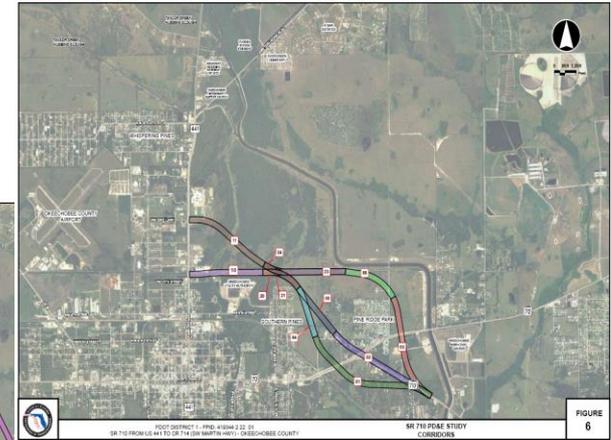
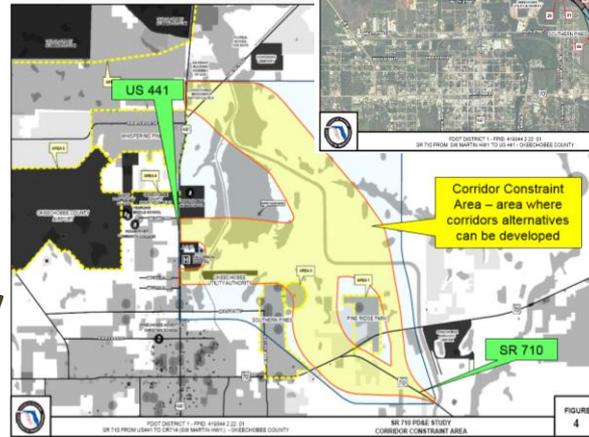


Alternative Corridor Evaluation Process

Presented by:
Xavier Pagan
Pete McGilvray
October 2015



What is ACE?

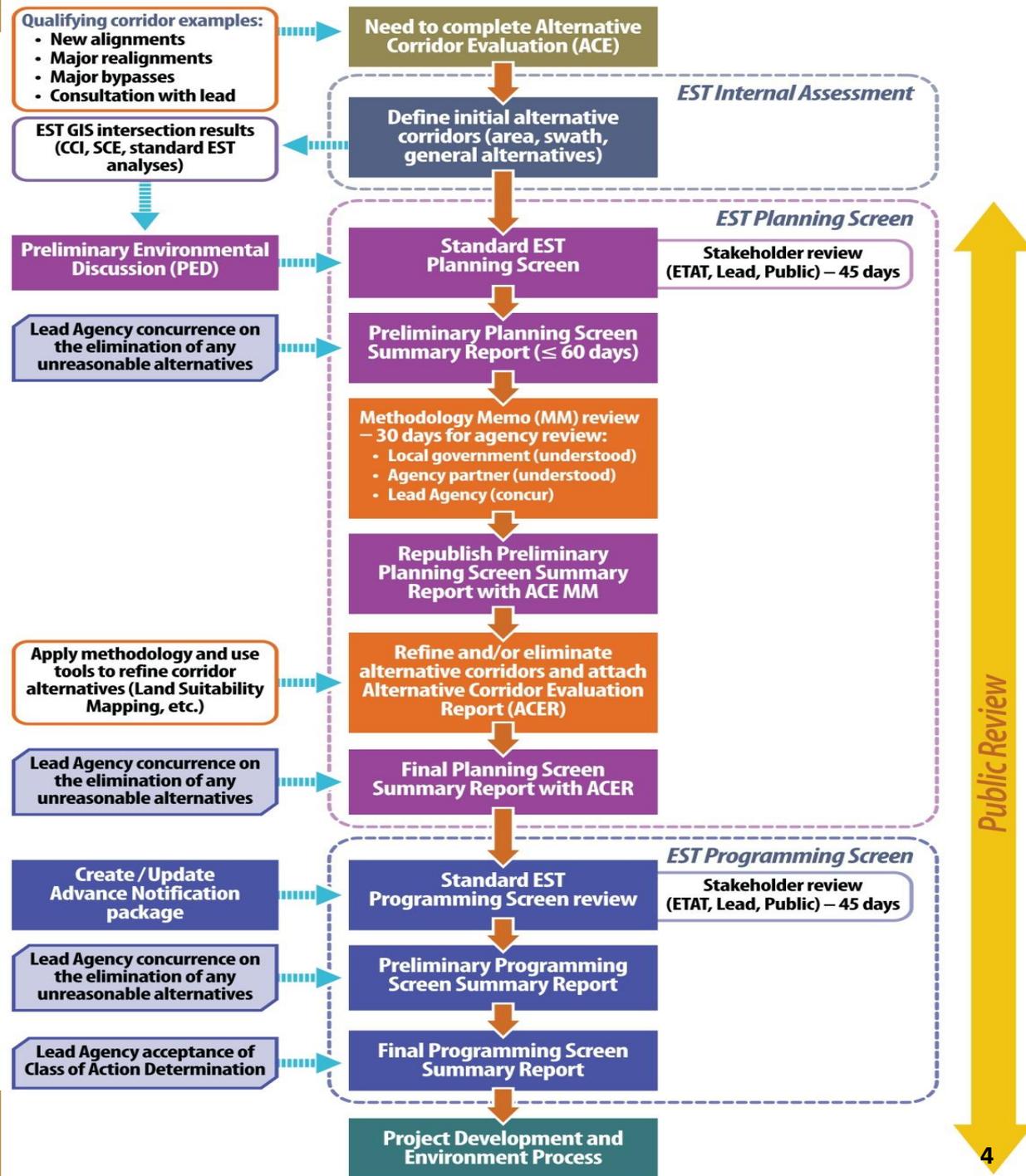
- ◆ Intended for various project types regardless of mode:
 - New alignments
 - Major realignments
 - Major bypasses – truck, city/town, etc.
 - Other projects?
- ◆ Purpose of ACE is to identify reasonable alternatives for NEPA analysis
- ◆ Provides a continuously coordinated and documented process to make corridor decisions with stakeholder involvement
- ◆ Early avoidance, minimization and consideration/identification of mitigation opportunities
- ◆ Helps refine the affected environment and identify issues/resources of focus

