

COLLIER TO POLK

TRAIL MASTER PLAN



What's Next for the Collier to Polk Trail?

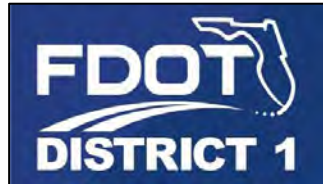
October 15, 2025



Welcome

David C. Turley, PE, CPM

FDOT Project Manager



Jim Wood, AICP

Consultant Project Manager

Kimley»Horn

MOVE OVER OR SLOW DOWN FOR EMERGENCY LIGHTS

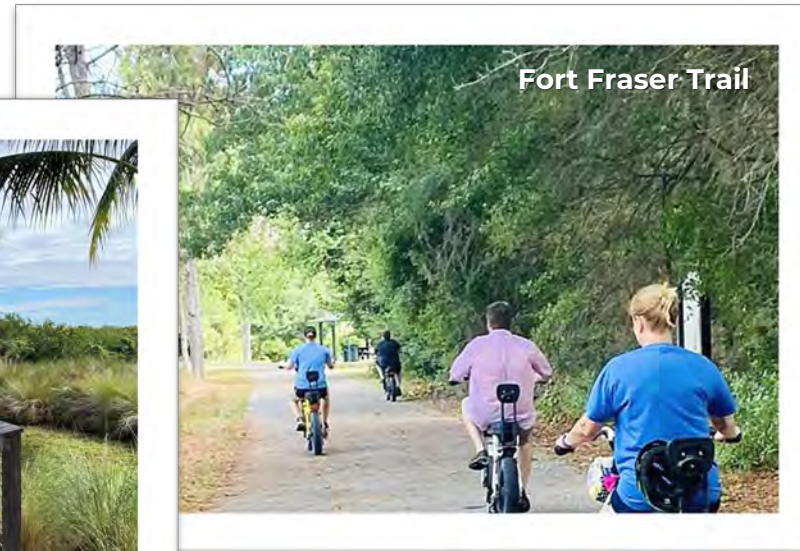
Move over or slow down for any police, fire, emergency, or utility vehicles performing work along the highway or at accident scenes. Move over or slow down for flashing red, blue or amber lights. It's the law.



Webinar Overview

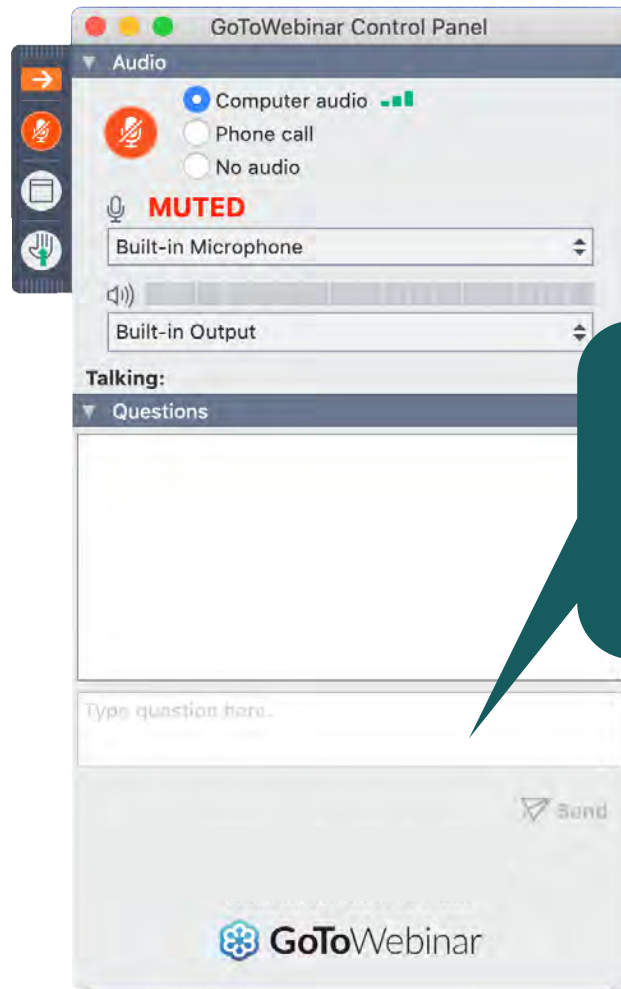
Agenda

- A Look Back: The Collier to Polk Trail Master Plan
- A New Name
- A Look Ahead: The Project Development & Environment Studies
- Hearing From You



