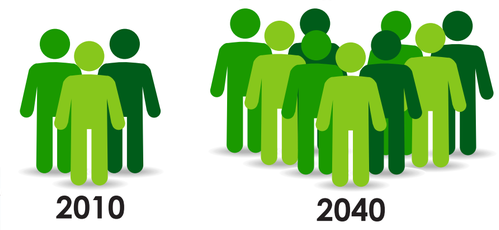
NEEDS OF THE PROJECT

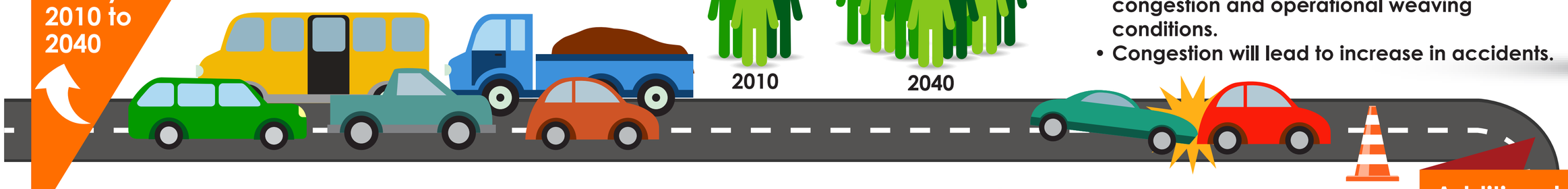
PURPOSE AND NEED - The primary need for this project is to add capacity to the SR 826 corridor to meet future transportation demand, improve travel time reliability and to provide long-term mobility options. Other considerations for the purpose and need of this project include safety, system linkage, freight movement and emergency evacuation.

Capacity and Corridor Traffic Demand

- The project traverses four of the six Miami-Dade County transportation planning areas (Central, Northwest, South, and West).
- Population and employment growth between the years 2010 and 2040:
  - Central: Population increase by 27.9% and Employment increase by 32.5%
  - Northwest: Population increase by 20% and Employment increase by 41.9%
  - South: Population increase by 49.6% and Employment increase by 64.5%
  - West: Population increase by 12.5% and Employment increase by 42.5%
- The projected growth in the area will result in a significant increase in travel demand and further deteriorate the conditions of the already congested SR 826 corridor.

12.5-64.5% increase in growth from year 2010 to 2040





Safety

- 4,555 crashes along the corridor between the years 2011 and 2015.
  - 2,618 (57.5%) Rear-end Crashes
  - 849 (18.6%) Sideswipe Crashes
- Crashes due to the heavy levels of congestion and operational weaving conditions.
- Congestion will lead to increase in accidents.

Collisions due to heavy congestion and constant stop-and-go

Interchange Capacity Needs

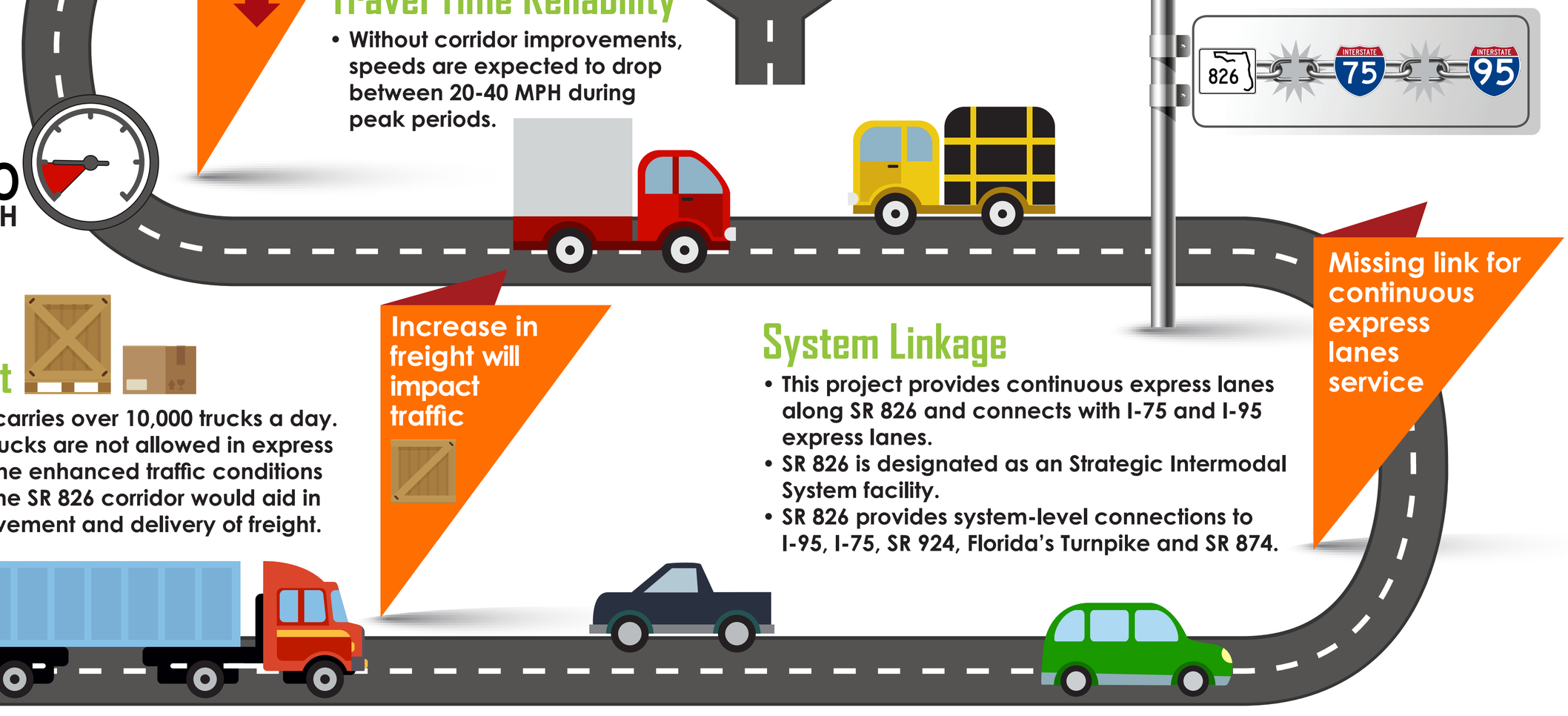
- Some of the SR 826 expressway segments between interchanges currently operate or are anticipated to operate below Level of Service (LOS) D.
- Some interchanges, ramp terminals and cross street intersections also operate or are anticipated to operate below LOS D.

