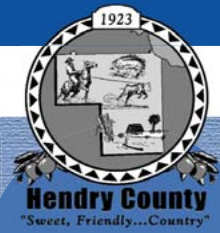


New River Crossing PD&E Study

Hendry County



Newsletter, September 2009

PROJECT OVERVIEW

As Hendry County's future population is projected to increase, an expanded and better-connected roadway network is needed to accommodate the growing travel demand. Currently, there are only two bridges crossing the Caloosahatchee River (Okeechobee Waterway) in northwestern Hendry County, the historic Fort Denaud Swing Bridge and the SR 29/LaBelle Drawbridge.

- Due to its age, cost, and useful life period, the Fort Denaud Swing Bridge cannot be widened to increase capacity that will be necessary to meet the future travel demand of the area.
- The SR 29/LaBelle Drawbridge will soon be rehabilitated by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), but only electrical, mechanical, and structural repairs will be made to the existing structure.

Hendry County is currently conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to collect data, conduct preliminary engineering, develop conceptual plans, and document the information necessary for the County to reach a decision on the type, design, and location of a new bridge across the Okeechobee Waterway.

The meeting tonight is intended to present to the public those alternatives that are being considered for the proposed new crossing and solicit comments related to those alternatives.

PROJECT LOCATION

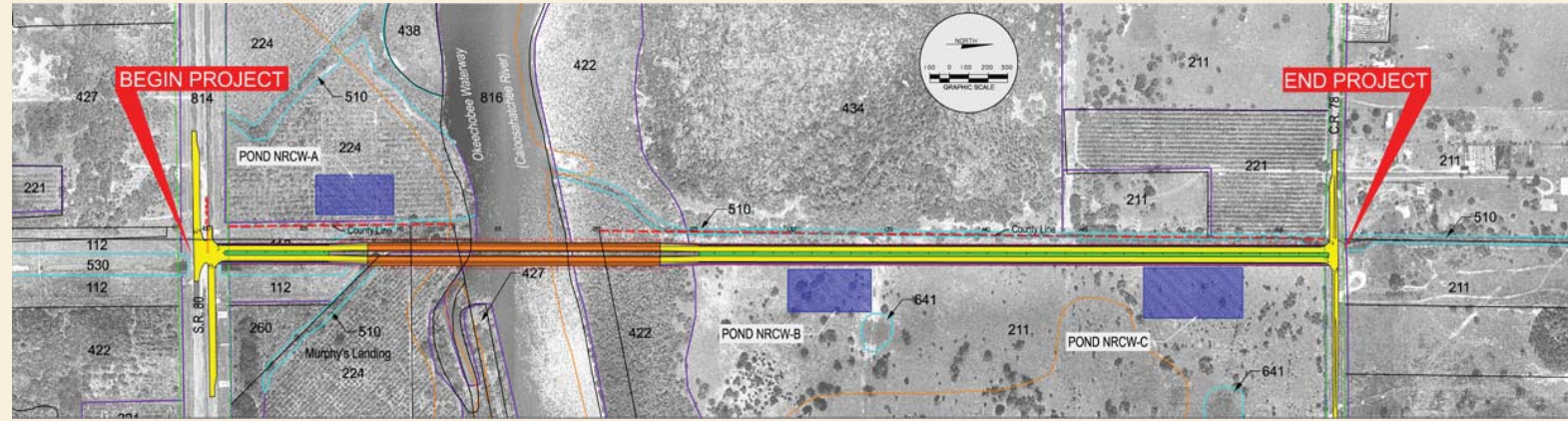
The New River Crossing project study area is defined as from the Hendry/Lee county line on the west to Fort Denaud Road on the east, and from SR 80 on the south to CR 78 on the north in northwestern Hendry County, west of the City of LaBelle.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