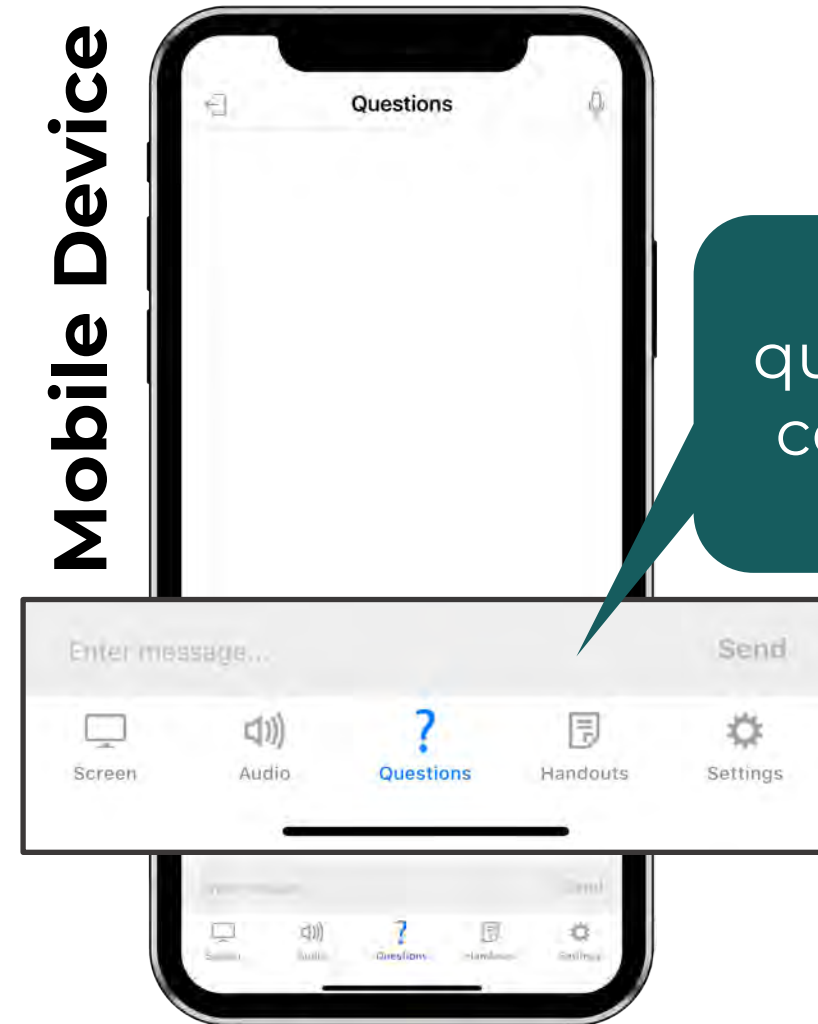
If You Have Questions or Comments...

Desktop Application



Type question or comment here

Mobile Device



Type question or comment here

An aerial photograph of a wetland area, likely a marsh or swamp, with water, trees, and a path. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark green filter. The title text is centered over the image.

A Look Back: Collier to Polk Trail Master Plan



Master Plan Vision



THE VISION

The Vision for the Collier to Polk Regional Trail is to establish a paved, multi-use trail that connects and provides access to small towns, cultural and heritage sites, parks, preserves, wildlife corridors, and working lands.



