



Florida Department of  
**TRANSPORTATION**

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# **Transportation Project Delivery Process & Mitigation**

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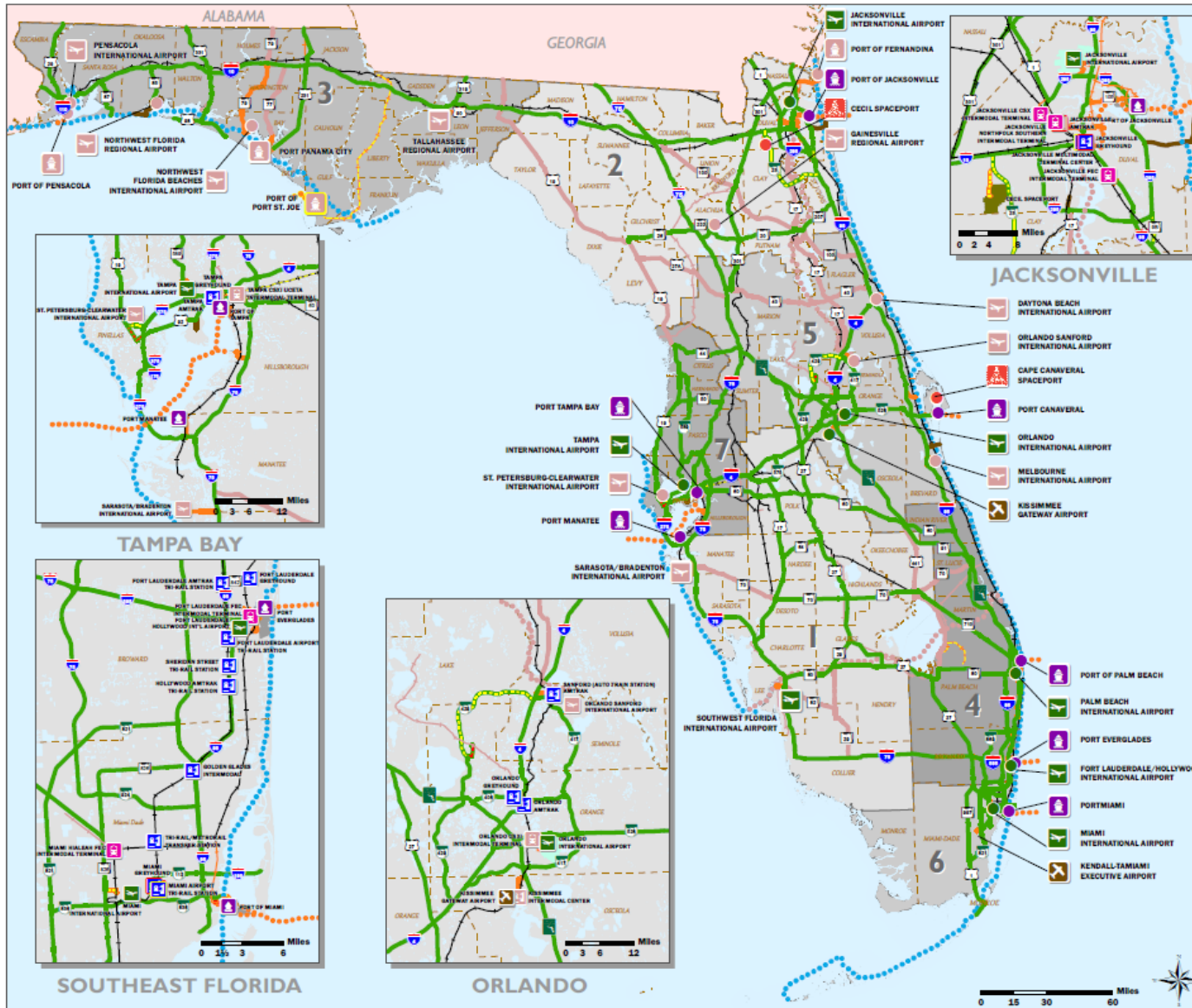
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# Florida's Transportation System Today

