

# SR 528 – Causeways and Water Quality

Presentation to the Space Coast TPO Governing Board Meeting

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## What is the request?

- Pause any further development of the State Road 528 widening project for six months to conduct a water quality model.
- “Answer the unanswered”
- What, if any, water quality benefits would be realized with the reduction or removal of the Banana River causeways?



## Why Are We Asking?

- Broad stakeholder support as evidenced by the August 7 stakeholder meeting
- Tremendous public investment in the Indian River Lagoon
  - Past, present, and future
  - Federal, state, water management district, cities, county, IRL NEP
- Once in a lifetime opportunity (based on lifespan of improved roadway)
- Governor DeSantis Executive Order 19-12
- Record legislative funding to address water quality issues across the state



## What Can We Expect to Learn From The Model?

- What, if any, water quality benefits would be realized with causeway reduction or removal?
- Multiple scenarios will be explored
  - Existing conditions
  - Partial causeway removal
  - Full causeway removal
- Impacts on nutrient levels, salinity, water temperature, and water clarity



## What Can We Expect to Learn From The Model?

- How will flushing and circulation change with causeway removal?
- Where, when, and by how much will water quality change?
- What impact would be seen downstream?



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