



# INNOVATE PASCO 2050

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

# EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 2024

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## INTRODUCTION

The Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is analyzing Pasco County transportation needs through a long range transportation plan (LRTP) known as Innovate Pasco 2050.

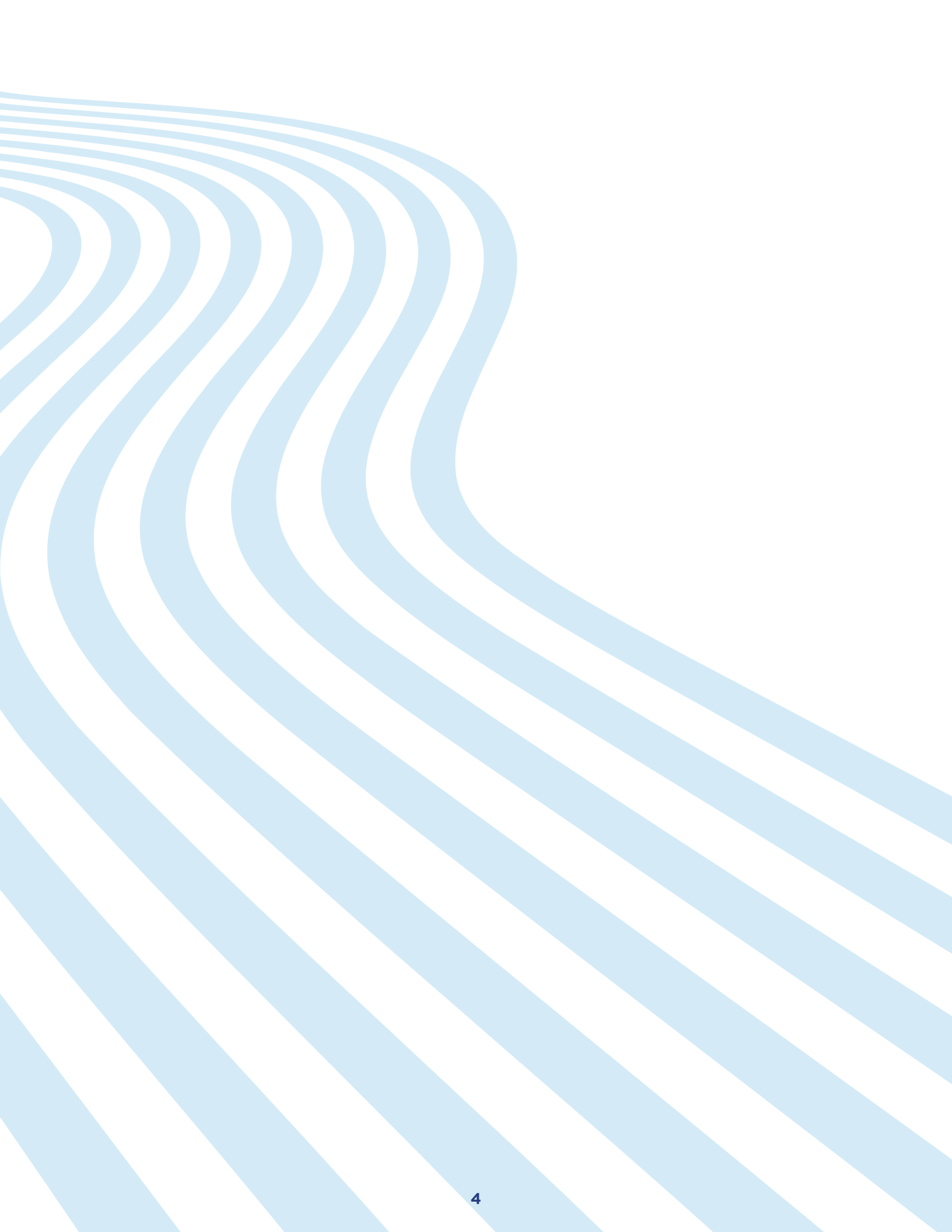
Innovate Pasco 2050 is a multimodal transportation plan that will identify current and anticipated transportation needs in the County for the next 20+ years. It will consider all modes of transportation, including motorized vehicles, public transportation, bicycles, walking, freight and goods movement, and air travel.

Innovate Pasco 2050 will analyze Pasco County's transportation system to determine the County's transportation system needs. Those needs will then be matched with recommended transportation improvement projects, which will be evaluated and prioritized for funding. The result will be a comprehensive blueprint for effective transportation decision-making and investment choices.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

This report evaluates and provides an overview of the existing conditions of the County as part of Innovate Pasco 2050. It is organized into three sections:

- **Section 1 | Pasco County At a Glance.** This section will compare and contrast the demographics of the different areas of Pasco County—East, West, and Central.
- **Section 2 | State of the Population.** This section will demonstrate the current conditions of the population living in Pasco County as well as how the population might grow and change in the coming years.
- **Section 3 | State of Transportation.** This section will describe the current conditions of the transportation system in Pasco County.

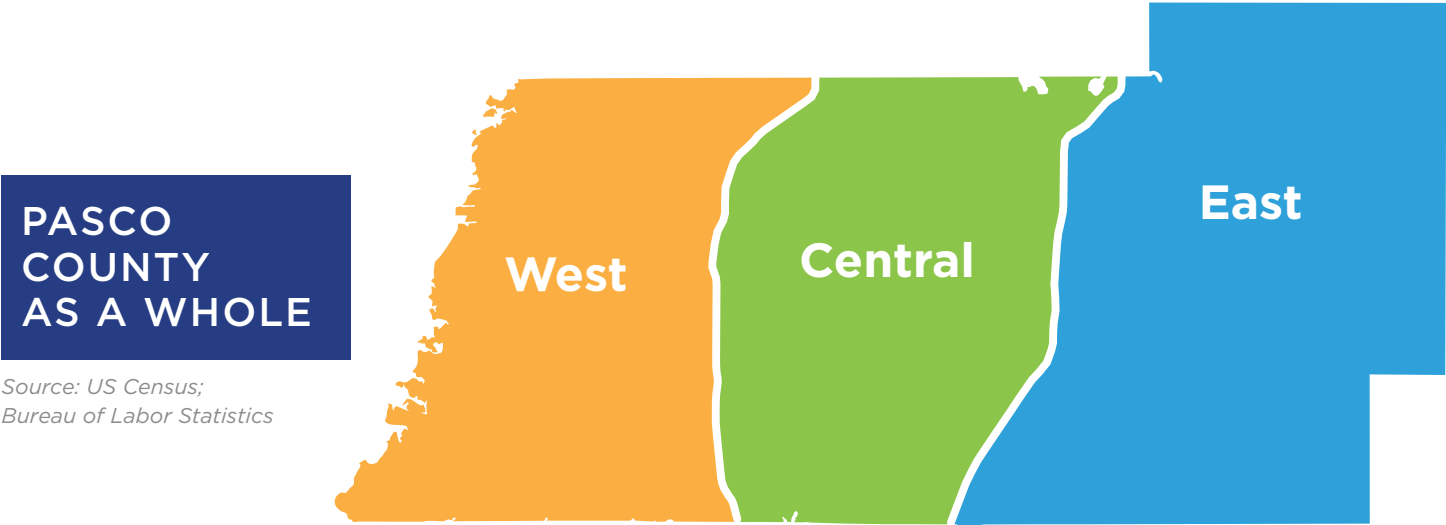


# **SECTION 1**

## **Pasco County At A Glance**

WEST, CENTRAL, AND EAST PASCO

Pasco County’s rapidly expanding population and diversifying economy place new burdens on the roads, trails, bike paths, sidewalks, and transit routes that make up its transportation network. The County’s demographic and economic profile varies from east to west. These variations are highlighted at a glance here by breaking the County into three parts—west, central, and east—with the dividing lines being the Suncoast Parkway and I-75.



PEOPLE

2023 Estimated Population				
597,900	298,500	120,700	178,700	
Compound Annual Growth Rate Since 2010				
2.0%	1.3%	2.9%	2.6%	
Median Age				
45.9	46.1	40.6	44.0	
Adults with a Bachelor’s Degree				
28.6%	22.7%	40.6%	31.4%	

## HOUSEHOLDS

2023 Estimated Number of Households

<b>239,500</b>	<b>127,200</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>68,200</b>
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Average Household Size

<b>2.46</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>2.56</b>
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Households Without Access to a Vehicle

<b>4.0%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
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Share of Owner-Occupied Housing

<b>74.6%</b>	<b>70.2%</b>	<b>80.0%</b>	<b>75.7%</b>
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Median Household Income

<b>\$61,700</b>	<b>\$52,600</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>	<b>\$65,800</b>
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Median Home Value

<b>\$284,800</b>	<b>\$249,700</b>	<b>\$340,200</b>	<b>\$285,100</b>
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## ECONOMY

2023 Estimated Businesses

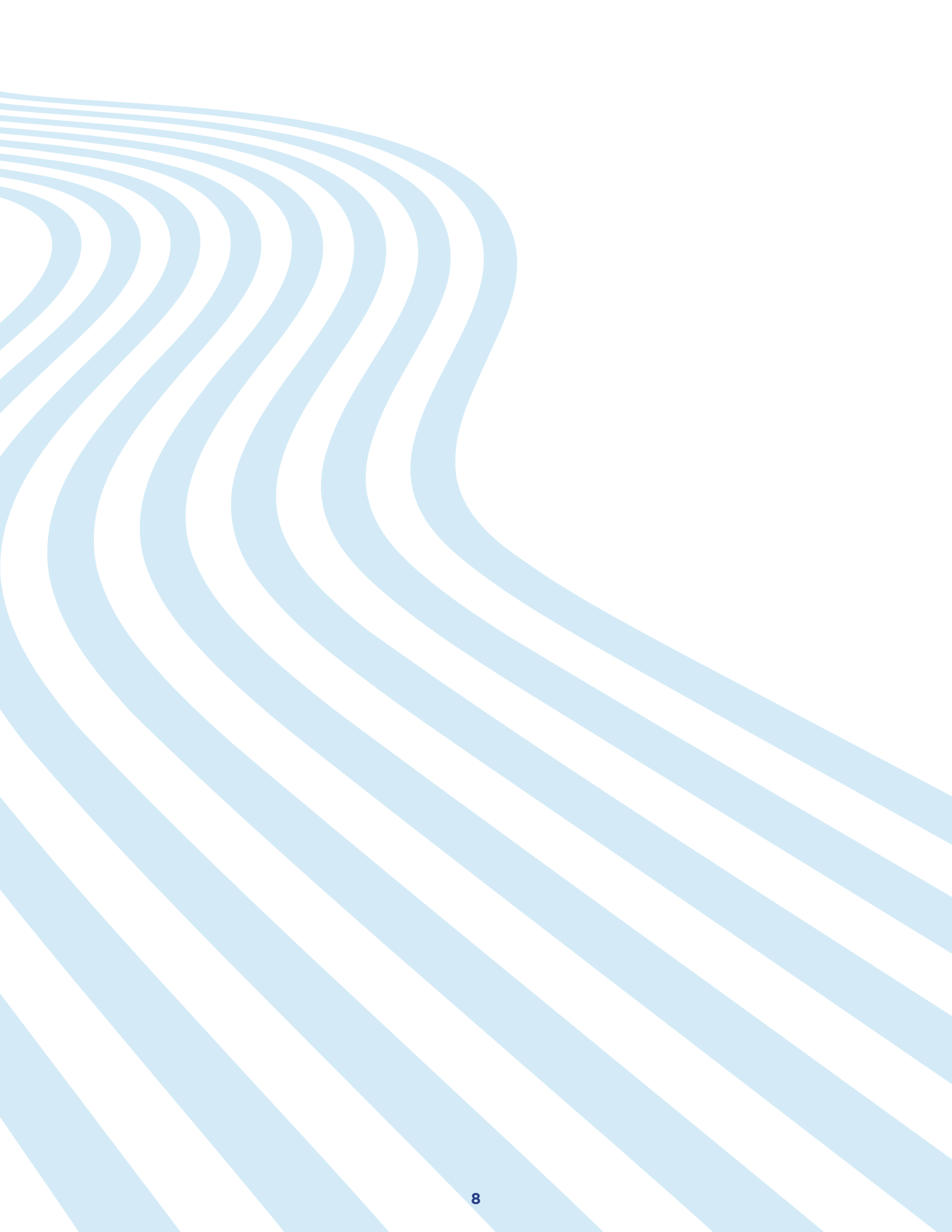
<b>17,400</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>4,900</b>
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2023 Estimated Jobs

<b>150,100</b>	<b>77,800</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>46,400</b>
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White Collar Occupation

<b>64.2%</b>	<b>59.2%</b>	<b>72.4%</b>	<b>65.8%</b>
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# **SECTION 2**

## **State of the Population**

## POPULATION GROWTH

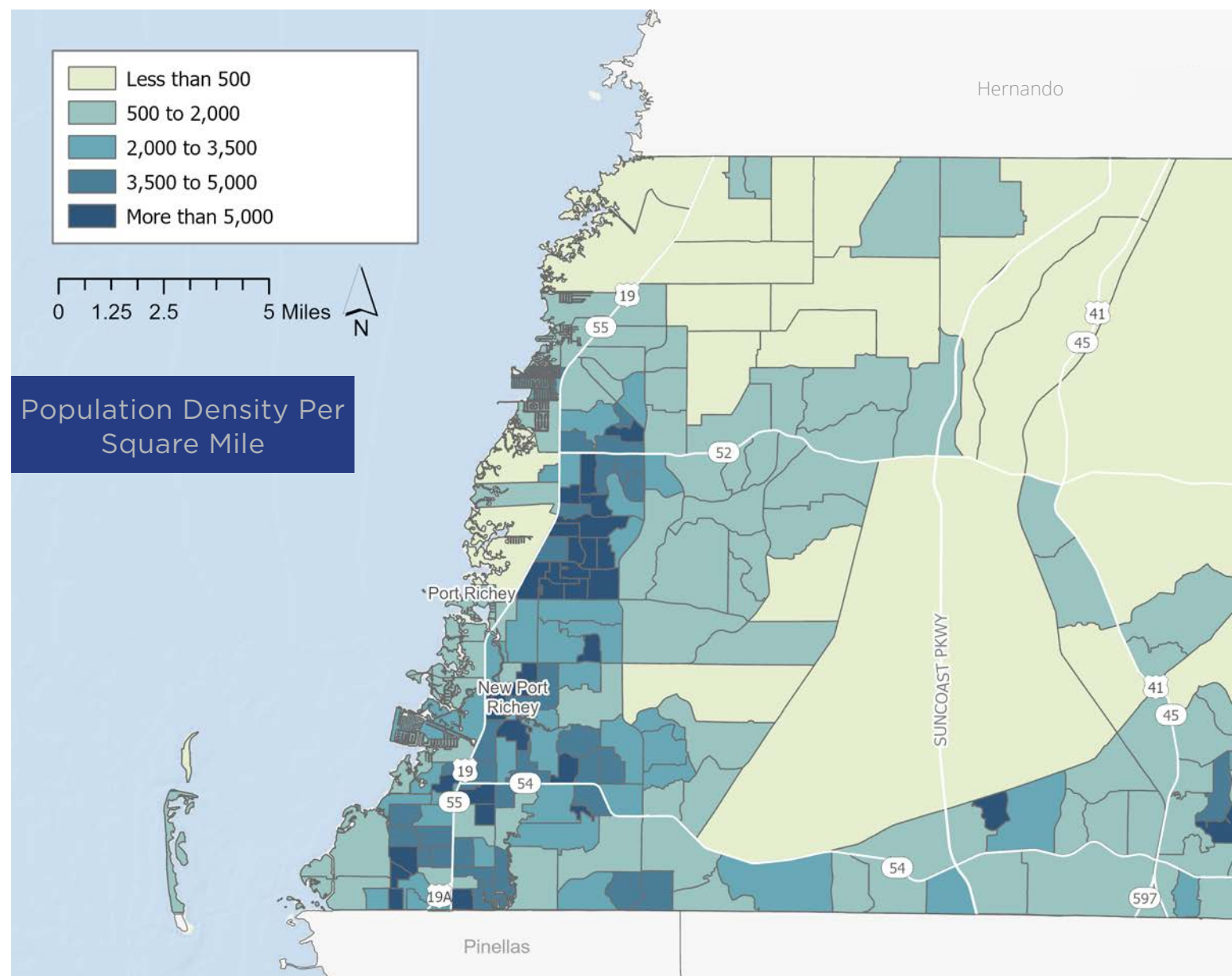
### TOTAL POPULATION

According to the Business Analyst Online, the 2023 population of Pasco County is estimated at 597,882. Between the decennial census in 2020 and 2023, the population increased by more than 20.0%.

# 597,882

Total Population  
2023 Estimate

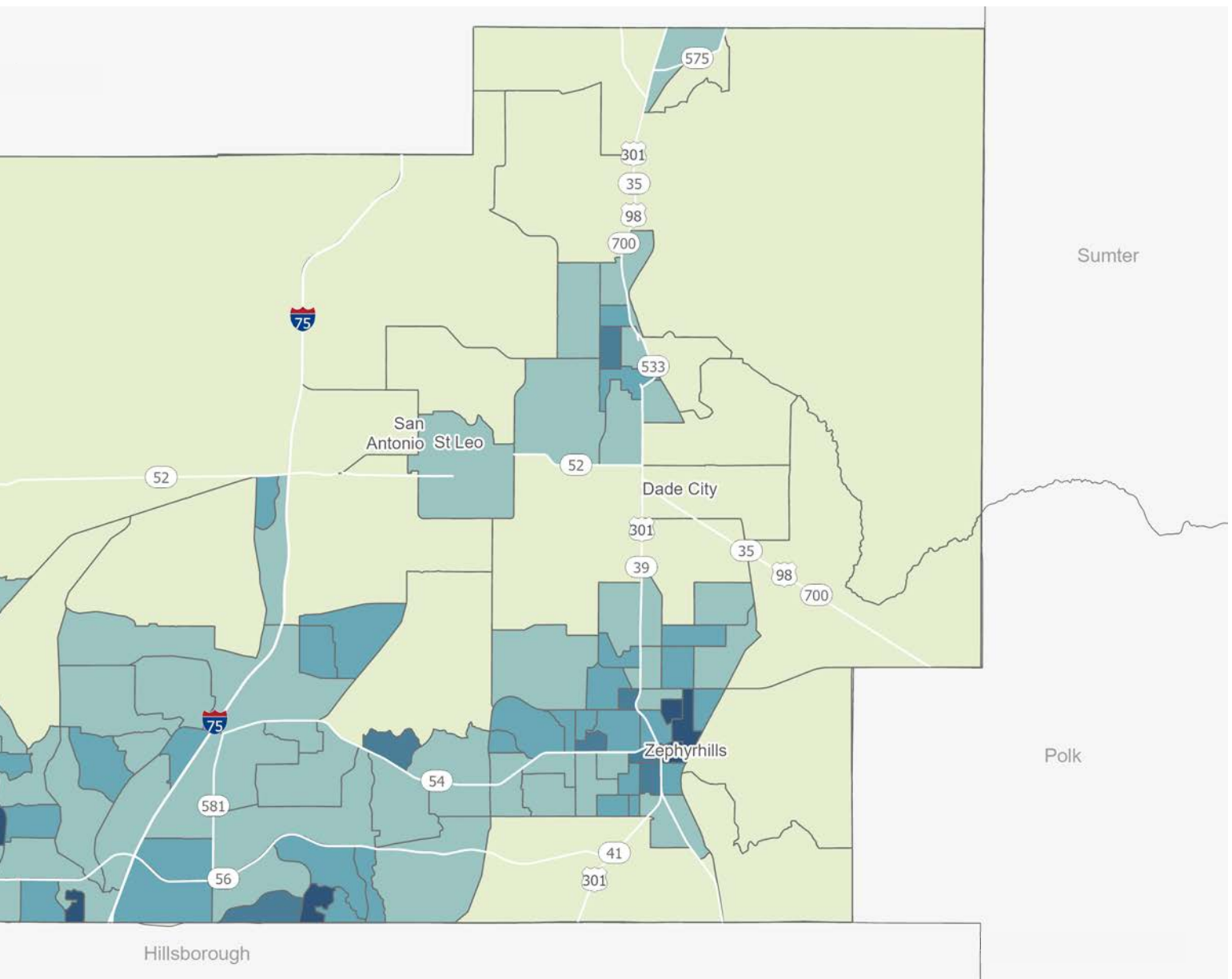
*Business Analyst Online*



Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2022

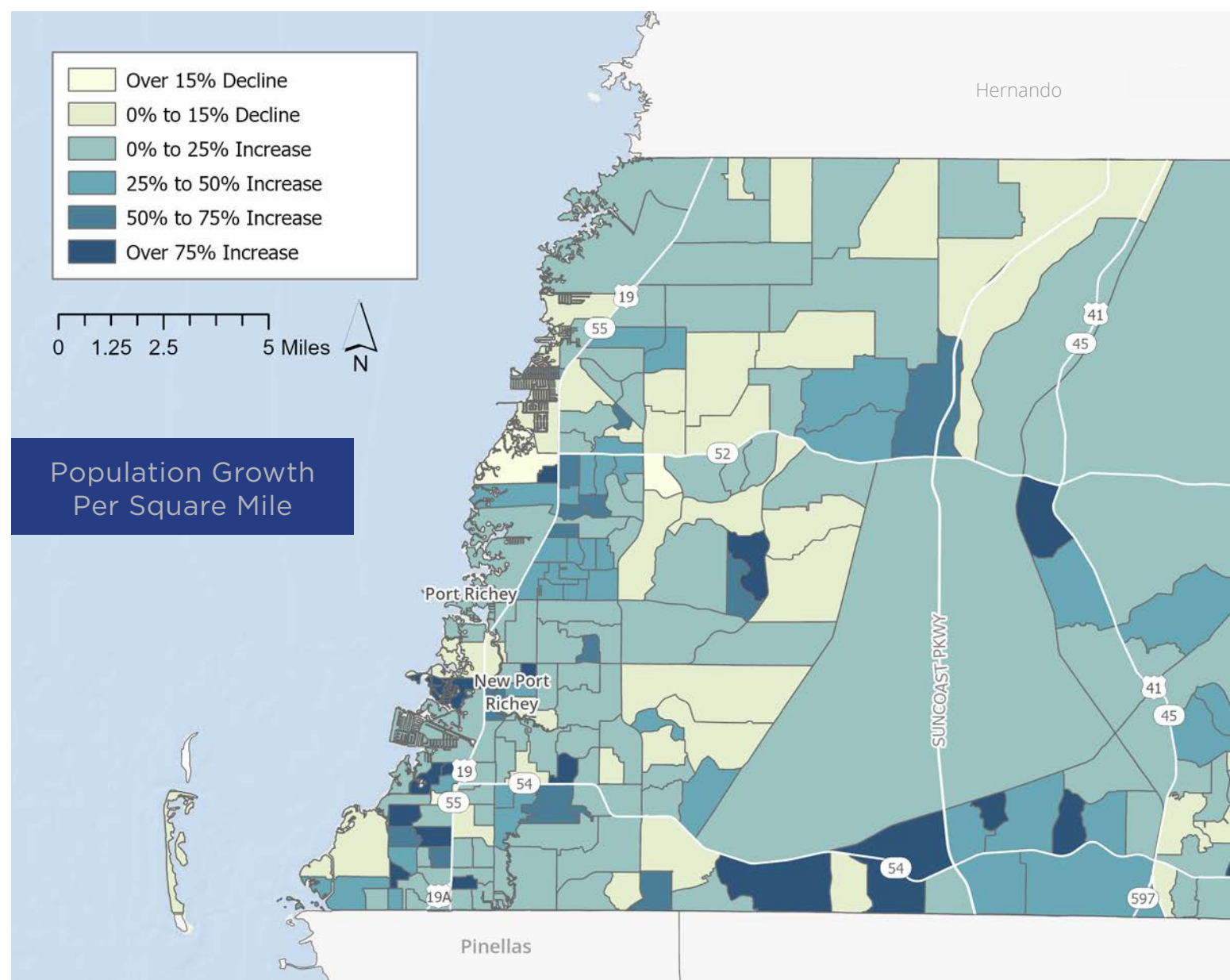
## POPULATION DENSITY

The map below shows the population density of Pasco County Census Block Groups per square mile. The western and southern portions of Pasco County have more people per square mile than the central and eastern portions of the county, as shown by the map below. This is indicative of higher populations in urban areas, including Port Richey, New Port Richey, and Zephyrhills, and along major thoroughfares. In the central and eastern portions of the county, several block groups largely contain nature preserves and state forest.



