

Slide 1 - Introduction Slide

The Florida Department of Transportation would like to welcome you to this hybrid public meeting for the US 17 at Experiment Station Road/Lee Jackson Road median modification project in Polk County. The following presentation will play on a loop for the duration of this meeting.

Participation Formats



UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center



This public meeting is being recorded.




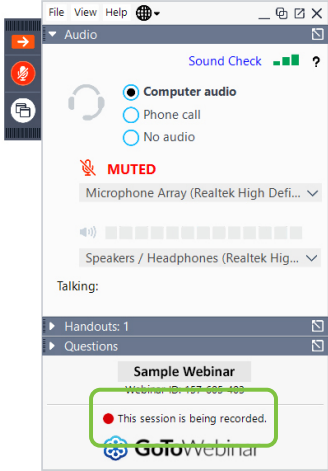
Slide 2 – Participation Formats


This public meeting complies with the FDOT Public Engagement guidance issued April 18, 2022. To provide multiple opportunities for the public to receive information and provide input, tonight’s hybrid Public Meeting uses both a face-to-face and a virtual component. Attendance at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center allows for in-person participation. Virtual attendance is available through GoToWebinar and over the phone. There is no cost to the public to participate in this event.

All attendees participating by electronic device or phone will be muted during the presentation.

Florida Department of Transportation

GoToWebinar



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Slide 3 – GoToWebinar

Before we begin the project presentation, we would like to familiarize online attendees with the GoToWebinar platform. On your computer or device screen, you should see a control panel that looks like this. The default audio setting will play sound from your computer or device speakers. If you prefer to listen by phone, select “Phone call” in the Audio pane of the control panel, then dial-in using the information displayed. All attendees will be placed in Listen Only mode throughout the presentation.

Technical Difficulties/“Listen Only”



Dial-in
for audio

1-415-930-5321
Frght#584-454-090



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slides

GoToWebinar Support

www.support.goto.com/webinar

- Technical support library
- Live chat

www.SWFLRoads.com/ExperimentStationRoad



Slide 4 – Technical Difficulties or Listen Only

If you experience technical difficulties with GoToWebinar or do not intend to provide comment during tonight’s public meeting, you may download the presentation slides at www.SWFLRoads.com/ExperimentStationRoad and follow along through your phone audio by dialing 1-415-930-5321 and entering access code 584-454-090. Dial-in attendees who are not also logged into the webinar do not have an option to type comments during tonight’s event.

GoToWebinar also offers a technical support library and live chat feature at www.support.goto.com/webinar.

All materials related to this public meeting are currently accessible on the project webpage for those who were unable to participate in tonight’s live event.

Project Team

- Walter Breuggeman, P.E., FDOT Project Manager, FDOT District One
- Megan Hurst, FDOT Traffic Specialist, FDOT District One
- Tim Horst, P.E., Lochner on behalf of FDOT District One
- Susan Joel, P.E., Atkins on behalf of FDOT District One
- Colleen Crigger, P.E., Stanley, Inc on behalf of FDOT District One



Slide 5 – Project Team

With us this evening, either remotely or at the venue, we have the following project team members: Walter Breuggeman, FDOT Project Manager, Megan Hurst, FDOT Traffic Specialist and Tim Horst, Susan Joel and Colleen Crigger, Consultant Project Engineers.

Regulations Governing Tonight's Public Meeting

- Section 120.525, F.S. – Meetings, Hearings and Workshops
- Section 286.011, F.S. – Government in the Sunshine Law
- Section 335.199, F.S. – Transportation Projects Modifying Access to Adjacent Property
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other Nondiscrimination Laws



Slide 6 – Regulations Governing Tonight's Public Meeting

Public Meetings are a regulated forum for presenting information and obtaining public input. Tonight's public meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to express their opinions and concerns about the access management modifications on US 17 at Experiment Station Road/Lee Jackson Road in Polk County, Florida.

Tonight's public meeting is consistent with the federal and state requirements shown on the screen.

Title VI

Public Meetings hosted by the Florida Department of Transportation comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons wishing to express concerns about Title VI may do so by contacting Florida Department of Transportation District One Title VI Coordinator Cynthia Sykes, or Interim State Title VI Coordinator Aldrin Sanders, at the contact information listed on the screen. This contact information is also included in the public notifications that were published for this project.

