



OLD DIXIE TRAIL

Project Development & Environment Study

Connecting the Trailheads of Auburndale-TECO Trail
and Haines City Trail, Polk County

FPID No. 435391-1-22-01; ETDM No. 14328

ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Virtual Meeting - September 16, 2021 from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/18328060362088527>

In Person Meeting - September 23, 2021 from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Lake Alfred Lions Club, 175 N. Nekoma Ave., Lake Alfred, FL 33850

Welcome

Welcome to the Alternatives Public Workshop for the Old Dixie Trail Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. The purpose of this meeting is to provide you the opportunity to review project information, ask questions, and offer comments about proposed improvements to Old Dixie Trail, which will connect the Auburndale-TECO trail to the Haines City trail in Polk County. Maps, display boards, and other project information will be on display. Project representatives are available to discuss the Study and answer questions.

A comment form is included in this handout. We encourage you to complete the form and submit your comments in one of the following ways: 1) using the links on the project website (www.swflroads.com/trails/odt/home.html); 2) dropping your comment form in one of the boxes provided at the in-person meeting event; 3) emailing the FDOT Project Manager, Steven Andrews at steven.andrews@dot.state.fl.us; or 4) mailing comments to Steven Andrews at FDOT District One, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831-1249. Comments received by email, mail, virtually, or in-person will be treated the same. While comments about the project are accepted at any time, please note that comments received or postmarked by October 7, 2021, will be included in the official workshop record.

Project Background

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One is conducting a PD&E Study to evaluate the proposed Old Dixie Trail. The Old Dixie Trail will connect the trailheads of the Auburndale-TECO trail and the Haines City trail. The multi-use trail will be up to 12-feet wide and approximately 12-miles long. The trail will provide numerous benefits including providing a safe, non-motorized travel option for commuters and recreational trail users; supporting quality of life and providing economic benefits to the region; addressing a gap in the regional trail network; and offering connections to the Lake Alfred Trail, the Chain of Lakes Trail, as well as other planned and future trails.

A Feasibility Study for this project began in 2017, collecting and analyzing engineering and environmental data within the study area. A public meeting was held on December 5, 2017 to present the public with the analysis of over twenty trail segments. Following the public meeting, FDOT identified six end-to-end trail alternatives to further evaluate. After numerous outreach meetings with local officials from the cities of Auburndale, Lake Alfred, Winter Haven, and Haines City as well as Polk County and the Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), the six alternatives were narrowed down to two alternatives for further analysis during the PD&E Study. Alternatives 1 and 2 are shown on the following page.

The objective of the PD&E Study is to evaluate and document the engineering and environmental considerations that will assist FDOT in reaching a decision about the type and location of the improvements proposed.

