

2023

PUBLIC INFORMATION

ANNUAL REPORT



CENTRAL
FLORIDA
EXPRESSWAY
AUTHORITY



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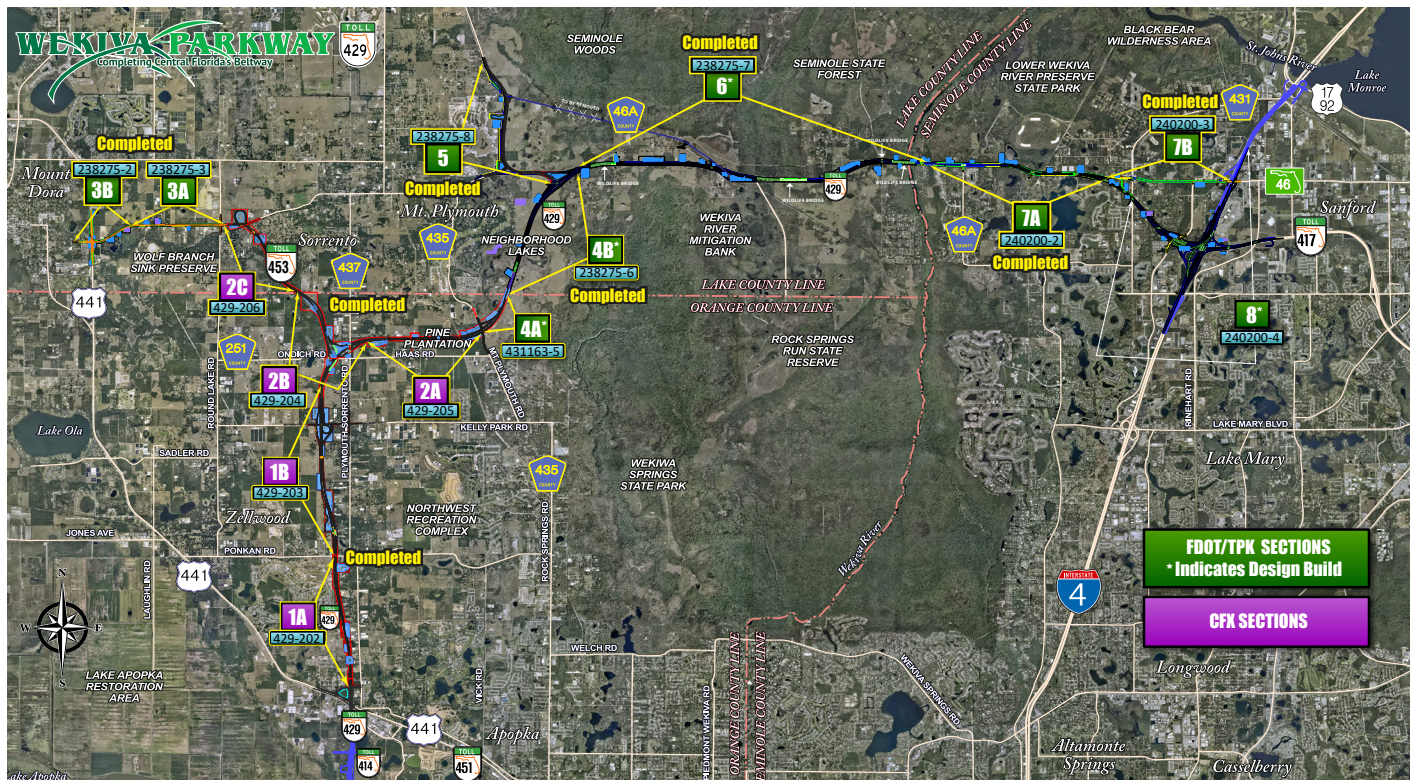
Introduction

For nearly 30 years, the Wekiva Parkway (State Road 429) has been a collaborative effort between the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Five. The Florida's Turnpike Enterprise provided design input and handles toll operations on FDOT sections.

The long-term goal has been for the 25-mile parkway to connect to State Road (S.R.) 417 and Interstate 4 (I-4), thereby completing the beltway around Central Florida. In 2023, the mission was nearly completed, with the final section nearly complete.

This \$1.6 billion project has included about \$500 million of non-toll road improvements:

- Widened 7 miles of S.R. 46 in Lake and Seminole counties.
- Rebuilt the U.S. 441 / S.R. 46 interchange in Mount Dora.
- Moved County Road (C.R.) 46A out of the Seminole State Forest so wildlife can move safely between habitats.
- Built parallel, non-tolled service roads for local trips in east Lake and Seminole counties.



Construction on the parkway began in 2013, with the first sections opening in 2016. Since then new sections have come online nearly every year.



