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IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING  
STATE ROAD 710 PD&E STUDY  
U.S. HIGHWAY 441 TO COUNTY ROAD 714  
OKEECHOBEE AND MARTIN COUNTIES, FLORIDA  
FPID: 419344-2-22-01

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CERTIFIED COPY

DATE: January 30, 2013  
TIME: 7:03 p.m. - 8:08 p.m.  
PLACE: Okeechobee KOA Convention Center  
4276 U.S. Highway 441 South  
Okeechobee, Florida  
REPORTER: Deborah Carmela Dew, FPR,  
Florida Professional Reporter and  
Notary Public, State of Florida

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. JAMES: Good evening ladies and gentlemen.  
3 Welcome to the Public Hearing for the State Road 710  
4 Project Development and Environment, or PD&E, Study in  
5 Okeechobee and Martin Counties in Florida.

6 My name is Jeffrey James. I am the Florida  
7 Department of Transportation Manager for this project. The  
8 Department divides hearings into three parts. During the  
9 first part, I will provide information about the project.  
10 We will show a video presentation, and after the video I'll  
11 introduce the study team who has worked on the project. I  
12 will also explain how you can register to give your  
13 personal testimony that becomes part of the public record.

14 The second part of the hearing is an intermission  
15 which gives you another opportunity to look at the displays  
16 and discuss the project with the study team members. The  
17 third part of the hearing is when you can give public  
18 testimony. This is your opportunity to offer comments and  
19 present exhibits for the record about proposed  
20 improvements. Your comments should be for or against the  
21 project. An important part of your testimony are the  
22 reasons you are for or against the project.

23 Now I will read the following information for the  
24 record. This public hearing is conducted by the Florida  
25 Department of Transportation. It's held at the KOA

1 Convention Center, 4276 U.S. 441 South in Okeechobee,  
2 Florida at 7:00 p.m. on January 30, 2013 and is for the  
3 following project.

4           Financial Project I.D. Number 419344-2-22-01.  
5 This project is described as the proposed extension and  
6 widening of State Road 710 from U.S. 441 to County Road  
7 714, also known as Southwest Martin Highway, in Okeechobee  
8 and Martin Counties.

9           We're here tonight to present and explain to you  
10 the engineering and environmental studies conducted so far.  
11 And as I mentioned before, we're here to give you an  
12 opportunity to comment publically and officially on the  
13 project. We bring proposals to a public hearing so we can  
14 hear your views and your comments. We want to hear from  
15 people with local knowledge. We want to hear what you like  
16 and what you don't like about the proposed improvements.

17           It's important that interested people such as  
18 yourself have opportunities to become fully aware of the  
19 project. Expressing your views at this stage of the study  
20 when flexibility still exists to incorporate your comments  
21 into PD&E documents is important. Final decisions about  
22 the study are made using these documents.

23           When you arrived this evening, you were offered a  
24 handout (indicating) containing information about the  
25 project and proposed improvements. It also includes a

1 brief discussion of what happens next. If you did not  
2 receive a handout, you can pick one up at the registration  
3 table where you signed in.

4           If you choose not to speak this evening, but  
5 would like to make your comments on the record, please  
6 complete a comment form. They're on the tables identified  
7 as "comment tables." You can drop it in the comment box  
8 this evening or you can take it home and complete it and  
9 then mail it to the Department.

10           You can also submit a comment for the record by  
11 e-mail using the project web site, which is  
12 sr710-okeechobee.com, or you can send your comments through  
13 e-mail to the address shown on the comment form. The  
14 public hearing comment period remains open until February  
15 11, 2013. Anyone wishing to make comments that will become  
16 part of the official transcript of the hearing has until  
17 then to submit comments to the Department. These comments  
18 are considered the same as if you provided them at the  
19 microphone this evening.

20           After tonight's hearing, staff will compile  
21 comments submitted and, together with engineering and  
22 environmental work that's been completed, the Florida  
23 Department of Transportation will make a final  
24 recommendation. The Department will submit this  
25 recommended alternative to the Federal Highway