



## **SOUTHPORT CONNECTOR EXPRESSWAY PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Church of St. Luke and St. Peter, 2745 Canoe Creek Rd, St. Cloud 34772

**Attendees:** There were six attendees and seven staff members – See sign-in sheets attached.

#### **I. Notifications**

Invitation letters were emailed to 53 members of the PAG on January 16, 2018.

#### **II. Welcome**

Mary Brooks, Public Involvement Coordinator, of Quest Corporation of America (Quest), called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She gave a brief introduction about the meeting and provided safety, housekeeping and Title VI information. Attendees introduced themselves and the organization they represented.

#### **III. Study History**

The meeting agenda and study history was reviewed. In 2005, Osceola County adopted a Comprehensive Plan that proposed several new corridors to meet the county's anticipated growth. In 2013, the Osceola County Expressway Authority (OCX) finalized the 2040 Master Plan. In 2016, the Central Florida Expressway (CFX) Board approved an interlocal agreement with Osceola County and OCX to transfer the lead for development the remainder of the OCX 2040 Master Plan to CFX. In April of 2017, CFX kicked off the studies.



#### **IV. Study Corridor Overview**

The studies include four projects in a 60-mile corridor:

- Poinciana Parkway Extension / I-4 Connector;
- Southport Connector Expressway;
- Northeast Connector Expressway; and
- Osceola Parkway Extension.

## V. Project Goals

The overall goals of the study corridor are to improve roadway connections, promote regional connectivity, provide additional traffic capacity, reduce congestion, and incorporate transit options.

Input from both the Environmental Advisory Group (EAG) and Project Advisory Group (PAG) fed into development of purpose and need.

## VI. Study Methodology & Schedule

The study looked at previous work with a “fresh look” and prepared an assessment of potential impacts. Traffic study information is now available to share with you. If the corridor is found to be feasible, the next step would be the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) stage.

As shown on the schedule, the blue line represents where we are today. This is the advisory group stage. In a couple of weeks, we will have public meetings.



## VII. Public Involvement

A series of public meetings were held last fall and are coming up again on February 13, 15, and 21. Board presentations, to the Polk County Board of Commissioners, Osceola County Expressway Authority, and the Central Florida Expressway Authority were held in 2017 and additional presentations will be scheduled in the future. Summaries from these meetings are available on the website:

<https://www.cfxway.com/agency-information/plans-studies/project-studies/public-involvement/>

Mary Brooks of Quest concluded her portion of the presentation and turned it over to Dan Kristoff, RS&H Project Manager.

## VIII. Study Corridor Updates & Evaluation Matrices

The Florida Department of Transportation – District 5 did an Alternative Corridor Evaluation (ACE) study between 2011 and 2015. They had an advisory group and public meetings and ended with a document with a few recommendations. The project limits were from Poinciana Parkway to the Florida Turnpike. Thirteen alternatives were considered, with some crossing Lake Toho.

The first charge was to re-evaluate and update the information that was examined. The decision to further study corridors south of Lake Toho was deemed appropriate, as was the use of the Cypress Parkway corridor from Poinciana Parkway to Reedy Creek.

A map with endangered species, conservation areas, and other protected species overlaid with the corridors was presented.

Poinciana Parkway to Pleasant Hill Road Typical Section:

- Is elevated and At-Grade.

- Utilizes the 300-foot right-of-way that exists today.
- Moves existing roadways to the outside.
- Drops expressway in the middle.
- At the western end, the expressway will be elevated, but will remain inside 300 ft.

Poinciana Parkway to Pleasant Hill Road - Connecting locations:

- Full interchange at Koa St.
- Retain existing intersection between Cypress Parkway and Rhododendrum
- Just west of the fire station and hospital.
- East and west at Marigold.
- Full interchange movements at Pleasant Hill Road with slip ramps in between.

