



MEETING SUMMARY

Study Advisory Group (SAG)

January 25, 2017

LOCATION: Embassy Suites
8250 Jamaican Court, Orlando, FL 32819

TIME: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

SAG

ATTENDEES: LuAnn Brooks, I-Drive Business Improvement District
Maria Triscari, I-Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce
David Vallillo, I-Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce
Stina D'Uva, West Orange Chamber of Commerce
Harold Cohen, Granada Villas HOA
Jerry Hall, Granada Villas HOA
Michael Roper, Sandpointe Townhomes HOA
Valerie Ifould, Sandpointe Townhomes HOA
Scott Fetterhoff, Sandpointe Townhomes HOA
Keith Caskey, MetroPlan Orlando
Jamie Boerger DiLuzio, Orange County Public Schools
Bill Graf, South Florida Water Management District
Zakia Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

OTHER

ATTENDEES: John Stine, I-Drive 360 (I-Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce)

STUDY TEAM:

Commissioner Betsey VanderLey, Orange County Commission – District 1
Renzo Nastasi, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Brian Sanders, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Anoch Whitfield, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Jerald Marks, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Ian Phyers, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Hatem Abou-Senna, Orange County – Transportation Planning
Hazem El-Assar, Orange County – Traffic Engineering
Frank Yokiell, Orange County – Traffic Engineering
Jeff Arms, HDR
Matt Wiesenfeld, HDR
Sharisse Kenney, HDR
Laura Turner, Laura Turner Planning Services

Orange County is 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 that will 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. This is the third meeting of the SAG, which followed the attached agenda. It is anticipated that this study will be completed by July 2017.

Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Betsy VanderLey welcomed the group, encouraging them to share their comments and ideas. The challenge is how to meet the needs of this corridor as it transitions from the intense development along International Drive to the businesses and neighborhoods of Dr. Phillips. Anoch Whitfield reviewed the intent of this study, which is to examine a range of options to create a better environment for people and vehicles to move around in this corridor. This SAG meeting focused on the preferred alternative, which will be presented at Community Meeting #2, scheduled for February 23, 2017, as well as conceptual operational improvements on Wallace Road (from Apopka-Vineland Road to Turkey Lake Road).

Presentation

The presentation slides, which are attached, provided the basis for providing the study update as well as group discussion.

Project Overview

Ms. Whitfield provided an overview of the Sand Lake Road Study, recapping: existing conditions, previous SAG meetings, input from Community Meeting #1, and a review of the alternatives evaluation matrix.

Alternatives Review

The evaluation matrix now includes planning cost information (not including costs associated with right-of-way, wetland mitigation, utility relocation, and lighting). For Alternative 2, the planning cost ranges from \$8 to \$10 million and for Alternative 3 this cost ranges from \$24 to \$30 million. It was also noted that Alternative 2 does not require additional right-of-way, whereas Alternative 3 will need additional right-of-way. Alternative 1 (No Build) ranks "Low" in accommodating complete streets and opportunities for enhanced roadway design and landscaping.

Preferred Alternative

Matt Wiesenfeld reviewed the key elements of the preferred alternative, which is Alternative 2 with some modifications and aesthetics where applicable.

Along Sand Lake Road

- *Eastside of Corridor* (Dr. Phillips Boulevard to Turkey Lake Road)
Key features for this area include: a 16 foot median, a 10-foot shared use path on the south side from Dr. Phillips Boulevard to Rialto, and 11-foot travel lanes. The concept reduces traffic congestion, which improves safety of automobile and pedestrian movements. Option 1 proposes a directional median opening for The Fountains/Plaza Venezia driveways, and Option 2 proposes a traffic signal at this dual driveway location. With both options, a new westbound left turn lane is included to provide more opportunities for westbound drivers to enter Plaza Venezia and median curbing to allow opportunities for landscaping.

- *Westside of Corridor* (Apopka Vineland Road to Dr. Phillips Boulevard)
Key features for this area include: a 20-foot curbed median, a 10-foot shared use path on the south side, and 12-foot travel lanes.

Along Wallace Road

- Wallace Road carries a lot of local traffic.
- Improvements to the Wallace Road/Dr. Phillips Boulevard intersection are coming in summer 2017, which will involve turn lanes.
- A three lane concept was presented, which ties the intersection improvements from Apopka-Vineland Road to Dr. Phillips Boulevard together. This set of improvements is conceptual and not funded.

Project Engagement and Schedule

The second (and last) community meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2017 at Dr. Phillips High School, and the study's recommendations will be presented. Although this is the final meeting, there will be opportunities for public comment as this study proceeds to the Local Planning Agency (LPA) and Board of County Commissioners (BCC). There will be a work session and public hearing with the LPA and a public hearing with the BCC. Public comments can be made at the public hearings. The SAG will meet one more time, after the community meeting and before the LPA work session.

