

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN (CPP)

**ADOPTED
February 5, 2025**



St. Lucie

Transportation
Planning
Organization

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is responsible for short and long-range transportation planning for all of St. Lucie County. The TPO's governing body, the TPO Board, comprises elected officials representing the City of Fort Pierce, the City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, St. Lucie Village, and the School Board. The TPO is the designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for planning and prioritizing funding for the development of sidewalks, roadways, bridges, and bicycle facilities for the TPO area, the location of which is shown on the map in Appendix A. A list of acronyms is included in Appendix B. An acronym is a word consisting of parts of full words. For example, TPO is an acronym for Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).

The TPO's Community Participation Plan (CPP) represents the process the TPO uses to help ensure the greatest degree of community input and empowerment when considering transportation priorities and funding. The term "community" refers to all of us who work, live, and play in the St. Lucie TPO area, both residents and visitors.

Methods of community collaboration are continually evolving. Collaboration occurs both formally and informally, and online strategies offer opportunities to reach large, diverse audiences. Consequently, the goals and strategies for the TPO's CPP have evolved and are achieved by weaving both online and in-person efforts.

1.2 Community Participation Plan Requirements

Federal requirements set forth in 23 CFR 450.316 outline specific procedures for conducting transportation planning in an open process. MPOs are required to develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The MPO must develop the participation plan in consultation with all interested parties and, at a minimum, describe explicit procedures, strategies, and desired outcomes.

The federal requirements are summarized below along with how the TPO complies with these requirements on a continuous, comprehensive, and cooperative basis, with the details provided in the referenced sections of this CPP:

- Provide adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comments at key decision points, including a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Input is sought from all interested parties (Section 4). Input may be sought through regular TPO Board and advisory committee meetings, surveys, focus groups, and any other effective means of communication with the public. Notices for meetings are posted at the site of the meeting and on the TPO's website (Section 3). Major transportation documents, as well as information on current events and studies, are made available on the TPO's website for review at key decision points (Section 5).

- Provide timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes.

Public meetings are held for review and consideration of the LRTP, TIP, and transportation issues and processes at key decision points (Section 5), and notices for them are posted generally one week prior to the meetings. Notices also are posted at the site of the meeting and on the TPO's website (Section 3). The LRTP process also uses public open houses/input sessions, with notices of times and locations published and posted. In addition, the LRTP development uses focus groups which include interested members of the public (Sections 5 and 7).

- Employ visualization techniques to describe LRTPs and TIPs.

Numerous graphs, charts, maps, and photographs are used in the LRTP and TIP to enhance understanding of the information being presented. The TPO also uses a Geographic Information System (GIS) for analysis and presentation of information (Sections 5 and 7).

- Make public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web.

Meeting notices and agendas, as well as major documents and information on current projects and studies, are available on the TPO's website (Sections 3, 5 and 7).

- Hold any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times.

TPO Board, LCB, TCCME and TPO advisory committee meetings are held at various times for the convenience of stakeholders at the TPO Office at 466 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Suite 111, Port St. Lucie, Florida, which is accessible by multiple forms of transportation including transit (Section 3). Public open houses and input sessions are held at accessible locations on public transit routes and at different times of day to attract a broader audience (Sections 3 and 7).

- Demonstrate explicit consideration of and response to public input received during the development of the LRTP and TIP.

Public input received on either document are distributed to and discussed by the TPO Board and Advisory Committees at key decision points (Section 5). Comments are responded to and documented (Section 5).

- Seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services.

Notices of meetings are sent to organizations serving these populations (Section 4). Sight, reading, and language assistance is provided at public input sessions, open houses, and public hearings for individuals who request it at least 48 hours in advance (Section 5).

- Provide an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final LRTP or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the TPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts.

In cases of major changes to the draft LRTP or TIP, the TPO will allow for additional time for the public to view said changes and offer comments (Section 5).

- Coordinate with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes.

The TPO's public participation processes are coordinated with the Statewide public participation processes wherever possible to enhance public consideration of the issues, plans, and programs and reduce redundancies and costs (Section 7).

- Periodically review the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.

The CPP undergoes a mid-year review and a formal annual evaluation and is updated as needed (Section 8).

- When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft LRTP and TIP, a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments shall be made as part of the final LRTP and TIP.

Comments received on either document are distributed to and discussed by the TPO Board and Advisory Committees at key decision points (Section 5). Comments are responded to and documented (Section 5).

- Minimum public comment period of 45 days before the community participation process is initially adopted or revised. Copies of the approved participation plan shall be provided to the FHWA and the FTA for informational purposes and shall be posted on the World Wide Web, to the maximum extent practicable.

The TPO provides the public at least 45 days to comment on the CPP adoption or major revisions (Section 5). Copies of the approved participation plan are distributed and posted in accordance with federal guidelines (Section 7).

- Consult with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the metropolitan area.

While developing the LRTP and TIP, the TPO will consult at key decision points with the agencies affected by transportation. This includes agencies associated with economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, freight movements, airport, non-profits, other governmental operations, and environmental protection operations (Sections 4 and 5).

- When the planning area includes Indian Tribal lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the Indian Tribal government(s) in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is a federally recognized tribe with a reservation in Fort Pierce. Because the participation of the Seminole Tribe of Florida is essential to plan for future growth in the TPO area, the TPO actively seeks to keep the tribal government informed of major decisions affecting their geographic area. In addition, the TPO communicates with tribal leaders on an ongoing basis to identify issues of common concern (Sections 4 and 5).

- When the MPA includes Federal public lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the Federal land management agencies in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.

The TPO area is home to several Federal public lands; therefore, the TPO submits drafts at key decision points of the LRTP and TIP development processes to the FHWA Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division for distribution to the applicable Federal agencies for review and comment (Sections 4 and 5).

- MPOs shall, to the extent practicable, develop a documented process(es) that outlines roles, responsibilities, and key decision points for consulting with other governments and agencies.

The process that outlines roles, responsibilities, and key decision points for consulting with other governments and agencies is documented in the CPP and can be found in Section 5.

The above procedures are reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) during certification reviews for the St. Lucie TPO to ensure that full and open access is provided throughout the TPO decision-making process.

1.3 Development of the Community Participation Plan

The CPP was developed in cooperation with the member agencies of the TPO (Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, St. Lucie Village, and the St. Lucie County School District). In addition, the CPP was developed in consultation with FHA, FTA, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as well as the general public. The CPP is approved by the TPO Board and the appropriate state and federal agencies.

The TPO used the principles of nondiscrimination and equity in the preparation of the CPP and is responsive to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as well as other Federal requirements including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The principles of nondiscrimination and equity, also known as environmental justice, are as follows:

- To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations
- To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process
- To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations

The draft CPP was made available for public review through the TPO website, the TPO advisory committees, the LCB, an open public comment period, social media, and other means. This comment period was posted on the TPO web site (www.stlucietpo.org). All notices mentioned when and where copies of the draft documents were available for viewing. The notices also mentioned how and where to send comments.

Social media was a focus of outreach based on the results of a recent survey of local residents that indicated three top ways residents received information about transportation projects: social media, friends/family, and radio/television.

In addition, TPO staff coordinated with local government media specialists to continue taping and airing TPO meetings that included consideration of the CPP on local government and public access television channels. TPO meeting broadcasts are available for viewing at the TPO website and are closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

Once the public review period ended, the staff reviewed all public comments. All public comments and staff recommendations were presented to the TPO Board for review and appropriate action. This meeting of the TPO Board adhered to the meeting format identified for TPO Board meetings in Section 4.

2.0 TPO Roles and Responsibilities

An effective community involvement process is important for ensuring successful implementation of TPO plans, not the least of which is eliminating transportation projects with fatal flaws due to lack of community support or significant environmental impacts, and for meeting Federal and State requirements. The following sections describe the function of the St. Lucie TPO so that the public can better understand the transportation planning process.

The St. Lucie TPO is a metropolitan planning organization (MPO), an association of local agencies that coordinate transportation planning and development activities within a metropolitan area. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962 created the Federal requirement for urban transportation planning largely in response to the construction of the Interstate Highway System and the planning of routes through and around urban areas. The Act required that transportation projects in urbanized areas with populations of 50,000 or more be based on a continuing, comprehensive, urban transportation planning process undertaken cooperatively by the states and local governments.

Ensuring community input is one of the key reasons the federal government established the metropolitan transportation planning process. As detailed in Section 1.2, the process must provide for adequate, timely public notices; visualization techniques; information made available in electronic formats; meetings held at convenient and accessible locations and times; and explicit consideration and response granted to public input received.

The St. Lucie TPO is the designated MPO serving the City of Fort Pierce, the City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie Village, and unincorporated areas of St. Lucie County. The TPO is responsible for ensuring that the allocation of funding for transportation projects and programs is based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process. Community involvement is an important component of this process.

The TPO Board is the decision-making body for the TPO. Decisions are made based on recommendations from the general public, interested parties, and the TPO's advisory committees, some of which are open to membership from the general public.

The day-to-day operations of the TPO are conducted by a staff of transportation planners and other professionals that provide technical assistance and services on a wide variety of issues impacting the TPO area. The staff collects, analyzes, and evaluates demographic, land use, and

transportation data to gain a better understanding of the transportation needs of the area. Staff prepares materials for use at TPO Board and committee meetings and administers the planning, community involvement and Environmental Justice processes for the TPO. In addition, staff members represent the TPO in the planning activities of its partners and stakeholders within the region.



3.0 TPO Boards and Committees

Prior to review and action by the TPO Board, all plans, programs, and major actions are subject to review and comment by the following standing committees: the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). The TPO also serves as the planning agency for the Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged (LCB) and staff for the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC).

Not every meeting conducted by the St. Lucie TPO contains policy actions, but members of the public are afforded opportunities to participate regardless of the topic of discussion. The following section further describes the TPO Board and committees, details these public participation opportunities, and outlines the format of the various board and committee meetings conducted by the TPO.

