



Public Input

Lecanto, Florida



October 22, 2019

Your Voice Is Important

Input Summary

E-newsletter subscribers <i>(total of all three e-newsletters)</i>	2,699
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Website visitors (people visiting the site)	13,379
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Page views	46,871
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Public Comments

FDOT.Listens email address	1,440
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FloridaMCORES.com comment form	202
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Aug. 27 Public Meeting	151
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Numbers represent Aug. 1 – Oct. 6

I really thought the bus would protect our prices and environment.



Comment Form

Task Force Meeting, August 27, 2019

I am commenting on the following (check all that apply):

- Suncoast Connector
 Northern Turnpike Connector
 Southwest-Central Florida Connector
 General Comment

Please Print Clearly

You really had me fooled. I thought you were going to listen to us. This is really a big deal that will affect all of us and I was wrong. It is a big cover up. If you wanted to listen to us, you would have provided better communication. I called the Times news room to get their info and they told me that the hearing would go from 8am to 8pm. Why? It was so important to me I hired someone to drive me only to find out you had to be there at 8am.

Survey

Please rate the following:

- | | Strongly agree.. | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree |
|--|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The information provided today was presented in a clear manner. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Today's meeting was valuable for conveying project information. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I was given adequate opportunity to provide input. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. How did you hear about this meeting? | <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth | | |

(Optional)

Name: *Micah*
 Address: *2 [unclear]*
 City/State/ZIP: *[unclear]*
 Email: *mary*

Please complete and place in the "Comments" box. You can also email your comments to FDOT. All comments are part of the public record and are available for viewing by the public.

Name

Micah Taylor

Email

Subject

General Inquiry

Please enter your five-digit ZIP code

32696
 United States
[Map It](#)

Your Message

Please stop destroying my beautiful state! This road is not necessary!



Tue 9/3/2019 1:34 PM

I oppose M-Cores Project

To: FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us

Dear FDOT,

I strongly oppose the construction of the 3 proposed tollways. This would cause irreparable environmental harm to key wildlife, native plant, and water-recharge areas.

I also oppose the roads for the following conditions:

1. There is no demonstrable need for these roads. They were not even on FDOT's radar until the politicians got involved. They are a political boondoggle and a disgusting waste of taxpayer's money.
2. You do not need new roads for rural areas to get broadband connectivity.
3. Florida already is withdrawing more water from the aquifer than is recharging it. Conserving land is the best way to preserve water quality and quantity.
4. Agriculture is an integral part of Florida's economy. These new roads would bring urban sprawl and increase the already-high pressure on farmers to sell their land to developers. In general, agriculture can be much more compatible with ecological stewardship than development.
5. Roads do not provide better jobs. The best way to provide more and better jobs is to improve our high schools and technical schools. Recently Anthrex, which already has a large campus in Naples, decided to build a new facility in South Carolina **because they could not find an adequate supply of skilled workers in the Naples-Fort Myers area.** Money wasted on these roads to nowhere would be much better spent to promote better education and cooperation and coordination between the business and educational communities.
6. Instead of building new roads, more money should be spent on hardening hurricane shelters locally. Mass evacuations are dangerous in





Q: Can FDOT widen existing roads, like State Road 60 through all of Polk and Osceola counties and U.S. 19 through the Northern Turnpike and Suncoast Connectors instead of building new roads?

A: During planning and project development and environmental study (PD&E), all options will be considered, including building new multi-use corridors or improving existing corridors.





Q: Is FDOT considering the recommendations of the 2016 Interstate 75 Relief Task Force report in its M-CORES study?

A: The I-75 Relief Task Force in 2016 had a goal to reduce congestion. M-CORES requires a consensus building task force for three specific corridors.

Q: Will FDOT develop transit along already established roads that will help low-income workers get to and from their places of employment; and begin major planning of low-income housing in areas where walking to a bus stop is less than a mile in safe, well-paved, well-lit areas?

A: The M-CORES study task forces will make recommendations regarding mobility opportunities within the multi-use corridors.

Q: Is M-CORES necessary to expand services like broadband/water/sewer services into rural areas?

A: The task forces will evaluate the needs of all communities within the study area, and provide potential solutions for shortcomings in those areas. The production team will evaluate the potential solutions, and proactively plan to accommodate for the current and future requirements.



Q: Wouldn't it be better to spend the money to fix waste water systems and deal with algae blooms?

