

# **BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

## **CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Tel: (941) 883-3535

### **AGENDA**

**2:00 p.m., Thursday, Feb 28, 2019**

Cultural Center of Charlotte County

2280 Aaron St.

Port Charlotte, Florida

- 1. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- 2. Election of 2019 Officers**
- 3. Public Comments on Agenda Items**
- 4. Chair's Report**
- 5. Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2018 Meeting**
- 6. 2019 Project Priorities-Discussion**
- 7. Taylor Road Shared Use Path PD&E Study**
- 8. FDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Report**
- 9. Charlotte County Report**
- 10. City of Punta Gorda Report**
- 11. Citizen Input**
- 12. Staff Comments**
- 13. Member Comments**

**Adjournment** The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BPAC is  
June 13, 2019 at 2 p.m.

No stenographic record by a certified court reporter is made of these meetings. Accordingly, anyone seeking to appeal any decisions involving the matters herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the meeting/testimony and evidence upon which any appeal is to be based. (F.S. 286.0105)

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND CHAPTER 286.26 FLORIDA STATUTES, PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. CALL (941) 883-3535 BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a complaint with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Title VI Coordinator Wendy W. Scott at (941) 883-3535 or by writing her at 25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 4, Port Charlotte, FL 33980.

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**AGENDA ITEM # 2**  
**ELECTION OF 2019 OFFICERS**

**Purpose:** To provide for the election of BPAC Officers for 2019

**Agenda Item Presented by:** MPO Staff

**Discussion:**

The BPAC Bylaws require that a Chair and a Vice Chair of the Committee shall be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year for a term of one year and shall hold the offices until their successors are elected. All voting BPAC members may nominate any regular member, including him or herself, as Chair or Vice Chair. All elections shall require a quorum of the BPAC to be present, and be by the majority vote of members present. The Chair shall preside at all meetings and shall be responsible for the conduct of all meetings. The Chair shall also serve as a liaison between the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board.

The Vice Chair shall, during the absence of the Chair or the Chair's inability to serve, have and exercise all of the duties and powers of the Chair. The Vice Chair shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent from a meeting, the meeting shall be chaired by the Executive Director, or MPO staff designee, who shall not vote.

**Recommendation:** Motion to nominate and elect the BPAC Chair and BPAC Vice-Chair for 2019.

**AGENDA ITEM # 5**  
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 6, 2018 MEETING**

**Purpose:** To review and approve the Minutes of the previous BPAC meeting

**Agenda Item Presented by:** K. Stephen Carter, BPAC Chair

**Discussion:** To be determined.

**Recommendation:** Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2018 BPAC Meeting.

**Attachment:** Draft minutes of a BPAC Meeting held on December 6, 2018 at Cultural Center of Charlotte County 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte, Florida

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 6, 2018 AT THE  
CULTURAL CENTER OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, PRESIDENTS ROOM, 2280 AARON STREET,  
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

K. Stephen Carter (Chair) Historical/Cultural  
Court Nederveld, South County Representative  
Betty Staugler, South County Representative  
Richard Starck, West County Representative  
Peter Dowling, West County Representative  
Robert Logan, Mid-County Representative  
David L. Allen, Mid-County Representative  
Karen Freeman, Bike Business Representative

**MEMBER ABSENT**

There were no absent members.

**ADVISORY AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Tony Conte, School Transportation Board  
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Public  
David Dryer, Charlotte County Public Works  
Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda  
David Agacinski, FDOT  
Michael Tisch, FDOT  
Trista Zimmerman, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office  
Maggie Stewart, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office  
Gene Pawlowski, Citizen  
Gary Harrell, MPO Director  
Lakshmi Gurram, MPO Principal Planner  
Gene Klara, Planner

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Chair Stephen Carter called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments expressed under the Agenda Item

### **3. Chair's Report**

There was no Chair's Report.

### **4. Approval of Minutes: October 18, 2018 Meeting**

Chair Carter asked the Committee to review and approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2018 Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting.

*A Motion was made by Richard Stark to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2018 meeting. David Allen seconded the Motion, and the Motion was approved unanimously.*

### **5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One Draft Tentative Work Program FY 2019/2020-FGY 2023/2024**

Gary Harrell introduced Michael Tisch as the new FDOT Community Liaison for Charlotte and Lee Counties. He also thanked members for their attendance at this meeting, as the release of FDOT's Draft Tentative Work Program necessitated rescheduling the meeting for a week later in time.

