

## 1.0 Project Description

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Three, is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for State Roads (S.R.) 83 and 187 (U.S. 331) in Walton County, Florida. The project extends 25 miles from Coy Burgess Loop Road to the Alabama State Line. **Figure 1** shows the PD&E study area. The (S.R. 8) I-10 and U.S. 331 interchange—the subject of this report—is highlighted in **Figure 1**.

As part of the PD&E Study, solutions are being developed and evaluated to address traffic congestion and accommodate projected future traffic volumes along the U.S. 331 study corridor. The objective of the PD&E Study is to assist FDOT in reaching a decision on the type, location, and conceptual design of U.S. 331 improvements to safely and efficiently accommodate future travel demand. In coordination with the PD&E study, this Interchange Operational Analysis Report (IOAR) documents the evaluation of the I-10 and U.S. 331 interchange near the southern limit of the PD&E Study. The analysis focuses on the existing interchange facilities and the capacity of those facilities to safely and efficiently accommodate existing and future traffic volumes navigating the area. To ensure congruity in the area surrounding the interchange, adjacent intersection facilities are evaluated as well.

### 1.1 Purpose and Need

The U.S. 331 PD&E Study is part of a greater effort to address existing and future congestion and delay, improve safety and traffic flow, and allow the entire U.S. 331 corridor from the Choctawhatchee Bay Bridge to the Alabama State Line to operate at an improved level of service (LOS) for all users.

This IOAR focuses specifically on the I-10 and U.S. 331 interchange toward the southern limit of the PD&E Study.

#### 1.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the U.S. 331 PD&E Study is to evaluate transportation solutions to increase capacity and to address operational deficiencies, geometric deficiencies, and safety issues along U.S. 331 from Coy Burgess Loop Road to the Alabama State Line.

This IOAR identifies the need for and evaluates potential operational and safety solutions specifically as they pertain to the I-10 and U.S. 331 interchange area.

#### 1.1.2 Need

The need for the U.S. 331 PD&E Study is to resolve existing and future traffic queueing issues, intersection delays, and safety issues along the U.S. 331 study corridor. This IOAR evaluates existing and future traffic projections at the I-10 and U.S. 331 interchange and adjacent intersections along U.S. 331 to address existing and potential future congestion and geometric deficiencies of the interchange and proposes improvements to enhance the operations of the interchange, as necessary. Historical crash information, including two fatal crashes between 2009 and 2014, also necessitates the study of potential improvements at this interchange.