Today, the parkway is providing travel alternatives, helping to relieve traffic congestion on U.S. 441, S.R. 46 and other area roads and is making travel easier and faster between Lake, Orange and Seminole counties. A Florida Trend article on the Wolf Branch Innovation District in Mount Dora noted, “The opening of State Road 453 to State Road 429 reduced time to metro Orlando’s major centers – Downtown Orlando (30 minutes) and Orlando International Airport (38 minutes).”

The massive project is completing what will ultimately be a beltway around Central Florida that stretches more than 100 miles.

Authorized in 2004 by the Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act, this expressway has been heralded as an example of smart transportation planning through an environmentally sensitive area.

The parkway design protects the Wekiva River—a National Wild and Scenic River and Florida Outstanding Waterway. It also protects the Wekiva River Basin – a key component in a much larger natural corridor known as the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway. The corridor provides habitat for many rare or threatened species, including the Florida Black Bear, Bald Eagles, Burrowing Owls, Sandhill Cranes, Gopher Tortoises and Florida Scrub Jays. The basin includes more than 25 springs connected to the Florida Aquifer. Vast areas of floodplains and wetlands, including the Wekiva and Seminole Swamps, are located west of the river.

The State of Florida since the 1960s has endeavored to acquire tracts needed to complete the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, including Wekiwa Springs State Park, Rock Springs Run State Reserve and the Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park. The landmark conservation of 3,400 acres of land as part of developing the Wekiva Parkway has further enhanced this natural corridor.

Parkway development also has included building about 1.5 miles of wildlife bridges and other safeguards for animals. The parkway is largely elevated to reduce collisions between vehicles and wildlife. The number of interchanges was limited to curb development in this environmentally sensitive area.

The Wekiva Parkway was the first expressway in Central Florida to feature All Electronic Tolling (AET) for the greatest customer convenience and to keep traffic moving. There are no toll plazas – motorists pay their tolls at safe highway and ramp speeds using E-PASS or SunPass. Both FDOT and CFX have license-plate recognition programs for those who do not have a transponder.

By early 2023, the agencies had opened 23 miles of the Wekiva Parkway to traffic across the three counties. All CFX sections of the parkway have been open since 2018 and have experienced higher



than anticipated trips by motorists enjoying the convenience. The agency set the standard for parkway aesthetics, including a color palette of warm earth tones of brown, green and tan, stone relief with eco-staining on bridge piers and walls, gently arched bridge beams, decorative pedestrian railing and enhanced landscaping.

This report is intended to provide CFX, FDOT and other interested parties with a summary of 2023 Wekiva Parkway project milestones and community awareness activities.

The Community Outreach Specialist (COS) team coordinates community awareness initiatives for both agencies for the 25-mile corridor. Since 2004, the COS team has worked with FDOT and CFX communications teams to maintain consistent messaging across the project corridor and with all local government and stakeholder groups. Community outreach staff worked in tandem with FDOT District Five Communications



Director Cynthia Lane and Communications Manager Matthew Richardson, as well as with CFX Community Engagement Manager Brian Hutchings. The consultant Wekiva Parkway community outreach team in 2023 included Mary Brooks, Susan Miller, Lisa Mark, LaTiesha Rivera, Chris Ward, Samantha Scarpe, Ashley Moore and other support associates.



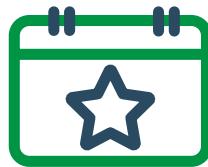
33

Public Meetings



8,000

Attendees



900

Special Events

CFX and FDOT over the years have remained committed to ensuring the community has multiple and varied opportunities to learn about and provide input into the parkway's development. Outreach activities follow the strategies of the Wekiva Parkway Corridor-wide Community Awareness Plan (CAP).

Intensive and ongoing public engagement since 2005 was accomplished via 33 public meetings and hearings drawing nearly 8,000 attendees, and more than 900 stakeholder and community group meetings and special events.

The long-term, robust communications helped fuel the development of a project that addresses diverse community and environmental needs and concerns, while also creating a transportation facility that has become a source of community pride and an example of regional collaboration.

The agencies have employed grassroots and digital strategies to broaden the public's access to project information. The project website, www.wekivaparkway.com, finished 2023 with approximately 29,000 visits for the year (through December 19, 2023). All told, the site has had 452,398 visits from its launch in 2012 to the end of 2023. Social media project accounts have nearly 2,800 followers and reach many more individuals via subsequent shares.



452,398

Page Visits



2,800

Followers



With the last project section nearing completion, communications staff has responded to thousands of queries via the project hotline, email address, social media, and personal contact. All public interactions were shared with the agencies and project teams and documented in the project database.

During the year, public inquiries spiked when the final connection between S.R. 429 and S.R. 417 would be made. Coordination with project design-build and construction teams remained critical to get important information out to officials, the media and other community members about road and ramp closures and detours. FDOT and communication staff also continued to work hard to answer questions and to help resolve public issues.

Following are the project agencies, key firms and opening dates for each section.

