

FPID No.: 441626-2

WELCOME

Recommended Alternative Public Meeting

November 9, 2023

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Altoona School

42630 State Road 19, Altoona, FL 32702

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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.

TITLE VI

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns relative to Lake County compliance with Title VI may do so by contacting:

Sharon Lewis

Lake County Title VI/Nondiscrimination and ADA Coordinator
352-253-9050

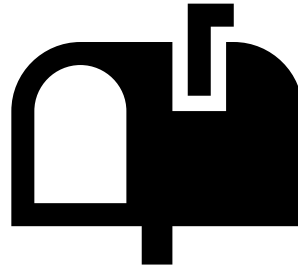
Sharon.Lewis@lakecountyfl.gov

All inquiries or complaints will be handled according to Lake County procedures and in a prompt and courteous manner.

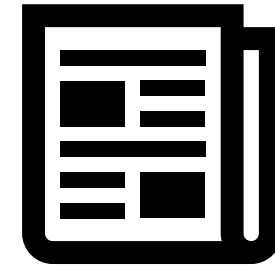
MEETING NOTICES



Emails to Elected Officials,
Agencies, & Stakeholders



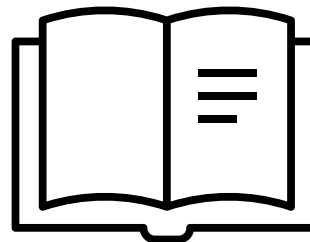
Property Owner Letters



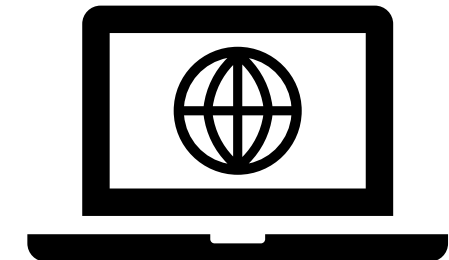
Newspaper Ad



Hand Delivery



Florida Administrative Register

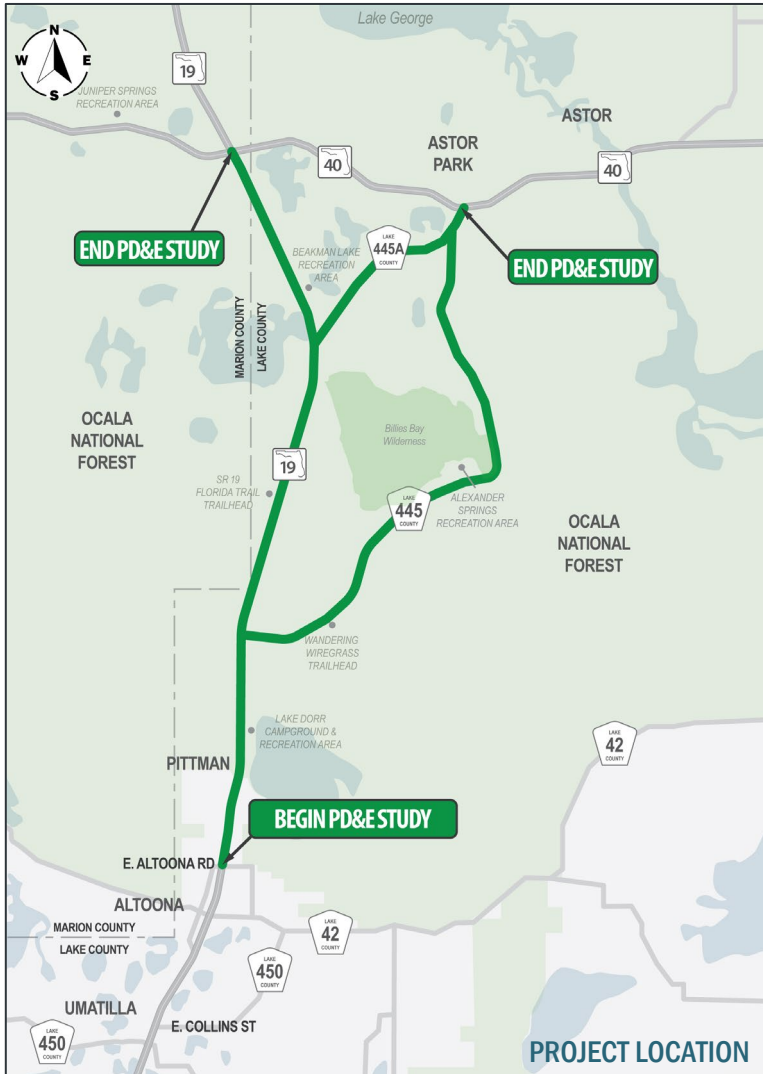


Study Website
www.NorthLakeTrail.com

NORTH LAKE TRAIL – PHASE 3

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION



Limits

- Begins: E. Altoona Road
- Ends: State Road 40

Rural Communities

- Altoona
- Pittman
- Astor Park

Features

- Part of River to Hills Regional Trail
- Included on Florida Office of Greenways and Trails Priority Map
- Located in the Ocala National Forest

