

M-CORES: THE FACTS FDOT WON'T GIVE YOU

FDOT has refused to share any breakdown of received M-CORES public comments (anti, neutral, pro, etc.) with the task force members or the public. In March, the *No Roads to Ruin Coalition* submitted a public records request to obtain all public comments submitted to FDOT regarding M-CORES through February 2020.

What we received were *some, but clearly not all*, of the submitted comments we requested; the total original/distinct comment submissions that were provided by FDOT and counted by NRTR volunteers was 1546:

- Against: 1,352
- Undetermined/Neutral: 117
- For: 72

87.7% of these comments provided by FDOT were opposed to M-CORES. But that doesn't tell the complete story: We know at least 7,272 "form letter" comments were submitted using templates provided by the Center for Biological Diversity, Florida Conservation Voters, and Progress Florida. This means that FDOT did not include a vast majority of those comments, which we know were in opposition to these destructive roads.

Why did FDOT exclude so many "form letters" from the public records response? Form letter email messages are a legitimate mechanism for Floridians to submit a public comment, participate in the public process, and exercise free speech. It is disturbing that FDOT ignored these comments that represent the efforts of thousands of Floridians to voice their concern about the devastation that these roads will bring.

Although incomplete, this provides a snapshot of public reaction to M-CORES from August 2019 through February 2020, *before the COVID-19 budget crisis gave Floridians another reason to oppose the toll roads*.

Now you know why FDOT has insisted on keeping comment analysis secret!

Note: A public records request, consistent with the Freedom of Information Act, for all public comments received by FDOT related to M-CORES between February-June 2020 was submitted on June 24, 2020. This information has not yet been provided yet; it will be included in this analysis, once received.

