



Florida Department of Transportation/Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

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SECRETARY

For Immediate Release

February 2, 2021

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Public Hearing Notice

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise to Host Public Hearing for the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study of Central Polk Parkway (SR 570B) From US 17 (SR 35) to SR 60 in Polk County

Ocoee, Fla. — The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) will hold a Public Hearing for the **Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study of Central Polk Parkway (SR 589) from US 17 (SR 35) to SR 60 in Polk County (Financial Project Identification Number 440897-4)**.

The Public Hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 9, 2021, with an informal open house. A formal presentation will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. followed by a public comment period. Those interested may attend in-person at the W.H. Stuart Center, located at 1710 US Highway 17 South, Bartow, FL 33830. Other persons may attend virtually/online via a computer, tablet, smartphone, or by telephone in listen-only mode. All attendees will participate in the same live virtual Public Hearing.

Those interested in attending should visit the project website, www.CentralPolkParkway.com, to register for the Public Hearing and to select a participation option. ****Please note that registration works best in Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Firefox web browsers.**** Once registered, a confirmation email will be sent that includes instructions on how to join the hearing online. To join the hearing in listen-only mode, call 1-415-930-5321 and enter access code 555-547-320.

If you wish to participate in the Public Hearing in person, the Department requests advance registration to help ensure attendees are accommodated safely in accordance with current social distancing guidelines. Please visit the project website at www.CentralPolkParkway.com, or contact Stephanie Underwood, P.E., Project Manager (HNTB) at 407-264-3436, or by email at Stephanie.Underwood@dot.state.fl.us to register for the in-person option. You should not attend the Public Hearing in person if you are not feeling well.

Persons wishing to submit written or verbal comments may do so at the hearing or may contact the Project Manager using the information provided below. All statements provided, or postmarked, on or before March 1, 2021, will become a part of the Public Hearing record.

Draft project documents are available for public review through March 1, 2021 at the Bartow City Clerk's office - *by appointment only* - located at 450 N. Wilson Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830,

between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Individuals who would like to view the documents should call the City Clerk's Office at (863) 534-0100 or email recordscustodian@cityofbartow.net. Documents can also be viewed at the Polk Transportation Planning Office, located at 330 West Church Street, Bartow, FL 33830, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Draft project documents are also available for public review on the project website, www.CentralPolkParkway.com, and will be available at the in-person location. Project information and updates will also be available on the project's website.

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 who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Stephanie Underwood at the contact information below, at least seven (7) days prior to the Public Hearing. 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).

Contact Information:

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The Florida Department of Transportation's mission is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of the state's environment and communities. The department is committed to building a transportation system that not only fits the current needs of Florida's residents and visitors, but also enhances mobility throughout the state to accommodate its consistent and rapid growth. The unique nature of the Sunshine State and its year-round warm climate provides numerous opportunities to achieve the department's mission through multiple transportation modes including highways/streets, air, rail, sea, spaceports, transit, and the ever-expanding deployment of bicycle & pedestrian facilities.