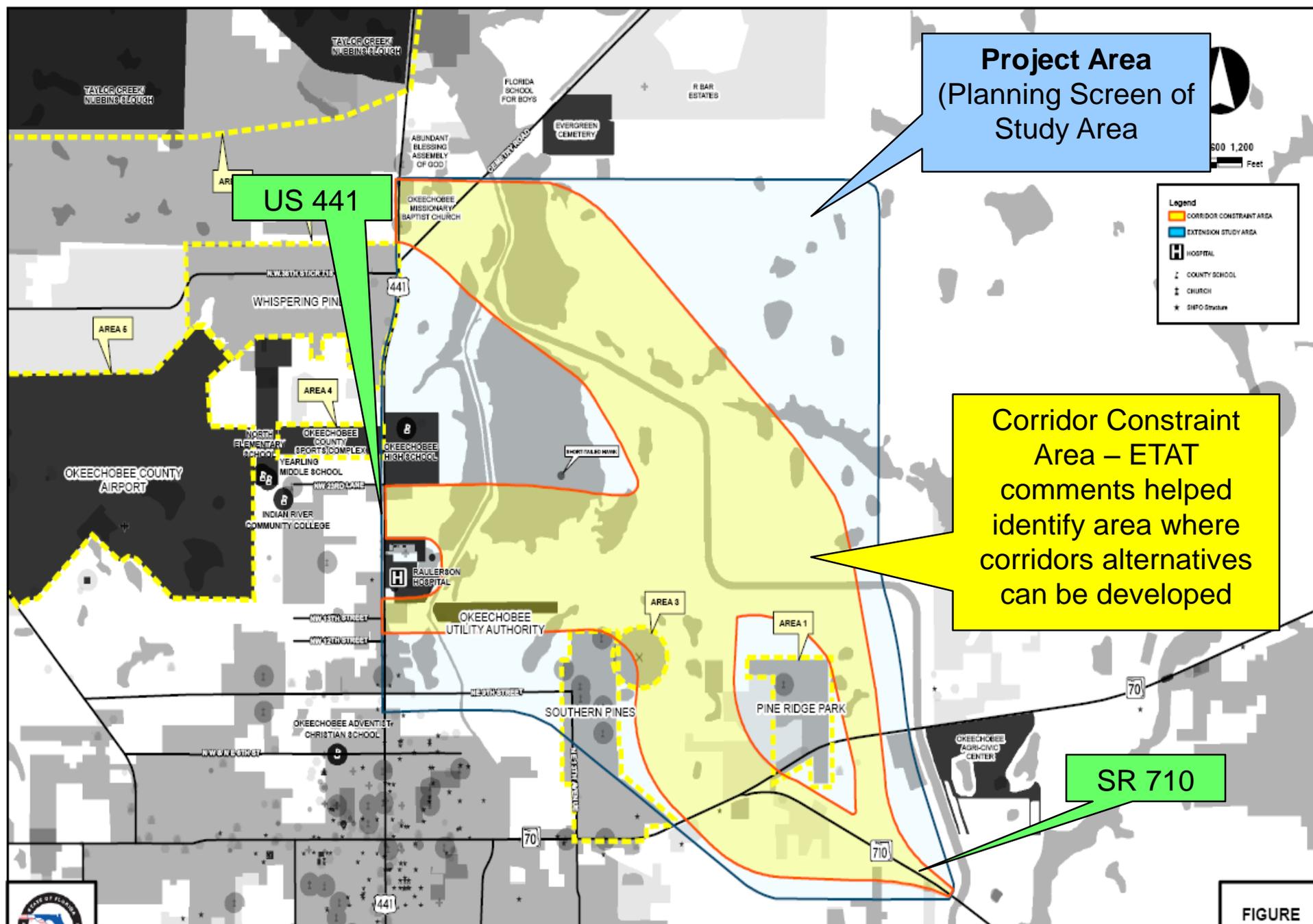
ACE Basics

- ◆ Define initial corridor alternative(s) and considerations
 - Use Corridor Planning Process and technology
- ◆ Define environmental setting
 - Issues/resources of focus
 - Greater understanding and coordination
- ◆ Develop Analysis Methodology Memorandum to define/refine alternatives with stakeholder input
 - e.g., Land Suitability Mapping and/or other tools
- ◆ Define/ refine corridor alternatives using methodology
- ◆ Alternative Corridor Evaluation Report (ACER)
 - Defined affected environment
 - Alternative(s) for detailed study in NEPA with stakeholder input
 - Elimination of unreasonable alternative(s)
- ◆ Planning Product to be adopted into NEPA

ACE Process

- ◆ Occurs within an EST Screening Event
- ◆ ETAT Comments inform development of Methodology Memorandum (MM)
- ◆ MM reviewed by ETAT
- ◆ MM Approved by Lead
- ◆ ACER documents application of MM
- ◆ Unreasonable Alts Eliminated
- ◆ Published in Summary Report





Project Area
(Planning Screen of Study Area)

