



I-4 Wildlife Permeability

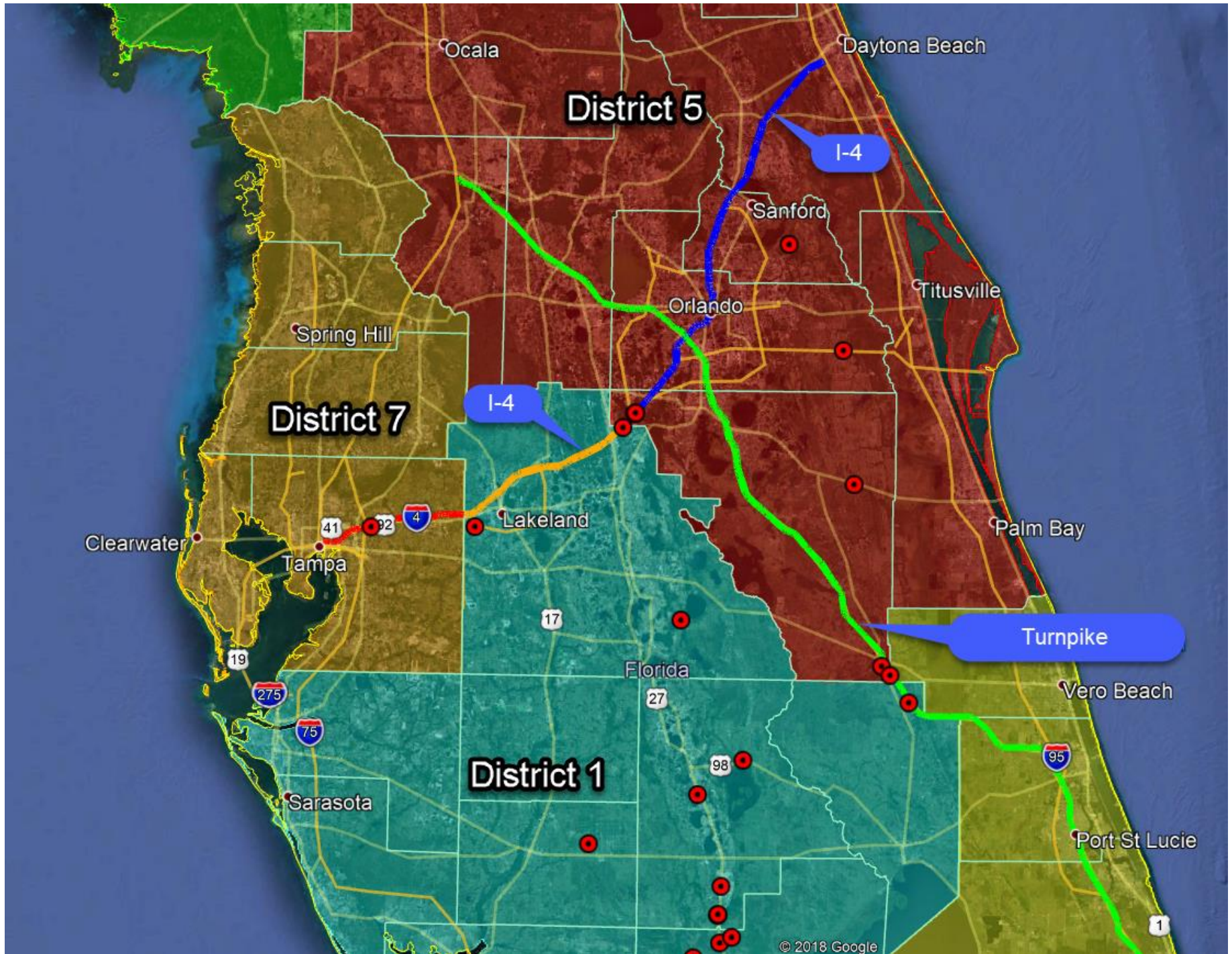
Presented by:

Panther Recovery Implementation Team (PRIT)

Transportation Subteam

Brent Setchell, P.E.

