

North East Orange County Areawide Transportation Study (NEOCATS) Community Meeting #2

Question and Answer (Q&A) Forum

Below is a summary of the comments and questions received during the March 30th, 2022, GoToWebinar (from 6 to 7 p.m.), along with responses.

Question 1

The intersection at Lake Pickett Road/North Tanner Road has an accident almost every month. Is your committee aware of this? For example, when a car turns left, this delays the cars turning right. Will you address this? Finally, at this same intersection, the light sometimes gives a green turn arrow, and other times it does not give a green arrow, therefore cars do not have that initial chance to turn left on to North Tanner Road. Please address. Thank you. Monday - Friday at the same intersection, trying to turn left delays the right turn. Can you consider a left lane?

Response: We will look at this intersection and work with our Traffic Engineering Department to resolve the issue. This could be related to improperly working loop detectors in the ground, or the camera video detection system. If not working properly, they might not detect the vehicles in the left lane which could explain why the left turn movement is sometimes skipped.

Question 2

McCulloch Road does not have any bicycle lanes. The McCulloch Road section East of Lockwood Boulevard is only two lanes. This is very dangerous for those on bikes and electric skateboards. Does this study account for this and recommend additional roads or dedicated bicycle lanes?

Response: Yes, this is part of the planned improvements presented. Currently, the County is undertaking a roadway conceptual analysis (RCA) study for McCulloch Road from Lockwood Boulevard to N Tanner Road to determine the need for the roadway to be widened from two lanes to four lanes, as well as the needs at the intersections. All these improvements will include complete streets improvements, which includes sidewalks on both sides of the road, bicycle facilities, and/or shared-use paths. This segment is included in the presentation and is planned for sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides of the road.

Question 3

North Tanner Road was recently repaved; however, they did not place any reflectors alongside the divider lines. This makes visibility at night extremely low and dangerous. Does this study account for these low visibility issues?

Response: Yes. This can be part of the short-term improvements and can be implemented right away.

Question 4

For years there has been discussion about adding an overhead walkway for students crossing from the east to west side of Alafaya Trail and University Boulevard. Students crossing the Alafaya/University

intersection are just putting their lives at risk daily. Some fatalities have already occurred here. Crashes not people. Get students/folks off the cement and overhead. What is going on with that project?

Response: As mentioned in the presentation, funding has already been identified within the next five years (programmed improvements) to include two mid-block crossings – 1) Alafaya Trail just south of University Boulevard and 2) On University Boulevard just west of Alafaya Trail, and a multi-purpose path with an eight-foot sidewalk on the west side of Alafaya Trail and a 10-foot multi-purpose path on the east side of Alafaya Trail to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians. Moreover, the programmed improvements at this intersection are anticipated to improve the safety of pedestrians/bicyclists such as reducing the intersection corner radii (to slow down vehicles making right turns).

Question 5

Has Seminole County agreed to give land for expansion of McCulloch Road from Orion Boulevard to Tanner Road? If not, this road section is constrained!

Response: As mentioned before, we are conducting a roadway conceptual analysis (RCA) - to identify any right of way needs and environmental impacts. Based on the amount of traffic that will be using this road, it will need to be widened or be part of a complete streets program. After the completion of this RCA study, we will identify the needs in terms of right of way acquisition or environmental impacts. Before going into the detailed engineering design, we will first have to discuss the improvements with Seminole County and the other stakeholders.

Question 6

What affect will the Sustanee development have on the 2045 planned improvements and these changes?

Response: As of today, Sustanee has not been approved. The community meeting held on 03/29/2022 was the first step in the process. We did include the Grow and proposed Sustanee developments as part of the NEOCATS to determine the long-term needs of the study area. Sustanee is still in the early stages. The County does not know at this time whether it is going to be approved.

Question 7

Has Orange County changed their Urban/Rural boundary on the East side? If not, and if rural densities are maintained correctly, the massive increases in traffic will not take place.

Response: No, the urban service boundary has not been extended. It primarily follows the Econlockhatchee River. To clarify, the urban source boundary does not extend to Chuluota Road.

Question 8

What happens at the BCC meeting after this (study) is complete?

Response: At this point, we have developed draft recommendations. Based on public feedback, we will then finalize the recommendations, and prepare the final report. The recommendations will then be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC will determine which types of improvements can be implemented. As presented, we have identified short-term, mid-term, and long-term improvements. We will provide the planning level roadway improvement costs to the BCC. Based

on the evaluation and cost information, they will determine whether there is enough funding to implement any of them.

Question 9

Will any widening to CR 419 keep the roadway as a rural cross section or be designed as an urban (curb and gutter) cross section? (Great presentation, Thanks!).

Response: Thank you. Like McCulloch Road, Chuluota Road from State Road 50 to Lake Pickett Road is undergoing a roadway conceptual analysis (RCA), which is a planning level study. The next step would be a detailed engineering design, after which we will be able to determine the appropriate roadway type (i.e., curb and gutter or a rural roadway).

