits of the crossings.

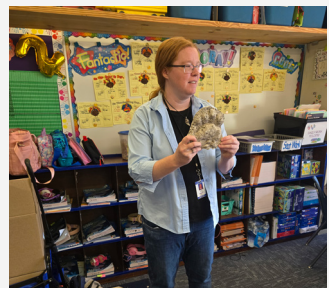
Second Annual Panther Conservation Plan Wildlife Crossing Meeting (March): FDOT hosted the Second Annual Panther Conservation Plan Wildlife Crossing Meeting with non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, FDOT Districts 1, 4, 5 and Turnpike plus agency representatives to share recent conservation successes and advance coordinated strategies for reducing Florida panther vehicle collisions. The meeting promoted collaboration by gathering input on priority locations, conservation land needs, and funding opportunities while highlighting statewide achievements.



Data presented to conservation partners depicting trends on state roads and WVCs.



Participants display casts of tracks made at the wildlife crossing



District 5 staff presenting at the Great American Teach-In

Great American Teach-In (November): Representatives from District 5 presented to 2nd grade classes during the Great American Teach-In. The lesson focused on how roads can affect animals and how wildlife crossings help. Hands-on examples like plaster casts of wildlife tracks were used to encourage curiosity about conservation and how people and wildlife can safely share space.

5.2. Attend Conferences* – FDOT will continue to attend conferences and workshops which further knowledge transfer, collaboration, partnerships, and innovation. These may be conferences such as the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation (ICOET), Florida Chamber of Commerce Environmental Permitting Summer School, Florida Association of Environmental Professionals, FDEP Public Land Acquisition and Management (PLAM), FWC Landscape Summit, Florida Wildlife Corridor Summit, or other similar events.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



International Conference on Ecology and Transportation (ICOET) (May):

FDOT staff from OEM, District 1 and District 5 presented at several sessions to highlight multiple examples of how it designs and implements transportation infrastructure to support wildlife movement, including pile bridge wildlife crossings that maintain habitat connectivity. FDOT also highlighted its role in landscape-scale connectivity through partnerships advancing the Florida Wildlife Corridor, as well as species-specific efforts such as collaboration with USFWS to support Florida panther recovery by improving crossings and reducing vehicle collisions. Across these efforts, FDOT emphasized the use of alternative mitigation strategies, integration of connectivity into routine transportation projects, and strong interagency partnerships to deliver effective wildlife crossing solutions.



ICOET Program Cover

Corridor Connect Summit (June): FDOT created an immersive and highly interactive wildlife connectivity experience through workshops, field trips, creative exhibits, educational resources, film screenings, and a featured panel discussion with state leadership representing FWC, FDEP and the FDOT Transportation Secretary. FDOT staff participated in the Last Green Thread-Mind the Gaps Workshop. Other events included I-4 Wildlife Crossing Field Trips led by District 1 to a major under-construction crossing, Ranger Activity Book release, mock wildlife crossing with sound effects, screening of the Building Wild Space Movie, and a Planning Tools Session.



Representatives of FDOT at the Corridor Connect Summit.



FDOT representatives and a mock wildlife crossing that included sound effects at the Corridor Connect Summit.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Environmental Permitting Summer School (July): Wildlife crossings recently completed or under construction in District 1 and District 5 were highlighted with graphics and videos in a session titled Building on Success in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. These crossings along with other achievements in 2024 and 2025 were presented demonstrating conservation measures in support of FDOT’s Florida Panther Conservation Plan. New planning tools were introduced which include internal and public-facing information including the Statewide Wildlife Crossings Map and Ranger-the Guardian of Roadway Safety, a publication geared for children.

Florida Planning Conference (September): At this conference, staff from FDOT’s OEM presented a history of wildlife crossings, planning tools used, design guidance, and how data collection has evolved to support wildlife crossings in state transportation planning.

FDOT Transportation Symposium (October): A three-person panel representing FDOT’s OEM, District 1 and District 5 presented at this engineering conference describing Florida’s strong legislative commitment to the Florida Wildlife Corridor and how FDOT is advancing wildlife connectivity across central and southwest Florida by integrating engineered wildlife crossing solutions into roadway projects that intersect the Corridor. Data-driven tools and design innovations assist in siting and sizing crossings with the end result of reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions and restoring critical landscape connectivity.

Florida Greenways and Trails Council Meeting (December): At the 2025 Florida Greenways and Trails Council meeting, discussions related to wildlife focused on integrating trail planning with conservation goals and ecological connectivity. Council members and participating agencies, including FDOT staff, discussed how trail design and placement can support the Florida Wildlife Corridor, minimize impacts to sensitive habitats, and improve compatibility between recreation infrastructure and wildlife movement.

5.3. Provide Technical Support* - As availability allows, FDOT may be able to provide technical support to local transportation organizations, developers, or other entities. This support may be in the form of presentations at MPO meetings, information sharing regarding gaps in habitat connectivity (e.g., priority wildlife crossing locations that are not fully funded, potential off-system wildlife crossing locations, land acquisition gaps), engineering assistance, or guidance and examples regarding implementing specific conservation measures.



Presentation to the Florida Planning Conference



The Path Toward Wildlife Connectivity in Transportation

Florida Greenways and Trails Council Meeting
December 18, 2025

Katasha Cruver, Director
FDOT Office of Environmental Management



Presentation to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council Meeting.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



Camera Data Sharing (January): FDOT, Archbold Research Station and ecological researchers at the University of Florida collaborated to share wildlife camera data.