FDOT District 1 Drainage Design Engineer



District 5

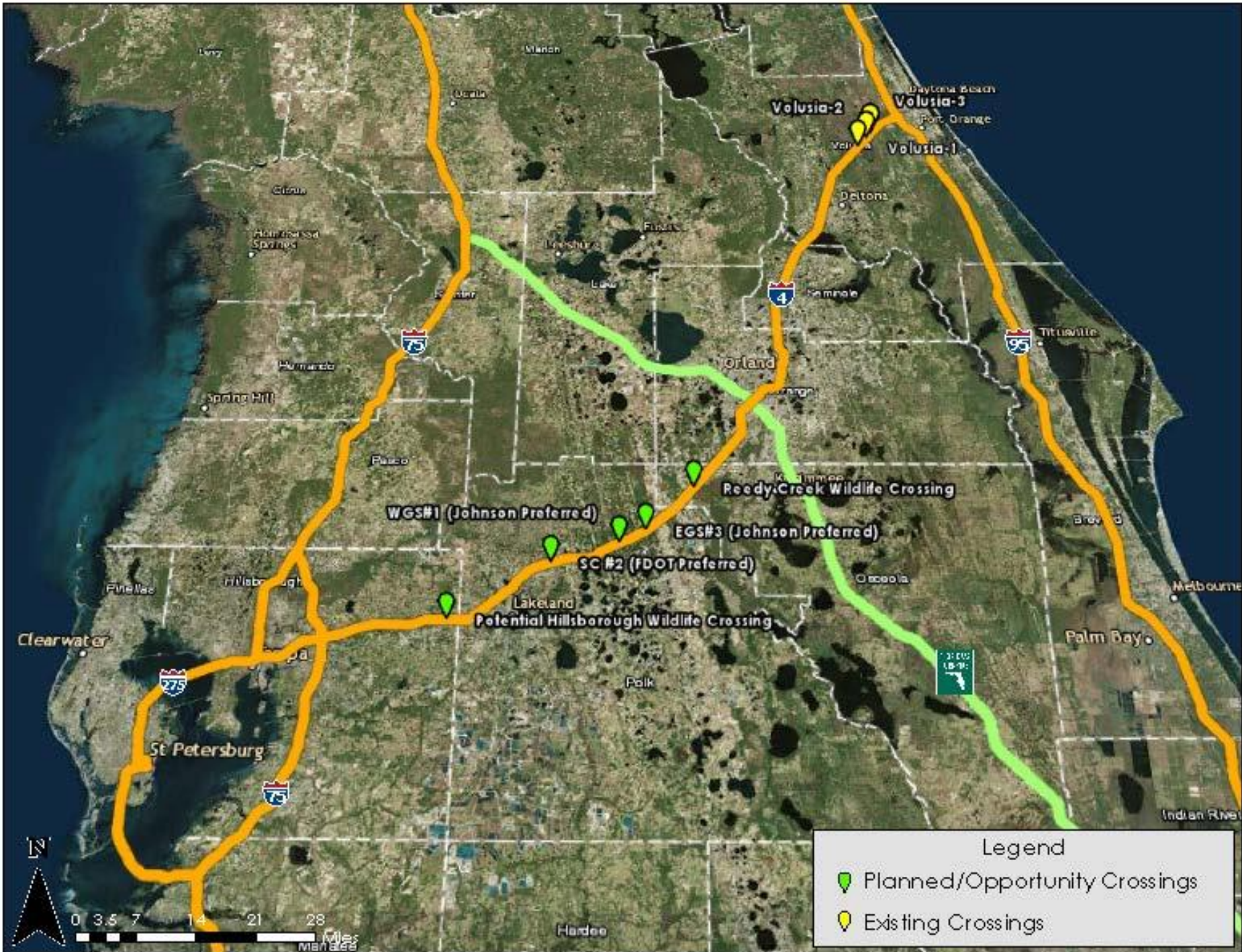
I-4

District 7

I-4

District 1

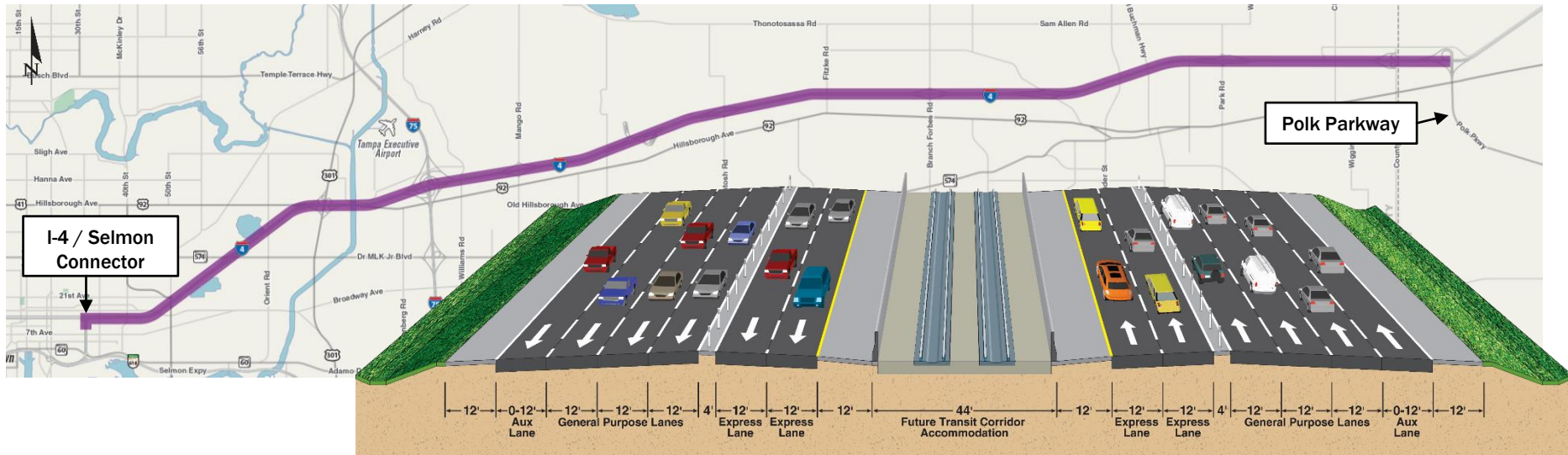
Turnpike



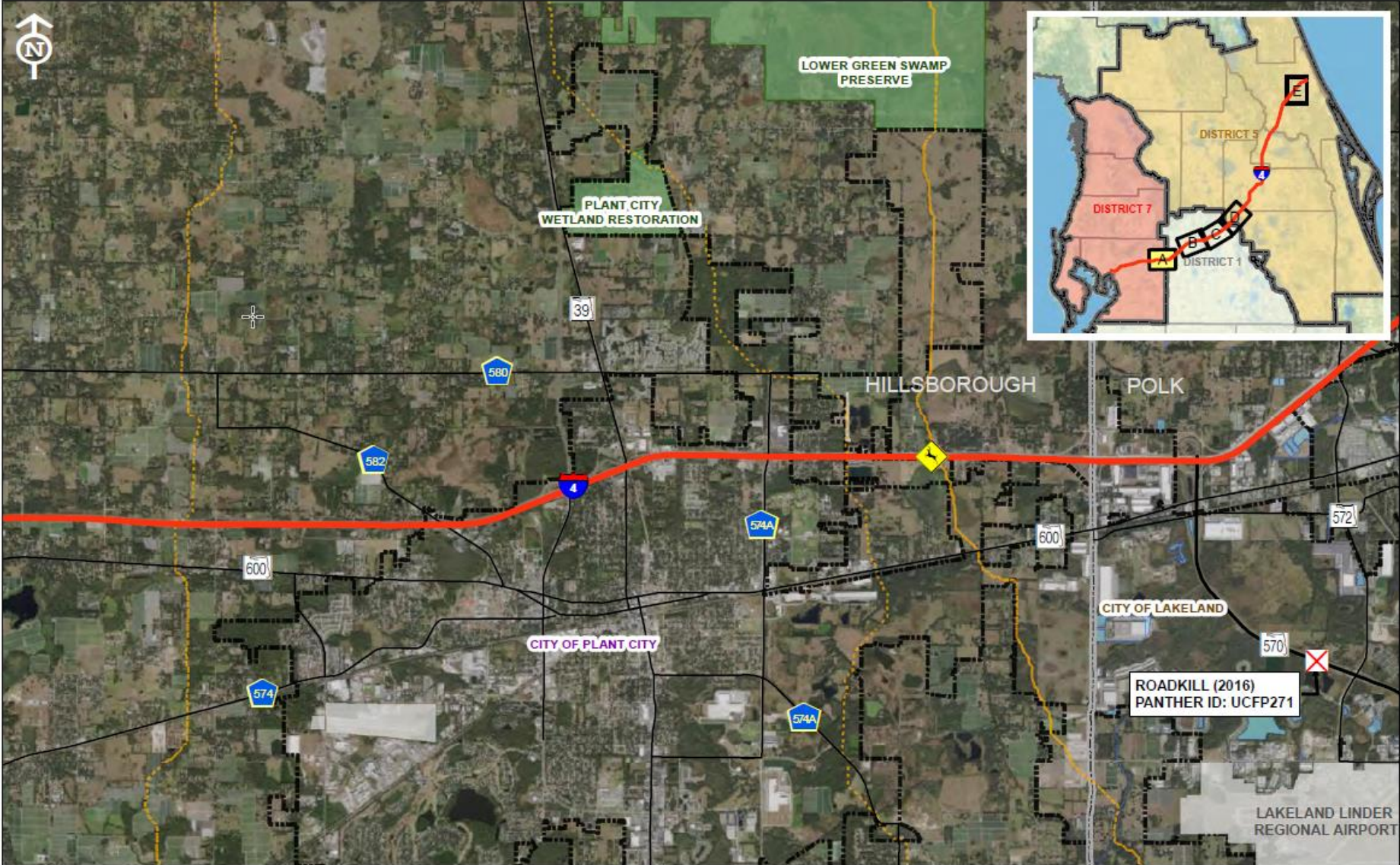
Legend

- Planned/Opportunity Crossings
- Existing Crossings





- PD&E approved October 2019
- 24.9 miles of interstate widening to construct 2 buffer separated express lanes in each direction
- 44' wide transit corridor accommodations
- ROW not funded
- Construction not funded



BLOCK "A"

WILDLIFE PERMEABILITY ALONG I-4

POTENTIAL WILDLIFE CROSSING
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

FLORIDA PANTHER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION CORE TEAM
AND US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

SOURCE: FLMA, MITIGATION BANKS, AND FF (FDEP); WMA (FWC); ROADS, WILDLIFE CORRIDORS AND LEAST COST PATHWAY (FDOT); AERIALS (ARCGIS, 2019)

LEGEND

MAJOR ROADS

- I-4
- INTERSTATES/TOLL ROADS
- ARTERIAL ROADS

WILDLIFE CROSSINGS

- ◆ POTENTIAL HILLSBOROUGH WILDLIFE CROSSING
- ✕ PANTHER MORTALITY
- - - LEAST COST PATHWAY

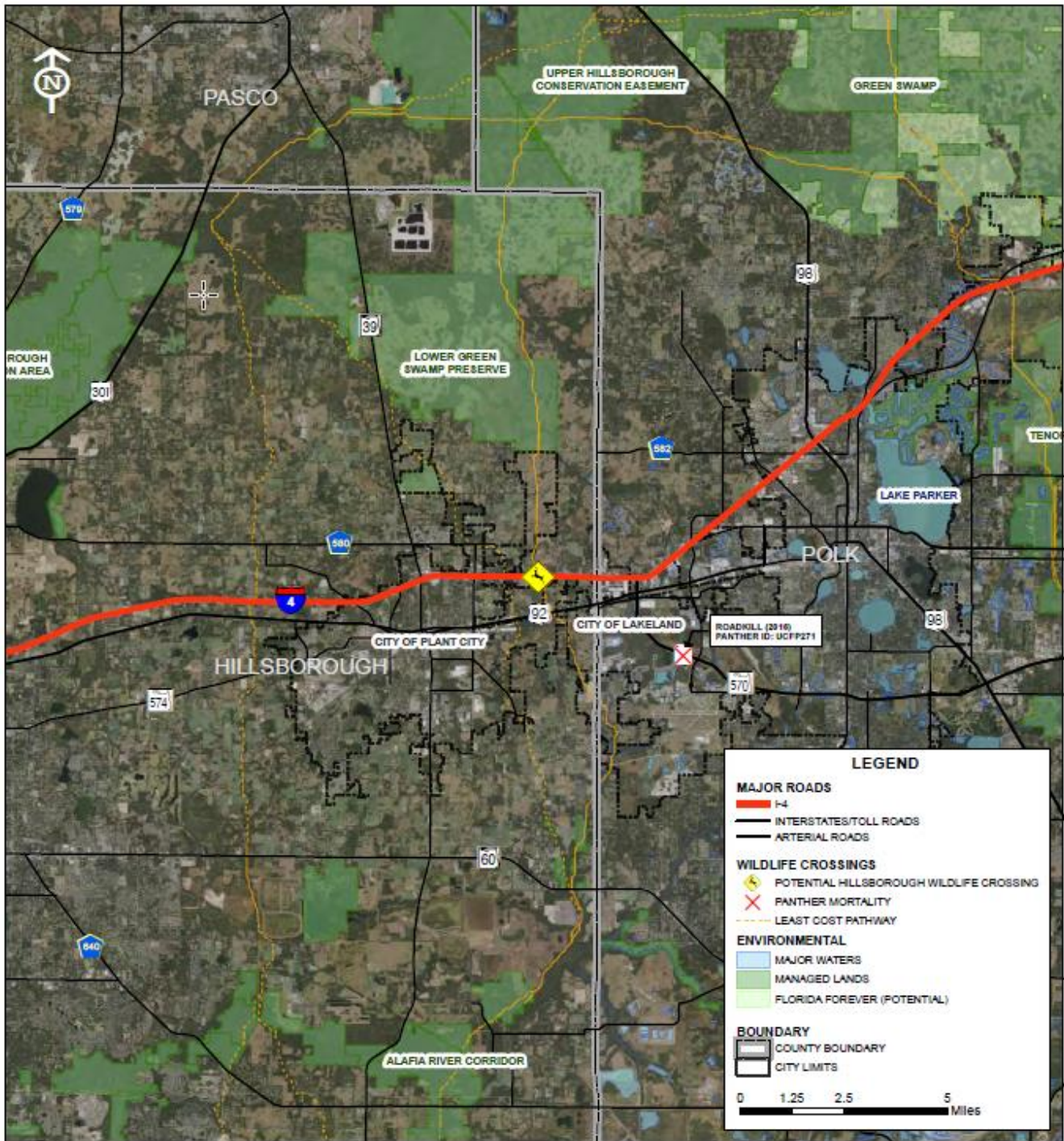
ENVIRONMENTAL

- MAJOR WATERS
- MANAGED LANDS
- FLORIDA FOREVER (POTENTIAL)

BOUNDARY

- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CITY LIMITS





LEGEND

MAJOR ROADS

- I-4
- INTERSTATES/TOLL ROADS
- ARTERIAL ROADS

WILDLIFE CROSSINGS

- ◆ POTENTIAL HILLSBOROUGH WILDLIFE CROSSING
- X PANTHER MORTALITY
- LEAST COST PATHWAY

ENVIRONMENTAL

- MAJOR WATERS
- MANAGED LANDS
- FLORIDA FOREVER (POTENTIAL)