A: M-COREs is a standalone program which will not take money away from other important state priorities. The task force will evaluate the needs of local communities and provide recommendations such that where feasible, the production team can evaluate and accommodate multiple types of infrastructure within the study areas.



Q: Will M-CORES improve connectivity and logistics, deliver critically needed infrastructure to our rural communities (broadband, energy, water, sewer, etc.)?

A: The task forces will evaluate the needs of all communities within the study area and provide potential solutions for shortcomings in those areas. The production team will evaluate the potential solutions and proactively plan to accommodate for the current and future requirements.



Q: Isn't M-CORES about benefiting a few wealthy individuals (landowners, developers, construction companies)?

A: The task force is charged with holistically looking at the current and future needs of the corridor and providing recommendations on opportunities for enhancements to benefit the communities as a whole, to achieve the purpose of the program. Ultimately, the purpose of M-CORES is to revitalize rural communities, encourage job creation, and provide regional connectivity.



Q: How will you prevent the promise of economic opportunity and protection of our natural resources from becoming a nightmare of over-development and unbridled traffic?

A: The task force is composed of a broad cross section of stakeholders. The task force members are charged with evaluating the study area from their respective expertise and providing recommendations on how the M-CORES program can Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate and Enhance to address those concerns in each community.



Q: Does FDOT believe this program will provide the necessary infrastructure to safely and effectively evacuate Floridians during emergency events?

A: Along with recommendations from the task forces, the FDOT production team will use our standard evaluation process to determine potential solutions to safely and effectively evacuating citizens and visitors in the State of Florida when an emergency event arises.



Q: What is being done to address Florida's crumbling existing infrastructure, which is ranked 40th nationwide in overall cost-effectiveness and condition?

A: Florida must maintain existing state transportation facilities to a level of acceptable standards before adding capacity. Florida has been ranked one of the highest for condition of existing roadways and bridges in the nation.



Q: How will M-CORES address the added threat of climate change, that will affect future generations?

A: M-CORES corridors will be designed for resiliency. This includes hurricane, flooding, and rising sea level resiliency.



Q: How will FDOT and M-CORES address the high price the environment will pay due to new roadways and possible sprawl, including damage to wetlands, rivers and springs; and wildlife corridors?

A: The M-CORES program charges the task force to consider and recommend innovative concepts to combine right-of-way acquisition with the acquisition of lands or easements to facilitate environmental mitigation; or ecosystem, wildlife habitat, or water quality protection or restoration.



Q: Why won't Florida spend the M-CORES money on purchasing more preservation/conservation lands instead?

A: The M-CORES program charges the task force to consider and recommend innovative concepts to combine right-of-way acquisition with the acquisition of lands or easements to facilitate environmental mitigation; or ecosystem, wildlife habitat, or water quality protection or restoration — in order to Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate and Enhance the corridor.



Q: Won't a new toll road will lead to urban sprawl and environmental impacts?

A: The task force is charged with holistically looking at the current and future needs of the corridor. One anticipated outcome is recommendations on opportunities to enhance and benefit the communities as a whole, to achieve the purpose of the program while avoiding, minimizing and mitigating where feasible.





Q: Would M-CORES consider four-laning S.R. 70 across the state for more efficient east-west movement during evacuations?

A: The M-CORES program will be evaluating opportunities for evacuation routes, as outlined in Florida Statutes.

Q: Why don't you build more hurricane shelters rather than evacuation routes?

A: Along with recommendations from the task forces, the FDOT production team will use our standard planning and PD&E evaluation process to determine potential solutions to safely and effectively evacuating citizens and visitors in the State of Florida, when an emergency event arises.

Q: Do you believe M-CORES will benefit our community, as well as all Floridians, by creating a sorely needed additional evacuation route for our friends in central and south Florida?

A: Along with recommendations from the task forces, the FDOT production team will use our standard evaluation process to determine potential solutions to be able to safely and effectively evacuate citizens and visitors in the State of Florida when an emergency event arises.



- **October 24**

Northern Turnpike Connector Community Open House
College of Central Florida Citrus Learning Center
3800 S Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL 34461

- **December 18**

Northern Turnpike Connector Task Force meeting
Hilton Ocala
3600 SW 36th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34474

- **December 19**

Northern Turnpike Connector Community Open House
Wildwood Community Center
6500 County Road 139, Wildwood, FL 34785

- **January & February:** Workshops and engagement sessions