Project Section	Agency	Design Firm	Construction Oversight Firm	Contractor	Open to Traffic
Section 1A	CFX	HNTB	RK&K	Prince Construction	July 2017
Section 1B	CFX	Dewberry	GAI	Superior Construction	July 2017
Section 2A	CFX	Parsons	KCCS	Superior Construction	March 2018
Section 2B	CFX	Atkins	A ² Group	Southland Construction	March 2018
Section 2C	CFX	DRMP	Jacobs	GLF Construction	March 2018
Section 3A	FDOT	Moffatt Nichol	RK&K	GLF Construction	November 2020
Section 3B	FDOT	Lochner	RK&K	GLF Construction	November 2020
Sections 4A / B Design-Build	FDOT	FDOT	Jacobs	The DeMoya Group (Design Partner: Stantec)	January 2016
Section 5	FDOT	CDM Smith	FDOT	Halifax Paving	October 2019
Section 6 Design-Build	FDOT	GAI	RS&H	Superior Construction (Design Partners: Arcadis & WGI)	May 2022
Section 7A	FDOT	AECOM	CONSOR	SEMA Construction	August 2022
Section 7B	FDOT	JMT	FDOT	Masci Contractors	July 2022
Section 8 Design-Build	FDOT	Atkins	Metric Engineering	Lane Construction (Design Partner: DRMP)	Estimated Early 2024

To ensure the public had ample, advanced warning about traffic impacts due to construction, the communications team distributed 76 construction alerts in 2023. That effort included social media and website posts and e-blasts to officials, the media, residents and businesses in the project database.

Agency and communications team staff also coordinated with navigational map services before and after the opening of new parkway ramps.

Florida Department of Transportation

At the beginning of 2023, FDOT was working to complete the final piece of the parkway – Section 8. The department also began landscaping on several sections. Communications staff continued to address questions and concerns from citizens on completed parkway sections, as well as matters relating to the remaining construction.

Section 3A/B

The non-tolled road improvements in Mount Dora included widening more than 3 miles of S.R. 46 and U.S. 441 to six lanes in anticipation of the increased traffic trying to get to the parkway. Work began in October 2017 and was successfully completed in fall 2021.



The project included converting the former U.S. 441 / S.R. 46 interchange into a more modern, signalized intersection with a flyover bridge. Work included installing medians, streetlights and pedestrian and cycling improvements. The opening of the flyover bridge in September 2020 represented one of many safety and mobility milestones for this project in Lake County.

The innovation that went into the flyover bridge was featured in the October 2023 edition of the American Institute of Steel Construction's

Modern Steel Construction Magazine. The "Innovation on the Fly" article opened with, "A curved flyover bridge in Central Florida required a quick redesign, opening the door for a steel option that eventually exceeded state and public expectations."

The parkway in the Mount Dora area was also featured in a *Florida Trend* piece on the Wolf Branch Innovation District being developed by Lake County. The article leans heavily on the importance of the Wekiva Parkway to their economic development plans.

The communications team continued to address questions and concerns on this section relating to signage, streetlights and landscaping, as well as visibility concerns from the Southernaire Mobile Home Park related to their noise wall.

Section 4A/B

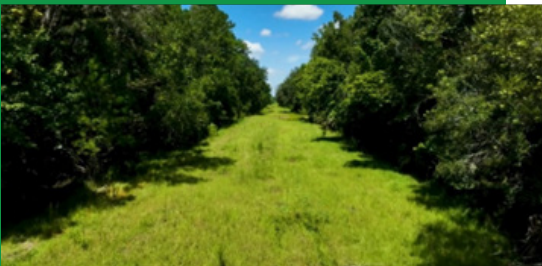
The first stretch of the parkway, the 3.14 miles of Sections 4A and 4B, opened to traffic in 2016. This parkway section – which introduced Central Florida to all electronic tolling – stretches from County Road 435/ Mount Plymouth Road in Orange County, across the county line and ending in an interchange at State Road 46 near Camp Challenge Road in Lake County.



This section includes a floodplain bridge that during the dry season allows animals to safely pass under traffic to get between habitats.

With the opening of the adjoining parkway stretch to the east, Section 6, traffic on Sections 4A and 4B grew dramatically. The number of vehicles traveling this stretch more than doubled from an average of about 3,000 trips a day in December 2021 to more than 6,700 trips in May 2023 – a year after Section 6 opened.

Section 5



Wekiva Parkway Section 5 involved realigning about a mile of County Road (C.R.) 46A out of the Seminole State Forest. The newly realigned C.R. 46A opened in late 2019.

After extensive resident coordination and community input, the department expanded the landscaping project from 1,788 plant specimens to 2,055 specimens – at an increased investment of \$380,000.

The realignment was a key requirement of the 2004 Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act. The goal in relocating the roadway was to allow wildlife to safely cross between habitats in the state forest - out of harms' way from vehicular traffic.

The plan was for nature to reclaim the abandoned roadway corridor – something that was clearly happening in 2023.



