

Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS GOVERNOR Florida's Turnpike Enterprise P.O. Box 613069, Ocoee, FL 34761 407-532-3999 KEVIN J. THIBAULT, P.E. SECRETARY

July 1, 2021

#### Re: Hybrid Public Hearing

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for the Widening of Florida's Turnpike (SR 91) From Jupiter (Indiantown Road/SR 706) to Ft. Pierce (Okeechobee Road/SR 70) Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida Financial Project Identification (FPID) Number: 423374-1 Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Number: 14295

Dear Property Owner or Interested Individual,

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), will hold a Hybrid Public Hearing for the above-referenced project on Thursday, July 22, 2021. The Department will provide several options to participate in the Public Hearing. You may participate in-person by going to the Schreiber Conference Center, CORE Communities Auditorium at Indian River State College, 500 NW California Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 or the Clare & Gladys Wolf High-Technology Center, Susan H. Johnson Auditorium at Indian River State College, 2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, FL 34997. Alternatively, you may participate virtually/online via a computer, tablet, smartphone, or by telephone in listen-only mode. All attendees will participate in the same live virtual Public Hearing.

The hearing will begin as an open house at 5:30 p.m. A formal presentation will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. followed by a **public comment period.** If the hearing cannot be held on July 22, 2021 due to severe weather or unforeseen conditions, it will be held on the alternate date of August 17, 2021 at the same time and place.

Please visit the project website, <u>www.TreasureCoastTurnpike.com</u> to register for the Public Hearing and to select your participation option. \*\*Please note that registration works best in the Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Firefox web browser.\*\* Attached is a copy of the Public Hearing flier, which includes a meeting location map and other important information about the project.

This Public Hearing is being conducted to give interested persons an opportunity to express their views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed improvements. This letter is being sent to all property owners and tenants within at least 300 feet on either side of the proposed project and to public officials, regulatory agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in the project.

Persons wishing to submit written or verbal comments may do so at the hearing or may contact the Project Manager. All statements provided, or postmarked, on or before August 11, 2021 will become part of the Public Hearing record.

For assistance registering for the Public Hearing, or for additional information, please contact the Project Manager.

Sincerely,

Rax Jung, Ph.D., P.E. Project Development Engineer Environmental Management Office

Enclosure: Public Hearing Flyer

Project Manager Contact Information: Brian Ribaric, P.E. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (Atkins) P.O. Box 613069, Ocoee, FL 34761 Phone: (407) 264-3095 Email: <u>Brian.Ribaric@dot.state.fl.us</u>

Improve Safety, Enhance Mobility, Inspire Innovation www.fdot.gov tification (EPID) Number 423374-1



## PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

You are invited to a Public Hearing for Florida's Turnpike (SR 91) Widening from Jupiter (Indiantown Road/SR 706) to Ft. Pierce (Okeechobee Road/SR 70) Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, to be held on **July 22**, **2021 starting at 5:30 p.m**. There are three participation options to select from:

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
In-Person	Virtual / online via a computer, tablet	By telephone in listen-only mode
	or smartphone	

Please visit the project website, <u>www.TreasureCoastTurnpike.com</u> to register for the Public Hearing and to select your desired participation option. \*\* Please note that registration works best in Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Firefox web browser.\*\* All attendees will participate in the same live virtual Public Hearing.

### PUBLIC HEARING MATERIALS

All materials that will be on display at the in-person location are available for review now on the project website, <u>www.TreasureCoastTurnpike.com</u>, in the Public Hearing Exhibit Room. This includes an informational video that provides a project overview, a tutorial of how to navigate the project website and an overview of the hearing materials. This video will also play continuously from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing. A recording of the entire Public Hearing will be posted to the project website under the 'Documents' section on July 26, 2021. Please contact the Project Manager, Brian Ribaric, with questions.

# **OPTION 1: IN-PERSON**

You may participate in-person by going to the Schreiber Conference Center, CORE

## FOR HELP REGISTERING CONTACT:

Brian Ribaric, P.E.

Project Manager for Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (Atkins) P.O. Box 613069 Ocoee, FL 34761-3069 <u>Brian.Ribaric@dot.state.fl.us</u> 407.264.3095

Communities Auditorium at Indian River State College, 500 NW California Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 or at the Clare & Gladys Wolf High-Technology Center, Susan H. Johnson Auditorium at Indian River State College, 2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, FL 34997. During registration, you will be asked if you want to make a verbal comment during the public comment period; you can also request to speak at the venue. If you desire to make a verbal comment, you will be called to a microphone by the hearing moderator at the appropriate time. You will also be able to provide your verbal comments directly to a court reporter. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for review of presentation boards and project documents. The formal Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by the public comment period. You should not attend in-person if you are not feeling well. Social distancing guidelines and local requirements will be followed.

### **OPTION 2: VIRTUAL / ONLINE**

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email including instructions on how to join the Public Hearing online. During registration you will be asked if you want to make a verbal comment during the public comment period. If you desire to make a verbal comment, your microphone will be unmuted by the hearing moderator at the appropriate time. We are using the GoToWebinar platform for the online option. The webinar will begin at 5:30 p.m. with an informational video. The formal Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by the public comment period. For technical assistance during the webinar, please contact <u>TPKMeetingSupport@dot.state.fl.us</u>.

### **OPTION 3: BY TELEPHONE**

To join the Public Hearing in listen-only mode call 1-415-930-5321 and enter access code 970-667-502. The line will open at 5:30 p.m. with an informational presentation. The formal Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by a public comment period. You can provide verbal comments directly to the Project Manager, Brian Ribaric, before or after the Public Hearing during regular business hours.

FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE (SR 91) WIDENING

FROM JUPITER (INDIANTOWN ROAD/SR 706) TO FT. PIERCE (OKEECHOBEE ROAD/SR 70) Project development and environment (PD&E) study

al Project Identification (FPID) Number: 423374-1





### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Currently, Florida's Turnpike (SR 91) is a four (4) lane limited access toll facility. Proposed improvements include widening of Florida's Turnpike (SR 91) from four to eight lanes by adding two additional lanes in each direction. Improvements to four existing interchanges, located at SW Martin Highway, SE Becker Road, SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, and Okeechobee Road, and the addition of two new interchanges, located at Crosstown Parkway and W Midway Road, will also be undertaken as part of this study. The project limits and in-person hearing venue locations are shown on the project location map, to the left. Numerous bridge structures along the roadway will be widened or reconstructed. The project corridor includes crossings of the Loxahatchee River and St. Lucie Canal.

### **PROJECT DOCUMENTS**

Draft documents can also be viewed at the Havert L. Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34982 and at the Clare & Gladys Wolf High-Technology Center, at Indian River State College, 2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, FL 34997, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting on Thursday, July 1, 2021 until Monday, August 11, 2021. Draft project documents are also available now for public review on the project website www.TreasureCoastTurnpike.com and will be available at the physical locations where the inperson Public Hearing is held.

### **QUESTIONS & COMMENTS**

Please contact the Project Manager, Brian Ribaric, before or after the Public Hearing during regular business hours with questions or comments about the project. While comments and questions will be accepted at any time, those submitted or mailed by August 11, 2021 will become part of the Public Hearing Record for the study.

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 services (free of charge) should contact Brian Ribaric at (407) 264-3095 or by email at <u>Brian.Ribaric@dot.state.fl.us</u> at least seven days (7) prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800) 955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800) 955-8770 (Voice).