Mr. Harrell began his discussion of the FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program by reminding members that the MPO's Project Priority List discussed at the BPAC June 14, 2018 meeting essentially formed the basis for the FDOT review and the selection of projects to be included in the FY 2019/2020-FY 2023/2024 Draft Tentative Work Program.

Mr. Harrell then introduced FDOT's District One Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, Mr. David Agacinski who reviewed the projects funded in the current year beginning July 1, 2018. He also described projects that were advanced (funding moved up a year) or were deferred (funding moved back a year), as well as funding for projects that were merged and/or integrated with other, larger projects and shown in the Program as deletions. He noted that all projects listed in the Program are subject to minor funding "tweaking" but are essentially in final form. Mr. Agacinski also stated that FDOT continues to experience recurring funding challenges throughout the State. This is a factor in Work Plan development and final project completion dates.

Of note, Mr. Agacinski stated that Charlotte County has been awarded a \$110,000 Feasibility Study for construction of a 12-foot asphalt trail along the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail and the Murdock Village CRA Corridors by FDOT's District One Office. He noted that the Study is programmed for the 2019-2020 time period. The Study will focus on the SUN Trail segment between US 41 and SR 776 intersection in Murdock to the Myakka State Forest west of Jennings Blvd. Gary Harrell noted that the MPO and the Economic Development Office prepared this grant application and were pleased that the Study is funded for the current FDOT program beginning on July 1, 2019. Mr. Harrell noted that this Study segues with the development Plans envisioned for the Murdock Village area and the MPO Board's recent adoption (October 29, 2018) of the Charlotte Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan.

Mr. Agacinski also highlighted that the Work Program identifies major funding for obtaining Right of Way and the construction of a dual rest area along I-75 in Charlotte County near the Lee County Line.

Discussion continued with members inquiring about different design widths that are constructed when building new or improving sidewalk, multi-use trails and bike paths. FDOT and County staff responded by stating that these bicycle and pedestrian focused projects are reviewed for their urban versus rural character, the agencies responsible for their construction and maintenance (State, County, City) and the predominate use and existing condition of these sites are all aspects considered when determining optimal path and sidewalk widths.

At this time, Rick Braun inquired if Federal, State and local agencies responsible for designing and constructing sidewalks, paths and roadways are following established American Disability Act (ADA) guidelines. Responses from FDOT and County staff centered on requirements that materials used to construct and maintain surfaces must be from an approved product list. They are selected based on current conditions and engineering principles and are ADA-approved. Other members interjected that Mr. Braun's line of inquiry had merit, as some repairs and construction efforts on sidewalks and paths have shown rapid deterioration. This deterioration has led to uneven surfaces and safety concerns experienced by cyclists and pedestrians. It was suggested that FDOT consider performing additional surface determinant field trips or provide users with a method similar to Charlotte County's interactive "Click and Fix" application. It has proven to be effective in identifying roadway issues and a rapid response to their repair or improvement on County roadways.

#### **6. FDOT Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator Report**

David Agacinski introduced new FDOT Community Liaison Michael Tisch, who gave a brief review of his experience and work history. Mr. Tisch noted he is familiar with Charlotte County, noting that he previously held a position in Charlotte County's Public Works Department for over 10 years. Mr. Agacinski also noted that the proposed FY 2019/2020-FY 2023/2024 Draft Tentative Work Program is accepting comments and opinions until December 28, 2018. He encouraged attendees to visit FDOT's District One website and consider commenting on the Draft Program.

#### **7. Charlotte County Report**

Ravi Kamarajugadda stated that the County is currently researching and developing designs for a crosswalk signalization improvement project. The improvement is located at Gasparilla Island, south of Gulf Shore Drive at North Beach Road. He noted that the County is continuing a review of these projects, as issues related to the Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) serving the area and construction and signalization options will be discussed at a future Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting.

Mr. Kamarajugadda also stated that the plans and bidding have been completed for the construction of traffic light mast arms at the intersections of Peachland and Loveland Boulevards and at Winchester Blvd. and the Avenue of the Americas. He noted both projects will begin construction in 2019.

#### **8. City of Punta Gorda Report**

Mitchell Austin stated that the design criteria for a pedestrian bridge for Alligator Creek along US 41 has been approved. Construction plans have been approved with a call for bids for later this month. Mitchell Austin stated that the construction of new restroom facilities at Gilchrist Park have been approved and have gone to bid. Construction will begin in March 2019.