Mapping Panther-Vehicle Collisions (January): Maps were developed for FDOT's OEM's use illustrating the locations of panther-vehicle collisions on state and local roadways between 2020 and 2024. These maps provide a resource for informing staff, supporting internal coordination, and responding to inquiries related to panther-vehicle collision trends and locations.

FDOT Research for Recording Wildlife Tracks (March): Several samples from soil pits were retrieved and investigated as fill material for the "natural substrate" to be used in terrestrial wildlife crossings. The soils were comprised of natural clays. Properties including the clay's ability to capture tracks and the ease of later creating plaster casts of tracks were investigated. The findings were shared with researchers at Archibold Biological Station in Highlands County.

Providing Technical Leadership to the Public (May): FDOT served as a technical resource for wildlife connectivity planning by responding to a citizen inquiry regarding a potential wildlife overpass west of the Suncoast Parkway and SR 54. Staff provided guidance on mapped wildlife corridors in Pasco County, crossing design considerations, and additional coordination contacts, supporting informed community engagement on wildlife crossing opportunities.

In a separate request in May 2025, a private group sought information related to funding. An FDOT report titled 2018 Impact Fee Calculations for Panther Crossings was provided. The request came from an urban planning firm developing a Corridor Compatible Community document.

Creation of Wildlife Fence GIS Layer (September): FDOT and the University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation Planning cooperated to develop a GIS layer specifically for the locations of wildlife fences on state roads throughout Florida. This layer will be made available for reference in the future.

Providing Technical Leadership to other Agencies (September): Relationships established through presentations at the 2025 ICOET conference resulted in FDOT's opportunity to provide technical support to the North Carolina DOT. The NCDOT was researching similarities and design criteria of timber pile bridges installed for panthers and to use in design of timber bridges for red wolves of North Carolina.

Similarly, through the relationships built between FDOT and USFWS, the two agencies often collaborate on wildlife crossing designs. The collaboration focuses on criteria and shared experiences to move forward with designs that are most attractive to wildlife.





Conservation Measure 6. WVCs and Driver Behavior

FDOT will look for opportunities to implement tools that may positively influence driver behavior, either short or long term, on the SHS where WVCs are of concern.

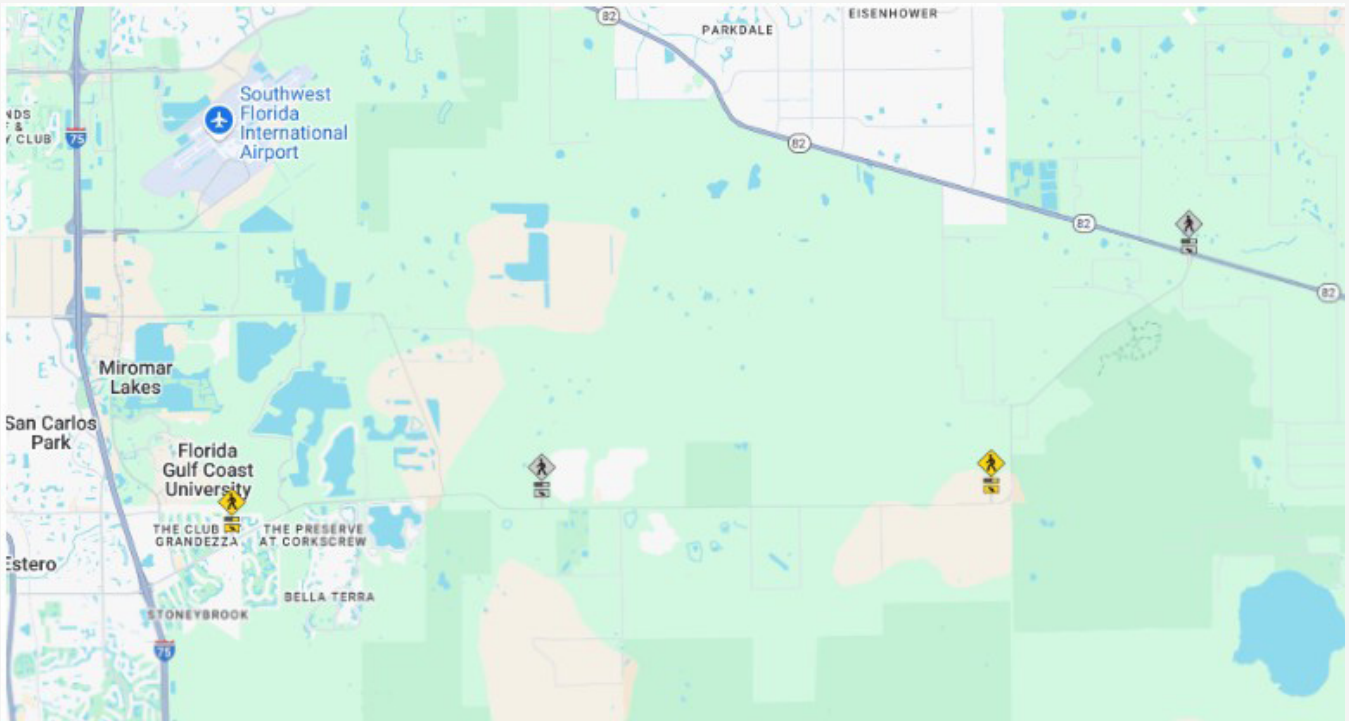
ACTIONS NOTED IN THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATION PLAN:

6.1. Implement Tools to Positively Influence Driver Behavior* – These tools could include coordination with state or local law enforcement to use temporary radar speed feedback signs, night-time speed zones, funding speed enforcement zones, clearing vegetation for improved sight distance. Other public outreach activities that may also positively influence driver behavior are included in conservation measures associated with Recovery Object #3.

