

Federal Highway Administration
Florida Division

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

U.S. Department of Transportation,
Federal Highway Administration
and
Florida Department of Transportation, District Five
in cooperation with the
Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority

Financial Project Number: 238275 1 22 01 and 240200 1 22 01
Federal Project Number: TBD

**WEKIVA PARKWAY (SR 429)/SR 46 REALIGNMENT
Orange, Lake, and Seminole Counties, Florida**

Wekiva Parkway (SR 429)

From US 441 (SR 500)/John Land Apopka Expressway (SR 429/SR 414) Interchange, Orange County
to SR 417/I-4 (SR 400) Interchange, Seminole County

SR 46 Realignment

From US 441 (SR 500)/SR 46 Interchange, Lake County
to Wekiva Parkway (SR 429), Orange County

Wekiva Parkway: Construction of a new four-lane/six-lane limited access expressway to complete the Western Beltway (SR 429) around the metropolitan Orlando area from Apopka in Orange County to Sanford in Seminole County. The approximate length is 20.9 miles. The project includes a new systems interchange with the SR 46 Realignment and a modification of the existing systems interchange at SR 417/I-4; three new local access interchanges at Kelly Park Road, Neighborhood Lakes and International Parkway; major structures at the systems interchanges and four environmental/wildlife bridges. Realignment of CR 46A in Lake County is included as part of the Wekiva Parkway project. The approximate length of the CR 46A Realignment is 2.7 miles. The realignment is proposed as a two-lane, expandable to four-lane, rural facility.

SR 46 Realignment: Reconstruction of the existing SR 46 facility in Lake County and Mount Dora to provide six-lane divided controlled-access from US 441 to east of Round Lake Road. The project includes reconstruction of the existing US 441/SR 46 interchange with associated major structures. The realignment of SR 46 from east of Round Lake Road to a new systems interchange with Wekiva Parkway near the Orange/Lake County line is proposed as a limited access expressway. The approximate length of the SR 46 Realignment is 4.8 miles.

Submitted pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2)(c).

Approved For Public Availability

8/20/2010
Date

George B. Hardley
for
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Table of Contents

Section	Page
1. Description of the Proposed Action	1-1
1.1 Background	1-1
1.2 Project Overview	1-3
1.3 Project Description	1-3
1.4 Logical Termini.....	1-5
2. Purpose and Need	2-1
2.1 Purpose	2-1
2.2 Need	2-2
2.3 System Linkage.....	2-7
2.4 Study Area Transportation Needs	2-8
2.4.1 Roadway Deficiencies.....	2-8
2.4.2 Capacity	2-8
2.4.3 Safety	2-13
2.5 Transportation Demand	2-14
2.5.1 Population and Employment.....	2-14
2.5.2 Consistency with Transportation Plans	2-15
2.5.3 Comprehensive Plan Updates	2-19
3. Alternatives Considered	3-1
3.1 Study Area Development.....	3-1
3.2 No Build Alternative.....	3-3
3.3 Transportation System Management	3-5
3.4 Multi-Modal Alternatives	3-6
3.5 Build Alternatives.....	3-6
3.5.1 SR 46 Widening Only.....	3-6
3.5.2 Initial Alternatives.....	3-8
3.5.2.1 Orange County Initial Alternatives.....	3-10
3.5.2.2 Lake County West Initial Alternatives	3-12
3.5.2.3 Lake County East Initial Alternatives.....	3-13
3.5.2.4 Seminole County Initial Alternatives	3-14
3.5.2.5 Coordination with Stakeholders and Initial Alternatives Public Workshops.....	3-15
3.5.3 Viable Alternatives.....	3-16
3.5.3.1 Orange County Viable Alternatives.....	3-19
3.5.3.2 Lake County West Viable Alternatives	3-20
3.5.3.3 Lake County East Viable Alternatives.....	3-21
3.5.3.4 Seminole County Viable Alternatives.....	3-24
3.5.3.5 Coordination with Stakeholders and Viable Alternatives Public Workshops.....	3-25
3.5.4 Viable Alternatives Refinement	3-26

