

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN



Poinciana Boulevard Alternatives Evaluation From Pleasant Hill Road Trafalgar Boulevard

July 2020

**Poinciana Boulevard 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: Michael Mohler, P.E.
Consultant Project Manager
CONSOR Engineers, LLC

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-20-11503-DG
Project Limits: Poinciana Boulevard from Pleasant Hill Road
to Trafalgar Boulevard
Proposed Activity: Alternatives Evaluation

Project Contact Information

For additional information regarding this project contact:

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

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Winter Springs, FL 32708
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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 Poinciana Boulevard. There has been a nearly 33 percent increase in people moving to Poinciana since 2010. Poinciana Boulevard is a key corridor which is seeing a rise in traffic as a non-tolled alternative to State Road (S.R.) 538/Poinciana Parkway.



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 Poinciana Boulevard, to help ease congestion and improve traffic flow.

III. PROJECT GOALS

This project consists of an alternatives evaluation followed by development of construction plans for widening Poinciana Boulevard from Pleasant Hill Boulevard to Trafalgar Boulevard. The total project length is 5.7 miles. Part A of the project will evaluate options for creating a four-lane divided roadway with multimodal accommodations, including associated drainage improvements and stormwater ponds, modification of the signalized intersection at Pleasant Hill Road, upgrading the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and street lighting and landscaping considerations. There are no bridges or railroad crossings along the project. Part B of the project will design the preferred alternative.

An evaluation matrix will be developed to compare each of the alternatives relative to potential or expected environmental, cultural, socioeconomic and historical effects, as well as cost. A No Build alternative will remain an option throughout the study.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES

The following local, regional, state, or federal 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 notified.

- 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 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:

Poinciana Area Council

- Jose Figueroa

Chamber of Commerce: Kissimmee/Osceola County

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

Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (Lynx)

- James Harrison, CEO
- Jeff Reine, Senior Project Manager

South Florida Water Management

- Trisha Stone

Toho Water Authority

- Edwin Matos
- Robert Pelham
- Todd Swingle

Reedy Creek Improvement District

- Kate Kolbo
- Katherine Luetzow

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

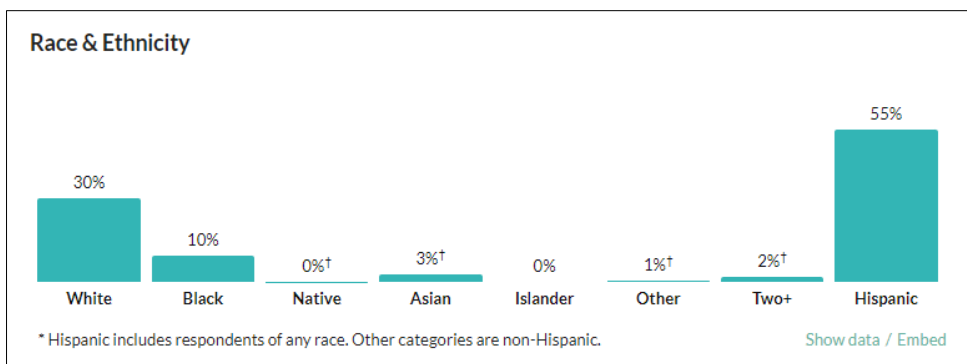
State Delegation: The Honorable Victor Torres, Senator, District 15
The Honorable John Cortes, Representative, District 43

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
Mr. 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

V. IDENTIFICATION OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

This project traverses through Poinciana, a census-designated place in southwest unincorporated Osceola County. It sits east of the Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area, south of U.S. 17/92 and somewhat parallel to and west of Pleasant Hill Road. The corridor is largely undeveloped land.

With the exception of the Countryside Manor neighborhood toward the south, the corridor’s residential development is located to the west. Notably, there are several homes in the Trafalgar Village and Doral Woods neighborhoods that sit closer than 100 feet from the edge of the existing roadway. The project corridor also includes Liberty High School at the southern end. Reedy Creek Elementary School and Poinciana High School are located just north of the project limits. LYNX bus route 306 also runs along the corridor. Osceola County is the state’s second fastest growing county, with a 31-percent increase in population since 2010, and Poinciana accounts for a significant portion of that growth.



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 decimated the island. 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. Virtual participation options, including a virtual public meeting, will be offered 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 and/or the consultant with Quest Corporation of America:

Neighborhoods:

- Trafalgar Village Resort
- Orlando Vacation Villa
- Legacy Resorts
- Emerald Lake by Royal Oak Homes
- Doral Pointe Homeowner’s Association
- Countryside Manor/Crystal Cove HOA
- Bella Point
- Bella Parc Townhomes
- Isles of Bellalago
- Cypress Cove Nudist Resort

Businesses:

- 7-11
- Furry Tails Pet Grooming 2
- Dollar General
- Extra Space Storage
- Lowe’s
- Twistee Treat Poinciana
- CVS
- Racetrac
- Sit N Sleep
- KFC
- Taco Bell

Schools:

- Around the World Learning Center
- Poinciana Christian Preparatory School
- Reedy Creek Elementary School (just north of the project limits)
- Poinciana High School (just north of the project limits)
- Liberty High School
- Mater Brighton Lakes Academy
- Valencia College Poinciana Campus

Churches:

- Iglesia Sin Paredes
- Grace Apostolic Church of Jesus
- Tabernacle of Poinciana
- Centro De La Familia Cristiana
- Poinciana Christian Church

Others:

- Reedy Reserve
- Green Lakes Farm
- Osceola County Environmental
- Osceola County Fire Station 64
- Osceola Memory Gardens Cemetery Funeral Home

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 media contact will be coordinated with the County.

Newspapers:

Orlando Sentinel – Osceola County Edition 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:** Display advertisements will be placed in the *Osceola News Gazette* newspapers 10-14 days prior to the public meeting.
- **Public Notices:** Notifications will be placed on the Osceola County website and distributed by the County using Nextdoor and social media channels at least seven days prior to the public meeting. Flyers will also be made available to organizations such as neighborhood/civic groups and FDOT 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:

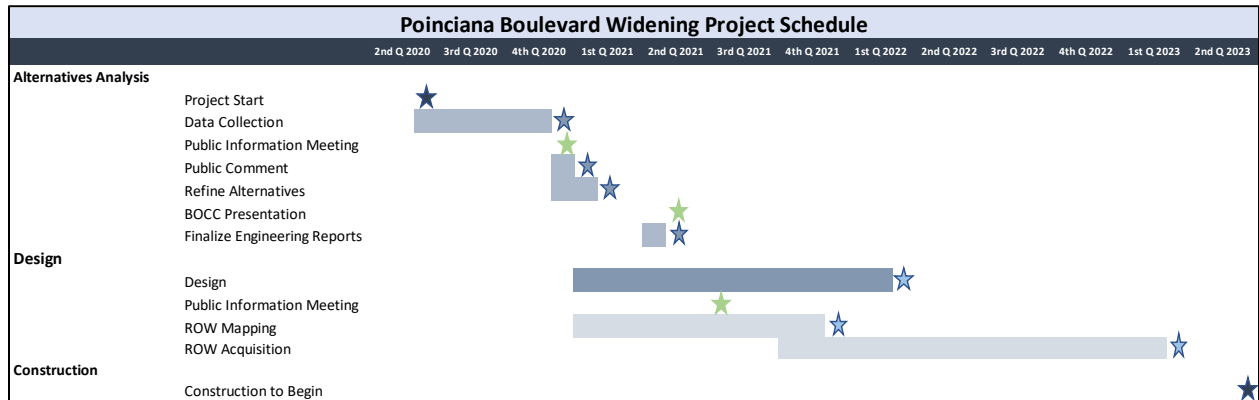
- **Presentations to Local Officials:** Presentations will be given to local officials and agencies such as the Osceola County Board of Commissioners and MetroPlan Orlando at the County’s direction to apprise local officials of the project status, specific location, and design concepts, and to receive their comments. County staff will present information to the county commissioners individually.
- **Public Information Meetings:** One public information meeting will be conducted during the Part A 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. Plans for the meeting will include a virtual component providing, at a minimum, that all meeting materials can be viewed on demand through the project website. The information presented will be the same.



- **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 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 compliance will be provided in meeting notifications, handouts, signage, and posted at the public information meeting.
- **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.



VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

There is no public hearing anticipated during the part A Alternatives Evaluation. County staff will present the results of the evaluation to the Board of County Commissioners for selection and approval of the preferred 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 evaluation. The report will contain documentation regarding public involvement efforts performed throughout Part A. 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; Board of County Commissioner comments and actions, and proof of publication of ads; sign-in sheets; and public comments.

X. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING DESIGN

The Design 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 two agency presentations. Individual meetings or coordination with the neighborhoods is also vital and will be an ongoing component of the public involvement process.