<u>Component</u>	<u>Owner/Operator</u>	<u>Facilities</u>
State Highways	State of Florida	12,088 centerline miles; 6,241 bridges
SIS	State of Florida	~4,000 centerline miles
Local Roads	Local governments	107,279 centerline miles; 5,001 bridges
Public Transit	Local agencies/ SFRTA	28 urban fixed-route systems 1 commuter rail system (Tri-Rail)
Rail	Private sector*	2,786 railway miles
Seaports	Local agencies	15 seaports
Waterways	Federal & state governments	3,475 miles of intracoastal & inland routes
Aviation	Local agencies	19 commercial airports 27 military aviation facilities 110 public general aviation 636 private general aviation
Spaceports	Special District	2 spaceports; 5 active launch facilities



# Florida's Strategic Intermodal System



**SIS** Florida's Strategic Intermodal System

**Airports & Spaceports**

- SIS Airport
- Emerging SIS Airport
- SIS General Aviation Reliever Airport
- SIS Spaceport

**Seaports**

- SIS Seaport
- Emerging SIS Seaport

**Freight Rail Terminals**

- SIS Freight Rail Terminal
- Emerging SIS Freight Rail Terminal
- Intermodal Logistics Center

**Passenger Terminals**

- SIS Passenger Terminal
- Emerging SIS Passenger Terminal

**Highway**

- SIS Highway Corridor
- Emerging SIS Highway Corridor
- SIS Highway Connector
- Military Access Facility

**Rail**

- SIS Railway Corridor
- Emerging SIS Railway Corridor
- SIS Railway Connector

**Waterways**

- SIS Waterway
- Emerging SIS Waterway
- SIS Waterway Connector

**Facilities: Planned Add & Drop**

- Planned Add
- Planned Drop

Florida Department of Transportation  
 Strategic Intermodal Systems Program  
 September 2014  
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us> 850-414-4900

# FDOT Seaport Program

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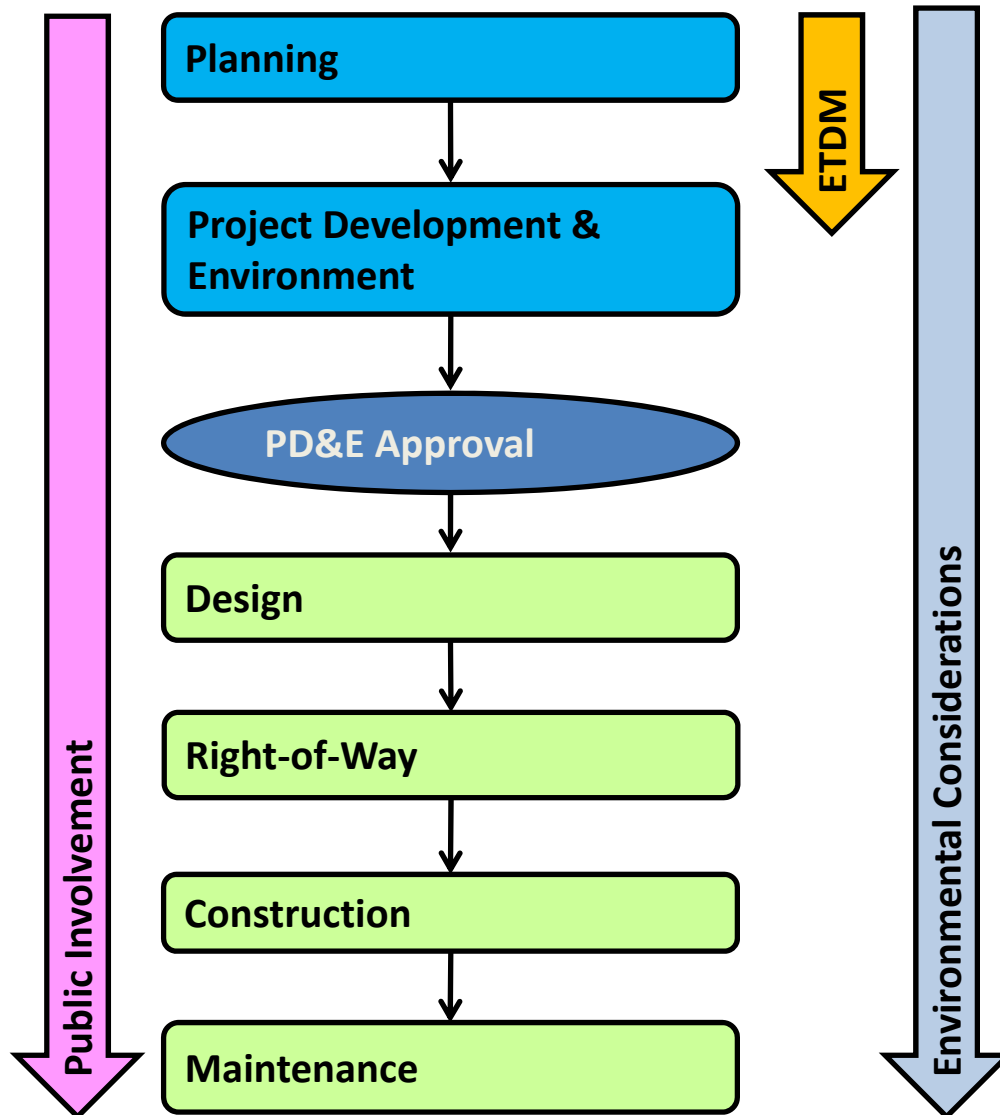
- 15 public seaports
  - Each functions independently with its own Governing Board
  - Each prepares its own master plan
  - On-port, land side, and navigational considerations
- FDOT responsible for statewide seaport system plan
  - Coordination with seaports coordinators and Florida Ports Council
  - Define and plan for landside transportation improvements; such as highways connecting ports to their markets

