

How Will Future Corridors Be Planned?



FDOT has developed a three stage process for planning future statewide corridors. The basic steps for each study area are:

- Complete a high-level **Concept** report to identify statewide connectivity and mobility needs in the study area; determine whether a significant transportation investment in the study area is consistent with statewide policies and available regional and community visions and plans for future growth; identify key community and environmental issues to be considered in future stages; and identify a framework for moving forward in the study area.

• Conduct an **Evaluation** of one or more segments of the full study area to identify and assess potential alternative multimodal solutions to the anticipated mobility and connectivity needs; work with partners to build consensus around potential solutions; and develop an action plan for future work on viable corridors.

- Use FDOT's established Efficient Transportation Decision-Making and **Project Development** and Environment processes to conduct more detailed analyses of specific alternative corridor improvements, continue coordination with stakeholders, and advance projects into implementation.

When Will Future Corridors Be Developed?

FDOT will be conducting Concept studies on priority study areas in 2012 and 2013. The intent is to develop a long-range framework to guide future investment decisions in the study areas over the next 50 years. This strategy can be integrated over time into local and regional transportation, land use, and conservation plans. Evaluation and Project Development studies will be scheduled on specific segments as needed. Construction on some segments that are of independent utility could move forward in the next few years, while other corridors may not be developed for a few decades.

Who Will Be Involved in Planning and Developing Future Corridors?

As the lead agency for this initiative, FDOT will be working with a full range of statewide, regional, and local partners. A state agency working group including the Departments of Environmental Protection, Economic Opportunity, Agriculture and Consumer Services, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Federal Highway Administration is guiding the overall initiative. In specific study areas, FDOT will work with a wide range of partners including environmental organizations, business and economic development organizations, utility providers, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, regional planning councils, and public and private landowners to better understand how they envision the future of Florida.

www.flfuturecorridors.org



How Do I get Involved?

Contact your FDOT Future Corridor Coordinator to get involved:

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Florida's Future CORRIDORS



What is the Future Corridors Initiative?

The Future Corridors initiative is a statewide effort led by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to plan for the future of major transportation corridors critical to the state's economic competitiveness and quality of life over the next 50 years. This initiative builds upon the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan and Secretary Prasad's "Florida's 21st Century Transportation Vision," which call for planning a transportation system that maintains our economic competitiveness by meeting current and future transportation needs for moving people and freight.

Why Are We Considering Future Statewide Corridors?

In addition to an expected population increase of 37 percent by 2040, it is also anticipated Florida will experience a 44 percent increase in visitors by 2040 and a 39 percent increase in freight tonnage by 2035. This means as a state we need to:

- Better coordinate long-range transportation and development plans and visions to identify and meet a growing demand for moving people and freight.
- Identify long-range solutions that support statewide and regional goals for economic development, quality of life, and environmental stewardship.
- Provide solutions for or alternatives to major highways that already are congested.
- Improve connectivity between Florida and other states and nations and among Florida's regions to better support economic development opportunities consistent with regional visions and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Strategic Plan for Economic Development.

What Types Of Facilities Are We Planning?

A statewide transportation corridor is one that connects Florida to other states or connects broad regions within Florida, generally by high-speed, high-capacity transportation facilities such as interstate highways or other limited-access roadways, major rail lines, and major waterways. These corridors may also involve multiple modes of transportation as well as other linear infrastructure such as pipelines and telecommunications or utility transmission lines.

This initiative focuses on two approaches to plan for future corridors:

- *Transforming existing facilities* in a corridor to serve a new function, such as adding tolled express lanes, truck-only lanes, or bus rapid transit systems to an existing highway, or adding passenger service to an existing freight rail line.
- Identifying study areas for potential *new parallel facilities* to provide alternatives to existing congested highways or potential *new corridors* for multimodal facilities in regions not well served by statewide corridors today.



Florida's Future Corridors Initial Study Areas

Northwest Florida: This study will examine the need for improved east-west and north-south connections through Northwest Florida. Growth in population and visitors to coastal communities may require additional transportation capacity to meet anticipated demands for moving people and freight and provide resiliency during emergencies. The north-south connections will require coordination with the Alabama DOT for potential interstate connections. In addition, FDOT will coordinate with planning organizations to work toward a regional approach that examines specific ideas within the context of long-range planning for Northwest Florida.

Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida: This study will assess ways to better connect Tampa Bay and Jacksonville, two large regions not well connected today. An early focus will be on increasing safety and congestion concerns along I-75 from Wildwood to Ocala. Initial steps will evaluate operational improvements to I-75. The full study will explore a possible new connection between the Suncoast Parkway and I-75 in the Gainesville/Ocala area, as well as enhanced connectivity between Gainesville/Ocala and the Jacksonville area. The Concept Report for this study area has recently been completed and is available on the Future Corridors website.

Tampa Bay to Central Florida: This study will explore ways to better connect Tampa Bay and Central Florida. This emerging "superregion" is now the 10th largest region in the United States, with forecasts of strong growth over the next 50 years. This study will build upon multi-partner, broad-based visioning processes led by the business community in both Tampa Bay and Central Florida. Alternatives may include operational improvements, express lanes along I-4, parallel corridors for some segments of the study area, alternative modes including Sun-Rail extensions, and new corridors to fill connectivity gaps. The Concept Report for this study area has recently been completed and is available on the Future Corridors website. Governor Scott signed Executive Order 13-319 on November 1st, 2013 creating the East Central Florida Corridor Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force is to evaluate and develop consensus recommendations on future transportation corridors serving established and emerging economic activity centers in portions of Brevard, Orange, and Osceola counties. For more information on the Task Force visit www.ecfcorridor-taskforce.org.

Southeast Florida through the Heartland to Central Florida: This study will explore alternatives for moving people and freight from Southeast Florida through the Heartland to Central Florida and locations to the north. A focus will be the potential for increased freight flows from the Southeast Florida seaports, connecting to several planned and proposed intermodal logistics centers and other freight/distribution sites in the Heartland. FDOT recently studied the existing US 27 corridor from Miami-Dade to Marion County. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is leading the Heartland 2060 regional visioning process. These two studies will guide decisions about the future of US 27 and other corridors in this region.

Southwest Florida through the Heartland to Central Florida: This study will examine the need for a more direct connection between Southwest Florida and Central Florida. Alternatives to I-75 to improve connectivity and mobility for people and freight will be addressed. Potential solutions for this study area could involve a connection to US 27, as well as additional east-west connectivity. The Heartland 2060 process will help guide this study.

Legend

-  SIS/Emerging SIS Airport
-  SIS/Emerging SIS Seaport
-  SIS Spaceport
-  SIS/Emerging SIS Rail Corridor
-  Major Highway
-  Urbanized Area

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles