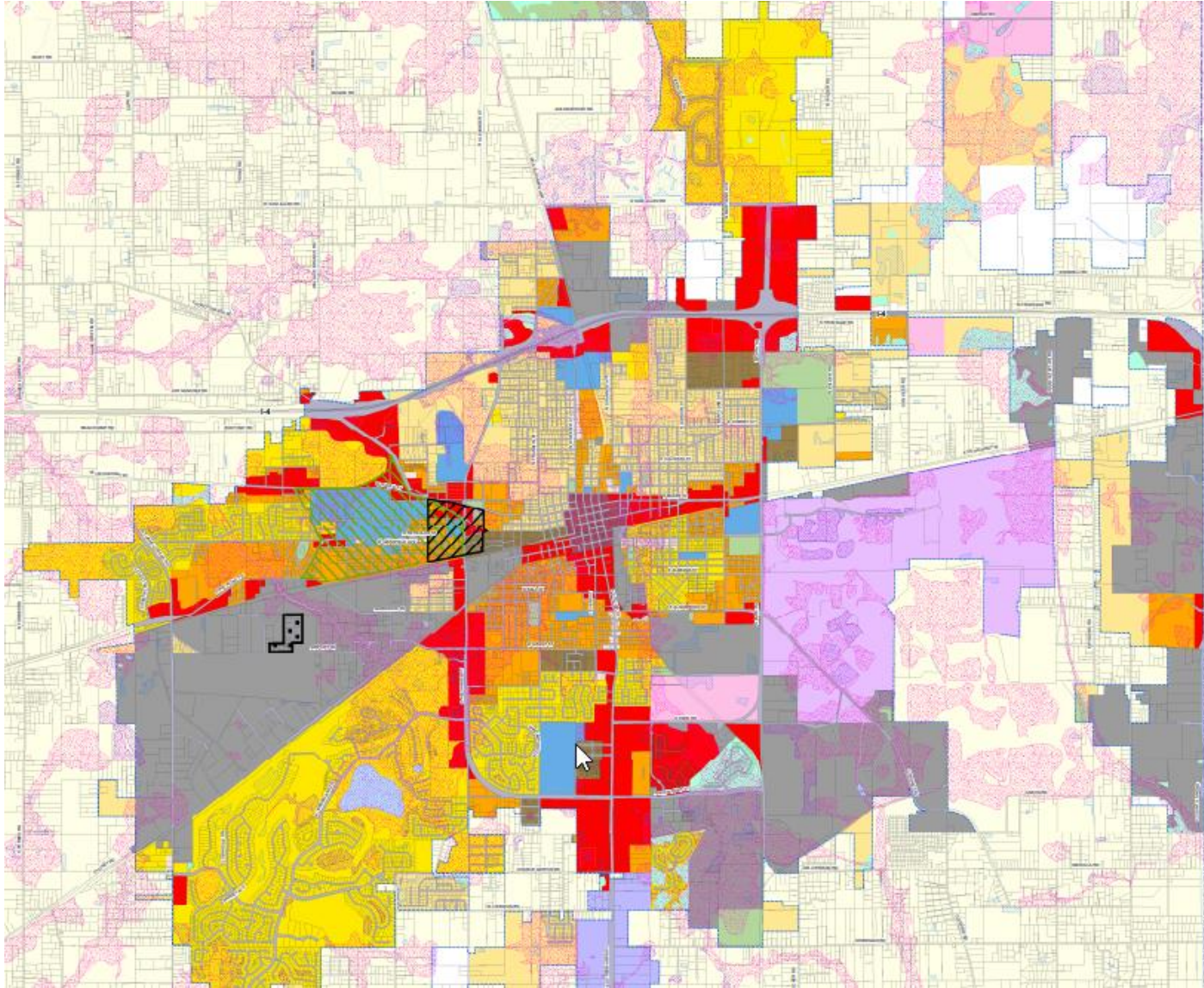
BOUNDARY

- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CITY LIMITS

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

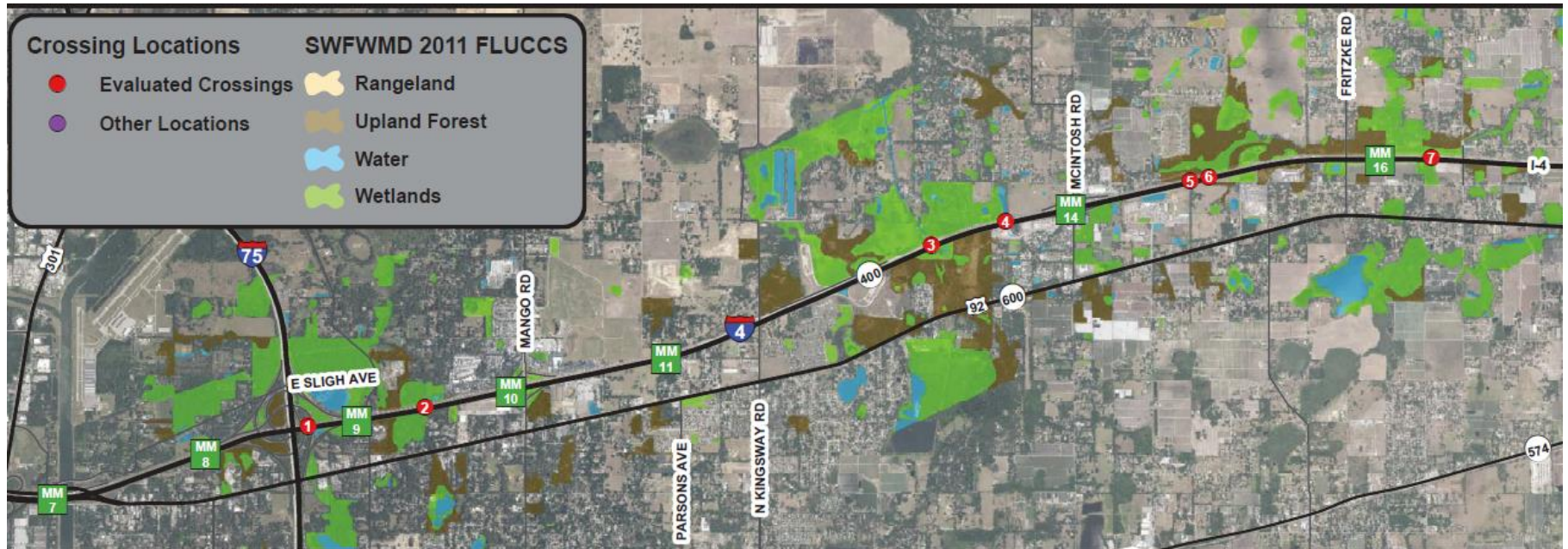
Block	Description	County	Planning/Funding Status	Supporting Information	Challenges
A	I-4 Hillsborough County	Hillsborough	Not included in any plans or designs. Potential opportunities both east and west of Plant City. FDOT District 7 wildlife camera study beginning.	<p>Proposed location as mapped coincides with a FDOT identified FP Least Cost Pathway and an existing drainage structure. Panther was killed nearby on Polk Parkway in 2016.</p> <p>East and west of Plant City are large swaths of agricultural lands. Many agricultural/rural land uses have been shown compatible with panther movement and foraging activities.</p> <p>The area west of Plant City represents one of the last remaining substantial non-urbanized areas existing on both sides of I-4 west of Orlando.</p>	<p>No designated wildlife corridors or protected conservation lands currently exist.</p> <p>We recommend exploring potential opportunities with FDACS in creating new or expanding existing agricultural preservation zones in the area facilitated through the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program and by using agricultural and habitat conservation easements. Such actions would provide long-term protection for the area and support opportunities for restoration along creeks and other water features that intersect I-4. Any associated water conveyance structures may provide future retrofit opportunities for improving permeability for wildlife movement.</p>