## POPULATION GROWTH

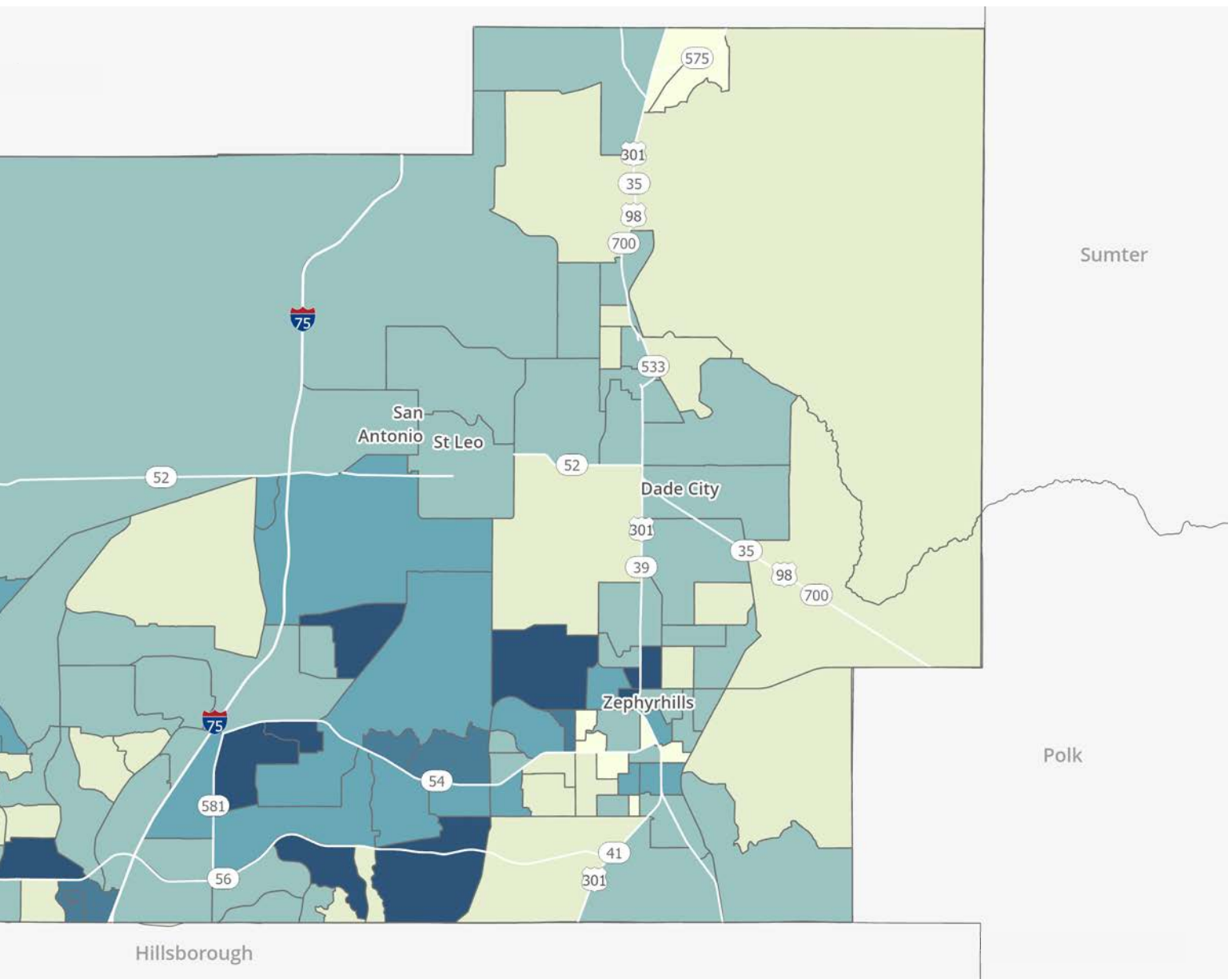
The map below shows the population growth per square mile in Pasco County by Census block group between 2010 and 2023. Based on growth rates alone, the areas experiencing some of the highest rate of growth are the large block groups in the central portion of the County. However, because these block groups have fewer people moving into them overall, their *adjusted* growth rates are lower than other areas in the county. The areas south of San Antonio and St. Leo are experiencing some of the highest growth rates per square mile in the County.



Source: Business Analyst Online (BAO) 2022

**23.7%****Pasco County  
Growth Rate,  
2010-2022**US Census Bureau

Based on growth rates alone, some of the areas experiencing the highest rate of growth are the large block groups in the central portion of the County. However, because these block groups have fewer people moving there overall, their adjusted growth rates are lower than other areas in the County.



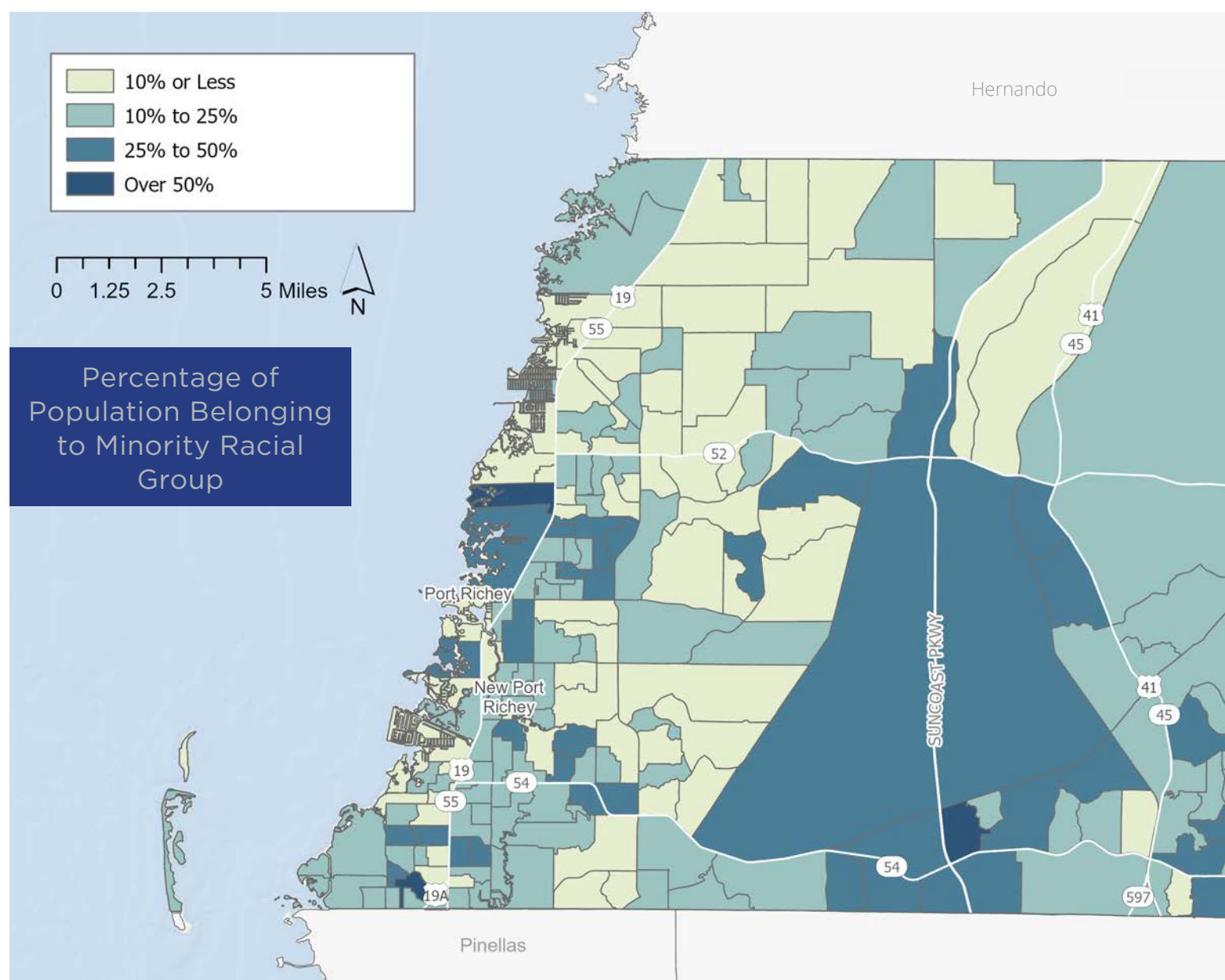


## AGE COHORTS

Pasco County's population is fairly evenly spread among working-age adults, particularly those between 35 to 64. The County is home to a significant population aged 0 to 14. Millennials (those aged roughly 25 to 44), make up the largest cohort, at 23.7% of the total population. However, Baby Boomers (roughly 60 to 79), are the fastest growing age group. Additionally, the younger and senior populations are spread geographically throughout the County. Concentrations of younger populations are located in south central Pasco County near Wesley Chapel and San Antonio. Concentrations of senior populations are generally located west of the Suncoast Parkway.

Cohort	2010	2022	% Change
0 - 14	81,349	94,322	13.8%
15 - 24	49,828	62,936	20.8%
25 - 34	49,207	63,782	22.9%
35 - 44	60,711	71,354	14.9%
45 - 54	66,594	74,050	10.1%
55 - 64	60,763	76,572	20.6%
65 - 74	50,870	68,885	26.2%
75 - 84	32,822	42,938	23.6%
85+	12,553	14,372	12.7%

Decennial Census 2010 | ACS 2022



Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates 2022

## RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

The map below illustrates the percentage of each census block's population belonging to a racial minority group in the County. The US Census defines race as a person's self-identification with one or more social groups. Ethnicity determines whether a person is of Hispanic origin. Both Hispanics and non-Hispanics may report as any race or races.

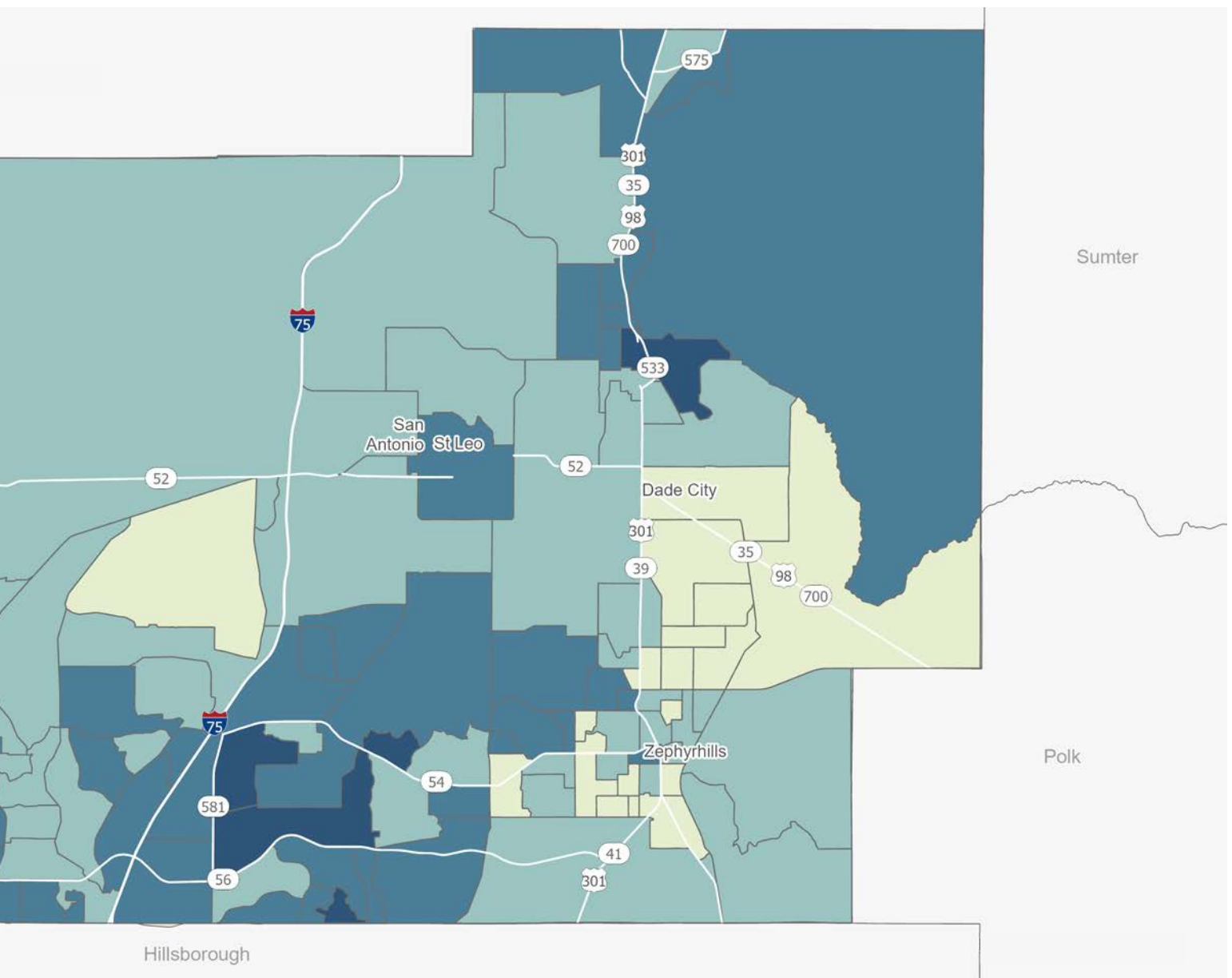
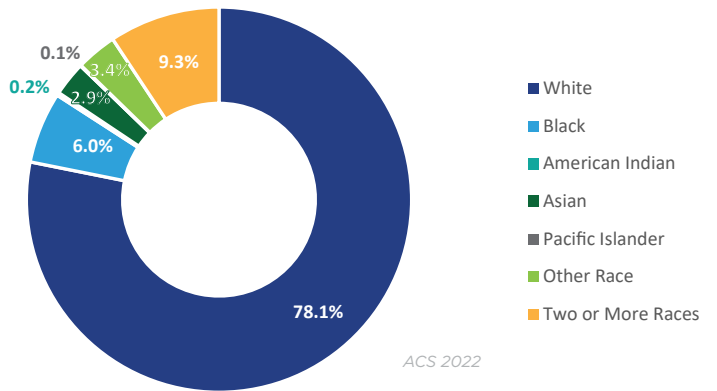
# 17.4%

## Hispanic Population

ACS 2022

## POPULATION BY RACE

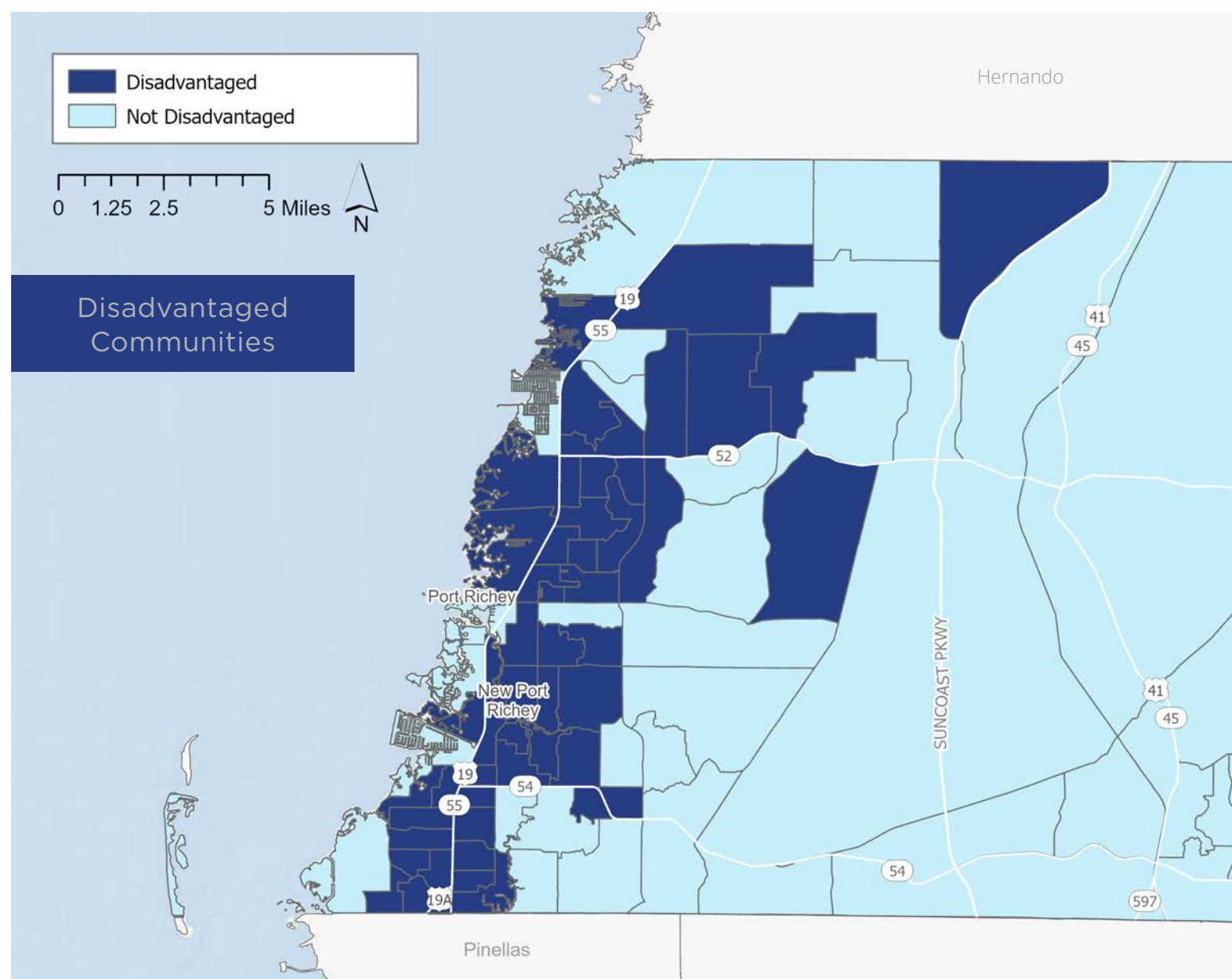
Nearly 22.0% of Pasco County residents belong to a racial minority group.



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

This map below uses data provided by the US Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Justice40 initiative to indicate block groups that are home to disadvantaged communities. According to the Justice40 initiative, disadvantaged communities are disproportionately affected by categories of burdens, including climate change, pollution, poor health outcomes, historic underinvestment in housing and/or infrastructure, poverty, low transportation access, etc. Communities designated as disadvantaged predominantly lie in the western and eastern portions of Pasco County, with a large proportion of block groups in and around New Port Richey and Zephyrhills being identified as disadvantaged. Central Pasco County is more rural and less populated than the western portion.



