



Florida Department of
TRANSPORTATION

WELCOME

Virtual Public Workshop May 25, 2021 – June 15, 2021

I-4 Wildlife Crossing Design Project
in northeast Lakeland, Florida (Polk County)

Financial Project ID Number
201214-8-52-01

Doug Burkhart, P.E.
FDOT District One Project Manager

Welcome to the Virtual Public Workshop for the I-4 wildlife crossing design project in northeast Lakeland, in Polk County, Florida. The Financial Project Identification number for this project is 201214-8-52-01.



Information Available for Review

- Project presentation
 - Video
 - Slides
- Display boards
 - Project location map
 - Project concept
- Information Packet
 - Project handout
 - Project concept
 - Comment form



www.swflroads.com/i4/wildlifecrossing

This workshop will not include an in-person meeting or a live component. Instead, we are posting project information on the project website (www.swflroads.com/i4/wildlifecrossing). We are asking you to review this information and provide your comments before design plans are finalized. The workshop and official comment period will be open for 21 days, from May 25th, 2021 through June 15th, 2021.

This video will provide you with an overview of the project. More detailed project material is available on the website and may be downloaded from the “Documents and Publications” page. If you would like a hard copy packet of the workshop materials, it is available for pick up at the Larry R. Jackson Branch of the Lakeland Public Library located at 1700 North Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33805 from May 25th, 2021 through June 15th, 2021 during regular business hours.



Project Location

- 1.6 miles northeast of the I-4 interchange with SR 33 and west of Florida Polytechnic University
- Bridge over I-4

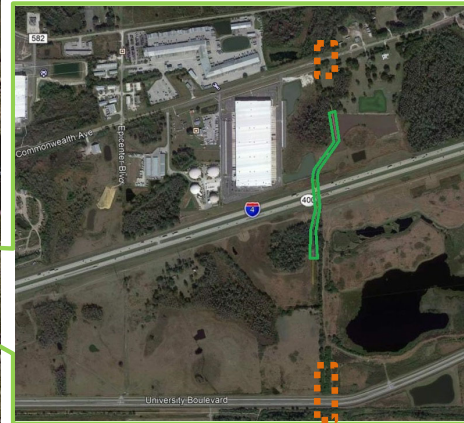




This design project involves one wildlife crossing, which will be located about 1.6 miles northeast of the I-4 interchange with State Road 33 and west of Florida Polytechnic University. The wildlife crossing will be a bridge that goes over I-4 at this location.

Project History/Setting

- 1998 commitments to construct 3 wildlife crossings
 - Two near Green Swamp
 - One near Tenoroc Fish Management Area
- This project constructs the wildlife crossing near Tenoroc Fish Management Area

The I-4 Wildlife Crossing plays an important role in restoring the area's wildlife connections.



 I-4 Wildlife Crossing design
 Future extensions

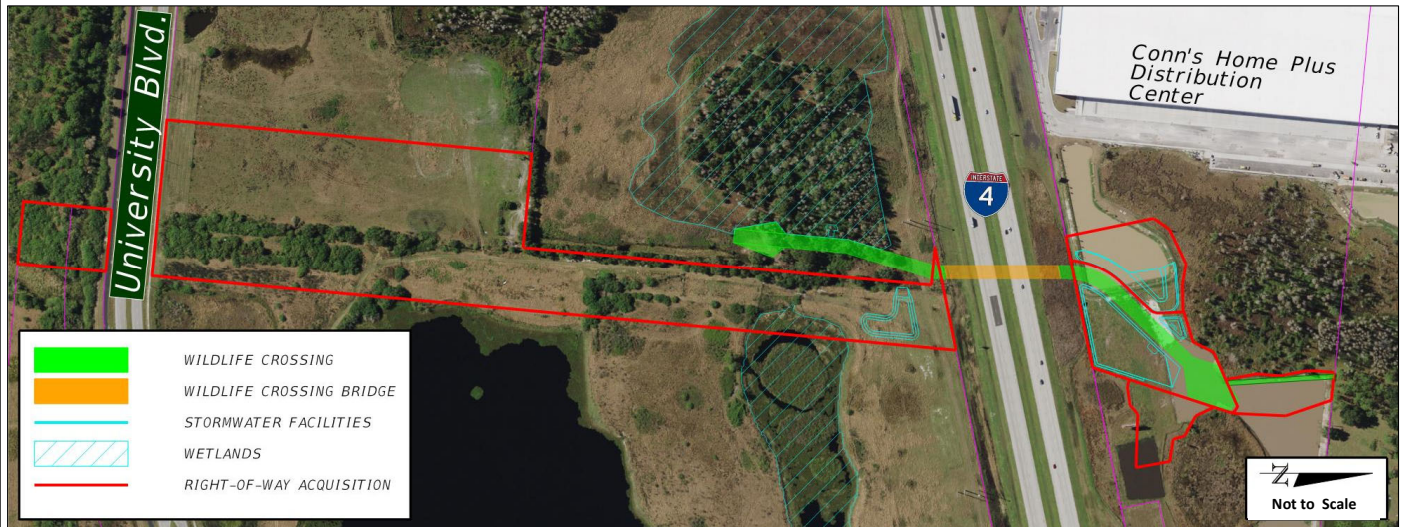
As part of the approved 1998 Environmental Assessment for I-4 from the Hillsborough County Line to the Osceola County Line, the Florida Department of Transportation (or FDOT) committed to three wildlife crossings: two near the Green Swamp and one near the Tenoroc Fish Management Area. The I-4 wildlife crossing provides the missing connection in the vicinity of the Tenoroc Fish Management Area.

In order to identify the best wildlife crossing location, FDOT coordinated with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, the preferred location is 1.6 miles northeast of the I-4/State Road 33 interchange as a bridge over I-4.

Future projects are being planned for a wildlife crossing under State Road 33 (to the north of this project), and potentially signing enhancements or an underpass under University Boulevard (to the south of this project).



Project Layout



Here's a close up of the I-4 wildlife crossing location. To get oriented, north is to the right. I-4 and University Boulevard run in an east-west direction.

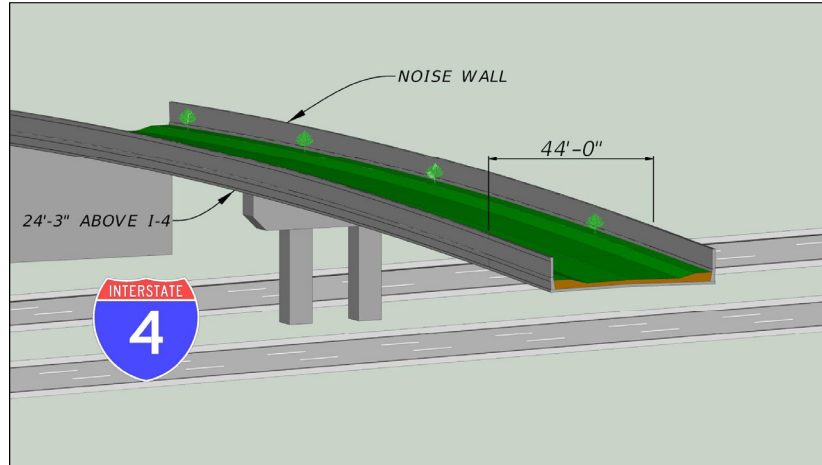
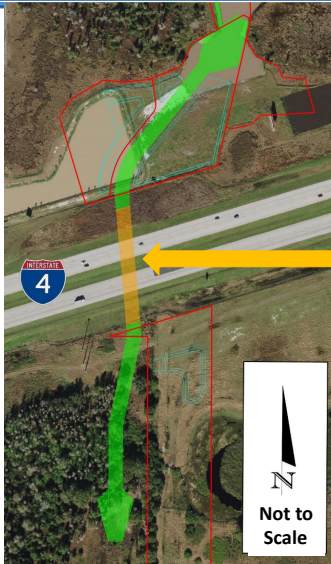
The wildlife crossing bridge over I-4 is located just east of the Conn's Home Plus Distribution Center building.

Right-of-way is being acquired on either side of I-4 at this location to preserve the wildlife corridor.

The wildlife crossing alignment was chosen to ensure minimized impacts to wetlands while providing harmony with the surroundings.



