

WELCOME

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study
Public Information Meeting



July 31st, 2025

Contract Number: C24-3985-PW

Cover

WEST 98 COLLECTOR ROAD

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Contract Number: C24-3985-PW

Good evening. Okaloosa County welcomes you to the Public Information Meeting for the West 98 Collector Road Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study.



Introduction

During this meeting we will:

Present information on the County's proposed improvements for an east – west roadway corridor aimed to improve safety and enhance operations being developed in coordination with Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field.

Submit Comments in Multiple Ways:



Online at
www.myokaloosa.com/west98collectorroad



Written and submitted
in-person



Email to
West98@myokaloosa.com

All written comments received by **August 14, 2025**, will become part of the public meeting record.

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During this meeting, we will present information on the County's proposed improvements for an east – west roadway corridor aimed to improve safety and enhance operations being developed in coordination with Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field.

Your feedback is important, and we have provided multiple ways for you to submit your questions and comments to us about the project during this meeting.

Written questions will be answered in writing after the meeting. All written comments received by August 14, 2025, will become part of the public meeting record.



Meeting Agenda

1. Explain the West 98 Collector Road Project and PD&E Study



2. Introduce the proposed alternatives

- 1 Alternative 1 – Urban
- 2 Alternative 2 – Rural

3. Obtain the community's feedback



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The purpose of tonight's public information meeting is to explain the West 98 Collector Road Project and the PD&E Study process, introduce the proposed alternatives, and obtain the community's feedback.



Title VI Compliance

This public meeting was advertised and is being conducted in accordance with state and federal requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status.

Persons wishing to express any concerns about Title VI may do so by contacting:

Jane Evans
Okaloosa County Title VI Coordinator
1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Ste 102
Shalimar, Florida 32579
850-651-7521
jevans@myokaloosa.com

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This public meeting was advertised and is being conducted in accordance with state and federal requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns relative to Okaloosa County compliance with Title VI may do so by contacting Jane Evans, Okaloosa County Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator, at jevans@myokaloosa.com. This information is displayed at the sign-in table, on the project website, and in the meeting notifications.



Public Notice



**Florida Administrative
Register**



www.myokaloosa.com/west98collector



NW Florida Daily News



**Elected & Appointed
Officials**



**Property Owners &
Tenants**



Businesses

This public information meeting was advertised in the Florida Administrative Register, on Okaloosa County's website, and in the Northwest Florida Daily News. In addition, elected and appointed officials, government agencies, adjacent property owners, and businesses were notified about this public meeting.



NEPA

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA requirements help ensure that environmental information is made available to the public during the decision-making process and prior to actions being taken. The premise of NEPA is that the quality of federal decisions will be enhanced if proponents provide information to the public and involve the public in the planning process.

This PD&E Study is being developed to provide information to and obtain input from concerned citizens, agencies, private groups (residential and business), and governmental entities. The overall goal of this public information meeting is to help ensure that the study reflects the values and needs of the communities it is designed to benefit.

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PD&E Study Process



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A Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study is an environmental and engineering process developed by the Florida Department of Transportation to determine social, economic, natural, and physical environmental effects associated with a proposed transportation improvement project. The process follows procedures set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and federal and state laws and regulations. For this study, Okaloosa County is applying this protocol even though this action is not under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation.

The study process requires the combined efforts of professional engineers, planners, and scientists who collect and analyze project related information to develop the best solution to balance community, environmental, and transportation needs. An important component of the process is community engagement and agency coordination.



Project Purpose

- 1 To provide an alternative route option for military access and local traffic
- 2 To support mobility and safety
- 3 Establish a utility corridor for potential utility relocations in the event U.S 98 becomes widened to six-lanes
- 4 Evaluate a connection to a potential west gate project on Hurlburt Field

U.S. 98 is a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) route in the panhandle of Florida from Pensacola to Panama City.

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The purposes of the proposed West 98 Collector Road Project are to provide an alternative route option for military access and local traffic to support mobility and safety, establish a utility corridor for potential utility relocations in the event U.S 98 becomes widened to six-lanes and evaluate a connection to a potential west gate project on Hurlburt Field.

U.S. 98 is a Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) route in the panhandle of Florida from Pensacola to Panama City. The section of U.S. 98 between the Santa Rosa County line and Hurlburt Field currently experiences heavy traffic congestion



Project Need

U.S. 98 is forced to function like a collector road because there is no parallel facility to collect the local streets. Thus, there is a need for a new collector road parallel to U.S. 98 to serve an alternate route option for local traffic and military access in the unincorporated Florosa Community.