# What is NEPA?

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- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
  - Requires an assessment of the environmental effects of a federal action, including use of FHWA or FTA funds for transportation improvements
- Purpose of the environmental review process:
  - Inform citizens and others of the action
  - Consideration of effects to the human, natural, and physical environment
  - Disclosure
  - Informed decisions

# FDOT Project Delivery Process



- Process is consistent for both NEPA and State Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)
- FDOT is improving SEIR through Statewide Acceleration Transformation (SWAT) Team concept
  - Improved scoping, scheduling and communication
  - Project development and design overlap
  - Advanced permitting and of course advance mitigation...

# Planning Phase

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- Identify Projects
- Start the conversation
  - Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process (ETDM)
  - Use of Environmental Screening Tool
  - Established resource agency participation
  - Identification of issues
- Consideration of alternatives
  - Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM)
  - Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE)
- Scope development

# FDOT ETDM Process

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- A way of considering qualifying transportation projects during planning for potential project involvement with human and natural environments
- Enables agencies and the public to provide early input to FDOT and MPOs about the potential effects of proposed transportation projects
  - Open communication
  - Transparent decision documentation
- Interactive GIS-based Environmental Screening Tool (EST)
- Established Environmental Technical Advisory Teams (ETAT) reviewers – designated agency representatives
- Informs next phase in project delivery review and analysis.



