

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FHWA APPROVES WEKIVA PARKWAY TO MOVE FORWARD

(ORLANDO, FL) – The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the Wekiva Parkway, a 27-mile toll road that would complete the beltway around metropolitan Orlando.

The federal approval means design can proceed in earnest with design, which is expected to take about 18-24 months, followed by right-of-way acquisition and permitting. The parkway will be built in sections, with full construction of the beltway's missing link expected to take at least seven years.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority have collaborated on the Wekiva Parkway Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study since January 2005. The study engaged state and local agencies and community members in developing and evaluating alternatives that meet the region's transportation needs, while also seeking to minimize public and environmental impacts.

The Expressway Authority has been working to develop funding plans for its portions of the highway.

The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, established in 1963 by the state legislature, is responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a 105-mile limited-access expressway system to serve the metropolitan Orlando area. The Expressway Authority's system includes SR 408 (Spessard L. Holland East-West Expressway), SR 528 (Martin Andersen Beachline Expressway), SR 417 (Central Florida GreeneWay), SR 429 (Daniel Webster Western Beltway) and SR 414 (John Land Apopka Expressway). The Expressway Authority was the first to bring Electronic Toll Collection to Florida with the inception of E-PASS in 1994. Today, more than 500,000 Central Florida residents have E-PASS.