

# Rail Trail Feasibility Study



**Join the Lee County MPO for a Public Meeting  
on Thursday, June 2 beginning at 6 p.m.**

The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and their partners are seeking public input on a Rail-Trail Feasibility Study that is underway. The public is invited to provide input on three alternatives for a north/south public multi-use trail through south Lee County and into north Collier County. The trail alternatives are being studied as part of the regional efforts to plan and develop the Gulf Coast Trail from Pinellas County down to Collier County. The study team will use public input to help select a Preferred Alternative(s) to advance to the next project phase.

## **ABOUT THIS FEASIBILITY STUDY**

In March 2021, the Lee County MPO in partnership with the City of Bonita Springs and the Village of Estero, commissioned a consultant team to begin the Study to analyze the long-term feasibility of a public multi-use trail within the Seminole Gulf Railway (SGLR) corridor south of Alico Road or alternatively in the adjacent surrounding areas. The Study is funded by a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Sun Trail Program with local matches from the City of Bonita Springs and the Village of Estero.







































The study area boundaries include Bonita Beach Road (south), Alico Road (north), US 41 (west) and I-75 (east). The proposed trail will pass through south Lee County into north Collier County through the City of Bonita Springs and the Village of Estero. Concept alternatives will identify right-of-way (ROW) impacts, security measures, maintenance procedures, and environmental impacts. The preliminary analysis evaluated trail connectivity, project readiness, service, and the user experience. The study also collected data on ROW, planning-level costs, rail-trail crossings, and existing utilities. The three alternatives include a rail-to-trail alignment, a rail-with-trail alignment, and a trail alignment adjacent to existing roadways.

## HISTORY OF THIS STUDY

The Rail-Trail Feasibility Study is the culmination of nearly a decade of planning efforts and public discussions to select a public transportation option for the SGLR corridor. In 2013, the Lee County MPO assessed the long-term feasibility of adding public transportation options within the existing SGLR corridor across all of Lee County. The study examined several alternatives that could co-exist with freight rail including light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit and a multi-use Trail.

## SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS

The estimated completion date for the Rail-Trail Feasibility Study is November 2022. The Lee County MPO will be accepting public comment until end of October 2022.