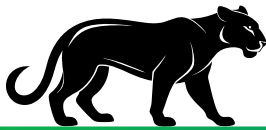


2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Panther Warning Signs for Lee and Collier Counties (June): FDOT provided four flashing warning signs to Lee and Collier Counties for installation along Corkscrew Road. The new signs resulted from collaboration between FWC, FDOT, Lee and Collier County. The groups worked to map existing warning signs and determine the placement for the new signs within a corridor that has experienced a large number of panther-vehicle collisions.



Locations of four new flashing warnings signs installed in Lee and Collier Counties.



Conservation Measure 7. Panther Behavior/Prey Availability

FDOT may consider innovative approaches that support both panther prey availability as well as addressing panther depredation situations in coordination with on-going efforts by other entities. Actions like these could be considered in situations where conservation easements to connect wildlife corridors or wildlife crossings would benefit from additional assistance or where sufficient access to prey is of concern.

ACTIONS NOTED IN THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATION PLAN:

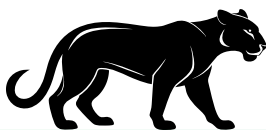
7.1. Contribute to Calf Depredation Programs—The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a Farm Services Administration Livestock Indemnity Program. The FWC launched its Panther Depredation Compensation Program for commercial cattle operations in early Fall 2023, and NGOs may also support similar programs.

7.2. Contribute to established python monitoring/eradication or bounty programs that have demonstrated significant effectiveness in removing pythons from southwest Florida. Removal of pythons will help alleviate the pressure pythons put on the meso-mammal community, which provide important panther prey species.

Recovery Objective 3

The following conservation measures and actions are intended to support Recovery Object 3: Public Awareness and Education.

Conservation Measures Supporting Recovery Objective 3



Conservation Measure 8. Owned Media Opportunities

FDOT will continue to look for opportunities to develop owned media that supports messages intended to positively influence driver behavior, spread the word about conservation measures implemented on the SHS, and provide other educational and outreach actions. Messages will be coordinated with the USFWS, FWC, and other appropriate internal offices.

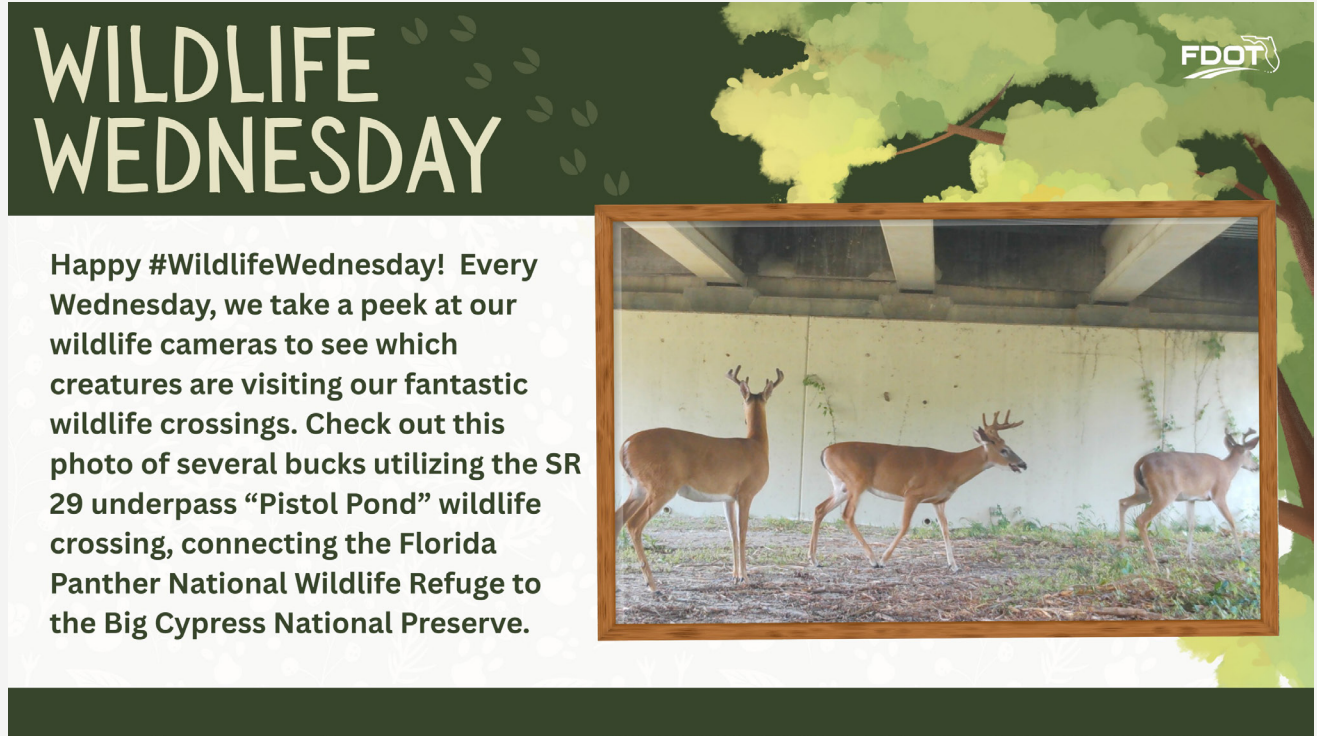
ACTIONS

8.1 Social Media* - FDOT will continue to highlight major milestones or completion of wildlife crossings via social media. FDOT will look for opportunities regarding other significant achievements or public messages to share on these platforms.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Wildlife Wednesday (September): In September District 1 kicked off Wildlife Wednesday. This initiative showcases a new photo or video captured on FDOT’s wildlife cameras along with a short description. Wildlife Wednesday posts are released on FDOT’s social media outlets



The inaugural post for Wildlife Wednesday.

