



Avalon Road RCA Study

FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE TO SR 50

Public Involvement Plan

January | 2018





PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Project Name: Avalon Road Roadway Conceptual Analysis
Project Limits: Florida's Turnpike to West Colonial Drive (SR 50)
County/State: Orange County, Florida
County Contract: Y17-809

This Public Involvement Plan is submitted to Orange County for review and approval.

Submitted by: _____
Alan Danaher, PE, PTOE, AICP – Consultant Project Manager
WSP

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Blanche Hardy, PG, Project Manager
Orange County Transportation Planning Division

Date: _____



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Avalon Road Roadway Conceptual Analysis (RCA) Study focuses on the corridor along Avalon Road, from Florida's Turnpike to West Colonial Drive (SR 50). This segment of Avalon Road has two travel lanes (one lane in each direction) with one signalized intersection at Avalon Road and SR 50. The existing roadway elements include sidewalks on the east side, and turn lanes at the unsignalized intersections. This Study Area is primarily composed of residential land uses (single family homes and two apartment complexes) and one commercial land use (a Circle K/Shell gasoline station). The purpose of this Avalon Road RCA Study is to evaluate the addition of lanes to the existing two-lane section of Avalon Road. The roadways serves the growing Horizon West community in Southwest Orange County and it is anticipated that the proposed improvements will improve traffic flow and safety in the area.

2. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

The project contacts for the Avalon Road RCA Study are provided below:

County Project Manager:

Blanche Hardy, PG
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4200 S. John Young Parkway
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Engineering Division
4200 S. John Young Parkway
Orlando, FL 32839
Teléfono: 407-836-7982
Correo
Electrónico: Esther.Fernandez@ocfl.net

3. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

This section identifies public agencies, local stakeholders and civic organizations that will be included in a stakeholder database that will be used to inform the public of upcoming meetings and events and distribute relevant Study information. The County will work to develop strategies for continued outreach to previously underserved or underrepresented populations. Groups providing services to these populations will be asked to post newsletters announcing upcoming meetings and events at specific service locations along the corridor. Orange County Public Schools will also be notified of upcoming events.

Elected & Appointed Officials

- Orange County Board of County Commissioner Betsy VanderLey (District 1)
- Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demmings
- Orange County Planning and Zoning Commissioners
- State Representative Robert Olszewski (District 44)
- State Senator Randolph Bracy (District 11)
- US Congresswoman Val Demings
- US Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio
- Orange County School Board
- City of Winter Garden Mayor John Rees
- City of Winter Garden City Council
- MetroPlan Orlando Board
- LYNX Board of Directors

Orange County Departments

- Orange County Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
- Orange County Utilities Department
- Community, and Development Services Department
 - Director
 - Transportation Planning Manager
 - Planning Manager
 - Environmental Protection Manager
 - Parks and Recreation Manager
 - Neighborhood Preservation and Revitalization Manager
- Public Works Department
 - Director
 - Deputy Director
 - Transportation Planning Manager
 - Chief Planner
 - Engineering Manager
 - Traffic Engineering Manager
 - Highway Construction Manager
 - Development Engineering Manager
 - Roads & Drainage Manager
 - Stormwater Management Manager
- Orange County Administrator's Office
 - County Administrator
 - Deputy County Administrator
- Orange County Attorney's Office
 - County Attorney
 - Assistant County Attorney
- Orange County Public Information Office
 - Public Information Officer
- Orange County Fire Rescue
 - Planning Manager

Other Agencies

- Florida Department of Transportation District Five (FDOT)
- Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE)
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- City of Winter Garden, City Manager, and Department Officials
- LYNX
- MetroPlan Orlando
- Orange County Public Schools (OCPS)
- St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD)
- South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
- Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX)

Advocacy Groups

- West Orange Chamber of Commerce
- Winter Garden Community Redevelopment Board

Neighborhoods

- Country Gardens Apartments (15122 West Colonial Drive, Winter Garden)
- West Pointe Villas Apartments (1201 West Pointe Villas Boulevard, Winter Garden)

