



HRTPO

Heartland Regional
Transportation Planning Organization



PROJECT PRIORITIES

FY 2030



Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization



HRTPO Project Priorities For FDOT Tentative Work Program Fiscal Years 2025/26 to 2029/30

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion or family status. Persons requiring accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or language translation, free of charge should contact Marybeth Soderstrom, HRTPO Title VI Liaison, 863-534-7130 (voice), or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by emailing msoderstrom@cfrpc.org at least three days prior to the event. The HRTPO strives to ensure full and fair participation by all potentially affected individuals, groups and communities in the transportation decision-making process.

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Introduction

As the lead transportation planning agency in the Heartland region, the HRTPO is responsible for developing a list of priority projects and submitting the list to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for consideration during the development of FDOT's Five Year Work Program. It is critical to the project prioritization process that projects being considered for funding are evaluated based on criteria that reflect the HRTPO's vision and mission, as well as adopted goals, objectives, and targets of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Each year, member governments of the HRTPO are invited to submit Transportation Project Applications and Priorities to the HRTPO for transmittal to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for consideration of programming and funding by FDOT. Project applications are scored based on criteria developed by the Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee adopted by the HRTPO Board and ranked in order of priority.

Projects that are funded in the FDOT Five Year Work Program are then identified as part of the Transportation Improvement Program for the next year.

Project Application

Submitted by local government

Project Ranking and Prioritization

Projects are evaluated based on criteria that reflects the HRTPO's vision and mission, as well as adopted goals, objectives, and targets of the Long Range Transportation Plan

Adoption

Endorsement by the Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee and adoption by the HRTPO Board by July 1

evaluation **CRITERIA FOR CAPACITY**

LRTP Goals	Evaluation Criteria for Capacity Projects	Criteria Scoring
Improve Safety	Safety	
	Roadway with no serious injuries/fatal crashes in past 5 years (depending on data availability)	0
	Roadway with 1 or more serious injuries/fatal crashes in past 5 years (depending on data availability)	15
	Emergency Evacuation Routes*	
	Not a designated evacuation route	0
	Is a designated evacuation route	15
Provide Reliable and Efficient Options	Project Status	
	Not programmed for Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	0
	Preliminary Engineering or Project Development & Environment and/or alignment study phase programmed in TIP	8
	Right-of-Way acquisition and/or construction programmed in TIP	15
	Provide reliable and efficient options	
	No reuse of existing investment	0
	Preserves existing investment	3
	Optimizes reuse of existing investment	5
	Existing Congestion Level	
		0.0 to 0.7 Volume / Capacity ratio (V/C)
	0.71 to 0.99 V/C	10
	1.0 and above V/C	20
Create Quality Places	Sociocultural effects/Environmental Justice/Environmental Impact	
	Potential negative impact on environment or environmental justice area	0
	No impact to environment or environmental justice area	3
	Potential positive impact on environmental justice area and no environmental impact	5
Support Economic Development	Regional Freight Corridor**	
	Not on HRTPO Regional Roadway Network or Regional freight corridor	0
	Is on HRTPO Regional Roadway Network	5
	Is a Regional freight corridor	10
	Access to Major Activity or Employment Centers	
	No direct access to activity or employment center	0
	Improves access to activity or employment center	5
	Provides access to a new activity or employment center	10
Connect Local Areas and Provide Choices	Multimodal Connectivity	
	No multimodal improvement	0
	Bicycle and/or sidewalk improvement	3
	Access to transit improvement	5

*Evacuation routes are from the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study (SRES)

**Regional freight corridor as designated in the FDOT District One Freight Mobility and Trade Study, October 2015

L RTP Goals	Evaluation Criteria for Congestion Management Projects	Criteria Scoring
Improve Safety	Safety	
	Road/intersection has experienced 1 or more fatal or serious accidents in previous 5 years	20
	Pedestrian Safety	
Provide Reliable and Efficient Options	Road/intersection has 1 or more car/pedestrian incidents past 5 years	20
	Project Status/Funding Availability	
	Local funding is available to advance or contribute to project	10
	Level of Service (LOS)	
	Segment of road or intersection does not meet FDOT LOS Standards	10
	Truck Factor	
	Truck factor on segment of road or intersection managed by FDOT is greater than 10%	10
Create Quality Places	Non Interstate Reliability	
	Person miles traveled on Non Interstate NHS segment of road managed by FDOT reported as not reliable or below 50% on FDOT scale	20
	Community and/or Environmental Impact	
	Potential negative impact on community or environment	0
	No impact to community or environment	5
	Potential positive impact on community or environment	10