# ETDM Screening Supports

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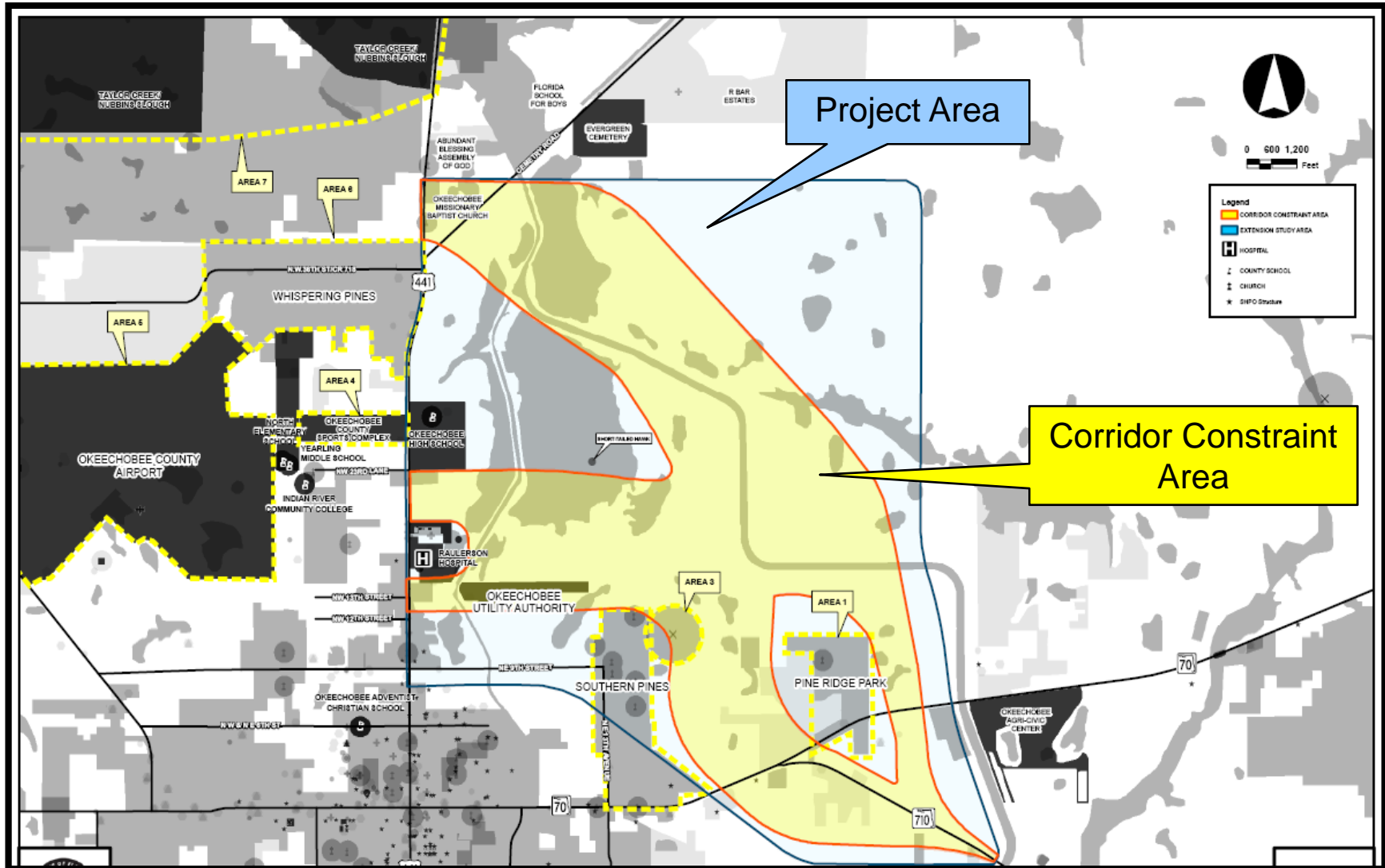
- Eliminate Alternatives (Alternative Corridor Evaluation a.k.a. ACE Process)
- Identify Technical Studies to be advanced
- PD&E Study Scope of Work – Focused
- Identifies resource agency issues of concern, starts the conversation!

# Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE)