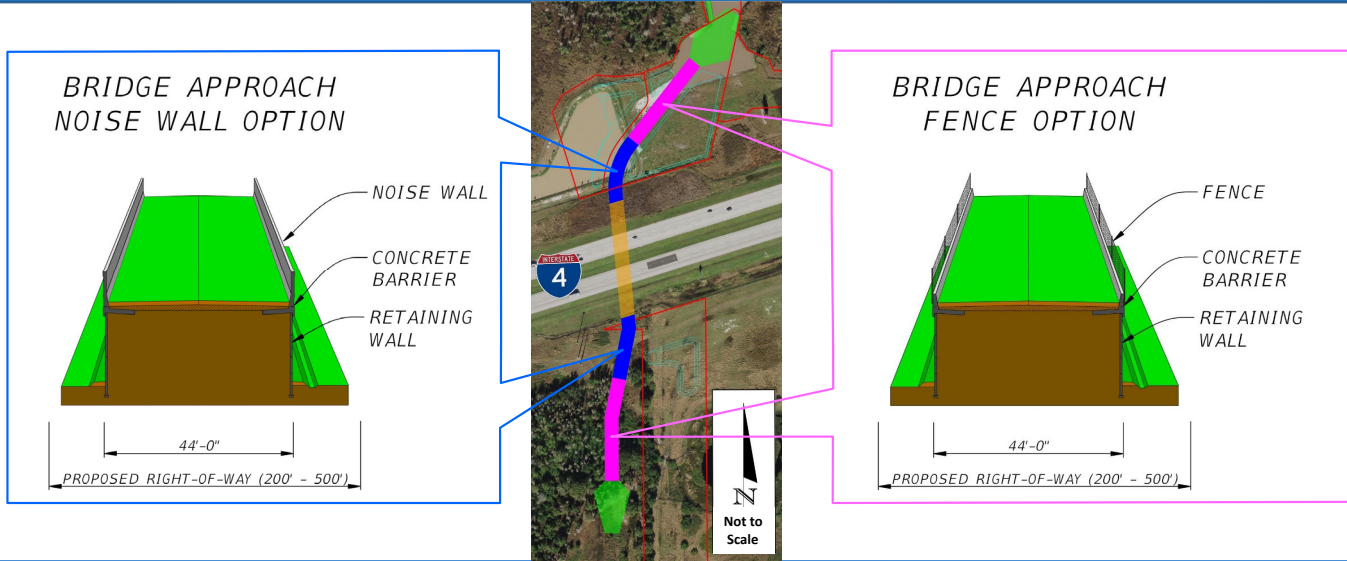
Typical Section at Bridge Crossing



Zooming in further at the I-4 crossing, the wildlife crossing is 44 feet wide with concrete barriers with noise walls or fencing on either side.

This bridge preserves the multi-modal corridor in the median of I-4. The bridge also accommodates vegetation by providing a thick layer of topsoil.

Typical Sections At Bridge Approaches



The typical width on the bridge is continued on the approaches. Walls and fencing are provided on the sides to protect from drop-offs and to channelize the wildlife.

Similar to the bridge typical section, these approach typical sections also accommodate vegetation by providing a thick layer of topsoil.



Project Schedule and Costs

Project Phases	Status	Cost Estimate
Right-of-way acquisition	Fall 2021	\$ 1.3 Million
Design	December 2023	\$ 1.2 Million
Construction	Not funded	\$ 8.2 Million
Construction Inspection	Not funded	\$ 1.2 Million
Total Cost		\$ 11.9 Million

Right-of-way acquisition will occur in Fall 2021 with an estimated cost of 1.3 million dollars.

The design of this project will be completed by December 2023, with an estimated cost of 1.2 million dollars.

Construction for this project is 8.2 million dollars. At this time, construction is not funded. The project's construction inspection is 1.2 million dollars and is not funded.

The total project cost is 11.9 million dollars.



How to Share Your Comments

- Comment Form
- Email Doug Burkhardt, P.E.
- Mail a written statement to Doug Burkhardt, P.E.
- Contact Us Page
(www.swflroads.com/i4/wildlifecrossing)

Comments postmarked or sent by June 15, 2021 will be included in the workshop record.

COMMENT FORM
Virtual Public Workshop
May 25, 2021 through June 15, 2021

I-4 Wildlife Crossing Design Project
Northeast Lakeland, Florida
Financial Project ID Number: 201214-8-52-01

We'd like to hear from you! Please share your ideas and comments by writing them down here. Additional space for your comments is provided on the back of this form.

How to Submit Your Comments
If you would like your comments to be included in the workshop summary, please complete this form and email by June 15, 2021. If mailing your comments, be sure it is postmarked no later than June 15, 2021.

Mailing List Information
Please check the box below if you would like to be added to the mailing list and please provide your name and mailing address.

Add to mailing list

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Email address (optional): _____

Please return to:
Mr. Doug Burkhardt, P.E.
FDOT Project Manager
FDOT - District One
P.O. Box 1249
Bartow, Florida 33831-1249
Phone: (850) 536-8539
Email: Doug.Burkhardt@dot.state.fl.us

NOTE: The information you provide on this comment form becomes part of the I-4 wildlife crossing project files. This information may be provided to individuals who make a formal public records request.

You may share your comments using any of the following ways, by:

- Submitting a completed comment form or;
- Emailing Doug Burkhardt, the FDOT Project Manager, at Doug.Burkhardt@dot.state.fl.us or;
- Mailing a written statement to Doug Burkhardt at FDOT District One, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, Florida 33831-1249; or
- Submitting a completed form on the website's "Contact Us" Page.

Comments postmarked or sent by June 15th, 2021 will be included in the workshop record. If you have any questions regarding this project, you may submit them through the project website or contact the FDOT Project Manager, Doug Burkhardt, by phone at (850) 536-8539 or by email at Doug.Burkhardt@dot.state.fl.us. A member of the project team will follow up with you to address your question.



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THANK YOU

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FDOT District One Project Manager

Thank you for your interest in the I-4 wildlife crossing design project.