Table of Contents (Continued)

Section (continued)	Page
3.5.4.1 Seminole County.....	3-26
3.5.4.2 Lake County East.....	3-26
3.5.4.3 Orange County.....	3-27
3.5.4.4 Section 4(f) and Section 106 Consultation Alternatives	3-28
3.6 Proposed Build Alternative	3-29
3.6.1 Orange County	3-34
3.6.2 Lake County West.....	3-37
3.6.3 Lake County East.....	3-39
3.6.4 Seminole County	3-41
3.6.5 Proposed Typical Sections	3-45
3.6.6 Estimated Overall Impacts and Costs	3-45
4. Impacts.....	4-1
4.1 Social and Economic Impacts	4-1
4.1.1 Community Services.....	4-1
4.1.2 Community Cohesion.....	4-7
4.1.3 Environmental Justice.....	4-9
4.1.4 Land Uses	4-11
4.1.4.1 Existing Land Use.....	4-11
4.1.4.2 Future Land Use	4-14
4.1.5 Utilities and Railroads	4-16
4.1.5.1 Utilities.....	4-16
4.1.5.2 Railroads.....	4-21
4.1.6 Relocations/Displacements	4-21
4.2 Cultural and Historical Resources	4-23
4.2.1 Archaeological and Historical	4-23
4.2.1.1 Bock House	4-26
4.2.1.2 Strite House.....	4-28
4.2.2 Recreational/Park Lands	4-30
4.2.2.1 Public Lands.....	4-31
4.2.2.2 Section 4(f) Lands	4-34
4.3 Natural and Physical Impacts.....	4-43
4.3.1 Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities.....	4-43
4.3.2 Visual/Aesthetic.....	4-47
4.3.3 Air.....	4-47
4.3.4 Noise.....	4-48
4.3.5 Wetlands.....	4-57
4.3.5.1 Avoidance and Minimization.....	4-57
4.3.5.2 Impact Assessment.....	4-58
4.3.5.3 Mitigation	4-66
4.3.5.4 Essential Fish Habitat.....	4-67
4.3.6 Aquatic Preserves.....	4-67
4.3.7 Water Quality.....	4-69

Table of Contents (Continued)

Section (continued)	Page
4.3.8 Outstanding Florida Waters	4-70
4.3.9 Contamination	4-71
4.3.10 Wild and Scenic Rivers	4-74
4.3.11 Floodplains	4-78
4.3.12 Coastal Zone Consistency	4-84
4.3.13 Wildlife and Habitat	4-84
4.3.13.1 Federal Listed Species	4-87
4.3.13.2 State Listed Species	4-87
4.3.13.3 Wildlife Corridors	4-88
4.3.14 Farmlands	4-89
4.3.15 Construction	4-89
4.4 Secondary and Cumulative Effects	4-91
4.4.1 Secondary Effects	4-92
4.4.1.1 Land Use Development	4-92
4.4.1.2 Natural Environment	4-92
4.4.1.3 Conservation Lands	4-93
4.4.1.4 Economic Vitality	4-93
4.4.2 Cumulative Effects	4-94
5. Comments and Coordination	5-1
5.1 Advance Notification	5-1
5.2 Coordination with the Public, Agencies, and Other Stakeholders	5-9
5.2.1 Coordination during the Initial Alternatives Phase	5-9
5.2.2 Coordination during the Viable Alternatives Phase	5-11
5.2.3 Coordination on the Proposed Build Alternative	5-13
5.2.4 Pedestrian/Bicycle Coordination	5-19
5.3 Comments and Coordination Package	5-19

