



## COMMUNITY MEETING #2 SUMMARY

### February 23, 2017

- LOCATION:** Dr. Phillips High School Cafeteria  
6500 Turkey Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32819
- TIME:** 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- ATTENDEES:** 41 signed in citizens  
Commissioner Betsy VanderLey, Orange County Commission – District 1  
Amy Burman, Orange County Commission Office – District 1  
Brian Sanders, Orange County – Transportation Planning  
Anoch Whitfield, Orange County – Transportation Planning  
Jerald Marks, Orange County – Transportation Planning  
Ian Phyers, Orange County – Transportation Planning  
Frank Yokiell, Orange County – Traffic Engineering  
Diana Almodovar, Orange County – Development Engineering  
Beata Stys-Palasz, FDOT D5  
Jeff Arms, HDR  
Matt Wiesenfeld, HDR  
Catilin McHale, HDR  
Sharisse Kenney, HDR  
Chelsea Williams, HDR  
Laura Turner, Laura Turner Planning Services

Orange County has been conducting a transportation study that focuses 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. A recommended set of improvements have been developed and the study team wanted to share this information with the public for their review and input. This summary provides the highlights of the notification process, information shared at Community Meeting #2, the discussion, and comments shared.

### Meeting Notification

Here is a summary of the notification techniques that were used to publicize Community Meeting #2.

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|------------------|---|
| February 1, 2017 | Commissioner Betsy VanderLey (District 1) sent an email to over 1,100 in the Dr. Phillips area with a link to Newsletter #2 |
| February 1, 2017 | Posted Community Meeting #2 information on <a href="http://www.SandLakeRoadStudy.com">www.SandLakeRoadStudy.com</a>         |
| February 4, 2017 | Newspaper ad published (in Spanish) in <i>El Sentinel</i>   |

February 5, 2017	Newspaper ad published (in English) in <i>Orlando Sentinel</i>
February 6, 2017	Newsletter #2 emailed to 46 Elected & Appointed Officials, 64 Study Advisory Group Members, 19 agencies, and 155 interested parties
February 6, 2017	Newsletter #2 mailed to 235 property owners and 41 others without email addresses
February 6, 2017	Hand Delivered copies of Newsletter #2 to Dr. Phillips YMCA (10 copies) Hand to the Southwest Orange County Public Library (100 copies)
February 9, 2017	Posted Community Meeting #2 information on Orange County Calendar and Orange County Bulletin Board
February 14, 2017	News release sent to local media

## Study Information at the Meeting

As individuals signed in, they could identify how they learned about Community Meeting #2. Individuals learned about this meeting by: email (23); other (10, including a newspaper ad and Toscana HOA); and website (2). Also at the sign in table were copies of Newsletter #2 and a comment form.

Individuals could share their input by completing a comment form at the meeting or send it to the Orange County Project Manager through March 6, 2017. From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. the following study displays were available for review: Recommended Alternative for Sand Lake Road (2 sets), Recommended Alternative for Wallace Road, the alternatives presented at Community Meeting #1, I-4/Sand Lake Road interchange, and Darryl Carter Parkway/I-4 interchange. In addition, study team members were available to answer questions and to hold one-on-one conversations with individuals. At 6:30 p.m., a presentation was given followed by a question and answer forum. The meeting displays and presentation are posted on the study website ([www.SandLakeRoadStudy.com](http://www.SandLakeRoadStudy.com)) on the "Study Documents" page.

## Question and Answer (Q&A) Forum

Below is a summary of the comments, questions and responses discussed during the Q&A forum organized by topic.

### Utilities

- Q. Power line locations are inconsistent, with some above ground and some buried. Can the above ground power lines be buried and what is that process?
  - A. This feature is not part of this study; however, it could be considered during design.

### Design Features

- Q. There are historic "Dr. Phillips" markers in the area. Can they become more visible?
  - A. These two markers were built by the Dr. Phillips Charities, and they have indicated an interest in updating them. Options being considered include refreshing the existing markers or doing something different. These features become a key to wayfinding for the Dr. Phillips area. A private entity or special taxing district would need to fund the branding/wayfinding features since Orange County does not fund these types of programs.