Study Advisory Group (SAG) Discussion

The SAG shared additional information for consideration as the preferred alternative is finalized. Information shown in brackets indicates that the study team provided clarifications.

Drainage

- The project design needs to account for drainage to area lakes. There is an opportunity to improve lake quality. (Commissioner Betsy VanderLey)
[Drainage is a consideration and will be addressed further during Design. Minimal impervious surfaces will be added.]
- The South Florida Water Management District is the permitting agency for drainage. The agency staff will be available to review ideas and concepts before final design. (South Florida Water Management District)

Roadway Features

- For the proposed new signal (Option 2 for the Eastside), consider the back up that may spill over to the queues for the adjacent signals. (I-Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce)
[It was noted that a traffic signal warrant study would need to be completed and approved before a new signal could be installed.]
- The ideas are great but are they worth the investment. The study team should look at pedestrian islands. (Sandpointe)

Wayfinding

- There is a need for wayfinding signs, especially with the number of visitors. (I-Drive Business Improvement District)
[This will be handled during design (the project's next phase). The study will recommend that wayfinding to be addressed during design.]
- There is an existing need for signage, especially at the I-4 southbound exit ramps and traffic that is going west. There is a lot of confusion in this area. (Sandpointe)
[An opportunity for routing signage changes will occur with the I-4 Beyond the Ultimate (BTU) project.]

- There is the opportunity for wayfinding to create a transition between the intense development of International Drive and the Dr. Phillips businesses and neighborhoods. It is important to create a sense of place that you are arriving at a special place. Funding for this effort should be discussed at a future time. (Commissioner Betsy VanderLey)

Operations

- There was a question related to whether the cost of Alternative 2 is worth the 1-minute travel time savings.(Granada Villas)
[In the short term, the solution is not just signal timing improvements or travel time savings. Other factors are being implemented such as complete streets and enhancing corridor safety. The solution needs to address safety concerns (for pedestrians and vehicles) while also fitting in with the community character and enhance wayfinding. This is a complete package of improvements.]
- Orange County is working with FDOT to coordinate all traffic signals between Della Drive and John Young Parkway, which should be in place by next year. (Orange County)

Landscaping

- The final plans should include native plants for landscaping. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- The study team needs to consider whether or not the landscaping budget is adequate. (Sandpointe)
- Does the landscaping budget include irrigation? (West Orange Chamber of Commerce)
[Orange County does not provide irrigation. However, there is an opportunity for property owners to create a self-funding district to cover the irrigation costs (similar to Apopka Vineland Road).]

Corridor Character

- There is a need to consider these roadway improvements as an opportunity to create a community identity, including wayfinding. (Sandpointe)
- There is a need for a more prominent feature announcing that you are in the Dr. Phillips area (West Orange Chamber of Commerce)
[A separate study is needed to address the community identity issue. Orange County does not maintain these types of signs. There is a review process if signage is to be located within the County's right-of-way.]
- The study team should consider the Rialto/lakes area as an eastern gateway into the Dr. Phillips community. (Sandpointe)
[It is important to consider other nearby projects that are (or will be) underway so that some of these issues can be addressed comprehensively. These projects include:
 - Reconfiguration of I-4/Sand Lake Road interchange (funded);
 - Feasibility study for the pedestrian overpass at International Drive and Sand Lake Road (scope being drafted; will consider aesthetics, complementing the businesses on the four corners);
 - Future Daryl Carter Parkway/Interstate 4 interchange, which will tie into Apopka Vineland Road;
 - Intersection improvements under design; and
 - International Drive Vision Plan.

Links to these projects will be provided to the SAG members. Also, information for these projects will be displayed at the community meeting so the public can see how this Sand Lake Road Study fits into the overall area.]

- There needs to be an opportunity to incorporate an art program and public art. (Sandpointe)

- If design and landscaping are done correctly, they likely will reduce the frustration with congestion. (Sandpointe)
- The study team should consider the following features for this corridor:
 - Consistent landscaping;
 - Have sidewalks to serve pedestrians;
 - Have comprehensive and consistent signage;
 - Reduce the speed limits to create a more pedestrian feel;
 - Recognize that intersections are more than cars and traffic signals; and
 - Incorporate lakes as community features. (Sandpointe)

Follow Up

- The following project links have been emailed to SAG members.

Sand Lake Road at I-4 Interchange:

http://www.i4express.com/Seg2Docs/SAND_LAKE_RD_INTERCHANGE_RECOMMENDED_093016.pdf

Daryl Carter Parkway Interim Interchange:

http://www.i4express.com/Seg1Docs/DSGNRD101_DARYL_CARTER_INTERIM_08102016.pdf

Daryl Carter Parkway Ultimate Recommended Interchange:

http://www.i4express.com/Seg1Docs/SEGMENT1_DARYL_CARTER_PKWY_RECOMMENDED.pdf

Attachment: agenda and presentation slides

cc: SAG Members
Orange County Study Team