US 441

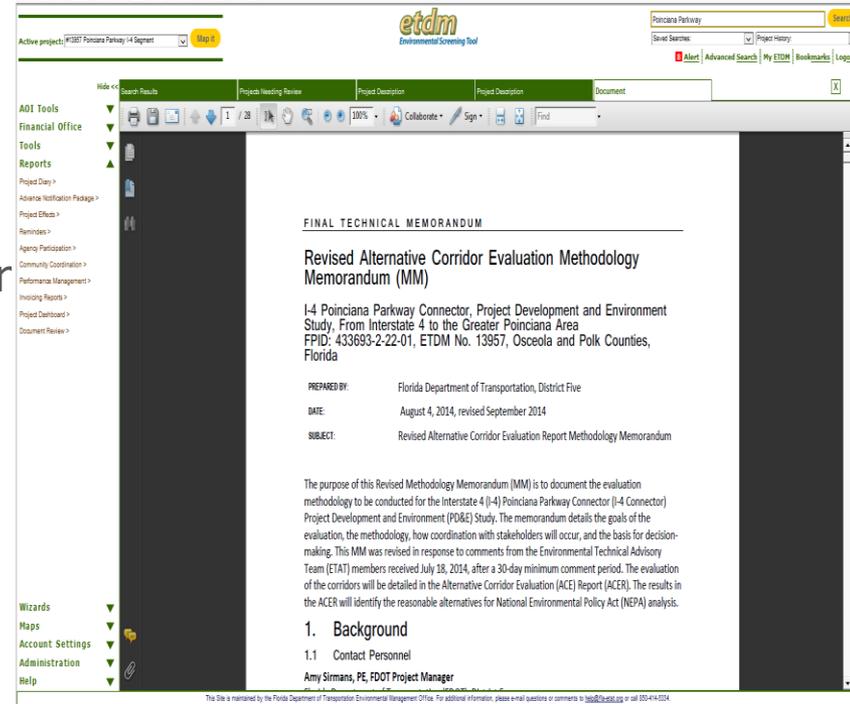
Corridor Constraint Area – ETAT comments helped identify area where corridors alternatives can be developed

SR 710



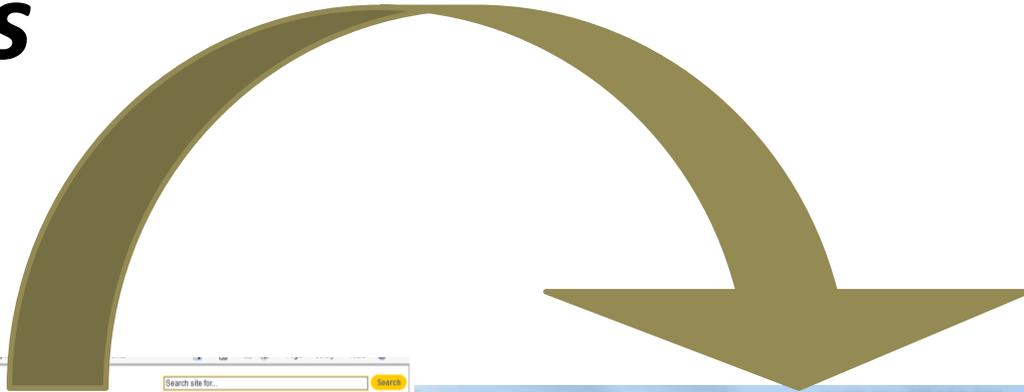
Methodology Memorandum

- ◆ Background
 - Contact personnel
 - Basic project information
 - Include previous EST Screening info
 - Include planning studies or relevant information
 - Include known issues of concern
 - Brief description
 - Brief Purpose and Need of the project
- ◆ Describe the goals and objectives of the ACE
 - Provide the status in project delivery
 - Define the intent of the study
 - Identify the decision points/milestones
- ◆ Describe the methods that will be used to analyze the alternatives and make decisions
 - Describe alternative corridors
 - Describe screening criteria
 - Briefly describe the data that will be used and how it will support the decision making process going forward
 - Describe the rationale that will be used to eliminate alternatives
 - Describe the data tools that will be used in the analysis [i.e., EST, Land Suitability Mapping (LSM), Quantum, etc.]
- ◆ A brief description of stakeholder involvement



MM Reviews

◆ ETAT Review



Active project: #3174 I-95 PDE for Ultimate Plan incl. Reversible Lanes

etdm
Environmental Screening Tool

ACE Documents Review

#3174 I-95 PDE for Ultimate Plan incl. Reversible Lanes

District: District 6 Phase: Programming Screen Contact Information: Catherine Owen (305) 470-5399 text: FDS.catherine.owen@fdot.state.fl.us etat.org

ACE Methodology Memorandum Review period: 10/07/2014 - 10/08/2014

Document (PDF)	Size (MB)	Description
new.docx	0.03	TESTING - DISREGARD

Acknowledge
Check to indicate whether or not the ACE Methodology Memorandum is Understood
Indicate whether the Methodology Memorandum is Understood Not Understood

Enter Comments
Enter any comments you have regarding the memorandum. Comments are required if you indicate the memorandum is Not Understood.

Sign and Submit
Reviewers submitted here will be considered part of your comments on the Methodology for this project.