The public's participation on committees is welcomed and encouraged. To participate on a TPO advisory committee, the LCB, or the TCSHC, an application must be completed and submitted to the TPO for consideration by the TPO Board. The application can be found in Appendix C.

3.1 TPO Board

The TPO is governed by a board, which is composed of elected officials from the three municipalities and a representative from the St. Lucie County School Board. There are 11 voting members on the TPO Board:

- (4) County Commissioners
- (4) City of Port St. Lucie Councilmembers
- (2) City of Fort Pierce Commissioners
- (1) St. Lucie County School Board Member

Schedule: Bimonthly

Location: TPO Offices

Participation: The meetings begin with an opportunity for all persons to address the Board.

Notifications: 1 month prior: Date and time of meeting are posted to TPO website (www.stlucietpo.org).

1 week prior: Agenda of meeting is posted at meeting site and to TPO website and e-mailed to member government public information officers.

3.2 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TPO has established a broad-based TAC for the purpose of advising and providing technical expertise as part of the decision-making process. The TAC represents all modes of transportation as well as various levels of government, including county and city transportation and land use agencies and state agencies.

- Schedule:** Bimonthly
Location: TPO Offices
Participation: The meetings begin with an opportunity for all persons to address the Committee.
Notifications: 1 month prior: Date and time of meeting are posted to TPO website (www.stlucietpo.org).
1 week prior: Agenda of meeting is posted at meeting site and to TPO website and e-mailed to member government public information officers.

3.3 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC facilitates a broad range of public involvement in the transportation planning process. The CAC provides community collaboration on planning proposals, comments with respect to the concerns of various segments of the population and recommends projects and funding allocations for consideration. The CAC plays a significant role in implementing public involvement activities in the planning process. Membership on the CAC is open to the general public.

- Schedule:** Bimonthly
Location: TPO Offices
Participation: The meetings begin with an opportunity for all persons to address the Committee.
Notifications: 1 month prior: Date and time of meeting are posted to TPO website (www.stlucietpo.org).
1 week prior: Agenda of meeting is posted at meeting site and to TPO website and e-mailed to member government public information officers.

3.4 Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

The BPAC provides recommendations regarding bicycle and pedestrian planning and programming activities and coordinates with local and state agencies. Membership on the BPAC is open to the general public.

- Schedule:** Bimonthly
- Location:** TPO Offices
- Participation:** The meetings begin with an opportunity for all persons to address the Committee.
- Notifications:** 1 month prior: Date and time of meeting are posted to TPO website (www.stlucietpo.org).
1 week prior: Agenda of meeting is posted at meeting site and to TPO website and e-mailed to member government public information officers.



3.5 Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB)

The LCB implements the duties of the Florida Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) service delivery program to meet the public transportation needs of persons with physical and economic challenges. The LCB Chairperson is appointed by the TPO Board. Membership on the LCB is open to the general public.

- Schedule:** Quarterly
- Location:** TPO Offices
- Participation:** The meetings begin and end with opportunities for all persons to address the Board.
- Notifications:** 1 month prior: Date and time of meeting are posted to TPO website (www.stlucietpo.org).
1 week prior: Agenda of meeting is posted at meeting site and to TPO website and e-mailed to member government public information officers. Notice published in newspaper.

3.6 Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC) Meetings

The TCSHC explores available opportunities for enhancing the Treasure Coast corridor of the Florida Scenic Highway. The members of the TCSHC include representatives from the local jurisdictions and State and local agencies. Membership on the TCSHC is open to the general public.

- Schedule:** Quarterly
- Location:** TPO Offices
- Participation:** The meetings begin with opportunities for all persons to address the Committee.
- Notifications:**
 - 1 month prior: Date and time of meeting are posted to TPO website (www.stlucietpo.org).
 - 1 week prior: Agenda of meeting is posted at meeting site and to TPO website and e-mailed to local government public information officers.



3.7 Emergency Meetings

Meetings of the TPO Board and Committees are occasionally scheduled on shorter-than-usual notice to take action on matters critical to the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

- Schedule:** As needed in emergencies
- Location:** TPO Offices
- Participation:** The meetings begin with an opportunity for all persons to address the Board or Committee.
- Notifications:** As soon as possible prior to the meeting, the date, time, and agenda of the meeting are posted at the meeting site and to the TPO website (www.stlucietpo.org) and e-mailed to member government public information officers.

3.8 Virtual Meetings

The TPO Board and Advisory Committees may meet virtually through technological means as provided by Florida statutes permitting a quorum to be present by means other than in-person and/or by relevant Executive Orders of the Governor of Florida lawfully suspending the in-person requirement for constituting a quorum during a declared state of emergency.

Schedule: As needed

Location: Online

Participation: The meetings begin with an opportunity for all persons to address the Board or Committee.

Notifications: 1 month prior: Date and time of meeting are posted to TPO website (www.stlucietpo.org).

7 days prior: Agenda of meeting is posted at meeting site and to TPO website and e-mailed to member government public information officers.

Or depending on the state of emergency, as soon as possible prior to the meeting, the date, time, and agenda of the meeting are posted at the meeting site and to the TPO website (www.stlucietpo.org) and e-mailed to member government public information officers.

4.0 Identification of Interested Parties

The TPO develops its plans, programs, and activities in consultation with all interested parties. An interested party is anyone who has an interest in or is impacted by the outcome of a project. The parties to be involved in a planning project will vary depending on the type of participation goal. The participation of interested parties is accomplished through early, frequent, and thorough communication.

An important element of the community participation process is the identification of all interested parties at the onset of a project. There are three different methods the TPO uses to identify such parties:

1. **Self-Identification**—Anyone who has exhibited previous interest through public meeting attendance, written comments, or contact with the TPO.
2. **TPO Identification**—Agencies, organizations, and members of the general public identified from the TPO’s Community Profiles, current mailing lists, field reviews, or public records.
3. **Third-Party Identification**—Members of the general public and private groups as identified through known stakeholders.

4.1 Categorical Representatives

There are federal requirements directing MPOs on whom they must provide reasonable opportunities to be involved in the transportation planning process. Some required groups are reached through targeted outreach efforts during plan updates or through participation on the TPO Board and various advisory committees. The TPO makes every effort to include the following representatives:

- General public
- Affected public agencies
- Representatives of public transportation employees
- Freight shippers and providers of freight transportation services
- Public ports
- Private providers of transportation
- Representatives of users of public transportation and intercity bus operators
- Employer-based commuting programs

- Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities
- Representatives of persons with disabilities
- The tourist industry
- Native American tribal governments
- Natural disaster risk reduction officials
- Community-based mobility advocacy groups
- Recipients of assistance under Title 49 USC Chapter 53
- Recipients of assistance under Title 23 USC Chapter 201-204
- Federal land management agencies
- Governmental agencies and non-profits that receive federal assistance from a source other than the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide non-emergency transportation services

4.2 Governmental Units

Various units of government play a vital role in the transportation planning process and are thus considered to be interested parties. These agencies include:

- City of Fort Pierce
- City of Port St. Lucie
- St. Lucie County
- St. Lucie Village
- Indian River County
- Martin County
- Okeechobee County
- Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- Various environmental agencies

4.3 Traditionally Underserved Populations

Traditionally underserved populations, also known as Environmental Justice (EJ) or Title VI populations, are identified by the federal government as low-income or minority populations. As part of its planning process, the TPO is required to evaluate the impact its projects have on these populations. The essence of effective environmental justice practice is summarized in three fundamental principles:

- Avoid, minimize, and lessen negative effects
- Ensure full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities
- Prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations

The TPO is committed to ensuring the full and fair participation of all potentially affected communities by striving for continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive public involvement in transportation decision-making. The TPO uses various data tools and maps to assist in identifying and building better relationships with the community.

The locations of traditionally underserved households are depicted on maps in Appendix A. The map series was developed for the TPO area to identify disadvantaged communities and ensure these populations are provided with various opportunities to meaningfully engage in the transportation planning process. These resources also ensure that there is not a significant disparity of impacts in accessibility to and delivery of transportation facilities and services. 2020 Census data and 2018-2022 American Community Survey data were utilized in the Geographic Information System (GIS) to identify Census Block Groups where one or more of the following thresholds (percentage equaling 1.5 times the County average) were met:

Demographic Variables	County Average	1.5x Threshold
% minority population	46.2%	69%
% Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population	7.3%	11%
% population with incomes below poverty line	12.5%	19%
% population 20-64 years old with disabilities	11.5%	17%
% households without a vehicle	4.5%	7%
% senior (65+) population	24.4%	37%

The thresholds were established based on industry standards, previous studies, and a degree of discretion. Larger multipliers, and therefore higher thresholds, generally result in smaller areas being selected. Setting a threshold of 1.5 times the County average ensured the selected areas had statistical significance while resulting in a reasonable number of block groups. The six variables above were overlain on a map of the TPO area to determine the disadvantaged score for each Census Block Group, a process depicted in the Community Profiles Map Series in Appendix A.

By overlaying proposed projects from the TPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) on the Community Profiles Maps, it may be determined if significant disparities of impacts in accessibility to and delivery of transportation facilities and services exist among these communities. In addition, the maps allow future outreach efforts to be tailored to specific communities to optimize the results of these efforts and to obtain comprehensive and meaningful public input. For example, some TPO workshops are specifically designed to attract racial/ethnic minority and low-income populations and are thus held at times and locations that are most convenient for the communities served. In addition, members of these communities are recruited to participate in community-wide events.

