



The Southwest-Central Florida Connector study area extends from Collier County to Polk County. The corridor includes:

- **9** counties (Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee and Polk)
- **36** cities and towns
- **9,511** square miles of land area
- **2,251,543** residents
- **590,999** jobs
- **4,793** lane miles of state highway system
- **600** miles of active rail
- **2** commercial service airports



A Community-Based Approach

The Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) program is Florida's most significant infrastructure-building project since the 1950s. Regional task forces will study three specific corridors intended to address rural infrastructure needs across the state, and the task forces will stress collaboration with local communities. The program is modeled after the Wekiva Parkway (State Road 429), which created much-needed regional



road infrastructure while helping to protect the natural resources surrounding the Wekiva River. The M-CORES study areas are broad and do not identify specific routes.

M-CORES Goals



- **Alleviate** congestion
- **Support** multiple modes of transportation (shared-use trails, freight and passenger rail, public transit)



- **Improve** energy distribution
- **Build** water, sewer and other infrastructure



- **Connect** rural communities
- **Expand** broadband service



- **Conserve** wildlife
- **Protect** environmentally sensitive areas



- **Create** jobs
- **Advance** trade and logistics



- **Provide** hurricane evacuation routes