Save as draft (review will be editable until the end of 10/08/2014)
 Save as final (review will no longer be editable)
 User Identity: Terry Gilbert @ FL Fish and Wildlife
 Password:

PONCIANA PARKWAY SOUTHPORT CONNECTOR PDE STUDY

DRAFT TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) Methodology Memorandum (MM)

Poinciana Parkway Southport Connector Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study From Pleasant Hill Road to Florida's Turnpike
 FPID: 433693-1-22-01
 ETDM #: 13961
 Osceola County, Florida

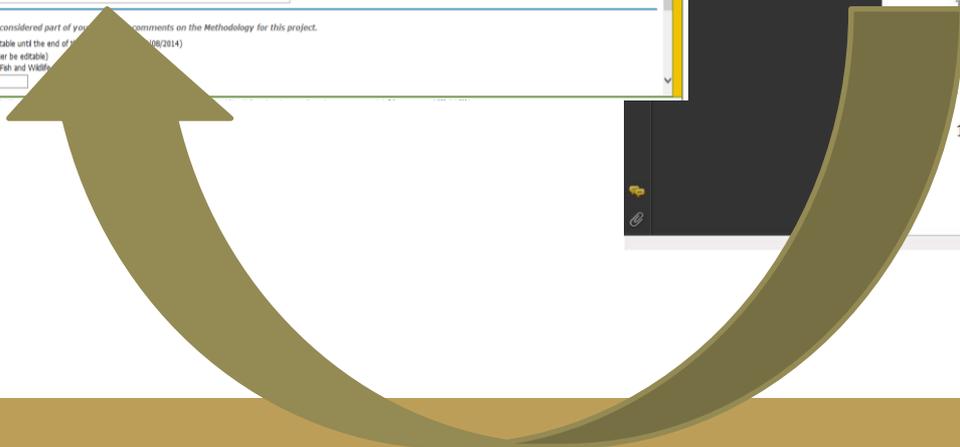
PREPARED BY: Florida Department of Transportation, District Five
DATE: June 3, 2014
SUBJECT: Alternative Corridor Evaluation Report Methodology Memorandum

The purpose of this Methodology Memorandum (MM) is to document the evaluation methodology to be conducted for the Southport Connector PD&E Study. The memorandum details the goals of the evaluation, the methodology, how coordination with stakeholders will occur, and the basis for decision-making. The evaluation of the corridors will be detailed in the Alternative Corridor Evaluation Report (ACER). The results in the ACER will identify the reasonable alternatives for NEPA analysis.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 CONTACT PERSONNEL

Amy Sirmans, PE, FDOT Project Manager
 FDOT District 5
 (386) 943-5404
 Amy.Sirmans@dot.state.fl.us



MM Reviews

◆ ETAT Review

Active project: #13961 Poinciana Parkway Southport Connector

etdm Environmental Screening Tool

Project Selection Wizard | Project Selection Wizard | Project Selection Wizard | GIS Analysis Report | Search Results | ACE Document Reviews

ACE Document Reviews

#13961 Poinciana Parkway Southport Connector

District: District 5 Phase: Programming Screen Contact Information: Amy M. Simans (386) 943-5404 amy.simans@dot.state.fl.us

Review Event: [ETAT (06/05/2014 - 07/05/2014)]

Documents

Document (PDF)	Size (MB)	Description
MM for Southport Project 6-3-2014.pdf	8.92	Southport Connector PO&E Study Methodology Memorandum (MM)

Review Period

06/05/2014 - 07/05/2014
This review event was completed.

Reviews

Agency	Reviewer	Review Date	Status	Acknowledgment	Extension Start Date - End Date
FDOT District 5					No extension requested
FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Steve Bohl	06/30/2014	Final	Understood	No extension requested
FL Department of Economic Opportunity	Chris Wiglesworth	06/27/2014	Final	Understood	No extension requested
FL Department of Environmental Protection	Lauren P. Milligan	07/01/2014	Final	Understood	No extension requested
FL Department of State	Ginny Leigh Jones	06/30/2014	Final	Understood	No extension requested
FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Scott Sanders	07/01/2014	Final	Understood	No extension requested
National Marine Fisheries Service	Brandon Howard	07/01/2014	Final	Understood	No extension requested
National Park Service					07/10/2014 - 07/18/2014
Natural Resources Conservation Service					07/10/2014 - 07/18/2014
Seminole Tribe of Florida					No extension requested
South Florida Water Management District	Mindy Parrott	07/03/2014	Final	Understood	No extension requested
US Army Corps of Engineers	Andrew Phillips	07/02/2014	Final	Understood	No extension requested

Wizards
Maps
Account Settings
Administration
Help

etdm Environmental Screening Tool

Project Selection Wizard | Project Selection Wizard | Project Selection Wizard | GIS Analysis Report | Search Results | ACE Document Reviews

FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Reviewed by **Scott Sanders** on 07/01/2014
Acknowledgment: Understood (Final)

Comments:
The Office of Conservation Planning Services of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has coordinated an agency review of the Alternative Corridor Evaluation Methodology Memorandum for ETDM #13961, Osceola County, and provides the following comments.
The purpose of this Methodology Memorandum is to document the evaluation methodology to be conducted for the Poinciana Parkway Southport Connector Alternative Corridor Evaluation Report (ACER). The results in the ACER will identify the reasonable alternatives for National Environmental Policy Act analysis.
The Florida Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, initiated the I-4 Poinciana Parkway Connector Project Development and Environment (PO&E) Study in June 2013. The PO&E Study involves the analysis of ten alternative corridors for an enhanced connection between the greater Poinciana area and Florida's Turnpike. The ETDM #13961 Programming Screen was initiated on September 6, 2013, and was closed on November 26, 2013.
We are in general agreement with the proposed ACER methodology, and agree that the four species selected for individual evaluation (small kite, bald eagle, crested caracara, and Florida grasshopper sparrow) should provide a good comparative approach for evaluation of the alternative corridors. The decision to give greater weight to potential grasshopper sparrow impacts than to bald eagle (or other migratable) impacts is supportable, but only for habitat actually occupied by grasshopper sparrows. Otherwise, potential, but probably unoccupied sparrow habitat like pastureland would be ranked over an actual eagle nesting territory.
Three of the ten alternative corridors include a bridge across Lake Tohopekaliga (Toho). The evaluation criteria for selected species, wetlands, and "water features" will undoubtedly highlight the importance of Lake Toho in the "natural" category, but we are concerned that the lake's recreational significance may not be reflected in the proposed "cultural" criteria. While the public recreational sites around the lake will be included in the 4(f) impacts evaluation, the lake itself, one of North America's premier bass fishing destinations, supports thousands of fishermen and women, hunters, birdwatchers, and other recreational users each year. A bridge across Lake Toho could significantly impact this recreational use and experience, and this potential for impact should be included in the evaluation criteria.
We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on aspects of the PO&E Study design for this project. Please contact Brian Barnett at (772) 579-9746 or email brian.barnett@myfwc.com to initiate the process for further overall coordination on this project.
Response:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Reviewed by **Brandon Howard** on 07/01/2014
Acknowledgment: Understood (Final)
Comments:
Response:

South Florida Water Management District
Reviewed by **Mindy Parrott** on 07/03/2014
Acknowledgment: Understood (Final)
Comments:
We understand the purpose of the description of the methodology. However, the data to be used does not include any data from SFWMD, even though the project is within SFWMD, not SWFWMD. It is recommended that data concerning SFWMD preservation easements, and SFWMD owned lands, rights-of-way and projects be included and considered. These layers are available from our website if they are not on the EST.
Criterion for natural resources should also consider mitigation lands and mitigation banks, and properties with existing conservation easements in addition to number of acres of wetlands or habitat. These areas in preservation status should be included in the evaluation criteria.

Wizards
Maps
Account Settings
Administration
Help

MM Reviews

◆ LEAD Review

Active project: #13961 Poinciana Parkway Southport Connector Map it

Search
Saved Searches: Project History:

23 Alert
Advanced Search
My ETDM
Bookmarks
Logout

Hide <<

AOI Tools ▼

Financial Office ▼

Tools ▼

Reports ▲

Project Diary >

Advance Notification Package >

Project Effects >

Reminders >

Agency Participation >

Community Coordination >

Performance Management >

Invoicing Reports >

Project Dashboard >

Document Review >

Wizards ▼

Maps ▼

Account Settings ▼

Administration ▼

Help ▼

Project Selection Wizard
Project Selection Wizard
Project Selection Wizard
GIS Analysis Report
Search Results
ACE Document Reviews
X

ACE Document Reviews

PDF
Print
Help
Refresh
MY

#13961 Poinciana Parkway Southport Connector

District: District 5 **Phase:** Programming Screen **Contact Information:** Amy M. Sirmans (386) 943-5404 amy.sirmans@dot.state.fl.us

Review Event: Lead Agency (08/15/2014 - 09/14/2014) Select

Documents

Document (PDF)	Size (MB)	Description
MM for Southport Project 10-9-2014 Final.pdf	8.06	Revised Methodology Memorandum 10.9.14

Review Period

08/15/2014 - 09/14/2014
This review event was completed.