Mitchell Austin also stated that the City of Punta Gorda has begun development of a Citywide Master Plan. The Plan is being prepared by Dover, Kohl and Partners of Coral Gables, Florida. He stated that a charrette process that will bring citizens, designers and others together to collaborate on a vision for the City's development is scheduled for March 2019.

## **9. Citizen Input**

Rick Braun raised the issue of the contract FDOT has with DBI Services to provide transportation infrastructure maintenance and cleanup on FDOT managed roadways. Rick Braun noted that technology has provided FDOT and DBI with opportunities to create and review large databases to aid in scheduling roadway maintenance. He stated the goal should be maintenance performed in an efficient and cost effective manner, with emergency or "hot spot" maintenance and roadway clearance issues handled quickly and efficiently. FDOT's David Agacinski responded that FDOT is reviewing roadway maintenance issues performed by DBI. Gary Harrell noted that citizens may contact the FDOT's "511" program by phone, downloading the application (app) or online and report roadways where maintenance and other issues are of immediate concern.

## **10. Staff Comments**

Gary Harrell wished all attendees Happy Holidays and thanked them for their help and effort with the first Charlotte Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan that was adopted by the MPO Board on October 29, 2018. He noted that the fourteen month effort in developing the Master Plan will culminate with the Plan being presented to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at the first meeting in January 2019 for possible adoption.

Gene Klara noted that the MPO held a 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Strategy session on November 7, 2017. Representatives from FDOT, Lee County, the City of North Port, Charlotte County Public Works, Community Development, Charlotte County Transit, the City of Punta Gorda, the Charlotte County Airport Authority, Charlotte County School Transportation and Economic Development were in attendance. He stated this LRTP would begin during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2019 and will be completed by October 2020. He noted that BPAC members will be informed of opportunities for public participation and input as events and opportunities are scheduled.

Gene Klara recognized West County Representative Richard Stark who would finish his appointment to the BPAC at the adjournment of the meeting. Gene Klara thanked Richard Stark for his many years of service on the BPAC and for his many contributions to the Committee. In turn, Mr. Stark thanked the MPO and BPAC members for the opportunity his BPAC membership gave him to learn and understand bicycle/pedestrian issues and community efforts in serving the cycling and pedestrian community.

## **11. Member Comments**

Court Nederveld noted that he has become increasingly more concerned with the number of cycling and pedestrian accidents with motor vehicles. He related that data analysis indicates nearly 25% of motorists involved in accidents with cyclists and pedestrians do not carry automobile insurance. Further, he stated that the insurance carried by upwards of 40% of Florida's population is not adequate to pay health and rehabilitation claims to victims of these accidents. He asked Charlotte County Deputy Stewart and Deputy Zimmerman what can be done to reduce uninsured and underinsured motorists, unlicensed

motorists, and what enforcement initiatives are underway to curtail these irresponsible drivers. Deputy Stewart responded that insurance verification is noted when vehicles are stopped for infractions. Motorists are cited when there is reason to believe that they do not have current insurance coverage. Deputy Stewart stated that the issue centers on the long length of time required to research whether a motorist has auto insurance if questions arise. She stated that this is an issue that is best addressed by the State Legislature. The Deputies stated they would discuss this issue with their Traffic Unit for the potential of increased enforcement of proof of insurance requirements.

Chair Stephen Carter, who owns an insurance firm, stated that this insurance issue has a complexity not easily discernable. He noted that some motorists cancel their insurance after receiving their annual State auto registration and sticker. If cited after cancelling their insurance, some obtain insurance again while waiting for their case to be adjudicated. This time gap between having and not having insurance can take months to resolve, with victims waiting for hospital and doctor insurance payments and the offending motorist continuing to drive with a “new” insurance policy in effect. He agreed that the issues posed by Mr. Nederveld and discussed by the Deputies is in need of review by the State Legislature.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Carter at 4:27 p.m.

**(Next Meeting February 28, 2019-beginning at 2 p.m.)**



**AGENDA ITEM # 6**  
**2019 PROJECT PRIORITIES-DISCUSSION**

**Purpose:** To discuss 2019 project priorities for submission to FDOT

**Agenda Item Presented by:** MPO Staff

**Discussion:**

The MPO is required to annually develop a list of project priorities as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process and to submit the list to FDOT. FDOT has asked that the initial priorities be submitted by February 1, 2019 to begin their review process. The MPO receives project candidates from the City of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County which include Highway projects, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects, and Congestion Management/Transportation System Management (CM/TSM) Box, and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) projects.