8.2. Printed materials* - FDOT will print materials (e.g., rack cards, door hangers, bumper stickers) that contain safety or educational information as opportunities arise.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Summary Cut Sheet of 2024 Highlights (March): A full color, two-sided brochure was developed to highlight panther conservation achievements in 2024. This was made available to the FDOT staff and the public at events throughout the year.

Ranger Activity Book and Tip Card (April): The State Safety Office of FDOT developed a child-focused activity book called Guardians of Roadway Safety highlighting roadway safety related to wildlife crossings and tips for wildlife safety. The initiative also included tip cards for parents. This resource was made available to FDOT staff and the public at events throughout the year.



Cover page for new activity book.



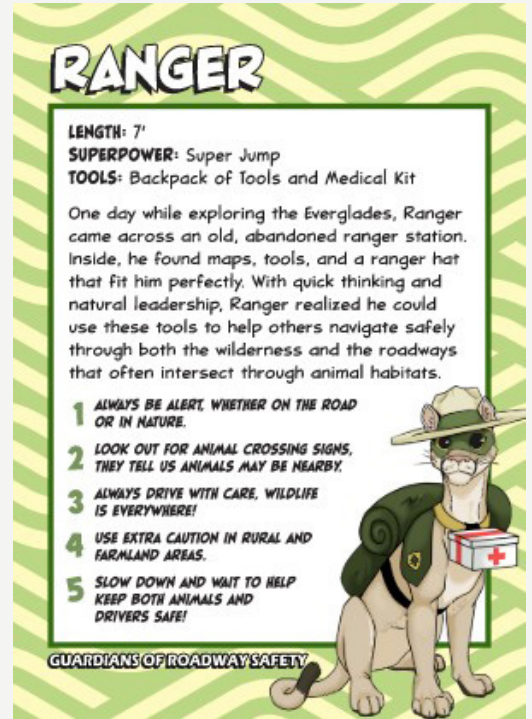
Ranger's safety tips for kids.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Summary Cut Sheet for I-4 Wildlife Crossing Overpass (August): A full color, two-sided brochure was developed to provide project specific details about the need, location, design and benefits of the wildlife overpass on I-4 in Polk County. This resource was used as resource to provide details of the project to the public, news media and FDOT staff.

Trading Cards (October): Wildlife trading cards were developed as a strategic educational outreach tool to increase awareness and understanding of wildlife connectivity and the species supported by FDOT wildlife crossing initiatives. The cards were used as an engagement tool using species images, facts about wildlife behavior and habitat and roadway safety messaging.



Wildlife trading card for educational outreach.

8.3. On-line Content* - FDOT will continue to highlight major milestones or completion of wildlife crossings via on-line platforms such as the FDOT YouTube Channel and District or OEM websites. FDOT will look for opportunities regarding other significant achievements or public messages to share on these platforms.

8.4. Rest Areas, Welcome Centers, Service Plazas, and Weigh Stations – FDOT will evaluate media on monitors, scrolling story boards, posters, literature, and permanent signs at these facilities throughout the state as outreach and education opportunities arise.

8.5. Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) – FDOT will display occasional messages on ITS signs to provide pertinent messages to drivers traveling through targeted areas of the state.

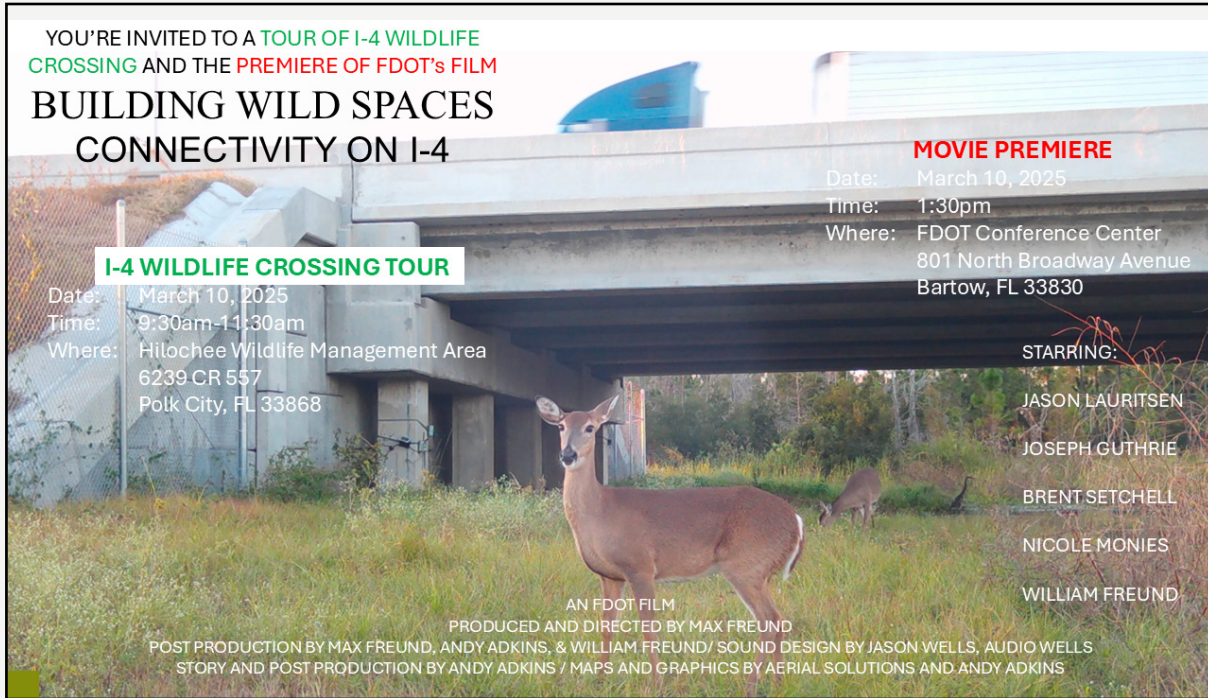
8.7. Participate in Outreach Campaigns – FDOT will look for opportunities to participate in education and outreach campaigns hosted by others (e.g., Naples Zoo Florida Panther Festival, Zoo Tampa) where FDOT can provide volunteers, subject matter experts, or education materials.