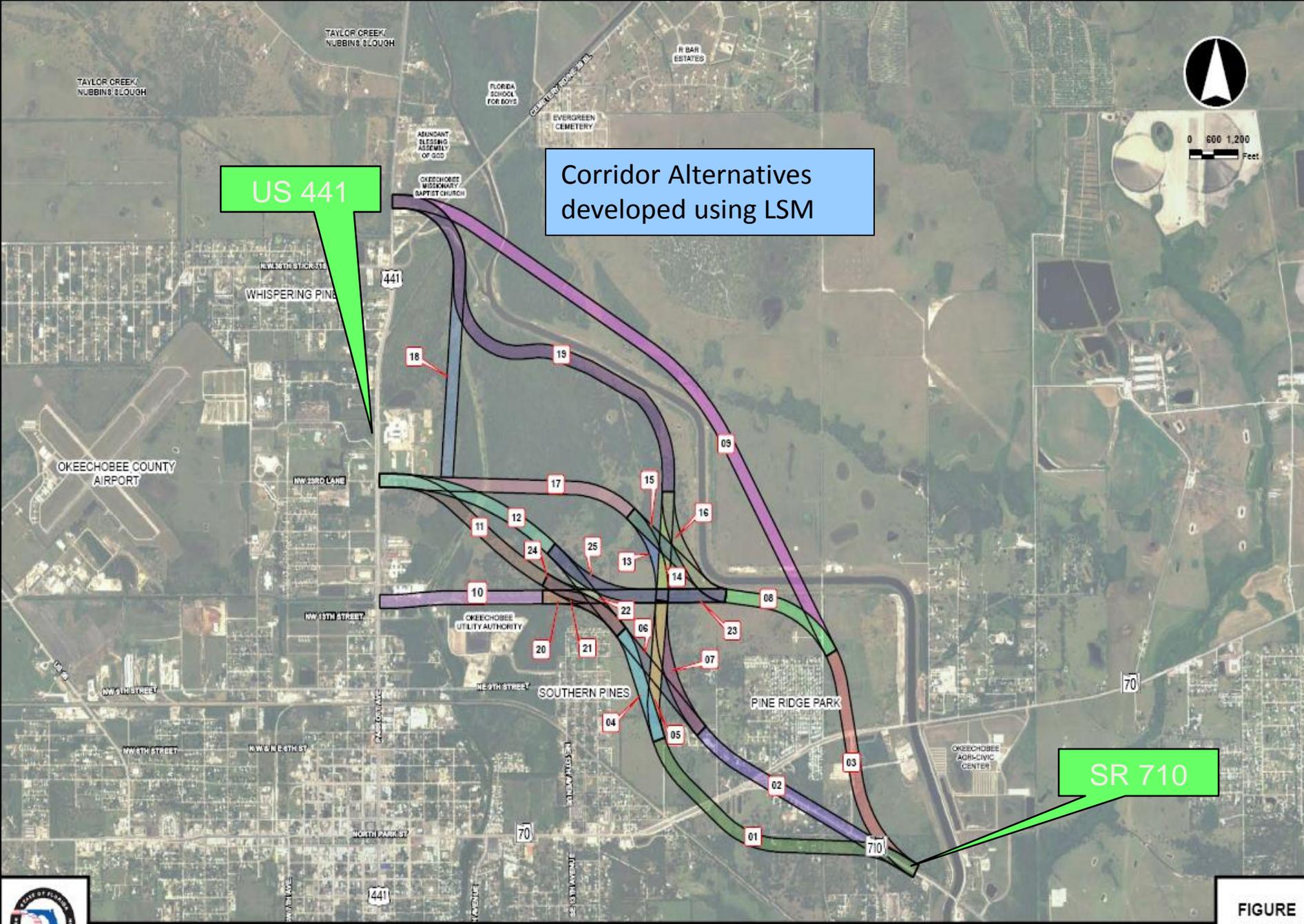
Reviews

Show Comments
Export to MS Excel
Export to PDF

Agency	Reviewer	Review Date	Status	Acknowledgment	Extension Start Date - End Date
Federal Highway Administration	Joseph Sullivan	09/06/2014	Final	Accepted	No extension requested

Click to Open Map

This Site is maintained by the Florida Department of Transportation Environmental Management Office. For additional information, please e-mail questions or comments to help@fla-etdm.org or call 850-414-5334.



US 441

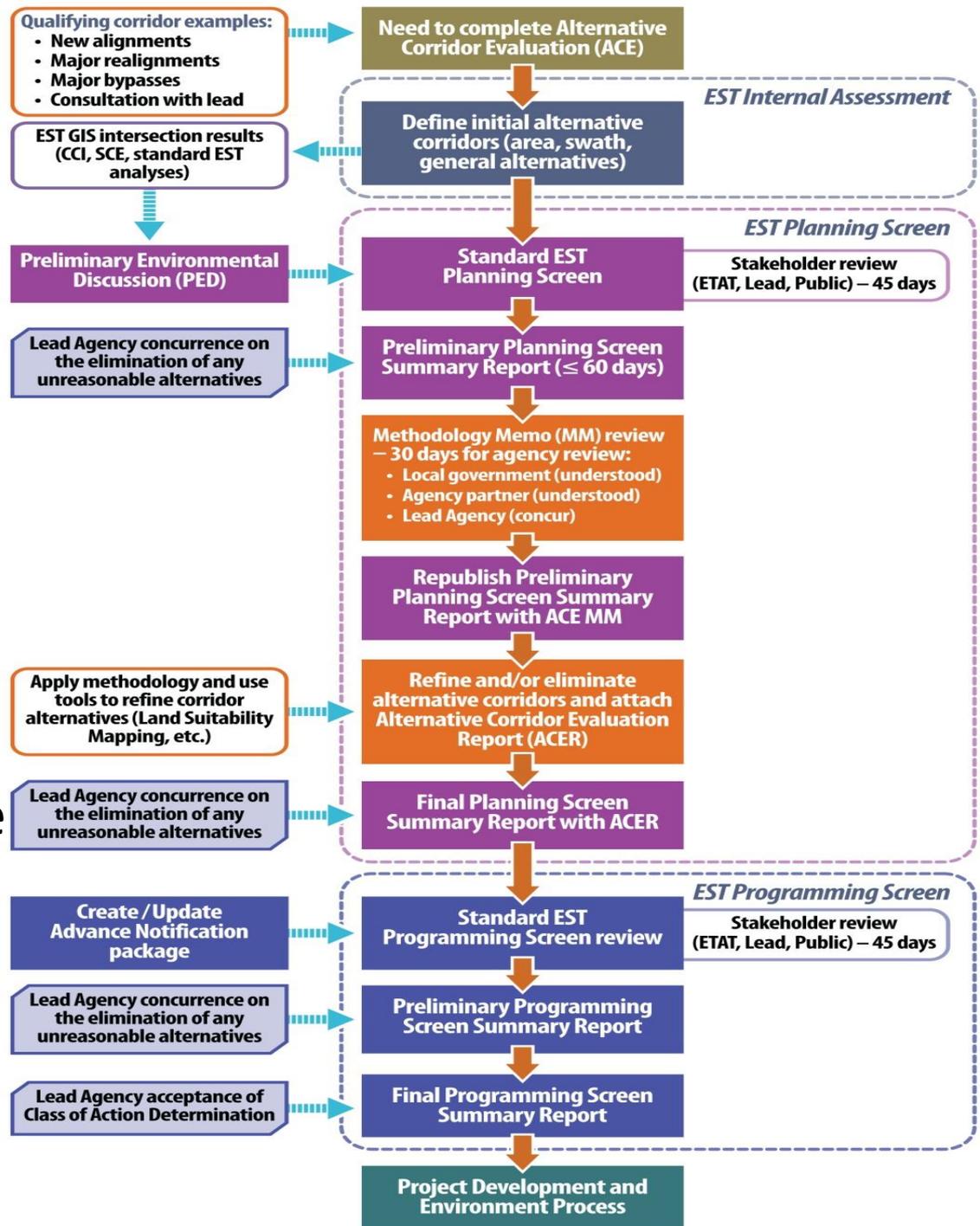
Corridor Alternatives developed using LSM

