

MULTIMODAL NORTH SARASOTA CONNECTOR



Effective May 2024

OVERVIEW

Sarasota County, in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, conducted a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study to determine the type, design and location of the proposed North Sarasota Multimodal Connector. This study evaluated a new four-lane overpass over Interstate 75 between Fruitville Road and University Parkway.

This project involves a public-private partnership between Sarasota County and Schroeder Manatee Ranch, Inc., and as part of the Adequate

Transportation Facilities Agreement with the Villages of Lakewood Ranch South Development of Regional Impact approved by the county commission in May 2016, it will be primarily funded and completed by The Villages.

The recommendations from this study are being used to guide design and future construction activities. Three alternatives were evaluated to determine the best location for this proposed overpass. A no-build alternative was also considered that does not include an overpass, but maintains current operations, including routine maintenance of existing roadways.

Project schedule

- April 2018 – PD&E Study began
- Nov. 12-Dec. 3, 2020 – Virtual Public Workshop held
- Aug. 16-Aug. 30, 2022 – Public Hearing/Comments
- Feb. 6, 2024 — PD&E study completed and Location Design Concept Approval (LDCA) received

Project purpose and benefits

- Improves ease of crossing the interstate for pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists.
- Reduces traffic congestion at the I-75 interchanges at both Fruitville Road and University Parkway.
- Saves fuel and reduces air pollution by reducing trip lengths.
- Improves connectivity to Nathan Benderson Park and commercial businesses on both sides of I-75, including The Mall at University Town Center and Lakewood Ranch Waterside Activity Center.

Funding

- Preliminary engineering, design and permitting are being funded by Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc. through the Adequate Transportation Facilities Agreement.
- Approximately \$1.2 million in Sarasota County North District Mobility Fee funds will be applied toward developer reimbursement of the design, after permits are obtained. Funding for the construction phase is not yet in place.
- Following completion of the PD&E Study, the approximately \$30-\$40 million needed for overpass construction will be eligible for local, state and Federal Highway Administration funds.



Project map

- This project location map identifies the locations of three alternative overpass crossings that were considered over I-75.
- **Alternative No. 1:** Crosses south of the county water tower between North Cattlemen Road and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard.
- **Alternative No. 2:** Crosses north of the county water tower between North Cattlemen Road and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard. **APPROVED as the final selected alternative.**

- **Alternative No. 3:** Crosses north of the Nathan Benderson Park lake from Cattlemen Road to Professional Parkway.

Next steps

- The final design and permitting of the selected alternative, including opportunities for seeking necessary construction funding, is currently underway.
- A project construction schedule will be established after funding is made available.