

# HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

New and Continuing Projects Make Road Transportation Faster and Better across Seminole County



**I-4 Ultimate** – largest Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project to date – continues to change the shape of Seminole County.

The \$2.3 billion public-private partnership, managed by FDOT, is transforming Interstate 4 (I-4) to serve the needs of ever-growing Seminole County and to help connect residents and businesses to other communities along the interstate.

The I-4 Ultimate project is rebuilding 21 miles of I-4 from Kirkman Road in Orange County to just east of State Road 434 in Seminole County. Much more progress is planned for the upcoming year, including many significant improvements in Seminole County.

When completed in 2021, I-4 Ultimate will completely reconstruct the current lanes, add new express lanes, rebuild interchanges, and revamp or replace old bridges, while also adding new ones – more than 140 in all – along the length of the project. The work will increase the safety and mobility of residents, shoppers, visitors, and business travelers all along Central Florida’s most traveled highway.

## I-4 Beyond the Ultimate

FDOT has further improvements in store for Seminole County in their Beyond the Ultimate project, which will rebuild nearly 40 miles of roadway both north and south of the I-4 Ultimate project and provide seamless aesthetic and travel enhancements.

The project includes several changes for travelers in Seminole County:

- Adding an auxiliary lane and resurfacing eastbound I-4 from the northernmost border of the I-4 Ultimate project to west of Lake Mary Boulevard
- Resurfacing west- and eastbound I-4 from west of Lake Mary Boulevard to C.R. 46A and from S.R. 46 to the Volusia County line.

Construction on eastbound I-4 began in August 2019, while westbound construction is scheduled to begin mid-2020.

The widening of I-4 called for by both projects will also require rebuilding the E. E. Williamson Road overpass. The bridge itself will be widened and will include a 10-foot-wide trail, a sidewalk, and east- and

westbound bike lanes. Construction of the new bridge began in September 2019.

