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October 14, 2020

Kevin J. Thibault
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street, MS 54
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Via online portal and FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us

RE: Joint Comments regarding Central-Southwest, Northern Turnpike, and Suncoast Connector Corridor Draft Task Force Reports (M-CORES)

Secretary Thibault:

The Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges is particularly concerned about potential damage by the M-CORES project to the wildlife-centered mission and purpose of the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge.

We strongly support the primary conclusion of the Suncoast draft report that no new greenfield corridor is needed and that what we should be doing is improving existing corridors.

We urge you to take into account the value the Lower Suwannee Refuge makes to the quality of life in our rural counties and the quality of the environment of the entire state of Florida. We urge you to make a clear “no build” recommendation.

Respectfully,

John McPherson, president
Friends of the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges

As a membership organization, through voluntary action,
Friends supports the Refuges and their work to conserve the
region's wildlife and the places they need to thrive.

We invite you to enjoy their pristine and primitive beauty with us.