Master Plan Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles are:



Economy

Advance
Economic
Development
and Tourism



Experience

Create a Safe,
Diverse, and
Engaging Trail
User Experience



Destinations

Maximize
Connections and
Access to Small
Towns, Heritage
Sites, and Natural
Areas



Investments

Leverage Existing,
Programmed,
and Planned Trail
Investments



Implementation

Plan for
Implementation
of a Complete Trail
System



SUN Trail Network



Being planned and developed as a component of the **Florida Shared-Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail Network**



Regionally Significant Trail

Identified and prioritized as a **regionally significant trail** by the **Florida Greenways and Trails Council**. Recognized for its potential to:

- Cross multiple counties
- Attract national and international visitors
- Provide opportunity for economic and ecotourism development
- Showcase value of wildlife areas, ecology, and natural resources
- Serve as main corridors for critical links and trail connectedness across Florida

Section 260.0142(4)(c), FS



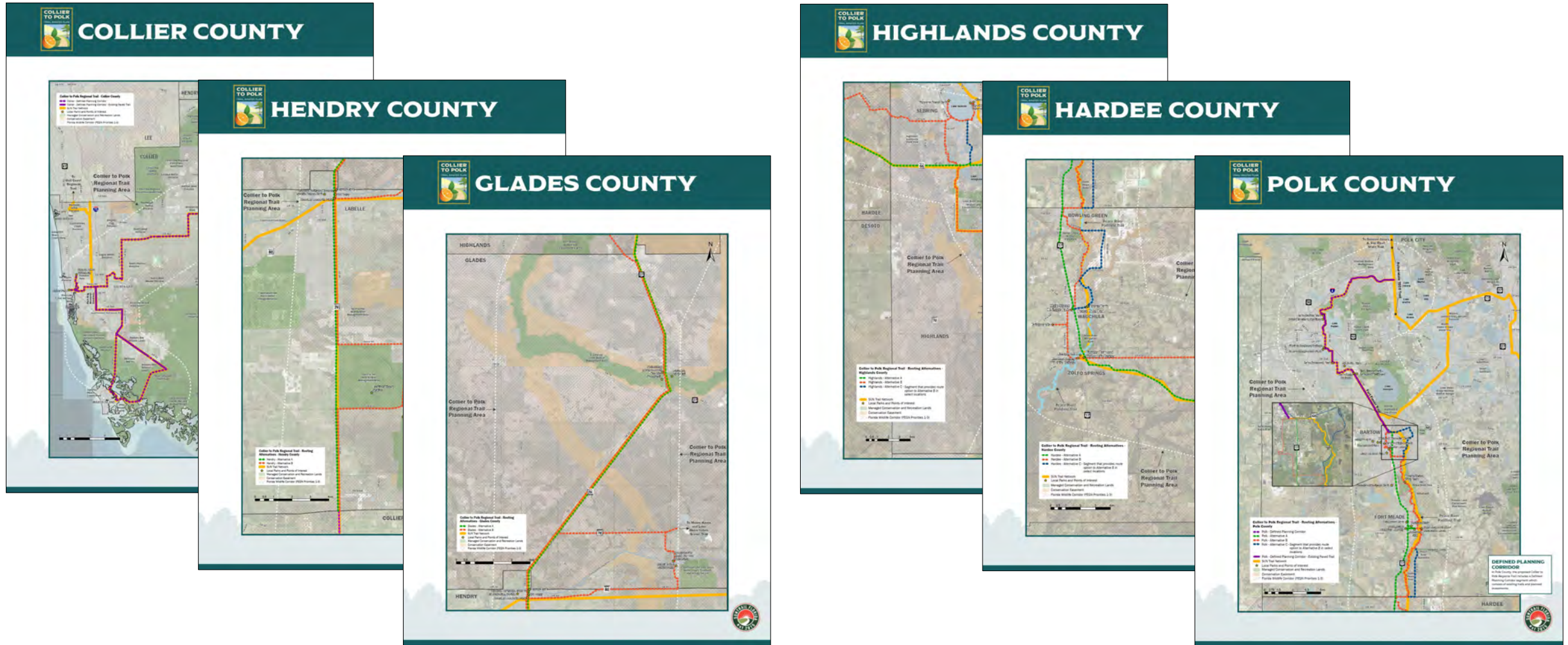
Master Plan Coordination & Engagement

Resolutions of Support



- Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Counties: Collier, Hendry, Glades, Highlands, Hardee, Polk
- Cities/Towns: Naples, Immokalee, LaBelle, Sebring, Lake Placid, Zolfo Springs, Wauchula, Bowling Green, Fort Meade, Bartow, Lakeland
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Forest Service (FL Dept of Ag and Consumer Services)
- South Florida & Southwest Florida WMDs
- National Park Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation
- Environmental Stakeholders (webinar)