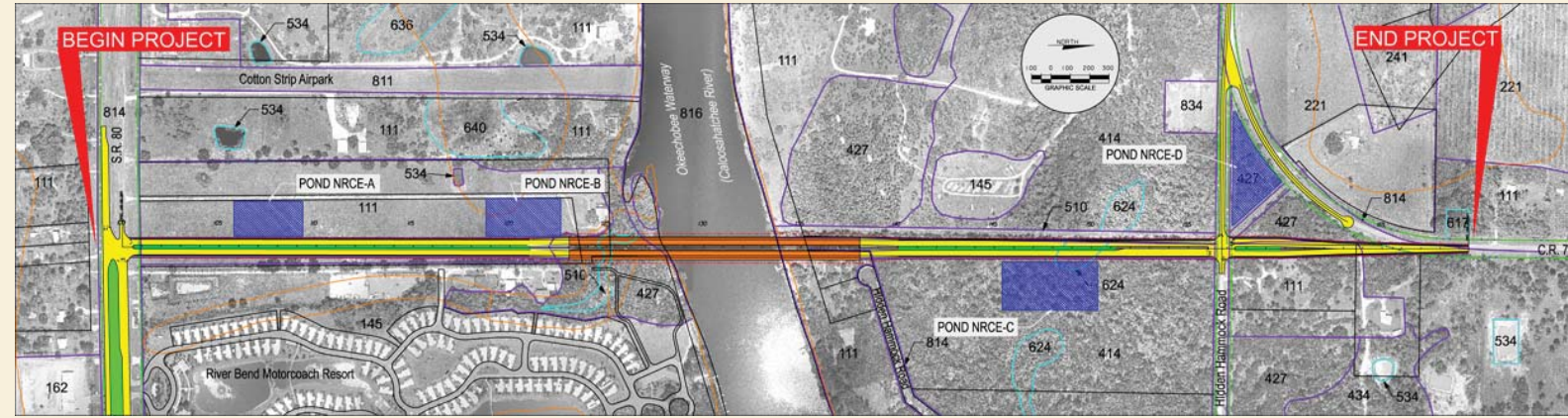
Six Build Alternatives have been developed to address the need for a new crossing of the Okeechobee Waterway. All six of the Build Alternatives would add a four-lane roadway with dual two-lane fixed-span bridges connecting SR 80 with CR 78 over the river. The roadway typical section consists of a four-lane roadway, including 22-foot grass medians, two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, 4-foot bicycle lanes, curb and gutter, a 5-foot sidewalk, and a 10-foot multi-use path. The bridge typical section consists of dual two-lane fixed-span bridges with a 20 foot separation between the bridges. Each bridge provides two 12-foot travel lanes, 6-foot inside shoulders, 10-foot outside shoulders, and 5.5-foot sidewalks. A No Build Alternative has also been proposed and will be evaluated concurrently with the six Build Alternatives. The No Build Alternative would result in no new bridge crossing over the river.