4.4 Native American Tribal Governments

The TPO area includes property owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The TPO maintains contact with the Executive Office of the local Seminole Tribe, through which communications regarding TPO plans, programs, and activities are regularly sent to the tribal government. The TPO dialogue with the Seminole Tribe remains open and outreach efforts are continually expanding. The location of Indian tribal lands is depicted on a map in Appendix A

4.5 Federal Land Management Agencies

The Federal government owns millions of acres of land throughout the United States that is managed by Federal agencies. Four agencies -- the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Service (NPS) in the Department of the Interior, and the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture -- manage most of these federal lands.

The TPO area includes lands that are owned and managed by the Federal government as depicted on the map in Appendix A. Therefore, the TPO will submit drafts at key decision points of the LRTP and TIP to the FHWA Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division for distribution to the applicable Federal agencies for review and comment.

5.0 Interested Party Consultation and Public Comment

As an agency, the TPO's primary function is to coordinate multimodal transportation project planning and funding. In addition to the development of the TIP and LRTP, planning tasks of the TPO include regional coordination, bicycle and pedestrian planning, mobility management, demographic data collection, and CPP processes and plan updates. These efforts are conducted throughout the TPO area and in cooperation with various State, regional, and local agencies responsible for transportation and land use planning. The TPO also works closely with the Martin and Indian River MPOs and collaborates with the MPOs of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and the Heartland Region in larger regional discussions of transportation and mobility.

The TPO develops and distributes numerous documents throughout the year and participates in a variety of public outreach activities. All these publications, reports, and activities are designed to make the transportation planning process as accessible and transparent as possible.

Effective outreach requires timely notice of the TPO's activities to allow the public adequate opportunity to review and comment at key decision points, from development of the plan/activity to meetings of the TPO's boards and committees.

A public review and comment period is conducted prior to the adoption of major TPO plans or programs by the TPO Board. During comment periods, draft documents are available on the TPO's website, and hard copies are made available for public review and comment at the TPO offices. The TPO may provide hard copy draft documents for public review and commentary at other locations as well.

In its communications to the public, the TPO adheres to the "plain language" principles required by Federal and State government. As outlined in FDOT's *Public Involvement Handbook* (October 2023), specific requirements include:

- Use of common language instead of technical jargon
- Providing only the pertinent information in an organized manner
- Use of short sentences and active voice
- Layout and design that are user friendly

5.1 Planning Documents/Programs, Key Decision Points, and Public Comment Periods

The following recurring documents and programs result from the TPO's planning process. Each has its own key decision points and target public comment periods, which are listed below.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

The LRTP identifies transportation improvements necessary to maintain mobility due to anticipated growth in the TPO area. The LRTP identifies needed and affordable highway, transit, pedestrian, bicycle, trail, airport, and Intelligent Transportation System projects for the next 25 years.

Key Decision Points: Scope adoption, needs assessment, alternatives development, project prioritization, draft document review, and amendments

Target Public Comment Review Period: 14 days

Review Meetings: Workshops, TPO Board, LCB, and advisory committees

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP is updated annually and is used as a short-term transportation programming document. The TIP contains a list of upcoming transportation projects over the next five years. The TPO must coordinate these priority transportation projects with Federal, State, and local governments.

Key Decision Points: Project prioritization, draft document review, and amendments

Target Public Comment Review Period: 14 days

Review Meetings: TPO Board and advisory committees

Community Participation Plan (CPP)

The Community Participation Plan (CPP) is a resource document that guides public participation for all TPO activities and events with a comprehensive approach to public outreach methods and monitoring. The CPP's development is based on public input, including surveys. The development of the CPP is an important step in clarifying and documenting the TPO's commitment to public input and impact into the transportation planning process.

Key Decision Points: Draft document review

Target Public Comment Review Period: 45 days

Review Meetings: TPO Board, LCB, and advisory committees

Congestion Management Process (CMP)

The CMP identifies areas of significant congestion and provides recommendations for improvements to mitigate those concerns. Recommendations from the CMP typically include operational improvements, measures to reduce single occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel and encourage high occupancy vehicle (HOV) use, public transit investments, and alternatives to improve other modes such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities. While not specifically part of the CMP plan, land use considerations are increasingly part of the CMP process discussion.

Key Decision Points: Needs assessment, alternatives development, project prioritization, and draft document review

Minimum Public Comment Review Period: 14 days

Review Meetings: TPO Board and advisory committees

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP defines the planning activities to be undertaken by the TPO, the sources of revenue for the TPO, and the estimated budget for each fiscal year. The UPWP is developed every two years and is revised as needed. The work program describes the planning tasks to be fulfilled in the specific year, costs associated with each activity, and the responsible agencies.

Key Decision Points: Call for Planning Projects, draft document review, and amendments

Target Public Comment Review Period: 14 days

Review Meetings: TPO Board, LCB, and advisory committees

Title VI Plan

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 mandates non-discrimination by race, color, or national origin in connection with programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. The TPO values diversity and both welcomes and actively seeks input from all interested parties, regardless of race,

color, national origin, age, sex, income, disability, religion, or family status. The TPO has developed a Title VI/ Nondiscrimination Policy, Plan and Program to provide an opportunity for all persons to participate in the planning process. The Policy and Plan includes Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan components.

The Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, a component of the TPO's Title VI Plan, outlines the basis for which the TPO will provide language assistance to members of the public who speak little or no English. At this time, the TPO has determined that language assistance may be necessary primarily in Spanish and Haitian-Creole. The TPO will take reasonable steps to provide language assistance in these languages. However, the TPO does not intend for its LEP Plan to exclude anyone requiring language assistance and will attempt to accommodate all requests for assistance.

Key Decision Points: Draft document review

Target Public Comment Review Period: 14 days

Review Meetings: TPO Board, LCB, and advisory committees

Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP)

The TDSP provides for the availability of efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for transportation disadvantaged persons in the community. The TDSP is developed jointly by TPO staff and St. Lucie County transit staff.

Key Decision Points: Draft document review

Target Public Comment Review Period: 14 days

Review Meetings: LCB

Transit Development Plan (TDP)

The TDP is the public transportation provider's strategic guide for public transportation over the next 10 years. The TDP identifies public transportation service improvement priorities, determines the operating and capital costs to implement these service improvement priorities, and outlines a strategy for implementation.

Key Decision Points: Needs assessment, alternatives development, project prioritization, and draft document review

Target Public Comment Review Period: 14 days

Review Meetings: Workshops, TPO Board, LCB, and advisory committees

Special Projects and Programs

In addition to plans, programs, and activities that address Federal and State planning requirements, the TPO often undertakes one-time planning studies to investigate and better understand specific transportation problems and to help define the best possible solutions. Examples are corridor analyses and interested party requests to address specified local needs and issues.

Key Decision Points: Scope adoption, draft document review, and any other items of consideration required by the project/issue

Target Public Comment Review Period: 14 days

Review Meetings: Varies according to the project/issue

5.2 Consideration of Public Comments

The TPO demonstrates explicit consideration and response to community input received during the development of the LRTP, the TIP, and other major documents. The TPO provides additional opportunities for public comment if the final version of these documents differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the TPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the community participation efforts. When written and oral comments are received during this participation process on the draft plans or programs, such as the LRTP and TIP, a summary report on how those comments were addressed is included in the final document. An example of a comment summary is provided in Appendix D.

6.0 Public Participation Strategies

Why is Public Participation Important?

Public participation ensures the community has a voice in the decision-making process. The information and perspectives gained through community participation assist decision-makers and result in more meaningful and comprehensive planning. Effective public involvement allows for the identification of issues, such as lack of community support or significant environmental impacts, early in the planning process.

Federal and State regulations require that all metropolitan planning organizations develop an inclusive public involvement process. The TPO satisfies this requirement as well as various nondiscrimination laws and regulations including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Coordination with the Statewide Public Participation Process

The following Guiding Principles for Public Involvement, derived from FDOT's *Public Involvement Handbook* (October 2023), summarize FDOT's approach to incorporating community input into the planning process that the TPO supports. In addition, further coordination occurs through the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) and FDOT's non-voting memberships on the TPO Board, TAC, and BPAC.

Early and Continuous Engagement

Develop and promote effective and efficient opportunities for public engagement at every stage of the plan or project, starting from the early phases and continuing throughout the entire process.

Community-Centric Approach

Emphasize a community-centric approach that incorporates the views and local preferences of the community when making key decisions.

Established Procedures

Rely on established procedures outlined in relevant handbooks and manuals. Develop a Project Record that describes the public process used to guide key project decisions and community-based outcomes.

Relationship Building

Enhance relationships with all transportation partners, including affected residents, businesses, State agencies, statewide organizations, community leaders, and other stakeholders.

Tailored Engagement Methods

Utilize a variety of methods to engage and collaborate with the community and public, providing multiple opportunities for participation and input.

Effective Communications

Use plain language to clearly communicate information and ensure that it is easy to understand for the community, making the information as accessible as possible.

Strengthening Partnerships

Proactively and collaboratively strengthen partnerships with all those involved in the transportation process, fostering constructive relationships and mutual cooperation.

Coordination with the Federal Public Participation Process

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published a guidebook entitled *Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making* (2023) to assist agencies in incorporating the voice of communities into transportation decision making. One of the recommendations in the guidebook is to use a framework for participation, such as the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Public Participation Spectrum, which outlines the level of influence the public might have on the decision or action being considered through community engagement efforts. Potential levels of public influence can vary from low (informing the public of a decision) to medium (seeking public input for a decision made by the organization) to high (empowering the public to make the decision).

The U.S. DOT *Equity Action Plan* highlights work that the DOT will undertake to expand access and opportunity while focusing on underserved, overburdened, and disadvantaged communities. The Plan highlights metrics and actions that fall under five focus areas, or "Pillars," described along with their anticipated outcomes below.

Wealth Creation

Upgrade skills, grow entrepreneurs, increase incomes, expand net asset ownership, and foster social well-being for underserved communities through direct procurement, infrastructure projects, community wealth building, and industry at large.