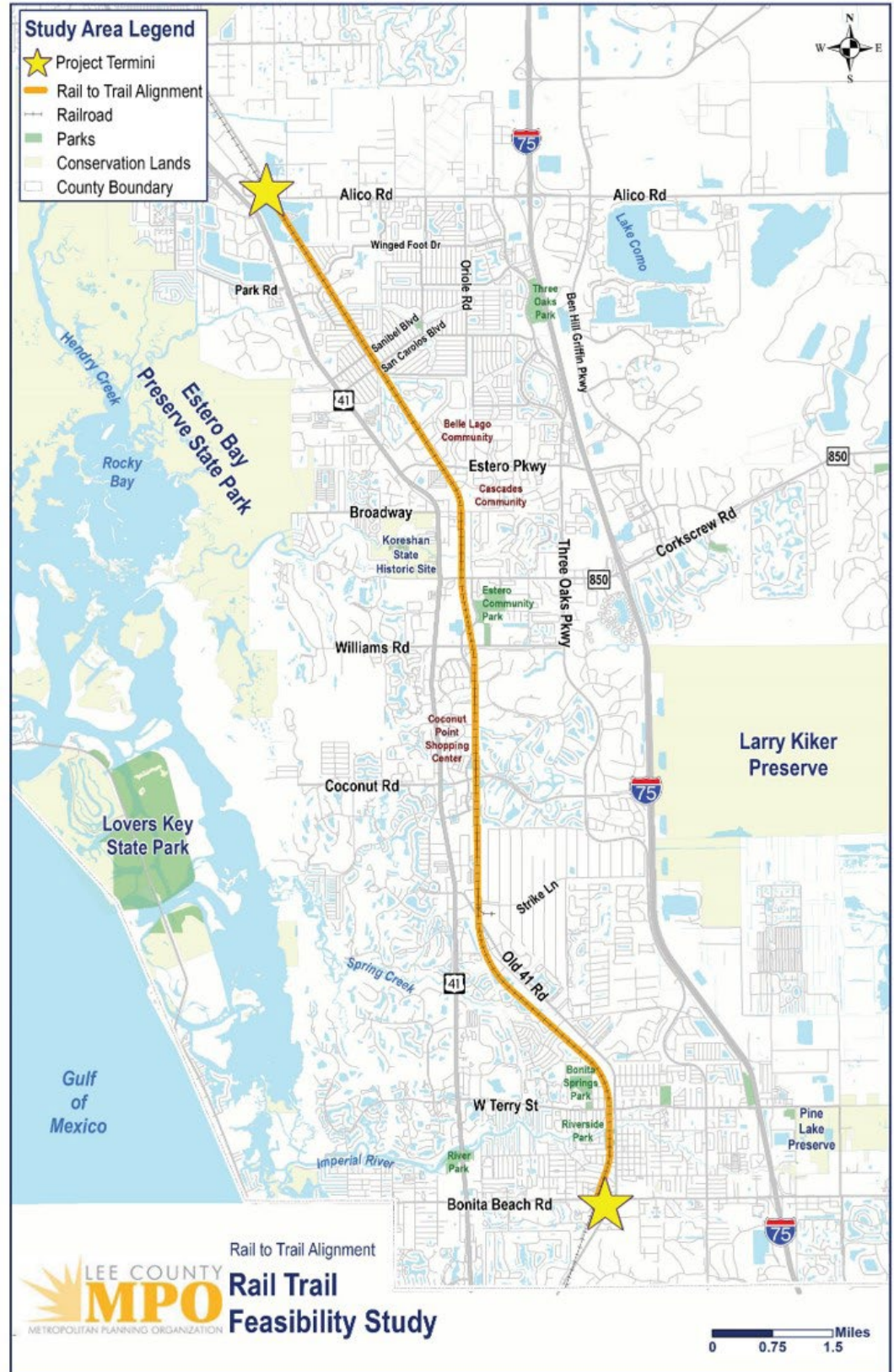
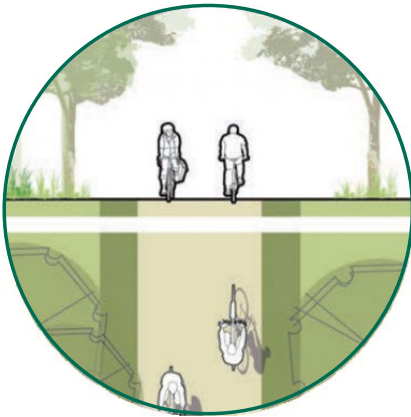
18 – Month Schedule	2021										2022							
 = Concept Workshop  = Report Docs  = Milestone Event  = Progress Item	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
<b>Notice to Proceed</b> (March 19, 2021)																		
<b>Task Management</b> (Monthly Progress Meeting with PM; Kickoff Meeting and Management Plan)																		
<b>Task 1</b> (Kickoff Meeting)		 																
<b>Task 2, 5, 6, 9</b> (Data Collection)																		
<b>Task 3</b> (Title Search)																		
<b>Task 4</b> (Survey)																		
<b>Task 5</b> (Trail Corridor Review and Mapping)																		
<b>Task 6</b> (Environmental Assessment)																		
<b>Task 7</b> (Geotechnical)																		
<b>Task 8</b> (Stormwater Analysis)																		
<b>Task 9</b> (Data Collection, Utility Impacts)																		
<b>Task 10, 11</b> (Roadway Crossings/Bridges existing)																		
<b>Task 12, 13, 14</b> (Trail Concept Planning and Analysis)																		
<b>Task 15</b> (Public Involvement; Steering Committee and Public Workshop)																		



## THE THREE ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPED FROM THIS STUDY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