PROJECT AREA



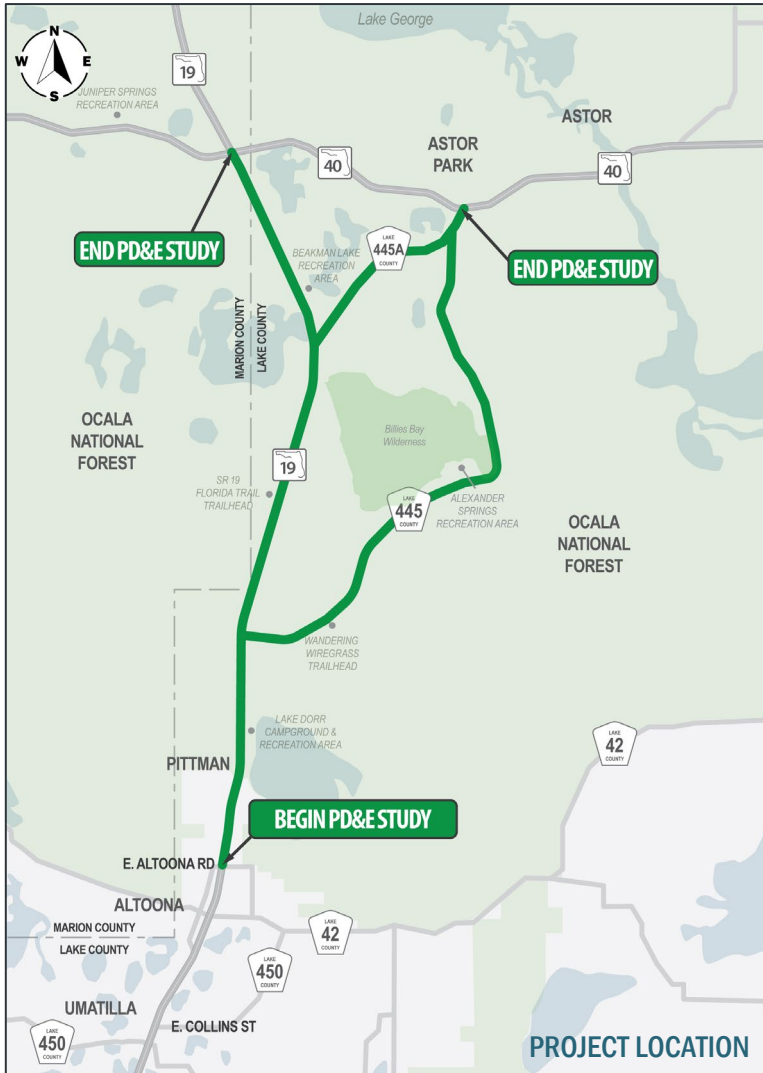
Ocala National Forest

- Established in 1908
- Current size: 386,000 acres
- Alexander Springs is 1 of 27 first-magnitude springs within Florida
- Logging is one of the revenue-generating operations
- Regular control burns
- Trail would be approved “by permit”

NORTH LAKE TRAIL – PHASE 3

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY

PURPOSE AND NEED



PURPOSE

Provide a safe, comfortable, and accessible paved facility for:

- Bicyclists and pedestrians
- Other non-motorized users
- Completes gaps in regional trail network

NEED

- Gaps in the regional trail network
- Lack of safe, comfortable and accessible pedestrian bicycle facilities

TRAIL FEATURES & BENEFITS

Ways Trails Can Enhance a Community

- Healthy alternative for getting around
- Connects key community assets and gems
- Opportunities to support local businesses
- Improve safety for pedestrians & cyclists

