

### LAKE / ORANGE COUNTY CONNECTOR (US 27 TO SR 429) ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP (EAG) MEETING #3 SUMMARY

**Date/Time:** Thursday, May 2, 2019; 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX), 4974 ORL Tower Road, Orlando, FL 32807, Board Room

**Attendees:** Thirteen EAG members and 11 staff members attended. Six EAG members participated via GoToMeeting. See sign-in sheets attached.

#### I. Notifications

Invitation letters were emailed to 82 members of the EAG on April 5, with a reminder on April 23, 2019.

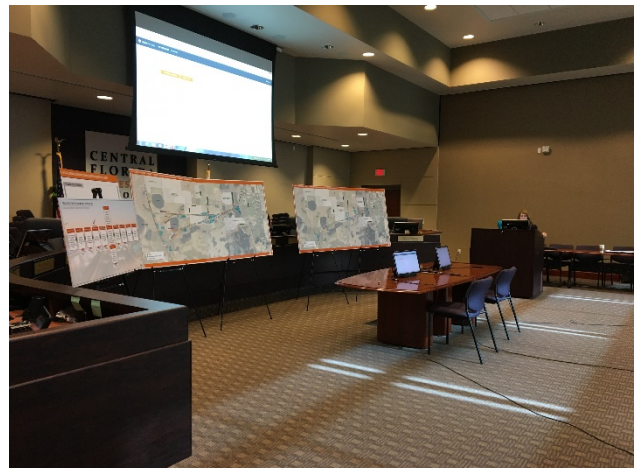
#### II. Welcome

Nicole Gough of Dewberry, CFX's General Engineering Consultant (GEC), called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She gave a brief introduction about the meeting and provided Title VI information. She also mentioned that the meeting was being recorded and there were members participating via GoToMeeting. Attendees introduced themselves and the organizations they represented.

Nicole then described the goal of the EAG:

- Receive input regarding local needs, concerns and potential physical, natural, social and cultural impacts of the proposed project; and
- To foster an atmosphere that encourages discussion

As an EAG Member we encourage you to:



- Assist in the identification of potential project impacts, opportunities and constraints; and
- Provide feedback and comments regarding the information presented

### III. Lake / Orange County Connector PD&E Study Presentation

Will Sloup, Consultant Project Manager with Metric Engineering, presented the following information:

- **Study Objective**

- The Lake/Orange County Connector Feasibility/PD&E study will determine if a limited access facility between US 27 in south Lake County and State Road 429 in west Orange County is economically and environmentally viable in accordance with CFX policies and procedures.
- The study area lies within Lake County and Orange County and the limits are described as: Porter Road on the north; SR 429 on the east; Old YMCA Road on the south; and US 27 on the west.
- At the present time, the study area is generally undeveloped.

- **Stakeholder Outreach**

- The development of the corridor alternatives was closely coordinated with our project stakeholders.
- Individual meetings were held over the past several months with each stakeholder.
- In addition, staff from Lake and Orange counties have been working with us as part of the study team.

- **Public Involvement**

Public involvement and interagency coordination have been, and will continue to be, an integral part of the assessment process.

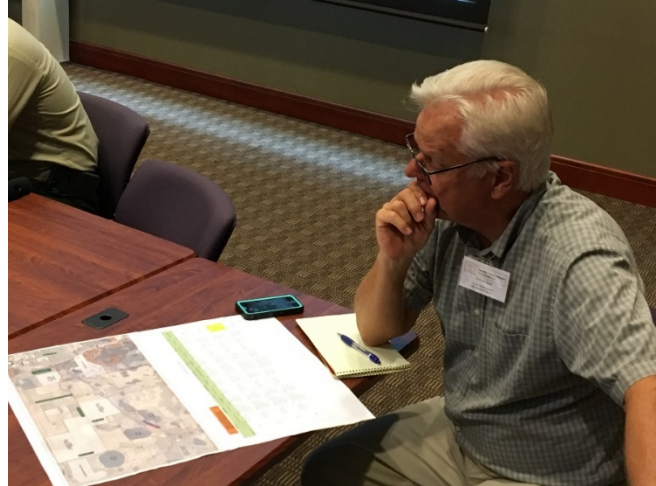
- **EAG Input Received**

- Additionally, as we developed our corridor alternatives, we considered the input we received from you in July and February.
- As this study proceeds, your input will be continually documented to ensure your comments and concerns are addressed in future project development activities.