L RTP Goals	Evaluation Criteria for Transportation Alternative Projects	Criteria Scoring
Improve Safety	Safety	
	Adjacent road has 1 or more car/pedestrian incidents past 5 years	15
	School Zone Safety	
	Project is within 1-2 miles from a K-12 school	4
	Project is 1/2 mile to 1 mile from a K-12 school	10
	Project is within 1/2 mile of a K-12 school	16
	Project is within 1/4 mile of a K-12 school	18
	Project is within 1/8 mile of a K-12 school	20
Provide Reliable and Efficient Options	Safety Plan	
	Project is identified in the adopted HRTPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Plan	15
	Project Linkage	
	Isolated improvement	0
	Connects to network	20
	Completes connection/closes gap	25
Provide Reliable and Efficient Options	Project Status/Funding Availability	
	Additional phase or connects to project in Five-Year Work Program or funded Local Capital Improvement Program	25

Related Policies of the HRTPO

- **Prioritization Policy in Case of Ranking Tie | Adopted May 25, 2016**

Total project cost will be used as additional criteria to prioritize projects with the same ranking. Lower-cost projects will be given higher priority, and higher-cost projects will be given lower priority.

2024 Process for Submission of Priorities

March 31, 2024	All projects due to FDOT GAP
April 2024	Preliminary score review by local jurisdiction of TA and CM projects
May 2024	Ranking endorsement by TAC and CAC
June 19, 2024	Priority List Adoption by HRTPO
July 1, 2024	A ranked package of final adopted/approved priority projects must be transmitted to FDOT by July 1, 2024. At that time, further consideration for programming and funding will be evaluated as the Tentative Five-Year Work Program is developed over the summer/fall time frame.

FY 2030 Project Priorities

Transportation Alternatives (TA)

Transportation Alternative (TA) projects encompass a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity.

Rank	Facility	Description	Phase	Local Cost Estimate	Jurisdiction
1	Cedarwood Parkway	Raintree Blvd to Cowboy Way 5 ft wide Sidewalk (Connects to an already programmed sidewalk)	PE CST CEI	\$137,100 \$685,088 \$137,100	Hendry
2	SW Raintree Blvd	Cedarwood Parkway to Cowboy Way 5 ft wide Sidewalk (Connects to already programmed sidewalk FPN: 442024-1)	PE CST CEI	\$226,200 \$1,130,994 \$226,200	Hendry
3	Florida Avenue	North Wauchula Elementary South Entrance to REA Rd 5 ft wide Sidewalk	PE CST CEI	\$35,642 \$287,615 \$23,761	Hardee
4	Martin Luther King Jr Ave West Side	South Rd to Carlton St 5 ft wide Sidewalk	PE CST CEI	\$67,886 \$516,572 \$45,257	Hardee

Congestion Management (CM) Projects

Congestion management projects improve traffic operations and safety by using strategies to reduce travel demand or implement operational improvements. They typically improve travel conditions through the use of low-cost improvements or strategies, which can be implemented in a relatively short timeframe (within 5 – 10 years) compared to more traditional capacity improvements, such as adding travel lanes.

Rank	Jurisdiction	Project Location	Project Type
1	Hardee	State Road 62 and County Road 663	Intersection Improvement
2A	Highlands	US 27 and Ryant Blvd	Intersection Improvement
2B	Highlands	Sparta Rd and US 27	Turn Lanes
3A	Highlands	Hammock Rd and US 27	Turn Lanes
3B	Highlands	SR 66 and Burkett Ave	Intersection Improvement

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (SU) Planning Priorities

The HRTPO requests the use of SU funds to supplement the MPO’s PL (planning) funds to prepare the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Rank	Fiscal Year	Project Cost	Plan or Study
1	2025	\$150,000	2050 Long Range Transportation Plan
2	2026	\$150,000	2050 Long Range Transportation Plan

Ongoing Priorities of the HRTPO

Capacity Projects

Highway Capacity projects are often associated with major construction projects, such as building a new highway where none existed before, bypassing an existing route, or adding one or more lanes to an existing facility. These projects are identified in the region's adopted Long Range Transportation Plan.

Other Arterials (OA) Funded Projects (Now known as Other Roads Construction & ROW)					
Rank	Jurisdiction	Facility	Description	From	To
1	Highlands	US 98	2 to 4	US 27	Airport Road
2	DeSoto	Kings Highway	2 to 4	Charlotte C/L	Peace River Street
3	Okeechobee	SR 710 Extension	New Road	US 98	US 441
4	Okeechobee	SR 710 Extension	New Road	SR 70	US 98
5	DeSoto	SR 31 Extension	New Road	SR 70	US 17

Transportation Regional Incentives Program (TRIP) Funding					
Rank	Jurisdiction	Facility	Description	From	To
1	DeSoto	Kings Highway	2 to 4	S of Kingsway Circle	SW Glenadine Ave

Transportation Alternatives

The list below includes HRTPO prioritized projects that will be carried forward as ongoing priorities of the HRTPO and are currently in the FDOT Work Program.