Power of Community

Ensure individuals and communities have a greater voice in transportation decisions affecting them.

Proactive Intervention, Planning and Capacity Building

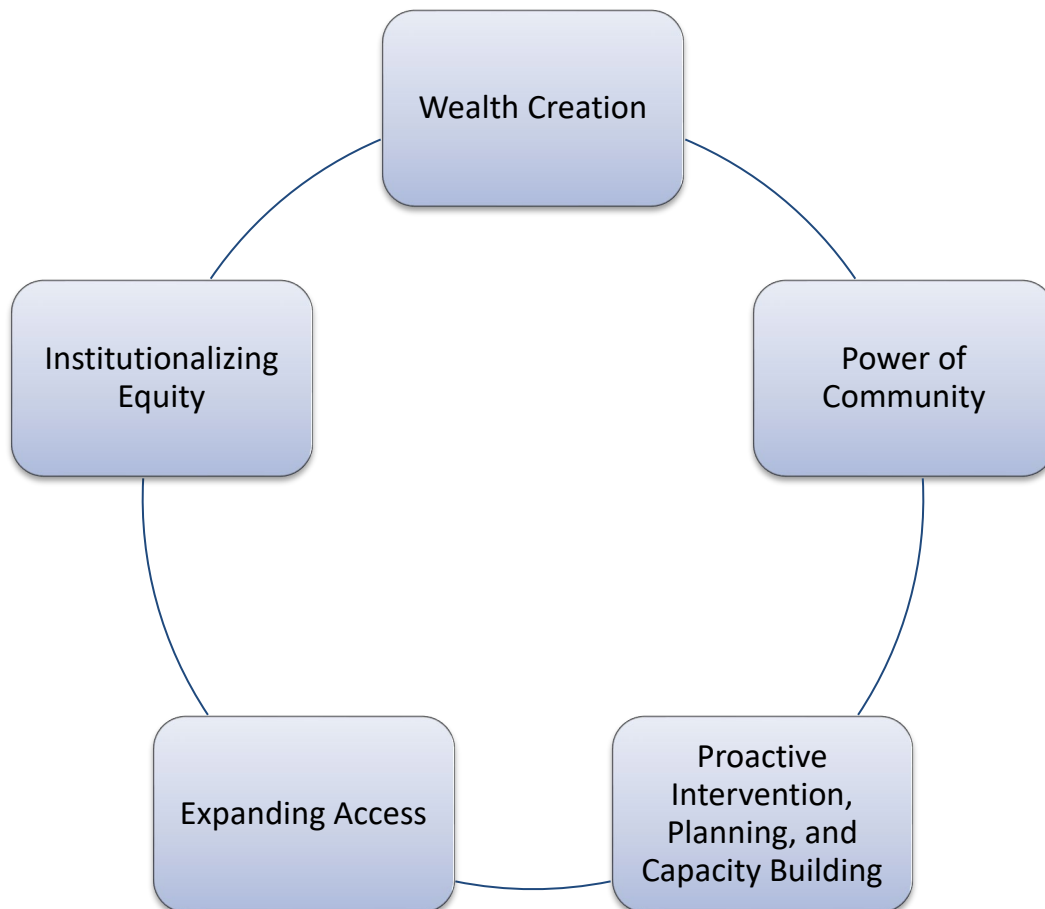
Ensure historically overburdened and underserved communities in urban and rural areas benefit from access to a generational investment in the nation’s infrastructure through direct, hands-on technical support for transportation projects with local impact.

Expanding Access

Increase social and economic opportunity for disadvantaged and underserved communities through the provision of affordable multi-modal transportation options and the development of a transportation cost burden measure.

Institutionalizing Equity

Continuously provide resources to embed equity, civil rights, and social justice initiatives into the Department’s decision-making processes—including meaningful public involvement—and ensure that equity is a core part of the Department’s mission and culture.



7.0 Participation Methods

This CPP demonstrates the TPO's strong commitment to community involvement. To ensure continuous improvement in our efforts and to continuously identify new avenues to involve all interested parties in our efforts, the TPO urges you to contact us through one of the methods identified below with any feedback or suggestions you may have.

Email: TPOadmin@stlucieco.org
Facebook: St. Lucie TPO
X: @StLucieTPO
Phone: 772-462-1593
Address: Coco Vista Centre
466 Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Suite111
Port St. Lucie, FL 34953

7.1 Tools and Techniques

The TPO reaches out to the community and partnering agencies on an ongoing basis and through a variety of methods. Public input on outreach methods informs how we develop and implement our comprehensive and continuous outreach activities. With an emphasis on early and transparent outreach, the TPO tailors the way we reach different sectors of the public using the following tools and techniques.

Advisory Committee Meetings

The TPO Board Advisory Committees include the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Advisory Committees meet prior to TPO Board meetings and review and provide recommendations to the Board on transportation plans and programs.

Career Fairs

As the field of transportation planning is multidisciplinary and dynamic, TPO staff support career fairs to assist jobseekers by providing information on the range of transportation career paths.

Comments Summaries

The TPO's major plans and studies include summaries of significant comments which describe where the comments were addressed in the plan or study.

Community Facilitators

The TPO seeks to identify community facilitators, experienced residents of a project area who act as liaisons to bring in community members to enhance, support and reinforce public involvement in the transportation decision-making process.

Community Participation Evaluations

The TPO regularly evaluates the effectiveness of the CPP strategies in maximizing the public's role in transportation decision-making. The evaluations occur both formally and informally. An annual evaluation of the CPP is presented to the TPO Board and its Advisory Committees.

Eblasts/Direct Mail

The TPO sends out periodic updates to subscribers who have opted-in to receive emails or direct mail. These communications announce upcoming community participation opportunities and report news that may be of interest to TPO stakeholders.

Email, Mail, Telephone, In-Person

The TPO encourages public comment and interaction and has created a form (available in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole) for community members to use when providing comments. The form is included in Appendix E.

Environmental Justice Analyses of TPO Plans

The TPO engages in a process whereby historically disadvantaged communities are identified along with the degree to which TPO plans serve the needs of those communities.

Events/Presentations

The TPO participates in community events and may set up informational booths to engage the public. Pop-up engagement techniques at places like flea markets, libraries, and health centers are used to solicit informal

feedback on planning efforts. The TPO sometimes makes formal presentations at these events.

Focus Groups

A focus group is a group interview in which a select number of persons sharing similar characteristics or common interests are led into a discussion on a predetermined topic by a facilitator. The TPO occasionally initiates focus groups to obtain the community's input on specific transportation issues.

Gamification

The TPO develops interactive games or gamifies surveys to increase participation and engagement in a fun and informative way.

Immersive Technologies

Virtual reality technologies can be used for virtual project exploration or augmented reality experiences in which project information is overlaid on real-world environments. Such technologies enable the TPO to better communicate to stakeholders the impacts of particular plans and projects, and they also enable community members to provide more thorough feedback.

Information Galleries and Kiosks

The TPO maintains a gallery space in its offices where informational maps and videos can be viewed during normal business hours and during open house events. Information is also provided to partner organizations to display at their bulletin boards, break rooms, kiosks, etc.

Interactive Maps

The TPO uses an interactive community engagement map platform that allows the public to make place-based comments in real time. The platform includes the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and other transportation needs and project initiatives for public viewing.

Library Outreach

The TPO often conducts public outreach at branch libraries. Libraries nationwide are increasingly being developed according to a community center model where patrons can access a wide variety of programs, a

development that has likely contributed to a recent Pew Research Center survey showing that lower income persons and communities of color are more likely to see libraries as community anchors. The survey also showed that these persons are likely to be frequent users of libraries. The TPO therefore considers branch libraries to be an effective site for outreach to all communities within the TPO area.

Posters/Flyers/Brochures

The TPO creates posters, flyers, and brochures for distributing information about the TPO and major planning efforts. The TPO also produces maps such as the bicycle facilities map available for download on the TPO website.

Press Releases

The TPO creates press releases to inform the community about important projects and opportunities for the public to get involved.

Public Events/Presentations

The TPO hosts and attends public events as well as delivers presentations to community groups upon request.

Public Meetings

The TPO holds public meetings routinely throughout the year, exemplified whenever the TPO advisory committees make recommendations on plans or projects or when the TPO Board or LCB act on plans or projects. All meetings comply with Florida Government-in-the-Sunshine laws, and all are held in ADA accessible locations. Translation or sign language services are available upon request.

Comments received during public comment periods at the public meetings are included in meeting summaries, and public comments are considered by the advisory committees, TPO Board or LCB prior to adoption of plans or projects. An example of a comment summary is shown in Appendix D. All TPO Board, LCB, and advisory committee meetings, times, agendas, and locations are announced online according to the schedule outlined in Section 3. Notices of meetings are also posted at the TPO office. An example of a public notice is shown in Appendix F. Video recordings of the TPO Board meetings are available through the TPO website.

Questionnaires, Polls, and Surveys

The TPO uses public comment forms, surveys, and questionnaires to encourage the community to provide input and suggestions concerning transportation planning activities. These tools are provided in-person and online for planning efforts of all scales. Because current U.S. Census estimates indicate that nine percent of households in St. Lucie County lack broadband access at home, in-person interviews are conducted where people tend to congregate, such as at transit hubs. Printed surveys are distributed at meetings, workshops, and events and are often accompanied by an online option for those who prefer to complete surveys on their smartphones using a QR code. At a recent, large-scale event that attracted the general population, one-third of survey participants opted for the use of paper surveys over the online option, and those who preferred the paper surveys were generally senior citizens.

Radio and Television

TPO staff seek opportunities to speak about transportation projects on local radio and television stations.

Site Visits

Site visits are trips to proposed or existing project areas, corridors, or affected properties. Also known as field visits or site tours, these excursions provide TPO staff and other attendees with first-hand knowledge of a site. They can include community members, officials, agencies, organizations, and consultants.