Section 6

From the time the parkway's longest stretch opened in May 2022 to the end of 2023, travelers made more than 9 million trips on Section 6. This 6.6-mile parkway section extends from Longwood-Markham Road in Sanford to the S.R. 429 interchange near Camp Challenge Road in Sorrento. The \$232.4 million design-build project contains the lionshare of the wildlife protections on the parkway.

Section 6 is largely elevated and is paralleled by the S.R. 46 frontage road and a multi-use trail. There are 1.5 miles of wildlife crossing bridges – providing nearly 100 times the protection for animals as the previous two tunnels near Rock Springs Run State Reserve. The wildlife crossing bridges are designed for the safety of both the road users and the animals in the Wekiva River Basin.



At 3,900-feet-long, the Wekiva Parkway wildlife crossing at Rock Springs Run State Reserve is the second longest span designated specifically for the safe passage of animals in the state. (The longest wildlife crossing spans 4,751 feet over the Yellow River along S.R. 87 in northwest Florida.) All together, the Wekiva Parkway's multiple wildlife crossing bridges are the longest series of structures (7,710 feet) built along the same roadway section to accommodate wildlife.



This section also features special wildlife fencing to discourage animals from entering the corridor. The fencing is 10 feet high, with two feet underground to discourage animals from burrowing into the right of way. Jump outs – or breaks in the fencing - allow animals who wander onto the roadway corridor to safely return to their habitat. Bat houses also are present to support that species.

One of the wildlife crossings is the signature feature for the parkway – the Wekiva River bridges.

The three, 60-foot-tall bridges put the deck in the tree canopy to visually buffer it from surrounding communities. Animals can pass safely underneath along the riversides, as opposed to having to cross S.R. 46.

The new, much higher Wekiva River crossing features enhanced aesthetics to help the structure blend in with the natural surroundings. Dark brown coloring and concrete forming on the bridge piers mimic the interwoven tree trunks found along the riverside. Bridge beams are slightly arched to provide almost a cathedral experience for those using the river.





The bridges were built using “top-down construction.” No equipment was placed in the river to minimize impacts to the nationally recognized waterway.

In keeping with the department’s commitment for bold landscaping, FDOT’s contractor in 2023 nearly finished installing more than 10,000 trees, shrubs and other plants along Section 6 in Lake County. Project team members coordinated closely with adjacent residents on their questions and requests regarding the types, condition and location of plants.

Wekiva Parkway Trail

The parkway on this section is paralleled by a non-tolled, service road for local travel, and a multi-use trail. Section 6 holds the majority of the 10-mile trail, which is enhancing pedestrian and cyclist mobility along the corridor, as well as improving access to the adjacent state conservation lands.

The Wekiva Parkway Trail provides a critical connection between the planned Lake-Wekiva Trail, Seminole Wekiva Trail and planned extension of the West Orange Trail.



The parkway service road bridge provides a crucial crossing of the Wekiva River for area trails. The parkway trail also runs concurrently with part of the renowned Florida National Scenic Trail.

In 2023, department and communications staff continued to work closely with residents, business owners and county officials on myriad project issues. Staff coordinated with community members on issues including erosion and drainage, signage, landscaping, litter, lighting, sod and mowing,

Project team members continued to work with county and state agency partners on various matters. FDOT placed “No Parking” signs under the Wekiva River bridges off River Oaks Circle to address resident concerns about vehicles parking under the bridges, damaging plants and possibly contributing to erosion.



The department worked with the Wekiva River Basin State Parks management to address their request for signage prohibiting trespassing or swimming in the parkway retention pond at Wekiva River Road.

FDOT fulfilled a commitment to dramatically reduce errant traffic taking River Oaks Circle off the Osprey Hammock roundabout when trying to get to S.R. 46 west. Through extensive coordination with the Wekiva River Oaks and Wekiva

Park Drive communities, county public works representatives and Seminole County Commissioner Adria Herr, the department developed a series of measures to address the concern.



In early fall, crews finished the River Oaks Circle Bypass, where motorists would have to make a deliberate movement to get onto the local road. Those continuing straight past the bypass entrance are directed to the roundabout and the proper exit to stay on S.R. 46 west. With concerns about large trucks errantly entering the neighborhoods, FDOT also built a large truck turnaround at Wekiva Park Drive. Overhead signage makes it clear which lane motorists should be in to continue on S.R. 46.

To determine the effectiveness of the bypass, FDOT collected 24 hours of video counts that were manually analyzed by personnel to determine time of day, as well as which vehicles enter and immediately exit to break out errant traffic counts. The department also collected automated volume counts for 7 days to verify typical traffic numbers.

The preliminary analysis shared with community members in November showed the bypass had reduced the amount of errant traffic into the communities by 90 percent from 2022.

The four-laned parkway along Section 6 has brought convenience to area residents, making travel easier and reducing commute times between Sanford and Mount Dora, among other destinations. More than 21,000+ vehicles per day on average were using this section of the parkway by the end of 2023.

