

Poinciana Parkway Extension Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study From CR 532 to North of I-4/SR 429 Interchange FPID: 446581-1-22-01 | Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Number: 14445



Newsletter 1 – May 2021

About the Study

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), recently began a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for a new toll road, Poinciana Parkway Extension, in Polk and Osceola Counties. The study will evaluate alternatives to extend Poinciana Parkway from County Road (CR) 532 to the Interstate 4 (I-4)/State Road (SR) 429 interchange, modify the I-4/SR 429 interchange to accommodate the Poinciana Parkway connection, and increase capacity of the segment of SR 429 from I-4 to Sinclair Road. Alternatives to be evaluated will include improvements to the existing interchanges at CR 532 and Sinclair Road. The primary purpose and need for the project is to connect the missing link in the expressway system between Poinciana Parkway and I-4, improve travel time reliability, and enhance safety.

What is a PD&E Study?

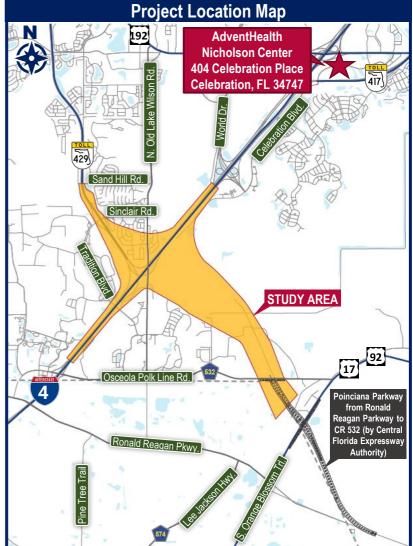
A PD&E Study is an environmental and engineering process conducted to determine social, economic, physical and environmental impacts associated with a proposed transportation improvement project. An important component of the process is public and agency involvement. The process follows federal and state laws and regulations. It requires the combined efforts of professional engineers, planners and scientists who collect and analyze project-related information to develop the optimal solution for a community's transportation needs while minimizing impacts.

The key components of the PD&E process are existing conditions, future traffic needs, alternatives development, environmental and engineering evaluations, public and agency input, documentation, and study recommendations.

Public Kickoff Open House

You are invited to a Public Kickoff Open House for the Poinciana Parkway Extension PD&E Study. There are three participation options to select from:

- Option 1: Virtual/Online via a computer, tablet or smartphone on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.
- Option 2: By telephone in listen-only mode on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.
- <u>Option 3</u>: In-Person Thursday, June 24, 2021, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Please visit the project website, www.PoincianaExtension.com, to register for the open house and to select your desired participation option. **Please note that registration works best in the Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Firefox web browser.**

Open House Materials

All Public Kickoff Open House materials are available for review now on the project website, <u>www.PoincianaExtension.com</u>. This includes an informational video that provides a project overview, a tutorial of how to navigate the project website, and an overview of the open house materials. A recording of the entire virtual open house will be posted to the project website under the "Documents" section three days after the open house. Please contact the Project Manager, Stephanie Underwood, at any time before or after the Public Kickoff Open House with questions or comments about the project.

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Option 1: Virtual/Online – Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email including instructions on how to join the Public Kickoff Open House online. During registration you will be asked whether you have a question or comment, and you will be able to provide it at that time. We are using the GoToWebinar platform for the online option. The open house will open at **5:30 p.m.** with introductions and an informational video. The project team will then answer questions received from the public during registration and during the open house. For technical assistance during the open house, please contact <u>TPKMeetingSupport@dot.state.fl.us</u>.

Option 2: By Telephone – Tuesday, June 22, 2021

To join the Public Kickoff Open House by telephone in listen-only mode, please call 1-631-992-3221 and enter access code 863-570-658. The phone line will open at **5:30 p.m.** with introductions and an informational video. The project team will then answer questions received from the public. You can provide verbal comments and questions directly to the Project Manager, Stephanie Underwood, before or after the Public Kickoff Open House by using the contact information provided below.

Option 3: In-Person – Thursday, June 24, 2021

You may participate in-person at the AdventHealth Nicholson Center, 404 Celebration Place, Celebration, Florida 34747. Persons wishing to submit written or verbal comments/questions may do so at the Public Kickoff Open House or by contacting the Project Manager. Doors at the venue will open at 5:30 p.m. when you will have the opportunity to view the exhibits on display and project staff will be available to answer questions. You will also have the opportunity to watch the informational video from the virtual open house on June 22, 2021. The informal open house will continue until 7:30 p.m. You should not attend in-person if you are not feeling well. Social distancing guidelines and local ordinances will be followed.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the project or the scheduled open house, please contact:

Stephanie Underwood, PE, FTE Project Manager Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (HNTB)

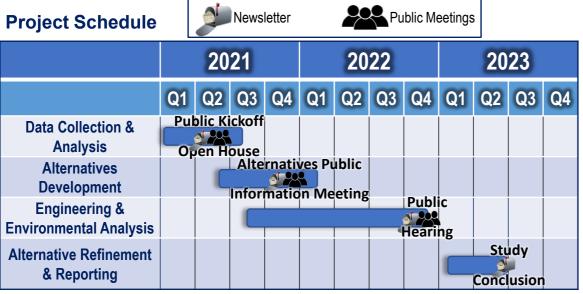
P.O. Box 613069 Ocoee, Florida 34761

407.264.3436

Stephanie.Underwood@dot.state.fl.us

Rax Jung, Ph.D., P.E. Project Development Engineer Florida's Turnpike Enterprise P.O. Box 613069 Ocoee, Florida 34761

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Public Participation

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise encourages the public to get involved by providing comments, questions, and suggestions to the study team. Information will be available through newsletters, the project website, public inquiries, public meetings, and a public hearing.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FDOT. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Stephanie Underwood at (407) 264-3436 or by email at **Stephanie.Underwood@dot.state.fl.us** at least seven days (7) prior to the Public Kickoff Open House. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

www.PoincianaExtension.com