Source: USDOT Justice40 Initiative 2022



## PASCO COUNTY VULNERABILITY METRICS PER JUSTICE40 ETC CENSUS TRACT DATA

**285.4k**

Total Population Living  
in Disadvantaged  
Census Tracts

Source: Justice40 Equitable  
Transportation Explorer (ETC)

**62.0%**

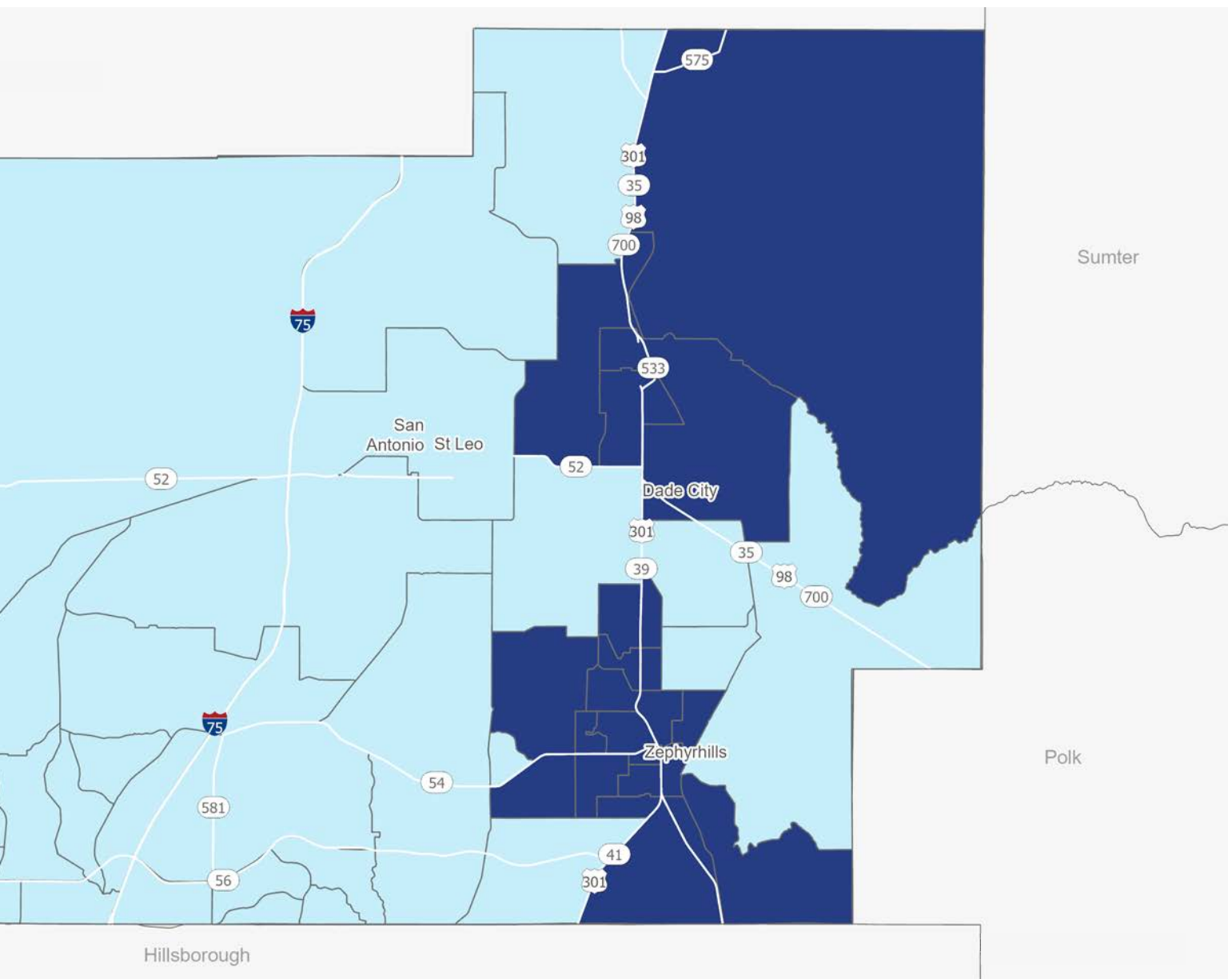
Of Census Tracts In County  
Designated Disadvantaged

**66<sup>th</sup>**

Percentile for  
Health Vulnerability

**69<sup>th</sup>**

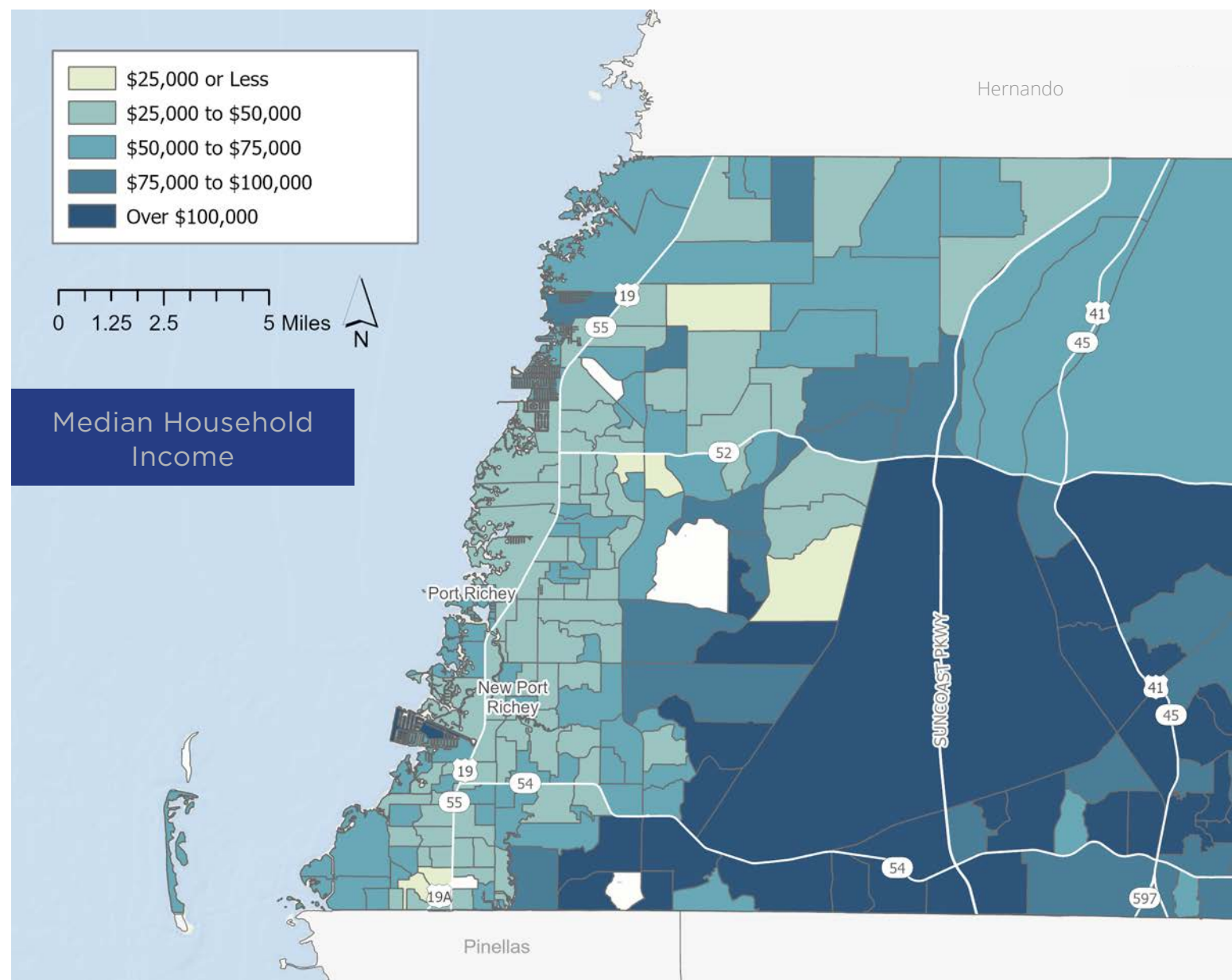
Percentile for Annualized  
Disaster Losses



## INCOME

### INCOME

The majority of households earning \$25,000 or less reside in the western and eastern portions of the County. Central Pasco County, while much less heavily populated than western and eastern Pasco County, is disproportionately home to residents with incomes exceeding \$100,000. The map below shows the distribution of the population by income. Data is unavailable for several block groups in the County.



Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates 2022

## PASCO COUNTY MEDIAN INCOME

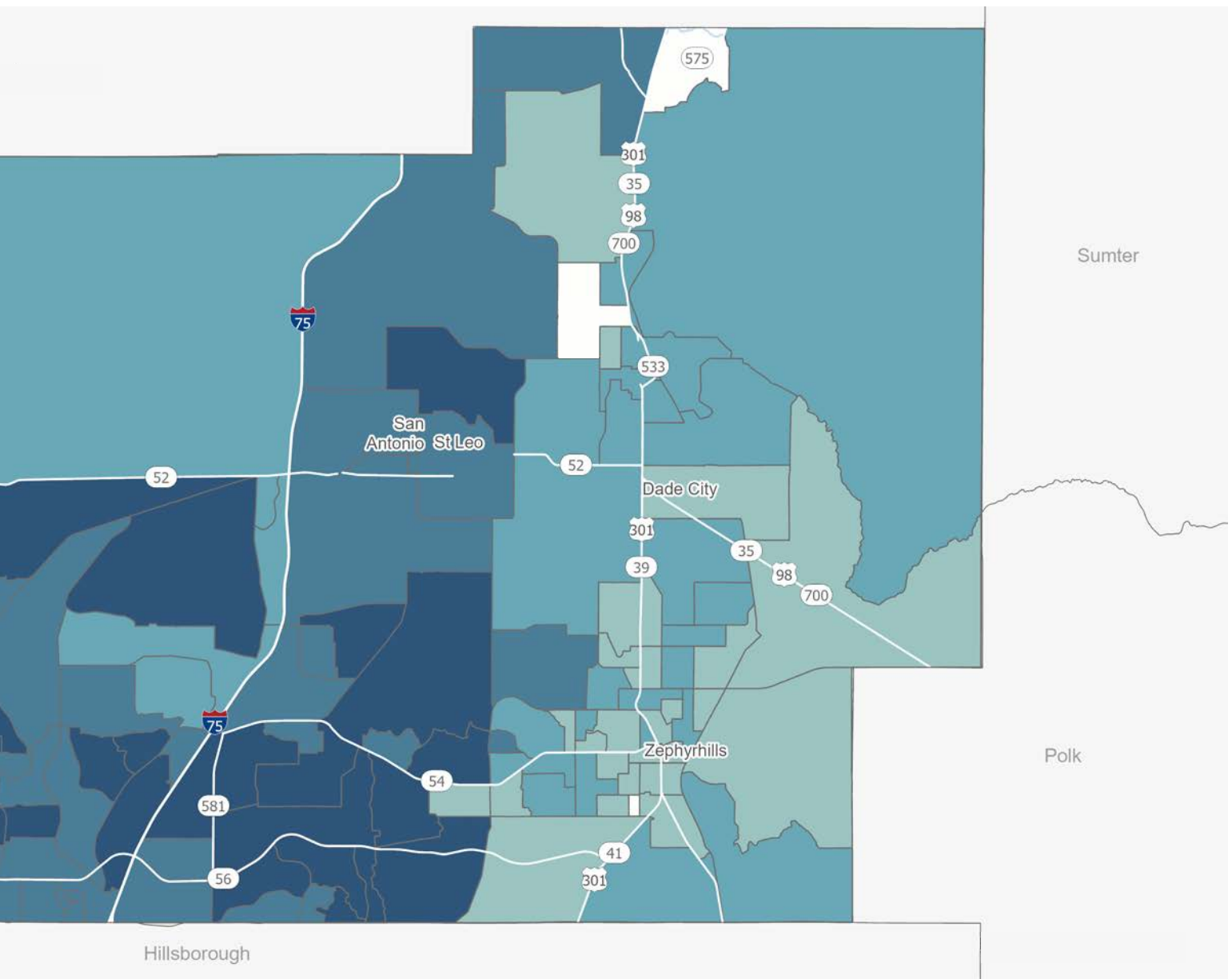
According to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the median income in Pasco County in 2022 was \$63,187.

# \$63,187

Pasco County Median Income

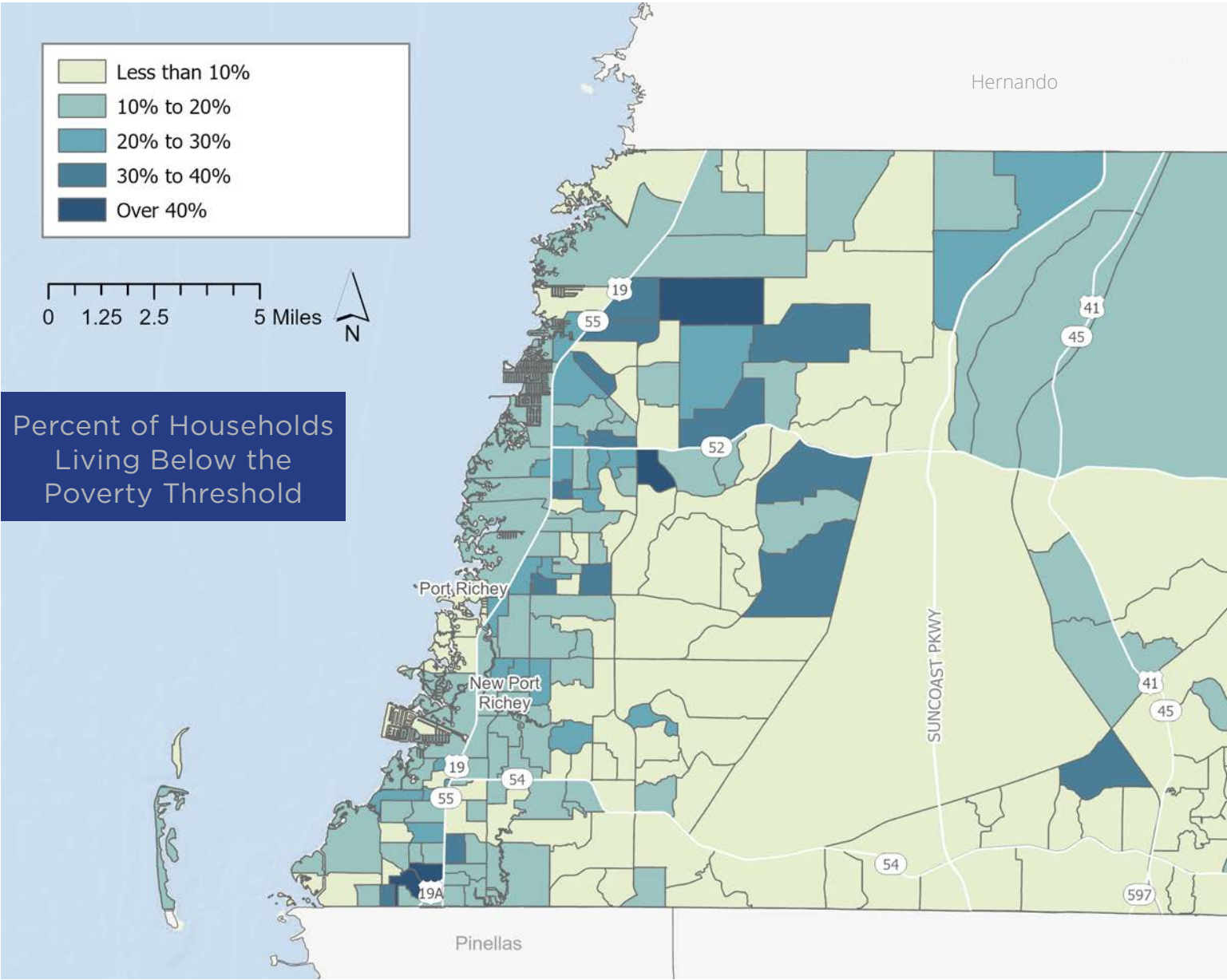
# 40.1%

Block Groups With Median Incomes  
Above Countywide Median



## DISTRIBUTIONS OF LOW-WAGE HOUSEHOLDS

According to the US Census Bureau, the poverty threshold for a four-person household in 2022 was an annual income of \$29,950. The map below illustrates the percentage of households by block group living below the 2022 poverty threshold. These households are less likely to be able to afford a motor vehicle, which highlights a need to improve access to a variety of quality transportation options for these residents and workers.

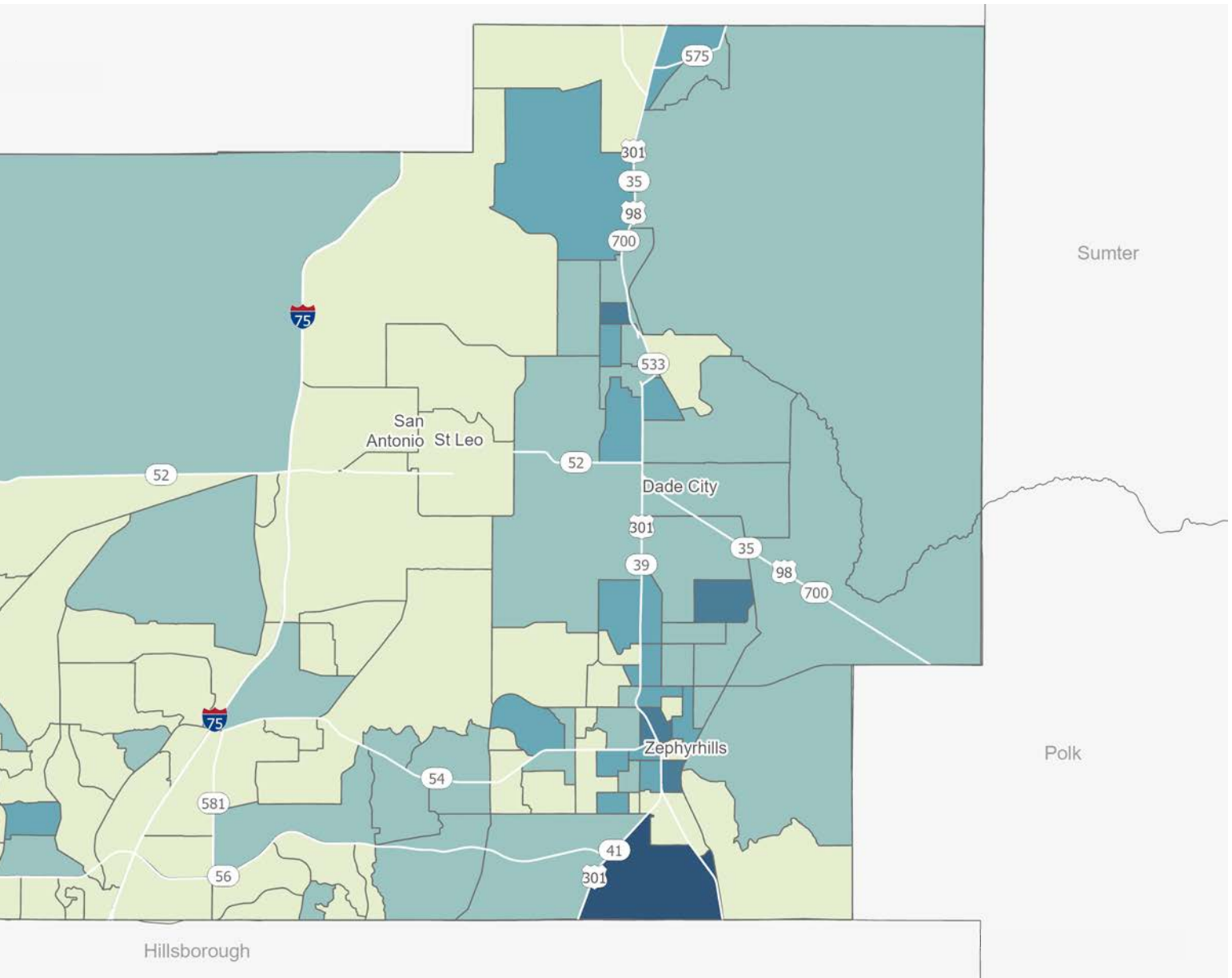


Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates 2022

**53<sup>rd</sup>**

Percentile for Social  
Vulnerability Per  
Justice40 ETC

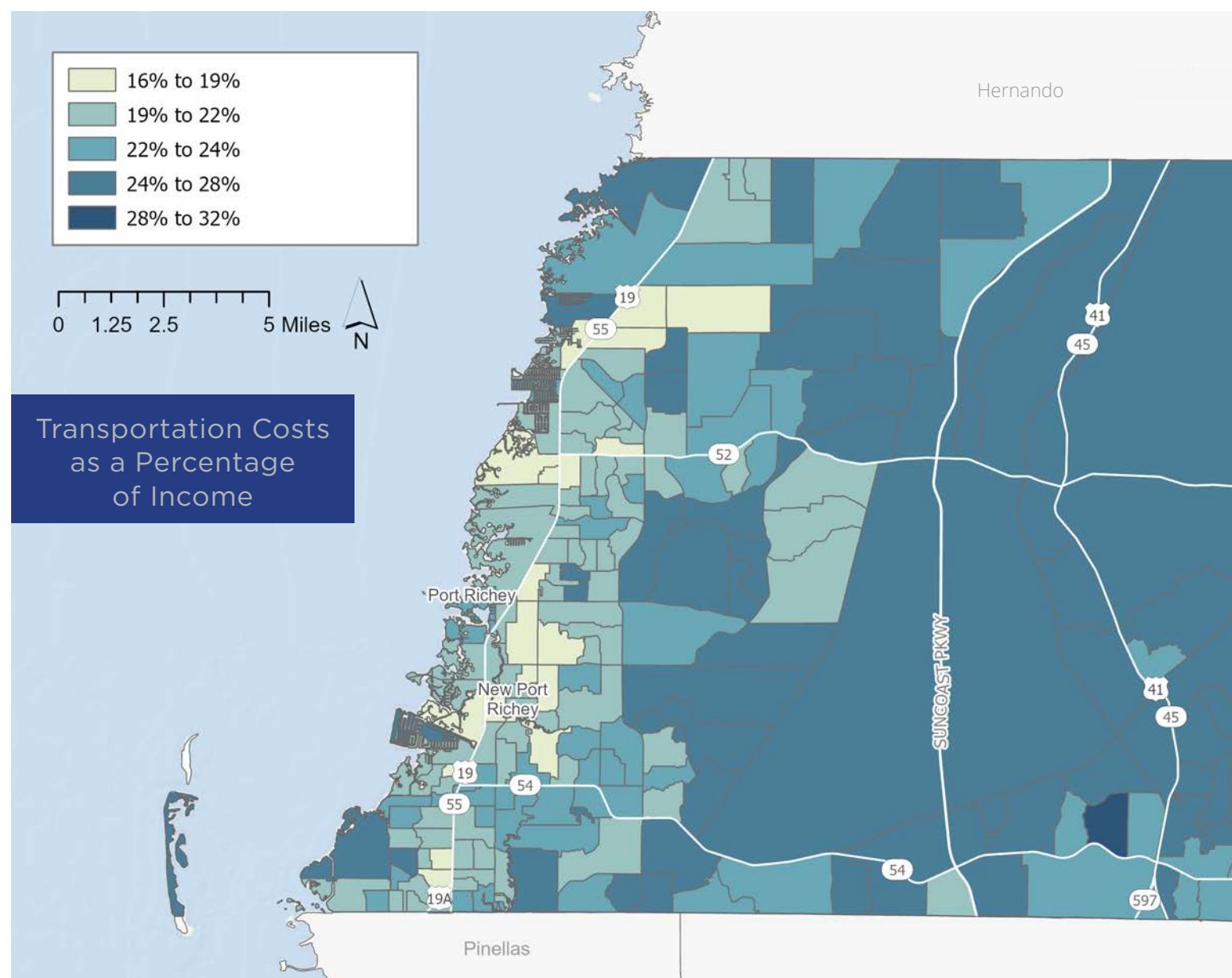
The highest proportion of low-wage households live in northwestern Pasco County and in and around Zephyrhills. These areas overlap heavily with the Justice40-defined disadvantaged communities.