North Lake Trail Features

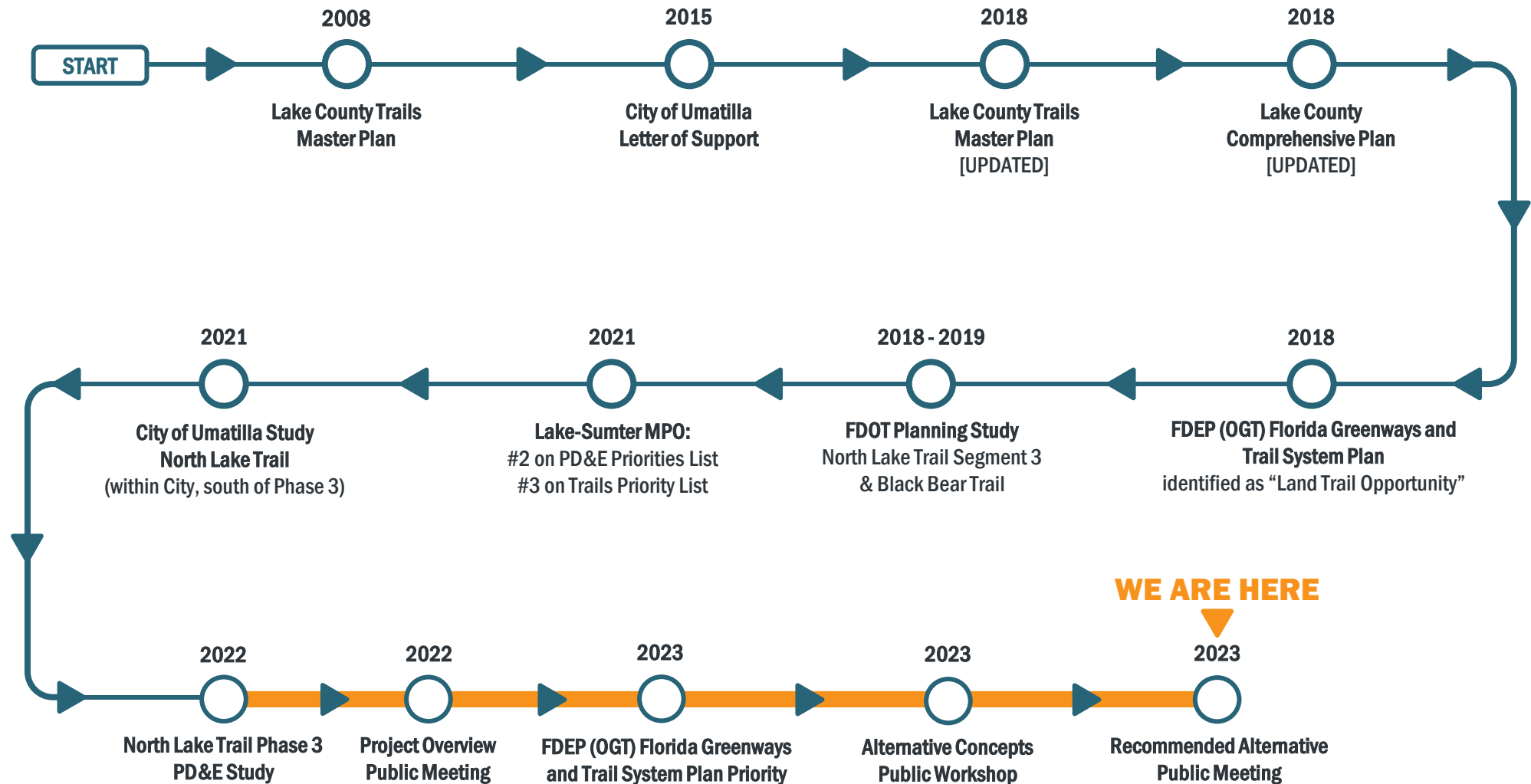
- Travels through Ocala National Forest
- Connects Altoona to Pittman, Astor Park, and recreation areas
- Paved width varying from 8 to 14 feet
- Motorized vehicles not permitted
- Trailheads identified in the Design Phase



