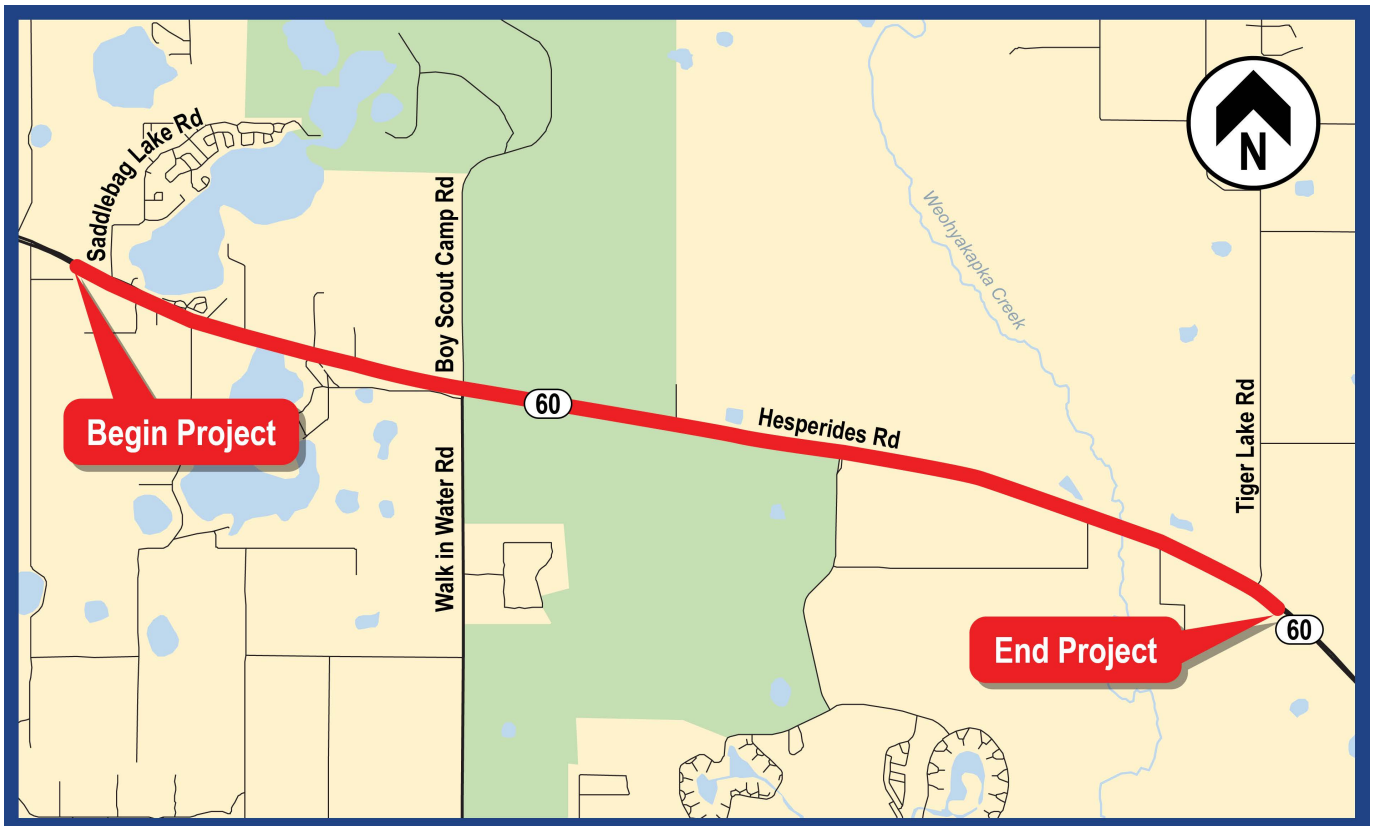




# COMMUNITY AWARENESS PLAN

SR 60 FROM W. OF SADDLEBAG LAKE ROAD TO E. OF TIGER LAKE ROAD  
FINANCIAL PROJECT ID# 449276-1

DISTRICT ONE  
Polk County



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## **COMMUNITY AWARENESS PLAN**