This PD&E Study will evaluate:

3.25-mile Roadway

**From Solar Street to
Green Drive**

2-mile Utility Corridor

**Between Green Drive and the Santa
Rosa County Line**

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Arterial roads, like U.S. 98, often have a supporting network of collector and local roads to help distribute the traffic. Some trips can be taken on local or collector roads and improve safety by reducing potential conflict points with turning traffic and providing an alternative route during incidents or unplanned events.

Therefore, U.S. 98 is forced to function like a collector road because there is no parallel facility to collect the local streets. Thus, there is a need for a new collector road parallel to U.S. 98 to serve an alternate route option for local traffic and military access in the unincorporated Florosa Community. Therefore, this PD&E will only evaluate an approximately 3.25-mile roadway from Solar Street to Green Drive and an approximately 2-mile utility corridor between Green Drive and the Santa Rosa County Line.



Safety & Traffic

U.S. 98 is the only east-west route in the area impacting the entire community. This work to expand the Eglin range easement and relocate the utility corridor should reap huge dividends for the military and our surrounding communities.

Better emergency response with more access options



Creation of new route options during times of congestion and traffic incidents



Further network support when U.S. 98 is widened in the future



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U.S. 98 is the only east-west route in the area impacting the entire community including the 4,100 Hurlburt Field personnel who live west of Hurlburt as well as the thousands of personnel who must travel past Hurlburt Field to Eglin AFB and beyond. This work to expand the Eglin range easement and relocate the utility corridor should reap huge dividends for the military and our surrounding communities.

The intent is to improve traffic on U.S. 98 by relocating the direct access to Florosa Elementary from U.S. 98. In the future, it will also provide a new access to Hurlburt Field by connecting to the planned new Hurlburt Field West Gate. Other benefits include better emergency response with more access options, creation of new route options during times of congestion and traffic incidents, and further network support when U.S. 98 is widened to six-lanes in the future as a separate action.



Societal and Economic Considerations

Currently, residents in the unincorporated Florosa community do not have access to an alternate east-west collector road and must use U.S. 98 for most local trips, including **travel to schools, retail shops, and places of employment.**

**A collector road
will provide
residents with an
alternative to
using U.S. 98**



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Currently, residents in the unincorporated Florosa community do not have access to an alternate east-west collector road and must use U.S. 98 for most local trips, including travel to schools, retail shops, and places of employment.

There is a need for a collector road to provide residents making local trips with an alternative to using the heavily congested U.S. 98 corridor.



Previous Considerations

The following alternatives to the West 98 Collector Road Project were previously considered:

- **Adjusting the school speed limit**
- **Adjusting school times and parent drop-offs**
- **Installing multi-use paths**
- **Adding traffic signals**
- **Extending the Cody Interchange on-ramp to Solar Street**

These improvements could help, but no combination or inclusion of all, are able to achieve significant safety and travel speed improvements needed for U.S. 98.

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- Extending the Cody Interchange on-ramp to Solar Street

These improvements could help, but no combination or inclusion of all, are able to achieve significant safety and travel speed improvements needed for U.S. 98.



The West 98 Collector Road PD&E Study consists of evaluating location and design concepts for an approximate 3.25-mile collector road and an approximately 2-mile utility corridor from just east of Solar Street to the Santa Rosa County line located on property owned by Eglin Air Force Base.

The West 98 Collector Road Project is entirely on Air Force property and the neighborhood connectors will be on Okaloosa County owned land. Acquisition of privately owned property is not anticipated.

The study will also evaluate stormwater requirements in order to minimize flooding between existing U.S. 98 and the proposed West 98 Collector Road.



3.25-mile Collector Road

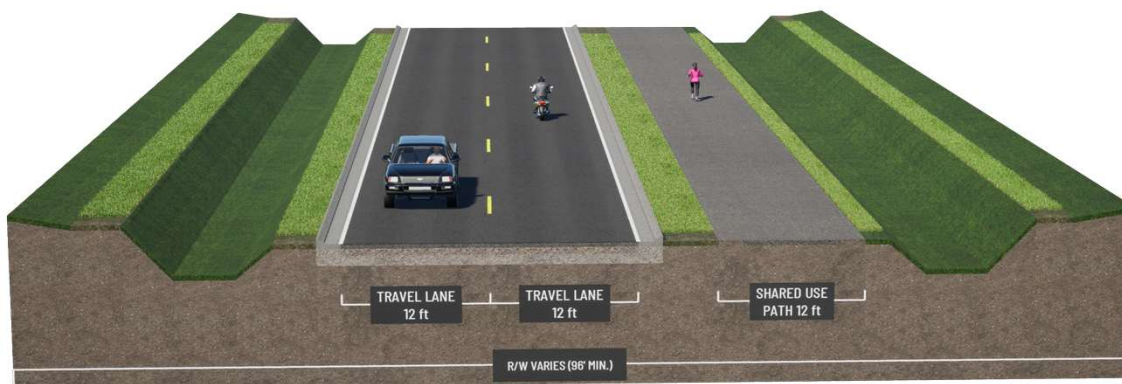


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The limits of the West 98 Collector Road are from U.S. 98 east of Solar Street to Green Drive and will include a connection back to U.S. 98 via one of the local roads near the western limits. Access points from the local roads to the Collector Road and U.S. 98 will be evaluated during the PD&E Study.