NORTH LAKE TRAIL – PHASE 3

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY

HISTORY OF SUPPORT

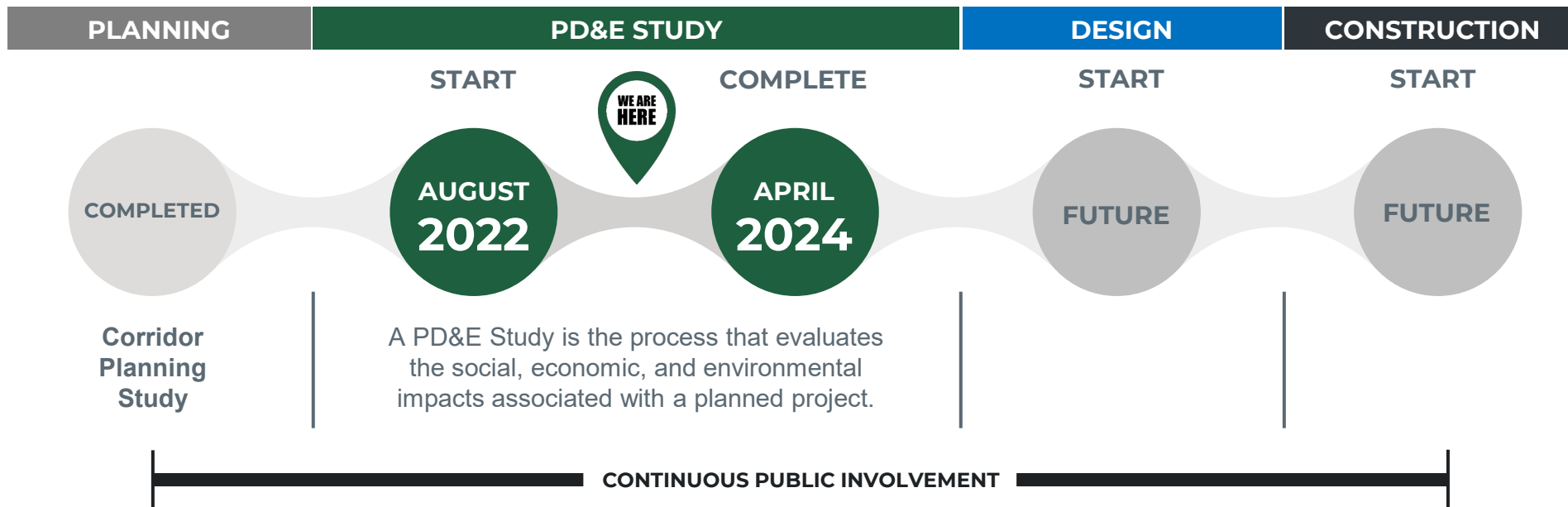


WE ARE HERE

NORTH LAKE TRAIL – PHASE 3

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



STUDY ADVISORY GROUP (SAG)

Project Role

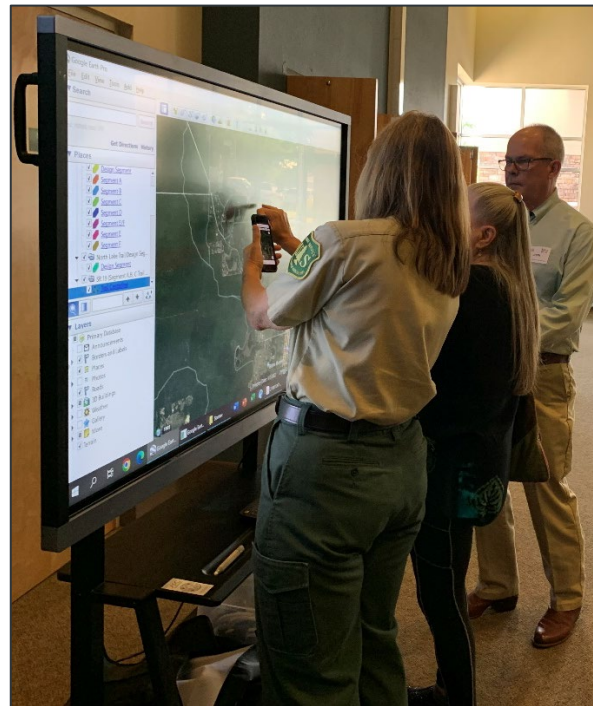
- Project advisors
- Diverse membership
- Review project information at key decision points and provide feedback
- Share updates with project team
- Involved throughout PD&E study



SAG Members

- Altoona School
- Astor Chamber of Commerce
- City of Umatilla
- East Central Florida RPC
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Friends of Lake County Trails
- Lake County
- Lake County Public Schools
- Lake County Water Authority
- Lake-Sumter MPO
- Marion County
- Ocala-Marion TPO
- Umatilla Chamber of Commerce
- USDA – Forest Service (Ocala National Forest)

PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD



- **Project Overview Public Meeting**
 - Held December 8, 2022
 - 26 participants
 - 28 written comments submitted
- **Alternative Concepts Public Workshop**
 - Held June 8, 2023
 - 41 participants
 - 26 written comments submitted
- **Input Received**
 - Support for the trail
 - Suggested trail elements