Section 7A

The importance of the opening of Section 7A in 2022 along the S.R. 46 corridor cannot be overstated. The parkway section fulfilled the department’s commitment to provide an elevated expressway option through the Wekiva River Protection Area.

The goal was to get as much traffic as possible onto the elevated parkway, helping to reduce collisions between vehicles and wildlife at ground level on S.R. 46.

The \$108.3 million project included slip ramps to enter and exit the parkway, 12 bridges over side streets, and the parallel S.R. 46 frontage road. Work began on Section 7A in April 2018; the portion along S.R. 46 was opened to traffic in August 2022. The remainder of Section 7A will open in conjunction with Section 8.

Since opening, nearly 7 million vehicles have traveled the 3-mile stretch from Longwood-Markham Road to Orange Boulevard in Sanford. That’s traffic that otherwise would have used S.R. 46 in potential conflict with area wildlife.



Section 7A also includes roundabouts as safety enhancements at the intersections under the parkway. The roundabouts eliminate left turn collisions and require vehicles to slow down upon approach. A 10-foot-wide sidewalk runs along the eastbound service road as well as bike lanes.



Work in preparation for landscaping began in 2023, including installing electrical lines, irrigation and water meters, as well as installing planting soil. FDOT and the landscaping contractor worked closely with Seminole County staff, as the county will be maintaining the landscaping. The contractor anticipated beginning plant installation in early 2024.

Project and communications team members continued to work with adjacent residents and others to address questions and concerns. Topics included streetlight pollution, litter, sod and mowing, noise concerns, vibration damage claims – and more. FDOT Asset Management staff worked with Florida Power and Light to ensure a broken utility box in front of The Rock Church was repaired in December. Church staff had expressed concerns about someone getting injured in that location.

Beginning in August, communications staff worked for weeks with the Walden Cove HOA president to get them to remove any plants and irrigation on the right of way along their Orange Boulevard frontage prior to the landscaping contractor working in that location. Work and coordination were extended due to the hurricane.



Section 7B

FDOT’s landscaper in 2023 also was working along Section 7B, which widened S.R. 46 to six lanes from Orange Boulevard to Wayside Drive-Oregon Street near I-4. Plantings were to begin in 2024. Landscaping was an ongoing topic of coordination with stakeholders along the corridor.

Communications staff worked frequently with the Lake Forest HOA’s landscaping committee and property manager on requests for plans, desired type and placement of plants.

The department also worked to address requests and concerns regarding the placement of pedestrian signals and drainage in their entrance at Lake Forest Boulevard. Communications staff also addressed requests for utility plans and other matters.



Section 7B involved 1.3 miles of improvements, including medians, streetlights, sidewalk, bike lanes, traffic signal upgrades and drainage. A 10-foot-wide sidewalk has improved mobility for pedestrians and cyclists along the south side of S.R. 46. Work on this section began in 2019 and finished in summer of 2022.

Project and communications staff continued in 2023 to work with community members on other issues, including drainage.

FDOT and communications staff worked with the owner of Lake Forest Dentistry at 5300 W. S.R. 46 regarding concerns about drainage and water on the sidewalk. FDOT Oviedo Operations and Asset

Management staff conducted a field meeting in October to discuss the drainage concerns, as well as planned sidewalk and landscaping for that location.



Communications staff provided the property owner with the landscape and sidewalk plans. FDOT staff, in conference with the drainage engineer, determined that reshaping the swale and cleaning out the drainage structure should address the concern.

Section 8

In 2023 many eyes were on the last parkway stretch, which was quickly moving toward completion. A \$263.3 million design-build project, Section 8 has been building the parkway interchange with I-4, S.R. 429 and S.R. 417 in Sanford.

The 2.63-mile project has built nearly two dozen bridges, aesthetic walls, a toll gantry, drainage, lighting and other roadway features. This section also built the general use lanes for the future I-4 Beyond the Ultimate project from south of S.R. 417 to south of S.R. 46.

The year 2023 was a banner one for progress on Section 8. Five new interchange ramps were completed and opened, including new ramps between S.R. 417 and International Parkway. The first ramp to open in the interchange – from I-4 westbound to S.R. 429 southbound/westbound in October 2022 – already had more than 1 million trips before the end of 2023.



The project was on track to have all movements in the interchange open to traffic in early 2024.

Communications staff in 2023 were peppered with motorists' questions about when the project would be finished. They were eager to be able to travel from S.R. 429 to S.R. 417 in Sanford, noting that was expected to save them significant time in their travels. Community outreach staff responded to dozens of such calls and emails. Project and communications staff provided dozens of updates on construction traffic impacts and detours, as well as new ramp openings.

Project and communications staff also continued working with adjacent stakeholders on the project to address their questions and concerns. Coordination took place with citizens regarding vehicle

and property damage claims, construction closure schedules and detours, erosion, sod and mowing, signage, litter, fencing and drainage.