Additional capacity is needed now

Transit Operations

- Existing congestion impacts transit operations.
- Additional capacity provides opportunities for transit expansions.

Impacting transit operations



Travel Time Reliability

- Without corridor improvements, speeds are expected to drop between 20-40 MPH during peak periods.

Freight

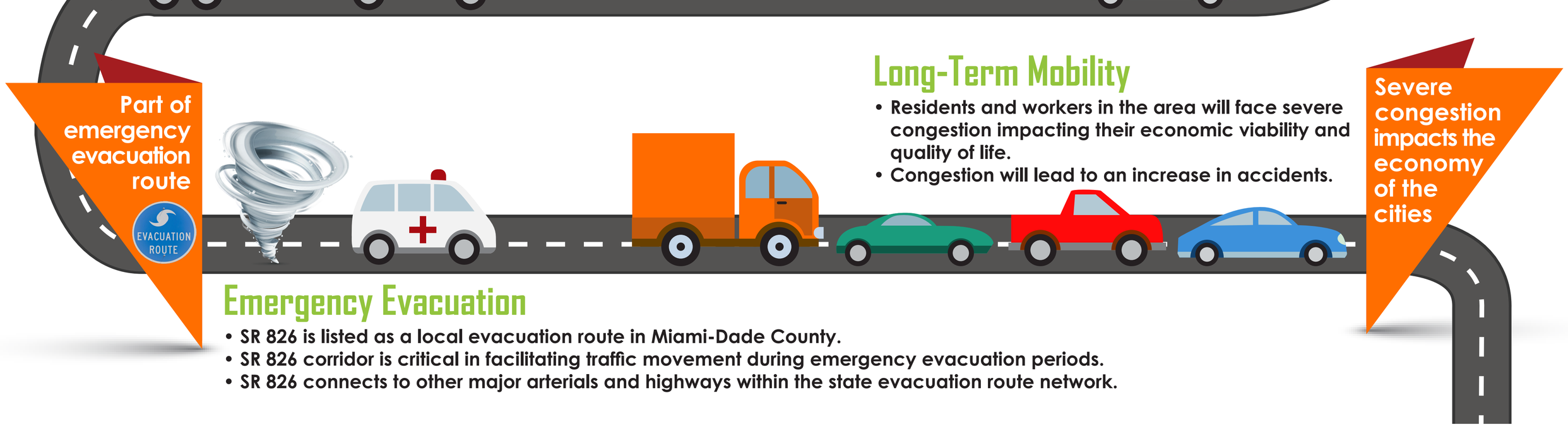
- SR 826 carries over 10,000 trucks a day.
- While trucks are not allowed in express lanes, the enhanced traffic conditions along the SR 826 corridor would aid in the movement and delivery of freight.

Increase in freight will impact traffic

System Linkage

- This project provides continuous express lanes along SR 826 and connects with I-75 and I-95 express lanes.
- SR 826 is designated as an Strategic Intermodal System facility.
- SR 826 provides system-level connections to I-95, I-75, SR 924, Florida's Turnpike and SR 874.

Missing link for continuous express lanes service



Long-Term Mobility

- Residents and workers in the area will face severe congestion impacting their economic viability and quality of life.
- Congestion will lead to an increase in accidents.

Severe congestion impacts the economy of the cities

Part of emergency evacuation route

Emergency Evacuation

- SR 826 is listed as a local evacuation route in Miami-Dade County.
- SR 826 corridor is critical in facilitating traffic movement during emergency evacuation periods.
- SR 826 connects to other major arterials and highways within the state evacuation route network.

826

SR 826/PALMETTO EXPRESSWAY EXPRESS LANES PD&E STUDY

From US 1/SR 5/Dixie Highway to SR 836/Dolphin Expressway

FPID No.: 432639-1-22-02 • ETDM No.: 14308

FDOT