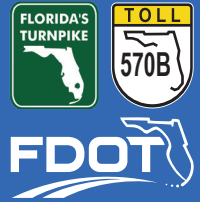


CENTRAL POLK PARKWAY

FROM POLK PARKWAY (SR 570) TO US 17 (SR 35)



Financial Project ID Number: 440897-2; ETDM Number: 8487

Newsletter 1 - May 2019

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) is designing a new, tolled roadway in Polk County called Central Polk Parkway (SR 570B). This new stretch of roadway will extend about 6 miles from Polk Parkway (SR 570) to Winter Lake Road (SR 540) to US 17 (SR 35).

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING - SAVE THE DATE

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Time: 5:30PM - 7:30PM

Location: W.H. Stuart Center
1710 US Highway 17 S
Bartow, FL 33830

**See back page for alternate "severe weather" date.*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Central Polk Parkway (SR 570B) design started in early 2018 and is ongoing. The project limits and surrounding area are shown in the project location map below.

In March 2011, FDOT District One completed a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, *Central Polk Parkway from SR 60 to SR 570 (Polk Parkway) and from SR 60 to Interstate 4*. The PD&E Study included the Central Polk Parkway segment that is currently in design. After the PD&E Study was approved, FDOT District One partially completed design of Segment 1 of the study. The alignment for Segment 1 is similar to that of the current design segment. FDOT District One

transferred the project to FTE, and FTE is now completing the design of this segment of roadway.

The proposed new roadway is a four-lane, divided, limited-access highway that will feature an All Electronic Tolling (AET) system. The project team has made adjustments to enhance the previously proposed alignment and design of this roadway segment in order to reduce impacts while meeting project needs. This project will include an analysis to document any changes to environmental impacts that may result from the current design activities.

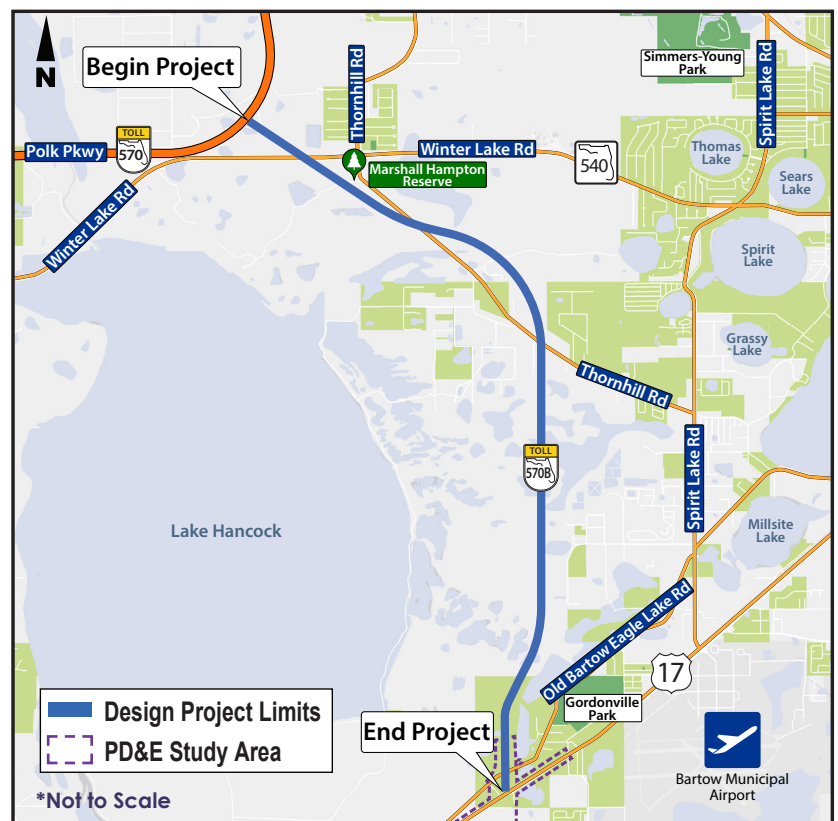
ABOUT THE DESIGN PROJECT

Current efforts within the project limits include:

- Evaluating ramp connections at Polk Parkway (SR 570), Winter Lake Road (SR 540) and US 17 (SR 35);
- Advancing utility coordination with Florida Gas Transmission (FGT), Gulfstream Natural Gas, and TECO;
- Analyzing environmental impacts;
- Identifying Right-of-Way needs; and
- Conducting additional analysis needed to finalize the design.