Master Plan Routing Alternatives



Public Input

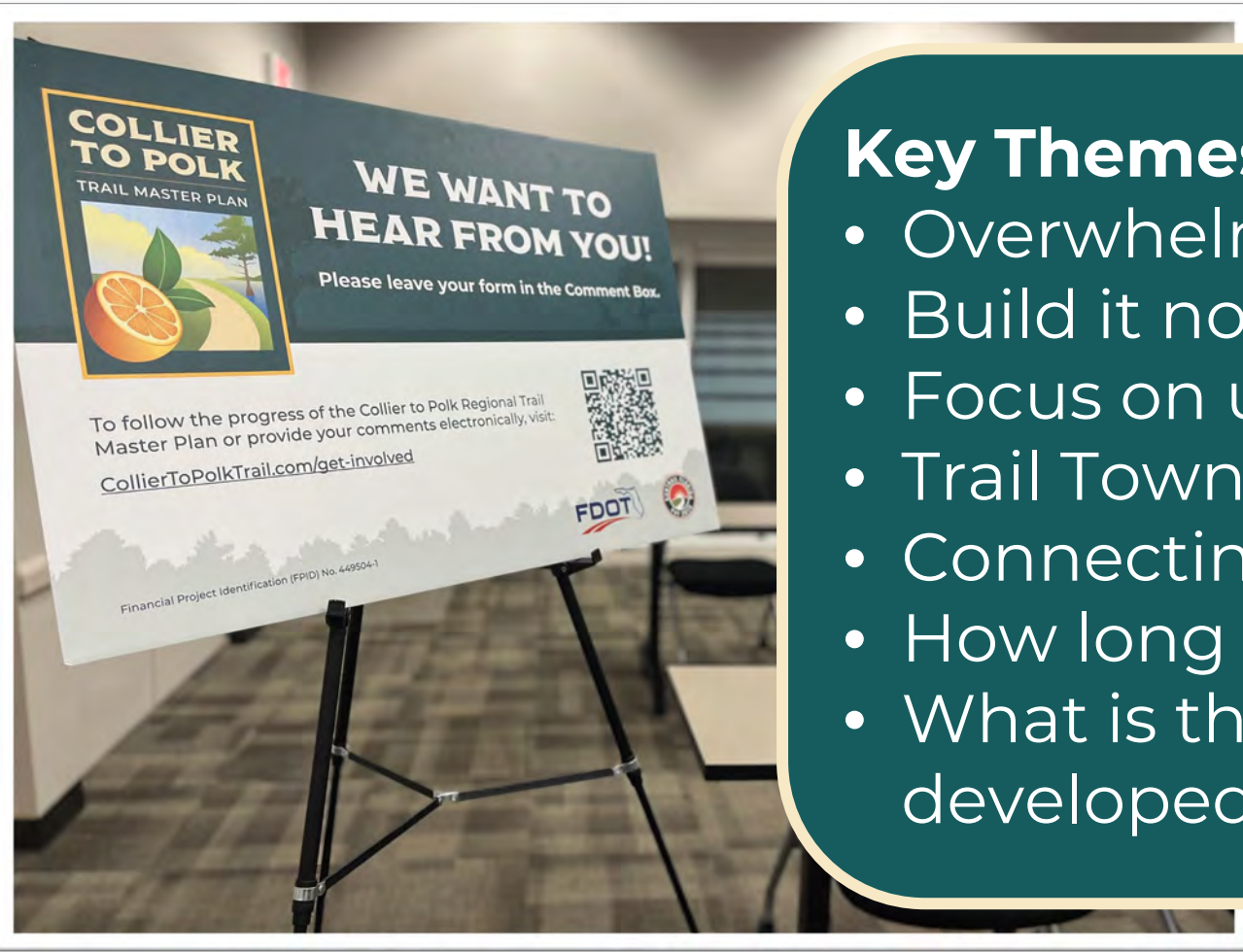


- Five Open Houses
 - Over 100 attendees
- Virtual Open House
- Over 150 comments (in-person & virtual)