Plant City Future Land Use Map

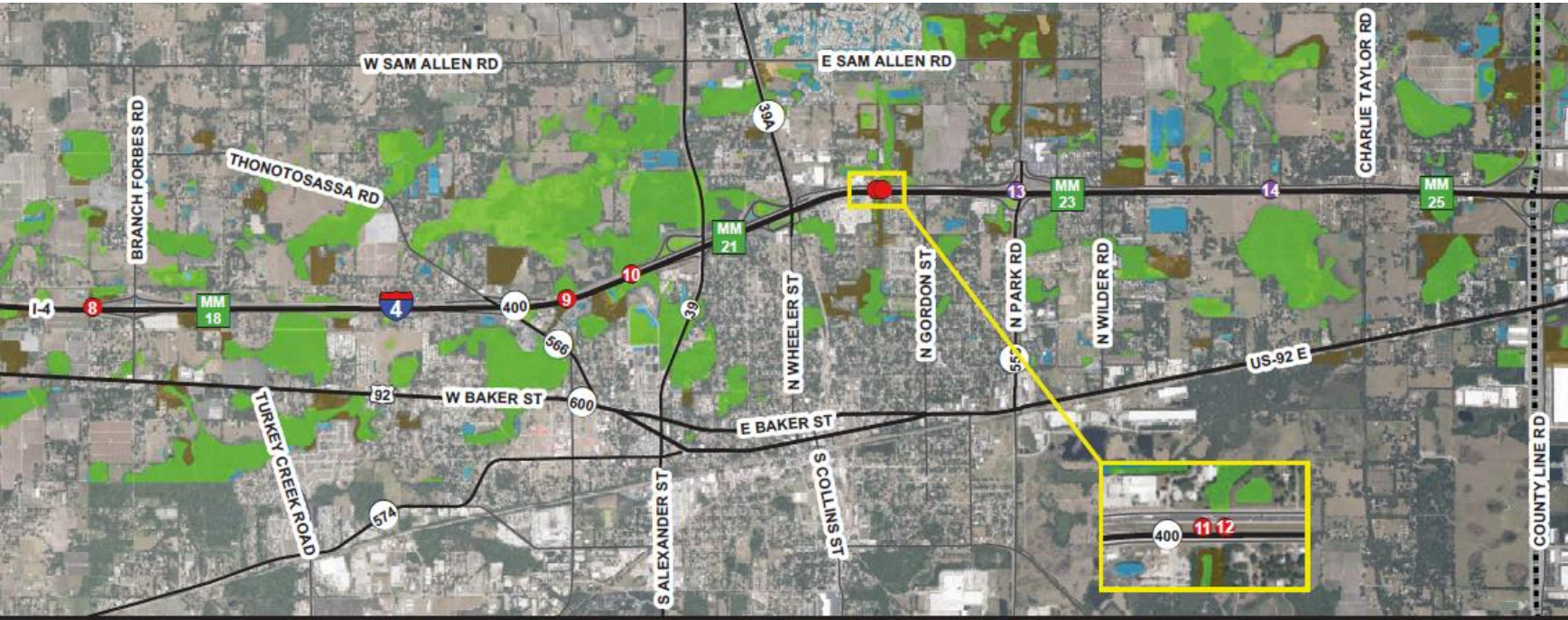


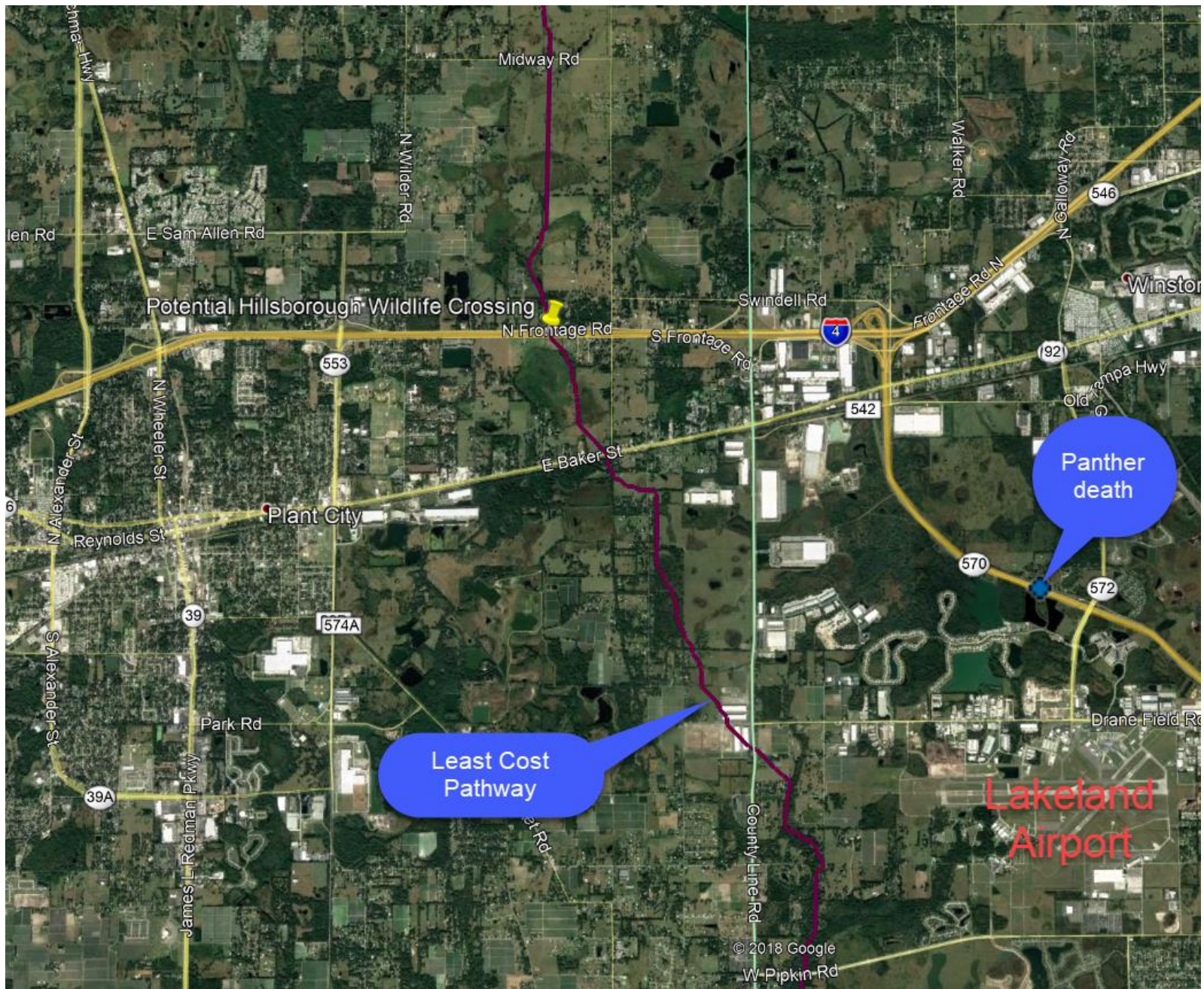
District 7 – from I-75 to the Polk County Line