2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Tour of I-4 Wildlife Crossing and Film Premiere (March): FDOT District 1 hosted and lead a field tour of the I-4 crossing completed in late 2024. The field trip was followed by the Premiere of the film, Building Wild Space Connectivity on I-4, at the Bartow FDOT headquarters.



I-4 Tour and Premiere Invitation



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Palm Beach Zoo Panther Day (April): The Palm Beach Zoo hosted a one-day event to introduce the public to a live Florida panther, scientists and zoologists, and camera data research being conducted on nearby conservation lands. District 4 environmental staff participated and spoke with visitors about existing and planned wildlife crossings.

Building Wild Spaces Movie Recognition (August): The film Building Wild Spaces Connectivity on I-4 receives awards from American Golden Picture: Best Documentary Short, Independent Shorts Award: Best Documentary Short; Hawaii International Films: Best Editing; Arthouse Festival: Best US Short; Palm Beach Shorts: Best Editing; Washington Film Awards: Best Sound Design & Best Visual Effects.



Building Wildlife Spaces is recognized as an award-winning short film.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

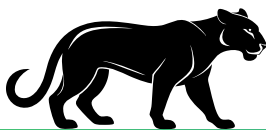
Field Trips to Wildlife Crossing (October): Along with USFWS staff, FDOT District 1 staff lead a field trip to a wildlife crossing for participants of the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI). The group met at the Florida Panther Refuge in Naples for NRLI’s October session, and FDOT participated in a panel with other panther conservation experts to moderate a discussion about improving connectivity and road safety for wildlife.



FDOT representatives hosting a field trip for NRLI members.



Florida Panther Festival at Naples Zoo (November): FDOT District 1 staff hosted a booth at the Naples Zoo’s 13th Annual Florida Panther Festival. Over 3,000 visitors attend the annual event and FDOT showcased wildlife footage from existing wildlife crossings and introduced visitors to new wildlife crossing projects.



Conservation Measure 9. Shared Media Opportunities

FDOT will coordinate with USFWS, FWC, NGOs, Locals, or other entities to find shared media opportunities. Like owned media actions, the shared media actions would be intended to positively influence driver behavior, spread the word about conservation measures implemented on the SHS, and provide other educational and outreach actions.

ACTIONS NOTED IN THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATION PLAN:

9.1. Joint Social Media Posts* – FDOT will continue to develop social media posts highlighting major milestones or completion of wildlife crossings, and other significant achievements or public messages to share through this avenue.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Announcements of Funding for US 27 Wildlife Crossing (January): In January 2025, the Florida Wildlife Federation added an update to its News webpage along with social media posts announcing the approval of \$6.1M in construction funds for the Venus Wildlife Crossing in Highlands County. Similarly, the same month, Live Wildly released a newsletter including an announcement from WPTV West Palm Beach Channel News reporting on the approval of the construction funds for the same crossing.

9.2. Technology to reach specific drivers – FDOT will evaluate technology such as geofencing to reach drivers on certain stretches of roadways to send targeted educational or safety messages. FDOT can do this through the Florida 511 Travel Information System, or by partnering with other similar traffic information platforms.

9.3. Educational Opportunities – FDOT will consider partnering with schools, driver education programs, or insurance companies to share educational and safety information.

9.4. Supporting ways to connect people and communities to public lands – FDOT will consider actions such as kiosks at conservation lands trail heads describing the importance of wildlife crossings.

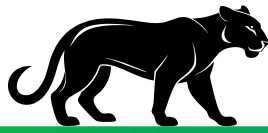


2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Florida Wildlife Corridor Wayfinding Signs added at I-4 Wildlife Underpass: After a suggestion at the Corridor Connect Summit, FDOT has added Florida Wildlife Corridor wayfinding signs at the I-4 wildlife underpass.



Wayfinder sign for the Florida Wildlife Corridor added to a wildlife crossing.



Conservation Measure 10. Earned Media Opportunities

FDOT will continue look for opportunities for earned media that spread the word about conservation measures implemented on the SHS and provide other educational and outreach actions.

ACTIONS NOTED IN THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATION PLAN:

10.1. Press Releases* – FDOT will continue to develop press releases highlighting major milestones, completion of wildlife crossings and other significant achievements or public messages through this avenue.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Live Wildy’s Explore Wild Florida’s Newsletter Provides Link to Wildlife Crossing Map (January): Live Wildly announces in it’s January Wild Florida newsletter that FDOT has created a Statewide Wildlife Crossing Map. The map highlights key crossing locations and features photos and videos. A link was provided for public use.



Live Wildly promoted the Statewide Wildlife Crossing Map.

Florida Specifier News Article (January): The Florida Specifier published an article describing Florida panther conservation efforts by expanding wildlife crossing infrastructure, fencing, and monitoring through FDOT’s Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, particularly in South Florida and the Everglades region. These improvements directly address vehicle collisions—the leading cause of panther mortality—while enhancing habitat connectivity and supporting long-term population recovery across the panther’s core range.