FDOT and communications staff coordinated extensively – including holding virtual meetings to review landscaping concepts and plans – with the Tall Trees HOA and Ligonier Ministries. Stakeholder input was taken into consideration as landscaping plans were developed. Communications staff coordinated closely with the Ballantrae Apartments management regarding the schedule and construction impacts surrounding their new noise wall.

Central Florida Expressway Authority

The Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) has continued its commitment to making the agency's portion of the Wekiva Parkway a source of community pride and an iconic thoroughfare for the region. CFX has installed more than 24,000 native and Florida friendly plantings along their section, and soon will be adding in-fill and other parkway landscaping, including at the Kelly Park Road interchange.



CFX built, operates, and maintains about 10 miles of the parkway between U.S. 441 at Connector Road in Orange County, S.R. 46 near Round Lake Road in Lake County, and C.R. 435 in Orange County.

CFX opened their first five miles of the expressway in 2017, and the remainder in 2018. Traffic volumes since then show how the Wekiva Parkway has become a vital, safe, and convenient way for Central Floridians to travel through this fast-growing area of northwest Orange and east Lake counties.

Nearly 37,000 vehicles a day travel through the toll gantry just south of Ponkan Road in Apopka, CFX's busiest section of the parkway.

Community Presentations and Events

Even as parkway construction neared completion, FDOT project and communications staff continued to make presentations at meetings with local governments, community groups and neighborhoods. The agencies continued to get positive feedback during such interactions, which make accurate, up-to-date information directly available to community members.

Community presentations also allow people to get their questions answered and concerns addressed, further building trust in the agencies and support of the project. The department also provided project updates at industry conferences and community events. Following are some of the presentations and events:



2023

- **January 18, 2023** – Ligonier Ministries - Landscaping
- **January 18, 2023** – Tall Trees HOA – Landscaping
- **January 19, 2023** – TEAMFL Project Overview
- **April 10, 2023** – FDOT/ACEC Project Manager Conference
- **April 15, 2023** – East Lake Heritage Festival
- **May 22, 2023** – Adopt-A-Highway Community Meeting
- **May 31, 2023** – Wekiva River Basin Commission
- **June 12, 2023** – International Bridge Conference at National Harbor, Md
- **June 20, 2023** – Ligonier Ministries - Landscaping
- **July 12, 2023** – Wekiva River Scenic River Systems Advisory Management Committee
- **August 3, 2023** – NAOIP Commercial Real Estate Development Association of Central Florida
- **September 13, 2023** – Florida Association of Counties “Innovation Day” Conference – Parkway Tour
- **September 28, 2023** – Wekiva River Basin Commission
- **October 16, 2023** – Seminole County Communicators Meeting
- **November 1, 2023** – FDOT Traffic Incident Management Project Update
- **November 8, 2023** – Metroplan Orlando Board Meeting
- **November 14, 2023** – Florida Engineering Society of Central Florida (FES) Luncheon at CFX on Section 6
- **November 18, 2023** – MetroPlan Orlando
- **November 28, 2023** – Wekiva River Basin Commission
- **December 6, 2023** – Lake-Sumter MPO Boad Meeting



Special Events

FDOT project and communications staff began planning early in 2023 for a parkway completion ceremony. The activities would mark not only the opening of all movements on Section 8, but also celebrate finally realizing the entire parkway – and the completion of Central Florida’s beltway. The event was to comprise a media availability, VIP ribbon cutting ceremony and a community festival.

The festival was meant to thank the many community members who provided crucial project input, and who weathered the parkway construction adjacent to their properties over the years. The celebrations were anticipated to take place in early 2024.





Media Relations

The communications team has worked diligently with the agencies over the years to build positive, trusting, and constructive relationships with area media outlets. The agencies have worked in transparency over the long-term in providing parkway information to the media; their overridingly positive coverage of the project reflects their understanding and trust in key messages.

The department has continued to provide updates to the media to get the word out about new ramp openings, construction alerts and milestone events along the parkway.

Coverage has touched on the latest parkway progress, anticipation of the pending completion of the parkway and features on various aspects of the parkway program. Sample coverage of major project milestones and other activities is noted as follows:

2023

Construction in Seminole County roadway project causes hassle for locals - May 19, 2023

- <https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2023/05/19/construction-in-seminole-county-roadway-project-causes-hassle-for-locals/>

Wekiva Parkway wins ACEC-FL Outstanding Major Project Award - June 5, 2023

- <https://theapopkavoice.com/stories/wekiva-parkway-wins-outstanding-major-project-award>

Wekiva Parkway Section 6 Project Wins ACEC Florida's Outstanding Major Project Award - June 22, 2023

- <https://csengineermag.com/ekiva-parkway-section-6-project-wins-acec-floridas-outstanding-major-project-award/amp/>

Wekiva Parkway Receives Best in Construction Award from Florida Transportation Builders Association - July 11, 2023