Wildlife camera study of existing structures



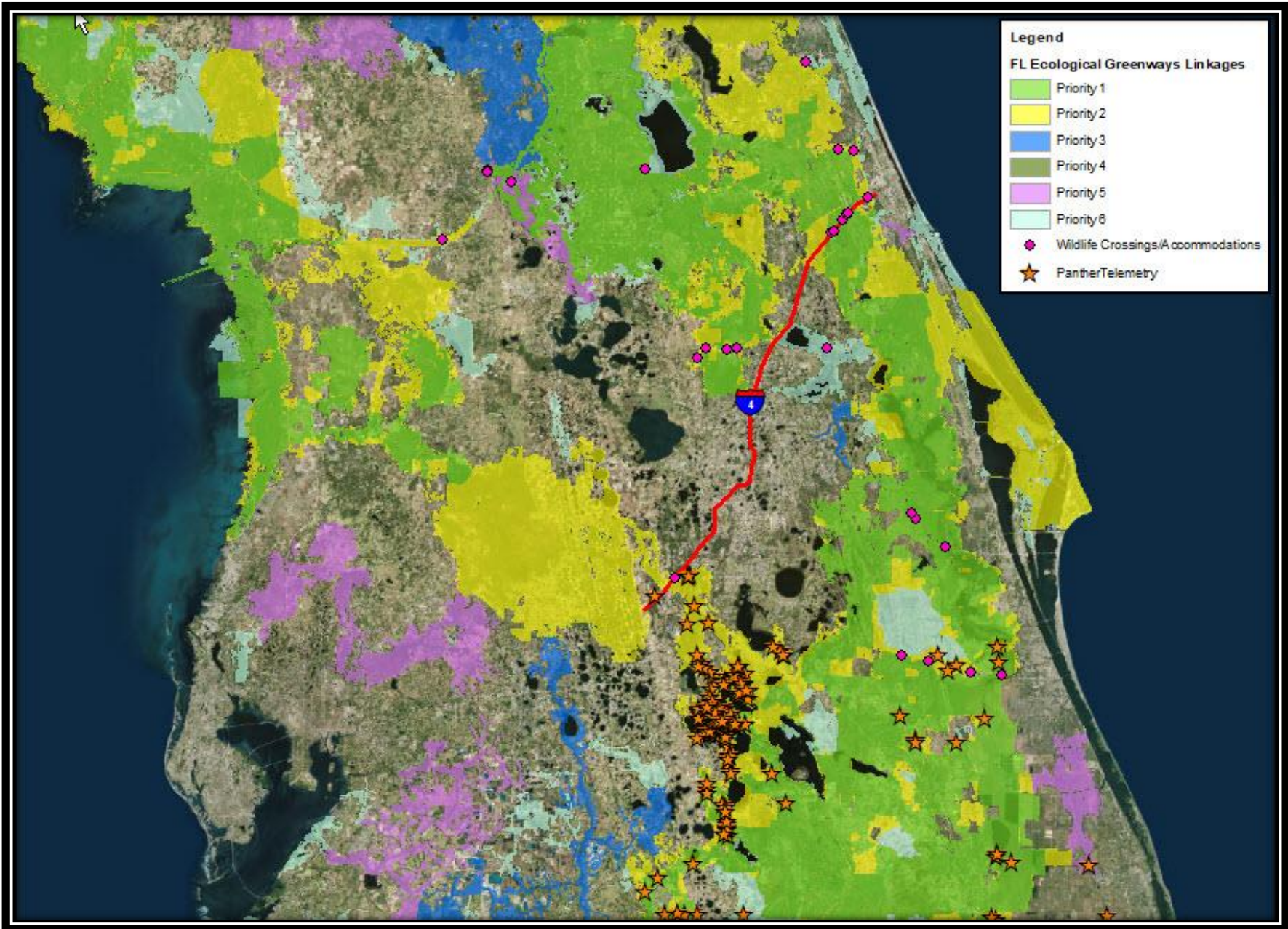
District 7 – from I-75 to the Polk County Line





District 7 – from I-75 to the Polk County Line

- **No FEGN critical linkages along the Hillsborough section of I-4**
- **Limited conservation lands on either side of I-4**
- **Poor habitat on either side of I-4**
- **US 92 south of I-4 is also a 4-lane barrier**



Conclusions

- **FDOT is actively pursuing improvements for wildlife permeability along I-4.**
- **Wildlife corridors need to be preserved to ensure viability of proposed crossings.**
 - Need to build partnerships with both permitting agencies, local governments and NGOs.
- **Roadways (both State and Local) adjacent to I-4 need to be considered for wildlife crossings**
- **Better awareness of the FEGN at the local planning/permitting level is needed.**

Any Questions ?

