

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS PUBLIC WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

In August 2022, Lake County began the North Lake Trail Phase 3 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study from E. Altoona Road to State Road 40. This proposed trail is part of the River to Hills regional trail and is located within unincorporated Lake County, the Ocala National Forest, Altoona, and Astor Park. Alternative trail concepts have been developed and you are invited to attend the Alternative Concepts Public Workshop on **Thursday, June 8, 2023** beginning at **5:30 p.m.**

Lake County is offering three ways to participate in the meeting. All participants, regardless of which platform they choose, will receive the same information.

- **In-Person Open House Option:** Participants may attend in person by going to the **First Baptist Church of Umatilla (Events Center)** located at **550 Hatfield Drive, Umatilla, Florida 32784**. The meeting will be held as an open house **from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Participants may review project information, view a looping project video, provide comments, and discuss the project with the study team at any time throughout the meeting. Information about nearby projects will also be available for review.
- **Virtual Option:** Interested persons may join from a computer, tablet or mobile device **at 5:30 p.m.** For this option, advance registration is required by visiting <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6577903509956582486>. Once registered, participants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the workshop online. Please use Chrome or Microsoft Edge as your internet browser to register and attend this webinar.
- **Phone Option (Listen Only Mode):** Participants may listen to the workshop at **5:30 p.m.** by dialing 1-562-247-8422 and entering the passcode 206-424-084 when prompted.

All meeting materials, including the presentation video, will be available on the project website (www.NorthLakeTrail.com/Outreach) June 5, 2023.

COMMENTS SHARED AT DECEMBER PUBLIC MEETING

On December 8, 2022, members from the public attended the Project Overview Public Meeting, which introduced the North Lake Trail PD&E Study. As a result of the meeting, 28 written comments were submitted in-person, via email, and the project website.

Below are the highlights of what was shared:

- Support for the project;
- Not in support of the project;
- Factors to consider as trail options are evaluated;
- Trail elements to be included; and
- Requests to remain informed.



A more detailed meeting summary has been posted on the project website.

Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas!

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.

ALTERNATIVE TRAIL CONCEPTS EVALUATED

Following the Project Overview Public Meeting and additional agency coordination, the trail alternatives have been divided into six segments (Figure 1).

The “Build” alternatives and the “No Build” alternative are being evaluated based on a number of criteria including: *trail design & safety, social & cultural resources, natural resources, physical resources, local & regional support, and costs.*

These evaluations will support decisions regarding the alternatives developed and identification of the best trail alternative. This information will be presented to the public during the Alternative Concepts Public Workshop (see article on front page for more details).

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:

George Gadiel, PE

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Lake County Public Works
350 N. Sinclair Avenue
Tavares, Florida 32778
Phone: 352.253.9092

Email: George.Gadiel@lakecountyfl.gov

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

ALTERNATIVE TRAIL CONCEPTS MAP

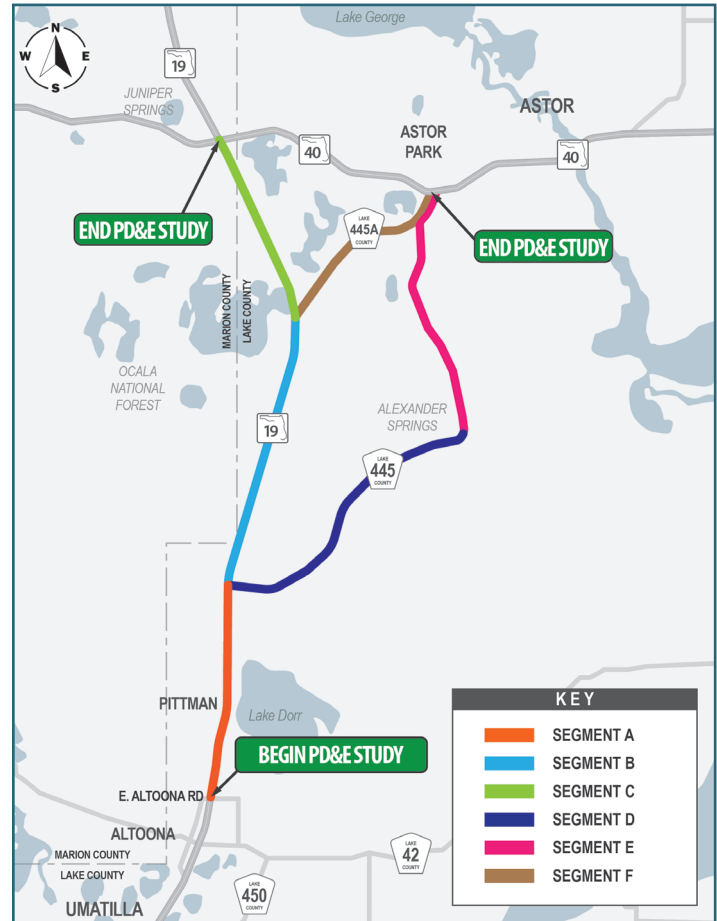


Figure 1

PD&E Study Schedule