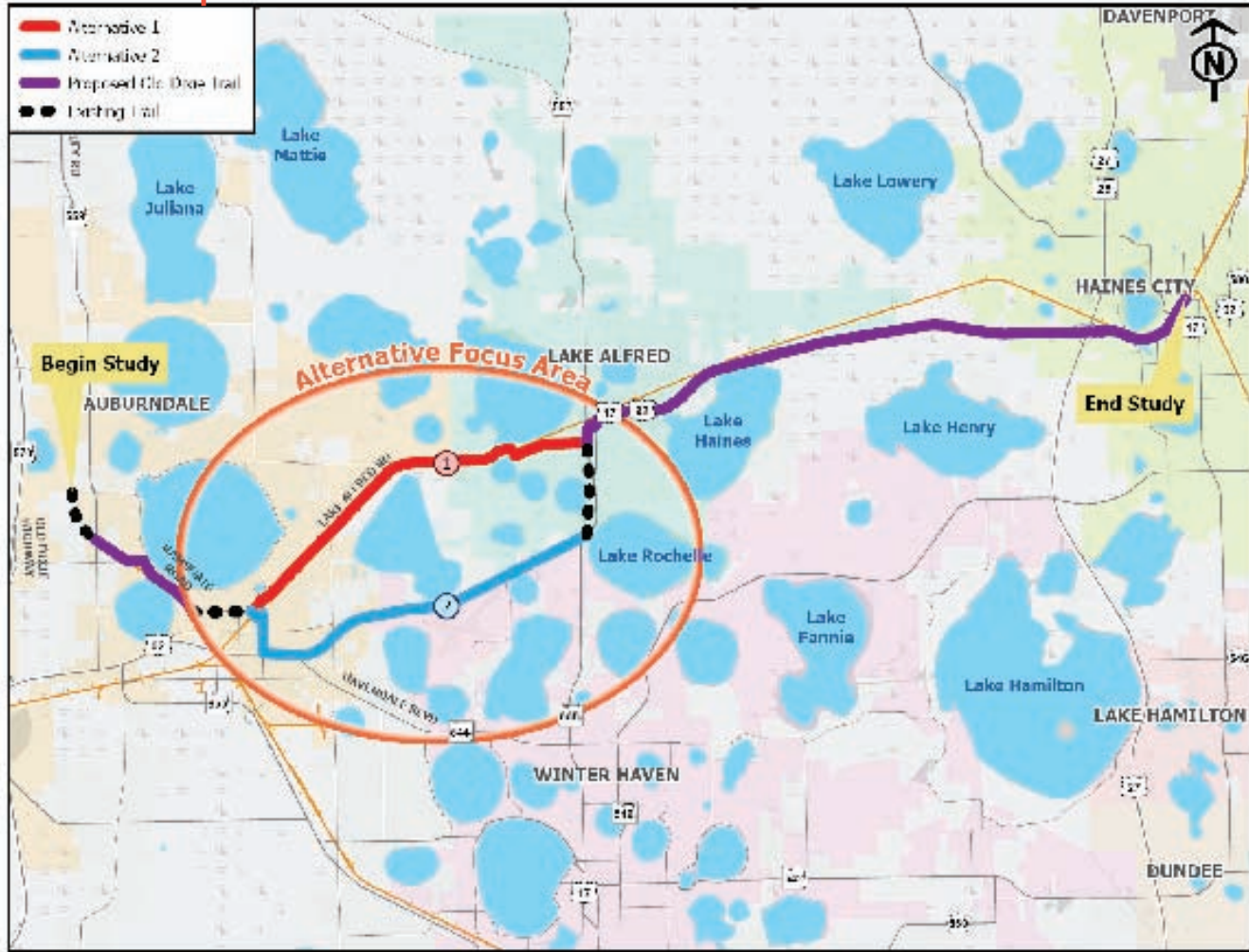


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Location Map



Estimated Study Schedule

Feasibility Study - Completed



PD&E Study - In Progress



Estimated Project Schedule

There is currently no funding for the design and construction phases for this project.