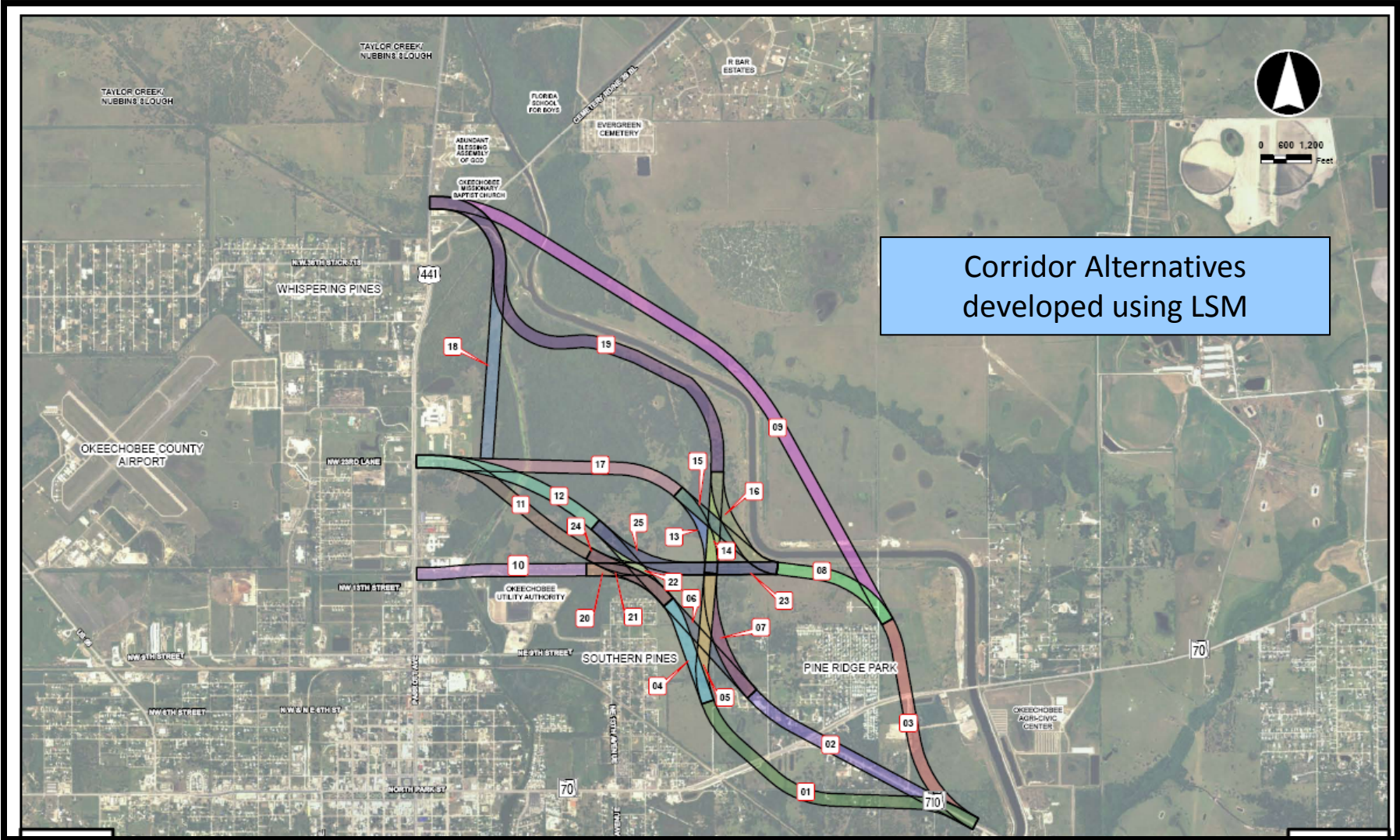
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- Define initial corridor alternative(s) and considerations
  - Use Corridor Planning Process and technology
- Define environmental setting
  - Issues/resources of focus
  - Greater understanding and coordination
- Develop Analysis Methodology Memorandum 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

# Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE)

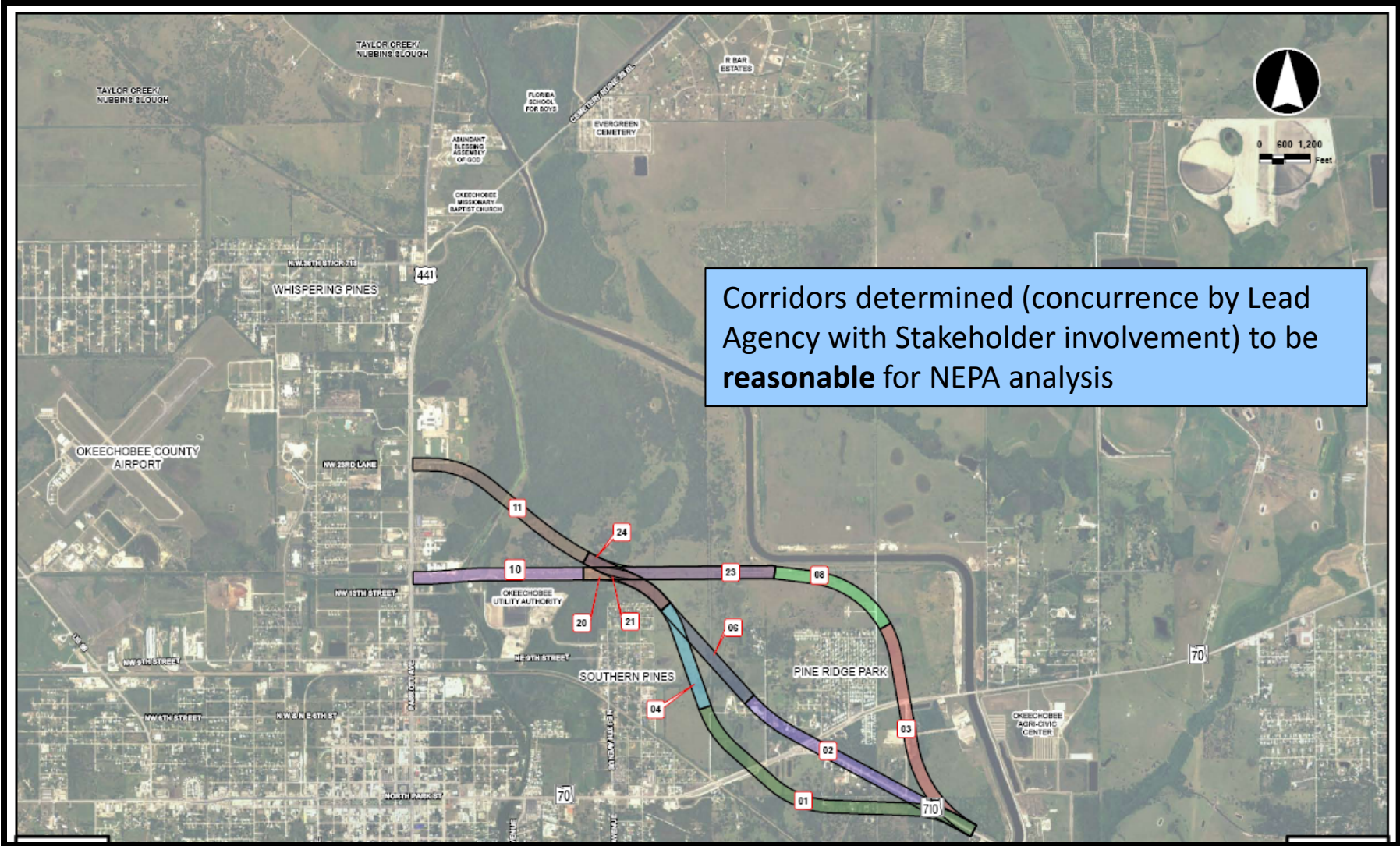


# Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE)





# Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE)



# Considerations During Planning

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- Corridor analysis, narrow the field
- Value to agency commentary
- Identification of wetland mitigation opportunities
- Advanced mitigation
- Conservation planning
- Integrated mitigation
- Planning and Environmental Linkages

# Considerations During PD&E/NEPA

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- Detailed Engineering and Environmental analysis (ground level) of the alternatives
  - Balanced consideration
  - Continued Public Involvement – public hearing
- Wetland Evaluation Report (Natural Resources Evaluation)
  - UMAM scores: Initial functional assessment (UMAM) to determine amount of mitigation projected
  - Jurisdictional determinations as appropriate
  - Opportunities for mitigation, conceptual mitigation or advance mitigation – as specific as possible
  - Permitting discussion
- Agency reviews and findings – Avoid, minimize, mitigate
- Coordinate and identify mitigation options
  - Potential for advance mitigation credit purchase from banks
  - Agreement from agencies with Corps, WMDs, USFWS...
- Final Environmental (NEPA) Document
  - Preferred alternative advances to final design
  - Commitments and potential permits and conditions identified

# Considerations During Design

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- Environmental Document and project concept is transmitted to Final Design
- Designers refine concept
  - 30-60-90% - Final
  - Standards, specifications,
  - Drainage design and calculations
- Design/Permitting
  - Final functional assessment performed
  - Jurisdictional determinations
  - Final mitigation identified per F.S. 373.4137
  - If mitigation bank, FDOT purchases
  - Permit coordination with same representatives that have been looking at the project since planning phase



# Considerations During Construction

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- Address any design changes in construction (Design-Build especially)
- Respond to and address unanticipated conditions – contamination, species, etc.
- Communicate and adhere to commitments
- Permit Compliance and monitoring
- Final Acceptance
- Beyond construction – mitigation monitoring and reporting to permit agencies, unless we used a bank

# Where are we headed?

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- Clarify, simplify and focus procedures
- Continue to meet requirements
- Implementing change quickly statewide - Examples
  - Use new USACE RGP (SAJ-92)
    - For screened projects and those that completed NEPA or SEIR
    - 5 acres of both direct and secondary impacts per mile of project length up to 10 miles
    - Mitigation completed via s. 373.4137, F.S. – bank is primary source
    - Exclusions – Tidal waters (all of Monroe County), New alignments and Jeopardy opinions under ESA
  - Work closer with agencies at all levels
    - Modification of FDOT SOPs
    - Develop species specific Programmatic Agreements with USFWS
    - Innovative approaches to determining Species mitigation with FWC

# Conclusion

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- Recognize and embrace opportunities within the process
  - Active project management
  - Iterative process, use time and tools available at every step
  - Start early and refine along the way, “connect the dots”
  - Coordinate, coordinate, coordinate
    - Seek to resolve issues
    - Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate
    - Document decisions
  - Recognize partnership opportunities
    - Enhanced results



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# Questions?

