



Poinciana December 2018 Transportation Update

On Tuesday December 4, 2018 officials from Osceola County and their partners provided a transportation update for the residents of Poinciana and surrounding areas. The event was held at Poinciana's Valencia College campus and was well attended. The event was covered by Spectrum TV 13 news. Please check out the news video at <https://youtu.be/k6Yw8Z6QGaM>.

Overall the event provided good news and bad news to the community. As the morning traffic report included in the TV13 news clip says, it is a daily occurrence in Poinciana that there is very heavy traffic congestion on Pleasant Hill Rd, Poinciana Blvd and Ham Brown Road. This is not new. It has been a problem for years. The building of the Poinciana Parkway and the extension of SunRail Commuter rail to Poinciana was meant to help this problem. Unfortunately the new development in Poinciana has added so much additional traffic that the situation has not gotten any better and in fact become worse.

The good news is that the Osceola officials recognize this and there are some possible solutions. Osceola Commissioner Brandon Arrington says in the video, 'at the end of the day it becomes a question of funding and that is a question the Osceola County Commission will be discussing at our next workshop'.

With the completion and success of the Poinciana Parkway, it has been shown that if new road solutions for the Poinciana traffic congestion can be built the Poinciana residents will use them. Current traffic volumes on Poinciana Parkway exceed 10,000 cars each day which far exceeds the original projections. Ridership at the Poinciana SunRail Station also exceeds original expectations. The latest Sunrail traffic numbers show Poinciana Station ranking third of the 16 SunRail stations making up the system. The ridership numbers for the Poinciana Lynx 26 and 306 bus routes are among the best in the Lynx system. No place else in Central Florida shows a better Return on Investment (ROI) than dollars invested to improve Poinciana transportation. Poinciana has asked for these

transportation improvements and we have delivered by using what has been provided.

How can the transportation improvements that Poinciana needs, especially new roads, be paid for? Commissioner Arrington referred to a possible solution in the meeting. Osceola County Ordinance #2018-7 adopted on January 8th, 2018, requires that Mobility fees are assessed on new construction, both residential and commercial. The fee is used to construct new framework (major) roads, trails, and sidewalks along major roads. So at least starting this year in Osceola County, the construction of each home and commercial business in Poinciana and the surrounding communities has brought new revenue into Osceola County. This revenue is required by law to be used for new transportation construction. So money is coming in to help pay for these transportation improvements Poinciana desperately needs.

The challenge now for the Poinciana residents is to make certain that Osceola County spends that money for projects in Poinciana and not elsewhere. The only way that is going to happen is if the Poinciana residents make their voices heard.

One way to do this is to have as many people as possible attend the Osceola County Commission meeting scheduled for January 17,2018 starting at 10AM in Procurement Conference Rooms #2501 & #2502, 1 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL, 34741. You could either drive to the meeting or take the 8:15 AM SunRail train # P312 with will arrive in Kissimmee at 8:23 AM in time to walk to the meeting.

The other way that you can show your support is by signing the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/osceola-county-commission-more-roads-for-poinciana> . The plan will be to present the petition to the commissioners at that meeting.

Either way will let the Osceola County decision makers know that we desperately want our taxpayer dollars to be spent to solve the Poinciana transportation problem. Poinciana residents can convince Osceola County to spend the money here and address our transportation problems if people will support the actions described above.