This Community Awareness Plan (CAP) for **FPID 449276-1, SR 60 from W. of Saddlebag Lake Road to E. of Tiger Lake Road** has been prepared in accordance with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Design Manual, Part 1.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. OBJECTIVE OF CAP / INTRODUCTION**

As part of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) continued effort to increase the level of community involvement on all types of transportation improvement projects, Community Awareness Plans (CAPs) are developed on all transportation design projects. The objectives of this CAP are as follows:

- Notify local governments, affected property owners and tenants, as well as the general public of FDOT's proposed construction and anticipated impacts of that construction.
- Resolve any potentially controversial issues during the design phase prior to construction.
- Establish a process for achieving effective community awareness and public involvement.

This document discusses the specifics of these particular projects including descriptions of the projects; proposed improvements; estimated construction activities; anticipated controversial issues, if any, associated with the projects; anticipated traffic control measures; and public involvement activities, including but not limited to any anticipated agency or public meetings, if any.

Through the CAP, the need for the projects will be relayed effectively and emphasized to the public, elected and appointed officials, and other community stakeholders. Ideas and input will be sought from persons living and working in the area. All questions and concerns will be addressed, stakeholder comments will be documented, and a response will be provided.

**II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

FPID: 449276-1

SR 60 from W. of Saddlebag Lake Road to E. of Tiger Lake Road

City: Lake Wales

County: Polk

Limits: W. of Saddlebag Lake Road (MP 6.469) to E. of Tiger Lake Road (MP 12.642)

The project was identified as a result of deficient pavement conditions noted in the 2021 Pavement Condition Survey and is intended to extend the service life of the existing roadway. The project consists of milling and resurfacing SR 60 from west of Saddlebag Lake Road to east of Tiger Lake Road. Additional improvements include a proposed restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT) at the Walk in Water Road intersection, widening to provide 8-foot inside shoulders (4-foot paved) along each side of the median, and outside widening for new right turn lane keyholes. A public meeting will be held to inform the public about these changes.

**Description of Existing Conditions**

SR 60 from west of Saddlebag Lake Road to east of Tiger Lake Road is a 4-lane divided rural roadway with two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, a 46-foot grassed median, 10-foot outside shoulders (4-foot paved), and 8-foot inside shoulders. Within the project limits there are eight (8) westbound and five (5) eastbound right turn lanes that do not have keyholes. There are no existing sidewalks, ADA ramps, or pedestrian crossings. The posted speed limit is 65 mph.

**Community Description and Demographics**

SR 60 from west of Saddlebag Lake Road to east of Tiger Lake Road is located just east of the Lake Wales city limits. The demographic characteristics of the one-quarter mile project buffer, obtained from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice (EJ) Screening and Mapping Tool, indicate a Hispanic population of 15% with 35% of the population over the age of 65, 14% under the age of 18, and a per capita income of \$22,923. These numbers differ from Polk County as a whole in that the project buffer contains a higher percentage of individuals over the age of 65 and individuals under the age of 18, a lower percentage of a Hispanic population, and a lower per capita income. The data also indicates that 6% of individuals speak English “less than very well”. Therefore, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) accommodations should not be necessary.

The corridor is primarily rural with a few small businesses, residential communities, and various scattered single-family homes and farms. There are also several camping and lodging facilities. Additional community features identified near the project limits include:

- Residential Communities
  - Saddlebag Lake Resort
  - South Shore Resort
  - Walden Shores of Lake Wales
  - Lakeshore Club Villas
  - Nalcrest
- Camping/Lodging/Resorts
  - Lake Aurora Christian Camp and Retreat Center
  - Lake Rosalie Park and Campground
  - Bud’s RV Park & Marina
  - Camp La Llanada
  - North Walk in Water Campground
  - Uncle Joe’s Fish Camp
  - The Harbor Waterfront Resort
  - Butch’s Hideaway RV Park
- Parks/Conservation Areas
  - North Walk in Water Creek
  - Flaming Arrow Scout Reservation
  - Lake Wales Ridge State Forest
- Commercial Businesses
  - Shell Gas Station
  - Jay Bees Restaurant
  - Route 60 Diner
  - Dollar General
  - Shiners Unlimited Bait Shop
  - Struther’s Honey Farm
  - The Sugar Barn at Flying Osceola Ranch

- Places of Worship
  - Beulah Church
  - Helping Hands of Christ Ministry
- Removing the Barriers/Stirring Waters Water Park

**ADJACENT/NEARBY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

- 444484-1: SR 60 from W. of Dude Ranch Road to E. of Rattlesnake Road
- 439437-1: SR 60 from Tiger Lake Road to CR 630

**III. PREVIOUS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EFFORTS/CONCERNS**

There were no previous public involvement efforts/concerns.