- Q. Why isn't the sidewalk widened on both sides of Sand Lake Road?
  - A. Space for the wide sidewalk is being created on the south side of the road as it has fewer driveways and less crossing traffic. The existing sidewalk along the north side meanders and has heavily landscaped sections, making it less pragmatic to fit in a wider sidewalk at this location.
- Q. For the new developments (like Rialto), are there extra dollars going towards keeping the area's community character?
  - A. Most of the commitments are related to roadway capacity. For additional landscaping requirements, the property owner must have a direct benefit.
- Q. For the westbound traffic along Sand Lake Road (between Dr. Phillips Boulevard and Della Drive), will the right turn lane be extended?
  - A. The proposed improvements do not include additional lanes from Dr. Phillips Boulevard to Della Drive. However, this study does not preclude the County from revisiting this concern in the future.

### **Traffic**

- Q. Why is the project focused on Sand Lake Road, east of Dr. Phillips Boulevard? The segment to the west to Apopka Vineland Road also needs improvements.
  - A. The traffic volumes are much higher east of Dr. Phillips Boulevard, which is why there are more recommended changes.
- Q. Do the future traffic projections account for all the new development approved along Apopka Vineland Road?
  - A. Yes, the traffic models account for today's conditions as well as those approved for the future.
- Q. For the travel time savings, what was the speed limit?
  - A. The traffic model was run for 2020 and 2040 with a 45 mph speed limit.
- Q. Can the speed limit be reduced to 35 mph so there is a "Town Center" feel?
  - A. Changing the speed limit requires a special study to determine a reasonable speed for drivers to safely travel the corridor. Excessively high or low speeds create undesirable conditions. However, the visual changes along Sand Lake Road (pedestrian features, landscaping, etc.) will help to slow operating speeds and calm traffic.

### **Traffic Signals**

- Q. How will it be decided as to whether or not a new traffic signal will be located at the driveways to Venezia and The Fountains?
  - A. This may be an option to be reviewed during design. A traffic signal warrant study will need to be completed to determine the need (warrant or justification) for this signal.
- Q. When will the traffic signals along Sand Lake Road be synchronized?
  - A. Orange County has plans for implementing a signal coordination system (known as IN|SYNC) which has the ability to make minor adjustments to keep the signal timings synchronized.

### **Wallace Road**

- Q. What improvements are being proposed along Wallace Road?
  - A. Improvements shared are conceptual ideas that can fit within the existing right-of-way. These concepts are not funded.
- Q. Will Wallace Road have improvements similar to Sand Lake Road? There are a lot of runners going to/from the YMCA, so will there be a shared use path?

A. There are opportunities for minor operational improvements only due to the constrained right-of-way. An evaluation of Wallace Road for the inclusion of a shared use path will require an additional study beyond the scope of this study and could be considered in the future.

### **Stormwater**

- Q. What will be done for the drainage problem at Sand Lake Road and Della Drive? There is a huge puddle that forms (and lasts) in this area.
  - A. It is during design when specific issues like this will be addressed. The study team will pass along this concern to the design team.
- Q. Will the baffle boxes need to be maintained often in order to be effective?
  - A. The County uses them elsewhere, and they are not expensive to maintain.

### **Landscaping**

- Q. For Apopka Vineland Road, it took 25 years from the promise of landscaping to actual installation. Will it take that long for Sand Lake Road's landscaping? It should be a high priority with dollars committed sooner rather than later.
  - A. For Apopka Vineland Road, a special taxing district was created to fund the additional landscaping and a similar mechanism would be needed for Sand Lake Road. This will be discussed more fully during design.
- Q. Should we sign a petition in order for the landscaping to happen sooner?
  - A. No, the adjacent property owners would need to participate in the funding. However, let the businesses along Sand Lake Road know about public interest in the landscaping.
- Q. Is it possible to keep the Live Oak trees since they are a part of the area's identity?
  - A. The study team recognizes that these trees are a part of the community's character, and this will be reviewed in greater detail during the design phase. A detailed survey during the design phase will need to be completed in order to help determine which of the trees in the median can be saved based on the concept being advanced to design, if approved by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Q. Has the County talked to the Bay Hill Invitation organizers?
  - A. Yes and the team has also talked with other area stakeholders.

