

Lake County Launches North Lake Trail PD&E Study

In August 2022, Lake County began the North Lake Trail Phase 3 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. The study limits extend from E. Altoona Road to State Road (SR) 40, as identified in the map to the right. This corridor is located in unincorporated Lake County, the Ocala National Forest, Altoona, and Astor Park. The project is approximately 16 miles in length (Figure 1).

The purpose of the PD&E Study is to evaluate the potential impacts of the trail alignments proposed in the Corridor Planning Study (2019), resulting in a preferred trail alignment. The study will consider engineering analysis, environmental review, and public input as these alternatives are evaluated. It is anticipated that this study will be completed by Spring 2024.

In addition to the PD&E Study, Lake County has started the design phase for the North Lake Trail segment adjacent to the south. This segment extends from E. Collins Street to E. Altoona Road in Umatilla, and is approximately 3 miles in length (Figure 1). This design project is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2023.

Project Overview Public Meeting on December 8, 2022

Lake County invites you to the Project Overview Public Meeting for the North Lake Trail Phase 3 PD&E Study. The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the Cadwell Community Center located at 1 Cassidy Street, Umatilla, Florida 32778. This meeting will introduce the project and share study information while also providing the opportunity for attendees to ask questions and share input with the study team. Information about the adjacent North Lake Trail design project will also be available for review and comment. The meeting will be held as an open house from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be no formal presentation. Participants may review project information and discuss the project with the study team at any time during the meeting. The meeting information and displays also will be available for review on the project website located at www.NorthLakeTrail.com/Outreach by December 5th.

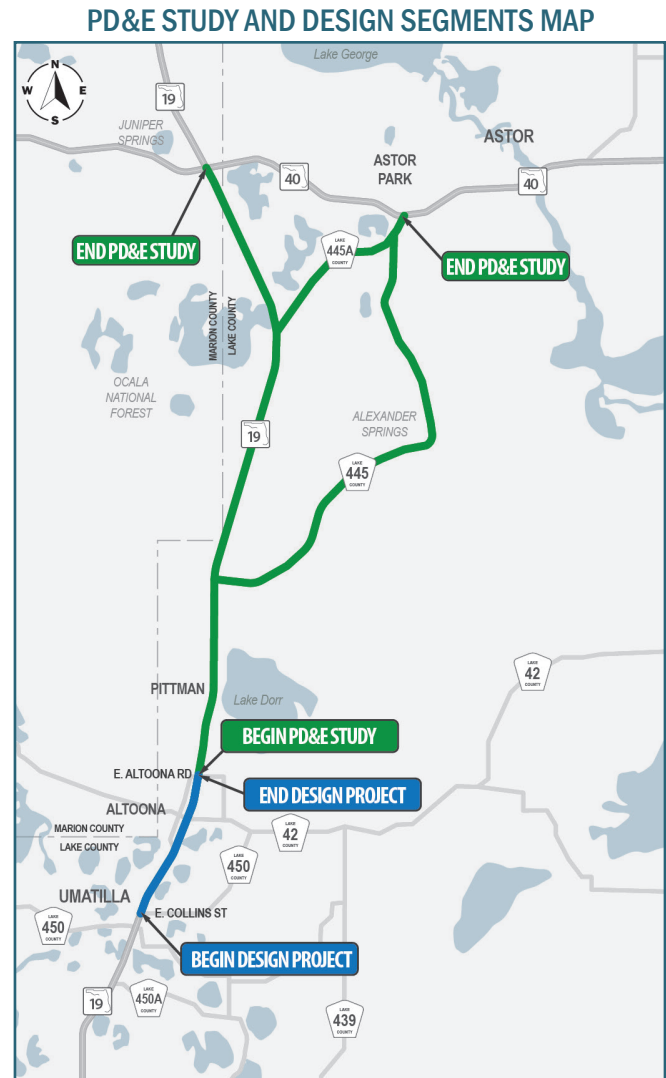
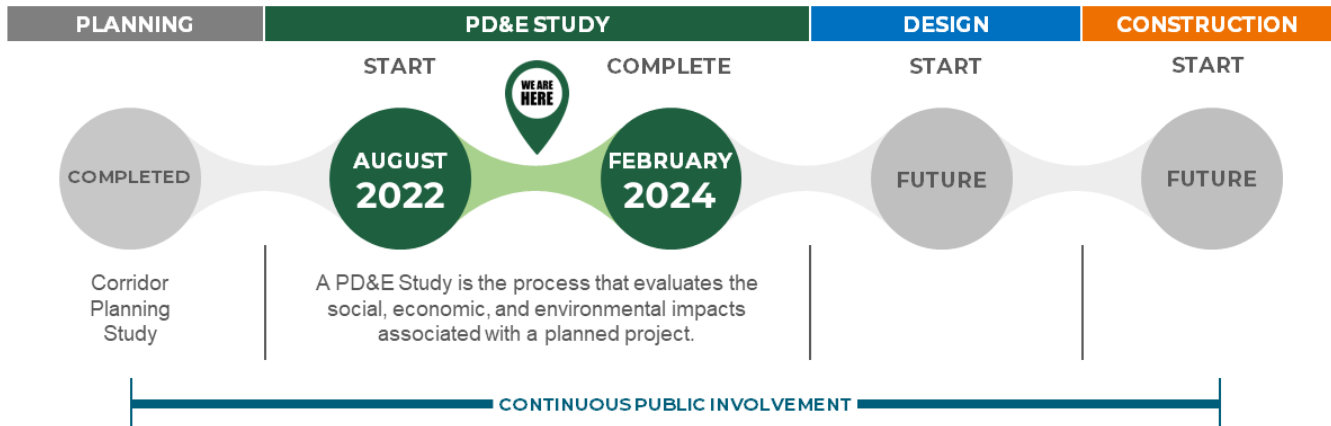


Figure 1

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require language translation or interpretive services, which are provided at no cost, or those requiring special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) may request assistance by contacting Sharon Lewis, Lake County Title VI/Nondiscrimination and ADA Coordinator, at (352) 253-9050 or Sharon.Lewis@lakecountyfl.gov at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Lake County pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 as executed by the Federal Highway Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation.

Project Development Process



Project History

The North Lake Trail Phase 3 is part of the River to Hills Trail, a regional facility that runs north/south through Lake County with connections to the Black Bear and Coast-to-Coast Trails. This trail has been included in Lake County’s Trails Master Plan (2008 and 2018 update) and in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The North Lake Trail has been a top priority for the City of Umatilla and the Lake-Sumter County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

In April 2019, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completed the North Lake Trail Phase 3 Corridor Planning Study. The purpose of this study was to evaluate and identify feasible trail alignments that would connect several regional trail networks and further the County’s Trails Master Plan. At the conclusion of this study, three alternative alignments were identified and recommended for further evaluation during the next phase of the project, the PD&E Study (Figure 1).

Stay Informed! Stay Involved!

If you have questions, want to learn more about the North Lake Trail, or would like to request a meeting with your group, please contact:

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Visit the study website (www.NorthLakeTrail.com), to stay informed about the study’s progress.

PD&E Study Schedule

