



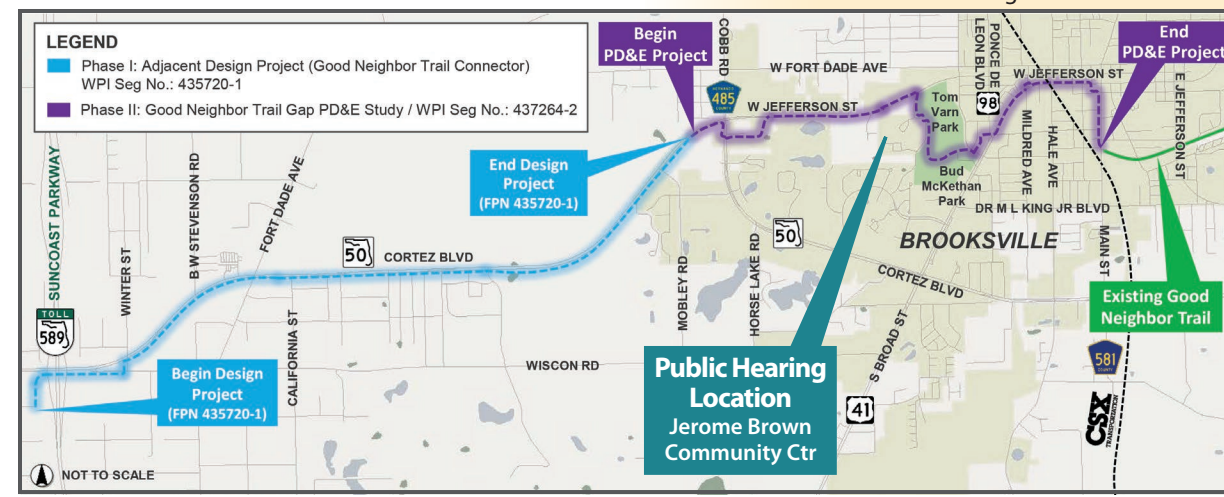
Proposed computer rendering

Florida Department of Transportation
 District Seven

Hernando County, FL | February 2019
 WPI Segment No. 437264-2

Dear Property Owner or Interested Citizen:

This newsletter serves as notice to property owners (pursuant to F.S. 339.155) that all or a portion of their property is within 300 feet of the centerline of the proposed project. However, this does not mean that all properties will be directly affected. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. You are invited to attend and participate in the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven public hearing regarding the Good Neighbor Trail Gap Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study in Hernando County, Florida. The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 to allow interested persons an opportunity to provide comments and express their views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed project.



FDOT representatives will be available at the hearing beginning at 5:30 p.m. to answer questions. Exhibits and other project-related materials will be displayed showing the proposed improvements. A PowerPoint presentation will run continuously during the open house. At 6:30 p.m., FDOT representatives will begin the formal portion of the hearing, which will provide an opportunity for attendees to make formal oral public comments. Following the formal portion of the hearing, the informal open house will resume and continue until 7:30 p.m. You can attend at any time during the two hour meeting to review project information and talk one-on-one with study team members. A court reporter will be available to receive comments in a one-on-one setting. You may mail your comments to the address preprinted on the back of the comment form or enter them on the project website.

Comments may be provided in one of three ways: complete the form and place in the comments box, mail comments to the address on the back of the form, or visit our website at www.active.fdotd7studies.com/good-neighbor-trail/. All comments must be postmarked by **Monday, March 25, 2019** to become part of the official public hearing record.

Draft study documents, and other pertinent information depicting the project's recommended alignment and proposed improvements will be available for review at the following locations from **Thursday, February 21, 2019 to Monday, March 25, 2019**.

Hernando County Public Library
 238 Howell Avenue
 Brooksville, FL 34601
 Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Saturday & Sunday Closed

FDOT District Seven
 11201 N. McKinley Drive
 Tampa, FL 33612
 Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday & Sunday Closed

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT. FDOT welcomes and appreciates everyone's participation. If you have questions about the project or the scheduled hearing, please contact **Lilliam E. Escalera, Environmental Management Office Project Manager** at (813) 975-6445 or (800) 226-7220 or visit our project website at www.active.fdotd7studies.com/good-neighbor-trail/.