Appendices

A	Initial Alternatives Exhibits and Impact Analysis Spreadsheets (Under Separate Cover)
B	November 2005 Public Workshops Initial Alternatives Exhibits and Impact Analysis Spreadsheets (Under Separate Cover)
C	July/August 2006 Public Workshops Viable Alternatives Exhibits and Comparative Assessment Spreadsheets (Under Separate Cover)
D	Alternatives Refined after July/August 2006 Public Workshops Exhibits and Comparative Assessment Spreadsheets (Under Separate Cover)
E	Water Quality Impact Evaluation Checklists (Under Separate Cover)
F	Correspondence from Federal, State and Local Government Entities (Under Separate Cover)
G	Study Area Development (Under Separate Cover)

Table of Contents (Continued)

List of Tables	Page
2-1 Existing (2005) Roadway Segment LOS Summary – Lake County	2-10
2-2 Existing (2005) Roadway Segment LOS Summary – Orange County	2-10
2-3 Existing (2005) Roadway Segment LOS Summary – Seminole County	2-13
2-4 METROPLAN ORLANDO 2030 LRTP	2-18
2-5 METROPLAN ORLANDO TIP FY 2009/10 - 2013/14	2-19
2-6 Lake-Sumter MPO - Lake County 2025 LRTP	2-19
2-7 Status of Comprehensive Plan Updates Pursuant to the Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act, Section 369, Part II, F.S.....	2-20
3-1 Estimated Impacts and Costs of the Proposed Build Alternative	3-45
4-1 Summary of Community Service Facilities in the Study Area	4-1
4-2 Estimated Utilities Relocation Costs in Orange County Project Area	4-18
4-3 Estimated Utilities Relocation Costs in Lake County East and West Project Areas	4-19
4-4 Estimated Utilities Relocation Costs in Seminole County Project Area	4-21
4-5 Estimated Displacements and Property Impacts of Proposed Build Alternative ...	4-22
4-6 Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Project Study Area	4-30
4-7 Carbon Monoxide (CO) Screening Test Results.....	4-48
4-8 Summary of Proposed Build Alternative Noise Impacts	4-51
4-9 Summary of Noise Barrier Analysis	4-55
4-10 UMAM Parameters and Scores for Existing Conditions Wekiva Parkway/ SR 46 Realignment PD&E Study in Lake, Orange, and Seminole Counties	4-59
4-11 Summary of Potential Direct Impacts to Wetlands and Natural Surface Waters within the Proposed Build Alternative Right-of-Way, Wekiva Parkway (SR 429)/SR 46 Realignment PD&E Study in Lake, Orange, and Seminole Counties	4-59
4-12 Potential Contamination Sites in the Study Area	4-71
4-13 Potential Floodplain Impact Volume by Proposed Build Alternative Segment.....	4-79
4-14 Summary of Wolf Branch Floodplain/SR 46 Profile Comparison	4-84

List of Exhibits

1-1 Project Study Area.....	1-4
2-1 Regional Transportation Network with Heavily Congested SIS Facilities	2-3
2-2 Wekiva-Ocala Greenway.....	2-6
2-3 Existing Roadway Network/Number of Lanes on Existing Roadways	2-9
2-4 Existing (2005) Conditions, DDHV, Orange and Lake Counties.....	2-11
2-5 Existing (2005) Conditions, DDHV, Seminole County.....	2-12
2-6 Projects on the LRTP and the TIP/5-Year Work Plan.....	2-17
3-1 Composite Constraints Map	3-2
3-2 No Build Alternative - 2032 AADT.....	3-4

Table of Contents (Continued)