The proposed Central Polk Parkway will provide benefits to the community such as:

- Better options for moving people and goods and less congestion on existing area roadways;
- A more direct route from US 17 (SR 35) to Winter Lake Road (SR 540), Polk Parkway (SR 570) and I-4; and
- Less commercial vehicle traffic through Bartow.

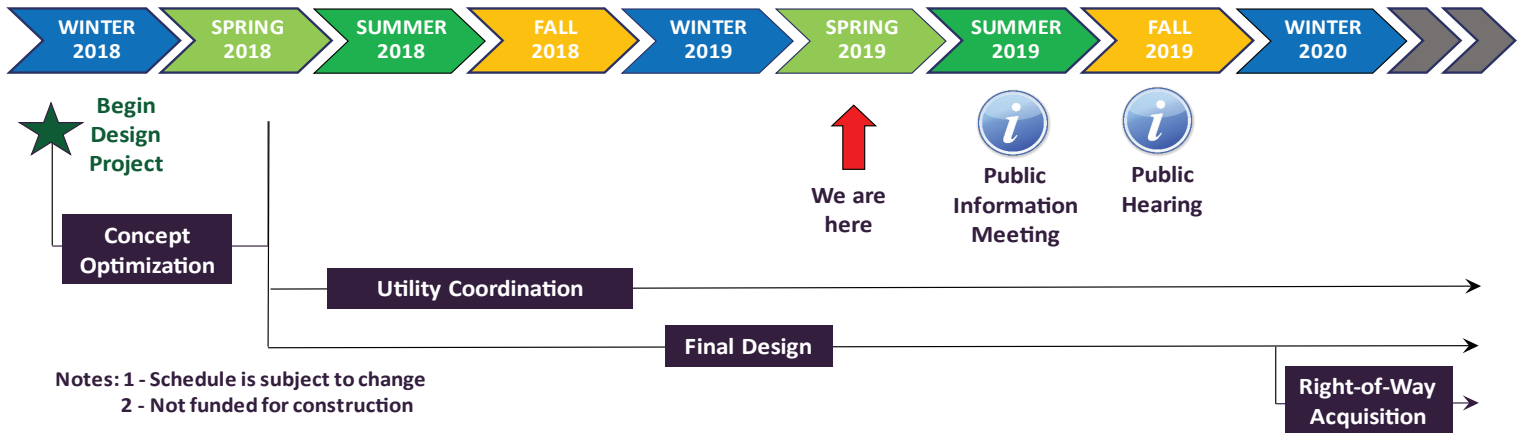


ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Natural habitats within the project limits include the Marshall Hampton Reserve, a 1,173-acre nature reserve that offers wildlife viewing and multi-use trails. The southern portion of the project consists of reclaimed phosphate mining lands. Previous environmental analyses will be updated during the project design, including evaluations of wetlands,

listed species, cultural resources, noise, and contamination impacts. FTE will work collaboratively with its environmental partners to ensure that this new roadway is evaluated and located such that it maintains important connections and minimizes impacts to natural systems.

PROJECT SCHEDULE & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



The design of Central Polk Parkway began in early 2018 and is ongoing. Opportunities for public input will be provided throughout the project and will be available via the **Stay Connected** page on the project website at www.centralpolkparkway.com (available starting June 18, 2019). FTE encourages members of the public to remain involved throughout the project by providing comments, asking questions, and offering suggestions.

A Public Information Meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2019. This will be a joint meeting to share the progress

for this project as well as for the adjacent Central Polk Parkway PD&E Study from US 17 (SR 35) to SR 60. At the meeting, attendees will have an opportunity to comment on both projects. A joint Public Hearing for both projects has been tentatively scheduled for fall 2019. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status.

PROJECT CONTACTS

If you would like to obtain additional project information or be added to the mailing list, please contact:

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***Alternate date information: In the event that the Public Information Meeting cannot be held on June 18, 2019 due to severe weather or other unforeseen conditions, it will be held on the alternate date of July 9, 2019 at the same time and place.**