Environment Florida News Article Highlighting Three New Crossings (January): Environment Florida issued a news statement detailing that in early 2025, funding commitments from state and federal partners secured construction of three new wildlife crossing projects to improve safe movement for Florida panthers and other wildlife, including a federally funded crossing on US 27 near Venus in Highlands County. These investments advance panther conservation by reducing vehicle collisions at known crossing hotspots and by pairing crossing infrastructure with adjacent land conservation to strengthen connectivity within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. District 1's Brent Setchell worked with the author to provide details, graphics, and content review.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Sun Sentinel News Article Focused on Growth and Connectivity (February): A full-length news article was published in the Sun Sentinel detailing panther biology, panther-vehicle collision data, human population growth, and challenges to maintaining and connecting fragmented habitat for the Florida panther. The article cites District 1's Brent Setchell (FDOT) and USFWS staff in explaining the challenges and benefits of planning new wildlife crossings. Existing and proposed FDOT wildlife crossings are referenced, along with high level explanations about new or retrofitted crossing designs. The article includes information about existing conservation lands and lands proposed for acquisition. Data points and maps created by FDOT specifically for Florida panther and Florida Black Bear "M34" are presented in the article.

Building Wild Spaces Connectivity on I-4 is Promoted in a Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation Newsletter (March): The Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation promoted the Building Wild Spaces Connectivity on I-4 documentary in it's March newsletter. A link to view was provide along with a description of other contributors to the short film.

Lakeland Ledger New Article Announcing I-4 Wildlife Overpass Start of Construction (April): In April 2025, the Lakeland Ledger reported on the start of construction for Florida's first dedicated wildlife overpass spanning I-4 near Lakeland, marking a significant step in reconnecting fragmented habitat within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The new overpass will provide a safe crossing for panthers, bears, deer, and other wildlife by linking natural areas north and south of the interstate, helping reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and support long-term conservation goals.

Corridor Connect Weekly Update Mentions I-4 Wildlife Crossing Overpass (April): Corridor Connect provides weekly updates on wildlife, corridor preservation, and current events related to these topics. A link to the April 2025 Lakeland Ledger article about the I-4 Wildlife Overpass was included in the edition for the week of April 21, 2025.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation's April Newsletter Publishes Details on I-4 Wildlife Crossing Overpass (May): The May edition of Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation's newsletter provided graphical representations of the I-4 wildlife crossing overpass and adjacent wildlife corridor. A link to the April 2025 Lakeland Ledger article was provided.

American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Outstanding Project Awards (June): The Florida Chapter of ACEC honored the I-4 at SR 557 Interchange project with the Outstanding Environmental Project Award for transportation achievements. This was one of eight projects recognized as an award-winning project that represent real solutions to "enhance safety, strengthen connectivity, and improve the quality of life for Florida's communities," said FDOT Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E. "Every one of these projects show what is possible when dedicated teams across FDOT and Florida's engineering firms collaborate and align behind the same mission."



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

WUSF News Article Promoting I-4 Wildlife Crossing Overpass (June): WUSF promoted the construction of Florida’s first dedicated wildlife overpass spanning I-4 in Polk County, a critical component of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The overpass is designed to restore habitat connectivity between the Green Swamp and conservation lands to the south and incorporates wildlife-focused design features to facilitate safe crossings by Florida panthers and other wide-ranging species.

Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation’s Newsletter Mentioning of I-4 Wildlife Crossing Overpass (June): The June edition of Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation’s newsletter announced the start of construction on the I-4 wildlife crossing overpass.

FDOT Weekly News Transfer Newsletter Highlights I-4 Wildlife Crossing Overpass (June): FDOT’s June Weekly News Transfer newsletter highlighted a new way for wildlife to migrate over I-4. The newsletter provided a link to the June 2025 WUSF article.



Florida Wildlife Corridor reports on new wildlife crossings



FDOT’s weekly newsletter highlights new wildlife crossings.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Florida Bar Journal Vol. 99, No. 5 September 2025 (October): An article in the Florida Bar Journal describes FDOT as a critical partner in Florida panther recovery due to its responsibility for managing a roadway network that poses one of the greatest threats to panthers through vehicle collisions. It highlights FDOT’s development of the 2024 Conservation Plan for the Florida Panther in coordination with USFWS and FWC, emphasizing wildlife crossings, collision reduction, and range expansion as key strategies. The article notes that while FDOT has demonstrated success implementing crossings statewide, long-term progress is constrained by the lack of a dedicated funding stream for wildlife crossing projects.

The Fort Myers New-Press and Naples Daily New Announce Alico, Inc. Partners with FDOT on Construction of Wildlife Underpass in Collier County (November): The Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News reported on the partnership between FDOT and Alico, Inc. to design and construct a wildlife under pass as part of the planned expansion of SR 82. This location aligns with a proposed wildlife corridor connected to Alico’s Corkscrew Grove Villages project. The article also reported on panther-vehicle collisions and the total number of wildlife crossings in Collier and Lee Counties. Photographs from FDOT wildlife cameras were used in the article.



2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



USFWS Announces Honor Award for Conservation Partners for FDOT

Contributions to Panther Conservation (November):

In a USFWS news release, FDOT staff Katasha Cornwell, Jennifer Marshall, Denise Rach, and Brent Setchell were honored as Conservation Partners with a Southeast Region’s Director’s Honor Award. The Honor Award is bestowed upon partners who made significant strides toward accomplishing the Service’s mission and the Region’s vision. The FDOT was recognized for its groundbreaking Florida Panther Conservation Plan integrating wildlife protection into infrastructure development.