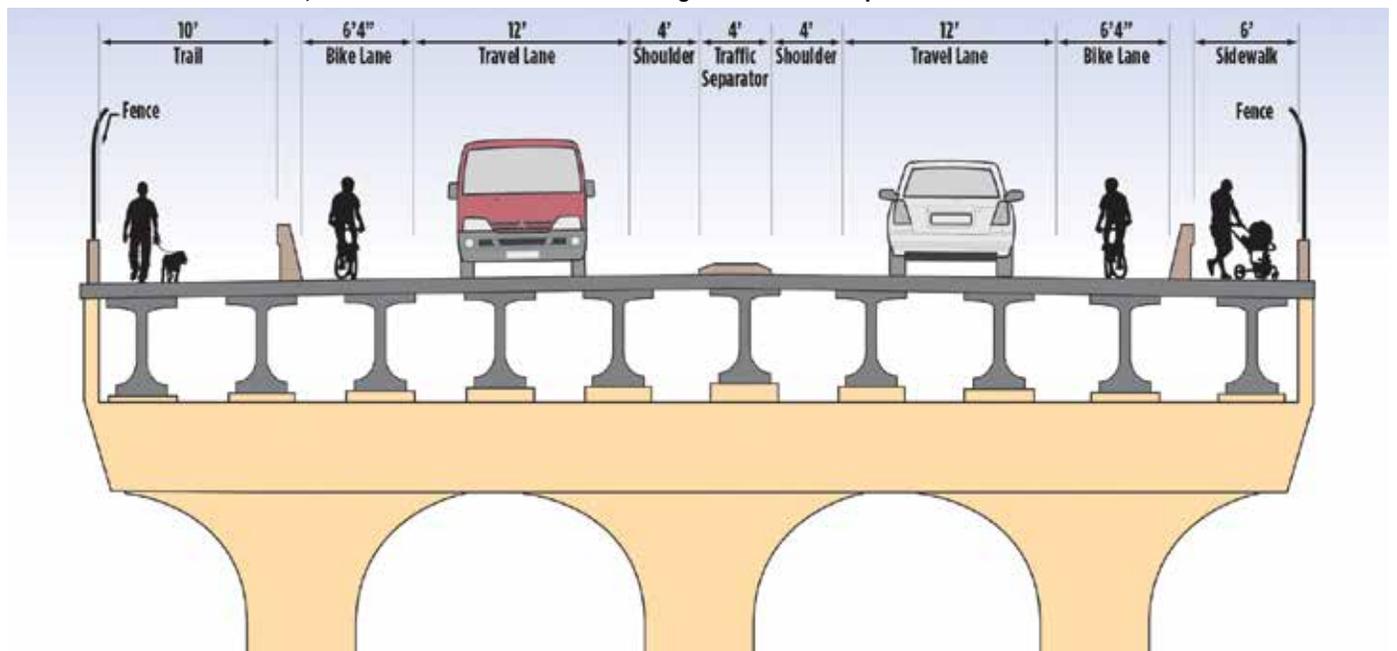
## Wekiva Parkway

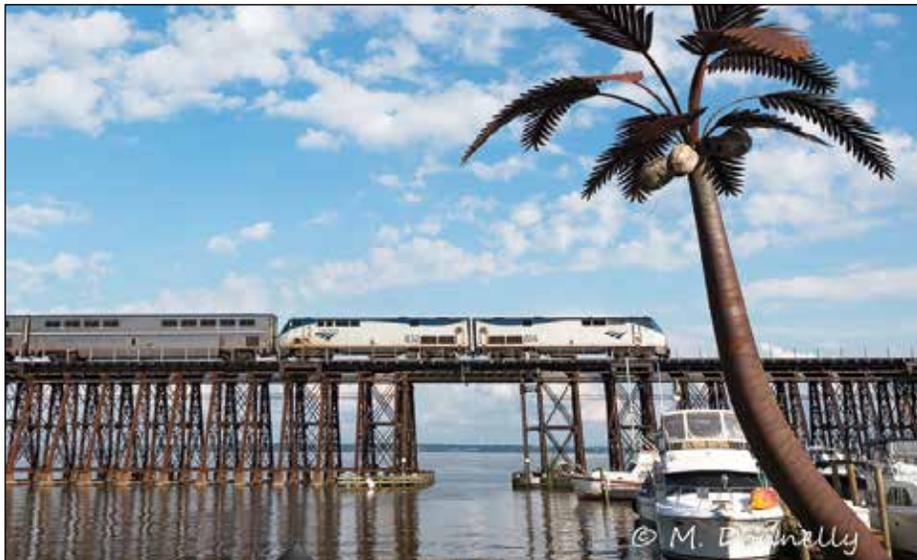
The Wekiva Parkway, a joint project of the Central Florida Expressway Authority and the Florida Department of Transportation, will complete Central Florida’s beltway. The all-electronic tolled parkway is an extension of State Road 429 that will link directly to S.R. 417 and I-4.

Development of the Wekiva Parkway has included setting aside more than 3,400 acres of land for conservation, and as a consequence the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association presented its 2019 Toll Excellence Award for Social Responsibility to the Central Florida Expressway Authority, Florida Department of Transportation – District Five, and Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise for their work helping to protect wildlife and other natural resources surrounding the Wekiva River during development of the Wekiva Parkway.

While the parkway is being developed and built in sections, the full project is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

This cross section of the new, widened E. E. Williamson Road bridge over I-4 shows planned bike lanes and sidewalks.





# RAIL IN SEMINOLE COUNTY

## A Convenient Alternative to the Highway

### Amtrak Auto Train

The Amtrak Auto Train is the only rail service in the United States that allows passengers to travel with

their personal vehicles: cars, vans, SUVs, motorcycles, and even small boats or jet-skis. Departing daily from both Lorton,

Virginia (near Washington, D.C.) and Sanford in Seminole County, the non-stop service eliminates the need to drive the nearly 900 miles between the two destinations.

In 2018, 224,837 travelers took advantage of the 17-hour overnight service. The Auto Train offers varying levels of accommodation for varying needs and budgets, including roomettes, bedrooms, family bedrooms, accessible bedrooms, and coach-class seating.

In order to maintain a high-quality experience, Amtrak will introduce a series of enhancements for the Auto Train. These enhancements are scheduled to debut in January 2020. Amtrak plans not only to expand the availability of all sleeping-car accommodations but also to improve amenities, such as upgraded towels and bed linens in each room. The dining car is slated to feature a new menu and complimentary wine with dinner service.

### SunRail

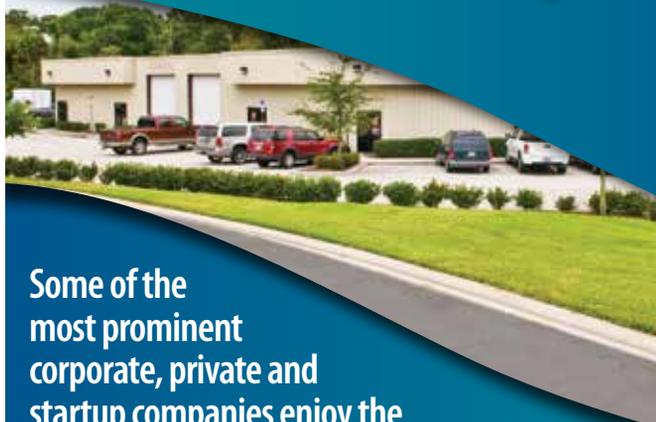


SunRail, Central Florida's light rail service, stretches across 49 miles, serving 16 stations from DeBary in Volusia County to Poinciana in Osceola County.

There are four SunRail stations in Seminole County: Sanford, Lake Mary, Longwood, and Altamonte Springs.

SunRail's recently completed Southern Expansion, which added 17 miles of service area, was named one of the top 12 transportation projects in the country by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and was one of the top finishers for the prestigious People's Choice Award.

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