## TRANSPORTATION COST BURDEN

The map below displays transportation cost burden by block group in Pasco County. The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) defines transportation cost-burdened families as those who spend 15% or more of their median income on transportation expenses. Pasco County is heavily automobile dependent and, as a population, Pasco County residents spend more on transportation than the average American, per the CNT definition. Per the US Census Bureau, lower income residents are more likely to spend a disproportionately high percentage of their annual income on transportation—roughly 30% on average in 2022.

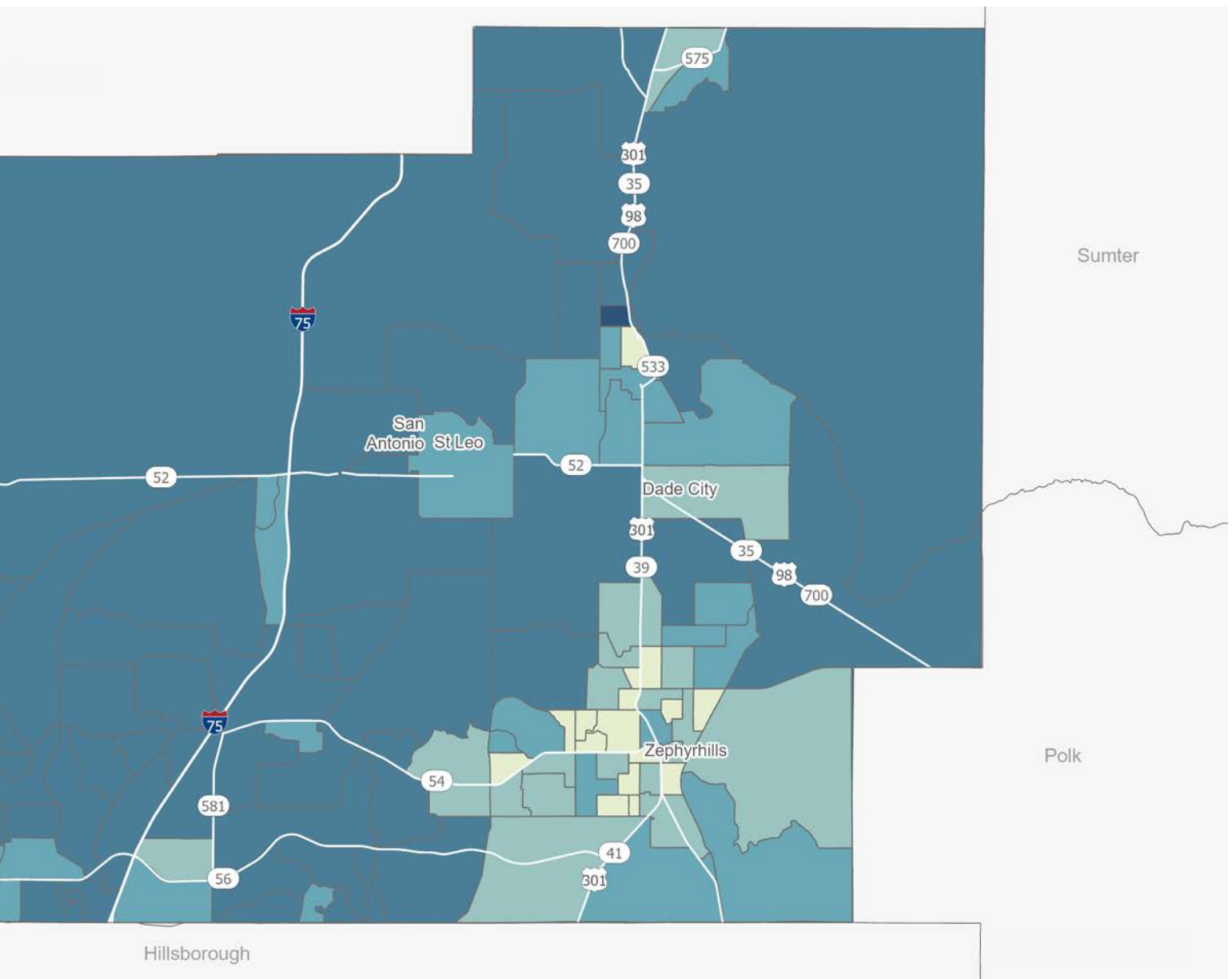


Source: Housing and Transportation Affordability (HTA) 2022

**58<sup>th</sup>**

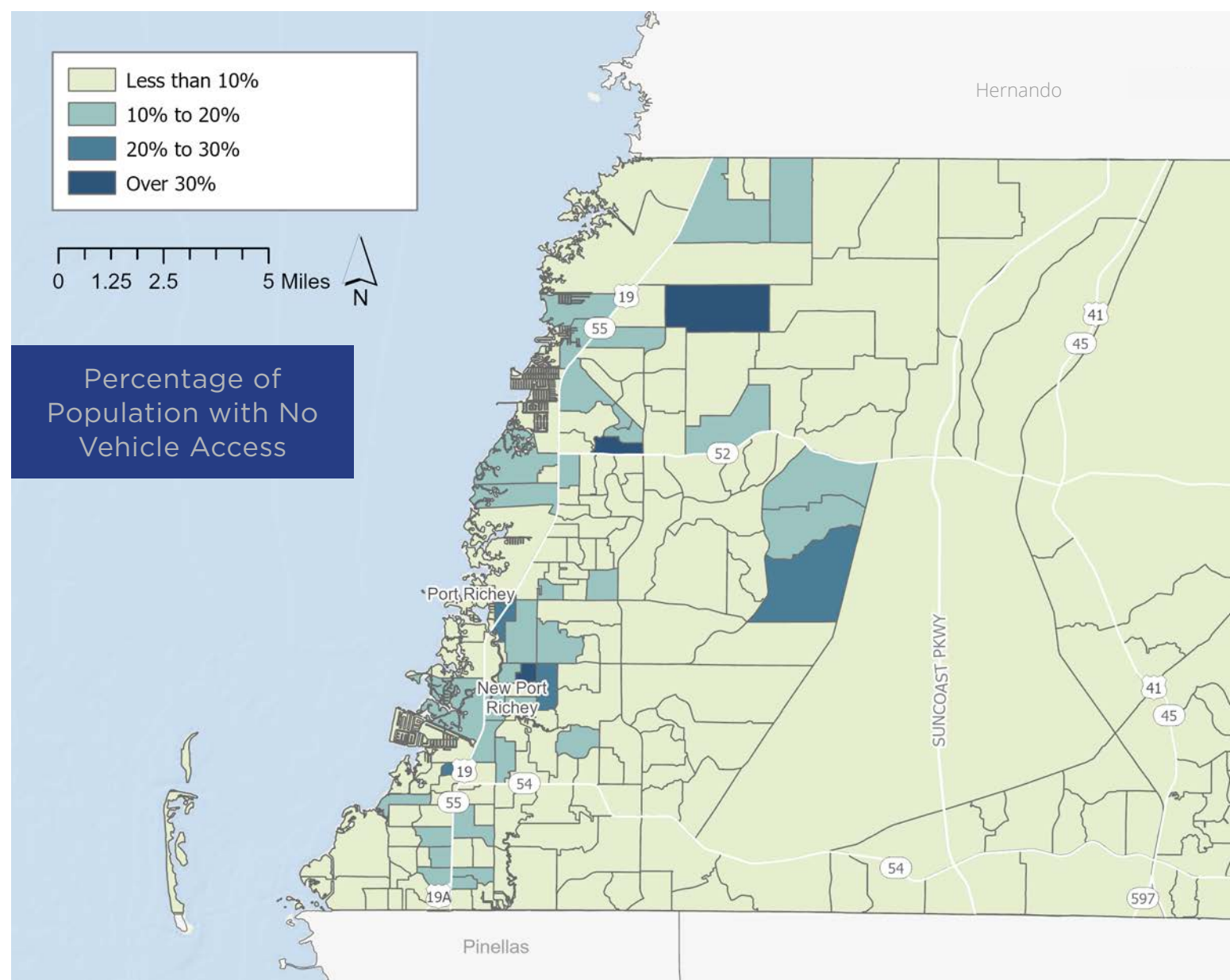
Percentile for  
Transportation  
Cost Burden Per  
Justice40 ETC

In Pasco County, many in central Pasco County are isolated from employment and educational opportunities as well as access to amenities and services. The need to travel further distances increases their transportation costs, which average 24-28% of their annual income.



## VEHICLE ACCESS

Given the County's reliance on automobiles as the main source of transportation for residents and workers within Pasco County, most households within the County have access to at least one vehicle. No vehicle access is more common in western and eastern Pasco County, particularly in the block groups in and surrounding New Port Richey and Zephyrhills, which enjoy greater access to other modes of transportation, including public transit.



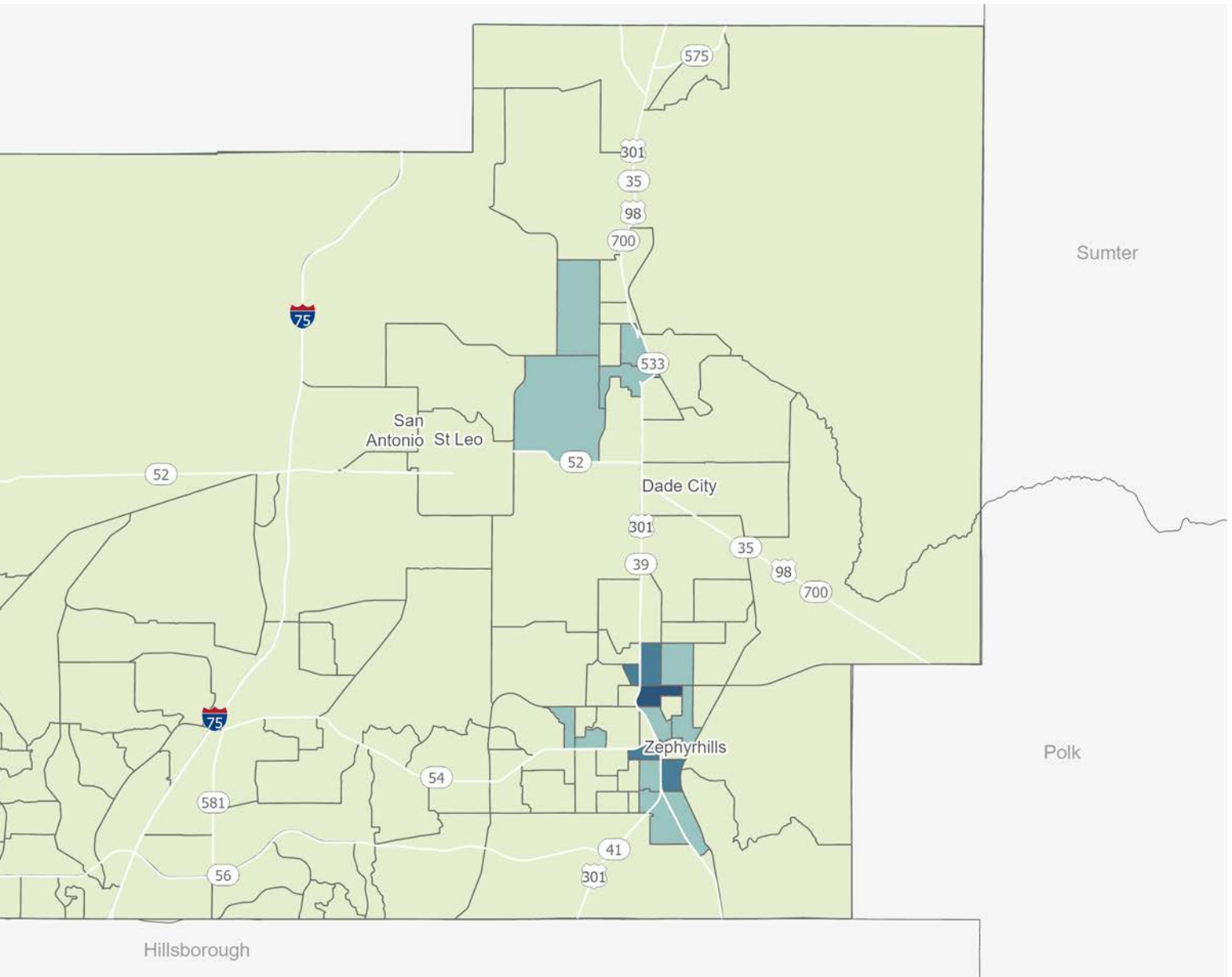
Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates 2022



**57<sup>th</sup>**

Percentile for  
Transportation Access  
Per Justice40 ETC

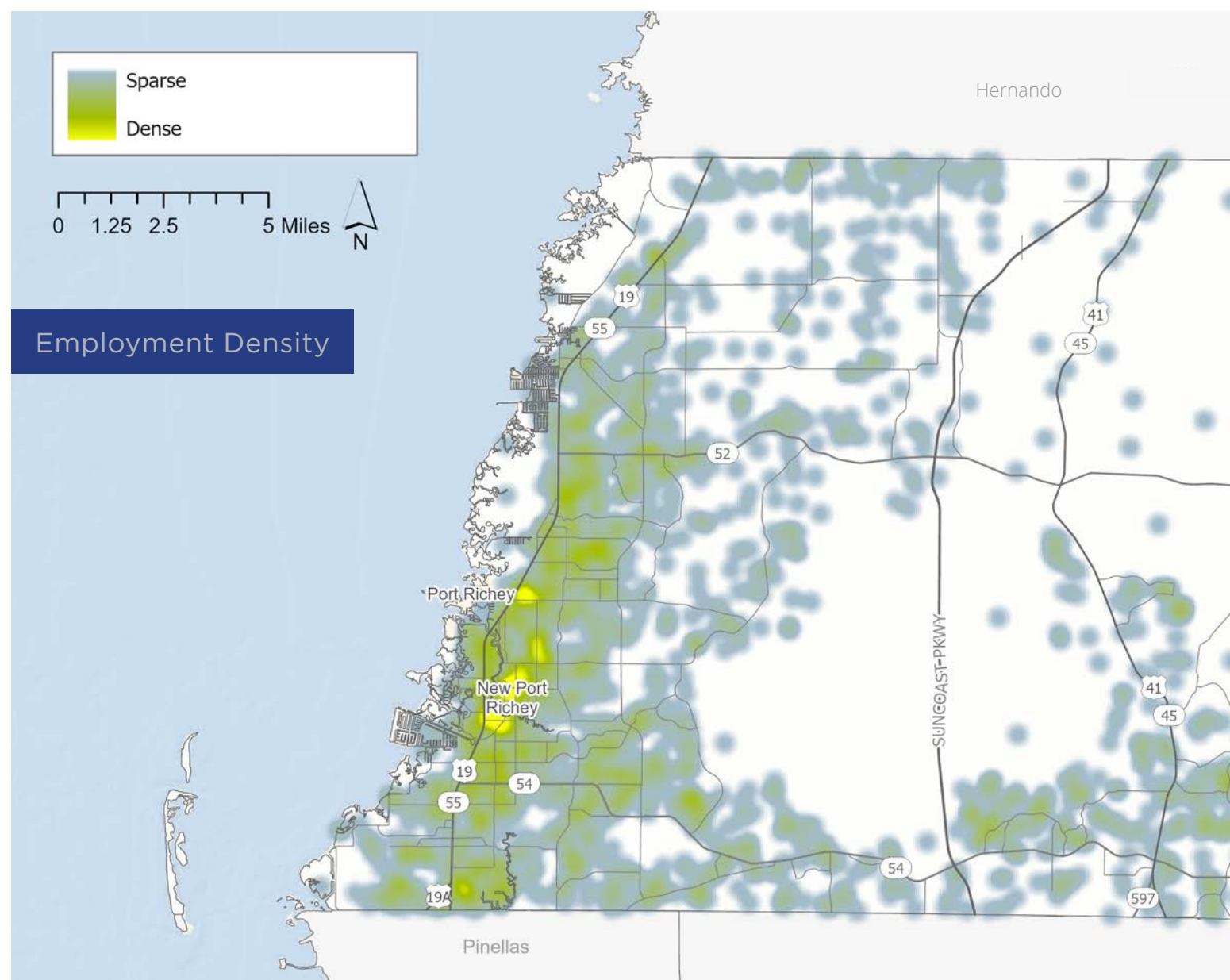
No vehicle access is more common in western and eastern Pasco County, particularly in the block groups in and surrounding New Port Richey and Zephyrhills, which enjoy greater access to other modes of transportation, including public transit.



## EMPLOYMENT

### EMPLOYMENT DENSITY

The data from the US Census Bureau shown on the map below was used to evaluate the areas within Pasco County that have the highest concentration of jobs. The map shows clusters of employment in the County's largest cities, including Port Richey, New Port Richey, and Zephyrhills. Clusters can also be seen at points along major thoroughfares, including SR 56 and US 301.