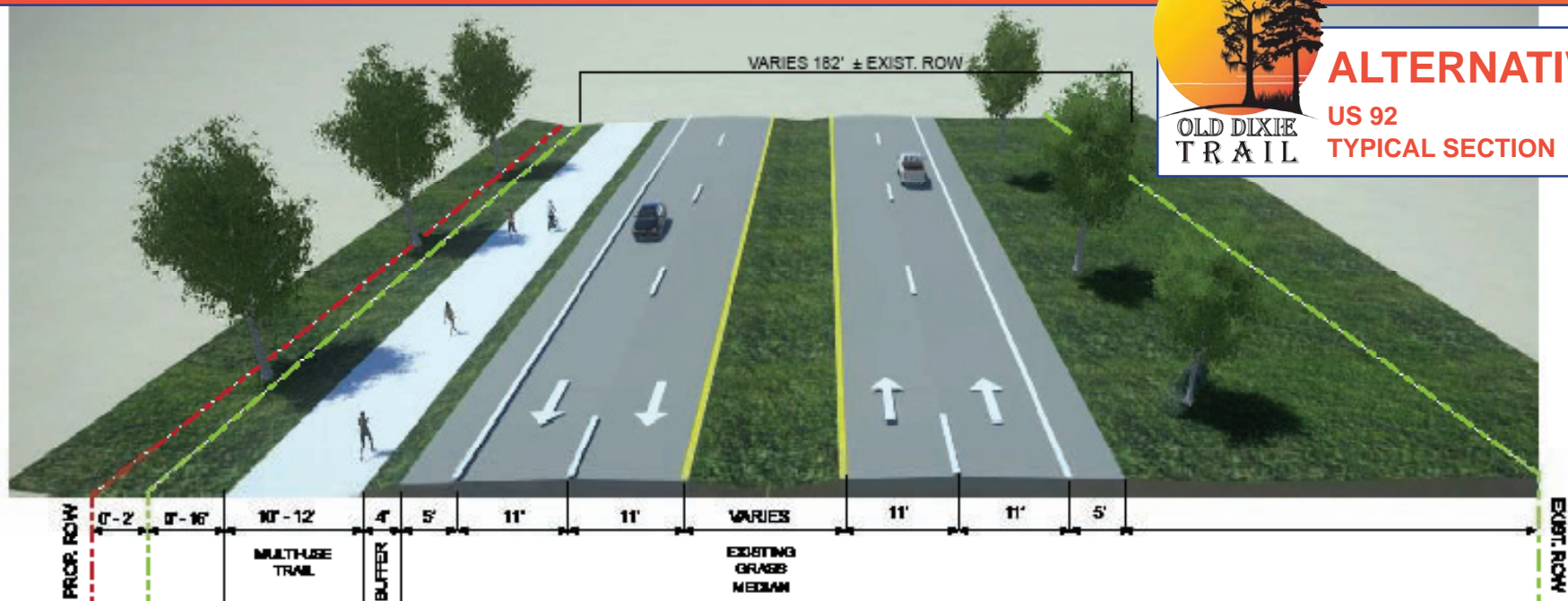
Phase	Cost	Fiscal Year
PD&E	\$1.2M	2023
Design	Unfunded	TBD
Construction	Unfunded	TBD