Sincerely,

Kirk Bogen, P.E.
 Environmental Management Engineer

PUBLIC HEARING
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019
Place: Jerome Brown Community Ctr
 99 Jerome Brown Place
 Brooksville, FL 34601
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Open House
 6:30 p.m. Formal Presentation

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE TRANSPORTACIÓN DE LA FLORIDA TE INVITA A UNA AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA
el 14 de marzo de 2019
Comuníquese con nosotros:
 Nos importa mucho la opinión del público sobre el proyecto. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios, o simplemente desea más información, por favor comuníquese con nosotros. Nuestra representante en español es: Lilliam E. Escalera, EMO Project Manager, lilliam.escalera@dot.state.fl.us o (813) 975-6445.

Contact Information

We encourage your participation in this Good Neighbor Trail Gap PD&E Study.

If you wish to discuss any issues related to this project, please contact **Lilliam E. Escalera**, Environmental Management Office Project Manager, at (813) 975-6445 or **Kris Carson**, Public Information Officer, at (800) 226-7220 or by email to: kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us.

Written comments may be sent to:
Kirk Bogen, P.E.
 Environmental Management Engineer
 Florida Department of Transportation, District Seven
 11201 N. McKinley Drive, MS 7-500
 Tampa, Florida 33612-6456

Non-Discrimination

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation service (free of charge) should contact **Alex Henry**, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (813) 975-6405 or by email to: alex.henry@dot.state.fl.us at least seven (7) days before the public hearing.

Study Schedule

The study will be completed by Fall 2019.

Project Begins	Summer 2018
Public Hearing	March 2019
Finalize PD&E Documents	Spring 2019
PD&E Study Complete	Summer 2019

Future Funding

FDOT Five Year Adopted Work Program Fiscal Year 2018/2019 to Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

Phase	Fiscal Year(s)
PD&E	Ongoing
Design	Ongoing
Right of Way Acquisition	2019 and 2020
Construction	2022

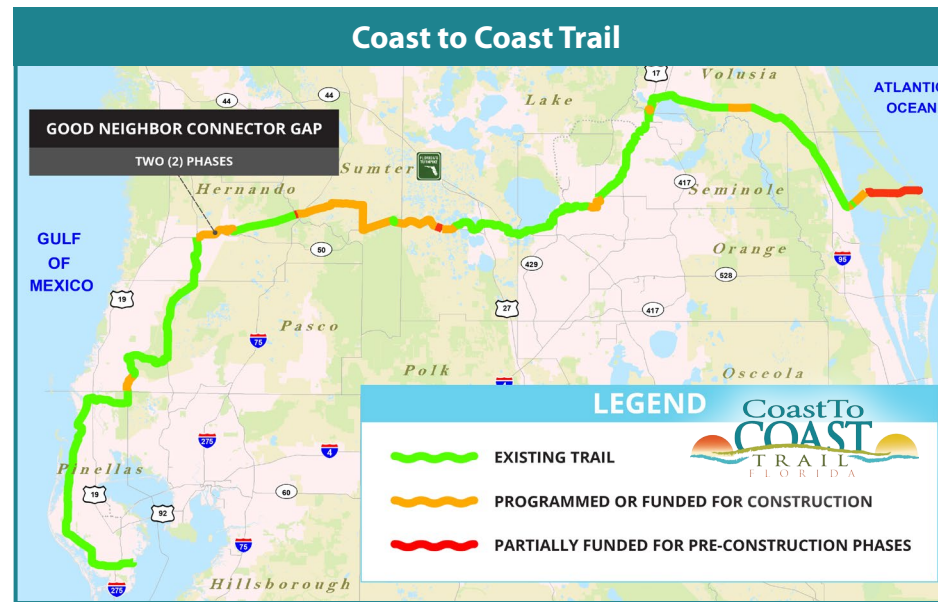
For more information on this study, please visit our project website at:
www.active.fdotd7studies.com/good-neighbor-trail/

PD&E Study Purpose

In 2015, the Florida legislature established the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail network as a component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System. The SUN Trail network consists of multi-use trails or shared-use paths physically separated from motor vehicle traffic and constructed with asphalt, concrete, or another hard surface which, by virtue of design, location, extent of connectivity or potential connectivity, and allowable uses, provides nonmotorized transportation opportunities for bicyclists and pedestrians statewide between and within a wide range of points of origin and destinations, including, but not limited to, communities, conservation areas, state parks, beaches, and other natural or cultural attractions for a variety of trip purposes, including work, school, shopping, and other personal business, as well as social, recreational, and personal fitness purposes. The SUN Trail program currently receives 25 million dollars annually in funding. The Coast to Coast Trail was identified in 2015 as the first SUN Regional Trail.