Social Media

The TPO uses social media platforms such as X and Facebook to post announcements, meeting/workshop schedules, safety reminders, and planning activities with engagement opportunities.

Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholder interviews are one-on-one discussions with subject matter experts who have an interest in a particular topic. A facilitator guides the interviewee in a structured set of questions. The TPO uses stakeholder interviews to obtain in-depth input on a wide variety of initiatives.

Virtual Rooms

Virtual rooms display project information in a manner that is similar to that of a physical open house but adapted to an online format. Virtual rooms enable the dissemination of important project information to those who may be unable to attend in-person open houses and facilitate the TPO's goal of fostering meaningful public input among all the communities in the TPO area.

Visualization/Infographics/3D Animations

The TPO uses visualization, infographic, and 3D animation techniques to clarify complex information. Maps, graphics, and videos are used extensively in documents and supplemental materials to illustrate existing and future conditions of transportation systems and to depict the movement of pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.

Website/Website Accessibility

The TPO website is continuously updated with meeting notifications, public comment opportunities, interactive surveys when appropriate, and links to video-recorded Board meetings. The website also provides access to planning data through maps, studies, and plans.

To ensure electronic communications are accessible to persons with disabilities, the TPO uses accessibility plugins that enable users to alter the presentation of the website on demand. The TPO uses tools to ensure all content posted to the website meets accessibility standards and makes every attempt to meet accessibility requirements for all third-party engagement applications used on its website.

Workshops/Open Houses

Public workshops are useful in providing the community with opportunities to offer input regarding specific projects and plans. Materials provided at workshops may include maps, fact sheets, project documents, surveys, and other related project materials.

Workshops can be conducted as informal, open house formats where attendees are invited to arrive at their convenience, browse a collection of displays, ask questions or make comments, and then leave when they wish. The TPO often collaborates with community-based organizations in low-income and minority communities to recruit participation.

7.2 Levels of Influence

Each of the participation tools and techniques will be considered for use based on the level of influence such participation might have on the decisions or actions of the TPO. The levels of influence, which range from low to high influence, are categorized as follows:

Inform: Distribute information to the community.

Consult: Obtain community feedback with the community seeing the results of its participation.

Involve: Understand and consider the concerns and needs of the community with the community seeing the results of its participation.

Collaborate: Partner with the community in the refinement of alternatives and solutions to address the needs and concerns of the community with the community seeing the results of its participation.

Empower: Partner with the community in the development of community-initiated alternatives and solutions to address the needs and concerns of the community with the community seeing the results of its participation.

The resulting level of influence will be evaluated as an Outcome Measure when reviewing the effectiveness of the CPP (Section 8).

8.0 Reviewing the Effectiveness of the CPP

The CPP is evaluated at least annually to determine how effective it was in accomplishing its goals. The effectiveness of the CPP is determined by using performance measures, setting targets for those measures, and comparing the measurable results to the targets. The participation methods of the CPP subsequently are selected and/or updated based on the evaluation.

The performance measures of the CPP Evaluation align with the Engagement Output and Outcome Measures described in *Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making* (2023) The Output Measures are assessed after the participation methods are completed and are easily measured such as event attendance, online engagements, and engagement of the traditionally underserved. The Outcome Measures identify the level of influence of the participation methods such as how public input received by the method was used by the TPO and affected the resulting end products.

The following Output Measures will be assessed as part of the CPP Evaluation:

Participation Output Measure	Target	Result	Target Met?
Total Participation (online)			
Total Participation (in-person)			
Minority Population*			
LEP Population*			
Population with incomes below poverty line*			
Population 20-64 years old with disabilities*			
Households without a vehicle*			
Senior (65+) population*			

*Based on St. Lucie TPO Community Profiles (Section 4.3)

Demographics in the table above will be determined through self-identification using surveys with optional demographic questions. Incentives may be provided to survey respondents who answer these questions. To the greatest extent possible, surveys will be distributed in geographic areas known to include disadvantaged populations.

The Outcome Measures will be assessed as part of the CPP Evaluation by summarizing the level of influence of each participation measure that was used as follows:

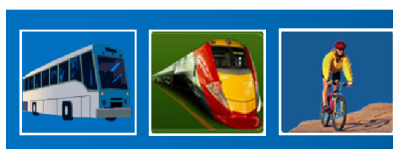
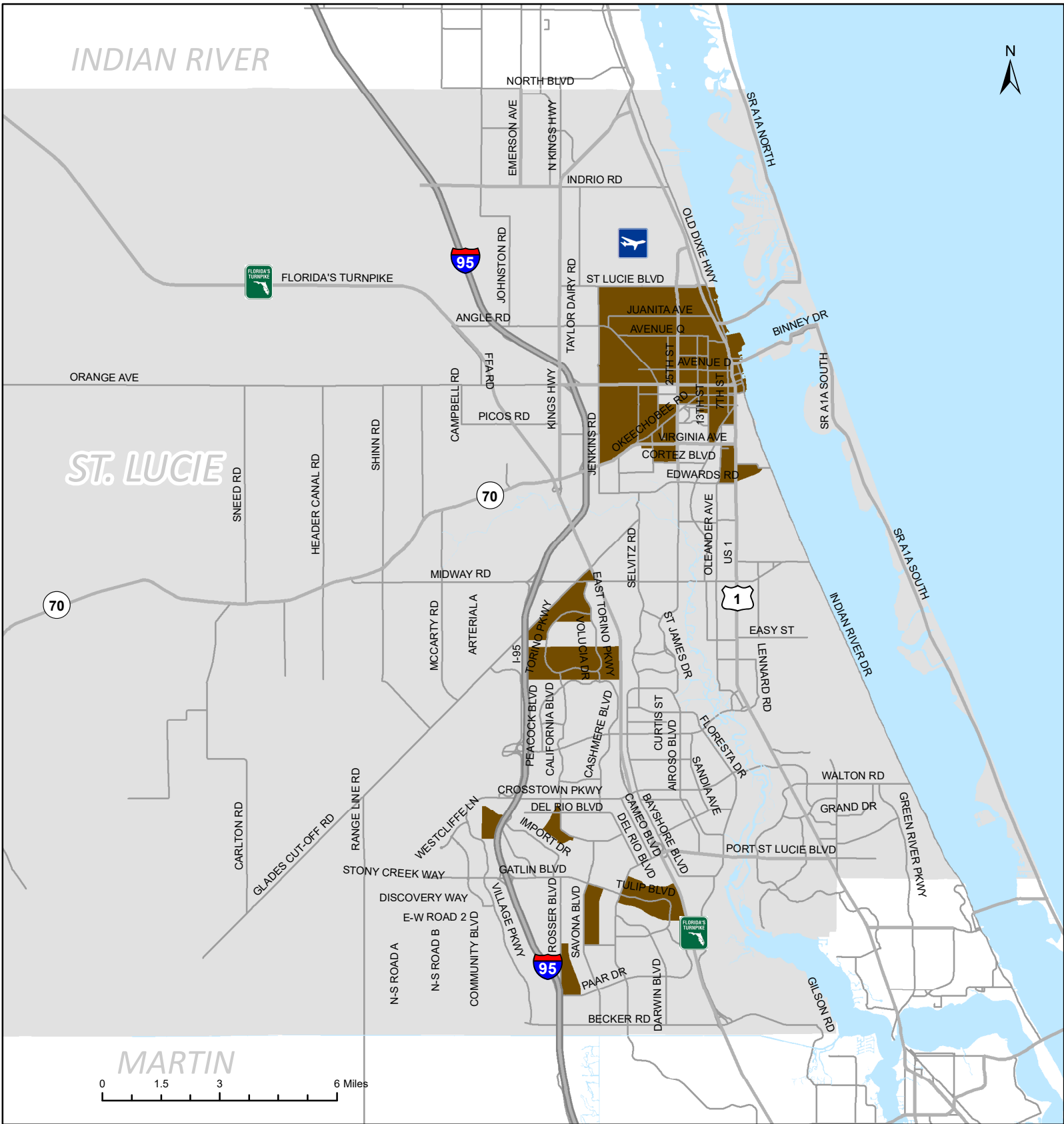
Level of Influence Category	Number of Participation Methods Used	Target*	Result*	Target Met?
Inform		20%		
Consult		20%		
Involve		20%		
Collaborate		20%		
Empower		20%		
TOTAL		100%	100%	

*Percentage of Total Number of Participation Methods Used

The participation methods used for future outreach/engagement efforts will be selected and/or updated based at least in part on the Output and Outcome Measures meeting the targets.