Cynthia Sykes

FDOT District One Title VI Coordinator
801 N. Broadway Avenue
Bartow, Florida 33830
863-519-2287
Cynthia.Sykes@dot.state.fl.us

Aldrin Sanders

Interim FDOT State Title VI Coordinator
605 Suwanee Street, Mail Station 65
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
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Aldrin.Sanders@dot.state.fl.us



Slide 7 – Title VI

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Public Notices

FDOT
Florida Department of Transportation

Public Notice
Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

Subject: US 17 at Experiment Station Road Safety Improvements

Location: US 17 at Experiment Station Road, Lake Alford, FL 33880

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One is holding a Public Meeting/Workshop Hearing to present the proposed median modification improvements at the intersection of US 17 at Experiment Station Road in Lake Alford, Florida. The proposed safety improvements will include the installation of a median barrier, a median opening, and a median extension. The proposed improvements will be installed in the project area shown on the map. The map can be viewed online through the project website at www.fdot.com.

Public Meeting/Workshop Hearing: The public meeting/workshop hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. at the US 17 at Experiment Station Road, Lake Alford, FL 33880. The meeting will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the US 17 at Experiment Station Road, Lake Alford, FL 33880. A map showing the project location and location for the project is posted on the project website.

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The News-Press Legal Ad

Property Owner/Tenant Notifications

www.SWFLRoads.com

RELIABLE. ORGANIZED. ACCURATE DATA SHARING

Florida Administrative Register Posting

Slide 8 – Public Notice

Notice for this public meeting, including information on how to access the online meeting platform, was:

- provided by mail to property owners and tenants in the project area,
- posted in The Lakeland Ledger Newspaper,
- in the Florida Administrative Register,
- on the FDOT Public Notices website,
- on the FDOT SWFLRoads.com website,
- And on FDOT Social media.

A media release was also issued.

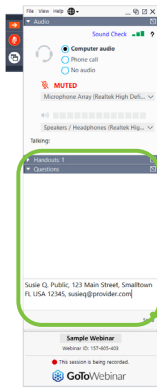
Submitting Comments During Tonight's Hearing

FDOT PUBLIC MEETING COMMENT FORM

Project Name: US 17 at Government Station. Public Meeting Date: December 15, 2022. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by January 2, 2023.

In-person Participants

- Turn in a Comment Form to submit a written statement



- **Online Participants**
• Type contact information + written comment



Slide 9 – Submitting Comments During Tonight's Hearing

The Florida Department of Transportation encourages community members to participate in this access management project project by submitting comments to the project team. All comments received will be included in the public record.

- In-person attendees who would like to offer a written comment should complete a Comment Form. This form can be placed in the comment box this evening or emailed or mailed to the FDOT Project Manager at the addresses provided on the form.
- Online attendees wishing to provide a written comment may type their contact information, followed by their comment, into the Questions pane of the GoToWebinar control panel.