Alternative 1 – Urban Typical Section



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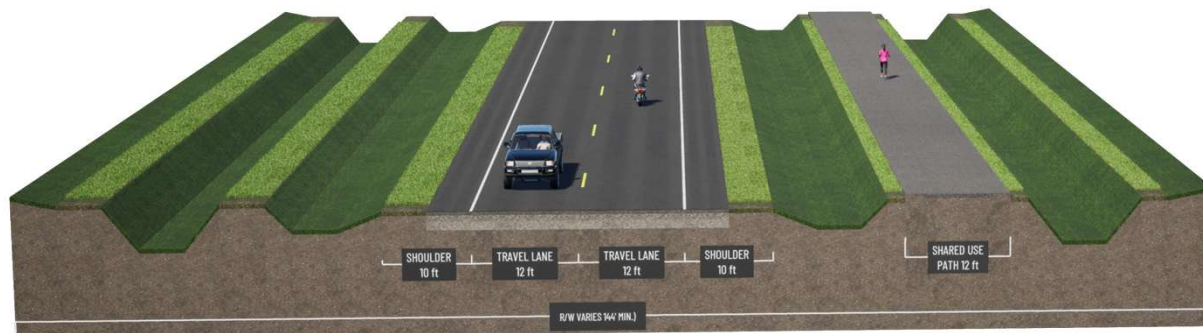
The roadway typical section has not yet been determined but is anticipated to be a two-lane facility with a multi-use pathway on Eglin Air Force Base property. Two Alternatives are currently being evaluated.

Alternative 1 consists of two twelve-foot lanes with curb and gutter on the outside. A twelve-foot shared used path is provided along the south side of the roadway. Roadway stormwater will be collected in a closed drainage system via the curb and gutter. This alternative is known as an Urban Typical Section.

To minimize overall drainage impacts, offsite ditches will be utilized on both the north and south sides of the roadway to collect offsite stormwater flowing to the roadway.



Alternative 2 – Rural Typical Section



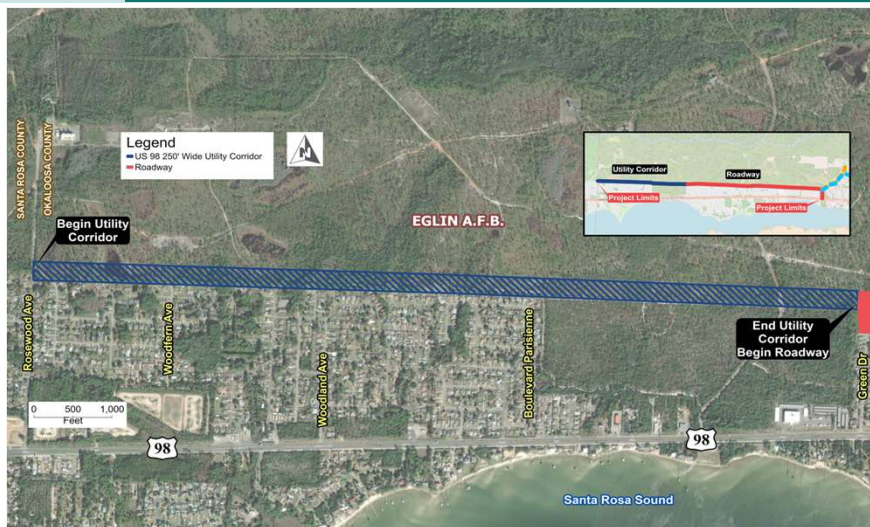
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Alternative 2 consists of two twelve-foot lanes with ten-foot shoulders, five-feet of which are paved. A twelve-foot shared used path is provided along the south side of the roadway. Roadway stormwater will be collected in an open drainage system via roadside ditches. This alternative is known as a Rural Typical Section.

To minimize overall drainage impacts, offsite ditches will be utilized on both the north and south sides of the roadway to collect offsite stormwater flowing to the roadway.



