



Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

JIM BOXOLD
SECRETARY

May 11, 2015

**SUBJECT: SR 7 from SR 704/Okeechobee Boulevard to Northlake Boulevard, Palm Beach County
Financial Project Identification Numbers: 229664-4 and 229664-3**

Dear Elected Official:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) invites you or a member of your staff to attend a public information meeting concerning the design of the SR 7 Extension from SR 704/Okeechobee Boulevard to Northlake Boulevard in Palm Beach County. The meeting will be held Wednesday, June 3, 2015 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Expo Center, Gate 8, Building 10 at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33411.

The meeting will follow an open house format. Attendees will preview meeting materials, maps and boards. The meeting will provide you an opportunity to review the current project concepts, ask questions, and submit comments concerning the project.

The intent of this project is to design an efficient connection between Okeechobee Boulevard and Northlake Boulevard for the western areas of Palm Beach County. The project includes widening SR 7 from SR 704/Okeechobee Boulevard to 60th Street North and extending SR 7 north from 60th Street North to Northlake Boulevard. Elements of the project include: drainage, signing and pavement markings and signalization. Attached for your information is a copy of the meeting flyer, which will also be sent to property owners (and businesses) near or within the project limits. Your comments regarding this project are welcomed and appreciated.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Fausto Gomez, P.E., FDOT's Project Manager, at (954) 777-4466 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

For additional information regarding the project, please visit the FDOT project website at sr7extension.com. Should you have questions regarding the project or this meeting, please contact Fausto Gomez, P.E. at the number listed above or via e-mail at fausto.gomez@dot.state.fl.us. You may also contact Barbara Kelleher, District Four Public Information Director, at (954) 777-4091 or via e-mail at barbara.kelleher@dot.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerry O'Reilly".

Gerry O' Reilly, P.E.
District Four Secretary

Attachment

You're Invited to a Public Information Meeting

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is holding a public meeting regarding the SR 7 Extension Design Project.

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Time: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: Expo Center, Gate 8, Building 10
South Florida Fair Grounds
9067 Southern Boulevard
West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

The meeting will follow an open house format. The purpose of this meeting is to present the design concept for this project to the public. There will be no formal presentation. Representatives from the FDOT and the project team will be available to answer questions. Maps, drawings and other information will be available.

THE PROJECT INCLUDES:

- Adding two new travel lanes west of the existing road between Okeechobee Boulevard and 60th Street North to provide two lanes in each direction.
- Milling and resurfacing of the existing roadway from Okeechobee Boulevard to the roundabout at 60th Street North.
- Reconstructing the 60th Street North roundabout from a one-lane facility to a two-lane facility.
- Constructing a four-lane divided roadway on a new alignment from 60th Street North to Northlake Boulevard.
- Constructing crossings over the M Canal and the Ibis Preserve spillway.
- Constructing sidewalks and bicycle lanes.



PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

FDOT Project Manager
Fausto Gomez, P.E.

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309
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FDOT Public Information Director
Barbara Kelleher

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Email: Barbara.Kelleher@dot.state.fl.us

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State Road 7 Extension Design Project

from SR 704 / Okeechobee Boulevard to Northlake Boulevard
Palm Beach County
Financial Project ID Nos.: 229664-4 and 229664-3

The Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) SR 7 Extension project will provide an efficient connection between Okeechobee Boulevard and Northlake Boulevard for the western areas of Palm Beach County. This project will help accommodate increasing growth and travel demands within western Palm Beach County and is vital in satisfying capacity and mobility needs. The improvements will also help with emergency response and evacuation by providing additional connectivity to the area.

The FDOT is moving forward with the final design of the SR 7 Extension Project. The final design is based on extensive outreach and coordination related to the evaluation of impacts to wetlands, threatened and endangered species and their habitat during the project's project development and environment (PD&E) phase. The PD&E phase found no significant impacts and resulted in the following avoidance and minimization measures: reduction in the median width from 60th Street North to Northlake Boulevard; reduction in the width of drainage treatment areas; location of all storm water outfalls to the west to existing storm water systems; elimination of a proposed pond site; removal of the shared use path on the east side of the roadway, replaced by sidewalk; reduction of design speed; reduction of bridge footprint across the M-Canal; placing alignment as far west as possible; reduction of secondary impacts to wetlands in the Grassy Waters Preserve; incorporation of environmental mitigation; inclusion of wildlife fencing along the east and south sides of the corridor and inclusion of wildlife crossings. In addition, FDOT established design and construction conditions and commitments to avoid and minimize direct and indirect impact to endangered species.

The design is anticipated to be complete by late 2015 for the widening from Okeechobee Boulevard to 60th Street North and late 2016 for construction of a new four-lane divided facility from 60th Street North to Northlake Boulevard. Construction is anticipated to start late 2016 for the widening from Okeechobee Boulevard to 60th Street North and late 2019 for construction of a new four-lane divided facility from 60th Street North to Northlake Boulevard. For more information and for project updates, visit the project website at www.sr7extension.com.

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