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Build Alternatives

Alternative 1

Segments A, B, and C



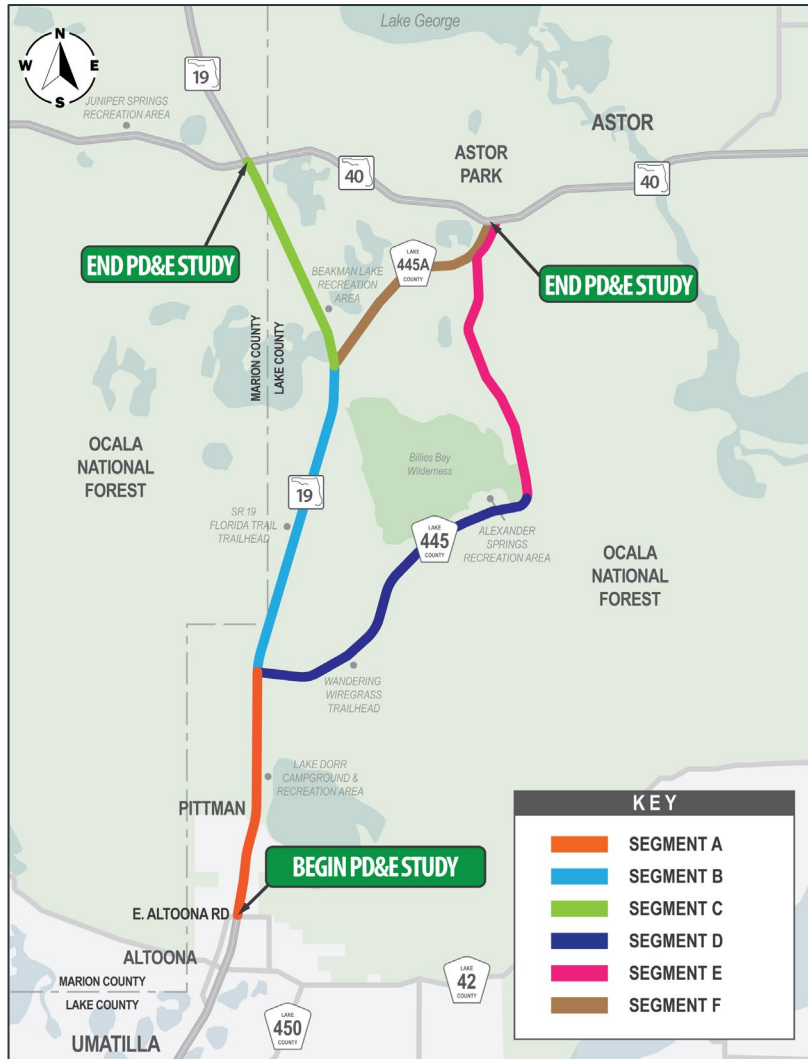
Alternative 2

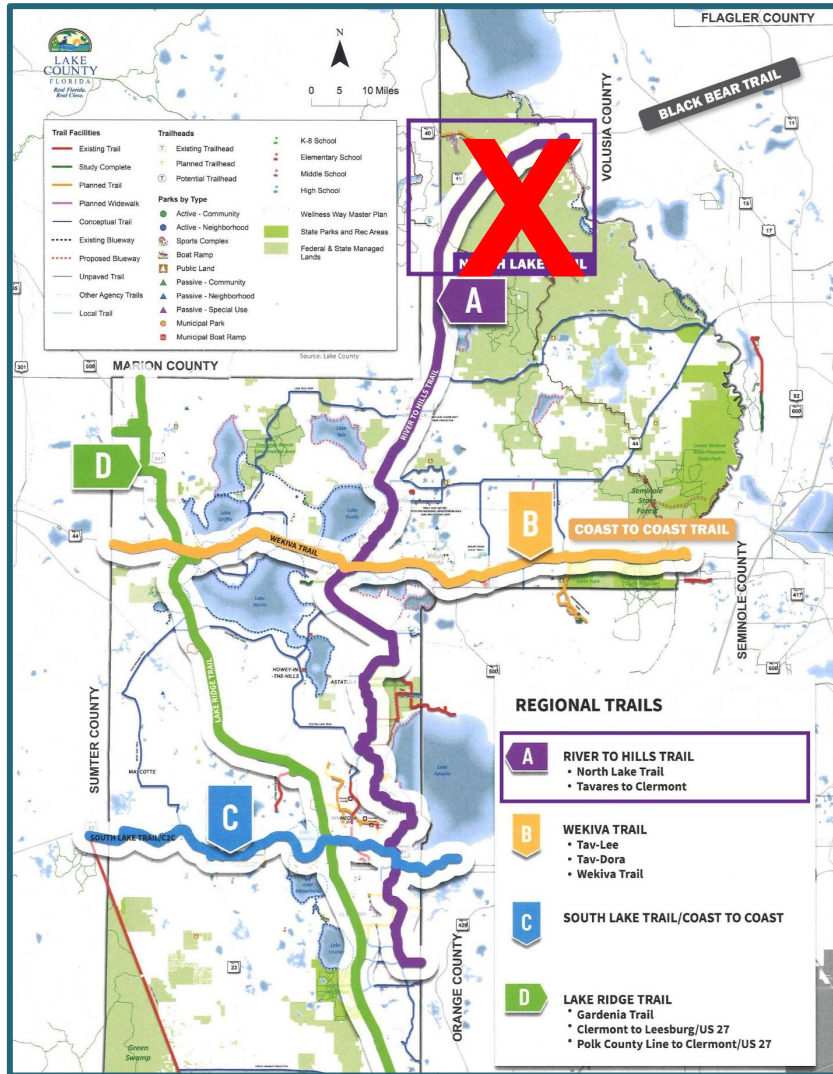
Segments A, B, and F



Alternative 3

Segments A, D, and E





NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE

Baseline

- Comparison to Build Alternatives

Benefits

- No additional environmental impacts
- No disruption to Ocala National Forest operations

Drawbacks

- No trail improvements
- Gap in River to Hills Trail
- Safety issue with mixing cyclists with traffic
- Doesn't meet objective of completing trails network

Matrix Layout

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION MATRIX

EVALUATION CRITERIA	ALTERNATIVES				
	NO BUILD	PHASE 1			PHASE 2
		1 SEGMENTS A-B-C	2 SEGMENTS A-B-F	3 SEGMENTS A-D-E*	POTENTIAL ALEXANDER SPRINGS SPUR SEGMENT D
TRAIL PLANNING					
Meets Project Purpose and Need (Yes/No)	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Consistent with Lake County Trails Master Plan (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supported by Local Governments (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aligns with Planned Forest Recreation Management Plan Updates (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No

MOST FAVORABLE

FAVORABLE

LEAST FAVORABLE

NO CHANGE

NORTH LAKE TRAIL – PHASE 3

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY

Evaluation Criteria

- Trail Planning
- Trail Design
- Trail Typical Section and Length
- Trail Safety
- Socio-Economic Resources

MOST FAVORABLE
FAVORABLE
LEAST FAVORABLE
NO CHANGE

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION MATRIX

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	NO BUILD	PHASE 1			PHASE 2
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TRAIL PLANNING					
Meets Project Purpose and Need (Yes/No)	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Consistent with Lake County Trails Master Plan (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supported by Local Governments (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Aligns with Planned Forest Recreation Management Plan Updates (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Supported by the Public/Stakeholders (Yes/No)	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
TRAIL DESIGN					
Meets County Trail Design Standards (Yes / No)	No	No	No	No	No
Meets FDOT FDM Trail Design Standards (Yes / No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bridge Crossing Required (Yes / No)	No	No	No	Yes	No
Surface Water/Wetland Crossing Required (Yes / No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
TRAIL TYPICAL SECTION AND LENGTH					
Length of Trail 8-feet Wide with Curb and Gutter and Guardrail (Miles)	0	2.95	2.95	2.95	0
Length of Trail 8-feet Wide with Curb and Gutter (Miles)	0	1.3	1.4	1.3	0
Length of Trail 12-feet Wide with Ditch (Miles)	0	0	0	1.9	1.9
Length of Trail 14-feet Wide with Curb and Gutter (Miles)	0	2.43	1.8	0.45	0
Length of Trail 14-feet Wide with Ditch (Miles)	0	7.82	8.6	8.8	3.8
Length of Bridge (Miles)	0	0	0	0.2	0
TRAIL SAFETY					
Driveway Crossings (Number)	0	57	63	67	14
Street Crossings (Number)	0	1	2	2	0
Midblock/Non-signalized Crossings (Number)	0	1	1	1	0
Signalized Crossings (Number)	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Road Crossings (Number)	0	17	15	16	6
SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESOURCES					
Connectivity to Area Parks, Schools (No/Low / Med / High)	No	Med	High	High	Low
Connectivity to Area Communities (Altoona, Astor, Umatilla) (No/Low / Med /High)	No	Med	High	High	Low
Ocala National Forest Service Operations Impacts (No/Low / Med /High)	No	Low	Low	Med	Med
Ocala National Forest Service Revenue Impacts (No/Low / Med /High)	No	Low	Low	Low	Low

*Alternative A-D-E includes Bridge Segment and 0.5 miles along CR 445A to reach Astor Park

PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION MATRIX

Evaluation Criteria (cont.)