2.0-mile Utility Corridor

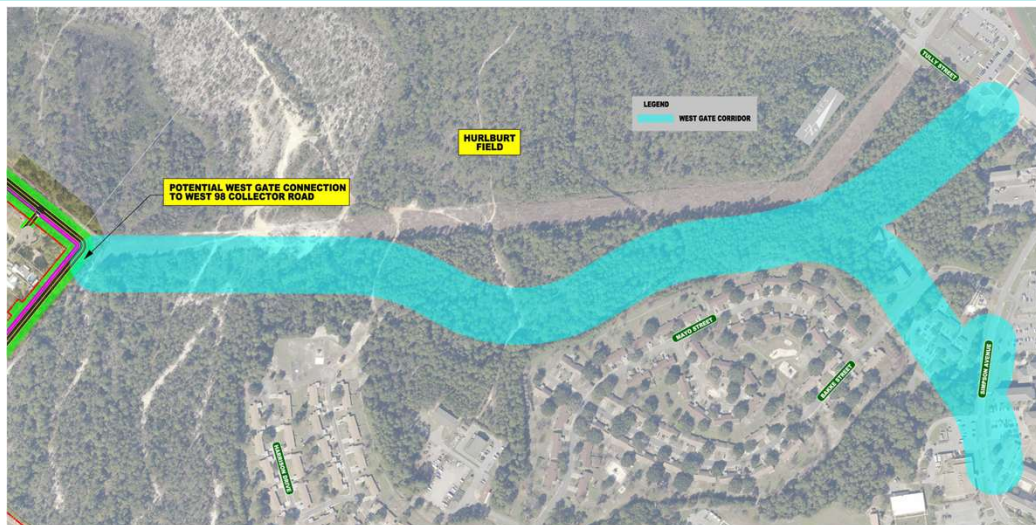


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The limits of the West 98 Collector Utility Corridor are from Green Drive to the Santa Rosa County Line.



Potential West Gate Connection



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Additionally, Hurlburt Field has asked Okaloosa County to evaluate a connection for a potential west gate and a new roadway that would provide enhanced connectivity to the area that would connect to the proposed West 98 Collector to Hurlburt Field.



Schedule and Next Steps

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY MILESTONES	2025		2026
	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
PUBLIC MEETING			
PUBLIC HEARING			

Public Meeting 

Public Hearing 



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In the overall transportation development process, we are in the Project Development and Environment, or PD&E Study phase.

Future project phases are Design, Right-of-Way, and Construction, and are not yet funded for implementation. This Public Information Meeting is an important part of the PD&E Study phase where we seek input before identifying the Preferred Alternative.

After considering public input, the engineering and environmental evaluation is completed, followed by a public hearing before a decision is made.



Stay Involved

Your input is an important part of this project. There are multiple ways for you to participate.



Online at
www.myokaloosa.com/west98collectorroad



Written and submitted
in-person



Email to
West98@myokaloosa.com

All written comments received by **August 14, 2025**, will become part of the public meeting record.

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Your input is an important part of this project. Comments and input received will be used to refine the alternatives and recommendations. There are multiple ways for you to participate.

All public comments and questions are part of the public meeting record and every method for providing input carries equal weight. While comments and questions will be accepted at any time, those submitted by August 14, 2025, 10 business days after the public meeting, will become part of the project's public meeting record.

Written questions received within the comment period will be responded to in writing following the meeting. Attendees are encouraged to speak with project team members to ask questions and provide input. To submit a comment for the public meeting record, please complete a printed Comment Form and return it to project staff or place it in the designated comment box. As required by law, public comments provided during this public information meeting may be published in the final environmental document which will be available to the public.



How to Learn More



[Home](#) [Other Agencies](#) [Departments](#) [Visiting](#)

West 98 Collector Road PD&E Study



Project Description

The proposed West 98 Collector Road Project consists of a Project Development and Environment (PDE) Study evaluating location and design concepts for an approximately 3.25-mile collector road that runs parallel to S.R. 30 (U.S. 90) located west of Hurlburt Field and north of Flomosa Elementary and the Flomosa Fire Station between Eglin Air Force Base property and private property from just east of Solar Street to Green Drive. Including a roadway connection to support the proposed Hurlburt Field West Gate Project, and an approximately 2-mile utility corridor between Green Drive and the Santa Rosa County Line. The project will also evaluate stormwater requirements in order to minimize flooding between existing U.S. 90 and the proposed West 98 Collector Road.

www.myokaloosa.com/west98collectorroad

Scan the QR Code with your phone



Meeting materials displayed at the public meeting are posted on the project website.

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To learn more about the project, visit myokaloosa.com/west98collectorroad. Meeting materials displayed at the public meeting are posted on the project website.

THANK YOU

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study
Public Information Meeting



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Contract Number: C24-3985-PW

On behalf of Okaloosa County, thank you for attending this public meeting and providing your input on this project. If you have comments or questions after the meeting, please submit them by August 14, 2025.

Have a good evening.