- **Alternatives Analysis**

- Many of you recall the four project alternatives that were developed.
- Alternatives 1 and 2 are the northern routes while Alternatives 3 and 4 are the southern routes.
- All alternatives end at a common location at SR 429, whereas there are four potential tie-in locations at US 27.
- New interchanges are proposed with US 27, the future extension of County Road 455 (a potential diamond interchange is being used for analysis purposes), the future Valencia Parkway (partial interchange to and from the west) and SR 429 (systems interchange).

- The conceptual designs show US 27 shifted to the east; this is to accommodate the interchange with US 27 while avoiding impacts to Lake Louisa State Park lands.
- The No-Action or No-Build Alternative serves as the baseline for comparison against the various build alternatives.
- There is always the possibility that the No-Build Alternative could be chosen as the preferred alternative.
- The proposed typical section for all four project alternatives is shown on this slide.
- A potential right-of-way width of 330 feet would accommodate an initial 4-lanes and future widening to 8-lanes.
- Future widenings are to the inside and provide for potential multi-use lanes in the median.
- Right-of-way will vary in locations that accommodate interchanges.
- Analysis requires a comparative evaluation to assess the project alternatives, including the No-Action Alternative.
- The objective of an alternatives evaluation is to compare the performance of each viable alternative in meeting the evaluation criteria, and to quantify its impacts to the natural, social, cultural and physical environments.
- The results of the multiphase analysis as well as general public consensus, indicated that Alternative 3 ranks as the best corridor choice in terms of providing an adequate balance between potential socio-economic, physical, and environmental impacts and benefits.
- The evaluation matrix is on display today at the meeting.
- Of the four alternatives, the preferred alternative for the Lake/Orange County Connector is Alternative 3. This includes a partial interchange at the proposed Valencia Parkway, and full interchanges at US 27, proposed CR 455 Extension, and SR 429.
- The preferred alternative will also provide grade separations in order to provide access to local streets.
- At this time the draft preferred alternative construction cost is \$289.5 million with a total project cost of \$470.6 million.
- We will continue to solicit public input on the preferred alternative.
- Detailed engineering and environmental analysis will continue for the preferred alternative with the results documented in a series of engineering and environmental reports.



Will then handed the presentation back to Nicole for the group discussion:

#### IV. Group Discussion

Nicole noted that the preferred alternative had been refined down from all alternatives based on some of the input received at these meetings, and that handout copies of the matrix and maps were available.

**Sarah Bernier, Orange County Environmental Protection Division:** Said their division's main concern was the Schofield Tract, which this alternative avoids. Also, the effect on Lake Louisa State Park and the Trout Lake water quality. They're not clear if any drainage from the project would go into Trout Lake.

**Will Sloup, Metric Engineering:** There will not be any stormwater discharge into Trout Lake.

**Aldin Mathews, Lake Louisa State Park:** Noted that the preferred alternative was fairly ideal for Lake Louisa, as it moves it away from the entrance and seems to minimize the noise impacts.



**Bill Adams, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD):** spoke of the district's interest in making sure that any old grove wells were properly abandoned. He added that the only concerns as far as consumptive use permit were that irrigation needs be identified, and native vegetation should be used to diminish required irrigation.

**Dave Anken, Florida Forestry Service:** Said that he was comfortable with what he saw, that there were no major concerns with fire, smoke issues.

**Bill Graf, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD):** Noted that the team had already met with their permitting staff and have the division between the districts clearly identified. He added that, although not required by rules, there is an area benefit to using stormwater. He concluded that their staff was pretty comfortable with what had taken place so far.

**Will Sloup:** We met with the South Florida Water Management District for an Environmental Look Around (ELA), and the district staff did not have any ongoing efforts in this area.

**Cammie Dewey, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD):** Mentioned that she was not aware that project staff had met with SJRWMD staff yet.

**Nicole Gough:** Responded that was correct, there had not yet been opportunity, but they will plan to meet with staff, and asked if she had any concerns about stormwater.

**Cammie Dewey:** Responded that the district rules are pretty straightforward, but echoed what Bill Graf mentioned, that they should be looking at stormwater harvesting, perhaps pairing up with utilities on stormwater harvesting.