The **Coast-to-Coast Connector Trail** (formerly known as the “Coast to Coast Connector”) was selected by the Greenways and Trails Council and the Office of Greenways and Trails as the highest priority trail in the state to receive SUN Trail Network funding. When completed, this 250-mile paved, multi-use trail will connect the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean and span nine counties and dozens of communities, including Hernando County and Brooksville. The goal is to utilize existing trail infrastructure and fill the remaining 75 miles of gaps to eventually allow bicyclists to ride across Florida from St. Petersburg to Titusville and the Canaveral National Seashore in Brevard County. This trail connector will be the first of its kind in Florida. The map on this page shows the Coast to Coast Trail which identifies existing segments and gaps in the system.

The **Good Neighbor Trail Gap** – The proposed Good Neighbor Trail through Brooksville will complete a gap in Florida’s Coast to Coast Trail in the Brooksville area. The proposed “gap trail” will begin on State Road (SR) 50/Cortez Boulevard, west of Cobb Road, and continue easterly through Brooksville, ending at the present beginning point for the Good Neighbor Trail near the intersection of Main Street and Russell Street. The total distance is approximately 3.2 miles. This project is a collaborative partnership among the City of Brooksville, the Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). This proposed connector trail will tie into the planned Good Neighbor Trail on SR 50 to the west of this proposed trail.



An earlier corridor and alignment study was completed in 2016 for the Hernando Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This previous MPO study served as the foundation for the current PD&E study.

Study Implementation Process

The Good Neighbor Trail Gap project is in the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study phase of the FDOT’s 5-step highway development process. A PD&E study is a comprehensive study that evaluates social, cultural, economic and environmental effects associated with the proposed transportation improvements. The objective of this PD&E study is to assist FDOT on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in reaching a decision on the type, location, and conceptual design of the Good Neighbor Trail Gap shared use path. The PD&E study satisfies all applicable requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), in order for this project to qualify for federal-aid funding of subsequent development phases (design and construction).

Project Purpose & Need

The purpose and need for the project is to complete a missing link in the statewide Coast to Coast Trail, and is based on the following criteria:

- **System Linkage** – to complete a missing link in the statewide Coast to Coast Trail
- **Modal interrelationships** – to provide safe, non-vehicular transportation and recreation to residents and visitors traveling within and beyond the study area.

- **Potential Benefits** - Increased business activity, tourism, improved quality of life, improved public health and increased property values.

The proposed trail is consistent with the following plans:

- Office of Florida Greenways & Trails – Coast to Coast Connector Trail Plan
- TBARTA 2040 and Longer Range Regional Trails – 2015 Master Plan Update
- Hernando Citrus MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan
- City of Brooksville Vision 2050 Plan
- SUN Trail Adopted Work Program (FY 2019 thru FY 2023)

In addition, the proposed trail is consistent with the goals of the following plans:

- Brooksville Comprehensive Plan (2007)
- Brooksville Community Redevelopment Plan (2013)
- South Brooksville Reuse Planning – South Brooksville Conceptual Project Plan (2015)
- Hernando Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Element (2018)

Proposed Improvements

The proposed shared use path (“trail”) is expected to range in width from 10 to 12 feet, constructed mostly within existing roadway rights-of-way (ROW), using a combination of state and local roads. The proposed trail may be as narrow as 8 feet for short segments, including along Fridy Place. Additional ROW will be required in several areas. Trail bridges are proposed at two locations: across Cortez Boulevard south of W Jefferson Street (SR 50A), and over the CSX Transportation Railroad at Broad Street just west of uptown Brooksville. A culvert extension is proposed over Wombles Creek. The trail surface is proposed to be asphalt for most areas and required

improvements to drainage conveyances will be determined during the design phase. In addition to this ongoing PD&E study, the trail is also in the final design phase, with design scheduled to be completed in February 2020.