A Regional Director's Honor Award presented to FDOT staff.

10.2. Interviews* - FDOT will continue to provide the media with access to staff for interviews with subject matter experts seeking positive stories regarding recovery of the panther, infrastructure projects supporting the panther, or other conservation measures being implemented by this Plan.

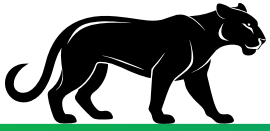
2025 ACHIEVEMENTS:



WMNS Live Radio Interview (January): District 1 staff, Brent Setchell and Nicole Monies, were interviewed by WMNS’s host of the Sustainable Living Show. The interview covered topics like wildlife crossings on I-4 and panther conservation.

Uncut Podcast with Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation (April): District 1’s Brent Setchell was interviewed for a podcast released by Florida Uncut. The episode included discussion on the need for crossings based on data, the planning required, and the benefits of these crossings. The podcast was made available across several different platforms including Spotify, Apple, and Redcircle, among others.

Florida Wildlife Federation’s Livestream: The Livestream interview titled Reconnecting Wild Florida highlighted why wildlife crossings are essential for reconnecting Florida’s fragmented habitats and reducing the impacts of roadways on animal movement, survival, and overall ecosystem health. Speakers included District 1’s Brent Setchell and other panther experts who explained the science used to identify key wildlife corridors and crossing locations, shared successful Florida-based examples and design innovations, and outlined practical ways the public can advocate for wildlife crossings to help keep Florida wild.



Conservation Measure 11. Paid Media Opportunities

FDOT will consider opportunities for paid media actions that also support FDOT's goals for Target Zero or other safety related initiatives.

ACTIONS NOTED IN THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATION PLAN:

11.1. Paid Media – FDOT will consider opportunities such as billboards or specific campaigns (e.g., Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month).



APPENDIX A

PROJECT SPECIFIC PANTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES

- **FDOT SPECIFIC PROJECT PANTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES**
- **FDOT **CONSTRUCTED** PANTHER CONSERVATION MEASURE PROJECTS**

FDOT SPECIFIC PROJECT PANTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Timing	Financial # xxxxxx-x	Priority #	County	Project Description	# of Panther collisions within 1 mile	# of Bear collisions within 1 mile	Total	Adjacent Conservation Lands status	Within Florida Wildlife Corridor	Comments	Letting Date/ Earliest Letting Date	Total Funding Need (PDC)
Under Construction	436673-1		Polk	Construct a new wildlife crossing near Green Swamp East Tract and 5 smaller culvert crossings	0	0	0	East side only	East side only	Design-Build Project	4/14/2023	fully funded
	430848-1		Collier	Replace two bridges with new bridges with wildlife shelves, more vertical clearance and wildlife fencing. *Third Culvert crossing added by developer lining up with Conservation Corridor	15	2	17	none	none	Corkscrew Groves paying for new culvert wildlife crossing lining up with conservation corridor	5/22/2024 (was scheduled 4/20/2023) Project scheduled to be completed 5/2027.	fully funded
	425843-2		Collier	Construct 0.8 miles of wildlife fencing and noise walls on both sides of I-75 west of CR 951	3	0	3	some on south side	none	Design-Build Project	6/15/2022	fully funded
	201214-8		Polk	Construct new wildlife crossing overpass over I-4 near Saddle Creek	0	0	0	FDOT acquiring north and south side. Need additional conservation area to the south	Both sides	MFF Funding. Const. to begin 1/5/2025	8/24/2024	\$19,587,676
	430185-7		Polk	Construct new wildlife crossing underpass under SR 33 near Saddle Creek	0	0	0	FDOT acquiring south side	Both sides	MFF Funding. Const. to begin 1/5/2025	8/24/2024	\$9,573,192
Fully Funded	452544-1		Lee	Construct 2.7 miles of wildlife fencing on both sides of I-75 adjacent to the Larry Kiker Preserve	4	0	4	mostly east side limited conservation easements on west side	East side only	MFF funded, PD&E underway	7/29/2026	fully funded
	449144-2		Highlands	Construct a new wildlife crossing along US 27 near Venus and wildlife fencing to funnel wildlife to the crossing.	1	9	10	Both sides (RFLPP)	Both Sides	WCPP grant Approved!	3/15/2026	\$8,025,480
	456430-1		Hendry	Add wildlife fencing along SR 80 near Roberts Canal	3	0	3	SFWMD C-43 Reservoir to the South	south side only	Maintenance let project	2/1/2026	\$300,000

