



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Boggy Creek Road Alternatives Evaluation From Simpson Road (C.R. 530) to Narcoossee Road

July 2020



**Boggy Creek Road Widening
Alternatives Evaluation
Public Involvement Plan**

In accordance with Part 1, Chapter 11 of the **Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual**, this Public Involvement Plan is submitted to Osceola County for its review and approval.

Submitted By: Kevin Knudsen, P.E.
Consultant Project Manager
Dewberry

Date: July 2020

Approved By: _____
(title)

Date: _____

The purpose of this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to assist in providing information to and obtaining input from concerned citizens, agencies, private groups (residential/business), and governmental entities. The overall goal of this plan is to help ensure that the study reflects the values and needs of the communities it is designed to benefit. A schedule of events and a list of documentation exhibiting compliance with these procedures are included.

This plan is in compliance with the Florida Department of Transportation’s *Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Manual, Part 1, Chapter 11*.

I. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

Project Number: PS-20-11479-DG
Project Limits: Boggy Creek Road from Simpson Road (C.R. 530)
to Narcoossee Road
Proposed Activity: Alternatives Evaluation

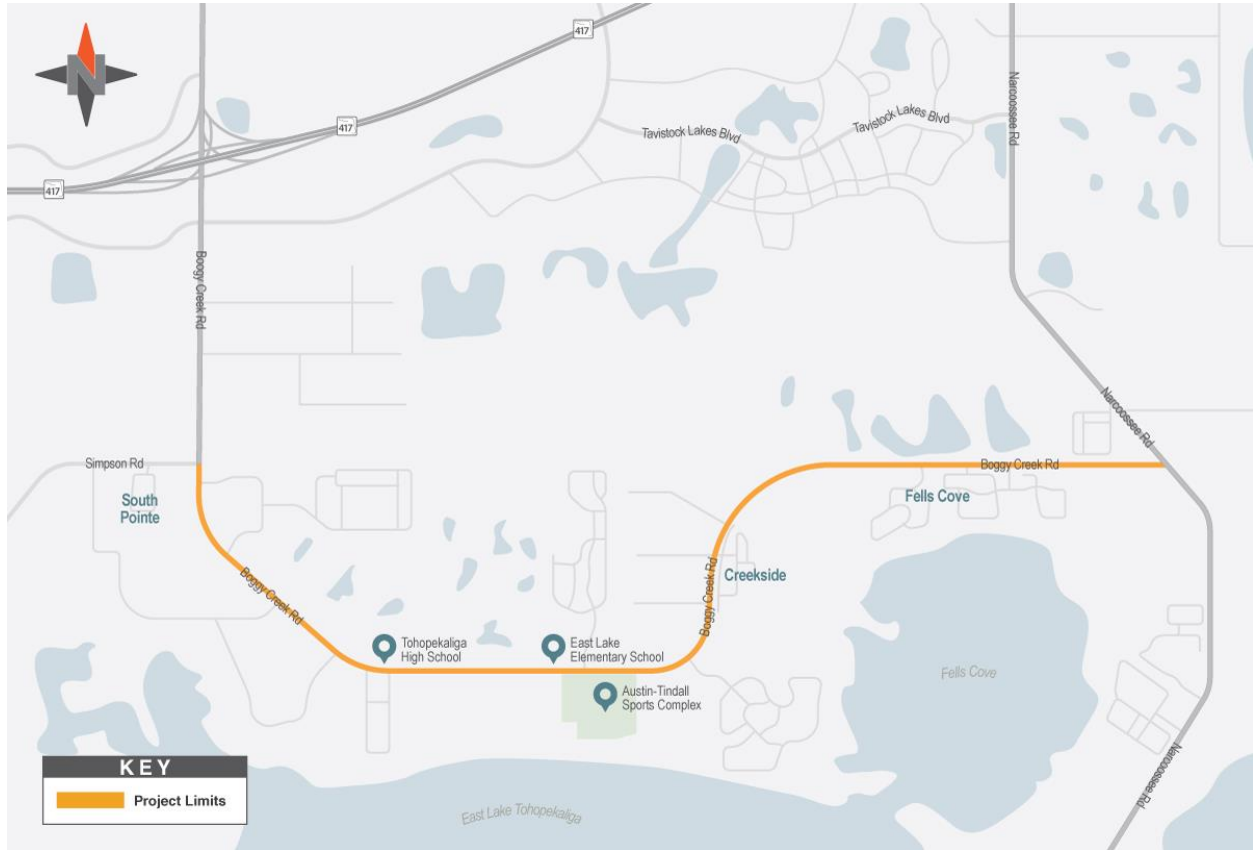
Project Contact Information

For additional information regarding this project contact:

Conroy Jacobs, AICP, MPA
Osceola County Project Manager
Transportation & Transit Dept.
1 Courthouse Square, Ste. 3100
Kissimmee, FL 34741
407-742-0557
Conroy.jacobs@osceola.org

Kevin Knudsen, P.E.
Consultant Project Manager
Dewberry
800 N. Magnolia Ave., Ste. 1000
Orlando, FL 32803
321-354-9646
kknudsen@dewberry.com

Project Location Map:



II. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Osceola County has grown significantly over the last few years, creating a need for more capacity on roads, like Boggy Creek Road (C.R. 527A/C.R. 530). Residential growth in Osceola County has exceeded 4 percent per year over the last few years. Even more are expected in the project area where a subdivision is currently under development.

In late 2019, the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners refinanced bonds originally used to build the Osceola Parkway, in order to advance design and construction of several key roadways, including Boggy Creek Road, to help ease congestion and improve traffic flow.

III. PROJECT GOALS

This project for the widening/reconstruction of the existing two-lane Boggy Creek Road from Simpson Road to Narcoossee Road contains two parts. Part A is the alternatives study to consider