ALTERNATIVE 1: STADIUM ROAD / LAKE ALFRED ROAD TYPICAL SECTION

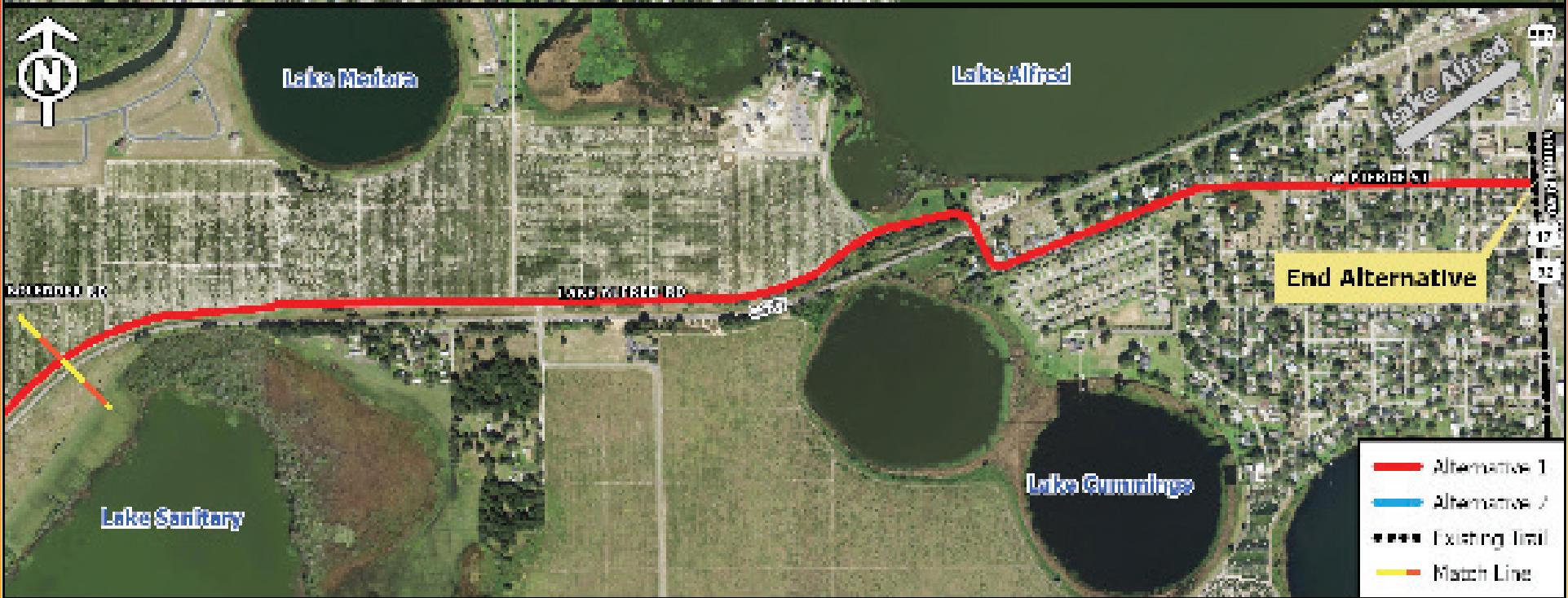


ALTERNATIVE 2: US 92 TYPICAL SECTION