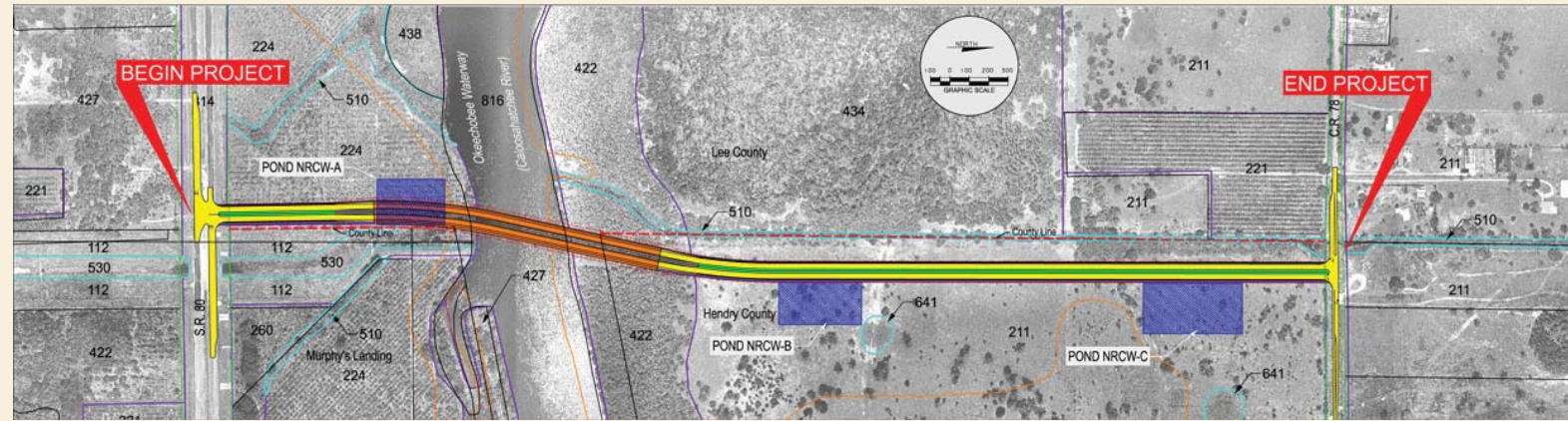
West Alternative 1



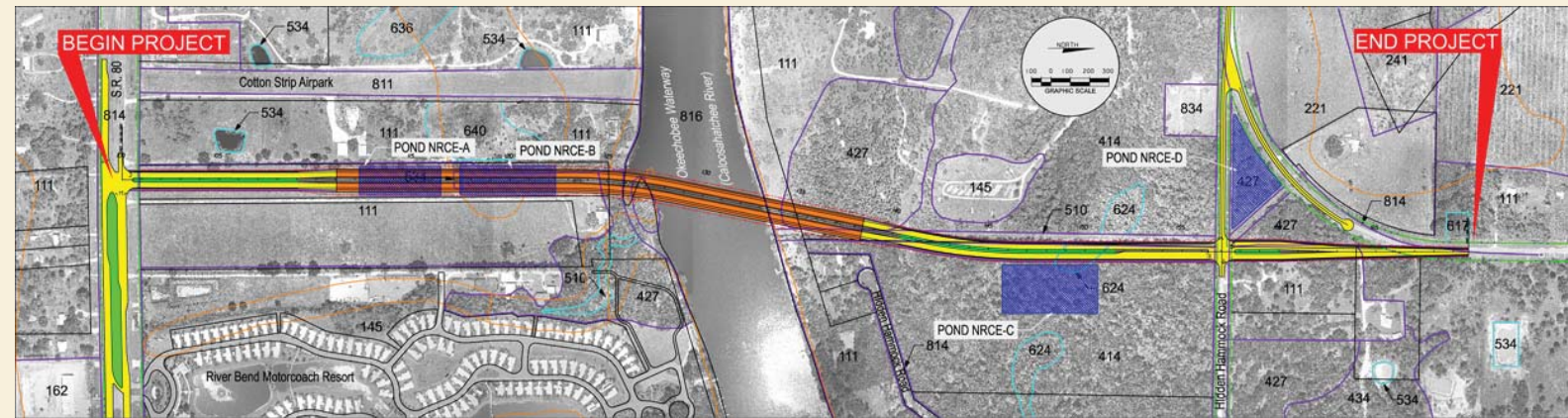
East Alternative 1



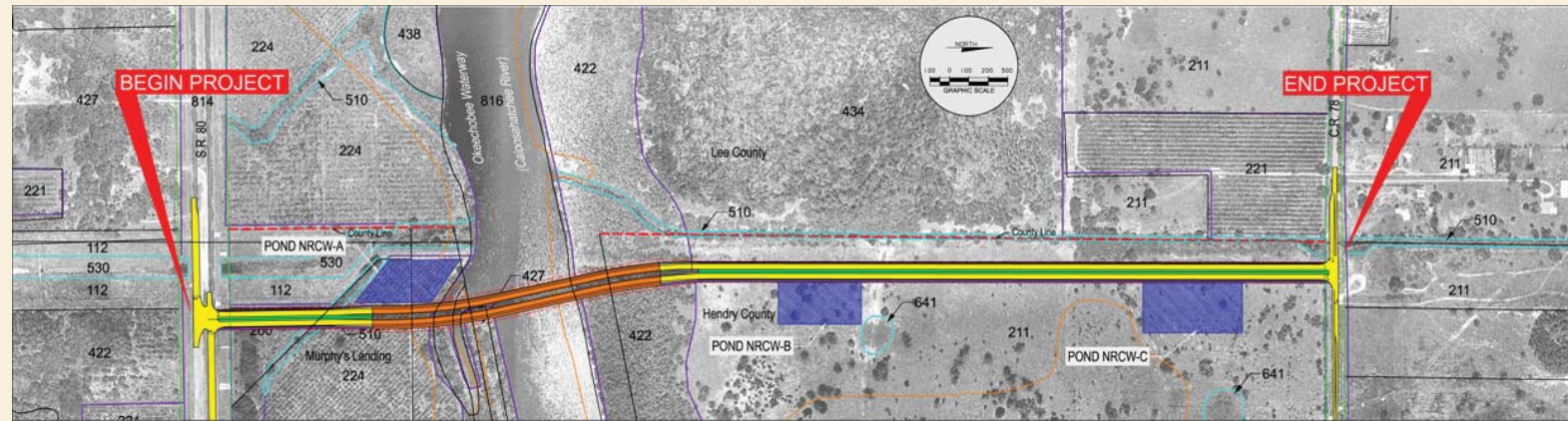