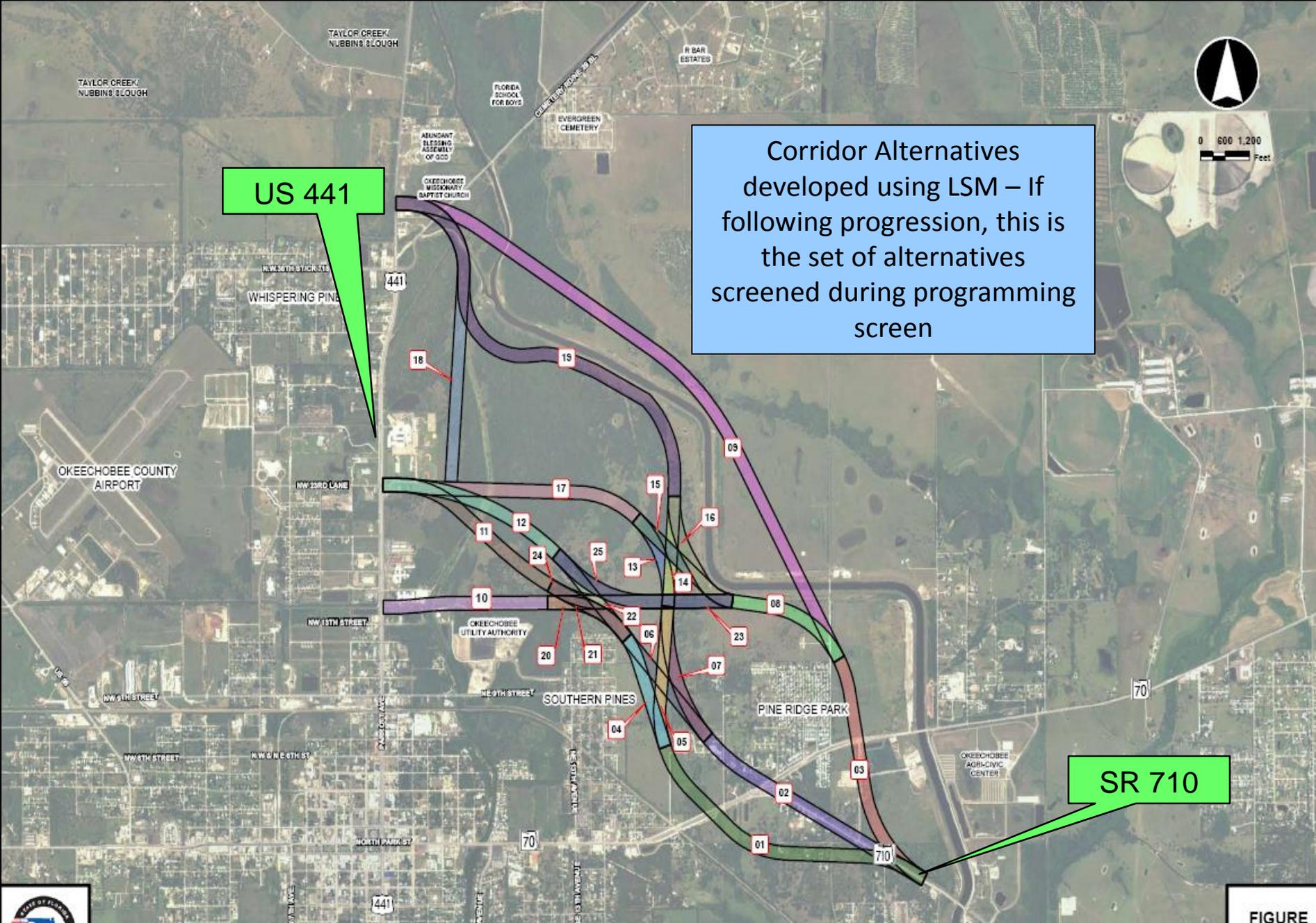
SR 710



ACE Process

- ◆ Eliminate Unreasonable Alternatives
- ◆ Alternative Corridor Evaluation Report
 - Draft ACER reviewed by ETAT
- ◆ Published in Summary Report
- ◆ Prepare for next screening event to refine alternatives





US 441

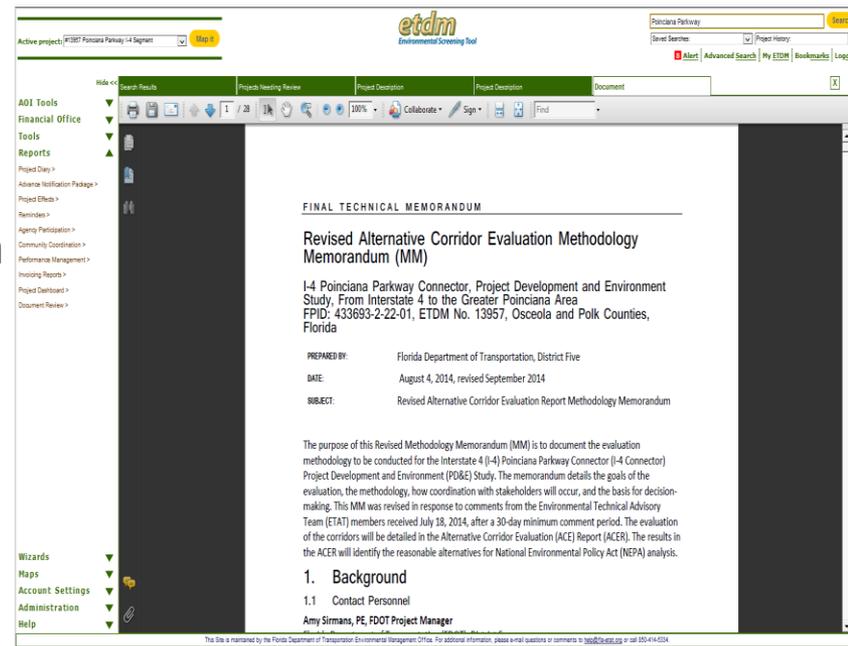
Corridor Alternatives developed using LSM – If following progression, this is the set of alternatives screened during programming screen