List of Exhibits (continued)		Page
3-3	Build Alternative 1 - 2032 AADT	3-7
3-4	Study Area Sub-Areas.....	3-9
3-5	Overall Project Layout of Viable Alternatives.....	3-18
3-6	Overall Layout of the Proposed Build Alternative.....	3-31
3-7	Build (2032) Conditions, DDHV, Orange and Lake Counties.....	3-32
3-8	Build (2032) Conditions, DDHV, Seminole County	3-33
3-9	Orange County Proposed Build Alternative	3-36
3-10	Lake County West Proposed Build Alternative.....	3-38
3-11	Lake County East Proposed Build Alternative	3-42
3-12	Seminole County Proposed Build Alternative	3-44
3-13	Proposed Typical Sections - Wekiva Parkway - Limited Access Rural Expressway (Sheet 1 of 5)	3-46
3-13	Proposed Typical Section - Wekiva Parkway - Limited Access Rural Expressway with Service Road (Sheet 2 of 5)	3-47
3-13	Proposed Typical Section - Wekiva Parkway - Limited Access Urban Expressway w/Frontage Roads (Sheet 3 of 5).....	3-48
3-13	Proposed Typical Section - Controlled Access Urban Arterial (Sheet 4 of 5)	3-49
3-13	Proposed Typical Sections - Rural Arterial (Sheet 5 of 5)	3-50
4-1	Impacted Community Facilities (Sheet 1 of 4).....	4-3
4-1	Impacted Community Facilities (Sheet 2 of 4).....	4-4
4-1	Impacted Community Facilities (Sheet 3 of 4).....	4-5
4-1	Impacted Community Facilities (Sheet 4 of 4).....	4-6
4-2	Existing and Planned Communities	4-8
4-3	Census Block Groups with Population Data	4-10
4-4	Generalized Existing Land Use	4-12
4-5	Generalized Future Land Use.....	4-15
4-6	NRHP Eligible Historic Resources.....	4-25
4-7	Potential Impacts to Historic Resources - Bock House (Sheet 1 of 2)	4-27
4-7	Potential Impacts to Historic Resources - Strite House (Sheet 2 of 2)	4-29
4-8	Public Lands and Potential Acquisition Parcels	4-32
4-9	Section 4(f) Impacts to Wekiva River Basin State Parks (Sheet 1 of 3)	4-36
4-9	Section 4(f) Impacts to Wekiva River Basin State Parks (Sheet 2 of 3)	4-37
4-9	Section 4(f) Impacts to Wekiva River Basin State Parks (Sheet 3 of 3)	4-38
4-10	Section 4(f) Impacts to Seminole State Forest (Sheet 1 of 4)	4-39
4-10	Section 4(f) Impacts to Seminole State Forest (Sheet 2 of 4)	4-40
4-10	Section 4(f) Impacts to Seminole State Forest (Sheet 3 of 4)	4-41
4-10	Section 4(f) Impacts to Seminole State Forest (Sheet 4 of 4)	4-42
4-11	Potential Trail Connectivity	4-46
4-12	Noise Monitoring Locations	4-49
4-13	Potential Noise Wall Location (Sheet 1 of 3).....	4-52
4-13	Potential Noise Wall Location (Sheet 2 of 3).....	4-53
4-13	Potential Noise Wall Location (Sheet 3 of 3).....	4-54
4-14	Typical Noise Walls	4-56

Table of Contents (Continued)

List of Exhibits (continued)	Page
4-15 Wetland Impacts - Orange County Proposed Build Alternative (Sheet 1 of 4)	4-60
4-15 Wetland Impacts - Lake County West Proposed Build Alternative (Sheet 2 of 4)	4-61
4-15 Wetland Impacts - Lake County East Proposed Build Alternative (Sheet 3 of 4)	4-62
4-15 Wetland Impacts - Seminole County Proposed Build Alternative (Sheet 4 of 4)	4-63
4-16 Wild & Scenic River Segment Classifications	4-75
4-17 Floodplain Impacts - Orange County Proposed Build Alternative (Sheet 1 of 4)	4-80
4-17 Floodplain Impacts - Lake County West Proposed Build Alternative (Sheet 2 of 4)	4-81
4-17 Floodplain Impacts - Lake County East Proposed Build Alternative (Sheet 3 of 4)	4-82
4-17 Floodplain Impacts - Seminole County Proposed Build Alternative (Sheet 4 of 4)	4-83
4-18 Locations of Listed Wildlife and Plant Species	4-86
4-19 Locations and Approximate Lengths of Proposed Wildlife Structures	4-90