Submitting Comments After Tonight's Public Meeting



Walter Breuggeman, P.E.
FDOT District One
PO Box 1249
Bartow, FL 33830-1249



www.swflroads.com/ExperimentStationRoad



863-519-2327



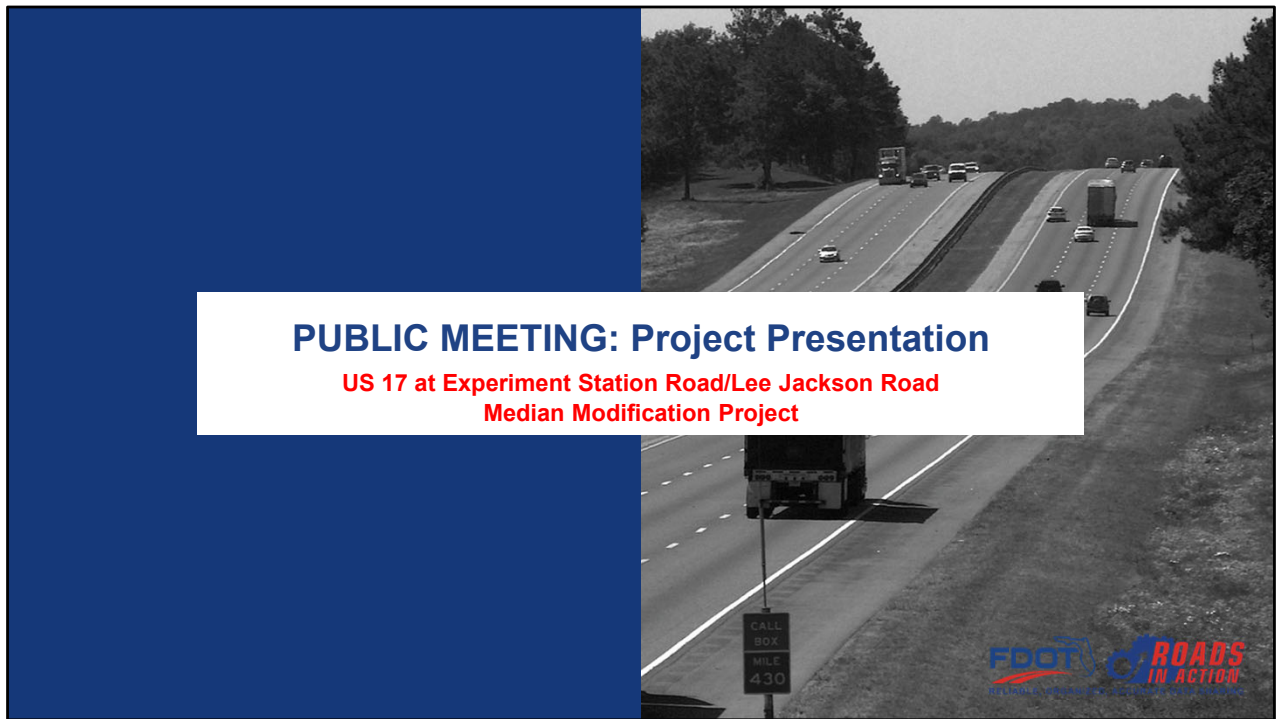
Walter.Breuggeman@dot.state.fl.us

Comments received or postmarked by
January 3, 2023
will be included in the official public record.



Slide 10 – Submitting Comments After Tonight's Meeting

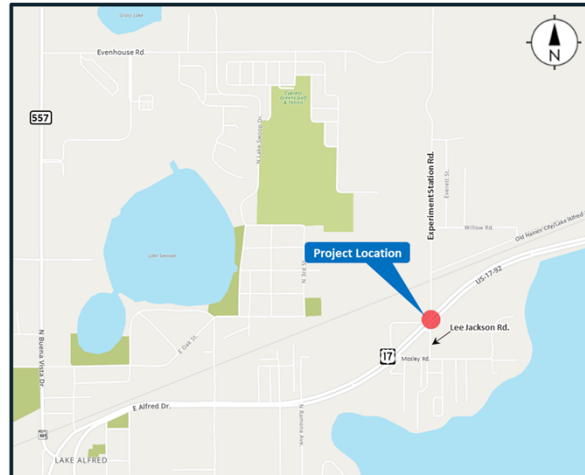
Project materials and this presentation are available on the SWFLRoads.com website. Questions or comments may be submitted to Project Manager Walter Breuggeman via mail, email, the project website or phone. All comments received or postmarked by January 3, 2023, will become part of the official public record. The addresses and phone number on this slide were provided in public notifications.



Slide 11 – Project Presentation

Good evening. This slide marks the beginning of the Project Presentation for the US 17 at Experiment Station Road/Lee Jackson Road access management design project in Polk County.

Project Area



Slide 12 – Project Area

This project includes median modification to the intersection of US 17 at Experiment Station Road/Lee Jackson Road. This intersection is surrounded by Sunshine Used Appliances, Redwood Apartments, Oak Grove Cemetery and the University of Florida IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center.

At the project location, US 17 is a four-lane divided roadway with a grassed median. The median separates the two eastbound lanes from the two westbound lanes. The posted speed limit is 55 mph.

Proposed Activities to Improve Safety

- Median Modifications



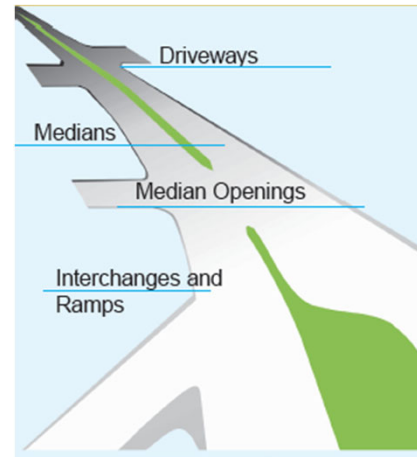
Slide 13 – Proposed Activities to Improve Safety

The project is intended to increase safety along US 41 by managing access at the intersections of US 17 at Experiment Station Road/Lee Jackson Road. Access management is being applied by converting the existing “full” median access to “two-way directional” median access.