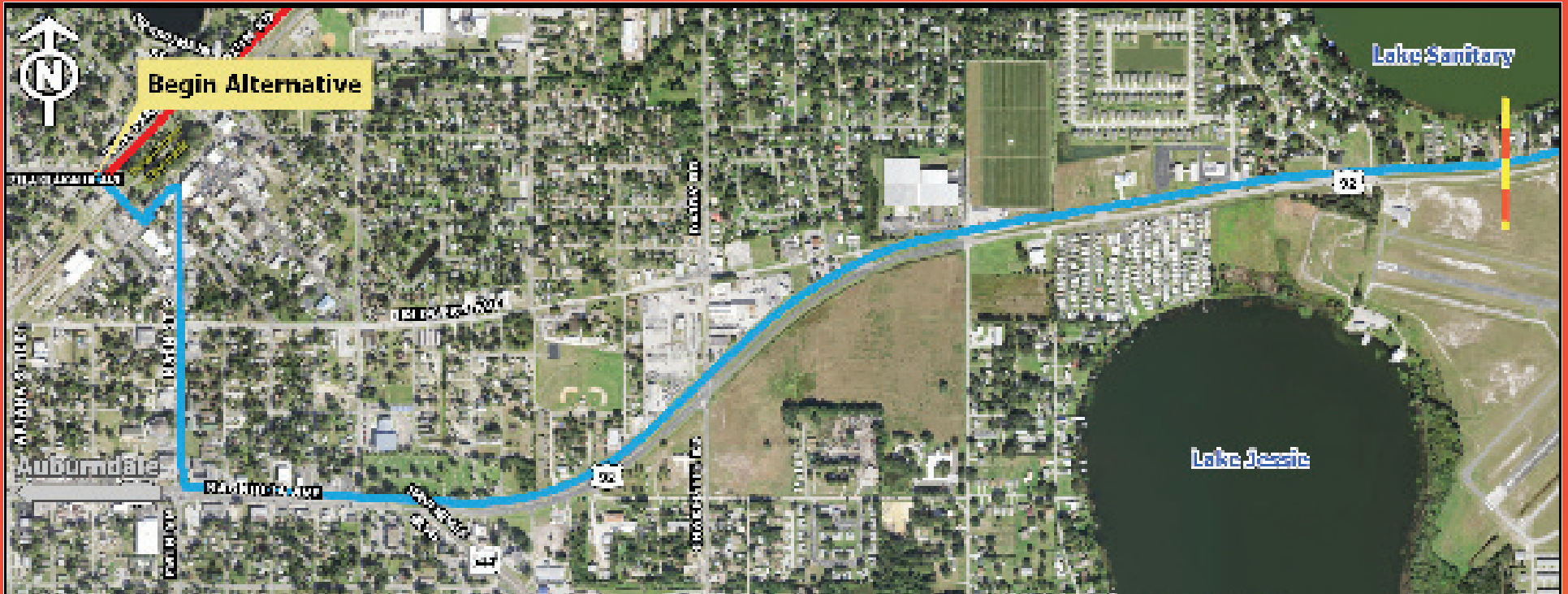




**ALTERNATIVE 1:
AERIAL LOCATION MAP**



- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- Existing Trail
- Match Line



