Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Future Corridor RCI Transportation Committee Guiding Principles

Conservation

• Identify regionally significant land and water resources prior to determining locations for future corridor investments; implement coordinated land acquisition and/or protection measures prior to or in parallel with implementation of future corridor investments.

• Avoid, to the extent feasible, planned and currently managed lands for conservation purposes; where avoidance is not feasible, minimize and mitigate impacts on these lands. Consideration of conservation and economic impact factors will be incorporated at the PD&E phase of the FDOT planning process to the extent possible.

• Maintain and, where possible, restore and enhance the integrity and connectivity of regionally significant environmental lands, including wetlands and significant recharge areas.

Countryside

- Maintain and improve transportation connectivity to, from, and between working farms, forests, mines, eco-tourism attractions, and other economically valuable rural lands.

- Plan and develop transportation corridors in a manner that protects regionally significant agricultural lands and other rural lands with economic or environmental significance and benefits economically significant lands such as commercial and industrial uses.

- Plan and develop transportation corridors in a manner that is compatible with areas identified in local plans to maintain their rural character as a choice for residents and avoid urban sprawl through access management.

Centers and Communities

• Improve connectivity for transportation and other infrastructure to established and emerging regional population and employment centers.

• Locate major transportation corridor improvements and, if needed, new facilities in areas targeted for growth in regional and local plans. When planning enhanced or new transportation corridors that are intended to support new population and employment centers, ensure that these new centers support regional and community visions including:

- Compact development in both urban centers and adjacent areas;
- Mixed-use development with integration of residential and commercial uses;
- Open space, parks, greenways, agricultural areas, and buffers between centers; and
- Low Impact Design Standards that support a reduced urban and environmental footprint, such as reduced water consumption.
- Adequate land for industrial development

• Plan and develop transportation corridors in a manner that improves connectivity to and enhances the quality of existing communities and previously approved developments, while avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts on these communities and developments. When a corridor and a center or community intersect, plan and design the corridor so that its purpose and scale is compatible with that of the center or community.

Corridors

Corridor Needs and Location

• Make optimal use of existing transportation facilities for all modes before adding new capacity to existing facilities or developing new facilities.

• Where possible, give preference to enhancing existing corridors, recognizing that new corridors may be needed to meet current or future mobility and connectivity needs.

• Direct strategic investments to transportation corridors that will provide better access to regional employment centers and other economic assets or provide better connectivity to global markets.

• Make early decisions about the location of enhanced or new corridors to ensure effective coordination with conservation and land use decisions and to enable timely preservation, management, or acquisition of property necessary to accommodate existing and planned transportation facilities.

Corridor Function and Design

• Plan enhanced or new transportation corridors, where appropriate, to accommodate multiple modes of transportation, including opportunities for active transportation, and to accommodate multiple uses, including utility infrastructure.

• Plan highway elements of future transportation corridors to be limited access, with interchange locations identified to provide access to economic development activities dependent on long-distance transportation, and to support growth in areas targeted for economic development. Plan rail and transit elements of future transportation corridors to support compact development locations and to encourage public transportation ridership.

• Protect the integrity of statewide and interregional corridors by developing and maintaining strong regional and local transportation networks to accommodate demand for regional and local trips.

• Plan, design, construct, and operate transportation corridors to reflect the context of the communities and environment through which the corridors pass to the fullest extent possible.

• Use state-of-the-art and energy-efficient infrastructure, vehicles, materials, technologies, and methodologies, where economically feasible, to develop and operate transportation corridors.

• Plan, design, construct, and operate transportation corridors to be safe and secure for all users.

• Plan, design, construct, and operate transportation corridors to support emergency evacuation, emergency response, and post-disaster recovery activities; ensure that corridor improvements intended to enhance emergency evacuation and response are not used to promote additional development in hazardous areas or areas not planned for growth.

Plan, design and construct transportation corridors in a manner to accommodate, to the extent feasible, future alternative, transformative and disruptive mobility technologies.

Economics

Plan and develop transportation corridors in a manner to appropriately enhance economic development opportunities.

Consider least cost alternatives and opportunities for private sector participation, particularly in right of way acquisition.