Balancing Access and Safety

- Access to properties increases the mobility of people and goods
- Openings for vehicles to enter/exit a roadway interrupt traffic flow and present conflicts
- Roadway features like medians and median openings can help to manage access to properties

The control of the location, design and spacing of:

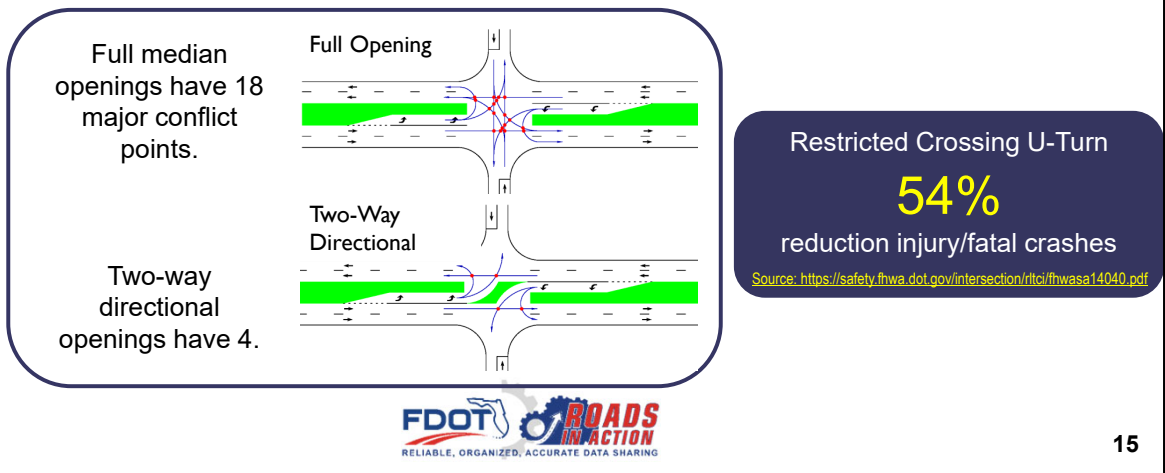


Slide 14 – Balancing Access and Safety

One of the most important responsibilities of the Florida Department of Transportation is to ensure that the design of each state road properly balances access and mobility. Increased access supports the mobility of people and goods within a corridor; however, as the number of access opportunities increases, so do the potential interruptions to traffic flow. Each interruption, or conflict point, presents a safety concern. Adjusting roadway configurations to maintain property access while limiting the number of conflict points is known as access management. The purpose of access management is to provide access in a manner that preserves the safety and efficiency of the transportation system.

Conflict Points

- Areas where paths legally cross within an intersection
- Reducing the number of conflict points increases safety



Slide 15 – Conflict Points

Conflict points are areas where vehicle paths legally cross within an intersection. For example, when one vehicle turns right to enter a roadway, it must merge into the path of vehicles that were already heading straight on that roadway. This requires vehicles traveling in different directions (and at different speeds) to share the same space. Crashes are most likely to occur at these conflict points. This graphic illustrates how the number of conflict points changes based upon converting a “full” median access to a “two-way directional” median access. The “two-way directional” median access reduces the number of conflict points by restricting the thru and left turn movements from the side streets. These side street movements are redirected to turn right onto the main road followed by a U-turn at an adjacent median opening. This is called a restricted crossing u-turn.

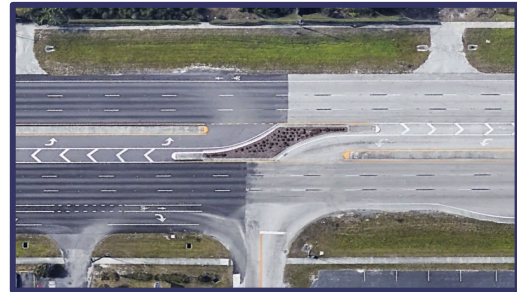
With a Restricted Crossing U-Turn, drivers stopped at the side street waiting to cross or turn left no longer must navigate a complex intersection with two directions of traffic often traveling at high speeds. The restricted crossing u-turn results in a 54% reduction in injury and fatal crashes.

Managing Access through Median Openings



Drivers traveling in both directions share the space in a **full median opening** (above).

Drivers have a dedicated turning space separated from opposing traffic in a **directional median opening** (below).