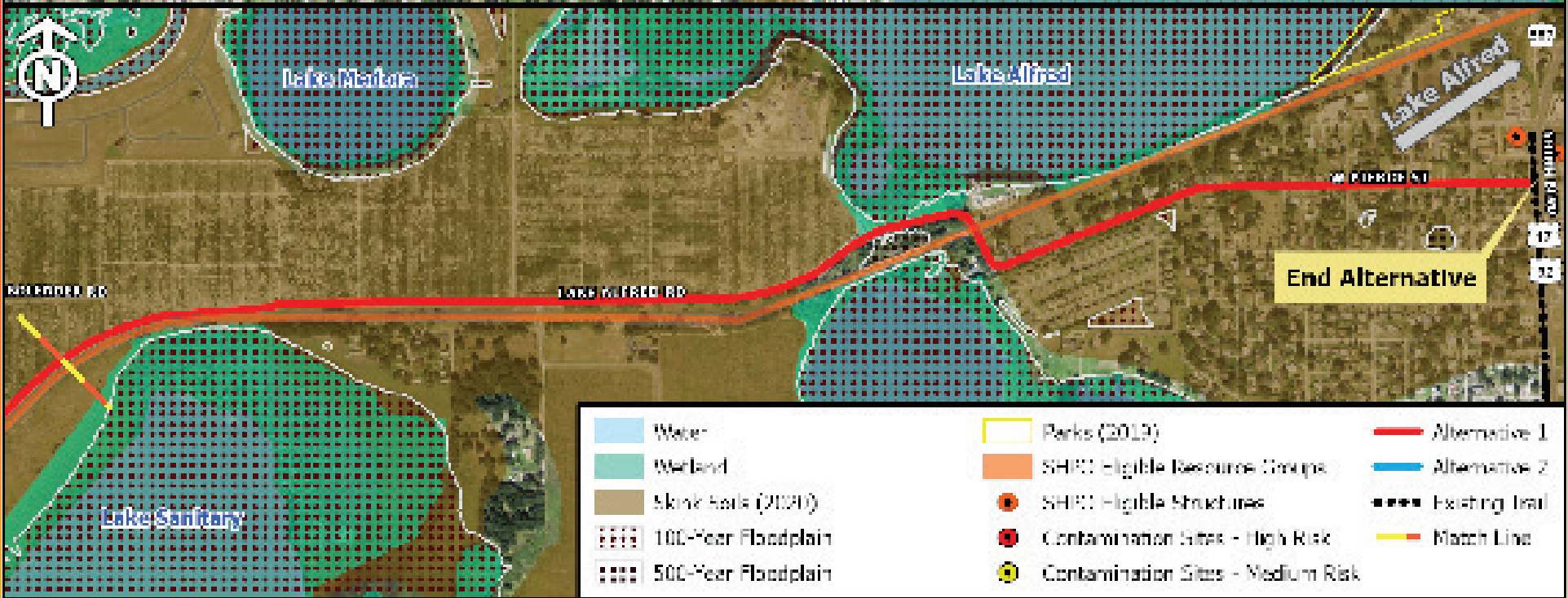
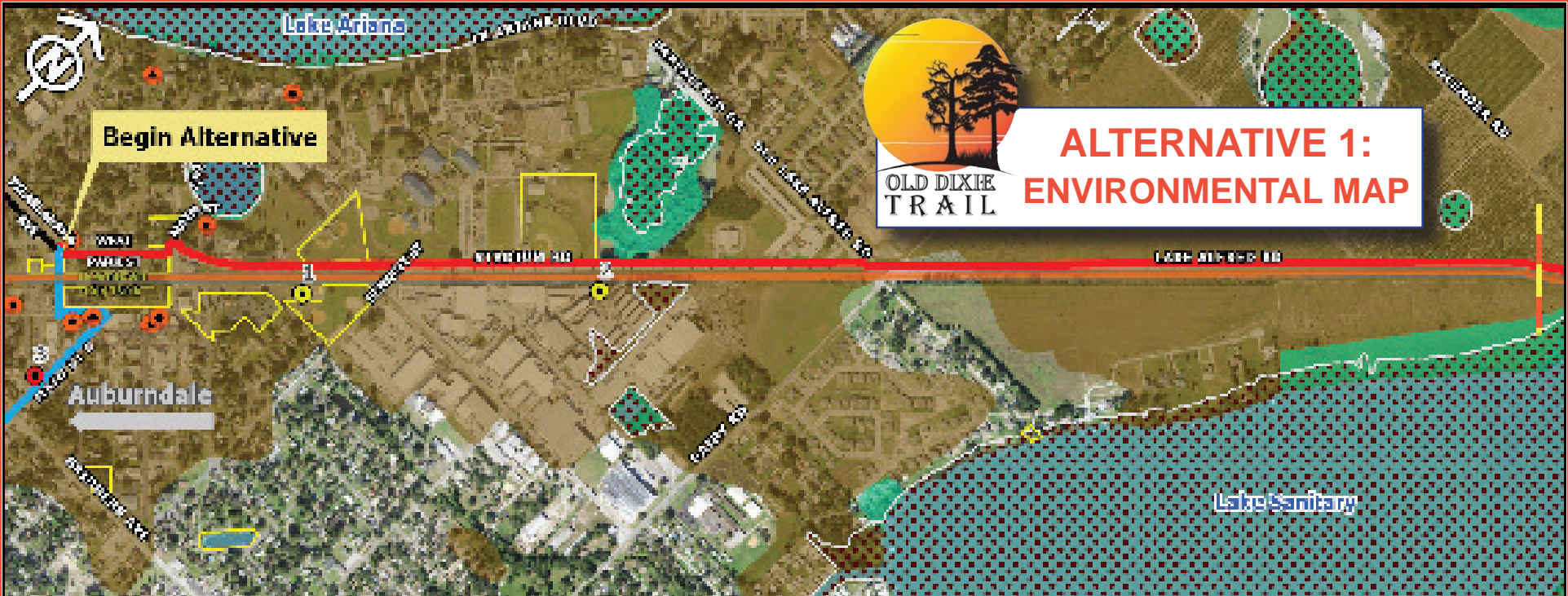
OLD DIXIE
TRAIL