Source: LEHD On the Map 2021

## JOBS PER SQUARE MILE IN PASCO COUNTY'S LARGEST CITIES IN 2021

**1,697**

New Port Richey

**923**

Port Richey

**829**

Zephyrhills

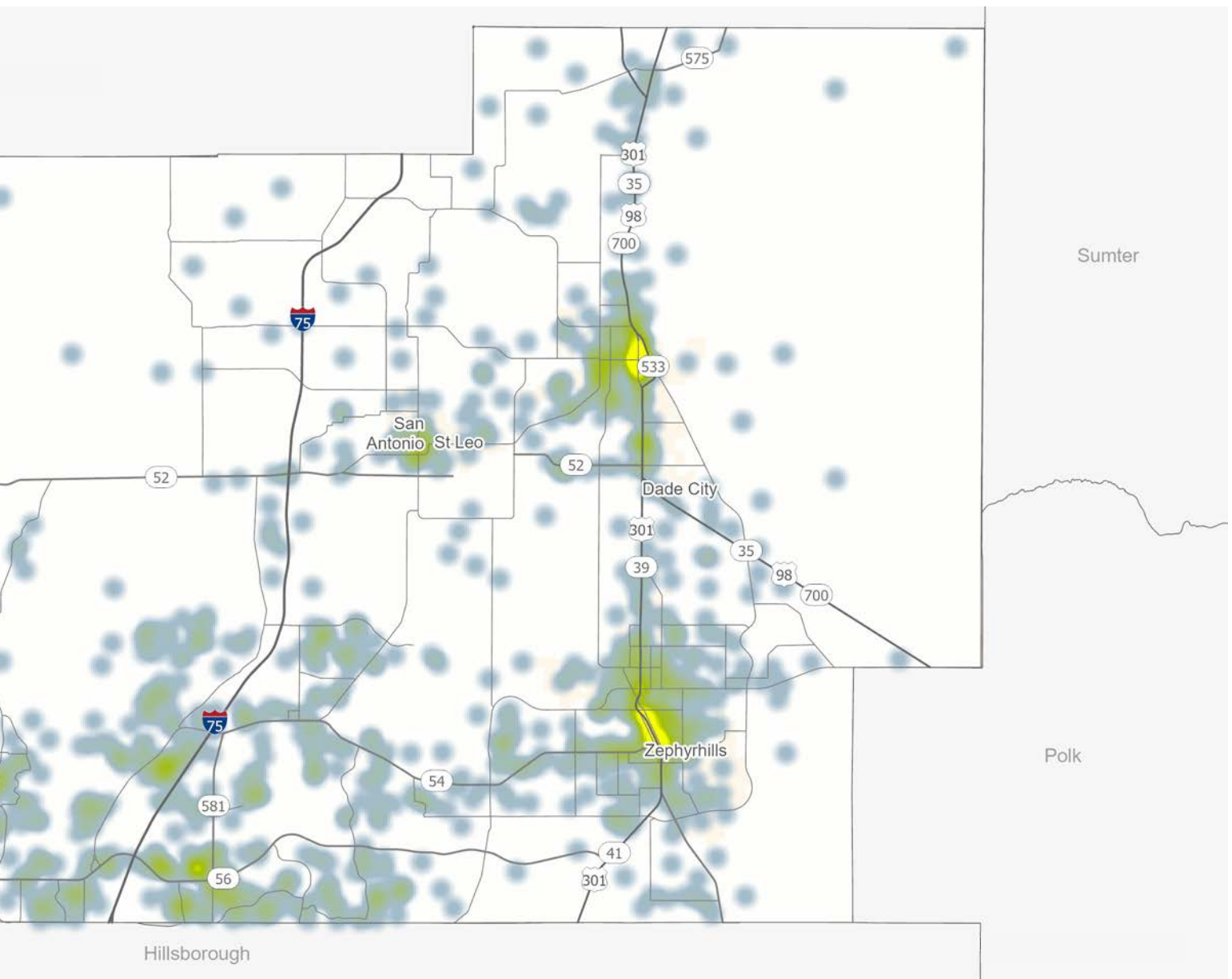
**537**

Dade City

**274**

San Antonio

Source: LEHD On  
the Map 2021



## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Pasco County is home to a variety of industries and employment sectors. Educational services, health care and social assistance, and public administration top the list below as the dominant employment sectors within the County. A mix of public- and private-sector employment options helps foster a diverse workforce in the County, with a variety of skillsets.

# 93.1%

Employed in Education,  
Healthcare, or Public  
Administration

Combined, the top three employment sectors (education, healthcare, and public administration) employ more than 27,000 people in Pasco County.

Rank	Employer	Product/Service	Employee Count
1	Pasco County School District	Educational Services	12,490
2	Pasco County Government	Public Administration	3,305
3	HCA Healthcare	Health Care and Social Assistance	3,084*
4	State of Florida	Public Administration	1,649
5	AdventHealth Wesley Chapel	Health Care and Social Assistance	1,562
6	Florida Medical Clinic	Health Care and Social Assistance	1,319
7	Pasco County Sheriff	Public Administration	1,144
8	Federal Government	Public Administration	940
9	Saint Leo University	Educational Services	805
10	Santander Consumer USA	Finance and Insurance	434
11	Gulfside Healthcare Services	Health Care and Social Assistance	385
12	Bayonet Plumbing Heating and A/C	Utilities	375
13	Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative	Utilities	368*
14	Premier Community HealthCare	Health Care and Social Assistance	297
15	Pasco Clerk of the Circuit Court	Public Administration	287
16	SouthEast Personnel Leasing	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	241
17	R.J. Kielty Plumbing, Heating & Cooling	Utilities	206
18	Ensurem	Finance and Insurance	200*
19	Amazon Last Mile Facility	Transportation and Warehousing	200*
20	Encompass Health	Health Care and Social Assistance	145

Source: Pasco Economic Development Council

Note: Employee Counts from 2023 unless noted by an asterisk (\*), which indicates 2022 values

# COMMUTING TRENDS AND PATTERNS

## MODE SHARE

### TODAY

Pasco County today is heavily car-dependent, with 72.5% of workers in the County driving alone to work. Only 27.2% travel by some other mode (walking, biking, transit) or telework.

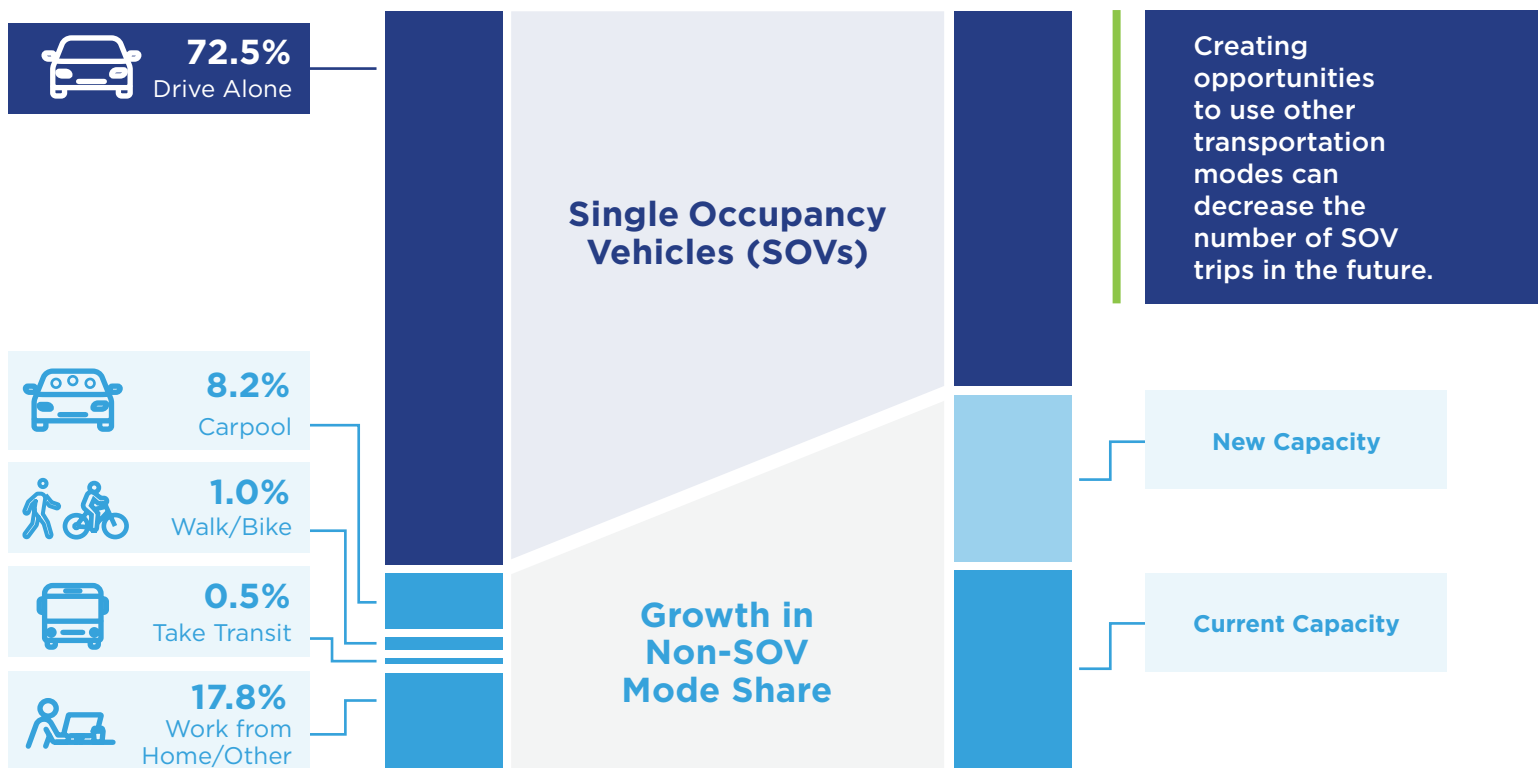
**Post-pandemic, more people telework (16.0%) than take transit, walk, bike, or carpool combined (11.2%).**

This reliance on cars is closely related to several mobility challenges for the County, including the burden of high transportation costs for households, roadway maintenance, congestion, and safety concerns—particularly for people walking and biking.

### FUTURE

Increasing non-SOV capacity by providing more opportunities for carpooling, walking, biking, taking transit, and telecommuting—as illustrated by the graphic below—plays a key role in achieving the County's mobility goals, helping to:

- Manage rapid growth
- Alleviate congestion
- Support safe travel for all users and all modes
- Provide affordable mobility
- Improve access to opportunity
- Preserve the environment

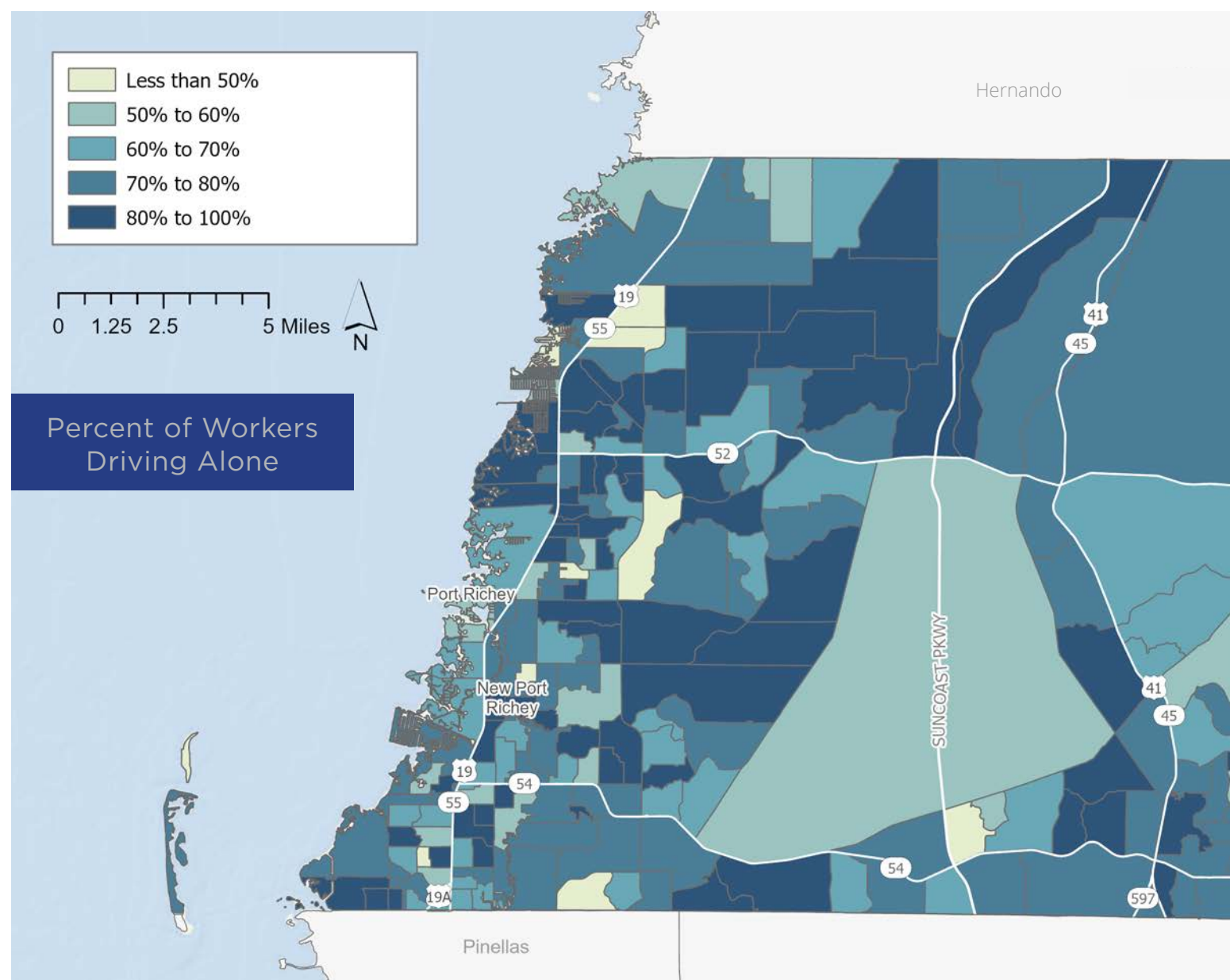


Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates 2022



## SINGLE OCCUPANCY VEHICLE (SOV) DISTRIBUTION

Generally, the further away a Pasco County resident lives from an urban area, the more likely they are to drive alone to work. Exceptions to this may be in rural block groups, where farm workers are often more likely to carpool. However, SOV commuting is extremely common throughout the County, even in the block groups in and surrounding more urban areas like New Port Richey and Zephyrhills. Providing more public transit and bike/pedestrian options in areas where feasible can help reduce SOV commuting.



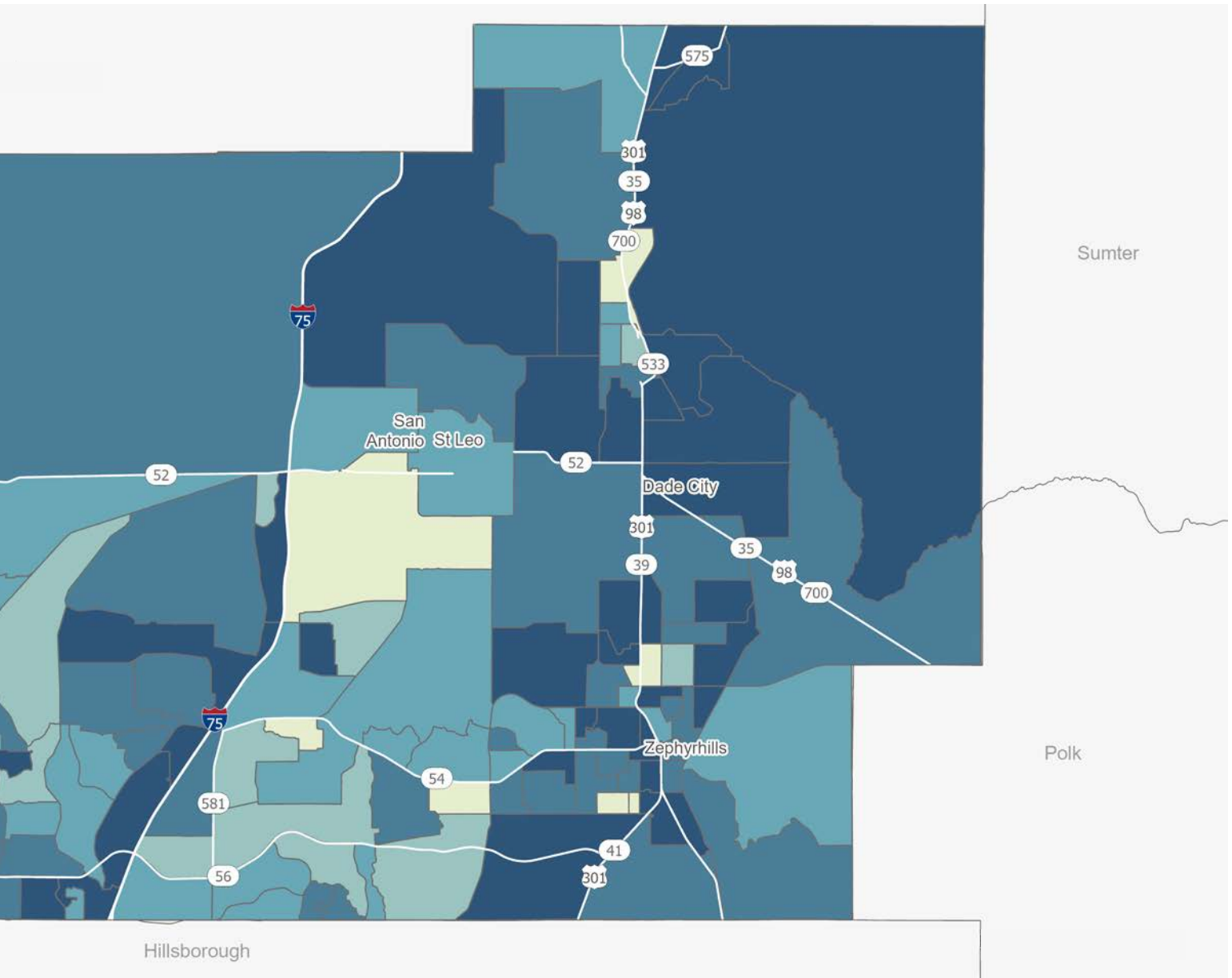
Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates 2022

# 72.5%

Drove Alone to  
Work in 2022

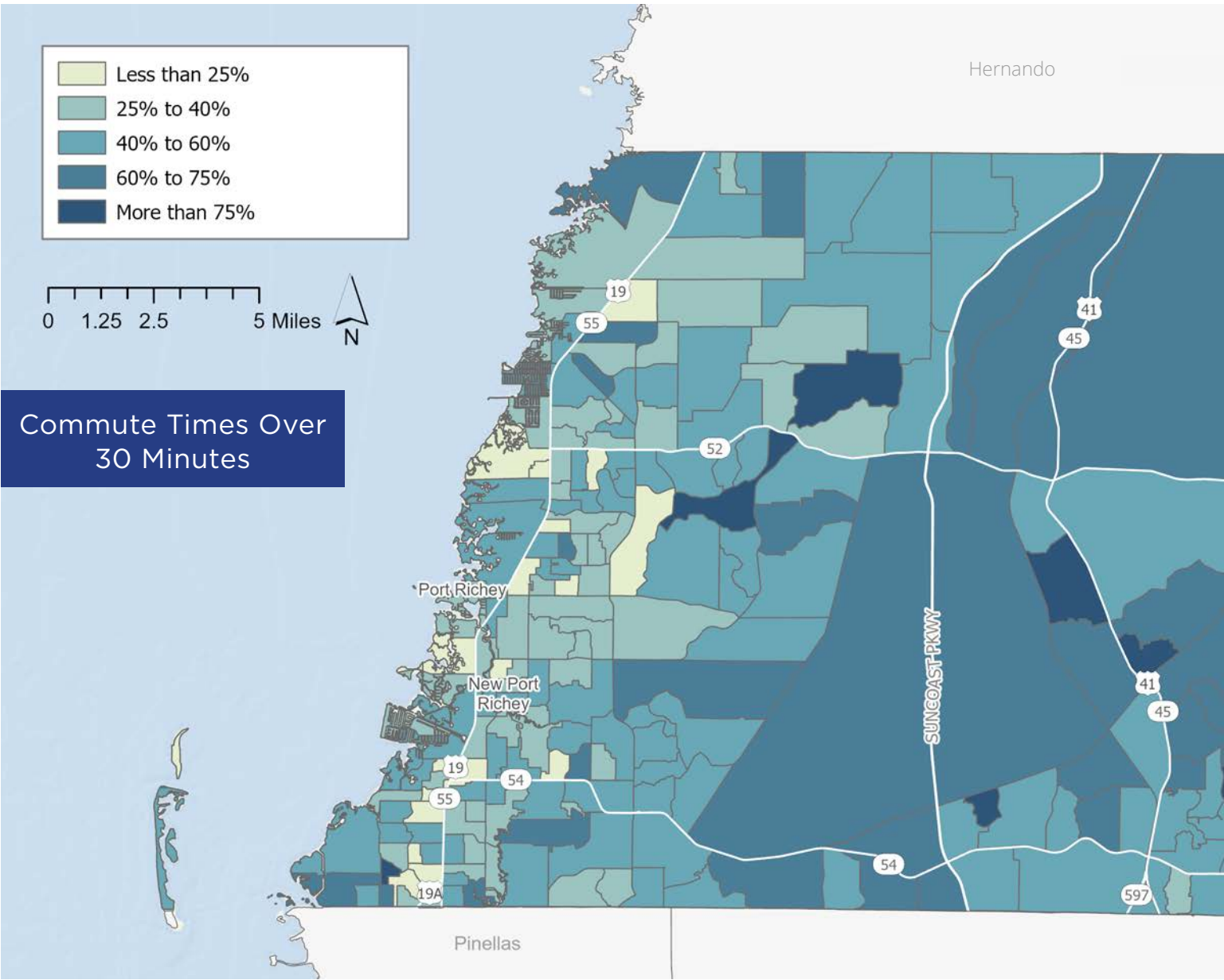
ACS 2022

Providing more public transit and bike/pedestrian options in areas where feasible can help reduce SOV commuting.



## COMMUTE TIMES

The map below shows the percentage of commuters who live within Pasco County and travel 30 or more minutes to work. Between 2018 and 2022, the average travel time to work in the County was 31.2 minutes (US Census Bureau). Commute times are generally shorter in areas near job centers and places that have access to transit and walking/biking options. This is shown in the map below, where the majority of commuters with shorter trips to work live in the western and eastern portions of the County, near cities like Zephyrhills and job-rich areas.



Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates 2022



# 49.9%

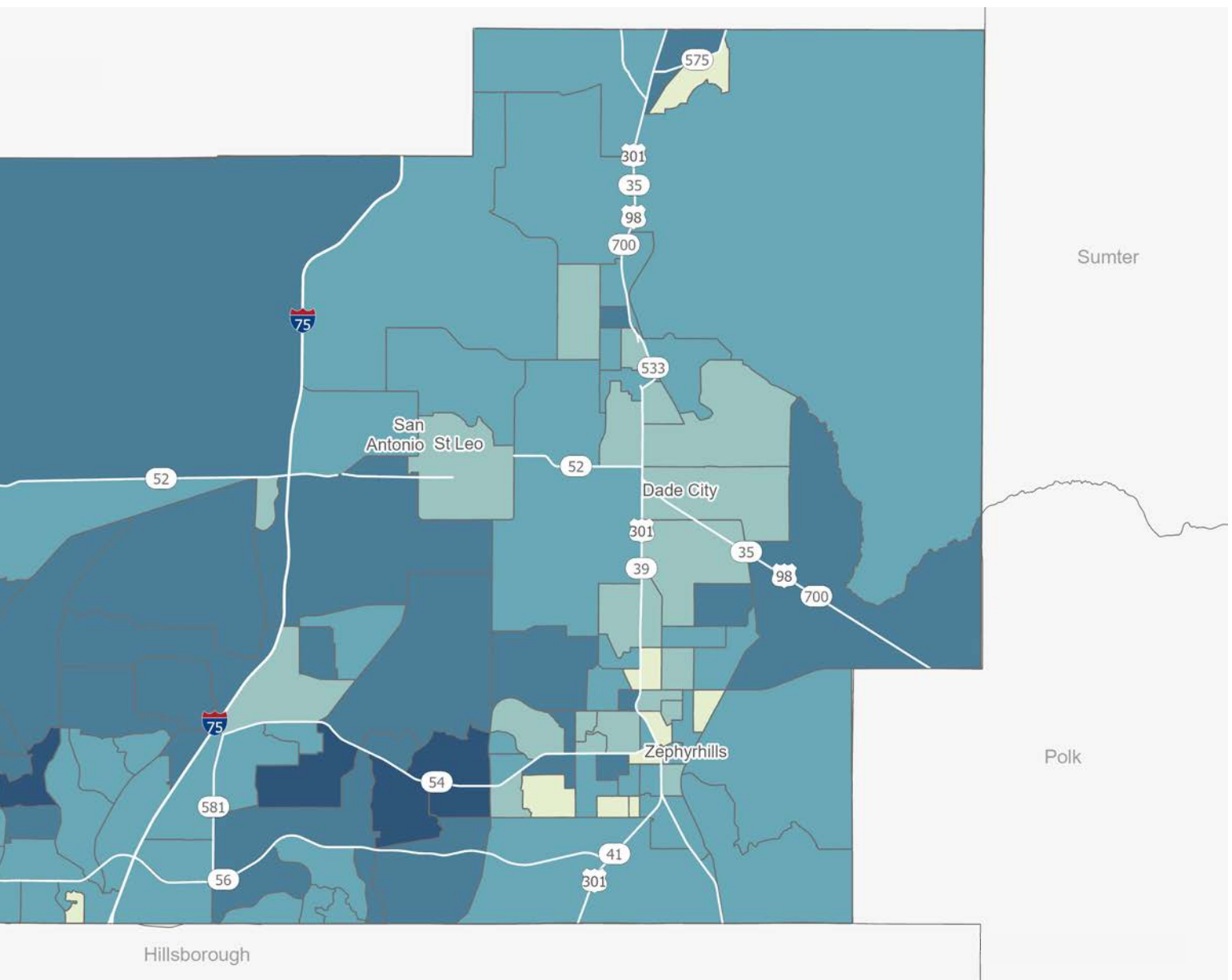
Commute More than  
30 Minutes to Work

ACS 2022

# 31.2

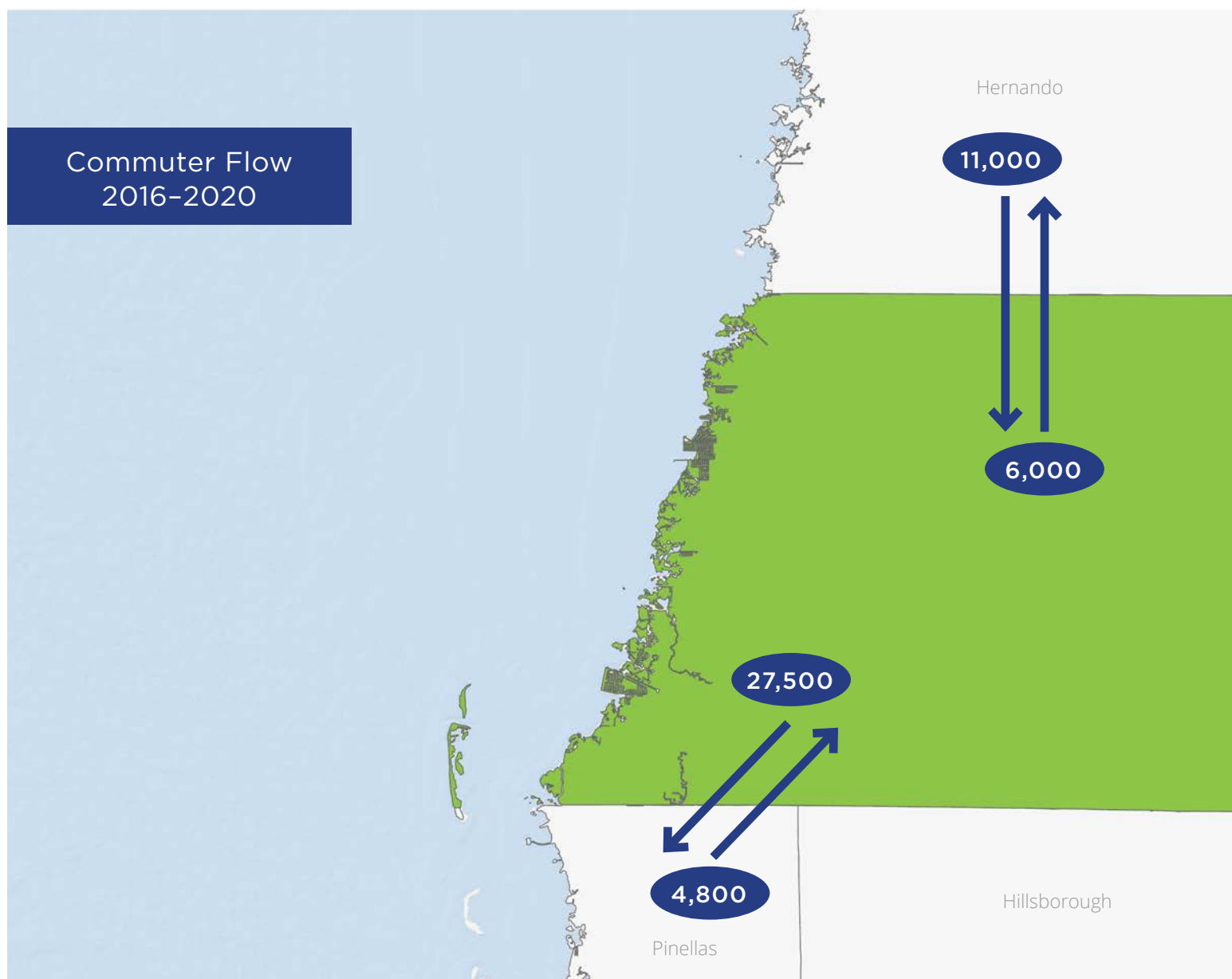
Minutes is the Average  
Daily Commute Time

US Census Bureau



## COMMUTER FLOW

72.9% of employed Pasco County residents commute outside the County for work. Only 27.1% of employed Pasco residents work in the County. The majority of Pasco County employees (53.4%), live outside the County and commute into it regularly for work. The map below shows the commute flows between Pasco County and its neighboring counties, as documented by the US Census Bureau between 2016 and 2020. Predominantly, Pasco County residents who commute outside the County for work are traveling south to Hillsborough and Pinellas County.



Source: US Census Bureau 2016-2020

The inflow and outflow of commuters to the County as well as the number of people who live and work in Pasco County comes from a different data source called On the Map. It combines Census data with other sources to publish data related to employment, earnings, and job flows.

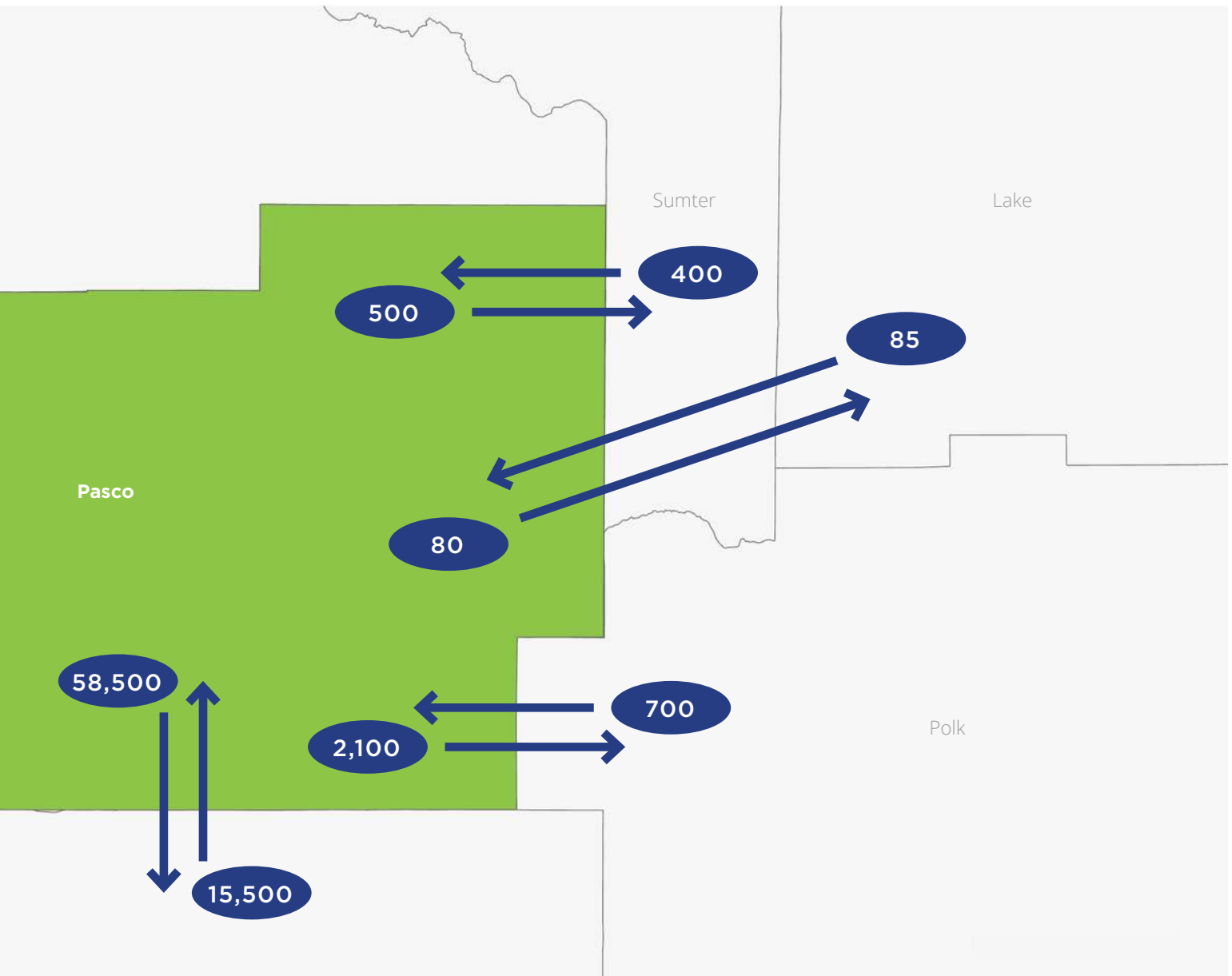
# 27.1%

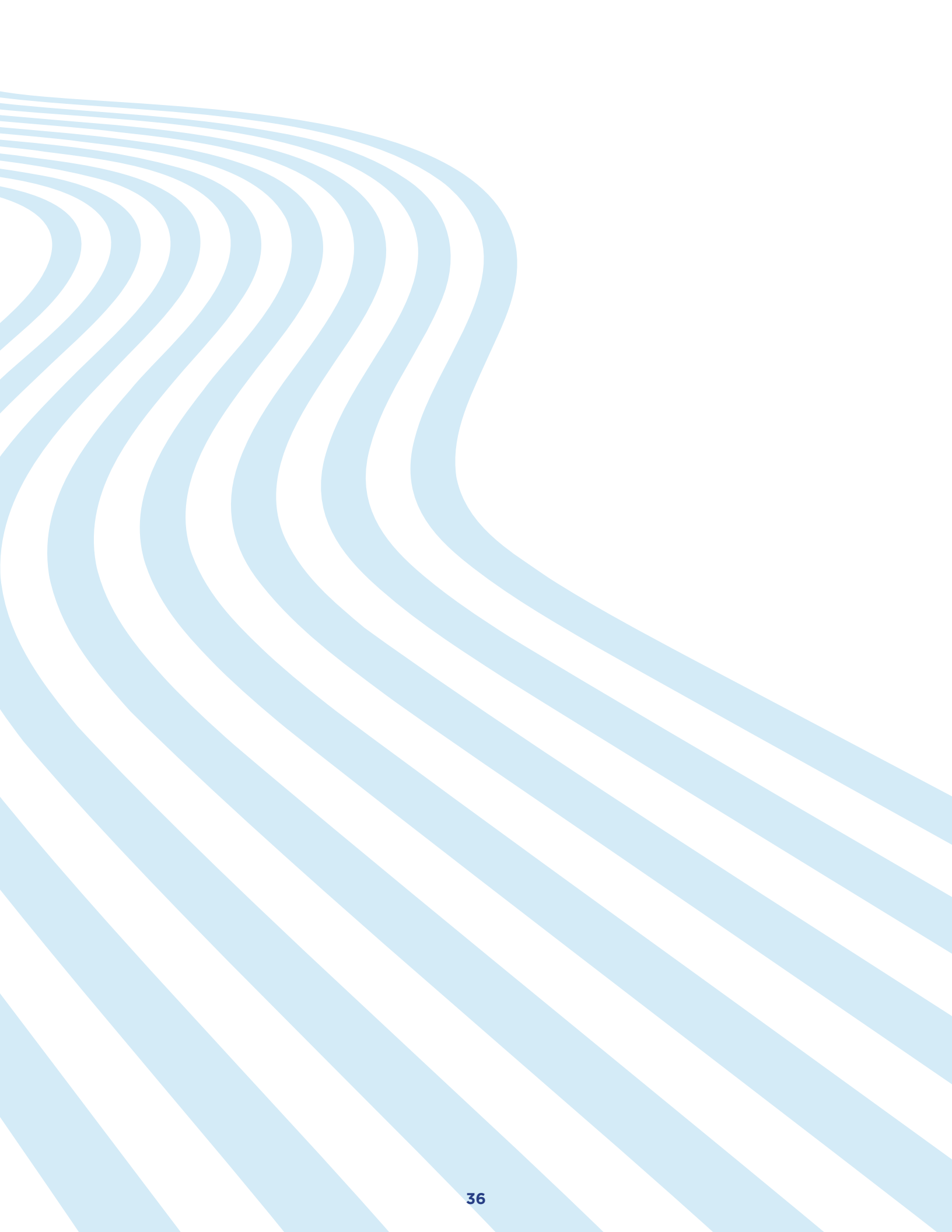
## Live and Work in Pasco County

LEHD On the Map 2021



Source: LEHD On the Map 2021





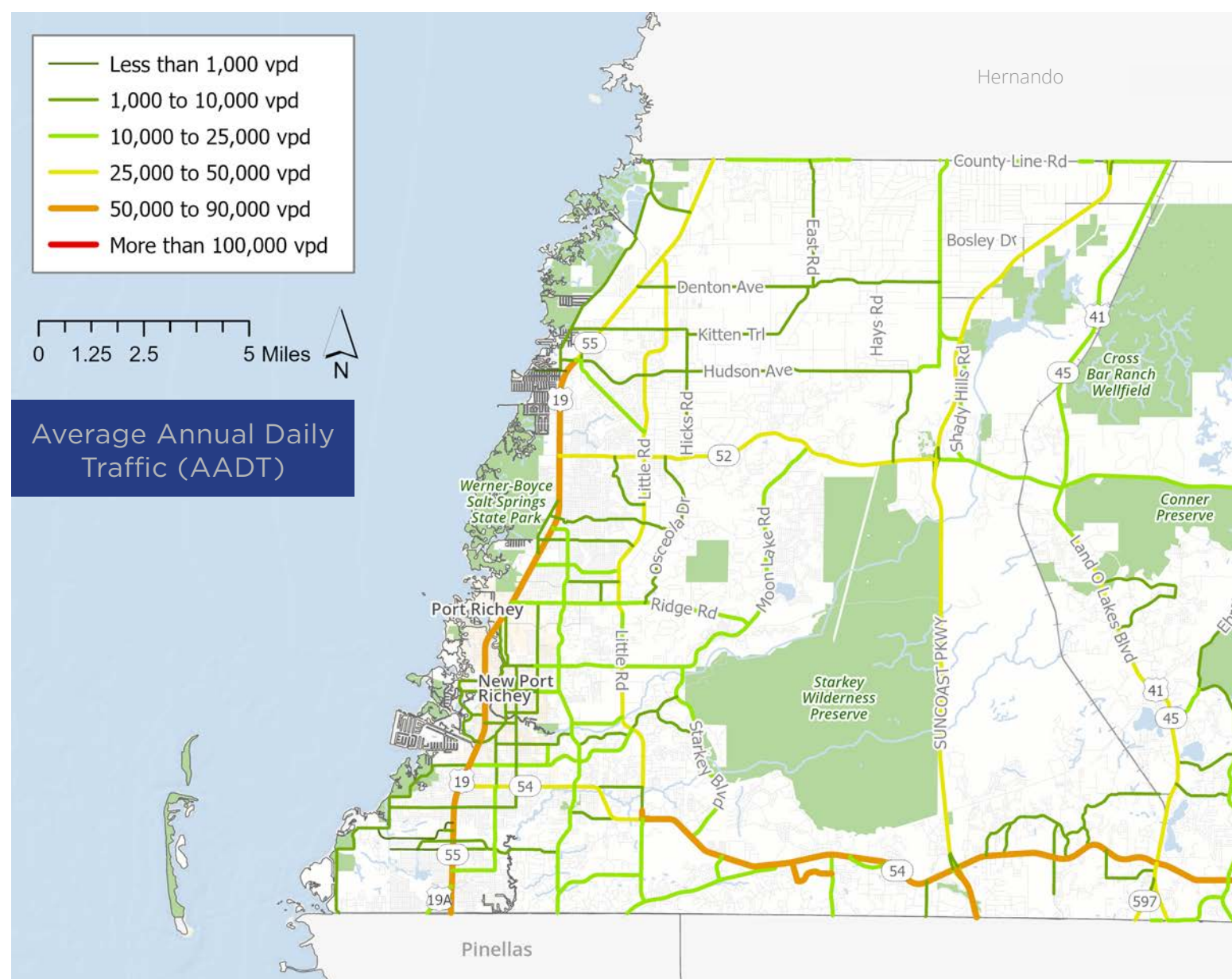
# **SECTION 4**

## **State of the Transportation System**

## TRAFFIC VOLUMES AND CONGESTION

### TRAFFIC VOLUMES

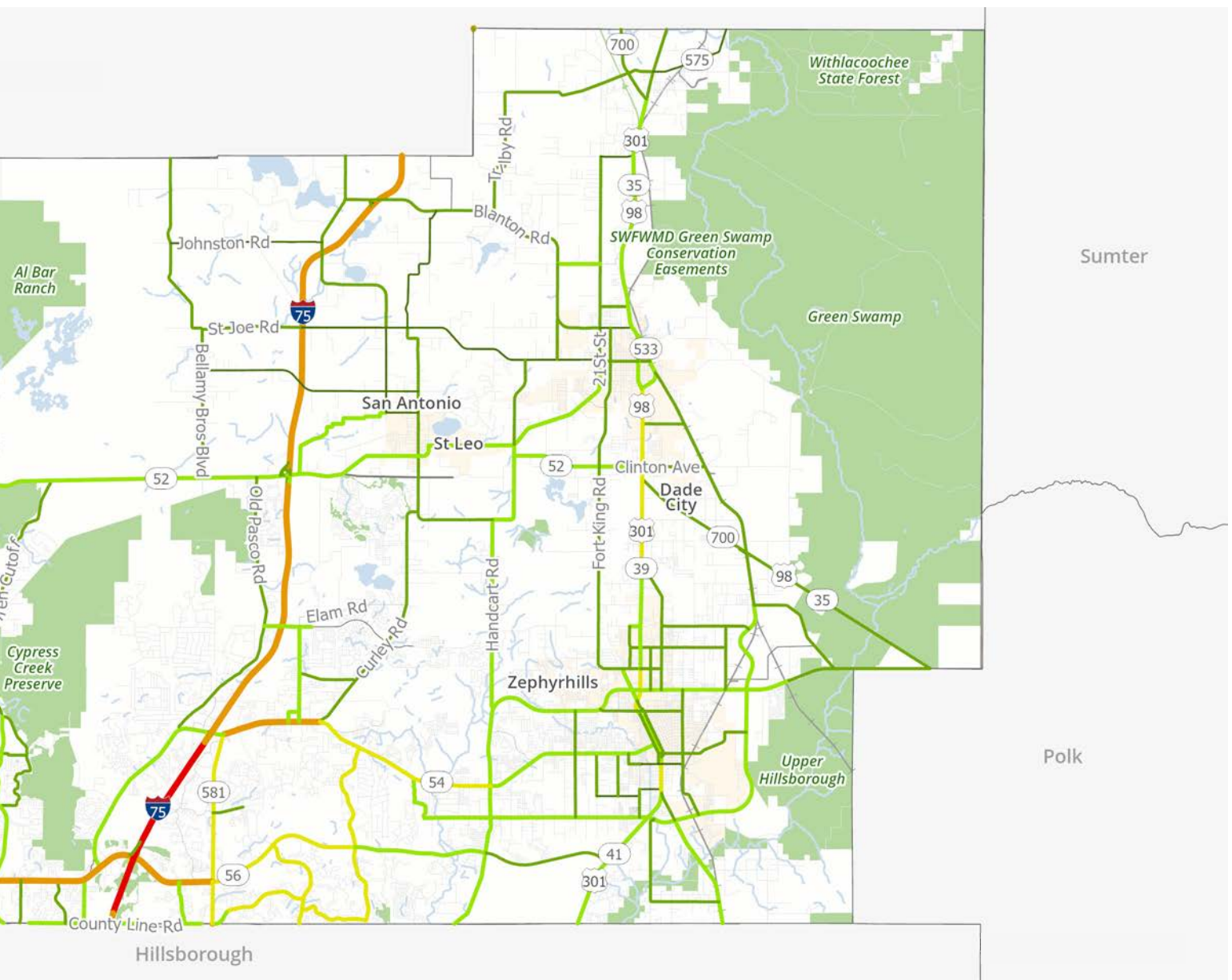
The highest volume roads—those carrying more than 50,000 vehicles per day (VPD)—are US 19, I-75, SR 54, Suncoast Parkway south of SR 54, and Community Drive/Interlaken Road. These roads provide important access across the County and between the major urban areas.



