**Riviera Dunes Master Association**

**Bridge Committee Update**

**June 1, 2020**

Although COVID 19 shutdowns have impacted the Bradenton-Palmetto Connector Study, FDOT has maintained progress and expects to sign a Consulting Contract with TransSystems Corporation <https://www.transystems.com/> before the end of May. TransSystems is an Employee Owned, National transportation consulting company, founded in 1966 and Headquartered in Kansas City, MO.

Once the Consultant is on board, they will be establishing the initial public involvement plan and establishing the initial corridors to be evaluated in the Alternative Corridor Evaluation. Establishing initial corridors involves reviewing the six (6) corridors being taken from the Central Manatee (CMNAA) Study and determining whether or not there are any viable additional corridors that should be evaluated (particularly west of the DeSoto Bridge). The project website will also be developed and available within the next 1-2 months.

Project Manager, Jennifer Marshall, P.E. wants to emphasize that the initial analysis will be the Alternative Corridor Evaluation and will not look at alternatives such as elevated or non-elevated roadways and specific intersection treatments. They are beginning with a corridor evaluation in order to determine the most feasible locations for improvements to occur. Once initial corridors are established, they will be presented to the public so that everyone knows what is being studied. When corridors are presented to the Public, input will be solicited.

Ms. Marshall confirmed that Downtown Bradenton Improvements will be considered from a traffic and concept/design perspective after the final corridors have been selected to move into the PD&E Phase after the Alternative Corridor Analysis is complete. We have asked that the traffic forecast be updated to include other improvement and changes including: 1) accelerated growth of Eastern Manatee County, 2) planned improvements to I-75/301 interchange, 3) potential for I-75 Express Lanes, etc.

To promote better understanding and communication, Ms. Marshall has offered a virtual meeting (Zoom, Skype, Goto Meeting, etc.) with Riviera Dunes Community. We intend to accept her offer and arrange a virtual Bridge Committee Meeting including Board Members in the near future.

Meanwhile, MPO is focused on finalizing the 2045 Long Term Plan but has no Board Meetings scheduled until September. Four of the seven Manatee County Commission seats are up for election providing a good opportunity to solicit support for not destroying the Community with a Elevated Highway and Flyover.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Riviera Dunes Bridge Committee**