SR 710



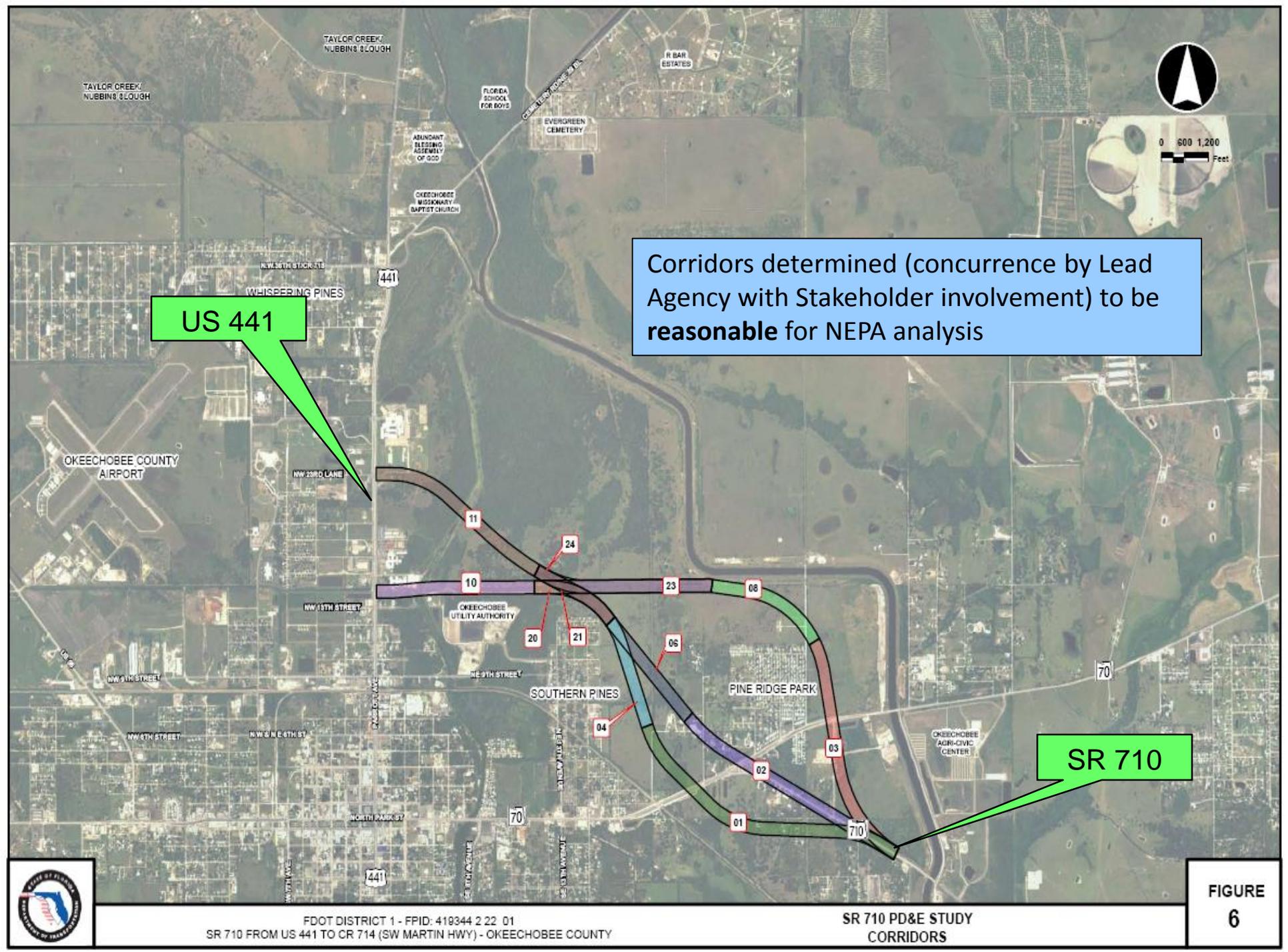
MM Revisited if Progression

- ◆ Background
 - Contact personnel
 - Basic project information
 - Include previous EST Screening info
 - Include planning studies or relevant information
 - Include known issues of concern
 - Brief description
 - Brief Purpose and Need of the project
- ◆ Describe the goals and objectives of the ACE
 - Provide the status in project delivery
 - Define the intent of the study
 - Identify the decision points/milestones
- ◆ Describe the methods that will be used to analyze the alternatives and make decisions
 - Describe alternative corridors
 - Describe screening criteria
 - Briefly describe the data that will be used and how it will support the decision making process going forward
 - Describe the rationale that will be used to eliminate alternatives
 - Describe the data tools that will be used in the analysis [i.e., EST, Land Suitability Mapping (LSM), Quantum, etc.]
- ◆ A brief description of stakeholder involvement



ACE Process

- ◆ Complete Reviews
 - ETAT
 - Lead
- ◆ Apply Methodology
- ◆ Develop Draft ACER
 - ETAT Reviews
- ◆ Eliminate Unreasonable alternatives
 - Justification in ACER
- ◆ Publish Summary Report
- ◆ After COA - but within 5 years, request formal adoption of Final Programming Screening Summary Report with ACER



US 441

Corridors determined (concurrence by Lead Agency with Stakeholder involvement) to be reasonable for NEPA analysis

SR 710



Results of ACE

- ◆ Continuous coordination with Lead Agency including concurrence at decision points
- ◆ Documented involvement of stakeholders in decision-making
- ◆ Uses existing and new vetted technologies
- ◆ Flexibility in its application
- ◆ Information all in one place, products available for future phases
- ◆ Define Purpose and Need
- ◆ Define affected environment
- ◆ Identify reasonable alternatives for NEPA Analysis

For More Information

Presenters:

Xavier Pagan

850-414-5260

Xavier.pagan@dot.state.fl.us

Pete McGilvray

850-414-5360

Peter.McGilvray@dot.state.fl.us

References :

- ◆ FDOT PD&E Manual
 - Available at:
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/pdeman/pdeman1.shtm>
- ◆ FDOT ETDM Manual
 - Available at:
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/emo/pubs/etdm/etdmmanual.shtm>