

Public Meeting Summary

SR 417 to Orlando Sanford International Airport Connector
CF&M Study



The Central Florida Expressway (CFX) held a public information meeting for the Concept, Feasibility, and Mobility (CF&M) Study for the State Road 417 (Seminole Expressway) to Orlando Sanford International Airport Connector on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Participants could choose from an in-person or virtual option for attendance:

- The in-person public meeting was held at Millennium Middle School (2330 East State Road 46, Sanford, FL 32771) from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. The open house format provided attendees the opportunity to view displays and a looped video presentation, ask questions about the study and get information from study staff, and submit comments.
- A simultaneous virtual (online) session was hosted from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. through the online meeting platform GoToMeeting. Pre-registered participants were able to view a presentation about the study and ask questions or provide comments in writing. Study team members were available at the virtual session to respond to questions in writing.

At the conclusion of this CF&M study, the findings will be presented to the CFX Governing Board. The CFX Board will determine if the project is feasible based on the study evaluations and public input.



Project Background

In August 2022, CFX began a CF&M Study of the approximately two-mile-long, potential SR 417 to Orlando Sanford International Airport Connector. The study has identified transportation alternatives that will allow for better connectivity and ease future traffic growth in the area, as well as provide a direct connection from SR 417 to the airport. The study included analyses to determine if the alternatives are

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feasible based on engineering, economic, and environmental evaluations, and if the project is viable based on forecasted traffic analyses.

An earlier study, completed in 2007, indicated there was a need to improve access to the airport; however, at the time, it was determined the project was not financially feasible. In 2021, the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners requested that CFX conduct another feasibility study to develop and evaluate transportation options for travelers needing a more direct route between SR 417 and the airport.

Located in Seminole County, the project study area extends from SR 417 in the vicinity of the Seminole Toll Plaza northeastward to East Lake Mary Boulevard at, or in the vicinity of, the entrance to Orlando Sanford International Airport at Red Cleveland Boulevard.

Public Notification

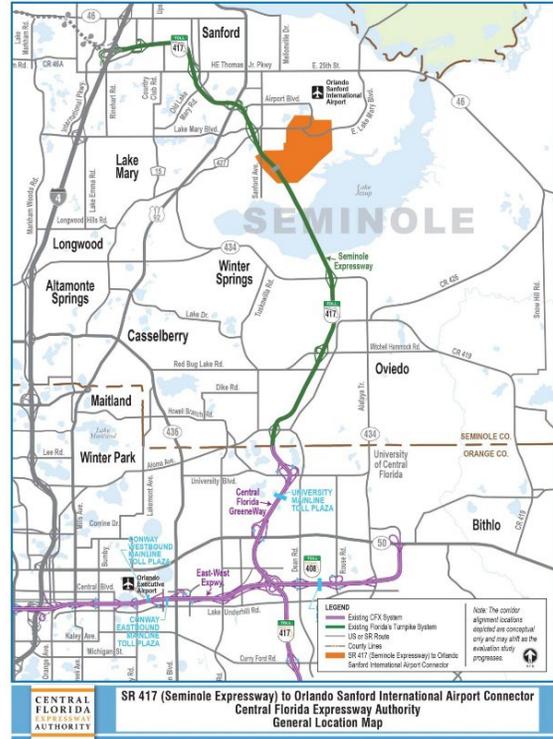
Public meeting invitation letters were mailed on May 23, 2023, to 1,352 property owners and tenants along the corridor, as well as 83 people who asked to be added to the study's mailing list. Invitations were also emailed and mailed to 30 elected officials and their aides, 15 local, regional, state and federal agency representatives, and 175 other interested parties. Meeting information was posted on the study webpage through the CFX website and posted in the CFX lobby. A FAR ad was published in the Vol. 49/102 edition of the Florida Administrative Register on Sunday, May 25, 2023.

Media Notification

The public meeting was advertised with legal ads in the Sanford Herald on June 4, 2023, and June 11, 2023, and a press release was distributed to 54 media contacts on June 5, 2023.

Public Meeting

The in-person public meeting at Millennium Middle School was set up as an informal open house. Participants were welcome to attend at their convenience any time during the meeting, view display boards and smart screens, submit comments, and discuss project information with the study team members. The use of two large smart screens allowed the study team to provide meeting attendees with a more detailed view of the study exhibits. A looping PowerPoint presentation gave attendees an overview of the study's purpose and need, alternatives considered, and evaluation of alternatives.



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The following display boards were exhibited at the in-person public meeting:

- CFX Project Development Process Board
- Project Location Map
- Project Schedule
- Purpose & Need Board
- Evaluation Matrix Board
- Natural Environmental Constraints Board
- Sociocultural Environmental Constraints Board
- Proposed Connector Typical Sections Board
- Refined Initial Alignments Board

The presentation for the virtual meeting mirrored the presentation shown at the in-person meeting. Online attendees were able to view the same materials and displays exhibited at the in-person meeting. Throughout the virtual meeting, attendees were able to submit comments and ask questions of the study team in writing via the GoToMeeting chat function.