Community Agencies

- Schools
 - Sunridge Elementary (14455 Sunridge Boulevard, Winter Garden)
- Churches
 - Oasis Community Church (607 Avalon Road, Winter Garden)
 - Tildenville Church of God in Christ (14753 Betina Street, Winter Garden)
- Community Organizations
 - Northwest Alliance
 - Florida Trail Association – Central Florida Chapter
 - Orange County's Walk-Ride-Thrive! Initiative
 - Home Owners Associations
 - FDOT Alert Today/Alive Tomorrow
 - Bike/Walk Central Florida's Best Foot Forward

Businesses

- Circle K/Shell Gasoline Station (14990 West Colonial Drive, Winter Garden)

Property Owners

Property owners located within 300 feet of the rights-of-way of Avalon Road (Florida's Turnpike to West Colonial Drive (SR 50)) will be identified.

4. PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The following outreach efforts will be employed during the project to notify key stakeholders and the affected public of the Study and to solicit public input into the process.

Study Website & Electronic Communication

A website will be prepared for the Avalon Road RCA Study, to be linked to the Orange County website. Meeting minutes and materials, newsletters and other relevant Study materials shall be posted to the website when available, particularly following each Public Meeting, Workshop, Public Hearing and the final Public Hearing.

Email will be the primary means of communication between the Study Team and stakeholders throughout the Avalon Road RCA Study. The Study Team will use the email lists to share Study updates and to notify stakeholders of upcoming meetings. Stakeholders will be encouraged to share their ideas and concerns through email, providing a platform for documenting this input and Study Team responses.

Study Newsletters

At key milestones in the Study, five (5) newsletters will be developed to notify interested parties of upcoming meetings and inform them of Study-related information. The schedule of newsletters is below:

- Newsletter #1: Prior to Kickoff-Alternatives Information Public Meeting
- Newsletter #2: Prior to Recommended Improvement Concept Meeting
- Newsletter #3: Prior to the Orange County Local Planning Agency (LPA) Public Hearing
- Newsletter #4: Prior to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Public Hearing
- Newsletter #5: After final action by the Orange County BCC

The newsletters shall also be sent to each entry in the Master Contact Mailing/Emailing list at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled meeting or hearing, and will also be posted on the Avalon Road RCA Study website. Copies of the newsletters shall be made available at the small group meetings, workshops and public meetings.

Media Contact

Orange County's Public Information Officer will handle all contact with the media, which at a minimum will include local newspapers (The Orlando Sentinel, El Sentinel, Orange Observer – Windermere Edition), local television stations (Channel 2 - WESH, Channel 6 - WKMG, Channel 9 - WFTV, Channel 24 – PBS, Channel 35 – FOX, and Univision Orlando), and social media. The Study Team will provide Study-specific information to the County's Public Information Officer for use in press releases, interviews, and news articles.

Public Meetings and Hearings

Community Public Meetings

During the course of the Avalon Road RCA Study, two Public Meetings will be held to present the Study findings, improvement alternatives, and Study recommendations to key stakeholders and the general public. The Public Meetings will be held at a location in or near the Avalon Road RCA Study area. The first meeting will be held after a range of alternatives have been identified and evaluated, and the second meeting will be held to present the Study's recommendations. Meeting notifications will include: Study newsletter, newspaper advertisements (*Orlando Sentinel* and *El Sentinel*), Orange County website, and press releases. At each meeting, Study information will be displayed in an open house format and Study Team members will be available to hold "one-on-one" conversations. A Study presentation will be given, followed by a "question and answer" forum.

Comment cards will be provided so that attendees can submit their input in writing. Public review and comment period of not less than fifteen (15) days will be established for the receipt of comments from citizens. The County will prepare written responses to the person(s) or group(s) who posed the question or comment. A copy of all comments, questions and responses will be documented in the Study file located at the Orange County Transportation Planning Division.

- Public Meeting #1: Kick-Off Alternatives Information Public Meeting
 - This public meeting will be scheduled following the completion of the data collection and analysis.
 - The purpose is to present the data collection findings, alternative improvement concepts, and the preferred alignment improvement.
- Public Meeting #2: Recommended Improvement Concept Public Meeting
 - This public meeting will be scheduled following the completion of the alternatives analysis activities and identification of a Recommended Improvement Concept.
 - The purpose is to present the draft Recommended Improvement Concept to the public for review and comment prior to presentation to the Orange County LPA and BOCC.

