



The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has completed a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study to identify a specific route and concept for the South Sumter Connector Trail from the Good Neighbor Trail in Hernando County to the Van Fleet Trail in Sumter County.

The 22-mile project will close a critical gap in the Coast to Coast Trail, which is set to span roughly 250 miles across Florida, connecting trail users from the Gulf Coast to the Atlantic Ocean.

The trail alternatives developed during

this PD&E Study, and the associated social, economic and environmental analyses, were evaluated according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and FDOT's PD&E Manual. The PD&E Study project team evaluated potential impacts to the surrounding environment. Input received from local governments, residents and various stakeholders such as the Withlacoochee State Forest was included in the evaluation of viable alternative routes and the selection of a recommended alternative.

Alternatives were presented at a public meeting held in October 2018. The recommended alternative proposes a 12-foot-wide shared-use path beginning at the intersection of the Good Neighbor and Withlacoochee State Trails and continuing easterly to a pedestrian/equestrian bridge crossing the Withlacoochee River.

The proposed trail would be located on the left side of the road as you continue east along County Road (C.R.) 673 and remain along the left side of the road traveling north along U.S. 301 to C.R. 478. Turning east at C.R. 478, the trail would cross U.S. 301 and the CSX railroad tracks with a pedestrian bridge. The trail then would be located on the right side of the road as C.R. 478 heads east towards State Road (S.R.) 471. Turning south onto S.R. 471 the trail would then be located on the left side of the road to until it reached S.R. 50. At the intersection of S.R. 471 and S.R. 50, the trail turns east and continues on the left side of S.R. 50 for 5 miles, terminating at the Van Fleet Trail.

The 5-mile-long segment of the trail between S.R. 471 and the Van Fleet Trail is included in the widening of S.R. 50 in this area (FPID No. 435859-4). The recommended alternative joins the existing Good Neighbor Trail to the west and the Van Fleet Trail to the east, and therefore enhances the goal of completing Florida's Coast to Coast Trail.

Additional information regarding the PD&E Study, including engineering and environmental documents, is available on the project website at www.cflroads.com/project/435471-1. The project is now eligible to advance to the design phase as funding becomes available.

South Sumter Connector Trail
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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CFLROADS.COM/435471-1

The Florida Department of Transportation solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and related statutes.



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