Nicole asked if there were any questions regarding wildlife. There were none. She asked for commentary from the City of Clermont, to which there was none. That concluded the group discussion. Nicole turned the presentation over to Kathy Putnam, the study Public Involvement Coordinator.



Kathy Putnam continued the presentation with a review of the schedule, highlighting the public hearing on June 27. She said the study documents should be finalized by the end of July and should be going to the CFX governing board in August. She repeated that the public hearing will be on June 27<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Clermont Arts and Recreation Center, with the first hour and a half being an open house and the last hour for the public hearing. She asked that anyone desiring a

stakeholder meeting please let her know. She also mentioned that the materials presented would be on the study website within a week.

- **Upcoming Public Involvement**
  - The preferred alternative will be presented at the public hearing.
  - The study team is available for one-on-one and small group meetings upon request.
- **For More Information**
  - For more information on this study, you can contact me, Kathy Putnam, Public Involvement Coordinator by email at [LakeOrangeStudy@CFXway.com](mailto:LakeOrangeStudy@CFXway.com) or 407-802-3210.

She then concluded the meeting and thanked the participants again for attending and providing input.

#### **END OF MEETING SUMMARY**

This meeting summary was prepared by Kathy Putnam, Public Involvement Coordinator at Quest Corporation of America on behalf of the Central Florida Expressway Authority. It is not verbatim but is a summary of the meeting activities and comments received. If you feel something should be added or revised, please contact Kathy Putnam by email at [LakeOrangeStudy@CFXway.com](mailto:LakeOrangeStudy@CFXway.com) or by telephone 407-802-3210 within five (5) days of receipt of this summary.

**SIGN IN**



Lake/Orange County Connector Feasibility/Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP - MEETING NO. 3

CFX Project No.: 599-225

CFX Headquarters, 4974 ORL Tower Rd, Orlando, FL 32807

May 2, 2019 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Name	Organization	Address	City/State/Zip	Email Address	Initials
Bill Adams	St. Johns River Water Management District	601 S. Lake Destiny Road, Suite 200	Maitland, FL 32751	wadams@sjrwmd.com	
Marc Ady	South Florida Water Management District	Orlando Service Center 1707 Orlando Central Pkwy., Suite 200	Orlando, FL 32809	<a href="mailto:mady@sfwmd.gov">mady@sfwmd.gov</a>	
Janet Akerson	Florida Trail Association	5415 SW 13th Street	Gainesville, FL 32608	janetakerson@floridatrail.org	
Alyssa Alers	St. Johns River Water Management District	601 S. Lake Destiny Road, Suite 200	Maitland, FL 32751	aalers@sjrwmd.com	
Dale Allen	Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation	P. O. Box 4142	Tallahassee, FL 32315	wm.dale.allen@gmail.com	
Rick Baird	Audubon Society – Orange County	1920 North Forest Avenue	Orlando, FL 32803-1537		
Tom Ballesteros	Friends of Lake Louisa State Park	7305 U.S. Hwy. 27	Clermont, FL 34714		
Brian Barnett	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Farris Bryant Building 620 S. Meridian Street	Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600	brian.barnett@myfwc.com	GT M
Sarah Bernier	Orange County - Environmental Protection Division	3165 McCrory Place Suite 200	Orlando, FL 32803	Sarah.bernier@ocfl.net	
Doug Bryant	Lake County Water Authority	27351 SR 19	Tavares, FL 32778	info@lcwa.org	
John Classe	Reedy Creek Improvement District (RCID)	P. O. Box 10170	Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830	jclasse@rcid.org	
Jeffrey Collins	US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District	Jacksonville District P. O. Box 4970	Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019	jeffrey.s.collins@usace.army.mil	
Christy Conk	Friends of Lake Louisa State Park	7305 U.S. Hwy. 27	Clermont, FL 34714		