Source: FDOT 2022



Corridor Name	Direction	Vehicles Per Day (VPD)
US 19	North-South	59,500
Suncoast Parkway	North-South	38,700
Little Road	North-South	40,000
US 41	North-South	38,000
I-75	North-South	113,503
US 301	North-South	26,500
SR 52	East-West	29,000
SR 54	East-West	58,000

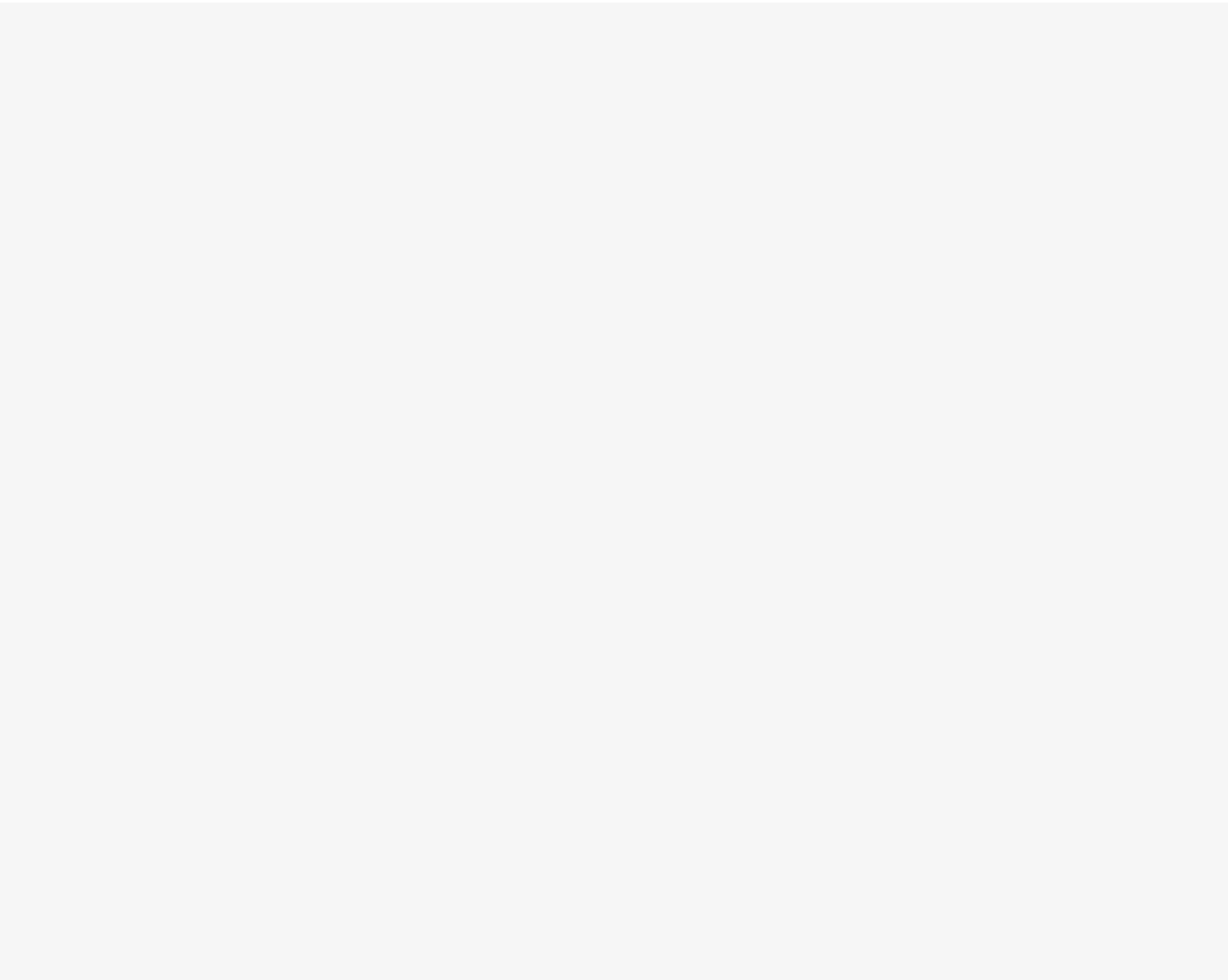


## EXISTING ROADWAY CONGESTION

Pasco County uses a regional travel demand model to simulate traffic as one way to select corridors that may warrant consideration for capacity improvements. As of February 2024, the regional travel demand model is in development. Once available, information will be added here to display volume-to-capacity (V/C) ratios for the base year of the model, which is 2020.

*Existing Roadway  
Congestion Map to be  
added upon availability.*

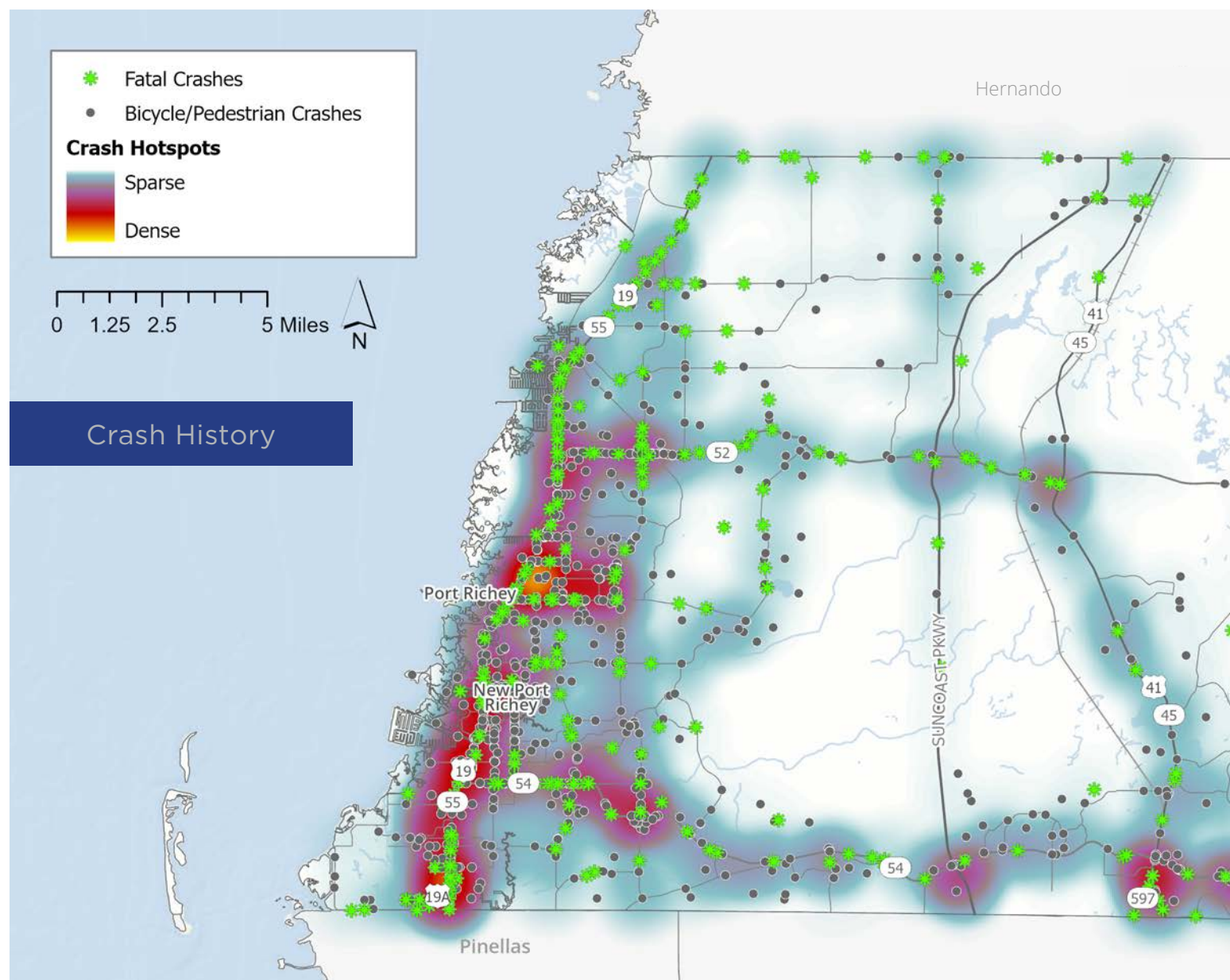




## SAFETY

### CRASH HISTORY

Crash hotspots in the County occur predominantly along US 19, SR 54, SR 56, and near key interchanges along I-75. Port Richey, New Port Richey, and Zephyrhills also experience a high level of traffic crashes. Many crashes involve bicyclists and pedestrians. Suncoast Parkway, while not showcased on the map below as a “crash hotspot,” does experience a significant number of non-serious traffic crashes.



Source: Signal Four Analytics 2019-2023

## TRAFFIC FATALITIES

According to Signal Four Analytics crash data, 472 crashes involving fatalities occurred in Pasco County between 2019 and 2023, indicating a pressing need for improvements designed to increase safety for all roadway users, including motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

# 50,000+

Crashes in 5-Year Period

*S4 Analytics 2019-2023*

# 1,500+

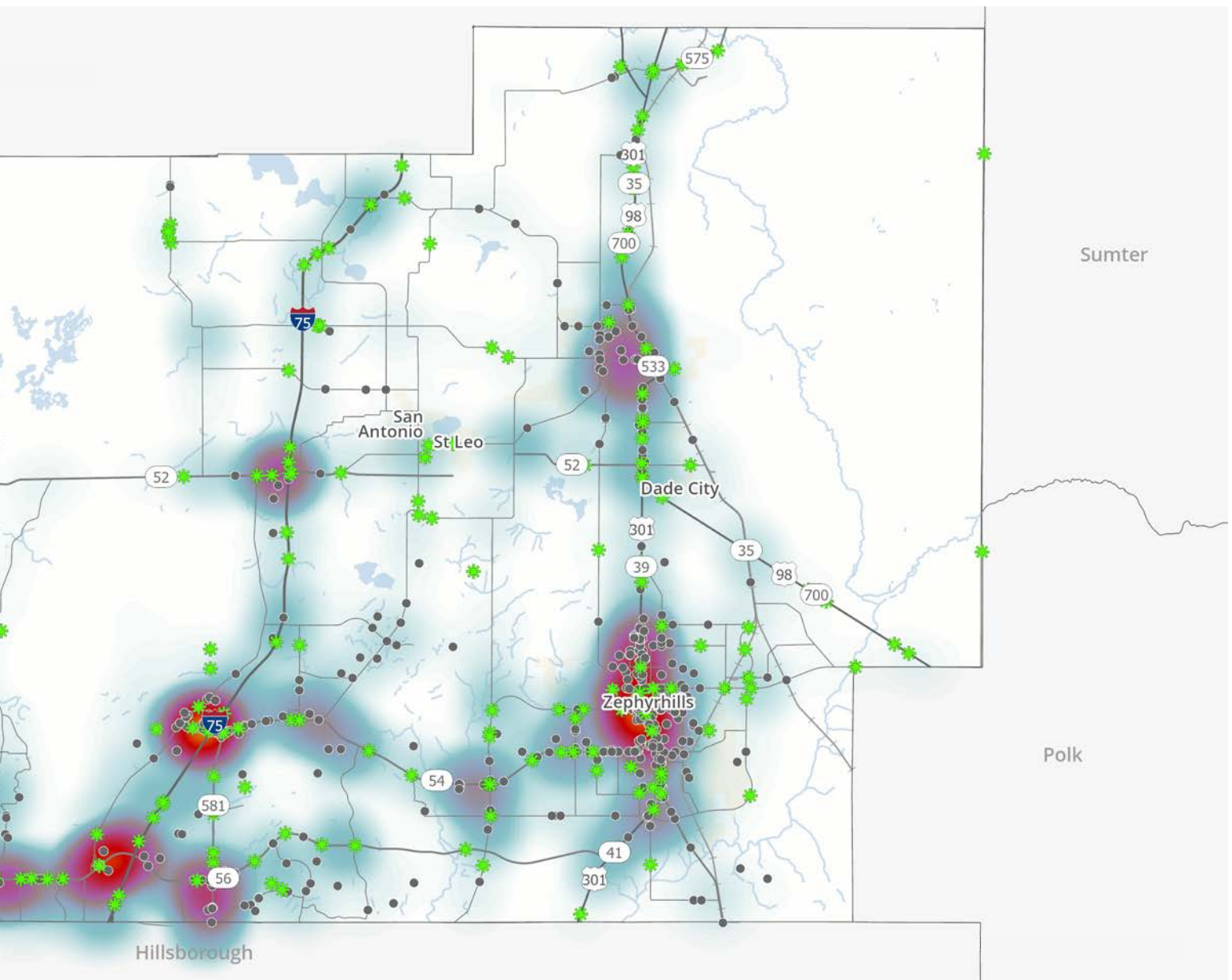
Bicycle/Pedestrian Crashes

*S4 Analytics 2019-2023*

# 472

Fatal Crashes

*S4 Analytics 2019-2023*

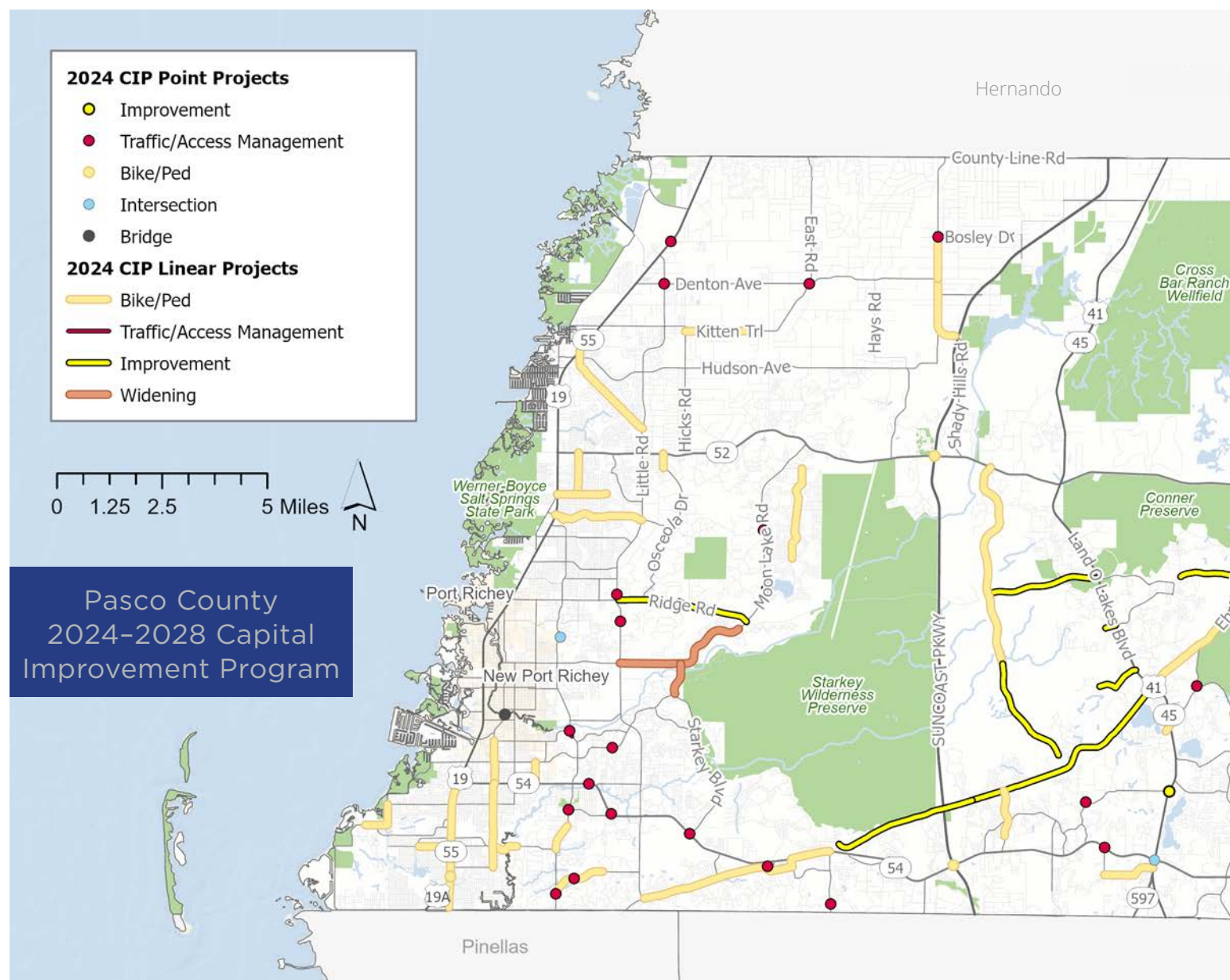




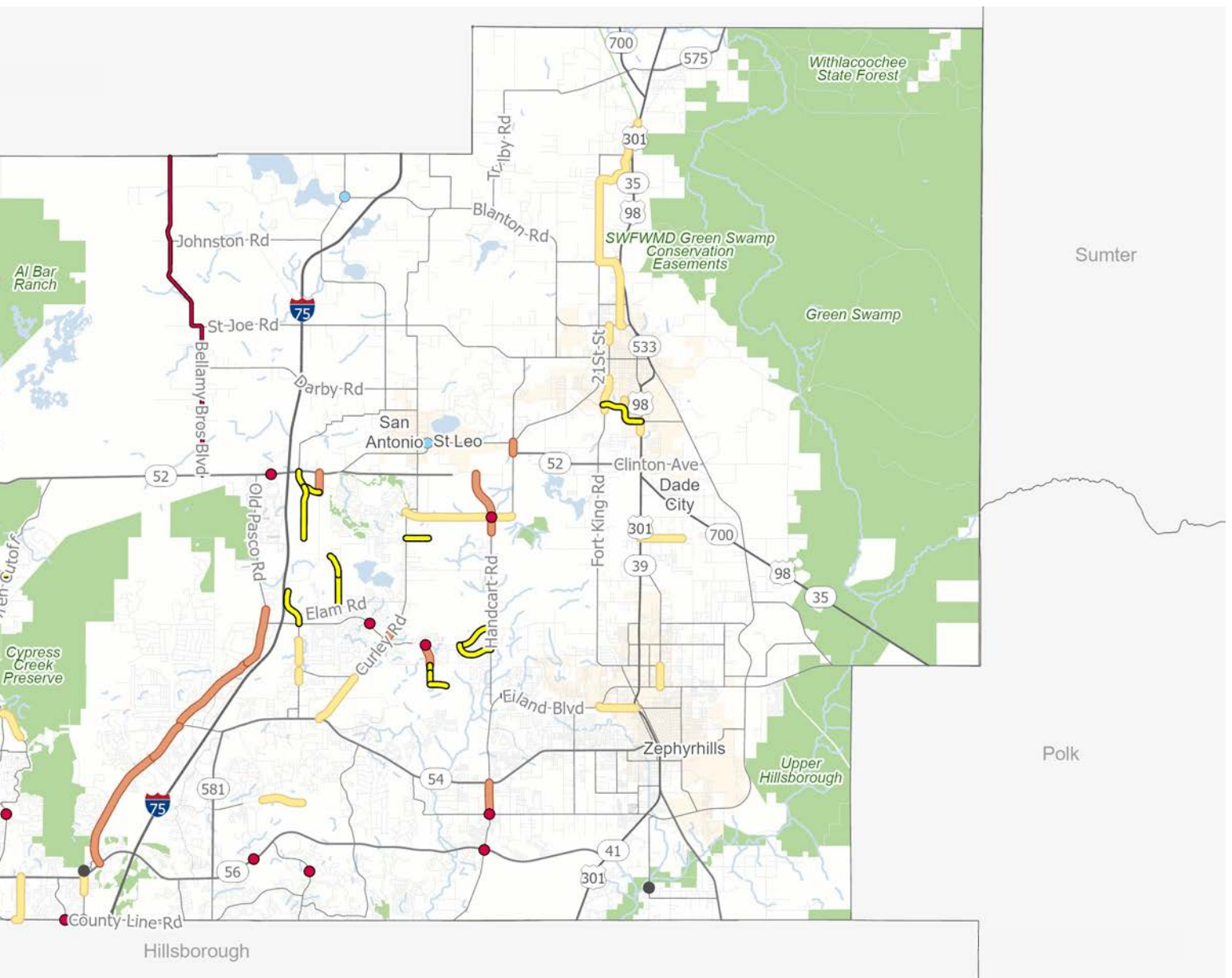
## COMMITTED PROJECTS

### LOCALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Projects identified on the map below are included in Pasco County's FY 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which is a five-year planning tool to program funds for large-scale roadway improvement projects in the County. The inclusion of a project in the CIP does not necessarily guarantee it will receive funding or be implemented.