At the January 16, 2019 TAC/CAC members and MPO Staff recommended to consider adding the following projects for future consideration:

- Kings Highway from Sandhill Blvd. to the DeSoto County Line
- Prineville from Paulson Drive to Hillsborough Blvd.
- Edgewater Drive/Flamingo Blvd. Extension from Midway Blvd. to US 41
- US 41 at Cornelius Blvd. and Hillsborough Blvd.
- Bronco Rd between CR 74 (Bermont Road) and Washington Loop, and
- Alfred Road between CR 74 and Jones Loop

**Recommendations:** Review and comment on Highway, TAP and CM/TSM Box and TRIP project priorities for 2019

**Attachment:** 1. 2018 Charlotte Count-Punta Gorda MPO FY 2018/2019-FY 2022/2023 Project Priorities for 2019

[illegible]

HIGHWAYS					TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT/ CONGESTION MITIGATION					TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES LOCAL/REGIONAL PROJECTS											
RANK	FPN#	PROJECT NAME	FROM	TO	JURSIDICTION	TYPE OF WORK	UNFUNDED PHASE	REQUESTED FUNDS (In Mil)	LOCAL FUNDS (In Mil)	TOTAL COST- PDC ( in Mil)	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	HIGHWAY PROJECTS	CM/TSM PROJECTS	TAP PROJECTS-LOCAL PROJECTS	TAP PROJECTS - REGIONAL PROJECTS		
3E		US 41 Eastside <sup>2</sup>	Tuckers Grade	Taylor Rd	CHARLOTTE COUNTY	MURT												X	X		
3F		US 41 Eastside	Morningside Dr	Tuckers Grade	CHARLOTTE COUNTY	MURT												X	X		
3G		US 41 Westside	Tuckers Grade	Taylor Rd	CHARLOTTE COUNTY	MURT												X	X		
3H		US 41 Westside	Morningside Dr	Tuckers Grade	CHARLOTTE COUNTY	MURT												X	X		
3I		US 41 Westside	Taylor Rd	Burnt Store Rd	CHARLOTTE COUNTY	MURT												X	X		
3J		US 41 Westside <sup>1,2</sup>	Burnt Store Rd	Aqui Esta Dr	CHARLOTTE COUNTY	MURT												X	X		
4		Airport Rd Complete Streets	US 41	Cooper St	CITY OF PUNTA GORDA	Complete Streets	PE & CST	\$0.60		\$0.60								X			
5		Charlotte Harbor CRA -Sibley Bay ( Trails and Way Finding)	Bayshore Rd	US 41	CHARLOTTE COUNTY	Way Findings	PE & CST	\$0.845		\$0.845								X			
6		Cooper St Complete Streets	Airport Rd	E.Marion Ave	CITY OF PUNTA GORDA	Complete Streets	PE & CST	\$1.50		\$1.50								X			
7		Parkside CRA E. Elkcam Blvd	US 41	Midway Blvd	CHARLOTTE COUNTY	Street Lights & Pedestrian Bridge	PE & CST	\$1.719		\$1.719								X			
8		Shreve St Complete Streets	Airport Rd/Pompano Terrace	Virginia Ave/Linear Park	CITY OF PUNTA GORDA	Street Lights	PE & CST	\$0.35		\$0.35								X			
9		Harbor Walk Phase IV <sup>1</sup>	Harbor walk @ US 41 NB		CITY OF PUNTA GORDA	Bridge Underpass & Lighting	PE & CST	\$0.25		\$0.25								X			
10		US 41 NB <sup>1</sup>	Multi Use recreational trail bridge over Alligator Creek - South branch		CITY OF PUNTA GORDA	Bicycle/Ped Bridge	PE,CST&CEI	\$1.88		\$1.88									X		
11		SR 776 - Cape Haze Pioneer Trail	Myakka State Forest	US 41	CHARLOTTE COUNTY	SUN Trail Feasibility Study				\$0.11	\$0.11								X		

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Regional projects

PE - Design Phase

PD&E - Project Development & Environmental Phase

<sup>2</sup> TAP Project on SUN Trail network system

ROW - Right-Of-Way

CST - Construction Phase

**AGENDA ITEM # 7**  
**TAYLOR RD SHARED USE PATH PD&E STUDY**

**Purpose:** To receive a briefing from FDOT Consultant on the Taylor Road Project Development and Evaluation (PD&E) Study

**Agenda Item Presented by:** FDOT Consultant WGI, Inc.

**Discussion:**

FDOT Consultant WGI, Inc. will present a PowerPoint presentation on the Taylor Road Multi-Use Trail from US 41 (South) to Airport Road Project, including PD&E study objectives.