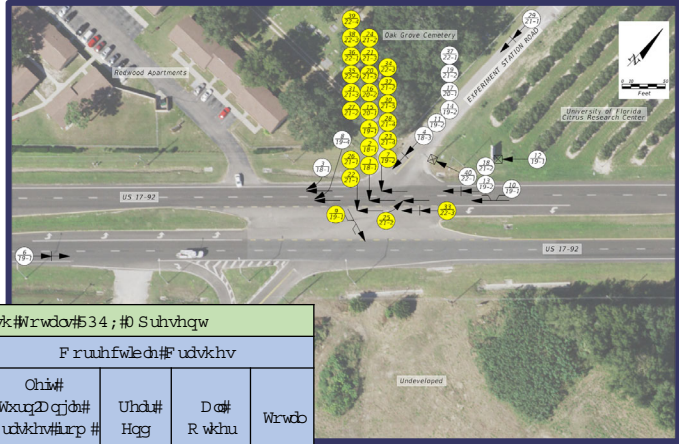
Slide 16 – Managing Access Through Median Openings

A full median opening allows left turns for vehicles from each intersection approach along the main roadway and side streets. Turning vehicles would maneuver in a shared space with many conflict points within the median opening.

A two-way directional median opening is configured so that only vehicles traveling along the main roadway can access it to make a turn. Left turn and through movements from side streets are removed. On an east-west main roadway, there would be one directional opening for eastbound left and U-turning traffic and a separate directional opening for westbound left and U-turning traffic. This configuration has fewer conflict points and provides improved visibility by managing the placement of vehicles within the median.

Performance Predictions

- 63% reduction in crashes



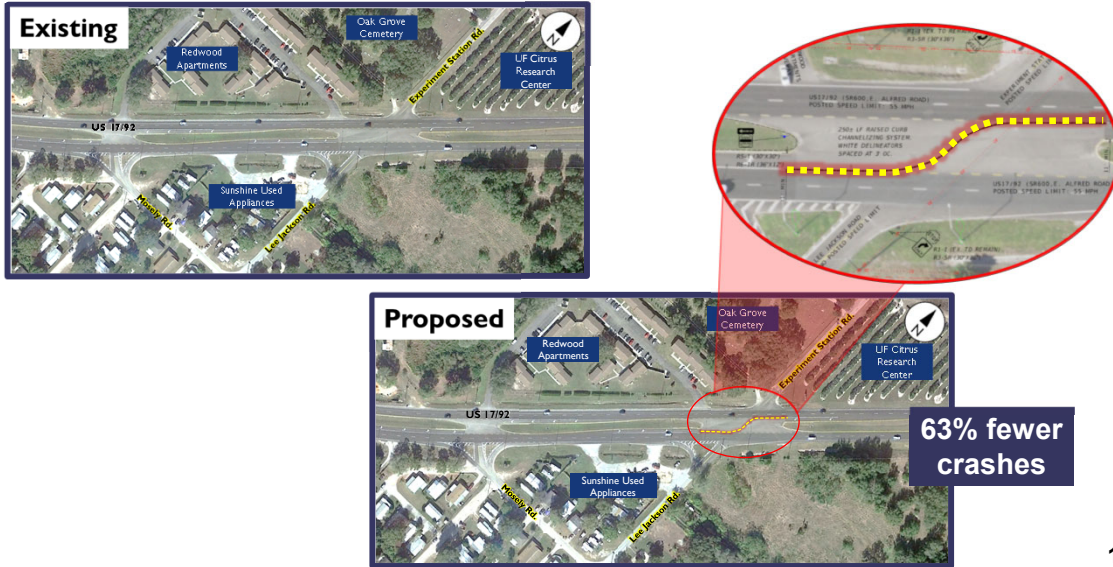
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Slide 17 – Performance Predictions

The diagram shown summarizes all crashes at the intersection from the year 2018 to present, which includes a total of 40 crashes that resulted in 42 injuries and one fatality. The table compares the number of fatal/incapacitating and total crashes at the intersection from the year 2018 to the present, under current and proposed conditions. By eliminating left turn movements onto US 17, a 63% reduction in crashes is expected at the Experiment Station Road intersection.