FDOT SPECIFIC PROJECT PANTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Timing	Financial # xxxxxx-x	Priority #	County	Project Description	# of Panther collisions within 1 mile	# of Bear collisions within 1 mile	Total	Adjacent Conservation Lands status	Within Florida Wildlife Corridor	Comments	Letting Date/ Earliest Letting Date	Total Funding Need (PDC)
Under Construction	449143-1 SR 29 North of Panther Refuge	1	Collier	Construct a new wildlife crossing north of the Panther Refuge including crossing of the Barron Canal and wildlife fencing to funnel wildlife to the crossing.	12	7	19	None -	Both Sides	Adjacent landowners are not supportive of the project. 90% Design complete.	11/1/2027	\$10,638,000
	417540-8 SR 29 at Owl's Hammock	2	Collier	Construct a new wildlife crossing near Owl's Hammock including crossing of the Barron Canal and wildlife fencing to funnel wildlife to the crossing.	10	3	13	Both sides - State (FDEP) owned east side - *Warranty Deed west side	Both Sides	PD&E approved. Design has started.	7/26/2028	\$9,056,000
	449149-1 SR 29 from SR 78 to CR 74	3	Glades	Raise profile of SR 29 to prevent roadway overtopping and incorporate wildlife crossing features by replacing at least two existing bridges (Chapparal Slough and Lone Pine Creek)	1	1	2	At Chapparal Slough only - both sides	Both Sides	Denied RURAL Grant app. Coord with SFWMD on funding 1 xing. Design underway.	7/26/2028	\$32,190,000
	443122-1 SR 66 Highlands Hammock	4	Highlands	Construct a new bridge along SR 66 near Highlands Hammock to prevent roadway overtopping and incorporate wildlife crossing features (shelves) and wildlife fencing to funnel wildlife to the crossing.	1	3	4	Both Sides	Both Sides	Design to start mid 2026.	7/1/2029	\$9,922,117
	451690-1 SR 70 from SR 31 to Highlands C/L		Desoto	Replace 7 bridges with wildlife crossing features	0	0	0	1 mile to the south (Bright Hour)	Both Sides		7/1/2030	TBD
	451649-1 SR 70 Desoto C/L to Jefferson		Highlands	Replace Fisheating Creek bridge and add several wildlife crossings along the corridor	0	1	1	WRP easement along North side	Both Sides		7/1/2030	TBD
	414506-3 SR 70 north of Archbold		Highlands	Add new wildlife crossing bridge north of Archbold and near Lake Annie	0	1	1	Both Sides	Both Sides	Includes separate Lake Annie crossing	7/1/2030	TBD
	414506-5 SR 70 east of US 27 (Seepage Slope)		Highlands	Add new wildlife crossing east of US 27 (Seepage Slope)	0	4	4	None	None		7/1/2030	TBD

FDOT SPECIFIC PROJECT PANTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Timing	Financial # xxxxxx-x	Priority #	County	Project Description	# of Panther collisions within 1 mile	# of Bear collisions within 1 mile	Total	Adjacent Conservation Lands status	Within Florida Wildlife Corridor	Comments	Letting Date/ Earliest Letting Date	Total Funding Need (PDC)	
Other Planned CMs	419243-2		Polk	Increase the size of the existing cross drain at Lake Livingston	0	2	2	Both Sides (Lake Livingston MB)	Both sides		7/1/2032	TBD	
	449145-1		Collier	Replace bridge# 030039 to provide wildlife shelves on both sides and more vertical clearance and add wildlife fencing	4	5	9	CSSP on both sides	Both sides	Hold pending US 41 resiliency study	7/1/2032	\$11,320,000	
	449146-1		Collier	Replace bridge# 030083 to provide wildlife shelves on both sides and more vertical clearance and add wildlife fencing	10	1	11	BCNP on Both Sides	Both sides	Hold pending US 41 resiliency study	7/1/2032	\$13,680,000	
	449147-1		Polk	**Need to advance if Brightline goes to construction** Construct a new wildlife crossing along I-4 west of US 27 to line up with Brightline wildlife crossing	0	1	1	Both sides	None		7/1/2031	\$24,800,000	
	SR 29 at Twelve Mile Slough		Hendry	New Wildlife Crossing	0	0	0	None - East is listed on FF	East side only		7/1/2032	TBD	
	SR 29 at Roberts Canal		Hendry	Replace culvert with culvert with wildlife crossing features	1	0	1	East side only	East side only				
	SR 29 at Sears Rd Canal		Hendry	Replace culvert with culvert with wildlife crossing features	0	0	0	None	Both sides		7/1/2032	TBD	
	SR 78 east of Ortona Rd		Glades	Construct new bridge with wildlife crossing features	0	0	0	None	Both sides		7/1/2032	TBD	
	433856-2		Polk	Add new wildlife crossing east of CR 630A	0	0	0	Lake Wales Ridge SF 1 mile north	Both sides	Needs ROW and construction funding	7/1/2032	TBD	

FDOT **CONSTRUCTED** PANTHER CONSERVATION MEASURE PROJECTS

Timing	Financial # xxxxxx-x	Priority #	County	Project Description	# of Panther collisions within 1 mile	# of Bear collisions within 1 mile	Total	Adjacent Conservation Lands status	Within Florida Wildlife Corridor	Comments	Total Funding Need (PDC)
2024	444008-2 &-3 I-75 Alley Pile Bridges		Collier	Construct pile bridges over canals at 3 locations	2	0	2	Mostly on south side	Both Sides	2 PVCs since fence installation in 2017	6/1/2024
	201215-3 I-4 near SR 557 Underpass		Polk	Construct new wildlife crossing under I-4 near SR 557 and Hilochee WMA	0	0	0	Hilochee WMA on both sides	Both Sides		9/15/2024
2025	434886-2 SR 700 (US 98) John Singletary Bridge replacement over Peace River		Polk	Re-construct a new bridge over the Peace River with wildlife shelves, more vertical clearance, and limited wildlife fencing	1	0	1	none	Yes		6/19/2025
	444008-4 I-75 Alley Pile Bridges		Collier	Construct pile bridges over canals at 3 locations	2	0	2	Mostly on south side	Both Sides	2 PVCs since fence installation in 2017	12/15/2025
	448693-1 SR 29 Roadside Animal Detection System (RADS)		Collier	Construct Roadside Animal Detection System (RADS) - 1.6 miles	7	3	10	None - but part of ECHCP	Both Sides	Pilot Project - Construction completed	12/15/2025
	## SR 80 at Roberts Canal		Hendry	Add wildlife shelves under existing SR 80 bridges over Roberts canal	3	0	3	C-43 Reservoir on south side	south side only	Maintenance let project	12/1/2024