### Alternative 1 – Rail-to-trail

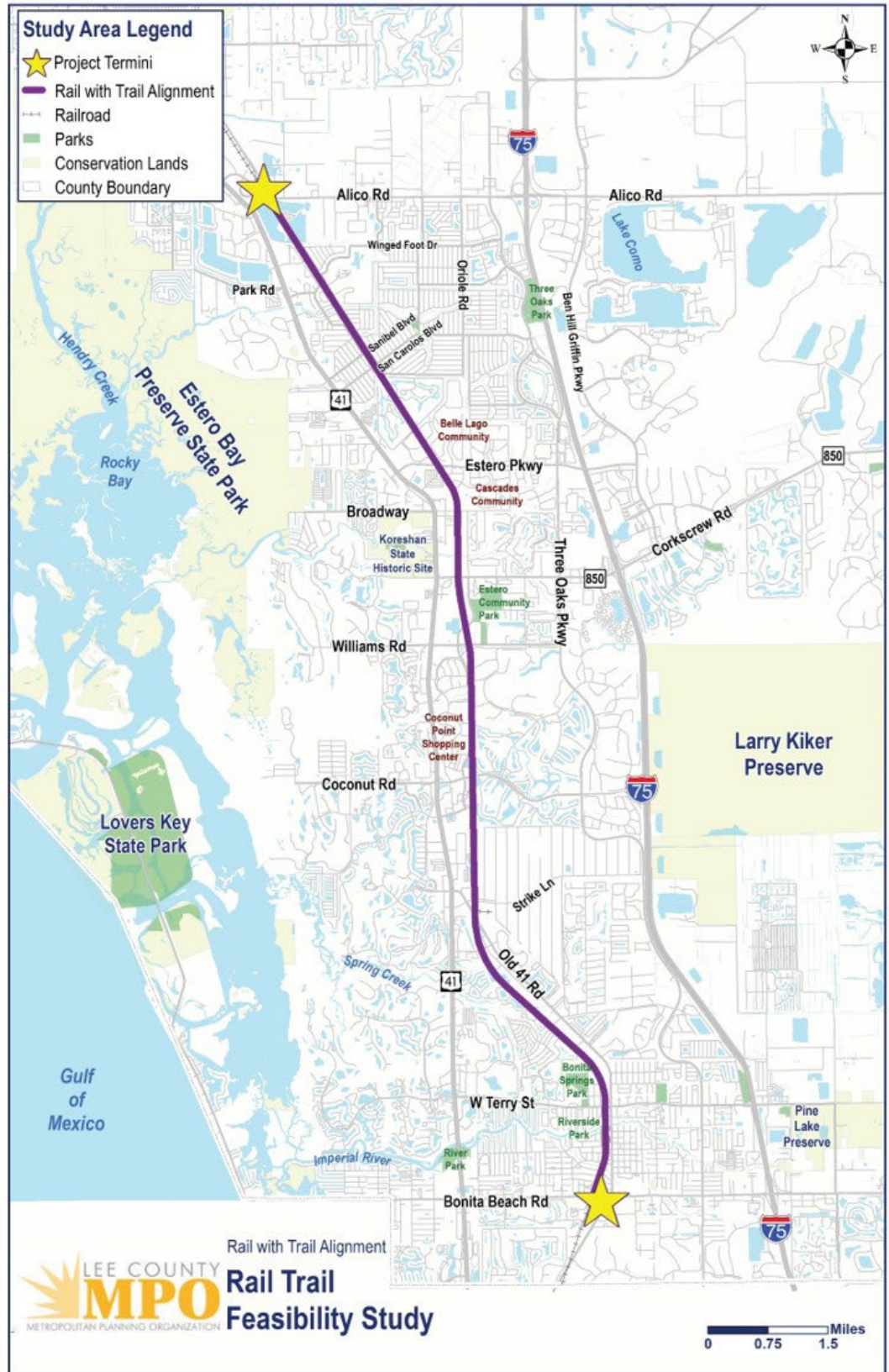
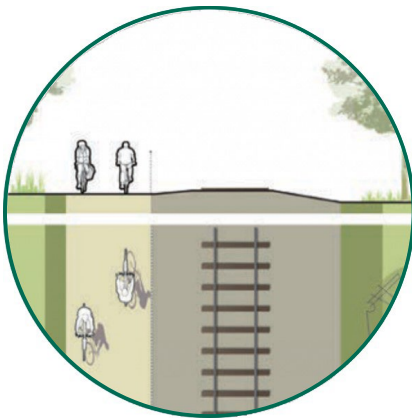
A rail-to-trail alignment is within the SGLR corridor. This alternative is a multiuse path that is converted to a trail from an inactive rail line.