### **Funding**

- Q. What is this project's funding status?
  - A. Dollars have been allocated for the design phase but not for construction. This study will be completed in June 2017; if the Board approves the study findings and recommendations, Design can proceed (after a scope has been written and a consultant selected) which can take about 18 months. Once funded, construction will take 12 – 18 months to complete.
- Q. Are there any state funds that can be used for Sand Lake Road?
  - A. This segment of Sand Lake Road is not a state road, so it is not anticipated that state funds would be used towards this project.

### **Other Projects**

- Q. Will Sand Lake Road east of I-4 be improved?
  - A. Yes, this is a Florida Department of Transportation project, and construction is now underway.

## Shared Comments and Statements

During the Questions and Answer session, some comments and statements about the project were made, and these are summarized here.

- The Dr. Phillips community needs to come together and support this project and the landscaping. Also, the treatment in front of Trader Joe's should be extended to the east.
- Safety is an important factor to consider - pleased that pedestrian safety in particular is being addressed.

## Written Comments Received

Ten individuals submitted written comments (either emails or completed comment forms) from February 1, 2017 through March 6, 2017. These comments are summarized below. The number in parenthesis indicates how often the same comment was made.

### ***Sand Lake Road***

- Congestion is bad, particularly from Della Drive to Dr. Phillips Boulevard and improvements are needed. (1)
- There is support for the proposed extension of the right-turn lane approaching Apopka-Vineland Road. (1)
- There is a need to add pylons or delineators at the Sand Lake Road intersection with FedEx and Rialto Apartments where the right turn lane ends. (1)
- Concerns regarding the effect that a continuous right turn lane will have on pedestrian and bicycle movements since drivers may use this as a passing lane. (1)
- There was support for the 10-foot multipurpose path. (1)
- The speed limit of 45 mph is too high for all the users of this corridor, and it is not safe for pedestrians. (1)
- There are stormwater pools at the intersection of Sand Lake Road and Della Drive on the north side, which needs to be addressed. (1)
- There was support for a right turn lane off of Della Drive onto Sand Lake Road (1)

### ***Wallace Road***

- Any future widening or modifications should occur along the north side of the road in order to preserve the oak trees on the south side (west of the YMCA). These trees were planted in the 1926/1927 time frame. (1)
- An individual currently uses Wallace Road (instead of Sand Lake Road) for walking and cycling. If there are any improvements to Wallace Road, they should make the walking/cycling environment better and not worse. (1)
- There is a need to add a right turn lane at Wallace and Turkey Lake Roads (especially needed once the water park opens with additional traffic and pedestrian safety concerns). (1)

### ***Information Requests***

- Requests were made to be added to mailing/email list. (5)
- An information request was made for the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Public Meeting information shared. (2)
- Plans for sound proofing car noise on Wallace Road (particularly at the Spring Lake Villas area) was requested. (1)
- Plans for improving Wallace Road from Turkey Lake Road to Dr. Phillips Boulevard were requested. (1)
- Plans for improving the intersection of Wallace Road and Turkey Lake Road (particularly the southbound turn lane onto Wallace Road) were requested. (1)
- A request was made to participate in the remaining Study Advisory Group meetings. (1)
- A request was made for I-4 flyover information. (1)

## **Next Steps**

Public input from this meeting will be considered as the Preferred Alternative is further refined. One Work Session workshop will be held before the Orange County Local Planning Agency (LPA) and two public hearings will be held before the LPA and the Orange County Board of County Commissioners.

Study updates will be posted on the study website ([www.SandLakeRoadStudy.com](http://www.SandLakeRoadStudy.com)). The Orange County Project Manager will continue to be available to respond to questions and information requests.