Public Input



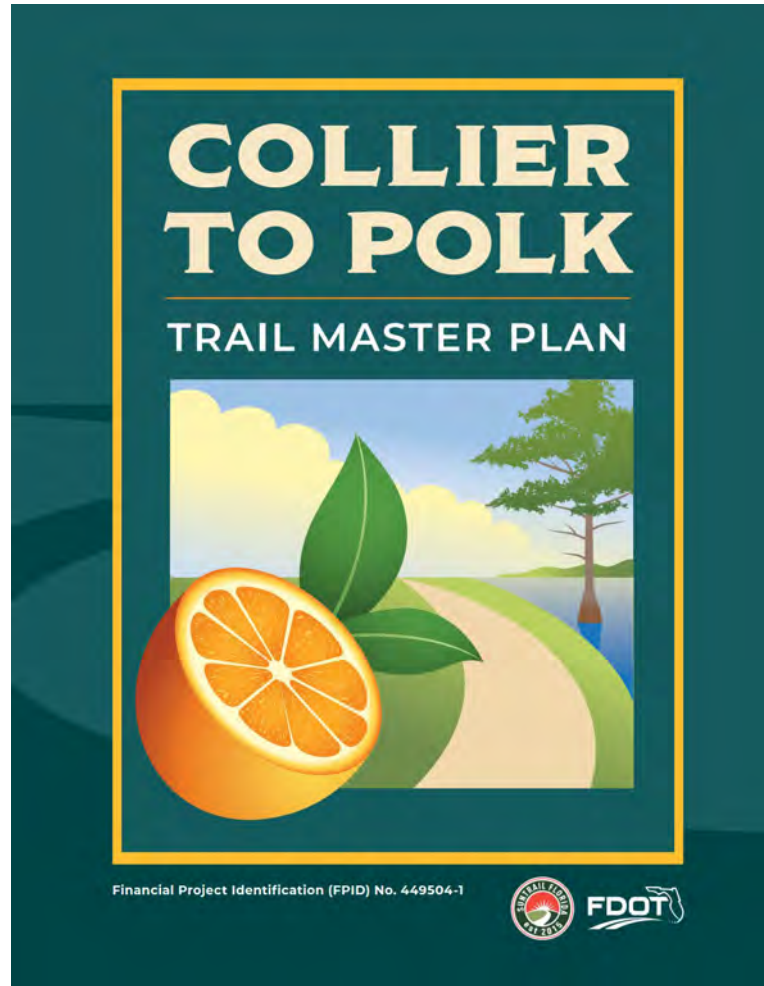
Public Input



Key Themes

- Overwhelming support
- Build it now!
- Focus on user experience
- Trail Town approach is favored
- Connecting to natural areas is key
- How long will it take?
- What is the order that segments will be developed?

The Master Plan



Master Plan At-A-Glance

- Introduction
- Why a Regional Trail?
- The Trail Experience
- The Region
- Engagement
- Planning the Trail
- The Path Forward