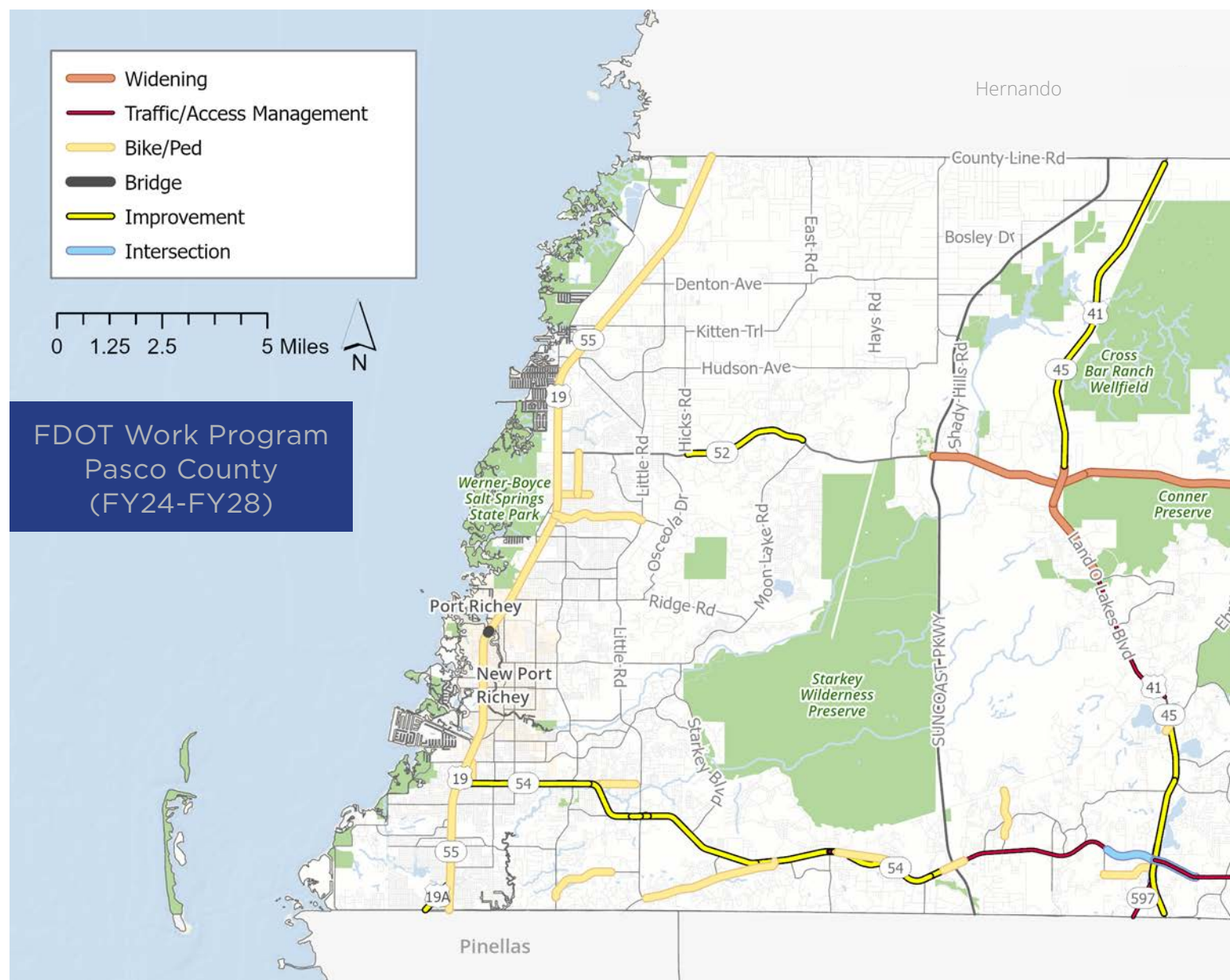
Source: Pasco County CIP 2024-2028



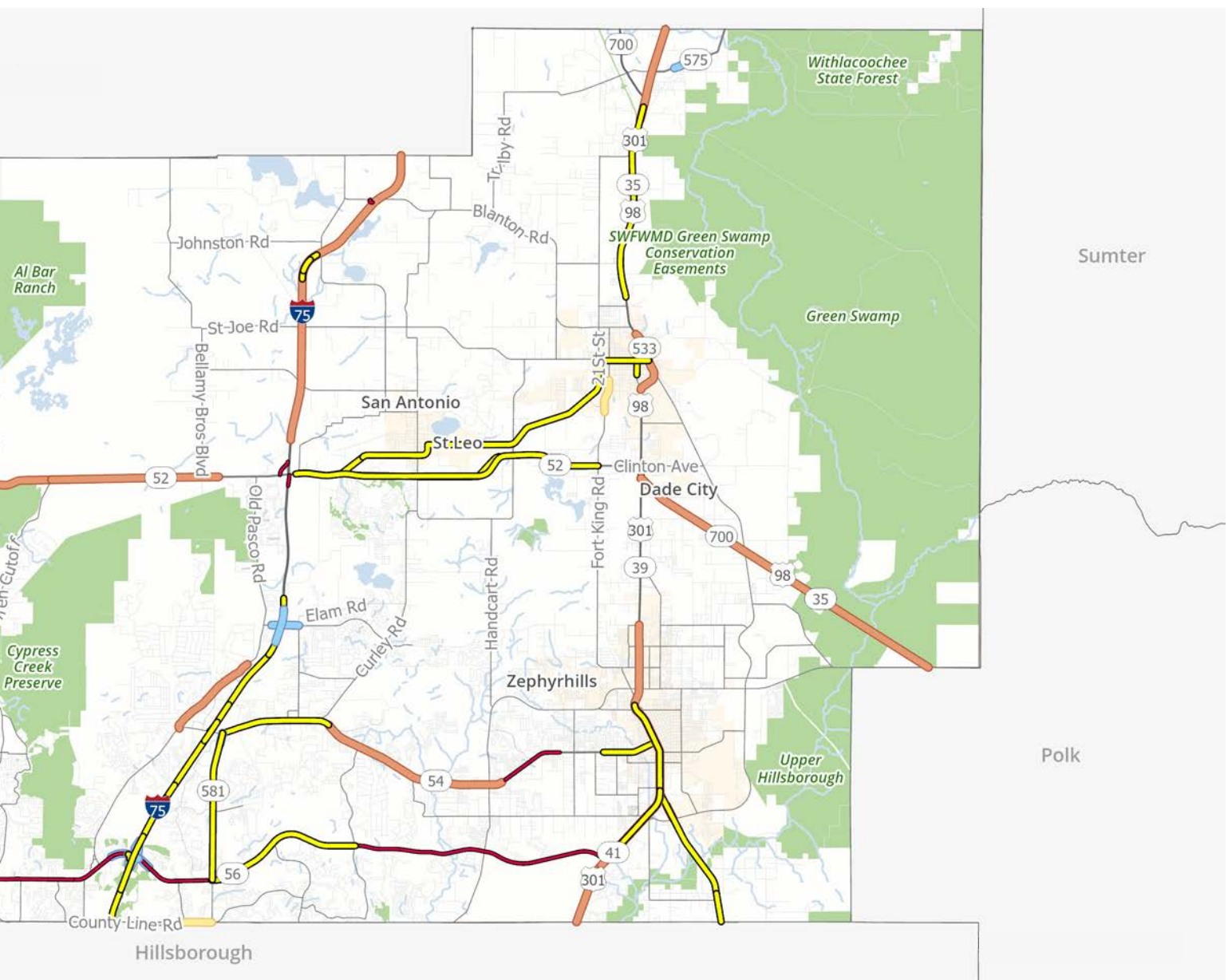


## STATE FUNDED PROJECTS

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) maintains a five-year transportation improvement work program designed to program funds for major roadway, safety, and efficiency improvement projects. The work program undergoes three phases: 1) the Preliminary Tentative Work Program, 2) the Tentative Work Program, and 3) the Adopted Work Program. The Adopted Work Program is approved by the Secretary of Transportation on July 1 of each year.



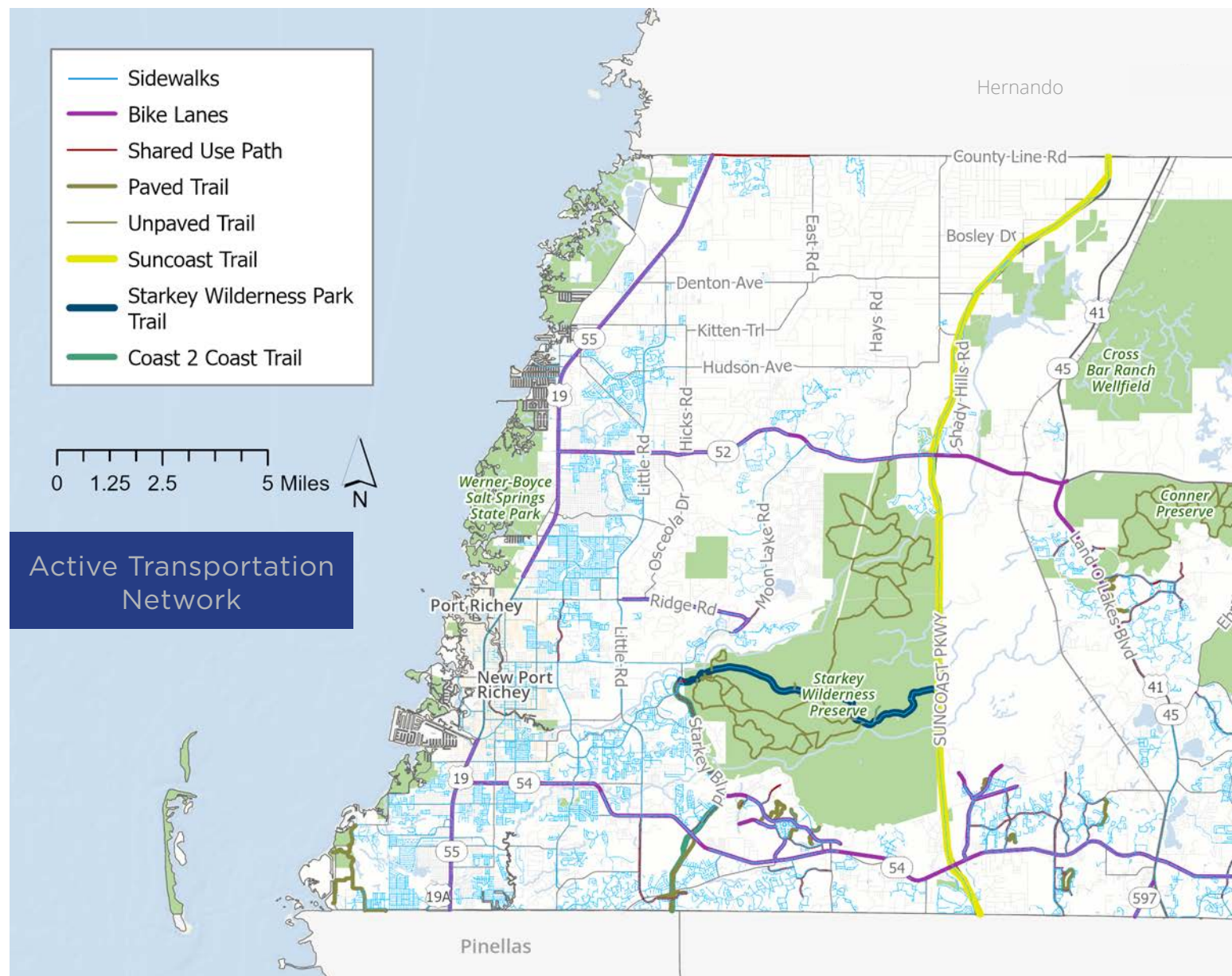
Source: FDOT Work Program FY 24-28





## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

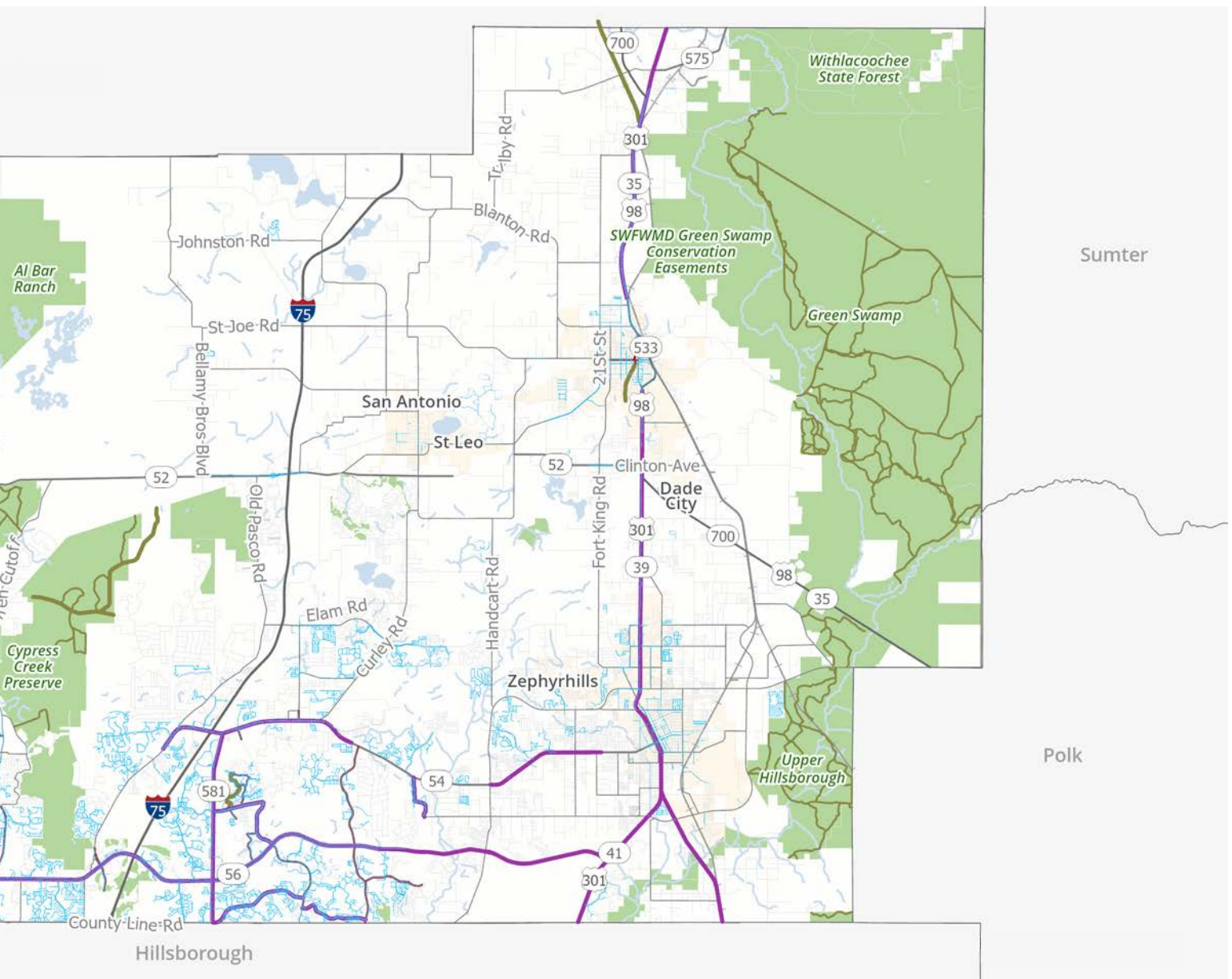
Most urbanized areas in the County, particularly in the west, have fairly robust sidewalk coverage. However, the connectivity of the network varies, and large gaps remain. Pasco County boasts an abundance of green and open space and, as a result, residents and visitors have access to a large number of paved and unpaved trails and bike paths. In all, the County is home to more than 400 miles of trails, greenways, and paths. The Pasco County Parks and Recreation Department recently completed a **Greenways, Trails, and Blueways Master Plan (September 2023)** that outlines numerous goals and objectives, including improving connectivity; maintaining a state of good repair; and improving accessibility, comfort, and safety for all users.



Source: Pasco County

**65**Miles of Paved  
Multiuse Trails*Greenways, Trails, Blueways  
Master Plan 2023***100**Miles of Shared  
Use Paths*Greenways, Trails, Blueways  
Master Plan 2023***250**

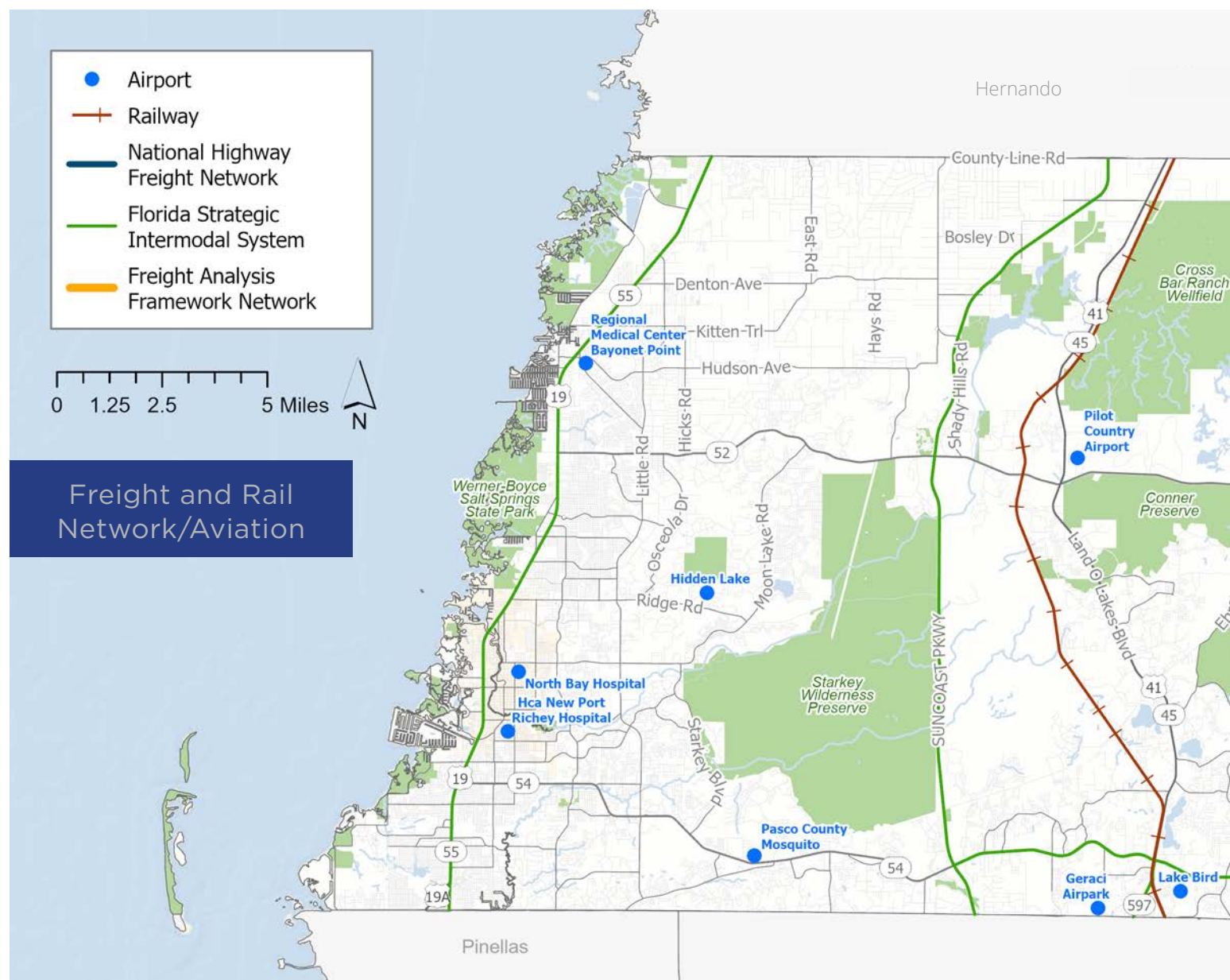
Miles of Unpaved Trails

*Greenways, Trails, Blueways  
Master Plan 2023***15,000**Acres of Trails, Park  
Land, and Open Space*Pasco County Parks  
and Recreation*



## FREIGHT, RAIL, AND AVIATION

Pasco County's location in West Central Florida along the Gulf Coast makes it a strategic thoroughway for logistics operations, including easy access to Latin American imports and exports operations, connection with Florida's more than 3,000 miles of CSX rail lines, and a multitude of some of the largest seaports in the state (Pasco EDC). Based on current data, Pasco County is home to 16 airports and heliports, nearly 60 miles of CSX rail lines, and more than 90 miles of specified freight routes, made up of a combination of the National Highway Freight Network, the Florida Strategic Intermodal System, and the Freight Analysis Framework Network.



Source: Pasco County



**16**Airports and  
Heliports**60**Miles of  
CSX Rail**90+**Miles of Specified  
Freight Routes