



**For Immediate Release
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MEDIA ADVISORY: WEKIVA PARKWAY FIRST SECTION TO OPEN

SORRENTO, FL – The Florida Department of Transportation is scheduled to open the first section of the long-awaited Wekiva Parkway (State Road 429) **at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2016**. The department is opening Sections 4A and 4B from County Road 435 (Mount Plymouth Road) near Haas Road in Orange County to State Road 46 east of Camp Challenge Road in Lake County.

The \$1.6 billion Wekiva Parkway will complete Central Florida’s beltway, while helping to protect the natural resources surrounding the Wekiva River. Work on this first 3.14-mile parkway stretch began in February 2013, with a construction cost of \$25.48 million.

Media wishing to cover the opening will have access to an elevated viewing area from **5 a.m. - 9 a.m.** on January 20, 2016. **Media personnel must be in place by 9 a.m. to access this bridge.** No additional personnel can be allowed on the bridge once the road is open to traffic.

LOCATION: Media personnel should enter the project from SR 46 east of Camp Challenge Road (at the flashing signal and SR 429 signs) and proceed to the nearby bridge.

ATTIRE: Closed-toed shoes are recommended.

SECTIONS 4A & 4B DETAILS: A section fact sheet is provided with this media advisory.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT DETAILS: The 25-mile Wekiva Parkway is a collaboration between the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise and the Central Florida Expressway Authority. The parkway will feature all electronic tolling to keep traffic moving and for the greatest customer convenience. The Wekiva Parkway will provide travel alternatives, enhance safety and relieve US 441 and other area roads of traffic congestion. Non-tolled, one-lane service roads for local trips will parallel the parkway in portions of Lake County and Seminole County.

Authorized by the 2004 Wekiva Parkway & Protection Act, parkway development has included conserving more than 3,400 acres of land. The parkway will include extensive wildlife bridges, will be largely elevated and will relocate a small portion of County Road 46A out of the Seminole State Forest to reduce conflicts between vehicles and wildlife. The parkway will include a 10-mile, multi-use trail along portions primarily in Lake and Seminole Counties.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Olson, FDOT Public Information Manager at steve.olson@dot.state.fl.us, or by telephone at (386) 943-5479. You may also contact Public Information Officer Mary Brooks at info@wekivaparkway.com, or by telephone at (407) 694-5505. For maps and other information, you can also log onto the project website at www.wekivaparkway.com.