The Taylor Road Project is the MPO's number one Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project. The project has been programmed in two segments because of the complexity of the roadway. The first segment, Taylor Road from Jones Loop Road to Airport Road is programmed for Design in FY 2023/2024. The second segment, Taylor Road from US 41 (South) to Jones Loop Road is not yet programmed past the PD&E Study.

**Recommendations:** Review and comment on the PD&E Brief

**Attachments:** Power Point handout to be provided before the meeting

**AGENDA ITEM # 8**  
**FDOT BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN COORDINATOR REPORT**



# TAYLOR ROAD PD&E STUDY

## from US 41 to Airport Road

Financial Project ID No. 435105-1-22-01 | Financial Aid Project No. D118-120-B | ETDM No. 14358

# Project Background



- ◆ PD&E Study to evaluate future shared-use path along Taylor Road
- ◆ Limits from US 41 to Airport Road
- ◆ Project length is 3.6 miles
- ◆ Taylor Road is a two-lane undivided roadway with no bike/ped facilities
- ◆ Project will not include modifications to Taylor Road but will account for future widening to four lanes
- ◆ Goal is to obtain approval from the FDOT Office of Environmental Management on a recommendation to advance into design



# Purpose and Need

- ◆ Provide a safe, viable non-motorized travel option along Taylor Road
- ◆ Create a comfortable environment for pedestrians and bicyclists
- ◆ Support the goals of Charlotte County to create an effective multi-modal transportation system





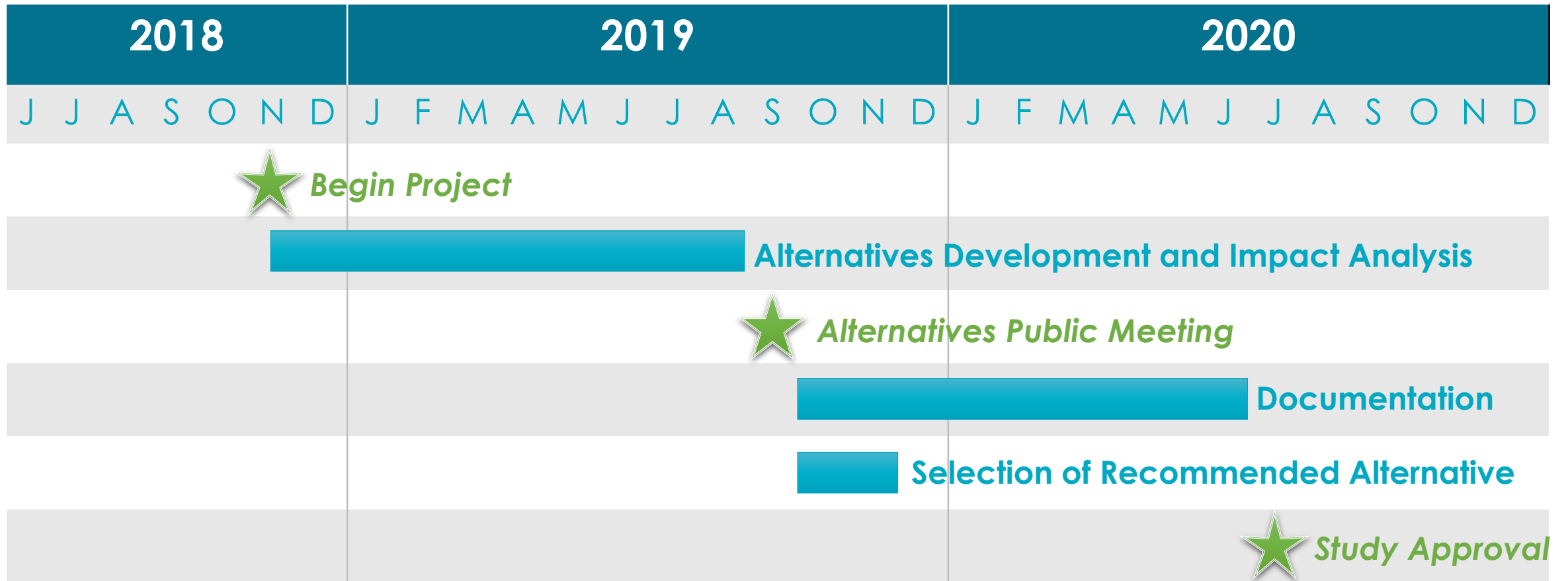
# Project Considerations

- ◆ Wetlands and natural habitats
- ◆ Available right-of-way
- ◆ Existing overhead electric poles
- ◆ Crossings over Alligator Creek and North Fork Alligator Creek
- ◆ Roadway crossings
- ◆ Crossing over Seminole Gulf rail tracks
- ◆ Public input