**IV. POTENTIAL ISSUES / CONCERNS**

- Maintaining access and connectivity during construction
- Maintaining access for emergency vehicles

**V. SPECIAL COMMITMENTS**

There are no known special commitments.

**VI. TRAFFIC CONTROL DESIGN CONSIDERATION / ACCESS MANAGEMENT**

**A. Traffic Control/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)**

The project team will design a safe and effective traffic control plan to move vehicular traffic during all phases of construction. The design will include signing and pavement markings.

All work zone traffic control will be performed in accordance with the Florida Department of Transportation's Standard Plans for Road Construction Index 102-000 Series.

The team will consider the local impact of any temporary lane closures. Local impacts such as local events, holidays, and peak seasons will be considered. Peak hour lane closures (possibly any daytime) will be avoided.

**B. Access Management**

A public meeting will be held 180 days prior to the completion of the design phase. Access to local properties, businesses, and residences will be maintained to the extent practical through controlled construction scheduling and the implementation of the project's specific Traffic Control Plan(s) and implementation of FDOT's Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.

**C. Construction Schedule**

The production dates for each project are to be determined. Estimated time of construction will be determined during the design phase.

**D. Contract Time**

The contract time for design will be 24 months in length.

**VII. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT****A. Public Involvement Level**

Before public involvement activities can be developed for a project, the level of public involvement must be ascertained. The Public Involvement Level outlined in the CAP guidelines for a project such as this is a **Level 2**: project has general public acceptance, little impact on accessibility or traffic, and a moderate degree of traffic disruption.

**B. Public Involvement Activities**

The following activities will be conducted as part of the public involvement for this project:

**1. Identification of Concerned Public**

Refer to efforts identified in Part VII, Section C. Public Notification Techniques.

**2. Identification of Federal, Regional, State and Local Agencies**

The following local, regional, state, or federal agencies having a concern in the project due to jurisdictional review or expressed interest will be contacted directly by FDOT at the onset of the project. As other concerned public agencies are identified throughout the project, they will also be listed and contacted (see **Appendix A** for a current list of contacts, which will be updated periodically throughout the duration of the project):

**STATE:**

- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**REGIONAL/LOCAL/MUNICIPAL:**

- Polk County
- Polk County Public Schools
- Polk County Sheriff's Office
- Polk County Fire Rescue
- City of Lake Wales
- Lake Wales Police Department
- Lake Wales Fire Department
- Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

**UTILITIES:**

- Charter Communications
- Duke Energy
- Florida Public Utility
- Florida Southeast Connection
- Frontier
- Peace River Electric Cooperative

**3. Identification of Local Elected Officials**

The following local, state, and national public interest groups having a direct or expressed interest in the project will be identified and contacted by FDOT (see **Appendix B** for a current list of contacts, which will be updated periodically throughout the duration of the project):

- United States Senators
- United States Representatives
- Florida State Senators
- Florida State Representatives
- Polk County Board of Commissioners
- Polk County Constitutional Officers
- Lake Wales City Commission
- Lake Wales City Officials

**4. Identification of Special Interest Groups**

The following organizations having a direct or expressed interest in the project have been identified and will be contacted by FDOT:

- Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce
- Interested parties will be added to the project mailing list, as necessary

**C. Public Notification Techniques**

Drafts of all public involvement documents (i.e., newsletters, property owner letters, advertisements, etc.) associated with the following tasks will be submitted for review and approval at least 20 business days prior to printing and / or distribution.

