

PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

SUMMERLIN ROAD SIX-LANING DESIGN

**FROM
BOY SCOUT DRIVE TO CYPRESS LAKE DRIVE**

LEE COUNTY PROJECT #6007

Lee County, Florida

Prepared for:
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Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 398
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Lee County Department of Transportation makes it a practice to hold public meetings on all new roadway alignments and major improvements. These public meetings are held to inform and solicit input from the public regarding the specific project being presented. The Summerlin Road public workshop was held to solicit public input regarding the 30% design plans for the widening from Boy Scout Drive to Cypress Lake Drive.

A public information workshop for the Summerlin Road Widening Project was held on August 20, 2002 at the Cypress Lake Middle School cafeteria in Fort Myers. The limits of the project are from Boy Scout Drive to Cypress Lake Drive. The purpose of the workshop was to present project information to the public and to gather public opinion. A total of 90 people signed in at the registration table. Copies of the sign-in-sheets are attached as Appendix A.

The public workshop was advertised in the August 13, 2002 edition of the News-Press as a ¼ page display ad. Letters announcing the public workshop were mailed on July 30, 2002 to persons with property lying within 300' of the right-of-way. The Lee County Department of Public Resources transmitted a press release to local media on May 16, 2002. As a result of the press release two articles were generated in the News-Press. Two variable message boards were placed within the project limits for a period of one week prior to the workshop to inform the traveling public. Copies of the notification for the workshop and newspaper articles are attached as Appendix B.

The meeting was conducted in an open-format style that allowed the public to view the project material between the hours of 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Information regarding a noise study that was conducted in several areas around Lee County including the Summerlin Road corridor was available for review. Copies of the noise evaluation report were available for the public to purchase for a reproduction fee of \$53.32 per report. A copy of the request to purchase the report is in Appendix C. A project hand-out, that summarized the project to date, was provided to the public at the registration table. In addition, a brochure about the Lee County MPO and their planning process was available. Representatives from the Lee County Department of Transportation were stationed at the display boards to explain the project data and answer the public's questions. Copies of the public workshop hand-out and MPO brochure are attached as Appendix C.

The public was provided with comment forms in order to have their opinion recorded as public record. A total of 41 comment forms were received from the meeting and during the two-week comment period following the meeting. The comments were analyzed and recorded below. The response indicates if/how the project team is addressing the public comment. The numbers in parenthesis indicated the number of times the same or similar comment was submitted. Copies of the comment forms are attached as Appendix D.

In addition to the comment forms, the project team summarized the conversations held with persons attending the public workshop. In general the comments included discussions regarding the lack of a signal at the medial plaza/apartment complex, installation of a signal at Maple, noise walls and access management. The oral comment summary by the project team is attached as Appendix E.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

1. **Comment:** Need noise barrier – noise level will go up – should be at least 5’ or 8’ or 10’. (11)
Response: Lee County does not build noise barriers in county projects. A copy of our analysis for this project is available for \$53.00.
2. **Comment:** Want landscaping in medians, right-of-way & around detention ponds. (10)
Response: Core level landscaping (canopy trees and palms, flowering trees and bushes and sod) is included where possible on all improvements to existing facilities and new facilities in the medians and in some cases in both the ROW & medians. Core level landscaping does not include the area around dry retention areas.
3. **Comment:** There is nowhere to cross Summerlin Road for bicyclists or pedestrians. Even if crosswalks are constructed crossing a six-lane facility is very dangerous. Especially need a crossing at Antiqua Bay & Horizon for school children. (9)
Response: There are currently crosswalks along Summerlin Road at Cypress Lake Drive, ECC, College Parkway, and Park Meadows Drive. The new design will keep all of these crossings. Based upon public comments the county will be adding sidewalk to the east side of the road. The county is also relocating the proposed signal at the commercial property (just south of Boy Scout Drive) to Horizon Boulevard. The combination of additional sidewalk and a signal at this intersection allow for crosswalks.
4. **Comment:** Install a traffic light at the intersection of Antiqua Bay, Summerlin Medical Center & the Horizon Apartments instead of the proposed location further to the north just south of Boy Scout Drive. (7)
Response: The county is relocating the proposed signal to this intersection.
5. **Comment:** Reduce size of retention pond #12 so that existing landscaping can remain. (5)
Response: The design team is evaluating the possibility of reducing the size of this retention area.
6. **Comment:** Concerned about the merge to Whiskey Creek Drive with only one lane for left turns onto westbound College from Summerlin & the continuous right from Summerlin to westbound College – seems it will create a dangerous situation. (4)
Response: The current design will still provide dual left turn lanes from northbound Summerlin Rd. to westbound College Pkwy. Because of the free flow right turn movement from southbound Summerlin Rd. to College Pkwy. the right hand turn into Corporate Court has been closed. This will provide extended distance for lane changes before reaching Whiskey Creek/College Pkwy intersection.
7. **Comment:** Concerned about property values decreasing due to noise levels. (4)
Response: No detrimental effects to market values have been recorded on the majority of Lee County DOT completed projects. In several instances property values have increased after project completion.
8. **Comment:** Waste of tax money or tremendous waste of financial resources. (3)

Response: In 2001, Summerlin Road from Boy Scout Drive to Cypress Lake Drive was categorized as Level of Service (LOS D). This does not meet county standards. The traffic data also predicts a 38% increase in volumes by the year 2020 for the section of roadway between Boy Scout Drive and College Parkway. The current LOS combined with the future traffic projections establishes the need to increase the capacity for this section of roadway in order to meet the expected future traffic demands.

9. **Comment:** Nice Presentation or Good Idea to have this Open Forum. (3)
Response: No response necessary.
10. **Comment:** Widening of Summerlin Road will have a negative impact on Whiskey Creek Country Club Estates. (3)
Response: The new road will not be any closer to Whiskey Creek than the existing road is now. The curbing, sidewalk and existing walls will remain undisturbed.
11. **Comment:** Don't just widen existing roadways, consider adding roads between existing facilities (east-west routes). (3)
Response: This is not a viable option in an urban setting due to the dense development in the area. Right of way costs would be too high and would displace too many current residences and businesses.
12. **Comment:** Need to enclose all of the drainage (including detention ponds) to prevent disease. (2)
Response: These areas are "dry detention" areas and are designed not to hold water most of the time. Dry detention areas are a widely excepted practice around Florida and the rest of the United States.
13. **Comment:** Maintain and enforce 45 mph speed limit (2)
Response: The speed limit will be established according to the engineering criteria. Enforcement for the speed limit is the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement agency.
14. **Comment:** Problem is south of College Pkwy. The overpass to keep traffic moving doesn't make sense when you have traffic lights every few blocks anyway you have to stop for. (1)
Response: In order to achieve adequate Levels of Service for the projected volumes, the intersection requires an overpass.
15. **Comment:** New road should be constructed further east of the existing wall at Whiskey Creek to reduce noise and other negative impacts. (1)
Response: Moving the alignment further east would be cost prohibitive and impact large numbers of FPL structures.
16. **Comment:** Keep southbound right turn lane onto Presidential Court in design. (1)
Response: The slip ramp from southbound Summerlin Rd. to westbound Corporate Ct. has been eliminated from the design plans due to cost and private property impact.
17. **Comment:** Consider feasibility of noise walls made of other materials than currently used to reduce cost of noise barriers – find a compromise that both DOT and residents can live with. (1)
Response: Lee County does not build noise barriers in county projects. However, we are open to specific suggestions.
18. **Comment:** Would have been helpful to have small handouts of the plan. (1)

Response: Reduced scale plans are available upon request. Requests can be submitted to Cella & Associates, Inc.

19. **Comment:** Southbound directional left at Albertson as proposed will create accidents, eliminate it. (1)
Response: The southbound directional left at Albertson's has an ample length for both the deceleration and storage of cars turning left. This access will reduce the number of vehicles utilizing the signal at Cypress Lake and should reduce crashes.
20. **Comment:** Turn lanes onto College from Summerlin need to be longer. (1)
Response: All turning movements and related lanes have been extended as recommended by the Traffic Study Report performed by Metro Transportation. A design report was completed that analyzed the projected turning volumes. The turn lanes were designed to accommodate the future turning traffic. A copy of this report is available for your review by contacting Project Manager, Don DeBerry.
21. **Comment:** Lengthen right turn lane into Edison Community College or add a second right turn lane. (1)
Response: A design report was completed that analyzed the projected turning volumes. The turn lanes were designed to accommodate the future turning traffic. A copy of this report is available.
22. **Comment:** Improve drainage at area north of Boy Scout & Summerlin intersection. (1)
Response: A portion of this intersection will have to be redesigned as part of this project. All drainage within the limits of the intersection will be addressed and modified accordingly. Areas further north of the intersection itself will not be included within this project.
23. **Comment:** With six lanes and all that traffic who is going to want to use bike path along Summerlin? (1)
Response: There has been interest by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee with regard to bicycle facilities on this project. It is an individual's preference as to whether or not to ride a bike along this facility.
24. **Comment:** Summerlin & College needs a cloverleaf system. (1)
Response: Due to cost and space restrictions, the cloverleaf concept was not considered as a viable option for this intersection.
25. **Comment:** The "slip" ramp off Summerlin should be widened so it could be utilized as a two-way right-of-way. (1)
Response: The slip ramp from southbound Summerlin Rd. to westbound Corporate Ct. has been eliminated from the design plans due to cost and private property impact.
26. **Comment:** Install Green Belt Hedge as a noise barrier. (1)
Response: Vegetation has proved to be ineffective as a noise barrier. Its effects are largely psychological. Lee County does not build noise barriers in county projects.
27. **Comment:** With Brantley losing left turn - make the U-Turn under the over pass as simple a design as possible so it is user friendly. (1)
Response: Current design allows for u-turn movements under the overpass. The same design concept is being utilized at US 41 and Colonial Blvd. as well as McGregor Blvd, and McGregor and College Pkwy. The design criteria being used will allow for cars and trucks to make the u-turn movement easily.

28. **Comment:** Re-address flooding of retention area between University Grill and Albertson. Currently over flows into Albertsons parking lot. (1)
Response: This is a private property design characteristic and not part of this county project.
29. **Comment:** Slight modifications may come to the attention of the design engineers from public input, but basically the project will be a done deal. (1)
Response: Public meetings for the county roadway projects are held specifically to inform the public of the project and to solicit public comment. Public comments are addressed and where possible modifications to the design are made. The number of comments made with regard to any element of the project along with engineering criteria and cost feasibility help determine which modifications may be made.
30. **Comment:** Ban commercial trucks from using Summerlin. (1)
Response: Can't do that, as it would defeat the purpose of an arterial road.
31. **Comment:** Install traffic signal at Summerlin & Maple Drive. (1)
Response: The signal is being designed.
32. **Comment:** How will the existing wall between Whiskey Creek & Summerlin Rd. be protected from damage during construction of the proposed improvements? (1)
Response: Since the existing curb line along Whiskey Creek will remain in-place; there should be no construction equipment behind the curb. In the event that there is any damage to the wall from construction activities, the contractor will be responsible for making any repairs and/or replacing the damaged wall.