WHEREAS, the “Multi - Use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance” program was created and signed into law on May 17, 2019, by Governor DeSantis for the purpose of revitalizing rural communities, encouraging job creation, providing regional interconnectivity, leveraging technology, enhancing quality of life, increasing public safety and protecting the environment and natural resources (See section 338.2278, F.S.), hereinafter “M●CORES”; and,

WHEREAS, there are a number of intended benefits to M●CORES creation including, but not limited to, better hurricane evacuation, congestion mitigation, improving trade and logistics, expanding broadband, water and sewer connectivity, and improving energy distribution. Other benefits include expanding autonomous and electrical vehicle technology, expanding the use of other transportation modes (nonmotorized trails, freight and passenger rail, and public transit) and expanding the availability of a trained workforce skilled in traditional and emerging technologies, as well as the protection or enhancement of wildlife corridors or environmentally sensitive areas, and protection or enhancement of primary springs protection zones and farmland preservation areas; and,

WHEREAS, M●CORES assigned the Florida Department of Transportation the responsibility for assembling the separate task forces to study three separate corridors, one of which is the Southwest - Central Florida Connector corridor proposed to extend from Collier County to Polk County; and,

WHEREAS, the Southwest – Central Florida Connector study will research and identify opportunities to revitalize rural communities, encourage job creation, and provide regional connectivity while exploring the design and construction of a tolled roadway to accommodate multiple modes of transportation, and connectivity and improved water, power, and wastewater services; and,
WHEREAS, the Southwest – Central Florida Connector task force has commenced a series of public meetings designed to meet statutory requirements and utilize a transparent and open process for the identification of the proposed route for the Southwest – Central Florida Connector; and,

WHEREAS, Hardee County currently has wireless broadband coverage across the county. The network has been enhanced and redesigned several times to include increased speed packages, redundancy, IPv6, VoIP and other enhanced services. Our current upgrade includes the deployment of LTE equipment. The existing system has 19 broadband distribution sites connected at multigigabit speeds with multiple 10 Gig uplinks. The construction of the Southwest – Central Florida Connector in and through Hardee County would further the objective of expansion of broadband through rural areas; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Hardee County and the citizens of the state of Florida that the Southwest – Central Florida Connector roadway be located and constructed in and through Hardee County, Florida, to accomplish the aforementioned objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the HARDEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that:

1. The above stated recitals are hereby incorporated by reference.

2. It is in the best interest of the citizens of Hardee County and the citizens of the state of Florida that the Southwest – Central Florida Connector roadway be located and constructed in and through Hardee County, Florida.

3. Should any provision hereof be determined to be invalid for any reason by a Court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be severed from the remainder hereof and full meaning and effect given to the remainder of this resolution.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

DULY APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 07th day of November 2019, by the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners.

HARDEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: MIKE THOMPSON, Chairperson

VICTORIA L. ROGERS
Ex-Officio Member to the Board