Proposed Median Modification at Experiment Station Road



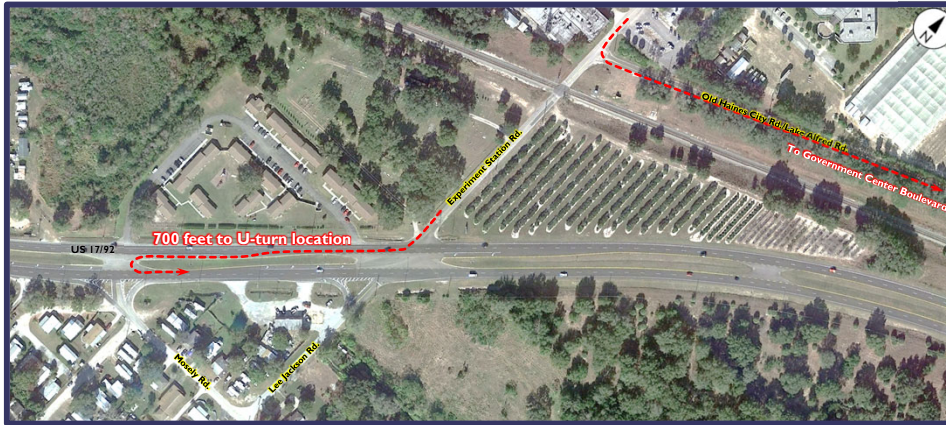
Slide 18 – Proposed Median Modification at Shadow Creek Blvd.

To reduce crashes and increase safety, the full median opening at US 17 and Experiment Station Road/Lee Jackson Road will become a two-way directional median opening. This modification is expected to reduce the number of crashes at the intersection by 63%.

Impacts at Experiment Station Road

No left turn or thru movements from side street

- Right then U-turn
- Travel along Old Haines City Road/Lake Alfred Road



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Slide 19 – Impacts at Experiment Station Road

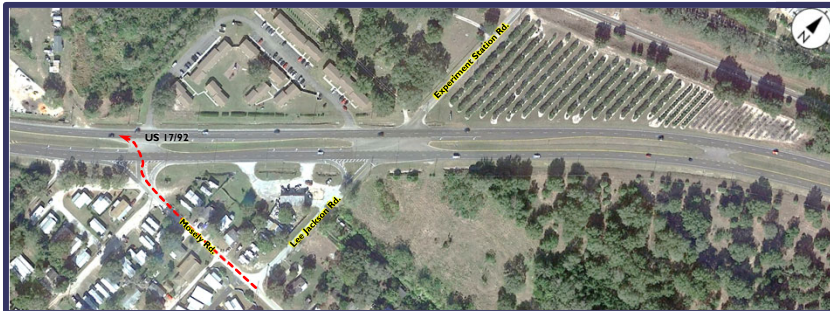
Drivers accessing US 17 from Experiment Station will no longer have the option to turn left to enter eastbound US 17 or travel through onto Lee Jackson Road. Instead, they will turn right onto westbound US 17 and proceed to the median opening at Mosely Road, which is approximately 700 feet from the Experiment Station Road intersection.

Alternatively, drivers can travel along Old Haines City Road/Lake Alfred Road to Government Center Boulevard and enter eastbound US 17.

Impacts at Lee Jackson Road

No left turn or thru movements from side street

- Use Mosely Road
- Right then U-turn



Slide 20 – Impacts at Lee Jackson Road

Drivers accessing US 17 from Lee Jackson Road will no longer have the option to turn left to enter westbound US 17 or travel through onto Experiment Station Road. Instead, they can use the existing full median opening at Mosely Road.

Project Schedule and Cost

- Install temporary curbing – December 2022
- Estimated cost of short-term improvements less than \$25,000
- Evaluation of alternatives – Ongoing
- Design of preferred alternative – TBD
- Construction – TBD



Slide 21 – Project Schedule and Cost

In order to quickly reduce crashes and improve safety at the intersection, FDOT plans to install temporary curbing to convert the full median opening to a two-way directional median opening by the end of this year. The estimated cost of this improvement is less than twenty-five thousand dollars.

Alternative improvement options are being considered for the intersection. FDOT will continue to evaluate those alternatives while monitoring the operations at the intersection after the temporary curbing is installed. Once a preferred alternative is determined, the design plans for long term improvements will be provided to you at a future meeting. Construction of long-term improvements is not currently funded.



Slide 22 – Safety Reminder

Before we conclude tonight’s presentation, we would like to share this safety message. The Florida Department of Transportation shares the national traffic safety vision, “Target Zero Deaths,” and has a statewide plan focused on eliminating fatalities and reducing serious injuries on all public roads.

Florida’s Lane Departure and Intersection Coalition, Impaired Driving Coalition, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition, Occupant Protection Coalition, Motorcycle Safety Coalition, Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, Teen Safe Driving Coalition, Distracted Driving Coalition, Work Zone Safety Coalition, and Traffic Records Coordination Committee would like to take this opportunity to remind you to please, drive safely and obey all traffic laws. Thank you.