



Partin Settlement Road Improvements

Community Questions and Answers

Q. Will the road design include right and left turn lanes to Simmons Road?

A. The preliminary concept includes a left turn at Simmons Road. However, forecasted traffic demands do not indicate a need for a dedicated right turn lane at Simmons Road at this time.

Q. How does this affect properties along Partin Settlement Road? Will Osceola County buy property for this project?

A. Additional right-of-way will be needed for this project, so Osceola County will need to purchase property from property owners along the corridor. The exact right of way will be refined during the design phase once the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners authorizes advancement of the preferred alternative. Osceola County will contact property owners directly to begin discussions if their property is affected.

Q. Has a timeline for design and construction been established?

A. The current project schedule shows design finishing in late 2022, with construction starting in 2023. Construction may be completed in phases, though that has not yet been decided. Please note the schedule could change for a variety of reasons. Osceola County will continue to keep the community updated on the plans for the improvements.

Q. Will a new, wider overpass across Florida's Turnpike be needed?

A. Yes. This project is being coordinated with the Florida's Turnpike, which intends to build two new bridges for Partin Settlement Road, one for each direction of traffic, as part of the Turnpike's mainline widening improvements.

Q. Will the Turnpike project affect the expected dates of construction and development?

A. We are currently coordinating the construction of both projects. At this time, we do not expect the Florida's Turnpike project to affect this project.

Q. Are there plans to elevate the roadway between the existing bridge over the Turnpike and Remington Boulevard?

A. The new bridges over Florida's Turnpike will be at a higher elevation in order to span the proposed Turnpike widening, which will require deeper girders and result in the need to raise the elevation of Partin Settlement Road above the current roadway.

- Q. Are any changes planned to the intersection of Partin Settlement and Neptune to address congestion there?**
- A. We are studying this area and have tentatively identified the option of providing dual southbound to eastbound right turn lanes as one means to improve congestion.
- Q. Will new bus routes for school children be developed with the construction changes/road closures?**
- A. The goal of the traffic control plan is to minimize disruption of any current travel patterns. We do not anticipate any changes to school bus routes, but we are still in the study phase and have not begun final design. Any changes or disruptions would first be coordinated with the School District of Osceola County.
- Q. Any plans to install a pedestrian bridge at U.S. 192?**
- A. Pedestrian safety is important, and the County is always looking for opportunities to improve safety. The right-of-way is relatively tight in this area, which limits the possibility of providing a pedestrian overpass, thus there are no plans at this time to construct a pedestrian bridge at U.S. 192. However, we will provide various pedestrian safety measures, such as signal phasing, as part of the planned improvements.
- Q. Can we anticipate the building of turn lanes for businesses and churches at the medians?**
- A. We are just starting the design process, so we do not know just yet exactly where all the turn lanes will be located. Subject to achieving safety and operational goals for this project, the County will accommodate entrances to the businesses and churches along the corridor to the greatest extent possible.
- Q. How did you determine the locations for median openings? Why are some locations restricted from turning left onto Partin Settlement Road?**
- A. The median is being constructed to enhance safety and improve operations along the roadway. The median openings are selected using current engineering criteria to achieve the safety and operational goals. Some factors that are used are the type of roadway (for example urban or rural), traffic volumes and speed limit.
- Q. What can be expected with the drainage of the project of Phase 1?**
- A. Currently, this area has an open ditch drainage system. The intent of this project is to provide a closed storm sewer system and route the drainage to ponds where the water can be treated and discharged in a gradual manner. The ponds help to improve water quality by separating out contaminants.
- Q. Will the width/length of the intersection at Remington Boulevard increase?**
- A. As shown in the public meeting displays, this project is not proposing to change the existing width of Remington Road, and an appropriate median opening on Partin-Settlement was provided. However, these plans will be refined during the design phase of the project's development.

- Q. Will properties get concrete driveways or asphalt with curb and gutter?**
- A. The type of driveways will depend on traffic demands and the functional use of individual properties. The type of driveway will be determined during final design.
- Q. Is roadway lighting included in this project?**
- A. The County plans to include lighting as part of this project along the entire corridor.
- Q. Some alternatives had sidewalks that were different width. What determines which side of the road gets a wider/smaller sidewalk?**
- A. Land uses and associated effects on right-of-way along each side of the corridor are considered in determining an appropriate sidewalk width. Typically, sidewalks are at least 6 feet wide, but the width is increased as appropriate and feasible to safely accommodate anticipated users.
- Q. Will phase one, which goes past Remington, also go to Simmons Road? Will improvements be made to the access to Simmons Road?**
- A. This project may be divided into two parts, depending on traffic demands. The portion from Neptune Road to east of Remington Boulevard will have transitions to the existing Partin Settlement Road in the vicinity of Simmons Road. The segments and transitions will be further defined during the upcoming final design phase.
- Q. How will Osceola County protect endangered or protected birds and wildlife?**
- A. As part of the evaluation for each alternative, environmental assessments have been conducted, including surveys regarding impacts to endangered or protected species within the proposed improvement area. Our study revealed no adverse effects to endangered or protected species. Osceola County is open to working with the community and organizations to take appropriate measures to protect all wildlife along the corridor.
- Q. Will speed limits be changed?**
- A. The proposed speed limits on Partin Settlement Road are expected to either remain the same or be reduced.
- Q. Why are you including bicycle lanes?**
- A. A goal of the project is to enhance safety for all road users, including motor vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. The alternatives under evaluation provide either on-road bicycle lanes or wider sidewalks that can be used by both bicyclists and pedestrians. Osceola County staff and the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners will review each alternative and consider public comment to determine which alternative to advance to design.

Q. When is construction expected to start and how long will it take?

A. Osceola County may construct this project in segments. Construction on segment 1 from Neptune Road to east of Remington Boulevard is expected to begin in fall 2023. Construction is estimated to last about 24 months. The schedule will be refined during the design phase for this project.

Q. How much is construction expected to cost?

A. Construction costs will be refined during the design phase once the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners authorize advancement of the preferred alternative. Preliminary construction cost estimates range between \$37.3 million to \$38.1 million.

Q. Will Partin Settlement Road be closed during construction?

A. Construction schedules and plans will be determined during the design phase. The plans will include direction to the contractor for phasing the work to avoid lengthy road closures. Some lane closures and temporary detours can be expected. Access to businesses and residences will be maintained during construction.

Q. How is Osceola County paying for these improvements?

A. In late 2019, Commissioners enacted one of the largest investments for road improvements in County history by refinancing bonds originally used to build Osceola Parkway. That money, approximately \$200 million, will be used to advance design and construction of five key roadways. The County also aggressively leverages resources available from local, state and federal transportation partners, including the Central Florida Expressway Authority, the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration. State and federal grants alone currently account for nearly \$67 million in planned transportation improvements throughout the County. In 2019, the County also collected about \$35.6 million in "mobility fees" from new development that is used exclusively for transportation projects