## Alternative 2 – Rail-with-trail

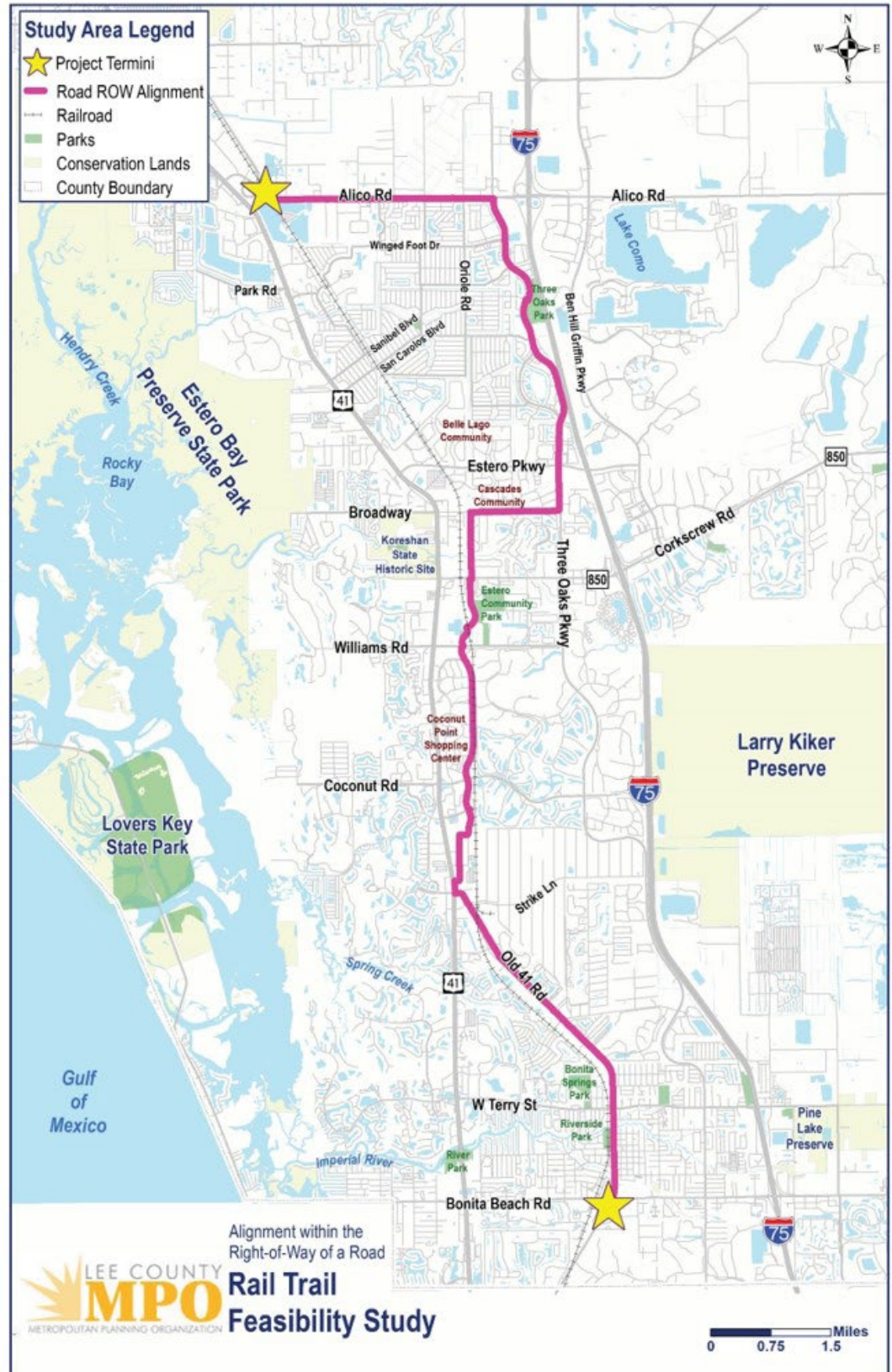
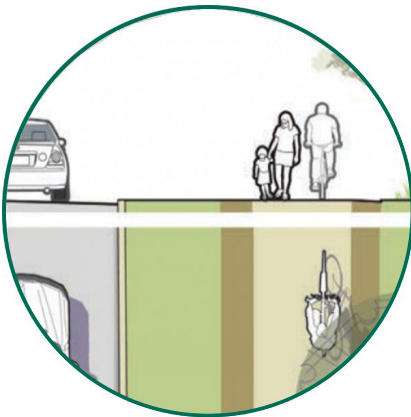
A rail-with-trail alignment is parallel to the Seminole Gulf Railway (SGLR) corridor rail line. The path would be built within the railroad right-of-way on one side of the rail line. This allows the rail to continue to be operational.





## Alternative 3 - Trail Alignment Adjacent to Road

A trail alignment that runs parallel to the road within the existing ROW. This alignment, sometimes called a side-path, requires ample space between the road and the path for people to comfortably and safely use it.



## Public Meeting on Thursday, June 2

Open House beginning at 6 p.m. / Formal Presentation at 6:30 p.m.

*Estero Recreation Center – Estero Rooms 103 A & B  
9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard, Estero, FL 33928*