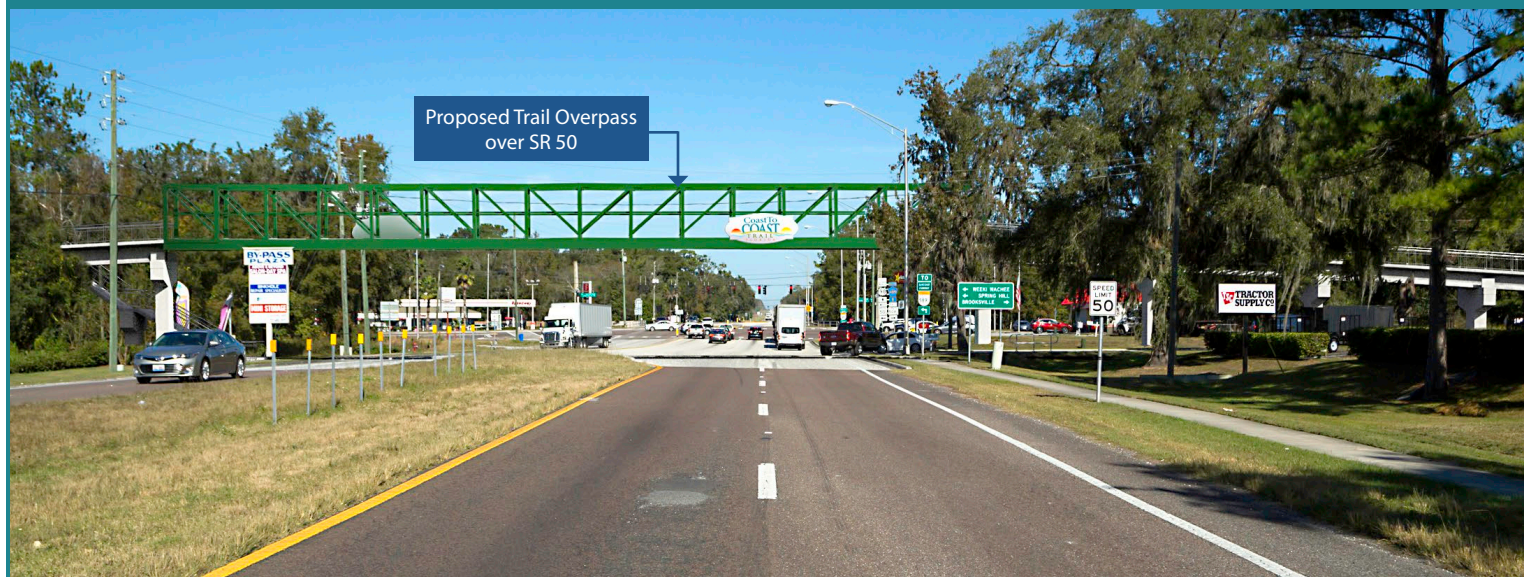
Historic Resources

Information related to Historic Resources will be presented at the Public Hearing. This will provide information to residents, local public officials, and interested persons and organizations relative to the process and schedule for identifying and evaluating historic resources, determining significant historic properties, and evaluating potential impacts to significant historic properties. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of projects they carry out, approve, or fund on historic properties. There are four historic properties identified within the project’s area of potential effect (APE) that are eligible for the listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These historic properties include: the Brooksville Overpass over the CSX Railroad, the Downtown Brooksville Historic District and its eight contributing resources, the residence at 140 Main Street, and the Brooksville Lumber. The last two are also contributing resources to the historic district. The proposed project is anticipated to result in No Adverse Effect to these historic properties.

Adjacent Design Project

The Good Neighbor Trail Connector is a project located adjacent to the limits of the Good Neighbor Trail Gap project featured in this newsletter, and is shown with the blue line on the location map on the front page. The Good Neighbor Trail Connector will complete the portion of the Coast-to-Coast Connector Trail that extends from west of the Suncoast Parkway to west of the SR 50/Cortez Boulevard Intersection, a distance of approximately four miles. The Good Neighbor Trail Connector is currently in the design phase of project development, and includes a 12 foot bi-directional shared use path that ties into the Suncoast trail on its west end and the Good Neighbor Trail Gap project on its east end. It also includes some milling and resurfacing work, removal of the existing south side sidewalk, driveway reconstruction, shoulder widening, and drainage improvements along SR 50. The Good Neighbor Trail Connector design will also be on display at the public hearing for the Good Neighbor Trail Gap PD&E Study for public input.

Rendering of Proposed Trail Overpass Over SR 50/Cortez Boulevard Just south of Jefferson Street



Existing Photo and Proposed Rendering of Bridge Over CSX Rail Line



Broad Street at Hale Avenue - Looking East
Existing View Near Bridge Over CSX Rail Line



Broad Street at Hale Avenue - Looking East
Prefabricated Steel Truss Option for Trail Bridge