West Alternative 2



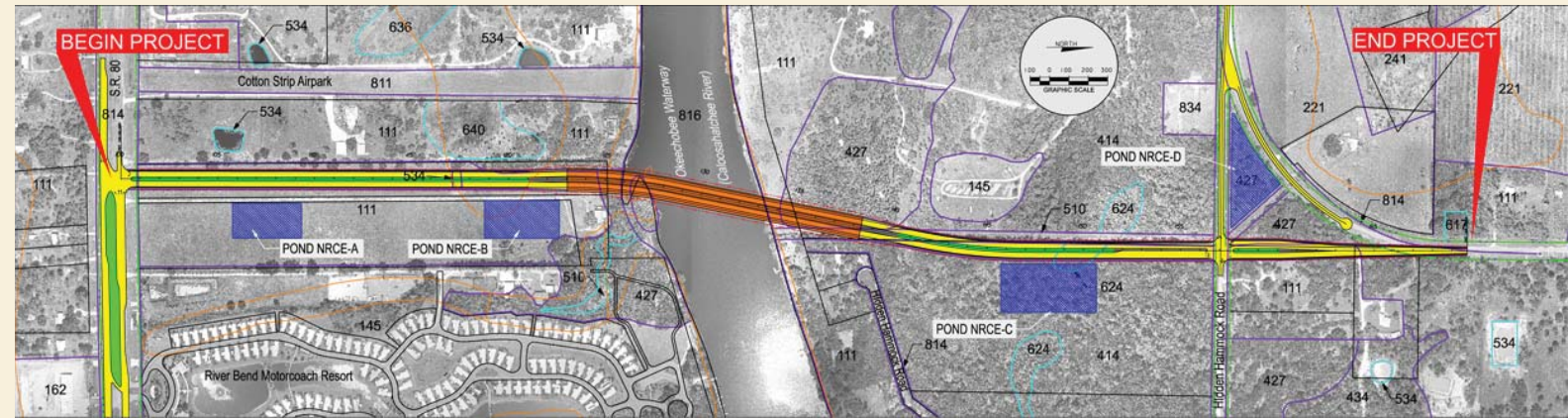
East Alternative 2



West Alternative 3

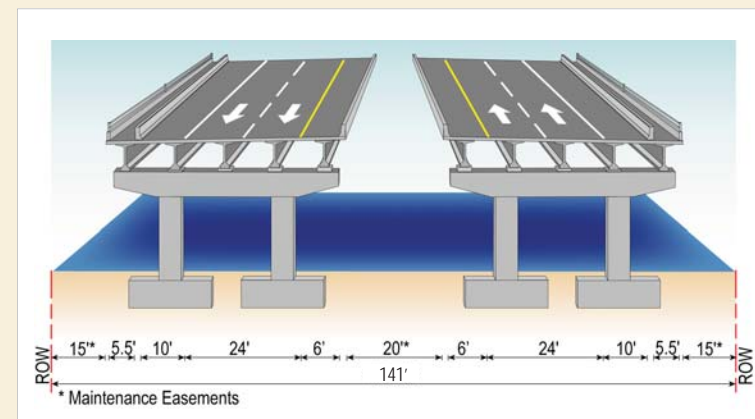
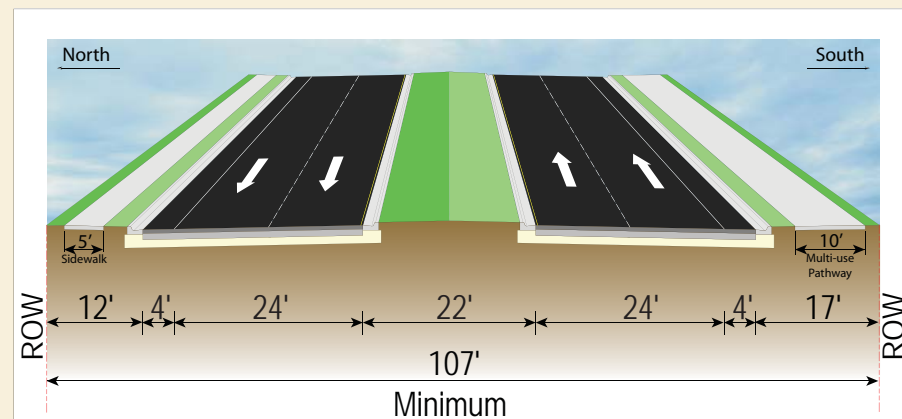