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Katasha Cornwell	FDOT Office of Environmental Management	605 Suwannee Street	Tallahassee, FL 32399	katasha.cornwell@dot.state.fl.us	
Roy Cribb <i>David Anken</i>	FL Dept of Agriculture - Florida Forest Service, Lake County	Leesburg Forestry Station 9610 County Road 44	Leesburg, FL 34788	roy.cribbjr@freshfromflorida.com	<i>DA</i>
Mike Crikis	Reedy Creek Improvement District (RCID)	P. O. Box 10170	Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830	mcrikis@rcid.org	
Traci Deen	Conservation Trust for Florida	1731 NW 6th Street, Suite D	Gainesville, FL 32609	traci@conserveflorida.org	
Nahir DeTizio	Florida Highway Administration (FHWA) - FL	400 W. Washington Street - Suite 4200	Orlando, FL 32801	nahir.detizio@dot.gov	
Cammie Dewey	St. Johns River Water Management District	601 S. Lake Destiny Road, Suite 200	Maitland, FL 32751	cdewey@sjrwm.com	GoTo Meeting
Laura DiGruttolo	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Farris Bryant Building 620 S. Meridian Street	Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600	laura.digruttolo@myfwc.com	
Pete Dunkleberg	Florida Citizens for Science			petedunkpi@gmail.com	
Larry Fooks	Department of Environmental Protection	1800 Wekiwa Circle	Apopka, FL 32712	Larry.Fooks@Floridadep.gov	
Sean Gallagher	FL Dept of Agriculture - Florida Forest Service, Orange County	8431 S Orange Blossom Trail	Orlando, FL 32809	sean.gallagher@freshfromflorida.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
William Graf	South Florida Water Management District	Orlando Service Center 1707 Orlando Central Pkwy., Suite 200	Orlando, FL 32809	wgraf@sfwmd.gov	<i>[Signature]</i>
Deborah Green	Audubon Society – Orange County	1920 North Forest Avenue	Orlando, FL 32803-1537	sabalpress@mac.com; watermediaservices@me.com	
Mark Griffin	City of Clermont	3335 Hancock Rd.	Clermont, FL 34711	Mgriffin@clermontfl.org	<i>GTM</i>
Mary Hamilton	Lake County	315 W. Main Street, #411	Tavares, FL 32778	mhamilton@lakecountyfl.gov	

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Name	Organization	Address	City/State/Zip	Email Address	Initials
Ron Hart	Lake County Water Authority	27351 SR 19	Tavares, FL 32778	Ronh@lcwa.org	
Thomas Hawkins	1000 Friends of Florida	P. O. Box 5948	Tallahassee, FL 32314-5984	friends@1000fof.org	
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Jeff Holland	Reedy Creek Improvement District (RCID)	P. O. Box 10170	Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830	jholland@rcid.org	
James Hollingshead	St. Johns River Water Management District	601 S. Lake Destiny Road Suite 200	Maitland, FL 32751	jhollingshead@sjrwmd.com	
Marjorie Holt	Sierra Club of Florida	Florida Regional Office 1990 Central Avenue	St. Petersburg, FL 33712	marjorieholt@earthlink.net	
Beth Jackson	Orange County - Environmental Protection Division	3165 McCrory Place Suite 200	Orlando, FL 32803	beth.jackson@ocfl.net	
Wil Kitchings	FL Dept of Agriculture - Florida Forest Service, Orange County	8431 S Orange Blossom Trail	Orlando, FL 32809	wil.kitchings@freshfromflorida.com	SKK
Charles Lee	Audubon Society - Central Florida	1101 Audubon Way	Maitland, FL 32751	chlee2@earthlink.net	
Casey Lyon	FDOT - District Five	719 S. Woodland Blvd.	DeLand, FL 32720	casey.lyon@dot.state.fl.us	
Laurie Ann MacDonald	Defenders of Wildlife - Florida	433 Central Avenue - Ste 200	St. Petersburg, FL 33701	laurie.macdonald@defenders.org	



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Jim Martin	Federal Highway Administration – Dist. 5			Jim.Martin@dot.gov	GTM
Patricia Martin	The Nature Conservancy	Florida Field Office 2500 Maitland Center Pkwy. Suite 311	Maitland, FL 32751	tricia_martin@tnc.org	
Aldin Mathews	Lake Louisa State Park	7305 US Hwy 27	Clermont, FL d34714	Aldin.Mathews@dep.state.fl.us	AM
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Timothy Parsons	FL Dept of State - Div of Historical Resources	RA Gray Building 500 S. Bronough Street	Tallahassee, FL 32399- 0250	timothy.parsons@dos.myflorida.com	
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John Puhek	Sierra Club of Florida	Florida Regional Office 1990 Central Avenue	St. Petersburg, FL 33712	flsquirrel@aol.com	
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## STAFF SIGN IN SHEET

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