- <https://capitalsoup.com/2023/07/11/ekiva-parkway-receives-best-in-construction-award-from-florida-transportation-builders-association/>

Superior Construction's Wekiva Parkway Section 6 Project Wins DBIA Florida Award - August 3, 2023

- <https://www.constructionequipmentguide.com/superior-constructions-wekiva-parkway-section-6-project-wins-dbia-florida-award/61943>

Florida Trend piece on Wolf Branch Innovation District featured Wekiva Parkway - September 1, 2023

- https://www.floridatrend.com/article/37800/wolf-branch-innovation-district?_ga=2.64685483.502769456.1695316094-758960081.1695316094

American Institute of Steel Construction – Modern Steel Construction Magazine: “Innovation on the Fly” - October 2023

- https://lsc-pagepro.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=7946&i=801285&view=articleBrowser&article_id=4637697&pre=1&ver=html5



Wekiva Parkway completion delayed - December 14, 2023

- <https://mynews13.com/fl/ekiva/news/2023/12/14/ekiva-parkway-completion-delayed?web=1&wdLOR=cD3B38D10-7A99-4D8B-AAB3-621A6294BEA7#>

MetroPlan: News on the Wekiva Parkway, SunRail, and Sunshine - December 18, 2023

- <https://theapopkavoice.com/stories/metroplan-news-on-the-wekiva-parkway-sunrail-and-sunshine-corridor,70127>

Awards and Recognition

As construction wraps up, the Wekiva Parkway continues to receive accolades for its massive mobility solutions, innovative construction and unprecedented environmental protections. The recognition of this legacy project has come from state and international industry organizations, and from local and regional governments.

The awards typically recognized FDOT, as well as the design, construction oversight and contracting firms.

Two regional transportation planning organizations – MetroPlan Orlando and the Lake-Sumter MPO – late in 2023 issued proclamations commemorating the Wekiva Parkway. The agencies recognized the parkway, “for vastly improving the way Central Floridians and visitors go to work, school, or play, making travel easier, safer and reducing trip times for commuters and commerce – all while preserving our treasured natural resources. ... (the parkway is) well on its way to becoming an iconic community feature inspiring regional pride and national recognition.”



Following are some of the Wekiva Parkway awards and recognition for 2023:

January 26, 2023

American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida (ACEC Florida) - Engineering Excellence Grand Award - Section 6

June 2, 2023

ACEC Florida Outstanding Project Awards - Section 6

June 28, 2023

Florida Transportation Builders Association's (FTBA) Best in Construction Award – Section 6

August 3, 2023

Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) Florida Award - Superior Construction / Section 6

November 8, 2023

Metroplan Orlando Board - Proclamation

November 17, 2023

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council 2024 Diamond Awards, Conservation and Countryside Award - Section 6

December 6, 2023

Lake-Sumter MPO Board - Proclamation

Documenting the Wekiva Parkway Legacy

The Wekiva Parkway is on the precipice of being fully realized. As this landmark project – that has been decades in the making nears completion – the agencies have been working to document this incredible feat of regional collaboration, enhanced mobility and environmental stewardship.

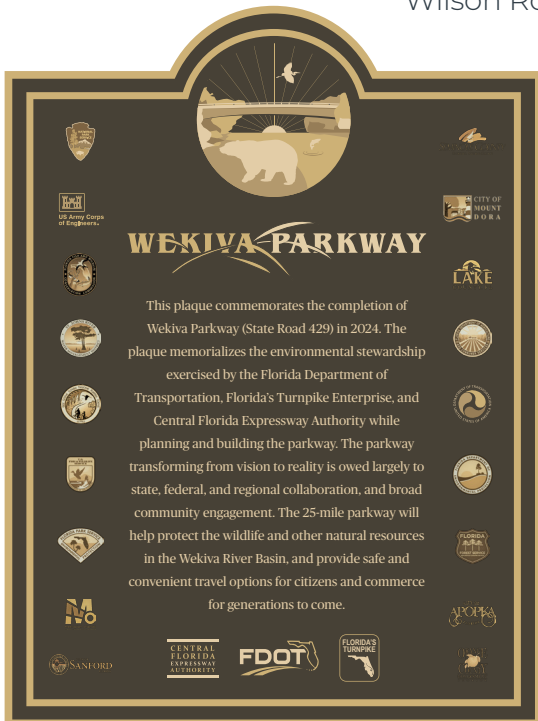
CFX anticipates completing a digital book on the Wekiva Parkway in 2024, and FDOT has a project video finishing production.



The department also spearheaded the development of project challenge coins as mementos for officials and staff alike. The vivid concepts serve as mementos of the parkway's success in completing Central Florida's beltway, while providing an alternative that helps keep people and wildlife safe while traveling through the Wekiva River Basin.