Jurisdiction	Sidewalk/Multi-Use Path	Design Funded	Construction Funded	FDOT Project Number
Desoto	Cr 760a From Sr 35 (Us 17) To SW Shores Ave	2023	2025	4420221
Desoto	Cr 760 From Us 17 To SW Aster Ave	2024	2026	4442061
Desoto	Se West Avenue From SE Maple Drive To Se Esmeralda Drive	2024	2026	4442071
Desoto	SW Kingsway Circle From SW Egret Circle To SW Egret Circle	2024	2026	4443241

Desoto	Se Maple Dr From N Hillsborough To Se West Ave	2025	2027	4463081
Desoto	SW Kingsway Circle From East Egret Circle To Cr 769	2025	2027	4463951
Hardee	West Main Street From Hanchey Road To W Of Florida Ave	2024	2026	4447731
Hardee	Martin Luther King Jr Ave	2028		4521761
Hardee	Sr 636 (E Main St) From First Ave To Griffin Rd	2024	2026	4449491
Hardee	Sr 636 (E Main St) From Griffin Rd To Riverside Dr	2024	2028	4449521
Hendry	Ft Thompson Ave From Sr 29/Bridge St To Sr 80/Hickopochee Ave	2024	2027	4380671
Hendry	Sonora Ave From WC Owen Ave To Clewiston High School	2023	2025	4420201
Hendry	Collingswood Parkway From Ne Eucalyptus Blvd To Sr 80	2023	2025	4420211
Hendry	NW Raintree Blvd From E Cowboy Way(Cr 80a) To Cedarwood Parkway	2023	2025	4420241
Hendry	Ne Raintree Blvd From Cedarwood Parkway To East Cowboy Way	2024	2026	4443221
Hendry	Cowboy Way From Sr 80 To East Of Amanda St	2025	2027	4463071
Hendry	11th St From Mississippi Ave To Harlem Academy Blvd	2026	2028	4484181
Hendry	SE Raintree Blvd From Cowboy Way to Cedarwood Parkway	2029		4535011
Hendry	Forrey Dr From Cowboy Way To Sr 80	2026	2028	4484191
Hendry	Harlem Academy Blvd From 12th St To 13th St	2026	2028	4484201
Hendry	Cr 835 From Hookers Point Rd To Davidson Rd	2026	2028	4484251
Hendry	Carolina Avenue/10th Terr	2027	2029	4495421
Hendry	Port Labelle At Various Locations	2027	2029	4495431

Hendry	Birchwood Pkwy From Cowboy Way To Sr 80	2027	2029	4495491
Highlands	W Interlake Blvd From Catfish Creek Road To S Tangerine Drive	2023	2025	4419231
Highlands	Catfish Creek Rd From Tuomey Ct To West Interlake Blvd	2026	2028	4484211
Highlands	Cemetery Rd From Mlk Jr Blvd To School St	2026	2028	4484221
Highlands	Desoto Rd From Phil Lane To Desoto City Rd	2026	2028	4484231
Highlands	School St From Eo Douglas Ave To Cemetery Rd	2026	2028	4484241
Highlands	W Stryker Rd Phase I From Morningside Rd To Us 27	2027	2029	4495441
Highlands	W Stryker Rd Phase Ii From Hartman Rd To Morningside Rd	2027	2029	4495441
Highlands	Home Ave From Sebring Pkwy To Sage Crest Dr	2027	2029	4495501
Highlands	Scenic Highway Sidewalk From Lakeview Dr To Sebring Pkwy	2027	2029	4495821
Highlands	Catfish Creek Rd From Tuomey Ct To Catfish Creek Rd Bridge	2027	2029	4496471
Highlands	S Sun 'N Lakes Blvd From Us 27 To Moon Glow Ave	2027	2029	4496721
Highlands	Sr 17 From Home Ave To Arbuckle Creek Rd	2027	2029	4496741

Other Regionally Significant Priority Projects Partially Funded

Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Priorities of the HRTPO				
Jurisdiction	Facility	Description	From	To
Hendry	SR 29	2 To 4	Cowboy Way	Whidden Rd
Okeechobee	SR 710	New Road	US 441	L-63 Canal
		2 To 4	E Of L-63 Canal	Sherman Woods Ranches
		2 To 4	Sherman Woods Ranches	Okeechobee/Martin CL
DeSoto, Highlands & Okeechobee	SR 70	2 to 4	E OF SR 31	CR 760
			DeSoto County Line	W OF Jefferson Ave
			Jefferson AVE	US 27
			US 27	CR 29
			CR 29	Lonesome Island Rd
			E Of Lonesome Island	NW 38th Terrace

SUN Trail Network Priorities of the HRTPO	
Jurisdiction	Trail
Hardee, Highlands, Glades, Hendry	Collier to Polk Regional Trail
Glades, Okeechobee	Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail