



ORLANDO - ORANGE COUNTY

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STATE ROAD 408

WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW: The morning rush hour commute for thousands of expressway customers will ease beginning Monday, September 14. The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority (OOCEA) will be opening the third Express Lane and an additional cash/receipt merge lane at the Conway West Plaza on State Road 408 (Spessard Lindsay Holland East-West Expressway). Two additional travel lanes will also open on westbound SR 408, resulting in a total of 5 travel lanes (plus an additional auxiliary lane between Conway Road and Crystal Lake Drive) between Goldenrod Road and Primrose Avenue. This also includes additional lanes opening on the Lake Underhill Bridge, an area that has constrained traffic flow during the rush hour commute. The opening of the additional travel lanes is part of a \$202 million widening and improvements project currently underway on SR 408 from Oxalis Avenue to Crystal Lake Drive. Additional improvements are scheduled to come in line later this fall as construction progresses towards completion. Currently, more than 130,000 vehicles travel this stretch of SR 408 daily. Traffic volume is expected to increase to nearly 218,000 vehicles a day by 2025.

PURPOSE:

- This is part of OOCEA's \$640 million SR 408 widening and improvements program, which broke ground 6 years ago on September 12, 2003.
- The Expressway Authority is converting all main toll plazas to accommodate Express Lanes that enable E-PASS customers to pay tolls at the posted highway speed, for better, safer and faster travel on the Authority's system.
- This project will improve traffic flow into and out of downtown Orlando.
- SR 408 is the second-most heavily traveled road in Central Florida next to I-4.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: Construction costs exceed \$202 million for the SR 408 widening and improvements between Oxalis Avenue and Crystal Lake Drive, including Lake Underhill Bridge.

PROJECT START: October 2006

ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Early 2010 for major construction activities

IMPACT TO MOTORISTS, COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT:

- This work is being performed while maintaining the same number of travel lanes that existed prior to construction in order to maintain the same capacity for the expressway.
- A significant amount of work was performed at night and on weekends during off-peak travel times to minimize impact to motorists.
- This project is estimated to have created over 400 direct construction jobs sourced in Central Florida.
- Careful planning went into the work to make sure that it was performed in an environmental sensitive manner, especially the bridge work on Lake Underhill.
- Going Green – one of the main tasks of this project was to remove the original concrete pavement and replace it with asphalt pavement. Traditionally, the removed concrete would have been disposed of in area landfills. Instead, OOCEA recycled the old concrete and used it as a foundation for the new road. To date, over 100,000 tons of concrete have been recycled on this project.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- A much anticipated highlight of this work includes the addition of a new pedestrian bridge across Lake Underhill set to open at the conclusion of the construction.
- The addition of cable stay bridge aesthetic features will serve as a gateway feature for Orlando.
- This project includes the installation of eight-foot, stepped sound barrier walls with decorative panels and post caps. Each bridge overpass in this area will also feature decorative architectural pylons, columns, panels, planter walls and slope enclosure walls.
- Improved roadway lighting.

PREVIOUS MILESTONES FOR CRYSTAL LAKE DRIVE TO OXALIS AVENUE WIDENING:

- Opening of new Express Lanes at the Conway East (April 2008) and Conway West Plazas (November 2008) on SR 408.
- Reconfiguration of westbound SR 408 exit to SR 436, including a new traffic light at that intersection to improve safety for motorists at that intersection.
- Replaced the SR 408 bridge over SR 436 to provide a single span and eliminated columns to provide room for the addition of dual left turn lanes onto Lake Underhill Road from southbound SR 436.

PREVIOUS MILESTONES FOR SR 408 WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:

- Fall 2005 - Completion of the SR 408 widening between Tampa Avenue and the I-4 interchange.
- Fall 2006 – Completion of SR 408 Hiawassee Toll Plaza conversion to Express Lanes.
- Summer 2007 – Completion of the widening of SR 408 between Crystal Lake Drive and the I-4 interchange.
- Fall 2007 – Completion of the SR 408 widening between Tampa Avenue and Hiawassee Road including the opening of the Pine Hills Toll Plaza featuring Express Lanes.

The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, established in 1963 by the Florida Legislature, is responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of a 105-mile limited-access expressway system to serve the metropolitan Orlando area. The Expressway Authority's system includes SR 408, SR 528 (Martin B. Anderson Beachline Expressway), SR 417 (Central Florida GreeneWay) and SR 429 (Daniel Webster Western Beltway). The Expressway Authority was the first to bring Electronic Toll Collection to Florida with the inception of E-PASS in 1994. Today, there are more than 490,000 E-PASS transponders in use.