



Financial Project ID Number
440273-1



SR 544 (Lucerne Park Road)

Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study

From Martin Luther King Blvd. to SR 17
Polk County, Florida

NEWSLETTER #3 - January 2025

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, invites you to attend the SR 544 (Lucerne Park Road) Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Public Hearing in-person or live online on Thursday, January 30, 2025.

The hearing is being conducted to present the preferred alternative and all analysis to date, as well as give interested persons an opportunity to express their views concerning the location, conceptual design, and social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed improvements.

You can participate in the public hearing live online or in-person. The same material will be presented during either format and all attendees will have the opportunity to comment. The materials will be available by January 23, 2025, on the project webpage.

IN-PERSON OPTION:

Thursday, January 30, 2025
Polk State College, Winter Haven Student Center
999 Ave H NE, Winter Haven, FL 33881

Anytime between 5 – 6 pm — Open House
6 pm — Formal presentation and comment
Displays will be available starting at 5 pm to review at your own pace and the formal presentation will begin at 6 pm. The project team will be available for discussion.

LIVE ONLINE OPTION:

Register in advance:
<https://tinyurl.com/SR544PublicHearingRegistration>

Thursday, January 30, 2025
5:45 pm — Overview for how to submit comment
6 pm — Formal presentation and comment
This event will include a viewing of the project video and a live question-and-answer component with the project team. *Please review the materials on the project webpage before attending the virtual event* (<https://www.swflroads.com/project/440273-1>).

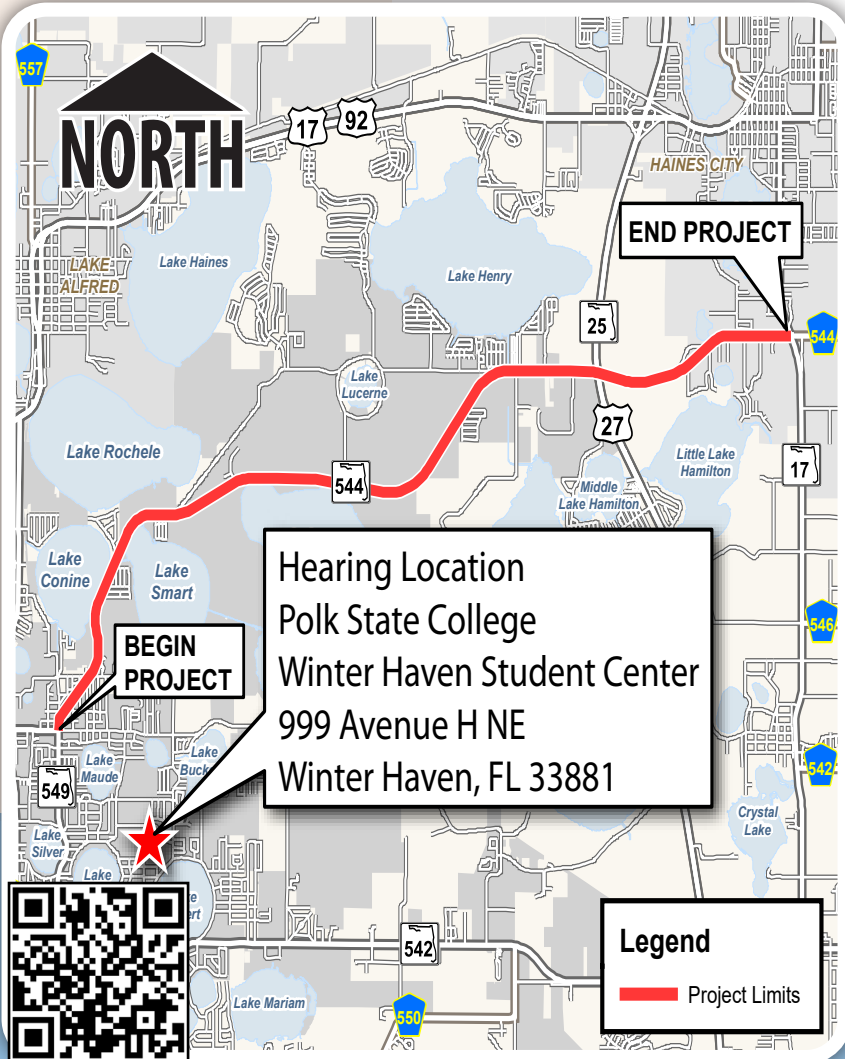
ABOUT THE PROJECT:

FDOT, District One, began a PD&E study in July 2019 to evaluate the potential roadway widening along an eight mile segment of SR 544 (Lucerne Park Road) from Martin Luther King Boulevard to SR 17 in Polk County. The purpose of the PD&E study is to accommodate the projected increase in traffic demand, including truck traffic, generated by expected growth in Polk County. FDOT anticipates this project will also enhance safety along the project corridor, improve emergency evacuation, and improve connectivity between Martin Luther King Boulevard and SR 17.

PROJECT DOCUMENTS:

Project documents will be available for public viewing from Thursday, January 9, through Monday, February 10, at the following locations:

- Winter Haven Public Library, 325 Avenue A NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881
M-TH 9 am – 6 pm; F-S 9 am – 5 pm; Closed Sunday
- FDOT District One Headquarters, 801 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830
M-F 9 am – 5 pm



SR 544 Webpage

CONTACT INFORMATION

Interested parties may submit written comments until February 10. The FDOT encourages the public to participate in the SR 544 (Lucerne Park Road) PD&E Public Hearing. If you have questions regarding the meeting, please contact the FDOT Project Manager,

David Turley at:
David Turley
Florida Department of Transportation
Environmental Management Office
801 N. Broadway Ave
Bartow, FL 33830
Phone: (863) 519-2255 | Email: David.Turley@dot.state.fl.us

PARA MATERIALES DEL PROYECTO EN ESPAÑOL

Para ver este boletín y otros materiales del proyecto en español, visite el sitio web del proyecto en <https://www.swflroads.com/project/440273-1> / o contacte Karina Della Sera de la Oficina del Departamento de Transporte de Florida por teléfono al (863) 519-2750. También puede usar el correo electrónico:

Karina.DellaSera@dot.state.fl.us

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

FDOT solicits public participation without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. People who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Cynthia Sykes, District One Title VI Coordinator, at (863) 519-2287, or email at Cynthia.Sykes@dot.state.fl.us at least seven days prior to the public hearing.

FDOT
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 David Turley
 Florida Department of Transportation
 Environmental Management Office
 801 N. Broadway Ave
 Bartow, FL 33830

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District 1
 Financial Project ID No: 440273-1

Public Involvement Schedule State Road (SR) 544/Lucerne Park Road Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study



From Martin Luther King Blvd to SR 17

	2019			2020				2021				2022				2023				2024				2025			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Study Begins		▲																									
Newsletters			✉								✉												✉				✉
Public Meetings/ Hearings											🏛️ Alternatives Public Meeting												🏛️ Public Hearing				
Local Stakeholder Coordination Meetings				💬		💬				💬				💬													
TPO Presentations										🅅																	
Study Approval/ LDCA*																										▲	

*Location Design Concept Acceptance

Preliminary - Subject to Change



= Study Begins



= Newsletter



= Local Coordination



= Public Meeting/



= Study Approval/LDCA

SECTION 4(f)

Seven resources identified within the project limits are Section 4(f) protected properties under 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 774.17. Since the SR 544 PD&E Study proposes minor impacts to and/or acquisition from these 4(f) protected properties, FDOT intends to pursue an Exception/Exemption Section 4(f) determination for one resource, No Use determinations for two resources, and de minimis determinations for four additional historic 4(f) resources, and is asking for the public's input on the proposed impacts.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The PD&E Study process will determine the location, conceptual design; and social, economic, and environmental impacts and enhancements of the proposed project. The No-Build alternative will remain an option through the PD&E Study. The PD&E Study will be finalized after the public hearing when the project documents are approved. If a Build alternative is selected and funding is programmed, the project may then proceed to the design phase of project development.