

Notes from PRIT Transportation Subteam meeting with Core Team

October 17, 2019

Attendees:

Robin Boughton, FWC

Mark Cantrell, USFWS

Amber Crooks, Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Elizabeth Fleming, Defenders of Wildlife

Terry Gilbert, FWC

Brent Setchell, FDOT

David Shindle, USFWS

Dan Smith, University of Central Florida

Melissa Tucker, FWC who was attending in lieu of Kipp Frolich

Larry Williams, USFWS

- Elizabeth and Amber provided brief introductions about the purpose of the PRIT Transportation Subteam and the Subteam's work focusing on permeability at I-4.
- Brent provided a Powerpoint presentation to describe the opportunities and constraints with some identified crossing locations.
- There was consensus that securing these limited opportunities was crucial to the future of the panther, that many of these roadway projects were underway or imminent, and that there were additional roadways beyond I-4 that also should be reviewed for opportunities and constraints.
- There was also consensus that identifying a greenway or corridor network of conserved lands had a direct nexus to this work. As well, partnering with additional stakeholders, such as landowners, local governments and MPOs, Expressway Authorities, and other such entities was important.
- Larry asked that the Subteam synthesize the presentation into a document and schedule a follow up discussion. The document should include opportunities and constraints, and perhaps maps showing the greenway network, Florida Forever/Rural & Family Lands projects that have a nexus.
- A follow up will be discussed at the next PRIT Transportation Subteam meeting which is scheduled on November 1 from 10-3.