



MEETING SUMMARY

Study Advisory Group (SAG)

July 27, 2016

LOCATION: Embassy Suites
8250 Jamaican Court, Orlando, FL32819

TIME: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

SAG

ATTENDEES:

Ryan Smith, Dr. P. Phillips YMCA
Harvey Burnett, Dr. Phillips Inc.
LuAnn Brooks, I-Drive Business Improvement District
Susan Godorov, International Drive CRA
Maria Triscari, International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce
Stina D'Uva, West Orange Chamber of Commerce
Harold Cohen, Granada Villas HOA
Michael Roper, Sandpointe Townhomes HOA
Gus Castro, City of Orlando
Jennifer Vreeland, FDOT – District Five
Courtney Reynolds – ReThink
Laura DiGruttolo, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Carleen Flynn, LYNX
Jeff Reine, LYNX
Krista Barber, Orange County Convention Center
Jamie Boerger, Orange County Public Schools

OTHER

ATTENDEES:

David Vallillo, International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce
Valerie Ifould, Sandpointe Townhomes HOA
Scott Fetterhoff, Sandpointe Townhomes Resident
Lex Veech, Orange County Convention Center
John Arie, Fun Spot America

STUDY TEAM:

Commissioner Scott Boyd, Orange County Commission – District 1
Renzo Nastasi, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Brian Sanders, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Anoch Whitfield, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Hazem El-Assar, Orange County
Hatem Abou-Senna, Orange County
Ruby Rozier, Orange County
Ian Phyers, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Jeff Arms, HDR

Matt Wiesenfeld, HDR
David Hamstra, Pegasus Engineering
Laura Turner, Laura Turner Planning Services

Orange County has begun a transportation study that will be focusing on the future of Sand Lake Road, from Apopka Vineland Road to Turkey Lake Road. The purpose of the study is to assess current and future travel demand in the area and to identify operational enhancements to keep people and vehicles moving along this corridor. An important component of this study is the input received from the area's key stakeholders, coming together as the study's advisors known as the Study Advisory Group (SAG). This group will meet up to five times throughout the study. The first meeting of the SAG was held on July 27, 2016, which followed the attached agenda. It is anticipated that this study will be completed by July 2017.

Welcome and Introductions

Brian Sanders welcomed the group on behalf of Orange County and the study team. The intent of this study is to examine a range of options to create a better environment for people and vehicles to move around in this corridor. It was noted that this project was being considered 15 years ago. However, due to opposition in the area, it did not move forward. The study is being resurrected due to renewed interest and need.

Presentation

Anoch Whitfield also welcomed the group and led the introductions. Ms. Whitfield introduced the study to the group, covering: background and project purpose; study approach and components; corridor overview; project engagement; and schedule. A copy of the presentation slides are attached for reference.

Questions and Answers

- How will this project be coordinated with the I-4 projects?
 - Representatives from FDOT are part of the SAG, making sure that the two projects are coordinated. Orange County wants to have the Sand Lake Road improvements in place by the time the I-4 "Beyond the Ultimate", known as BTU, construction begins. There may be some minor modifications once the BTU is in place.
- What is the threshold that leads to expanding lanes?
 - That threshold is when a facility is failing (LOS F) or is approaching failure. Vehicles are not the only consideration for this study since this corridor needs to accommodate all users. Some options may include: continuous right turn lane and widening to six lanes. All viable options will be examined.
- What are the thresholds for LYNX service to return to this part of Sand Lake Road?
 - Before 2008, there was bus service and stops along Sand Lake Road; however, this segment was underperforming and service stopped. LYNX can revisit this area to determine if there is a need for service.
- Will the signalized intersections (especially at Turkey Lake Road) be reviewed so that they operate more efficiently? Will there be signal upgrades?
 - All of these intersections will be on the same system (INSYNC), similar to the I-Drive SCOOT system. Also, the Turkey Lake Road intersection will tie in with the I-4/Sand Lake Road interchange improvements.
- Is there a need for additional parking in this area?
 - No.
- Explain the breakdown of dollars allocated for area transportation improvements. Will any part of the \$200M be used for this project?