different alignments and/or typical sections on the approximately 5.9-mile roadway. Part B is the design for the preferred alternative.

The project includes construction of a four-lane divided roadway with multimodal accommodations, as determined in the alternatives study, associated drainage improvements and stormwater ponds, modification of the signalized intersections at Nele Road, Turnberry Boulevard, and Narcoossee Road (C.R. 15), upgrading the Intelligent Transportation System, modification/replacement of the triple box culvert over Jim Branch Creek, street lighting and landscaping considerations. There are no bridges or railroad crossings along the project.



IV. IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

The following local, regional or state agencies having a concern in this project due to jurisdictional review or expressed interest have been identified and will be contacted directly during the Alternatives Evaluation process. As other concerned public agencies are identified throughout the study, they also will be listed and contacted.

State:

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

- Vincent Morris
- Brian Camposano
- Mark Kiser

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

- Chris Stahl

Florida Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

- Jason Hight
- Jennifer Goff

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

- Matt Preston

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

- Jason Watts, Director of Office of Environmental Management

FDOT District Five

- Jared Perdue / District Five Secretary
- Loreen Bobo / Director of Transportation Development
- Jim Stroz / Traffic Operations Engineer
- John Hatfield / Maintenance Engineer
- John Tyler / Construction Engineer
- Kellie Smith / Planning Administrator

Regional:

Chamber of Commerce: Kissimmee/Osceola County

- Jose Figueroa
- Christina Pilkington
- John Newstreet
- Cindy Lewis

South Florida Water Management District

- Trisha Stone

Toho Water Authority

- Edwin Matos
- Robert Pelham
- Todd Swingle

MetroPlan Orlando

- Gary Huttman, AICP / Executive Director
- Virginia Whittington / Director of Regional Partnerships
- Nick Lepp, AICP CTP / Director of Transportation Planning
- Eric Hill / Director of Transportation System Management and Operations

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- Hugh Harling / Executive Director
- Tara McCue, AICP / Director of Planning and Community Development

Native American Tribes:

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Local Elected and Appointed Officials:

Federal Delegation:

The Honorable Marco Rubio, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Rick Scott, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Darren Soto, U.S. Representative, District 9
The Honorable Val Demings, U.S. Representative, District 10

State Delegation:

The Honorable Victor Torres, Senator, District 15
The Honorable Mike La Rosa, Representative, District 42
The Honorable John Cortes, Representative, District 43

Osceola County:

Mr. Don Fisher, County Administrator
The Honorable Peggy Choudhry, Commissioner, District 1
The Honorable Viviana Janer, Chair/Commissioner, District 2
The Honorable Brandon Arrington, Commissioner, District 3
The Honorable Cheryl Grieb, Vice-Chair/Commissioner, District 4
The Honorable Fred Hawkins, Jr., Commissioner, District 5
The Honorable Armando Ramirez, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Ms. Danielle Slaterpryce, Public Works Director
Mr. Raymond Stangle, County Engineer
The Honorable Russ Gibson, County Sheriff

Chief Larry Collier, Jr., Osceola County Fire Chief
Dr. Debra Pace, Superintendent, School District of Osceola County
Mr. Arby Creach, Transportation Director, School District of Osceola County

Orange County:

Mr. Byron Brooks, County Administrator
Mr. Lucas Boyce, Assistant County Administrator, Regional Mobility
Ms. Diana Almodovar, Deputy Director, Public Works
Mr. Joseph Kunkel, Director, Public Works
Mr. Luis Alvin, Chief Engineer
Mr. Renzo Nastasi, Manager Transportation Planning
Ms. Lauraleigh Avery, County Emergency Manager
The Honorable John Mina, County Sheriff
Mr. Jim Fitzgerald, County Fire Chief

V. IDENTIFICATION OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

This project is in unincorporated Osceola County, in the northern end, near the Orange County line. It sits east of Florida's Turnpike, south of State Road (S.R.) 417, west of Narcoossee Road and north of East Lake Tohopekaliga.



The project is bordered mostly by residential subdivisions, large individual residential parcels, HOA neighborhoods and businesses. A newer subdivision called Creekside at Boggy Creek is currently under development. The project corridor also includes Tohopekaliga High School, East Lake Elementary School and Renaissance Charter School, as well as Austin-Tindall Sports Complex. There are no railroads or Lynx bus routes along this corridor.

While alleviating congestion in the area would be a highly welcomed outcome of the project, there are a significant number of homes located within 100 feet of the existing roadway, and a high number of individual property owners whose driveways and parcels may be impacted. There are also signs along the roadway alerting drivers of horse crossings.

Osceola County is the state's second fastest growing county, with a 31-percent increase in population since 2010. According to U.S. Census data and a 2018 American Community Survey, nearly 55 percent of residents identify as Latino or Hispanic. The area also saw an influx of new residents from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Additionally, almost 10 percent of residents say they speak English not well or not at all, and fewer than 10 percent report speaking English well. Because of the large Spanish-speaking population, public outreach will be written in both English and Spanish.

The Sociocultural Data Report (SDR), a copy of which is attached, also shows the median household income and median housing price are below the Florida average. About 15 percent of households live below the poverty line. The county's median age of 35 is also lower than the state median age of 42.

The project team will hold the public meeting in a facility near the project limits and all notification materials will be translated into Spanish. A Spanish interpreter will be attending all meetings. Provisions also will be made to provide a virtual component for public participation at the County’s direction.