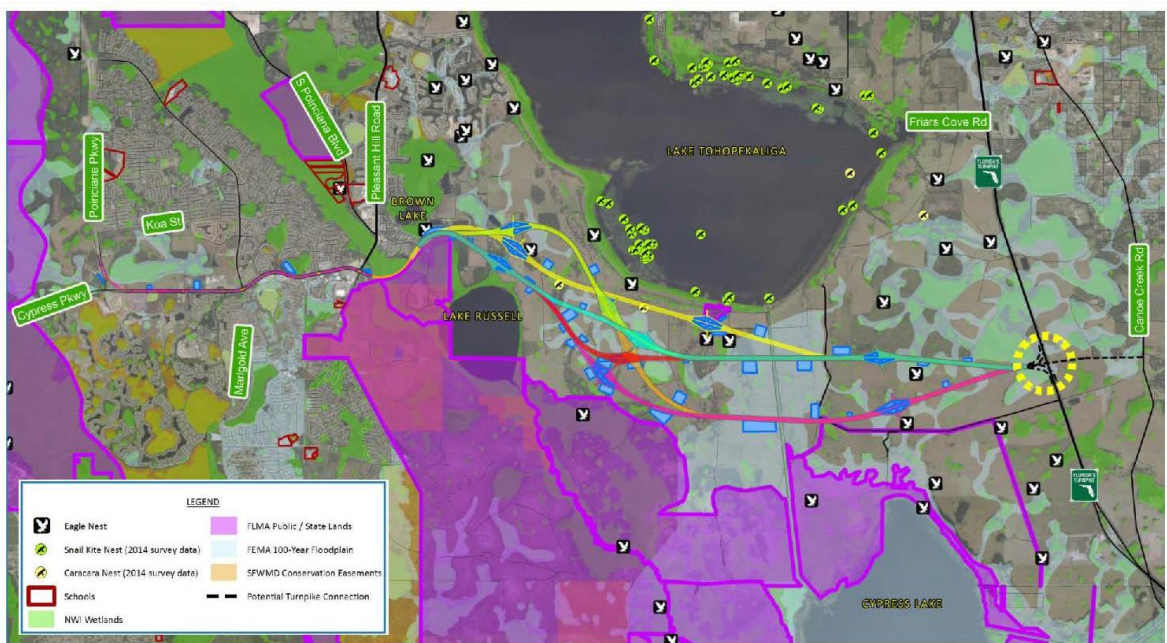


Pleasant Hill Road to Turnpike Typical Section:

- At-Grade.
- Utilizes 350 feet of right of way.
- Includes 88-foot median for future widening or transit.
- Includes multi-use path within the right of way.

In addition to the alternatives that were recommended with the ACE study, three (3) additional alternatives, all south of Lake Toho, were evaluated.

At the Turnpike, we coordinated with the Northeast Connector Expressway corridor study. The alignments line up. We have three interchange locations about 3.5 miles apart in the 9-mile stretch between Reedy Creek and the Turnpike.



In the Evaluation Matrix, the physical, natural, and social effects are shown and compared against each other. Pink indicates greater impact. Yellow indicates similar impact. Green indicates less impact.

## IX. Open Discussion

### Jay Jarvis, Polk County Roads and Drainage Director

- With regards to the typical sections. Do you see any anticipated changes to the typical if and when the project moves forward. We are looking at widening Marigold to four lanes. We are moving forward not knowing the timing of when this would get done. We originally told our board to wait. We received some pushback from the community that we still need to address our needs. There will be a recommendation that goes to our board this week to widen Marigold. I would like to know what we need to do at that intersection to minimize tear out.
- Dan Kristoff, RS&H: We can't make a recommendation on your investment, because this project still has to go to a PD&E study that would take 18-24 months, if approved. An aggressive schedule is 7-8 years to start construction. However, we would anticipate that any re-work, as a result of the CFX project, would be CFX's responsibility.
- I was given the go.
- Dan Kristoff, RS&H: I am sure the intersections at Marigold will be disturbed when the CFX project is constructed.
- We can try to accommodate the concept of frontage roads.



### Tom Deardorff, Assistant Polk County Manager - Planning and Development

- This would be an easier proposition if we didn't have any short-term needs.
- Dan Kristoff, RS&H: You're looking at 50,000 cars plus or minus. A lot of cars are turning into Marigold. We understand your need to address the problem.

### Jay Jarvis, Polk County Roads and Drainage Director

- We are getting asked to look at that. Marigold and Cypress Parkway.
- Dan Kristoff, RS&H: The Southport Connector findings will be presented to the CFX Board for consideration and possible action.

### Joshua DeVries, Osceola County Transportation Planning Project Manager

- For the Cypress Park segment, are you coordinating with the other two projects?
- Dan Kristoff, RS&H: Absolutely.
- Osceola County would like to be on record that Alternative 700 is our preferred alternative, because it most closely matches what is in the master plan. South of the Lake Toho area, there is concern with Alternative 300 because it moves through the urban center of the comprehensive plan.
- Alternative 300 is the least consistent with the master plan and the least preferred alternative.



- Dan Kristoff, RS&H: We are aware of the Osceola County master plan for the area east of Reedy Creek. One of the alternatives under consideration is very similar to the expressway location depicted in the plan.

**X. Next Steps**

Mary Brooks, Quest, summarized the next steps. The PAG meetings are this week. Next week the three public meetings begin. The consultants will update the draft concept reports and we will have a better idea of what’s moving forward and what isn’t.

**Nick Lepp, MetroPlan Orlando:**

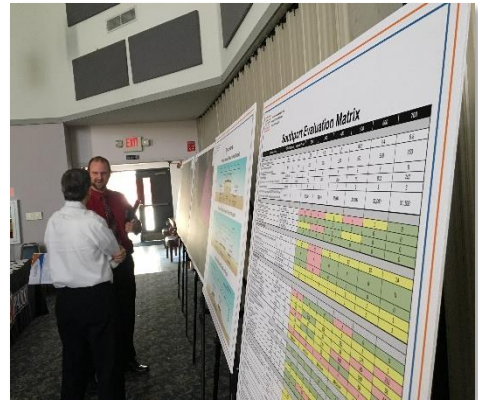
- Are the public meetings combined for all projects?
- Dan Kristoff, RS&H: Yes.

**Jay Jarvis, Polk County Roads and Drainage Director**

- What time is board meeting?
- Mary Brooks, Quest: March 8, 2018 at 9 a.m.

**XI. Action Items**

Quest will forward a copy of the presentation and meeting notes to attendees.



**END OF SUMMARY**

This meeting summary was prepared by Mary Brooks, Public Involvement Coordinator at QCA. It is not verbatim, but is a summary of the meeting activities and overall discussion. If you feel something should be added or revised, please contact Mary Brooks by email at [mary.brooks@qcausa.com](mailto:mary.brooks@qcausa.com) or by telephone 407-694-5505 within (5) days of receipt of this summary.