**ALTERNATIVE 2:
AERIAL LOCATION MAP**

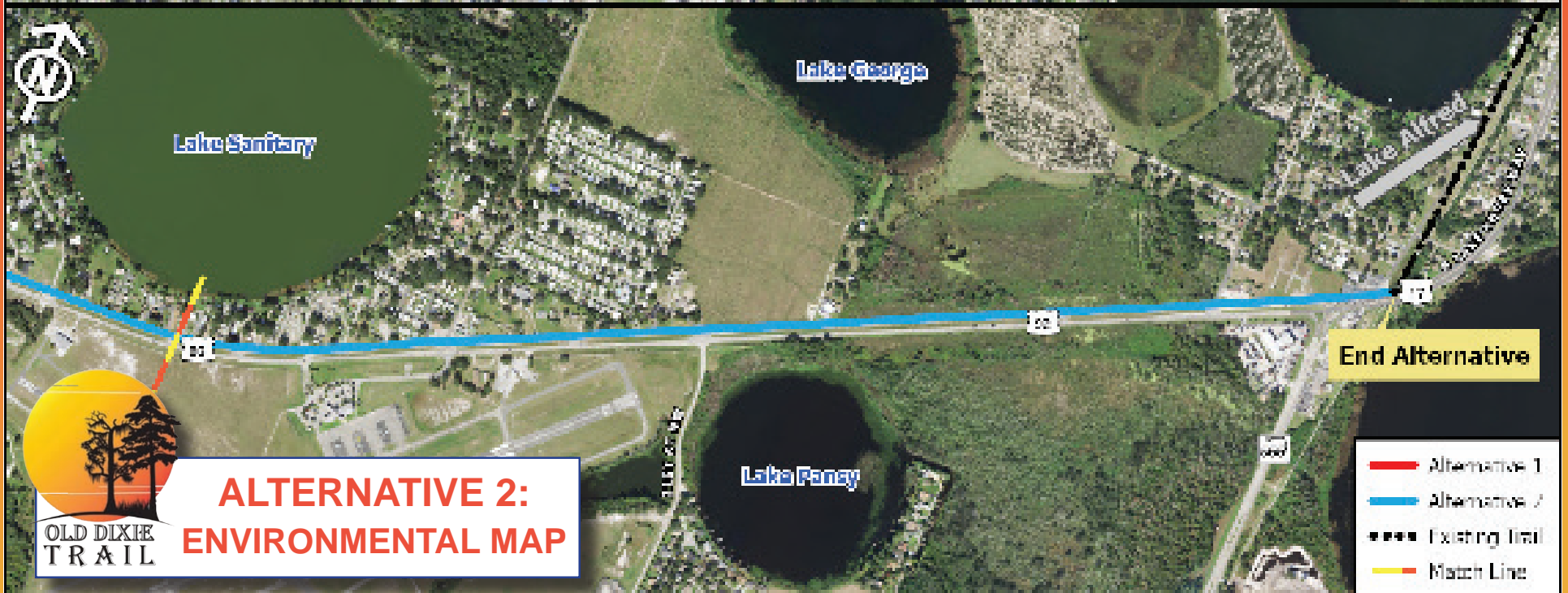
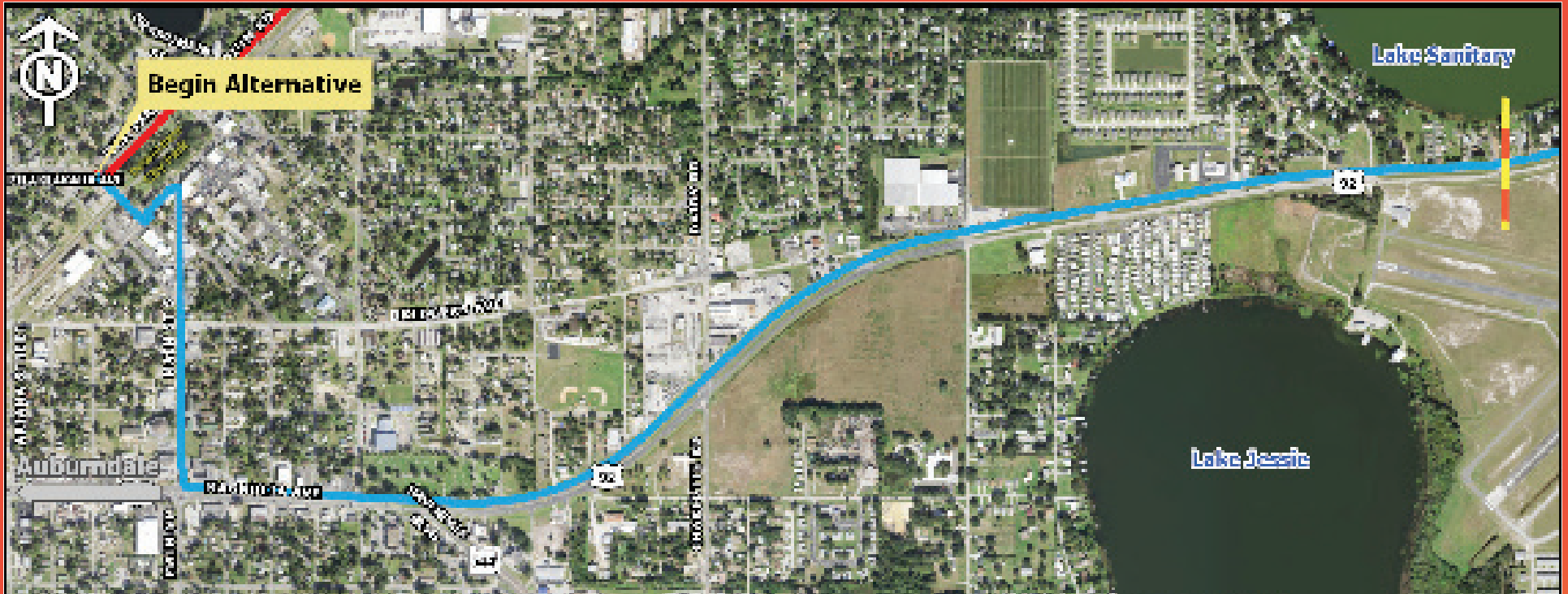
- Alternative 1
- Alternative 2
- - - - Existing Trail
- | Match Line