- Cultural Resources
- Recreational Resources
- Natural Resources

EVALUATION CRITERIA	ALTERNATIVES				
	NO BUILD	PHASE 1			PHASE 2
		1 SEGMENTS A-B-C	2 SEGMENTS A-B-F	3 SEGMENTS A-D-E*	POTENTIAL ALEXANDER SPRINGS SPUR SEGMENT D
CULTURAL RESOURCES					
Archaeological Sites (Number)	0	1	2	5	2
Potential Historic Sites (Number)	0	53	69	98	28
Historic Cemetery (Number)	0	0	0	1	1
Resource Groups (Number)	0	2	3	3	0
RECREATIONAL RESOURCES					
Connectivity to Other Area Bicycle Trails (Number)	No	2	3	3	1
Connectivity to Other Area Hiking Trails (Number)	No	3	3	5	2
Connectivity to Other Recreation Areas (Number)	No	4	4	8	3
Public Hunting Area Impacts (Yes / No)	No	No	No	No	No
NATURAL RESOURCES					
Wetlands / Surface Waters (Acres)	0	1.29	1.94	2.41	0.27
Outstanding Florida Water (Yes / No)	No	No	No	Yes	No
Within Outstanding Florida Springs Springshed (Yes / No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Floodplains (Acres)	0	7.1	5.12	10.06	4.32
Number of Potential Species (Number)	0	6	6	9	7

*Alternative A-D-E includes Bridge Segment and 0.5 miles along CR 445A to reach Astor Park

PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MOST FAVORABLE

FAVORABLE

LEAST FAVORABLE

NO CHANGE

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION MATRIX

Evaluation Criteria (cont.)

- Physical Resources
- Additional Right-of-Way
- Costs

EVALUATION CRITERIA	ALTERNATIVES				
	NO BUILD	PHASE 1			PHASE 2
		1 SEGMENTS A-B-C	2 SEGMENTS A-B-F	3 SEGMENTS A-D-E*	POTENTIAL ALEXANDER SPRINGS SPUR SEGMENT D
PHYSICAL RESOURCES					
Utility Relocations (Number of UAOs)	0	3	3	3	1
Contamination Sites (Number Med / Low)		3 / 5	3 / 8	2 / 7	0 / 0
ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY					
Parcels Impacted (Number)	0	33	38	36	0
Required Right-of-Way (Acres)		0.55	0.51	1.21	0
Additional Forest Service Land Required (Acres)		0.32	0.28	0.98	0
Forest Service Permit Modification Required (Yes / No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
COSTS (2023 USD)					
R/W, Design, Construction, CEI, Mitigation <i>Costs are preliminary and subject to change.</i>	\$0	\$16,210,962	\$17,553,869	\$19,721,540	\$6,324,732

*Alternative A-D-E includes Bridge Segment and 0.5 miles along CR 445A to reach Astor Park

PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MOST FAVORABLE
FAVORABLE
LEAST FAVORABLE
NO CHANGE

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION MATRIX

Evaluation Summary

EVALUATION CRITERIA	ALTERNATIVES				
	NO BUILD	PHASE 1			PHASE 2
		1 SEGMENTS A-B-C	2 SEGMENTS A-B-F	3 SEGMENTS A-D-E*	POTENTIAL ALEXANDER SPRINGS SPUR SEGMENT D
MOST FAVORABLE	0	21	22	17	0
FAVORABLE	0	6	8	4	0
LEAST FAVORABLE	5	17	14	23	0
NO CHANGE	39	0	0	0	0

*Alternative A-D-E includes Bridge Segment and 0.5 miles along CR 445A to reach Astor Park

PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NORTH LAKE TRAIL – PHASE 3

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY

RECOMMENDED BUILD ALTERNATIVE

Phase 1

- Follows SR 19 to CR 445A to SR 40
- Completes River to Hills Trail northern gap
- Best fit with Ocala National Forest operations and future connections to recreation areas
- Minimizes impacts to natural and cultural resources
- Avoids Congressionally Designated Wilderness Area
- Maximizes connections to other trails, recreation areas
- Requires 0.5 acre of additional right-of-way
- Reduces construction costs since there is no bridge crossing