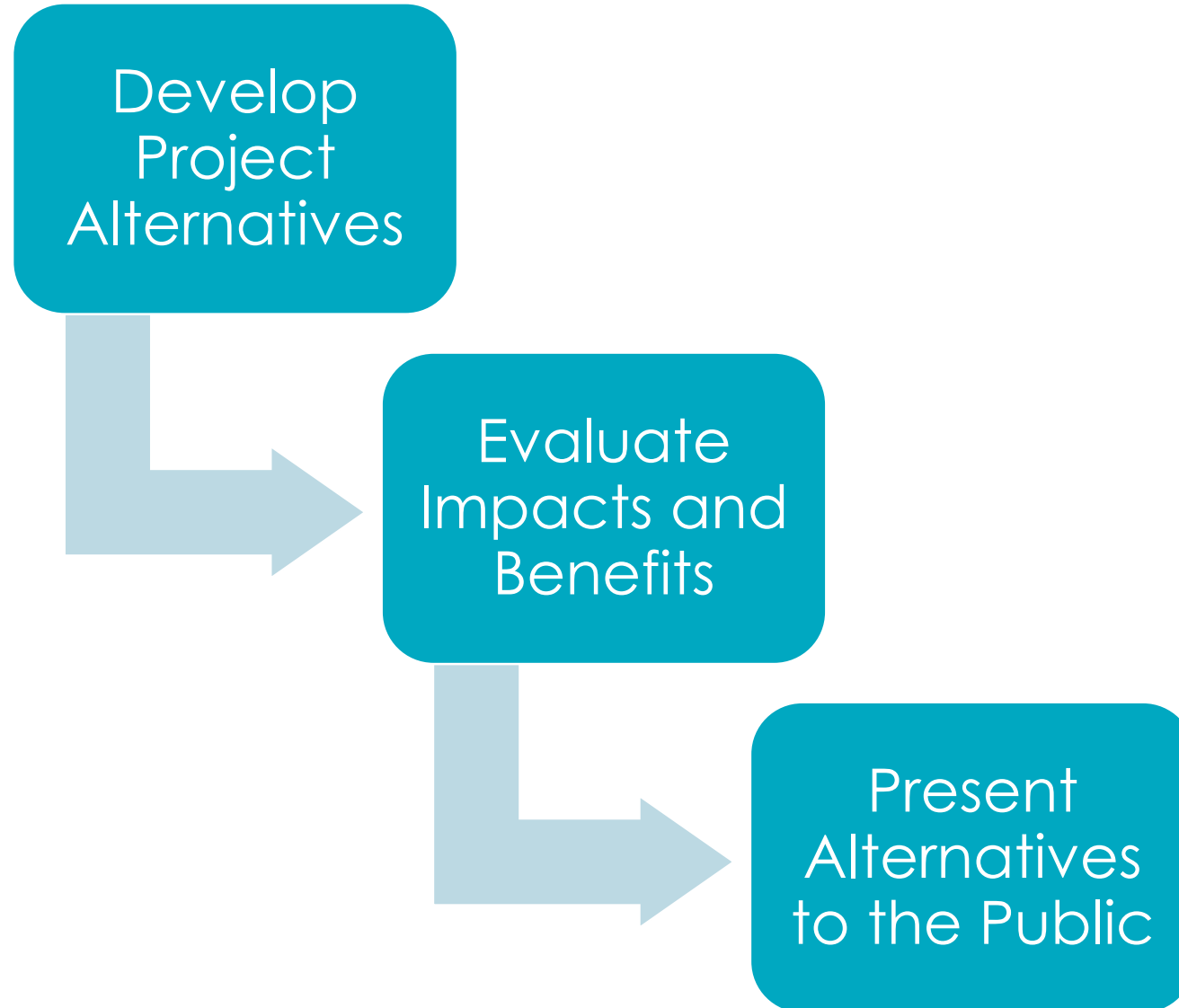
# Schedule



# Funding Status

- ◆ Project includes federal funding
- ◆ Segment from N Jones Loop Road to Airport funded for design in 2022
- ◆ Design currently not funded for segment from US 41 to N Jones Loop Road
- ◆ Construction currently not funded

# Next Steps



Late Summer 2019

# Contact Information

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