The following local, state, and national public interest groups or organizations having a direct or expressed interest in the project study have been identified and will be contacted by the county:



Neighborhoods:

- Rustic Cove
- Landings at North Shore HOA
- Spring Lake Village HOA
- Turnberry Reserve
- Creekside at Boggy Creek
- Veredas at North Shore HOA
- Osprey Ridge
- Fells Cove

- U.S. Lawns
- McDonalds
- WaWa
- Watson Realty
- VGS Farmer’s Market

Schools:

- Tohopekaliga High School
- East Lake Elementary School
- Renaissance Charter School at Boggy Creek

Businesses:

- Circle K / Shell Station
- Family Dollar
- Gruas Towing
- Southern Image Landscape
- Uncle Jutty’s Nursery
- Justin’s Superior Lawn Care
- Austin-Tindall Sports Complex

Churches:

- Iglesia Cristiana Luz de Salvacion
- Sanatan Mandir of Florida (Hindu Temple)

Others:

- Boggy Creek Resort and RV Park
- The Floridian RV Resort

VI. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

As part of the outreach strategies employed during the Alternatives Evaluation, the following media outlets will be contacted and encouraged to share project information with residents and other interested stakeholders. All contact will be coordinated through the County.

Newspapers:

Orlando Sentinel and *El Sentinel*
 633 N. Orange Avenue
 Orlando, FL 32801

Osceola News Gazette
 21 W. Monument Avenue
 Kissimmee, FL 34744

Television:

WESH News 2
1021 N. Wymore Road
Winter Park, FL 32789
407-645-2222
Wesh2news@gmail.com

WKMG News 6
4466 N. John Young Parkway
Orlando, FL 32804
407-521-1323
desk@wkmg.com

WFTV News 9
490 E. South Street
Orlando, FL 32801
407-841-9000
news@wftv.com

WOFL News 35
35 Skyline Drive
Lake Mary, FL 32746
407-741-5027
woflfox35news@foxtv.com

Radio:

WDBO Radio
news@wdbo.com

WMFE Radio
407-273-2300
newsroom@wmfe.org

In addition to working with the media, a number of different notification techniques will be used throughout the project development process. A brief description of these techniques is provided below.

Public Notifications:

- **News/Press Releases:** News/press releases will be submitted to Osceola County for distribution to local media outlets 14 days prior to each public meeting.
- **Advertisements:** A display advertisement will be placed in the *Osceola News Gazette* newspaper 10-14 days prior to the public meeting.
- **Public Notices:** Notifications will be placed on the Osceola County website and distributed by the County on Nextdoor and other social media channels. Flyers will also be made available to organizations such as neighborhood/civic groups to publish in existing newsletters and on websites. Any such correspondence will be coordinated through the County’s Public Information Office (PIO).
- **Letters:** Letters will be sent via email or U.S. Mail at least 21 days prior to the public meeting to the stakeholders listed above, as well as to the following groups:
 - ◆ Those whose property lies, in whole or part, within at least 300 feet on either side of the centerline of each project alternative (Section 339.155, F.S.), as well as other local citizens who may be impacted by the construction of this project. This



portion of the mailing list will be based on the County Property Appraiser's tax rolls.

- ◆ Local elected and appointed public officials or individuals who request to be placed on the mailing list for this project beyond the officials already identified within the project limits.
- ◆ Public and private groups, organizations, agencies, or businesses that request to be placed on the mailing list for this project beyond the impacted stakeholders already identified within the project limits.

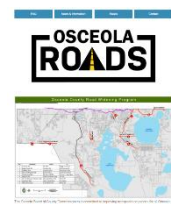
Outreach strategies:

- **Presentations to Local Officials:** Presentations will be given to local officials and agencies such as the Osceola County Board of Commissioners and MetroPlan Orlando prior to the Public Information Meeting to apprise local officials of the project status, specific location, and design concepts, and to receive their comments.
- **Public Information Meetings:** One public information meeting will be conducted during the Alternatives Evaluation to present the project and the conceptual project alternatives being considered, and to obtain comments from the general public. The meeting will be an informal open house which will provide an opportunity for attendees to view a looping PowerPoint presentation, project displays and to speak with project team members.