RECOMMENDED BUILD ALTERNATIVE

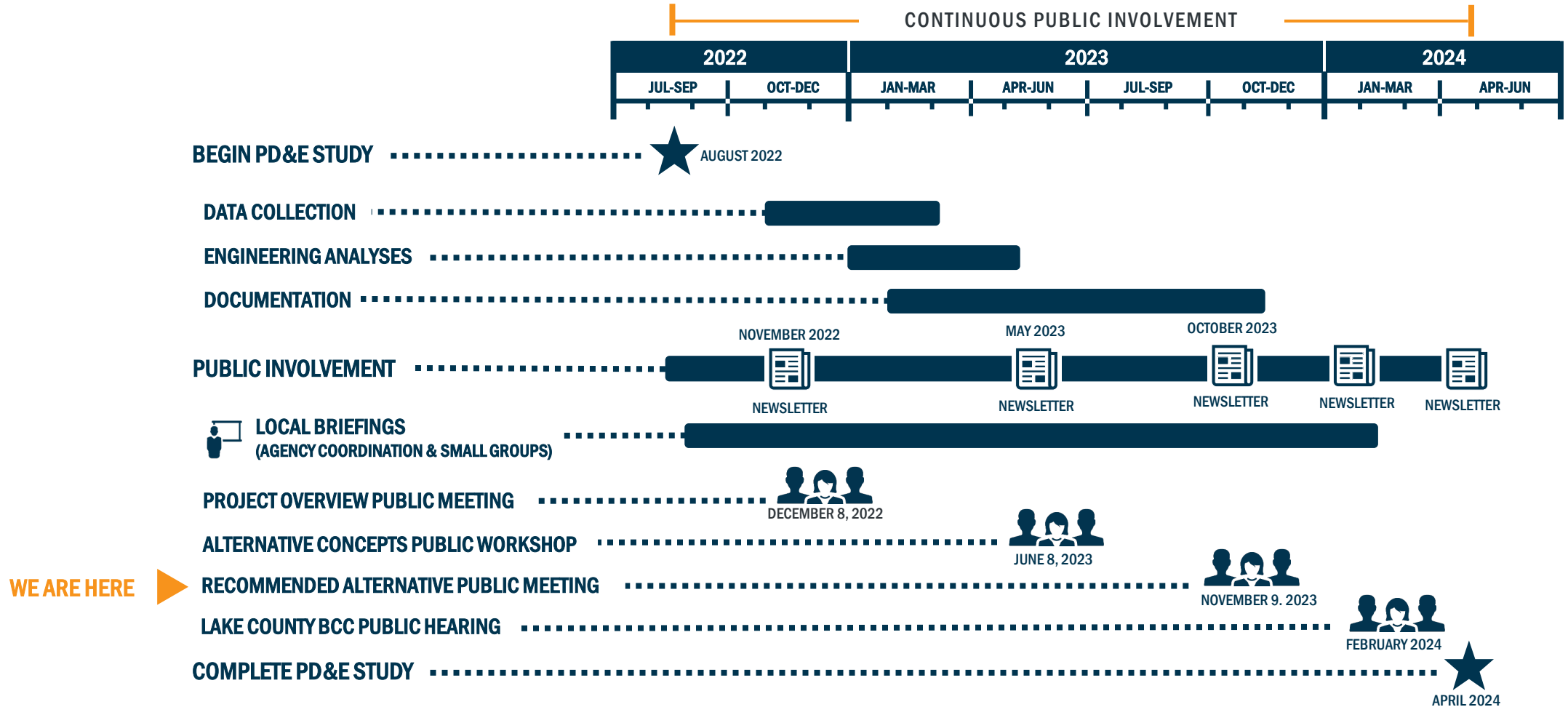
Phase 2 – Potential Alexander Springs Spur

- Follows CR 445 from SR 19 to Alexander Springs Recreation Area
- Included in response to public input
- Connects communities to Alexander Springs Recreation Area
- Adds to overall mitigation costs due to additional wetlands, surface water, habitat and species impacts
- Adds to overall potential impacts to cultural resources (historic and archaeological)
- Reduces construction costs since there is no bridge crossing at Spring Creek

NORTH LAKE TRAIL – PHASE 3

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STUDY

PD&E STUDY SCHEDULE



PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

George Gadiel, P.E.
Lake County Project Manager



Lake County
Engineering Division, Public Works Department
350 N. Sinclair Avenue, Tavares, FL 32778



352-253-9092



George.Gadiel@lakecountyfl.gov

FPID No.: 441626-2

THANK YOU

Recommended Alternative Public Meeting

November 9, 2023

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Altoona School

42630 State Road 19, Altoona, FL 32702