

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT PUBLIC MEETING 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 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. A recommended Trail Alternative is being proposed and you are invited to attend the Recommended Alternative Public Meeting on **Thursday, November 9, 2023** beginning at **5:30 p.m.**

This meeting provides the opportunity for you to review the recommended alternative and the related potential impacts. 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 **Altoona School** located at **42630 State Road 19, Altoona, Florida 32702**. 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/920985457686658392>. 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 876-617-232 when prompted.

All meeting materials, including the presentation video, will be available on the project website (www.NorthLakeTrail.com/Outreach) by November 6, 2023.

COMMENTS SHARED AT JUNE PUBLIC WORKSHOP

On June 8, 2023, 41 individuals attended the Alternative Concepts Public Workshop (in-person and virtually), which presented the initial evaluation of the project segments. As a result of the workshop, 26 written comments were submitted at the workshop, through emails, and the project website.

Below are the highlights of what was shared:

- Support for the project;
- Not in support of the project;
- Support for trail to go along CR 445;
- Support for trail to go along CR 445A; and
- Trail elements to be included.

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.

RECOMMENDED TRAIL ALTERNATIVE

Based on the Alternative Concepts Public Workshop feedback, additional agency coordination, and detailed evaluations, the proposed recommended “Build” Alternative connects Altoona to SR 40 via SR 19 and CR 445A (Figure 1), known as Phase 1. A Phase 2 is also recommended which follows CR 445, connecting the Trail’s Phase 1 (at SR 19) to the Alexander Springs Recreation Area.

The “Build” alternative and the “No Build” alternative have been evaluated based on a number of criteria including: trail design & safety, social & cultural resources, natural resources, physical resources, local & regional support, and costs. This information will be presented to the public during the Recommended Alternative Public Meeting (see article on front page for more details) and shared on the project website (www.NorthLakeTrail.com/Outreach) by November 6th.

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.

RECOMMENDED TRAIL ALTERNATIVE MAP

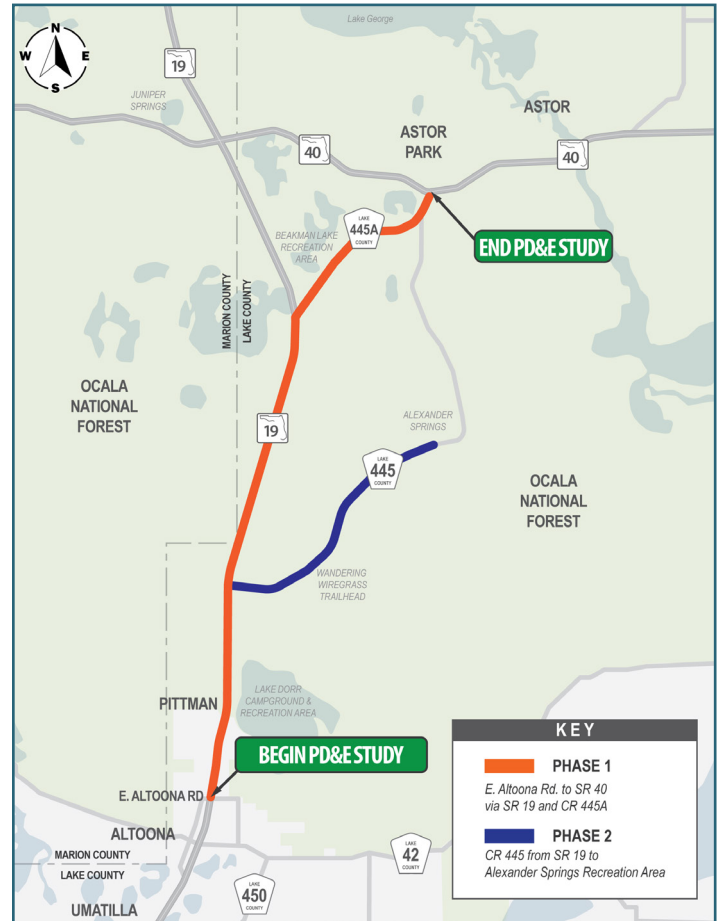


Figure 1

PD&E Study Schedule