Question 10

Would extra lanes on McCulloch Road be on the Seminole County or Orange County side of the road?

Response: McCulloch Road is currently one lane in each direction. If widened, it would be widened to two-lanes in each direction. The widening would occur on the Seminole County side since the County line is right down the middle of the existing right of way. Seminole County has been approving developments that front along McCulloch Road and have set back those developments to accommodate the four-lane roadway.

Question 11

SR 50 is fairly constrained for right of way acquisition, limiting effective capacity improvements. Reconsider an elevated reversible toll lane system from SR 520 to SR 408 and have FDOT and CFX share cost and revenue capture. This handles peak demand and fits within SR 50 right of way limits. Limit entry/exits accordingly for this proposed limited access corridor.

Response: To assess the feasibility of a toll lane system on SR 50, two projects were conducted. One of the projects conducted by the Florida's Turnpike, the Colonial Parkway project, considered a toll road, with an elevated section along portions of SR 50. The other project from the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX), studied the extension of SR 408 to the east. Right now, both projects are on hold. Although the SR 408 extension has been put on hold, it has been identified as a need in the CFX 2045 Master Plan. We do not know at this time whether any of those projects will move forward in the future.

Question 12

Are the proposed dedicated bus lanes going to have right of way so they will not get stuck in traffic?

Response: Right now, LYNX is not considering a dedicated lane on the roadways within the study limits. However, the LYNX Transit Development Plan has identified the need for enhanced transit service, including increased frequency of busses and an express route that will go on SR 50 from Ocoee to Alafaya Trail and then on Alafaya Trail from SR 50 to UCF.

Question 13

Will McCulloch Road ever be extended to meet State Road 419?

Response: Because of the potential environmental impacts to the Econlockhatchee River, there are no plans to extend McCulloch Road from N Tanner Road to County Road 419.

Question 14

How quickly can we expect short-term improvements to begin?

Response: Short-term improvements are considered for the Year 2025 in this study. The main challenge is funding. Based on this study, we will identify recommended improvements based on your feedback. Once we identify the improvements, we will prioritize them according to funding, and hopefully implemented by the year 2025, or within the next five years.

The following questions/comments were not addressed during the live meeting due to time constraints.

Question 15

Is the grassed buffer between the sidewalk and vehicle travel lanes going to be narrowed or completely used for through vehicle lanes?

Response: As mentioned before, a roadway conceptual analysis (RCA) and detailed engineering design must be completed before construction. Then we will be able to determine the appropriate roadway typical section, i.e., if the grassed buffer will be narrowed or completely removed. However, in most cases we always prioritize pedestrian safety so we will make sure to keep a reasonable buffer between the sidewalk and the travel lanes.

Question 16

When North Tanner Road was repaved, at Stonebriar's entrance there was a gap. Please pave the gapped area. Thank you.

Response

Thank you for letting us know. We will inform the same to the relevant department.

Question 17

What density (#of dwelling units) was used when you factored LPS & LPN into your study?

Response: As was presented in the Community meeting for Sustanee and previously for the Grow, we included the same developers' development programs.

Question 18

Can you please review the proposed road expansion timelines?

Response: As presented, we have identified programmed, planned, and needs improvements for the study roadways. The programmed improvements (SR 50 six-lane widening from Avalon Park Boulevard to SR 520) is being scheduled for construction in Year 2027 per the latest information from FDOT. As for the planned improvements, they are anticipated to be constructed before 2045 based on availability of funds and other factors.

The needs-based improvements are identified as part of this study that are needed beyond the planned improvements, but a potential funding source or a timeline is not yet identified for them. Based on the cost estimates for these improvements, the responsible agency/agencies will identify if there is funding available to implement them.

Question 19

Perhaps this is a question for staff, where does the money come from to pay for all of these improvements and is there money for any of this?

Response: There are several sources. However, the main source is Transportation Impact Fees. Other sources include INVEST program as well as developers' proportionate share contribution for newly approved developments which must be used within the same development to mitigate their impacts.

Question 20

Great presentation – thanks

Response: Thank you.

Question 21

Expansion of McCulloch Road between Orion Boulevard and Tanner Road is not required. This section is absolutely constrained.

Response: As mentioned before, this is part of the planned improvements presented. Currently, the County is undertaking a roadway conceptual analysis (RCA) study for McCulloch Road from Lockwood Boulevard to N Tanner Road to determine the need for the roadway to be widened from two lanes to four lanes, as well as the needs at the intersections. The RCA study will also identify potential right-of-way requirements.

Question 22

Currently, the sidewalks on North Tanner Road and McCulloch Road are degraded and uneven. They are in dire need of repair and maintenance. Can this be addressed?

Response: Sidewalk improvements on McCulloch Road and N Tanner Road are included under planned/needs improvements in this study. We will also contact the relevant department within Orange County to see if this can be taken care of now.