The department also is working on a couple of monuments to be located along the parkway corridor. A monument similar to what CFX placed on its section, featuring the Wekiva Parkway logo, is being implemented by FDOT for Section 8. The monument is likely to be located in the area of Wilson Road or the toll gantry.



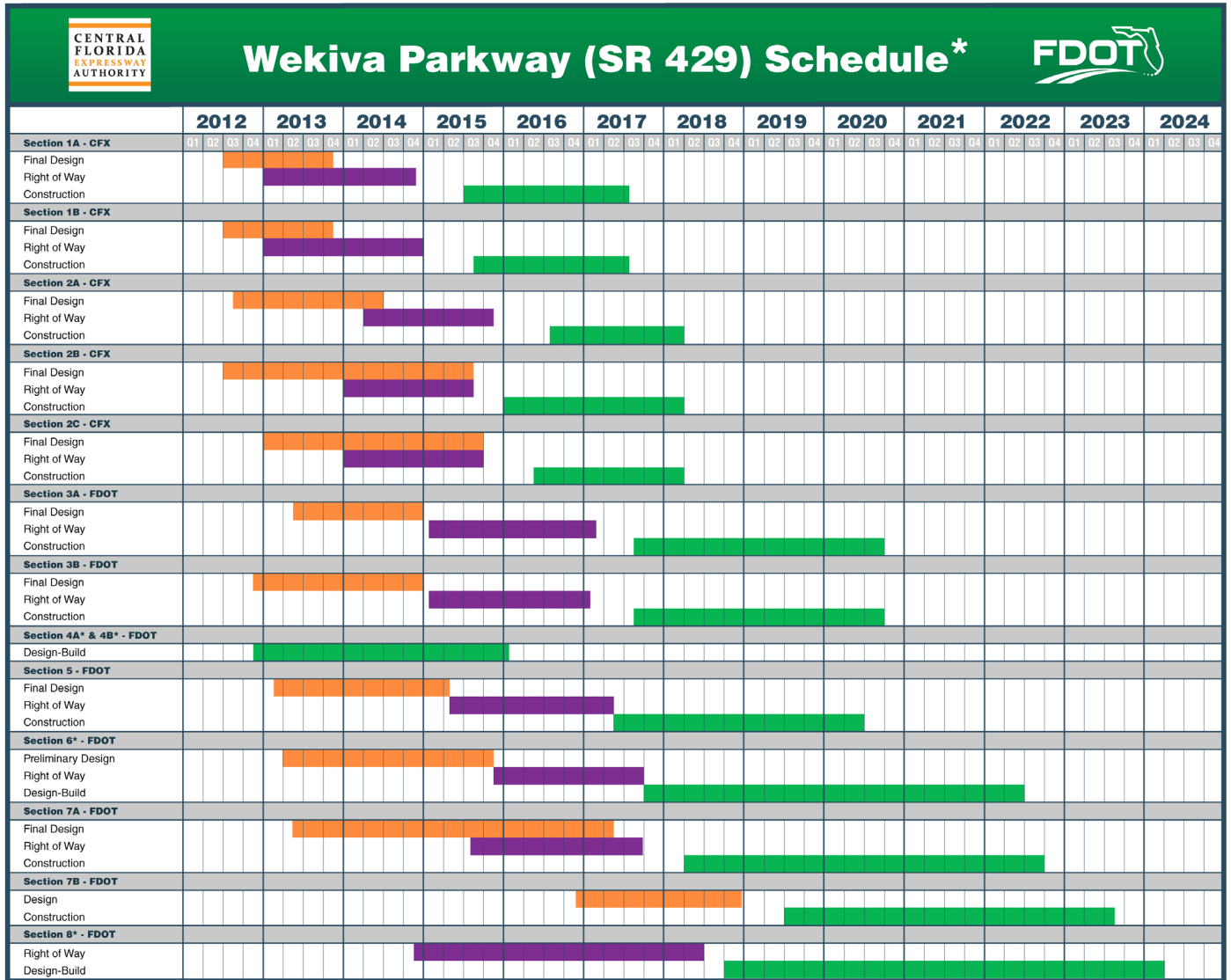
As part of the community festival planned for the completion ceremonies, a commemorative plaque will be mounted on an aesthetic rock at the Neighborhood Lakes Trailhead near the S.R. 429 interchange in Sorrento. The plaque will serve as a reminder to those using the parkway trail of all the hard work, dedication and collaboration that went into successfully implementing the parkway and all of its features.

Stakeholder Recognition

As this is the last project Wekiva Parkway Public Information Annual Report, the agencies would like to thank all of the elected officials, agency and government partners, environmentalists, business interests and other community members for helping the Wekiva Parkway vision to become a reality.



Project Schedule



*Schedule Subject to Change
 *For more information, visit www.wekivaparkway.com

For more information contact:
 Wekiva Parkway Community Outreach Team

Info@WekivaParkway.com
 (407) 710-5610
www.wekivaparkway.com

FB.com/WekivaParkway @WekivaPKWYInfo