

# I-4 ULTIMATE

The largest Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project to date has made major strides in Seminole County recently.

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, to help connect residents and businesses to other communities along the interstate, and to enhance mobility throughout one of Florida's most critical transportation corridors.

The I-4 Ultimate project is rebuilding 21 miles of Interstate 4 from Kirkman Road in Orange County to just east of State Road

(S.R.) 434 in Seminole County. The project is completely reconstructing the current lanes, rebuilding interchanges, building more than 140 bridges along the corridor, and adding new express lanes.

- S.R. 434/I-4 Interchange — New ramps opened at the S.R. 434 interchange in 2020. The westbound I-4 rest area ramps were reconfigured, providing more space between them and the now wider exit to S.R. 434. Four lanes on the ramp near S.R. 434 reduces backups onto the interstate, keeping traffic moving and reducing crashes. From westbound S.R. 434, a new loop ramp allows drivers to enter I-4 without having to wait for a traffic signal. A longer entrance ramp



Rendering of Wilson Road bridges near Sanford



from eastbound S.R. 434 gives motorists more room to get up to speed and join the flow of westbound I-4. Landscaping has been planted throughout the interchange, transforming this gateway into Longwood. Work to complete the realignment of S.R. 434 under I-4 and the construction of express lane bridges over S.R. 434 is scheduled for 2021.

- Central Parkway Overpass — A new bridge crosses over I-4 at Central Parkway with space for turn lanes onto westbound and from eastbound I-4 express lanes. Work is underway to complete express lane ramps that will give drivers the option to access express lanes to avoid congestion on I-4.
- S.R. 436/I-4 Interchange — A massive new bridge spans I-4 at the S.R. 436 interchange. The larger surface allows for three traffic signals to be replaced with just one in the middle of the bridge, streamlining the busy flow of cars and trucks on S.R. 436 and to and from I-4. When the interchange is complete, sidewalks along S.R. 436 will provide pedestrians the option to cross over I-4 and



connect to a pedestrian tunnel running beneath S.R. 436, just west of I-4. Dramatic hardscape features including illuminated pylons and landscaping will complete the I-4 Ultimate project's signature corridor improvements in Seminole County.

### **I-4 Beyond the Ultimate**

Crews working on the E.E. Williamson Road overpass reconstruction have made significant progress in 2020. This summer, a newly constructed bridge deck over Interstate 4 was opened to traffic, allowing crews to demolish the old overpass. Work continues on adding to the new overpass, which when complete will include a 10-foot trail on the westbound side, a six-foot trail on the eastbound side, and six-foot bike lanes in both directions.

Construction of the auxiliary lane on eastbound I-4 from the end of the I-4 Ultimate project limits to Lake Mary Boulevard progresses on schedule, with the new lane anticipated to open in 2021.

In June, crews began milling and resurfacing westbound I-4 from U.S. 17-92 at the

Seminole-Volusia county line to S.R. 46 and from County Road (C.R.) 46A to Lake Mary Boulevard. This repaving project is anticipated to be completed before the end of the year. The milling and resurfacing of eastbound I-4 from Lake Mary Boulevard to C.R. 46A and from S.R. 46 to US 17-92 was completed in May 2020. These two projects make for a smoother drive on I-4 and increase the life of the pavement.

### **Wekiva Parkway**

2020 was a busy year for the Wekiva Parkway project, as FDOT met several milestones.

Traffic on S.R. 46 was shifted to the new service road bridge over the Wekiva River. In the future, this bridge will carry local traffic only. It is one of three new signature bridges being constructed using “top-down” construction over the Wekiva River. This means that construction equipment and crews do not need to work in the fragile waterway. These new bridges span the width

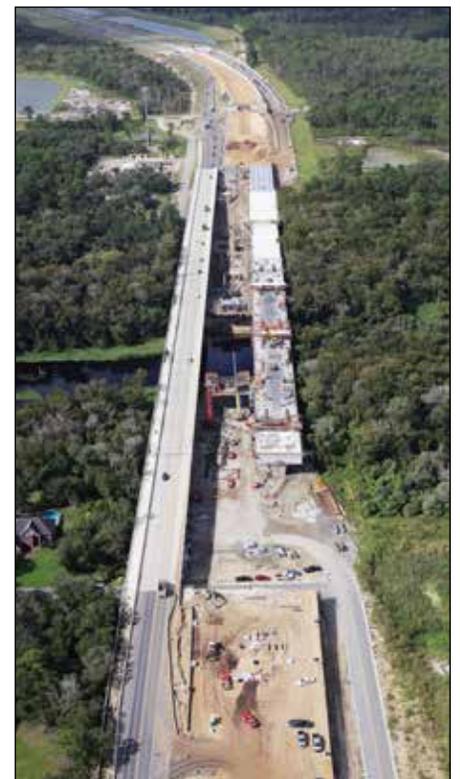
of the river from Lake County to Seminole County without requiring bridge columns in the water. The opening of the new service road bridge meant that demolition could begin on the old S.R. 46 bridge, the removal of which improves the river's flow. Construction continues on the remaining bridges.

Bridge work also took place at several key Seminole County intersections along S.R. 46, including Longwood Markham Road and Glade View Drive. In addition, construction progressed on roundabouts at these locations, which will increase motorist safety and traffic efficiency.

Farther east, construction of the Parkway's future interchange at I-4 and S.R. 417 continued as ramps were shifted to accommodate the work and bridge beams were placed over roadways such as Orange Boulevard and Wilson Road. This interchange will be one of the final pieces completing the beltway around the Orlando metropolitan area, giving Central Floridians more choices when it comes to travel.

The entire Wekiva Parkway is scheduled to be complete in 2023.

**Wekiva River bridges connecting Seminole and Lake Counties (October 2020)**





# AMTRAK AUTO TRAIN

SKIP THE HIGHWAY 

The Auto Train offers daily, non-stop service from Lorton, VA (near Washington, D.C.), and Sanford, FL (near Orlando). Customers can skip I-95

and travel with their vehicles, including cars, vans, SUVs, motorcycles, and even small boats or jet-skis. This is the only such service in the U.S. and eliminates nearly 900

miles of driving between the Northeast and all points in Florida. The Auto Train is the longest passenger train in the world with two locomotives and 40-plus passenger rail cars and vehicle carriers.

In 2019, 236,031 travelers took advantage of the 17-hour overnight service. The Auto Train offers varying levels of accommodation for all needs and budgets, including roomettes, bedrooms, family bedrooms, accessible bedrooms, and coach-class seating.

Coach class includes wide seats with plenty of legroom as well as at-seat trays and reading lights. Private rooms feature two comfortable seats by day and upper and lower berths by night. The rooms also feature newly upgraded bedding, pillows, towels, and linens. Staying in a room provides access to a private restroom and shower down the hall and a dedicated sleeping car attendant during the trip. All room customers receive complimentary traditional dining service with wine and a continental breakfast prior to arrival.

## SUNRAIL IN SEMINOLE COUNTY

### A Convenient Alternative

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:

- The Sanford station, located a short distance from historic downtown.
- The Lake Mary station, located adjacent to Stairstep Park.
- The Longwood station, located within the City's Heritage Village.
- The Altamonte Springs station, located just east of AdventHealth Altamonte Springs.

Each station's central location provides easy access to a broad range of shopping and dining.

