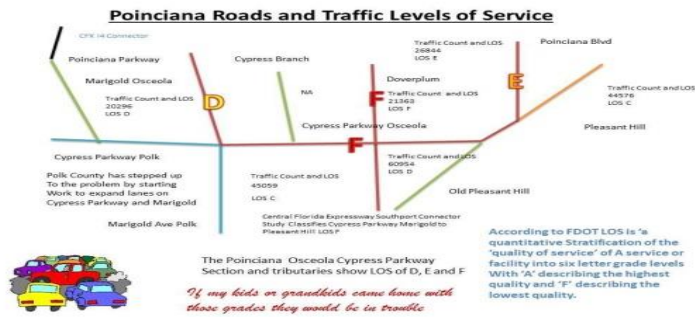




Poinciana Transportation Meeting minutes

On Tuesday evening Oct 1, 2019 Keith Laytham spoke at the Poinciana Library about the current state of Poinciana Transportation issues. Poinciana of course lies between Polk and Osceola Counties. From a transportation viewpoint Poinciana is served by the two counties, Central Florida Expressway Authority for toll roads, Lynx for Osceola Bus service, Citrus Connection for Polk County Bus service and SunRail for commuter rail service. Rather than asking each to make a separate presentation at the meeting Keith Laytham made the presentation with help from each of the involved groups.



Poinciana Roads and Traffic Levels of Service

The current state of Poinciana traffic ratings for each of the major roads as taken from the Osceola County web site was presented and discussed. The grades ranged from D to F with most of the major roads such as Cypress Parkway being graded at F. The comment was made that if kids were to bring home a report card with such poor grades the child would be in big trouble.

Poinciana Traffic Long Term Plan



To address the long term Poinciana road improvement requirements a chart showing the Metroplan Orlando long range road plan for Poinciana was presented. The chart shows plans for a southern beltway around

Orlando. Roads would be constructed heading west below Lake Toho through Poinciana to connect to I4. Those roads were to include the Poinciana Parkway, Poinciana Parkway Extension, connection of the extension to I4 at 429 interchange and the Southport Connector road connecting the south end of Poinciana Parkway to the Florida Turnpike using the right of way along Cypress Parkway through Poinciana to connect south of Lake Toho to the Florida Turnpike. The good news announced at the meeting is that it is expected that by the end of the October 10,2019 CFX board meeting each of the planned road segments affecting Poinciana will be either built, being built or into the funded study phase of development. This is truly good news for Poinciana.

Poinciana Parkway Expanded to Four Lanes

Poinciana Parkway



The Poinciana Parkway Expansion to 4 lanes will be done as part of CFX working to take over Poinciana Parkway from OCX

The first road built as part of the Poinciana toll road network was the Poinciana Parkway. What a tremendous success story. The road was built on time and within budget. The original traffic projection of 4,000 cars per day only allowed for initial construction of two lanes. Today's actual traffic volume on the road exceeds 10,000 cars per day. As a result, Central Florida Expressway Authority has announced that they will be refinancing the bonds and expanding the parkway to 4 lanes probably with construction being completed within 3 to 5 years.

Poinciana Parkway Extension

Poinciana Parkway Extension

Florida Turnpike Enterprise has now programmed a PD&E Study to begin evaluation of connecting Poinciana Parkway Extension To I4 at 429 Intersection

Osceola County will widen CR532 from 2 to 4 lanes between Old Lake Wilson and 17/92



The next road to be built will be the Poinciana Parkway extension. The Poinciana Parkway Extension will extend the north end of Poinciana Parkway to Osceola County Road 532 which will connect to I4 at Champions gate interchange, Disney and 429. CR 532 and the Champions gate interchange are already heavily congested so it was announced at the meeting that at the same time the Poinciana Parkway Extension is completed CR

532 will be widened to 4 lanes all the way from 17/92 to Old Lake Wilson Road and there will be made significant improvements to the Champions Gate I4 interchange. Both projects were described at the meeting. It was also announced that Florida Turnpike Enterprise has begun a study to connect the north end of the Poinciana Parkway extension directly to I4 and 429 expressways.

Southport Connector

Southport Connector Cypress Parkway Segment

CFX has now adopted an updated study for Southport Connector into their official work plan

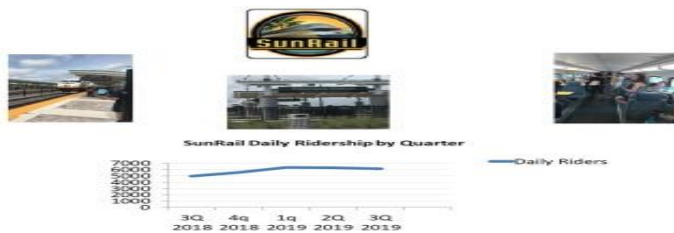


Southport Connector Turnpike Segment



At the meeting it was also announced that Central Florida Expressway had approved a revision to the original study that was done for the Southport Connector project. The Southport Connector project will link the southern end of Poinciana Parkway to the Florida Turnpike. This study was originally done several years ago but rejected by the CFX Board because the cost projections were too high compared to the projected revenues and thus did not meet the state legal requirements for as project. Recent developments include a reduction in cost projections for land acquisition plus increased traffic projections thus making the project appear to be financially more feasible.

SunRail



The meeting also discussed the current atate of the SunRail project which includes as its most southern station Poinciana. It was stated that the original projection for Sunrail ridership was 6300 riders per day. Like the Poinciana Parkway it appears that the ridership projection was low compared to actual ridership. The early 2019 monthly ridership numbers sometimes approached 6900 riders per day. Even during the slower summer months in Central Florida the daily ridership remains right at the original projection. Questions were asked about expansion of SunRail operating hours to include late nights and weekends. The answer is that they do run special trains late nights and occasionally on weekends for special events but that permanent late night and weekend expansion would most likely not happen until the counties take over the operation of SunRail in 2021.

Osceola and Polk Counties

The meeting concluded with a discussion of what the two counties were doing to address the Poinciana transportation problems. Osceola County discussed expansion around Champions Gate to relieve traffic congestion as well as some projects such as expansion of Reeves Road/ Poinciana Blvd interchange and adding additional lanes at the Poinciana Blvd/ 17-92 interchange. Additional traffic signal and sidewalk projects were discussed.

Polk County described how they were expanding Marigold to 4 lanes between Palmetto and Cypress Parkway and how Cypress Parkway was being expanded to 4 lanes between the Marigold intersection and Poinciana Parkway. Polk County is also expanding Lake Wilson Road to 4 lanes connecting Ronald Reagan to CR532 at Champions Gate.

Lynx and Citrus Connection Bus Service

Last but not least it was stated at the meeting that it appeared that Osceola County had money in their next year budget to add a new Lynx bus route between the center of Poinciana and the Poinciana SunRail Station. Polk County Citrus Connections stated that they would be taking over the former 416 and 603 Polk Poinciana bus routes and running them using Citrus Connection buses instead of Lynx buses. They also said that they were adding new East Polk Bus routes between Posner Park, Lake Wales and Poinciana to better serve the needs of Polk County residents.

PRFSC would like to thank all the officials from the two counties, Central Florida Expressway Authority, Lynx, Citrus Connection and Sunrail for providing the input that made this meeting possible.