- The Mayor's INVEST in Our Home for Life Program has a budget of \$300M. About \$200 million has been allocated for projects in design or construction and \$15 million for intersection and safety improvements. This project is not funded through INVEST. [INVEST](#)

Study Advisory Discussion

The SAG shared additional background information for consideration as data collection is completed and initial alternatives are developed.

Consider the Dr. Phillips Setting

- Have this study contribute to what this area could be or become. (Sandpointe resident)
- Look at all modes of travel to create a healthy environment; provide choices for pedestrians, bicyclists, and golf carts. (Sandpointe resident)
- Many residents bicycle in the area; however missing consistency for pedestrians and bicyclists, including supportive features like pumping stations by Spring Lake. (Sandpointe resident)
- There is the opportunity to create a Town Center setting, especially with key anchors like the YMCA, library, emerging medical presence, and growing retail/food/beverage spots. The area is full of vitality. (Sandpointe resident)
- Look at the uses that you want to encourage; reference the Future Land Uses. (Sandpointe resident)
- Consider incorporating the limestone arches at the YMCA and at the Dr. Phillips Boulevard/Sand Lake Road intersection as a nod to the area's past. (Sandpointe resident)
- Consider the quality of life of this area, whether Sand Lake Road should be a high speed road or a lower speed road. Also, consider the character of Turkey Lake Road. (Sandpointe resident)
- Consider park and ride lots that are visible and convenient (like the Publix shopping center); places for car pool groups to meet that are similar to Fowler Groves. (Granada Villas)
- Not many people travel to Downtown Orlando. (Granada Villas)
- The area's demographics are shifting to younger individuals and families. (Granada Villas)
- Many residents in Granada Villas don't drive and walk to Publix. (Granada Villas)
- Access to health care is important as the Dr. Phillips area is emerging as health care services hub (Sandpointe HOA).

Daryl Carter Parkway

- With 200 events each year at the Orange County Convention Center, the restaurants along this part of Sand Lake Road are important to the visitors. (Orange County Convention Center)
- The Daryl Carter Parkway (DCP) and related I-4 interchange will help relieve the area's congestion. This project is fully funded as a result of a public/private partnership. A private entity is completing the design and the right-of-way documents. Orange County is the public entity and will be constructing the project. FDOT is planning the DCP fly-over, as an interim project, to be in construction within 24 months. This project should bring relief to the Sand Lake Road/I-4 interchange area. In addition, Central Florida Parkway will tie in. (Commissioner Scott Boyd)

Interstate 4

- Improvements are being tailored as a result of citizen and agency input. (Brian Sanders)
- Keep in mind that I-4 is a state facility with federal funding involved, so improvements need to be acceptable to the state as well as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). (Renzo Nastasi)
- The "Beyond the I-4Ultimate" (known as BTU) project runs south of Kirkman Road to the Polk County line and goes north of SR 434 to SR 472. The Sand Lake Road interchange and the

Daryl Carter Parkway will be part of the BTU project. Design for the I-4/Sand Lake Road interchange is funded; however, construction is not yet funded. (Commissioner Scott Boyd)

LYNX Service

Although there is no LYNX service directly on this part of Sand Lake Road, [Neighborhood Link 641](#) serves the nearby area of Williamsburg.

- Neighborhood Link service brings a customer to a destination or to a LYNX bus transfer point and requires at least 2-hours notice. LYNX is working towards a more immediate service by using Smart Phones. (LYNX)
- Consider express routes for transit with few stops between the Dr. Phillips area and key destinations. (ReThink)
- Neighborhood Link may be popular for all age groups, and it may be something that is acceptable to our residents because the smaller vehicles are less imposing. A “big city” feel is not wanted. (Granada Villas)

Traffic

- This study is a step in the right direction by considering locals as well as visitors; need improved connectivity between I-Drive and Sand Lake Road. (I-Drive CRA)
- Traffic is a major issue for visitors and the Orange County Convention Center. (I-Drive CRA)
- Keep in mind that a previous study (known as an Alternatives Analysis) has been completed that would connect the I-Drive/Convention Center area to Orlando International Airport. This would occur just east of this corridor. (LYNX)

Next Steps

- Provide the group with information (via website link) about the Daryl Carter Parkway project (interim and ultimate phases).
- Follow up on existing and future LYNX services for the area.
- Schedule the next SAG meeting for September.

Attachment: agenda and presentation slides

cc: SAG Members
Orange County Study Team