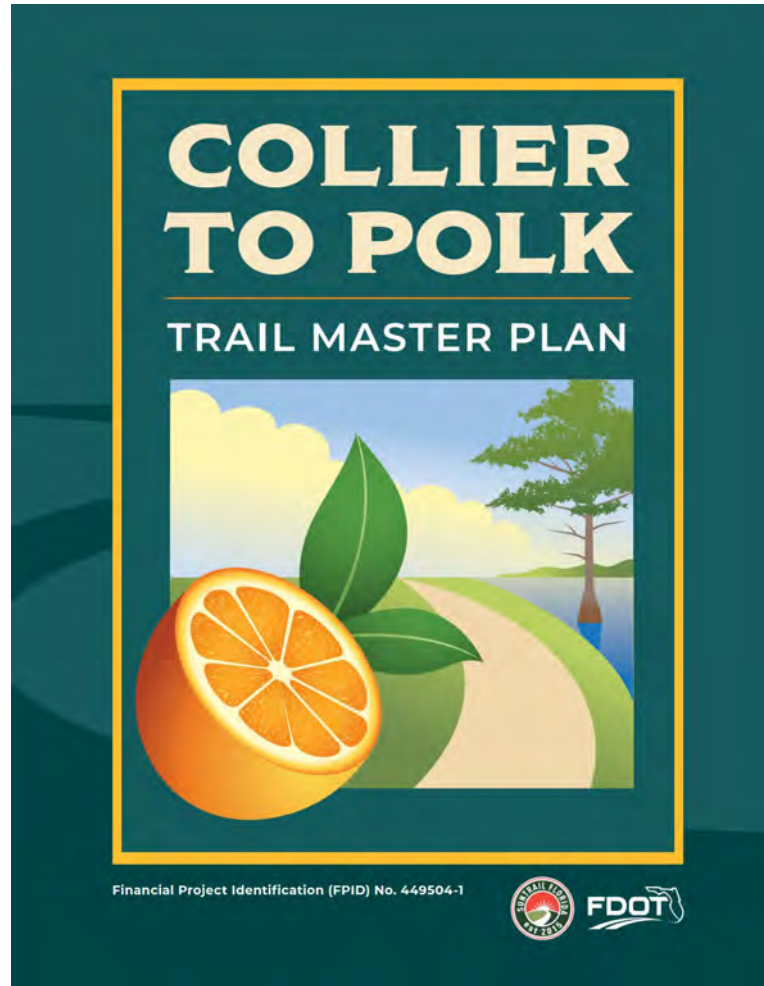
State of Practice Scan



- Regional trail systems provide significant economic impact potential
- Continuous long-distance trails typically deliver greatest returns
- Partnering with trail-side communities provides reciprocal benefits
- Connecting to nearby assets & destinations maximizes return on investment
- Long-distance trails can help tell the story of a region's natural and cultural history



The Master Plan

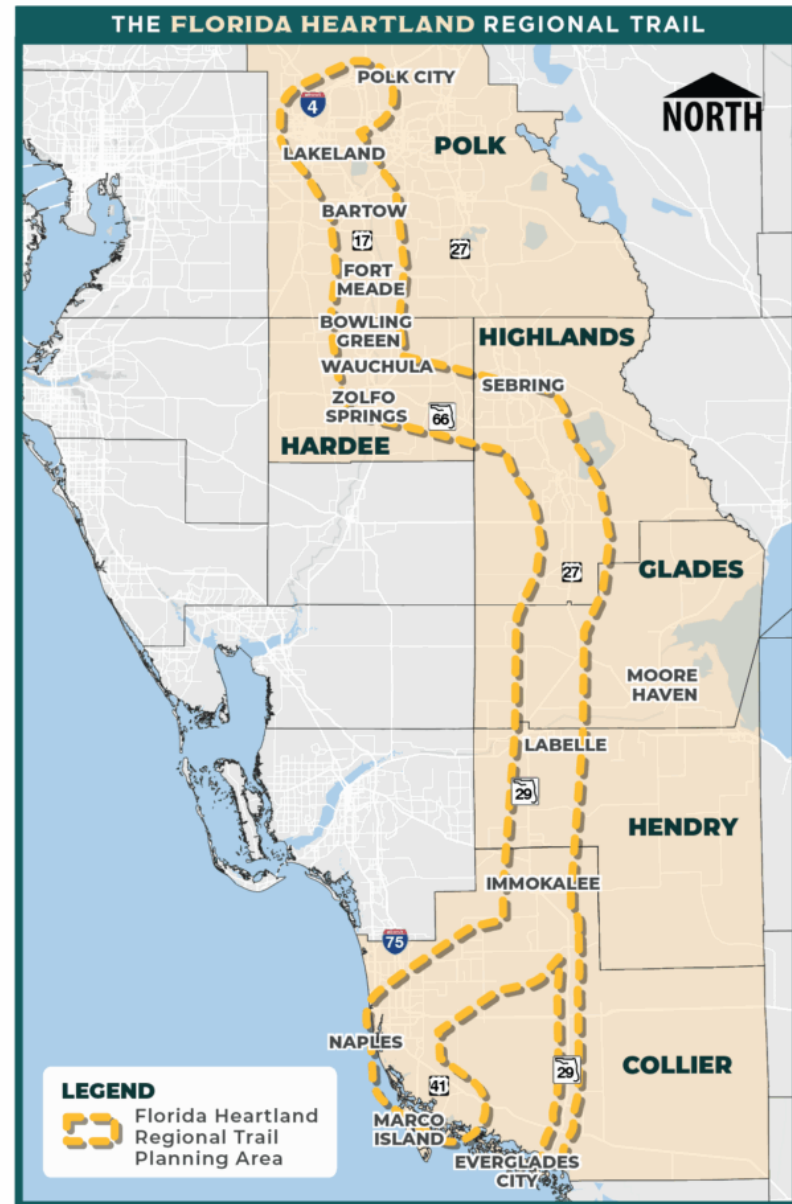


**Final Master Plan was
posted in August 2024**

A New Name



THE FLORIDA HEARTLAND REGIONAL TRAIL



Regional Trail Website

FloridaHeartlandRegionalTrail.com



A Look Ahead: The Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Studies



What is a PD&E Study?

