



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW WEKIVA PARKWAY WEBSITE SOURCE FOR PROJECT UPDATES

ORLANDO, FL - The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority today launched a website to serve as a community resource for the design and construction of the Wekiva Parkway (State Road 429).

The website, www.wekivaparkway.com, is in its initial stages and development will continue in coming weeks. Visitors to the website may view project maps, check project schedules, find the latest news about public meetings and events and submit inquiries for additional information.

The \$1.7 billion Wekiva Parkway is a collaborative effort between the FDOT, Expressway Authority and the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise. After receiving federal approval in May, the agencies are moving forward to begin final design of the first project segments.

Final design on the Expressway Authority's first two sections, from north of the SR 429 / US 441 interchange (west of Plymouth Sorrento Road) to north of Kelly Park Road, kicked off this month. Three of the FDOT's projects – including the interchange at US 441 and SR 46 in Mount Dora, and the parkway from County Road 435 in Mount Plymouth in Orange County to Old McDonald Road in Lake County – are expected to move into final design or design-build later this year.

The website is just one of the ways in which the agencies will continue to communicate with – and solicit input from – the public during the design process.

More information about the Wekiva Parkway

The planned 25-mile toll road will complete Central Florida's beltway around northwest metropolitan Orlando. The Wekiva Parkway also will provide an alternative to Interstate 4, and relieve US 441, SR 46 and other area roads of traffic congestion resulting from growth and travel between the Lake, Orange and Osceola counties.

Environmentalists hail the Wekiva Parkway as a shining example for transportation planning through environmentally sensitive areas. Authorized by the landmark 2004 Wekiva Parkway & Protection Act, development of the Wekiva Parkway has included setting aside more than 3,400 acres of land for conservation. The parkway also will include numerous wildlife bridges, and will be largely elevated to reduce accidents between vehicles and wildlife.

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