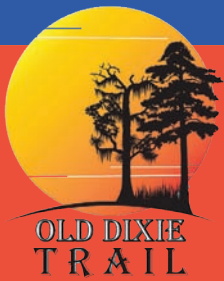
ALTERNATIVE 1: ENVIRONMENTAL MAP



- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Water | Parks (2019) | Alternative 1 |
| Wetland | SHPO Eligible Resource Groups | Alternative 2 |
| Mink Beds (2020) | SHPO Eligible Structures | Existing Trail |
| 100-Year Floodplain | Contamination Sites - High Risk | Match Line |
| 500-Year Floodplain | Contamination Sites - Medium Risk | |



**ALTERNATIVE 2:
ENVIRONMENTAL MAP**



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Evaluation Matrix

EVALUATION CRITERIAL	NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2
PROJECT GOALS			
Addresses regional bicycle and pedestrian connectivity	No	Yes	Yes
Provides safe multi-modal access to destinations	No	Yes	Yes
Enhances quality of life and fosters economic development	No	Yes	Yes
CONNECTIVITY			
Improves access to parks	No	Yes (4)	Yes (2)
Connection to other trails	No	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS			
Business relocations	0	0	0
Residential relocations	0	0	0
Business/residential (acres) ¹	0	1.96	0.25
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS			
Historic/Archaeological	N/A	Low	Low
Public parks	N/A	Enhancement	Enhancement
Wetland (acres)	N/A	16.91	34.82
Floodplain (acres)	N/A	0	0
Listed/protected species	N/A	Moderate	Low
Contamination	N/A	2-Medium Ranked Sites (Sites 1-2)	1 - High Ranked Site (Site 3) 4 - Medium Ranked Sites (Sites 4-7)
COST ESTIMATE (\$)			
Design	\$0	\$770,000	\$845,000
ROW Acquisition	\$0	TBD	TBD
Construction	\$0	\$8.2 M	\$9.9 M
Mitigation ²	\$0	\$2.6 M	\$6.8 M

Note 1: Acreages are approximate as right of way limits are being reviewed and finalized.

Note 2: Mitigation Cost was based on mitigation bank credit cost for wetland and protected species.



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Environmental Evaluations

The PD&E Study is ongoing. Staff will continue to develop, refine, and evaluate alignment alternatives for the Old Dixie Trail during the course of the study. Potential environmental effects associated with the two proposed alternatives are under careful evaluation and include detailed studies of wetlands, floodplains, threatened and endangered species, water quality, hazardous materials, recreational sites, noise, air quality, historic structures, and archaeological sites. Based on current data, the Study team anticipates minimal effects to the environment from the proposed alternatives.

What's Next?

We will continue to evaluate estimated project costs and engineering and environmental effects that the alternatives may have. Comments from you, at either the virtual or in-person meeting events and throughout the Study, will help FDOT make its selection of the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will be presented at a public hearing for this project, tentatively scheduled for spring 2022.

Memorandum of Understanding

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2016 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

Title VI/Nondiscrimination

This alternatives public meeting is developed in compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and related statutes. FDOT solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status.

Questions or Comments

▶ If you have any **questions** about the project, please contact FDOT Project Manager, Steven Andrews by phone at (863) 519-2270.

▶ If you have any **comments** about the project, please contact FDOT Project Manager, Steven Andrews by email or by mail to the Florida Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831-1249.



TAKE THE SURVEY

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Your input on the project is valuable and we invite you to respond to our survey. Please click on the QR code below or visit the survey website at <http://metroquestsurvey.com/jy43q> and follow the prompts to complete the survey on the Old Dixie Trail project.

Please scan the QR Code above using the camera of your Mobile device.



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COMMENT FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please add me to the mailing list for this project.

Comments:

Please place this form in the comment box at this workshop
or you may mail or email it, postmarked by October 7, 2021 to the address below.

Steven Andrews
Florida Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1249, Bartow, FL 33831-1249
steven.andrews@dot.state.fl.us

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September 23, 2021

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Project Website: www.swfroads.com/trails/odt/home.html