APPENDICES

Minority Population

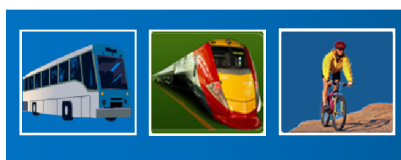
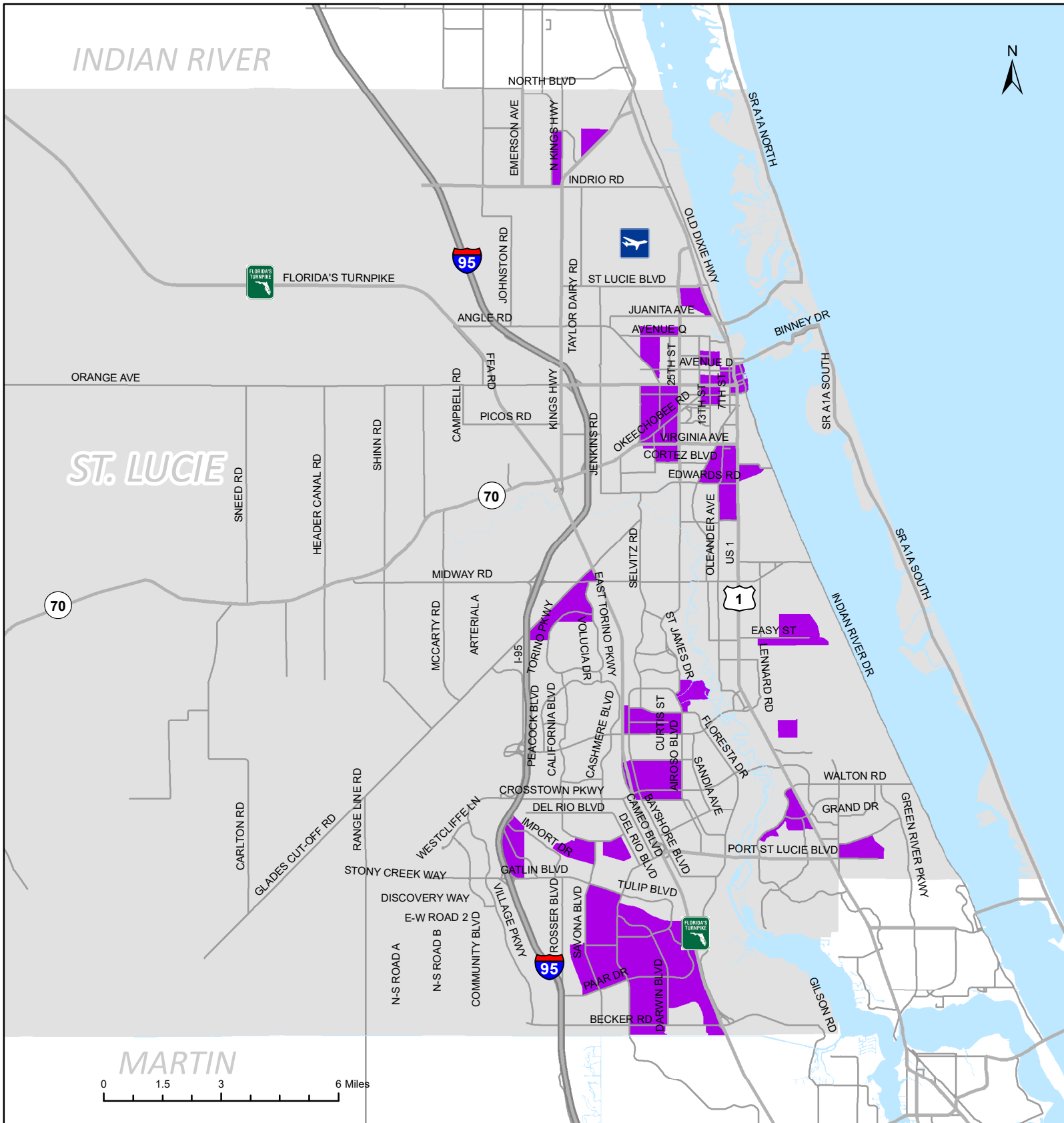


St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization


Percentage of "Minority Population" meet the threshold of 69.3%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2018-2022)

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Population

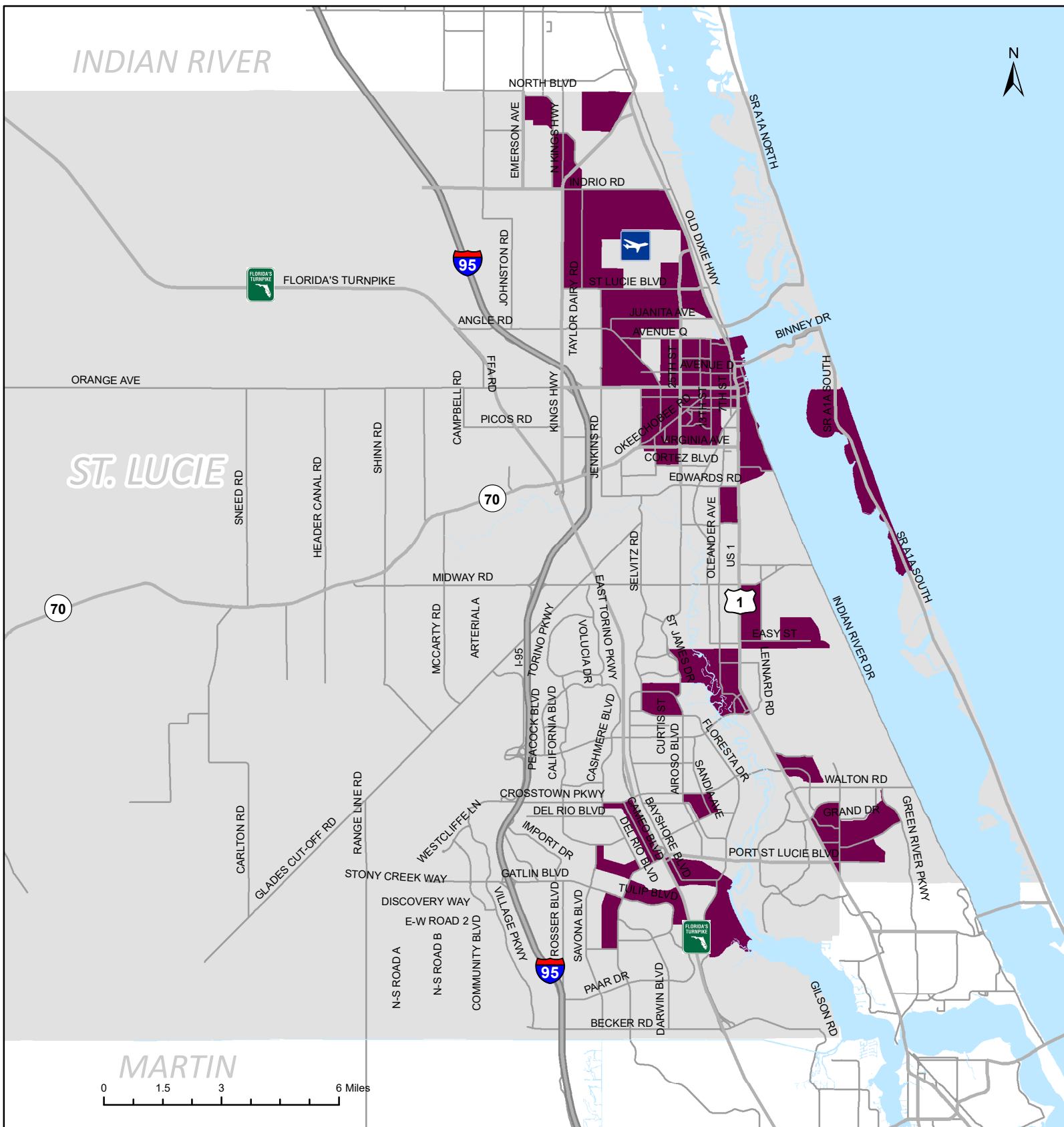


St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization


 Percentage of "LEP Population" meet the threshold of 10.9%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2018-2022)

Population with Income below Poverty Line

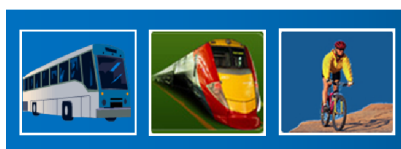
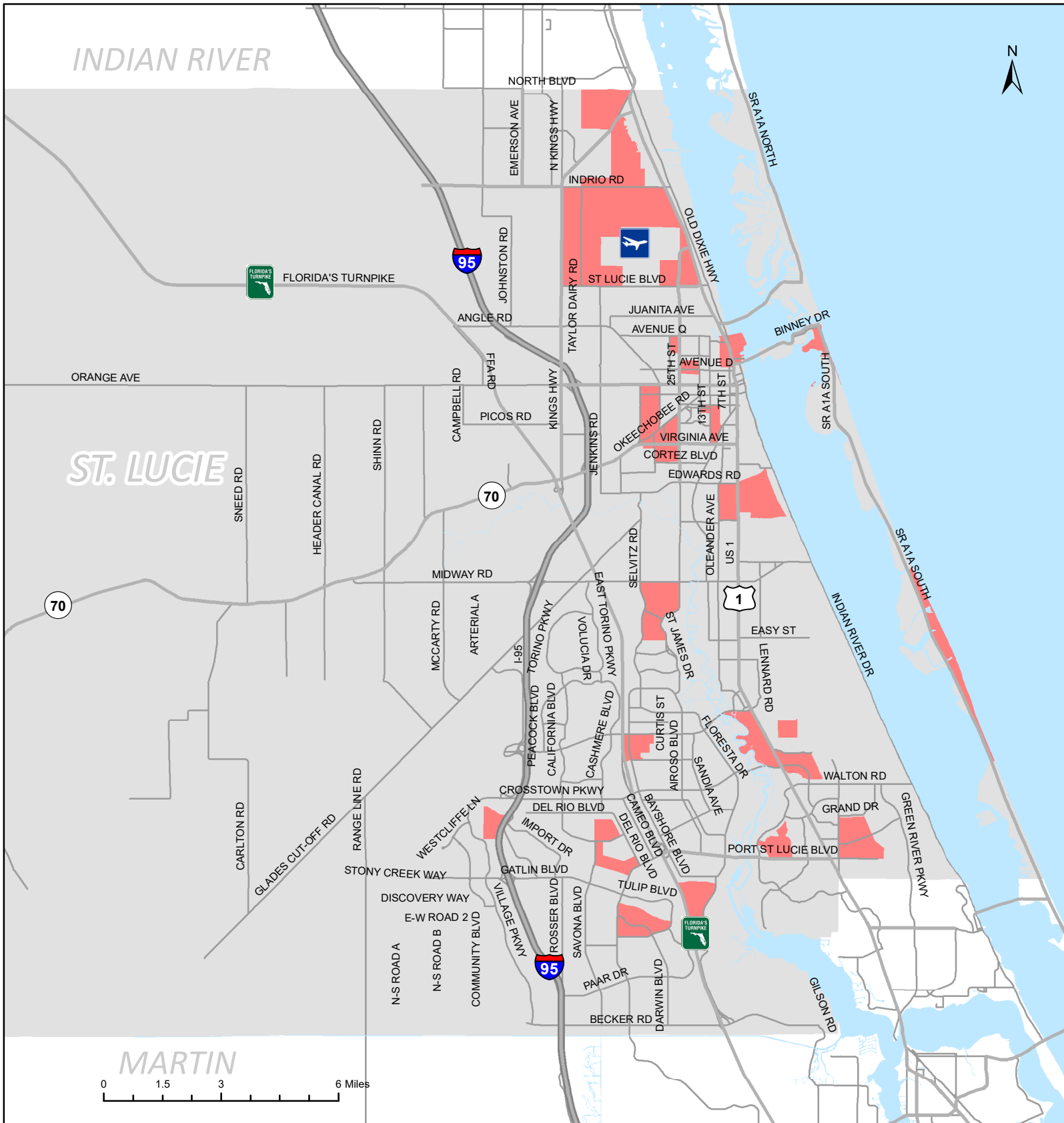