East Alternative 3



LEGEND

- EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY
- PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY
- WETLANDS
- FLOODPLAINS
- FLUCFCS LINES
- 617 FLUCFCS NUMBER



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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The New River Crossing study is currently in the preliminary engineering phase to determine potential design and location of the proposed additional river crossing. As part of this phase, this Public Workshop is being held to enable all interested citizens the opportunity to review the study and express comments and concerns. In addition to the Workshop, project documents are available for public review from September 10, 2009 to November 6, 2009 at the Barron Library, 461 North Main Street in LaBelle; at the Hendry County Engineering Office, located at 99 East Cowboy Way in LaBelle; and on the project's website at www.newrivercrossinghendryco.com. Feel free to browse the website for project information and submit your comments online.

Based on the comments received during the Workshop and Public Review Period, the project team will then conduct a further analysis of the six Build Alternatives and No-Build Alternative. A Public Hearing for the study will be conducted on October 27, 2009 at the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners meeting. At that time, the public will have the opportunity to comment further on the study and review the next phase of proposed recommendations and design alternatives. The study is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2009.

STUDY CONTACT

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the study or would like to receive additional information, please contact:

Mr. Shane Parker, PE
Hendry County Engineer
99 East Cowboy Way
LaBelle, FL 33975
(863) 675-5222



ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION MATRIX

EVALUATION FACTORS	NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE	East Alternatives			West Alternatives		
		Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
POTENTIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPACTS							
RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION (Acres)	0.0	15.2	16.1	14.9	13.7	13.8	13.3
BUSINESS RELOCATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RESIDENTIAL RELOCATIONS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
PARCELS IMPACTED	0	8	7	8	4	3	3
SOCIO-CULTURAL IMPACTS							
CHURCHES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SCHOOLS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PARKS [SECTION 4(f)]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CULTURAL RESOURCES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NATURAL/PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS							
WETLANDS (ACRES)	0.0	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.3	2.0	2.4
FLOODPLAINS (ACRES)	0.0	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.7
POTENTIAL THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES INVOLVEMENT	None	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
POTENTIAL CONTAMINATION SITES (High / Medium)	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 1	0 / 1	0 / 1
ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS (millions) (Present Day Cost)							
DESIGN @ 15% of Construction	\$0.00	\$8.25	\$12.38	\$8.50	\$7.88	\$7.57	\$7.58
CONSTRUCTION ¹	\$0.00	\$55.03	\$82.53	\$56.69	\$52.54	\$50.45	\$50.55
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION @ 15% of Construction	\$0.00	\$8.25	\$12.38	\$8.50	\$7.88	\$7.57	\$7.58
WETLAND MITIGATION ²	\$0.00	\$0.28	\$0.29	\$0.29	\$0.34	\$0.21	\$0.25
TOTAL COSTS (millions)	\$0.00³	\$71.81	\$107.58	\$73.98	\$68.64	\$65.80	\$65.96

¹ Based on FDOT LRE 07/09.

² Based on \$103,275 per acre.

³ Does not include the cost of ongoing routine maintenance.