A recording of the presentation shown at the virtual meeting is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pt1fA54aAQo>.



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Meeting Attendance

Nearly 200 people attended the in-person meeting at Millennium Middle School, and 70 additional people attended virtually. Attendees included representatives from the Sanford Airport Authority, Seminole County Public Works, as well as City of Sanford Council Members. Members of the media also covered the public meeting.

Meeting Coverage

Information about the June 20 public meeting was published in a total of nine stories from local newspapers and TV stations in the month leading up to the meeting. A summary of the media coverage is listed in the table below, and copies of the articles and links to the videos are included in the Appendix.

Name of Publication	Date	Type of Publication	Summary
Orlando Sentinel (In partnership with the Orlando Business Journal)	5/9	Print	CFX is working to see if a direct route via a two-lane roadway to connect the airport with SR 417 is feasible. There will be a meeting in June to discuss the alternatives with the public.
WFTV 9 (in partnership with the Orlando Business Journal)	5/10	Print, TV	CFX is working to see if a direct route via a two-lane roadway to connect the airport with SR 417 is feasible. There will be a meeting in June to discuss the alternatives with the public.
WESH 2 News	5/16	Print, TV	Some residents are not pleased with the suggested alignments put forth by CFX for a direct connection between SR 417 and the airport. Other residents say growth and development is part of Florida living and the area will require additional transportation infrastructure. A public meeting will be held June 20 where members of the public can voice their concerns.
Spectrum News 13	5/16	Print, TV	The area around Sanford Airport is growing rapidly. To ease congestion, CFX is studying the potential connector linking SR 417 with the Sanford Airport. A public meeting will be held June 20 where members of the public can give direct feedback regarding this proposed roadway.
WKMG News 6	5/19	Print, TV	CFX will be talking to homeowners during a public meeting on June 20 about the proposed connector between SR 417 and the Sanford Airport.
Orlando Business Jour	6/7	Print	The proposed SR 417 to Sanford Airport connector will be discussed at the public meeting on June 20.
WFTV Ch. 9	6/19	Print, TV	Residents will have the chance to voice their opinion regarding the proposed SR 417 to Sanford Airport connector during the public meeting on Tuesday, June 20.
Spectrum News 13	6/20	TV	CFX will hold a public information meeting tonight regarding the SR 417 to Sanford Airport connector. Reporter showed a map of the proposed alignments.
WKMG News 6	6/20	Print, TV	Residents attended the public meeting for CFX's proposed project connecting SR 417 to Sanford Airport. CFX stated it is in the early stage of the project and nothing has been finalized for the extension.

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Public Comments

A total of 78 individuals provided comments at the hybrid meeting, or within the 10-day comment period following the meeting. A total of 120 written comments were received, with several individuals providing multiple virtual or email comments. Of the 78 individuals who provided comment, 79% expressed a negative sentiment toward the project, 5% were supportive, and 17% were neutral. Most of the individuals who provided comments were in-person at the public meeting. The following section summarizes the categories of comments received, as well as some related statements for each category.



Comment Categories and Related Statements:

Comments and questions about the need for the proposed expressway:

- There is already a road that connects SR 417 to the airport on Ronald Reagan.
- The airport does not affect traffic at all. Future growth will still not affect it enough to warrant this.
- Saving a couple minutes to get to the airport is not worth the cost of the project.

Comments and questions about environmental impacts:

- This project may impact drainage into the Lake Jessup Basin.
- There are bald eagle nests in our community which have been there for many years, which may be impacted.



Comments about the potential impact to property values:

- As soon as this roadway is approved our property values will plummet.

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- Property values will lower considerably because the view behind our property will be a roadway and not a conservation area.

Comments and questions about noise and potential noise mitigation measures:

- Are there plans to build noise barriers?
- The noise from the highway will be considerable.

Comments about potential residential flooding issues:

- Some neighborhoods already experienced flooding issues that may be further impacted by this project.
- Some homes within the study area are in a flood zone. Are measures being taken to make sure homes will not be flooded in the event of a serious storm?



Residents in favor of widening Lake Mary Boulevard as an alternative:

- Seminole County should widen Lake Mary Boulevard as almost everyone in this area uses Lake Mary Boulevard.
- Fixing Sanford Boulevard and Lake Mary Boulevard will do the same thing this project aims to do.
- Is it possible to build above Lake Mary Boulevard without impacting the animals, trees, farms and property values?

Publicizing Public Meeting Materials

Study materials and the presentation were posted on the study webpage through the CFX website (bit.ly/SR417AirportConnector) on June 21, 2023. Copies of the public meeting presentation, notifications, handouts, and other documents are available in the Appendix that follows.