St. Lucie Transportation
Planning
Organization

 Percentage of "Population in Poverty" meet the threshold of 18.7%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2018-2022)

Population 20-64 Years with Disabilities

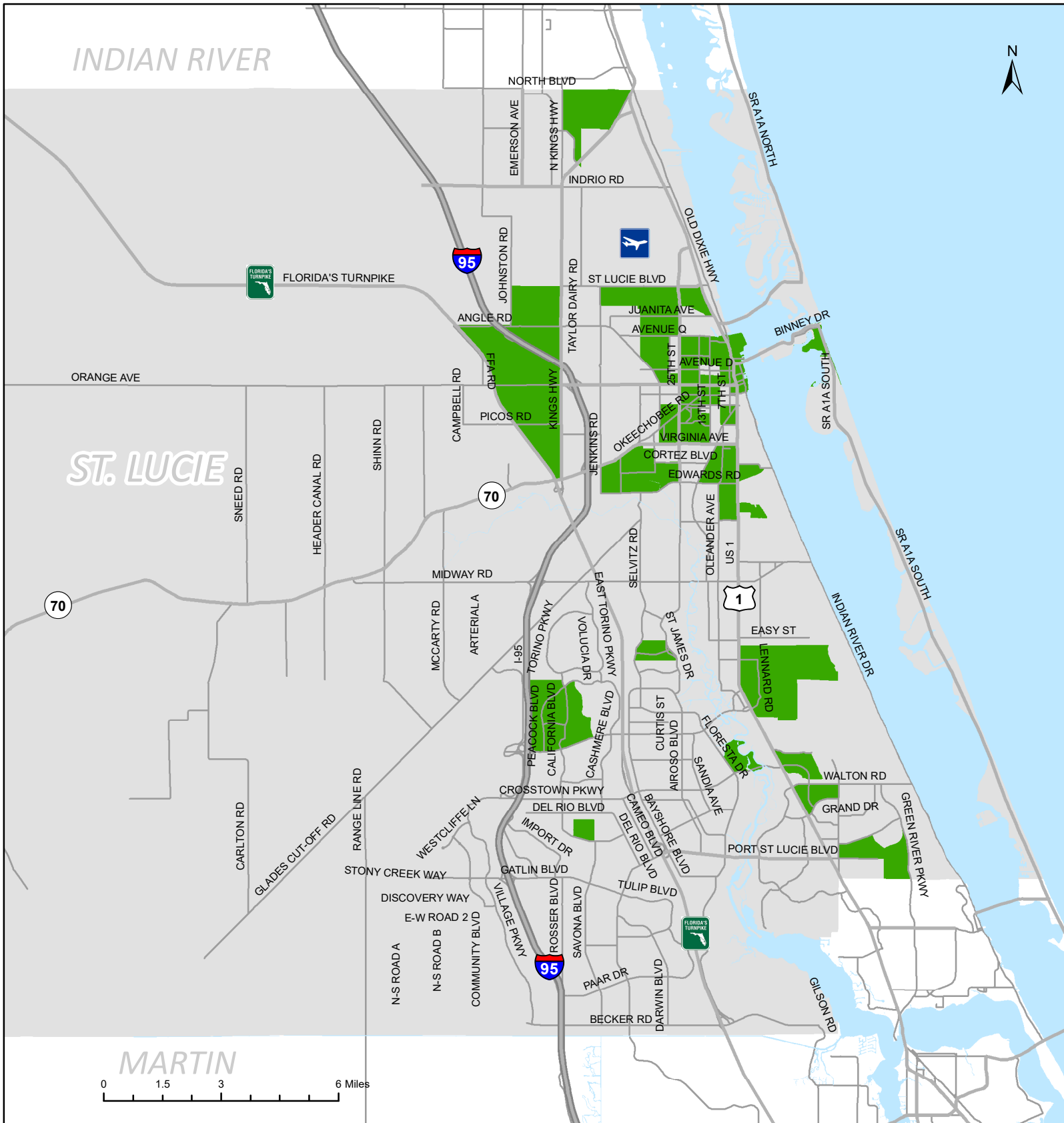


St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization


■ Percentage of "Population with Disabilities" meet the threshold of 17.3%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2018-2022)

Households without Vehicle

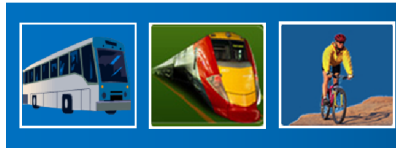
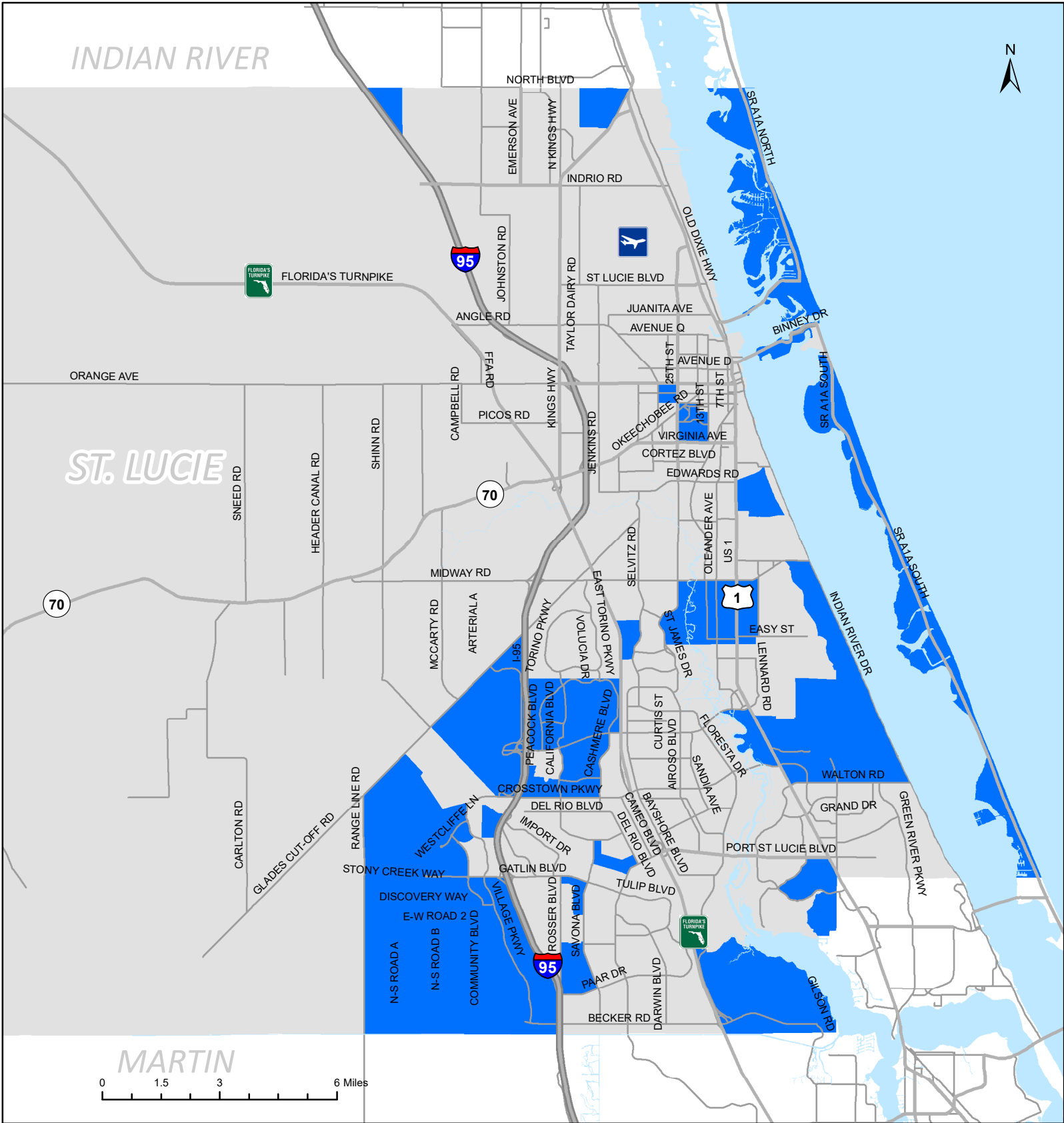


Transportation
St. Lucie Planning
Organization

 Percentage of "Household without Vehicle" meet the threshold of 6.8%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2018-2022)

Senior Population (65 years and older)