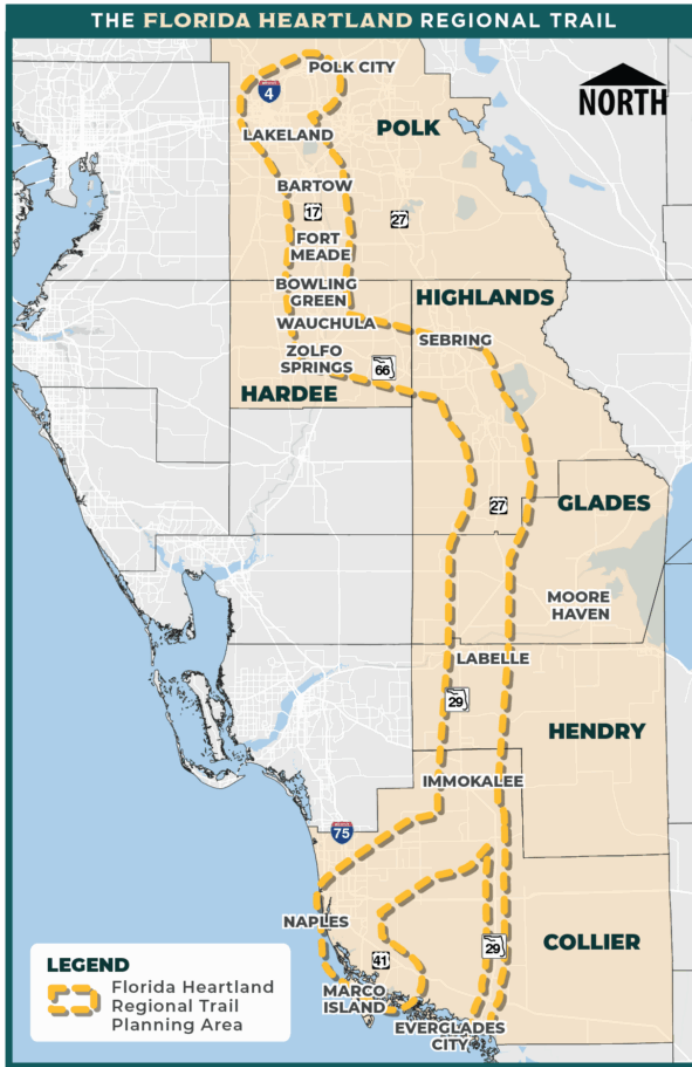
- Evaluates **social, economic and environmental effects** associated with proposed improvements
- Helps FDOT reach decision on **project type, location and conceptual design** to meet proposed **purpose and need**
- Prepares project for future **project development** phases



How many PD&E studies are being conducted?

Because of the regional trail's length and scale, separate studies are being conducted for each of the six counties:

- Polk
- Hardee
- Highlands
- Glades
- Hendry
- Collier



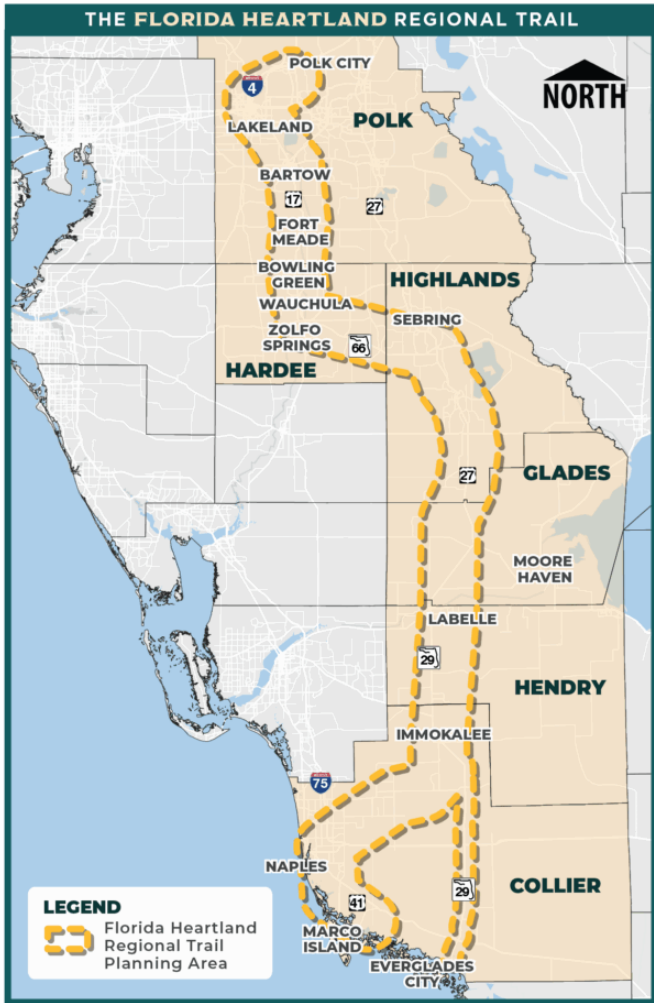
What is the schedule?

- Each PD&E study will follow its own schedule
- All are projected to finish by 2028

Example Schedule



Purpose and Need for Each County Segment



Shared + County-specific Provisions

Shared provisions include:

- Regionally Significant Trail Factors
- Component of SUN Trail
- Expanding Trail System Linkages

Developing the PD&E Alternatives

Master Plan Routing Alternatives



*Engineering &
Environmental
Analysis*

**PD&E
Alternatives**
to be presented to the
public

will include
“No-Build” Alternative

PD&E Development by County

Collier

Hendry

Glades

Highlands

Hardee

Polk

Segment Managers

**Erika
Miller**
Kimley-Horn

**Kim
Warren**
PGA

**Kim
Warren**
PGA

**Cris
Schooley**
Kimley-Horn

**Cris
Schooley**
Kimley-Horn

**Alejandro
Mendez**
Kimley-Horn

PD&E Consultants

VHB

Scalar

Scalar

RS&H

RS&H

AIM

Regional Trail Website – Get Involved Page

As the PD&E studies are being developed, this page will provide information about events and public meetings you can attend.

If you have questions about the Florida Heartland Regional Trail or the PD&E studies, please contact David C. Turley, FDOT Project Manager.

Planning Project Manager

David C. Turley, PE

(863) 519-2255

david.turley@dot.state.fl.us

Name

Name

Zip Code *

Email *

Email

Choose which PD&Es you would like to be kept informed of:

- ☐ Collier Segment PD&E
- ☐ Hendry Segment PD&E
- ☐ Glades Segment PD&E
- ☐ Highlands Segment PD&E

Choose which PD&Es you would like to be kept informed of:

- ☐ Collier Segment PD&E
- ☐ Hendry Segment PD&E
- ☐ Glades Segment PD&E
- ☐ Highlands Segment PD&E
- ☐ Hardee Segment PD&E
- ☐ Polk Segment PD&E

Segment Managers by County

- **Collier County:** Erika.Miller@dot.state.fl.us
- **Hendry County:** Kimberly.Warren@dot.state.fl.us
- **Glades County:** Kimberly.Warren@dot.state.fl.us
- **Highlands County:** Cris.Schooley@dot.state.fl.us
- **Hardee County:** Cris.Schooley@dot.state.fl.us
- **Polk County:** Alejandro.Mendez@dot.state.fl.us



How long will it take to complete the trail?



- Timeframe to complete the trail is not defined
- Timing will be contingent upon obtaining funding for future phases – PD&E is only phase funded
- SUN Trail and other federal, state, and local funding sources will be pursued

*FDOT will continue to **champion the regional trail**, partnering with MPOs and local agencies*



Hearing from You



**Use the Questions tab to
submit a question or
comment**

Thank You

David C. Turley, PE, CPM

Project Manager

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FloridaHeartlandRegionalTrail.com