**1. Public Notification**

The following resources will be used to notify the public of the proposed transportation improvement and solicit public input during the project development process:

- Electronic email notifications to elected and appointed officials
- Florida Administrative Register (FAR) for public meeting
- Newspaper display ad for public meeting
- Outreach to businesses and residences
- Share information on agency websites and social media platforms
- Posting of public meeting on FDOT website

**2. Direct Mail**

A direct mailing list will be developed and used to notify concerned agencies, groups, and individuals of the public meeting. This list will include:

- Owners of property and their tenants lying in whole or in part within a minimum of 300 feet of the centerline of the proposed project improvements, including surrounding areas and utility owners
- Special interest groups who request inclusion on the mailing list
- Other individuals who request inclusion on the mailing list



**3. Median Modification Letters**

A median modification letter will be sent to property owners along the corridor, where applicable, with a sketch of the proposed median modification at Walk in Water Road for inclusion with the letter.

**4. Driveway Modification Letters**

Not applicable.

**5. Online Notification**

Information on project milestones, etc. to be available on [www.swflroads.com](http://www.swflroads.com), in coordination with District One's Public Information Office. A project specific page will be created and updated quarterly or as needed. The webpage will contain a project location map, contact information, meeting information, and any materials that are presented to the public.

Information on project milestones will also be shared on FDOT social media accounts and for posting on local agency websites.

**6. Project PowerPoint**

A project PowerPoint presentation with recorded voice over will be prepared and used at the public meeting during the design of the project.

**7. Public Meetings**

One hybrid public meeting will be held during the design of the project.

The public meeting will be advertised in the Winter Haven Sun (local newspaper), in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR), on the FDOT project website, and on the FDOT meeting announcement website.

Meeting sites will be investigated to advise the Department of their suitability. To comply with the 2005 Jessica Lunsford Act, public school facilities for grades K-12, should not be used for public meetings.

**8. Public Meeting Attendance and Follow Up**

The appropriate number of personnel will be on hand to seamlessly assist and support the Department's project manager.

A summary of the public meeting will be provided, including all materials shown at the meeting, all written comments and questions made during the meeting, and the responses to those written comments.

**9. Local Agency | Other Meetings**

Presentations to, or attendance at, county, city, or other group meetings will be as needed or requested.

**10. Additional Notifications**

Phase submittals will be provided through the ERC system to the FDOT maintenance, construction, and operations offices.

**VIII. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT NOTIFICATION METHODS AND ACTIVITIES DURING CONSTRUCTION**

Public involvement activities will include:

- Determining the need for a PIO consultant prior to CEI scope of service development.
- Providing construction dates and traffic information for the District PIO Weekly Traffic Report starting one week prior to construction start and maintaining throughout construction.

**IX. ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE**

**A. Project Schedule(s)**

The project schedule will be updated periodically throughout the duration of the project. The dates below are tentative and subject to change.

**FPID 449276-1: SR 60 from W. of Saddlebag Lake Road to E. of Tiger Lake Road**

- CAP Submittal: February 2023
- Phase II Plans Submittal: May 2023
- Public Meeting: TBD
- Phase IV Plans Submittal: December 2023
- Production Date: April 2024
- Project Letting Date: July 2024