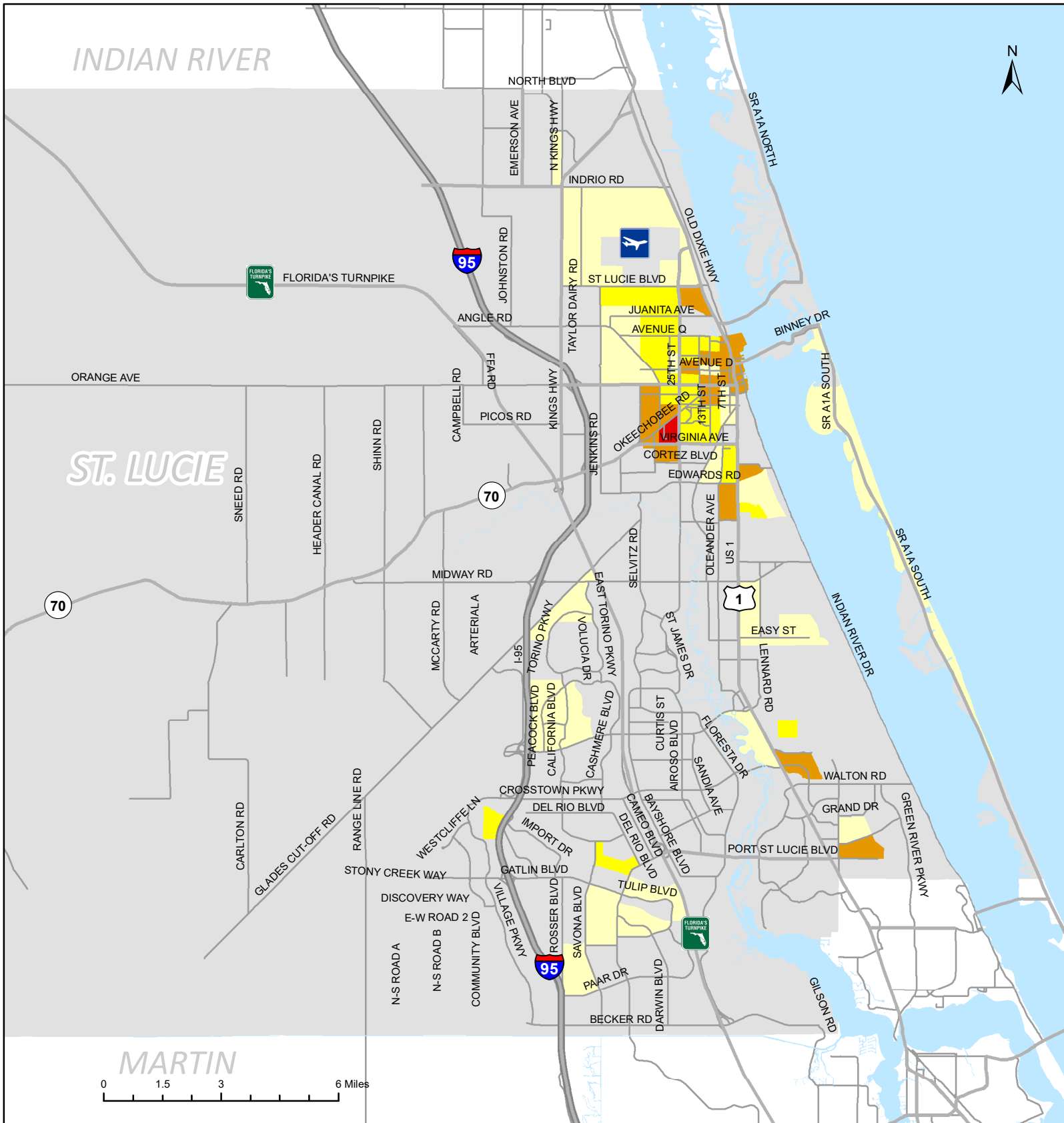


St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization

Percentage of "Senior Population" meet the threshold of 36.6%

Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2018-2022)

Disadvantaged Communities



Disadvantaged Score



Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates (2018-2022)

TRANSPORTATION ACRONYM LIST

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BIL	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
BOCC	St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners
BPAC	Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
CMP	Congestion Management Process
CPP	Community Participation Plan
CTC	Community Transportation Coordinator
F.A.C.	Florida Administrative Code
FCTD	Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
F.S.	Florida Statute
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FY	Fiscal Year
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
ITS	Intelligent Transportation System
LCB	Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged
L RTP	Long-Range Transportation Plan
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
PPP	Public Participation Plan
SR	State Road
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TCCME	Treasure Coast Corridor Management Entity
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TD	Transportation Disadvantaged
TDP	Transit Development Plan
TDSP	Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

TRANSPORTATION ACRONYM LIST

TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TPO	Transportation Planning Organization
US DOT	United States Department of Transportation
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program



APPLICATION FOR SERVING ON COMMITTEES/BOARD

1. Name _____
2. Home or Mobile Phone _____ 3. Email Address _____
4. Home Address _____
5. How long have you lived at this location? _____
6. Business Address (optional) _____
7. Business Phone (optional) _____
8. Are you employed by a government agency? Yes_____ No_____
9. Do you now serve on a government committee or board? Yes_____ No_____
10. If Yes, which one(s)? _____
11. Brief summary of your education _____

12. Brief summary of your experience _____

13. Please select each St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board or Committee you are interested in serving on (more than one may be selected):
Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC)_____
Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB)_____
Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)_____
Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)_____
14. May your application be submitted to the TPO Board whenever vacancies occur on the selected Board/Committee(s) until you are appointed? Yes_____ No_____
15. Will you be able to attend quarterly LCB meetings, CAC meetings every other month, or BPAC meetings every other month? Yes_____ No_____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Submit completed application by mail or email to:

MAIL: St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization
466 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Suite 111
Port St. Lucie, FL 34953

EMAIL: TPOAdmin@stlucieco.org

Note: Application is effective for two years from the date of completion

TITLE VI STATEMENT: The St. Lucie TPO satisfies the requirements of various nondiscrimination laws and regulations including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Public participation is welcomed without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns about nondiscrimination should contact Marceia Lathou, the Title VI/ADA Coordinator of the St. Lucie TPO, at 772-462-1593 or via email at lathoum@stlucieco.org.

Crèole: Si ou ta rinmin recevoua information sa en crèole si l bous plait rèlè 772-462-1777.

Español: Si usted desea recibir esta información en español, por favor llame al 772-462-1777.

General Comment Form

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

_____ Do not add me to the mailing list.

Please print your comments below:

If you need additional room, please use reverse side.

Please return comments to the St. Lucie TPO in one of the following ways:

Mail: St. Lucie TPO
 466 Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Suite 111
 Port St. Lucie, FL 34953

Telephone: (772) 462-1593

Email: TPOAdmin@stlucieco.org

Kreyòl Aisyen: Si ou ta renmen resevwa enfòmasyon sa a nan lang Kreyòl Aisyen, tanpri rele nimewo 772-462-1593.

Español: Si usted desea recibir esta información en Español, por favor llame al 772-462-1593.

Title VI Statement: The St. Lucie TPO satisfies the requirements of various nondiscrimination laws and regulations including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Public participation is welcomed without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns about nondiscrimination should contact Marceia Lathou, the Title VI/ADA Coordinator of the St. Lucie TPO, at 772-462-1593 or via email at lathoum@stlucieco.org.



2025 Community Participation Plan (CPP) Summary of Comments

Comment	Commenter	Date/Method Received	Incorporation into Study
Further refinement of the Level of Influence targets should be considered with the initial levels given more weight.	Citizens Advisory Committee Member	Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, January 21, 2025	TPO staff will analyze the complexity of each Level of Influence before assigning targets. The results will be presented to the TPO Advisory Committees and TPO Board as part of the annual CPP Evaluation.

Summary Completion Date: February 2025

DRAFT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN (CPP) PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is updating its Community Participation Plan (CPP), formerly known as the Public Participation Plan (PPP). The CPP informs the public of how they can impact transportation planning decisions. The TPO encourages you to review the draft CPP and to share feedback to ensure that the CPP reflects the needs of the public to the greatest extent possible.

The TPO has posted the draft CPP for public review for 45 days, beginning December 20, 2024. The public has until 1:00 pm, Wednesday, February 5, 2025, to provide comments on the CPP before it is reviewed for adoption by the TPO Board. As part of the approval process, the TPO will make changes to the draft CPP as necessary and summarize all significant comments submitted during the comment period and the revisions made to the CPP based on the comments.

To Obtain the CPP for Review

- 1) Appear in person or write to the St. Lucie TPO at 466 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Suite 111, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953
- 2) Call 772-462-1593
- 3) Access the TPO website at www.stlucietpo.org
- 4) Email TPOAdmin@stlucieco.org

To Provide Comments on the CPP

- 1) Write to the St. Lucie TPO at 466 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Suite 111, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953
- 2) Call 772-462-1593
- 3) Email TPOAdmin@stlucieco.org
- 4) Appear in person at the following upcoming public St. Lucie TPO Board meeting:
 Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 2:00 pm
 St. Lucie TPO Office
 466 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Suite 111
 Port St. Lucie, Florida

For Special Assistance

Persons who require accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Marceia Lathou, 772-462-1593, at least five days prior to the meeting. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may use the Florida Relay System by dialing 711. Anyone with a disability requiring transit accommodation to attend the above-referenced TPO Board meeting should contact Area Regional Transit (ART) at (772) 462-1778 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Title VI/Nondiscrimination Statement

The St. Lucie TPO satisfies the requirements of various nondiscrimination laws and regulations including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Public participation is welcomed without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns about nondiscrimination should contact Marceia Lathou, Title VI/ADA Coordinator, St. Lucie TPO, at 772-462-1593 or lathoum@stlucieco.org.

Kreyol Avisyen: Si ou ta renmen resevwa enfòmasyon sa a nan lang Kreyòl Aisyien, tanpri rele nimewo (772) 462-1593.

Español: Si usted desea recibir esta información en Español, por favor llame al 772-462-1593.