Newspaper advertisements and press releases will be developed with the purpose of informing the general public about the public meetings. The notices will be distributed at least two (2) weeks prior to each meeting, and press releases will be issued within one (1) week. The newspaper notices will be published in the *Orlando Sentinel* and *El Sentinel* (English and Spanish) and shared with distributors of local circulars. Notices will include the date, time, place and procedures of each meeting as well as topics to be considered.

The public community meeting minutes, sign-in sheets and summaries of comment cards shall be posted to the Avalon Road RCA Study website when they become available.

Orange County Planning and Zoning Commission/Local Planning Agency

Study findings and recommendations and a summary of public and stakeholder feedback will be presented to the Orange County LPA two (2) times during the course of the Study: first as a workshop in June 2018 and second as a public hearing agenda item in July 2018. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments during the public hearing.

Orange County Board of County Commissioners

Study findings and recommendations and a summary of public and stakeholder feedback will be presented to the Orange County BCC two (2) times during the course of the Study: first as a work session agenda item in August 2018 and second as a public hearing agenda item in September 2018. The public hearing presentation will reflect the Recommended Improvement Concept and any comments received from the LPA and BCC work sessions and LPA public hearing. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments during the public hearing.

Small Group Meetings

The Study Team will be available to conduct up to four (4) small group meetings with organizations interested in the Study. These meetings and presentations may be coordinated with homeowners, formal homeowner associations, business owners or other formal organizations such as a Citizens Advisory Committee.

These meetings will be open to the public and meeting summaries will be posted on Orange County's website.

5. SCHEDULE OF OUTREACH MEETINGS

A Study schedule for the Avalon Road RCA has been established which includes anticipated dates for the following key outreach meetings. These events are open to the public.

- Kick-off Alternative Public Information Meeting (Preferred Alternative) – March 2018
- Recommended Improvement Public Meeting (Recommended Alternative) – May 2018
- Orange County LPA Workshop– June 2018
- Orange County LPA Public Hearing – July 2018
- Orange County BCC Workshop – August 2018
- Orange County BCC Public Hearing – September 2018

6. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies. The purpose of Environmental Justice is to allow everyone the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. Environmental Justice ensures that:

- All people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Concerns of the local stakeholders will be considered in the decision-making process; and
- The decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those who are potentially affected.

Throughout the Avalon Road RCA Study, provisions will be made so that those individuals who only speak and read Spanish can obtain information about the Study or voice their concerns in their preferred language. The Study Team will need one week to accommodate these language requests, especially prior to a public meeting or hearing. Printed materials in languages other than English will be provided upon request.

7. TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

Statements regarding the Title VI program and compliance will be included in all meeting notifications, newsletters, handouts, and public meeting presentations.

8. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), related federal and state laws and regulations and the County's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan forbid discrimination against persons with disabilities. Furthermore, federal laws require federal aid recipients and other government entities to take affirmative steps to reasonably accommodate the disabled and ensure that their needs are equitably represented in County programs, services and activities. The County will make every effort to ensure that its facilities, programs, services and activities are accessible to those with disabilities.

The County encourages the public to report any facility, program, service or activity that appears inaccessible to the disabled. Furthermore, the County will provide reasonable accommodation to disabled individuals who wish to participate in public involvement events or who require special assistance to access facilities, programs, services or activities. Because providing reasonable accommodation may require outside assistance, organization or resources, the County asks that requests be made at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the need for accommodation. Questions, concerns, comments or requests for accommodation should be made to the County's ADA Officer:

Dianne Arnold, HFS Administrator/Interim ADA Coordinator
Mable Butler Building
2100 E. Michigan St., Orlando, FL 32806
Email: dianne.arnold@ocfl.net
Phone: 407-836-7588
Fax: 407-245-3191
Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1

9. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

A summary report will be developed to summarize the results and recommendations of the scheduled public meetings and hearings, and will include copies of the exhibits, presentations, handouts, and comments/response letters. The report will also contain the overall input provided through the other public involvement techniques utilized in the project development process. The report will be submitted to the Orange County Transportation Planning Division. The summary report will also be included as an appendix to the Final Roadway Conceptual Analysis Report.