## **APPENDIX A**

### APPOINTED OFFICIALS LIST

## Appointed Officials

### 449276-1: SR 60 from W. of Saddlebag Lake Road to E. of Tiger Lake Road

Name	Position	Email Address
<b>Polk County</b>		
Bill Beasley	County Manager	billbeasley@polk-county.net
Ryan Taylor	Deputy County Manager – Infrastructure	ryantaylor@polk-county.net
Joe Halman, Jr.	Deputy County Manager – Public Safety	joehalman@polk-county.net
Randy Mink	County Attorney	randymink@polk-county.net
Benjamin Dunn	Division Director, Building	benjamindunn@polk-county.net; BuildingDivision@polk-county.net
Mianne Nelson	Public Information Coordinator	miannenelson@polk-county.net
Paul Womble	Director of Emergency Management	paulwomble@polk-county.net
John Bohde	Director of Planning & Development	johnbohde@polk-county.net
Gaye Sharpe	Director of Parks & Natural Resources	gayesharpe@polk-county.net
Tamara Richardson	Director of Utilities	tamararichardson@polk-county.net
Jay Jarvis	Director of Roads and Drainage	jayjarvis@polk-county.net
Hezedeane Smith	Fire Chief	hezedeansmith@polk-county.net
Parag Agrawal	Executive Director, Polk TPO	paragagrawal@polk-county.net
Ryan Kordek	Transportation Planning Administrator, Polk TPO	ryankordek@polk-county.net
Frederick Heid	Polk County Public Schools Superintendent	frederick.heid@polk-fl.net
Vaughn Belcher	Polk County Public Schools Director of Public Transportation Operations	vaughn.belcher@polk-fl.net
George Millar	Assistant Director, Transportation Operations	george.millar@polk-fl.net
Brian Bruchey	PIO, Polk County Sheriff's Office	bbruchey@polksheriff.org
<b>City of Lake Wales</b>		
James Slaton	City Manager	jslaton@lakewalesfl.gov
Jennifer Nanek	City Clerk	jnanek@lakewalesfl.gov

Chris Velasquez	Police Chief	cvelasquez@lakewalesfl.gov
Joe Jenkins	Fire Chief	jjenkins@lakewalesfl.gov
Brittany Simpson	Fire Marshal	bsimpson@lakewalesfl.gov
Darrell Starling	Community Redevelopment Agency Project Manager	dstarling@lakewalesfl.gov
Beverly Pennington	Director of Public Works/Support Services	bpennington@lakewalesfl.gov
Stephanie Edwards	Support Services/Recreation Manager	sedwards@lakewalesfl.gov
Sarah Kirkland	Public Works/Utilities Director	skirkland@lakewalesfl.gov
Jasmine Khammany	Senior Planner	jkhammany@lakewalesfl.gov
Mark Bennett	Development Services Director	mbennett@lakewalesfl.gov
<b>Additional Stakeholders</b>		
Skip Alford	President/CEO, Lake Wales Area Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Center	skip@lakewaleschamber.com

## **APPENDIX B**

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS LIST**

## Elected Officials

### 449276-1: SR 60 from E. of Saddlebag Lake Road to E. of Tiger Lake Road

Name	Position	Email Address
<b>Polk County</b>		
George Lindsey, III	Vice Chair, District 1	georgelindsey@polk-county.net
Rick Wilson	Commissioner, District 2	rickwilson@polk-county.net
Bill Braswell	Commissioner, District 3	billbraswell@polk-county.net
Martha Santiago	Chairman, District 4	marthasantiago@polk-county.net
Neil Combee	Commissioner, District 5	neilcombee@polk-county.net
<b>City of Lake Wales</b>		
Jack Hilligoss	Mayor, Seat 1/At-Large Commissioner	jhilligoss@lakewalesfl.gov
Robin Gibson	Deputy Mayor, Seat 5/District 28 Commissioner	rgibson@lakewalesfl.gov
Terrye Howell	Seat 3/District 122 Commissioner	thowell@lakewalesfl.gov
Daniel Williams	Seat 2/District 19 Commissioner	dwilliams@lakewalesfl.gov
Daniel Krueger	Seat 4/District 27 Commissioner	dkrueger@lakewalesfl.gov
<b>Constitutional Officers</b>		
Grady Judd	Polk County Sheriff	gjudd@polksheriff.org
Stacy M. Butterfield	Polk County Clerk of the Court & Comptroller	stacybutterfield@polk-county.net; taylorcarson@polk-county.net
Joe Tedder	Polk County Tax Collector	joetedder@polktaxes.com
Marsha Faux	Polk County Property Appraiser	marshafaux@polk-county.net; pahelpdesk@polk-county.net
Lori Edwards	Polk County Supervisor of Elections	info@polkelections.com
<b>State</b>		
Sam H. Killebrew	State Representative, District 48	sam.killebrew@myfloridahouse.gov
Colleen Burton	State Senator, District 12	burton.colleen@flsenate.gov
Scott Franklin	Congressional Representative, District 18	scott.franklin@mail.house.gov
Marco Rubio	US Senator	susan_fernandez@rubio.senate.gov
Rick Scott	US Senator	barry_cotton@rickscott.senate.gov