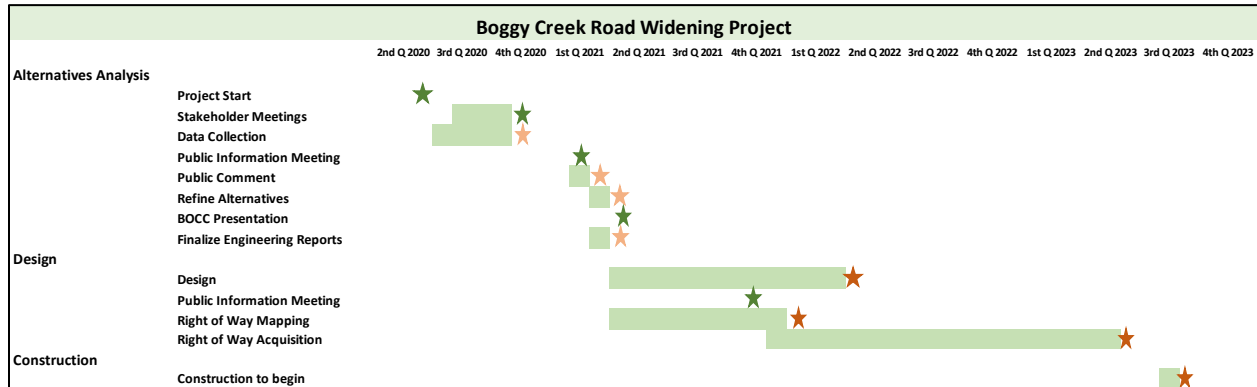


To provide safe options for participation, a virtual component will be included that will, at a minimum, allow all meeting materials to be viewed from the project website on demand. A Virtual Public Meeting may also be held at the County's direction.

- **Informal Meetings:** In addition to the scheduled public meetings, there will be additional meetings with the public, elected and appointed officials, public agencies, or civic groups on an as-needed basis as determined by the County. The purpose of these meetings will be to apprise the attendees of the project status, specific location, and design concepts, and to receive input.
- **Online information:** Information about the project will be posted to the Osceola County Roads website. The project team also will provide digital announcements to Osceola County for posting to the Osceola County website as well as social media outlets.
- **Statutes:** Information about the Title VI Program will be provided in the presentation, by handout, signage, and through availability of personnel, on the Title VI Program and the Relocation Assistance Program.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance:** Notification of the County's intent to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act will be provided in the public advertisements for the public information meeting, in invitational letters to property owners/tenants and local officials, in handouts, and by selection of a public information meeting site that meets ADA requirements.



Project Schedule



VII. COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Copies of aerial maps depicting all alignment and design concepts under consideration, along with draft copies of engineering and environmental study documentation, will be furnished to the County for its review and comment. Updated information will also be forwarded to the county for review and comment prior to the scheduled public information meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

There is no public hearing anticipated during the Part A Alternatives Evaluation. Results of the study will be presented to the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners by the project team for review and approval of a selected alternative.

IX. PUBLIC MEETING FOLLOW-UP

The following procedures will occur after the public meeting.

Responses: Responses to correspondence received as a result of the meeting, and questions and comments not answered at the public meeting, will be made in writing.

Comments & Coordination Report: A Comments and Coordination Report will be produced and submitted at the conclusion of the study. The report will contain documentation regarding public involvement efforts performed throughout the Alternative Evaluation period. This summary will include comments and responses received from the public, as well as documentation regarding coordination with local officials and agencies, and public meetings; documentation of the presentation to the Board of County Commissioners and any action taken; proof of publication of ads; sign-in sheets; and public comments.

X. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING DESIGN

The design of final construction plans will occur under Part B of this contract. Comment and coordination will continue throughout the design process. A Community Awareness Plan

(CAP) will be written and include strategies for notifying all stakeholders of the advancement of the project to this next phase of development. The CAP will build upon the strategies and be incorporated into and evaluated for effectiveness as part of the Part A PIP process.

Part B strategies will be to continue active engagement of the community and encourage meaningful dialogue to resolve issues early and effectively.

Part B will also include an informal open house public meeting and agency presentations as determined by the County. Individual meetings and ongoing coordination with the neighborhoods are also vital.

