



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a PD&E Study?

A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is an environmental and engineering process developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to determine social, economic, natural, and physical environmental effects associated with a proposed transportation improvement project. The process follows procedures set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and federal and state laws and regulations. It requires the combined efforts of professional engineers, planners, and scientists who collect and analyze project-related information to develop the best solution for transportation needs. An important component of the process is public and agency coordination. The basic activities of a PD&E study include:

#### Data Collection

The first major work effort is the collection of all available data pertaining to the study corridor including existing community characteristics, existing and future land uses, drainage patterns, locations of wetlands and habitat for listed and protected species, potential contamination sites, areas of historic and cultural significance and population demographics.

#### Alternatives Development and Analysis

Once the data collection is complete and the needs of the corridor have been determined, various improvement alternatives will be developed. For a trail project, these alternatives include the alignments, street crossings, and trail heads. The environmental impacts, social impacts and costs of these alternatives will be quantified and summarized in a comparative matrix.

**Charrettes** (small group meetings) began in February 2021. An In-person Public Workshop was held on January 27, 2022 and a Virtual Public Workshop was held on February 1, 2022. A Public Hearing is anticipated in the winter of 2022/23.

#### Final Acceptance

FDOT Districts One Will submit the study to the Office of Environmental Management (OEM) for Location and Design Concept Acceptance after the study team receives and evaluates comments from the public hearing. The PD&E study phase of the project is completed once the project is accepted by OEM. The phases that follow the PD&E study are design of the project, acquisitions of the right-of-way (if necessary) and construction of proposed improvements.

