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## New Westbound Auxiliary Lane Adds Capacity on I-4

New lane opened on westbound I-4 between S.R. 429 and C.R. 532 in Osceola County

**OSCEOLA COUNTY, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is adding capacity to Interstate 4 (I-4) in Osceola County, the latest step by the Department to improve mobility along the vital Central Florida corridor. A new auxiliary lane on westbound I-4 between State Road (S.R.) 429 and County Road (C.R.) 532 opened early Wednesday, July 19.

An auxiliary lane is an extra lane connecting the on and off ramps between two consecutive interchanges. The additional lane allows drivers wanting to merge onto the interstate a longer distance to do so and helps reduce bottlenecks caused by drivers attempting to enter or exit the interstate. This improvement is anticipated to increase capacity and improve traffic flow in the area.

The project – an interim project of the FDOT's I-4 Beyond the Ultimate program – also includes the construction of an auxiliary lane on eastbound I-4 between the ramps of C.R. 532 and S.R. 429, as well as an auxiliary lane on northbound S.R. 429 between I-4 and Sinclair Road. The eastbound I-4 auxiliary lane opened in May.

Additional work includes milling and resurfacing eastbound and westbound I-4 from the Polk/Osceola County line to west of S.R. 417, and milling and resurfacing S.R. 429 between I-4 and Sinclair Road. Milling and resurfacing will create a smoother roadway for motorists and extend the life of the pavement. Construction began in late November 2021 and is anticipated to reach completion in early 2024.

The goal of the I-4 Beyond the Ultimate program is to improve safety, mobility, and connectivity in Central Florida to the east and west of the I-4 Ultimate project. I-4 Beyond the Ultimate addresses the biggest challenges to mobility on I-4 in Volusia, Seminole, Orange, and Osceola counties.

The auxiliary lanes are just one of several ongoing projects intended to improve efficiency and safety along the I-4 corridor. Right now, work is underway to reconstruct the Sand Lake Road (S.R. 482) and I-4 interchange, as well as add a new interchange at Daryl Carter Parkway and I-4. Construction will soon begin on another interchange project at Apopka-Vineland Road (S.R. 535) as well. These projects will also include new express lanes on westbound I-4.

For more information on the planned improvements on I-4 in Osceola County, visit the project website at <u>i4beyond.com</u>.

Media inquiries should be directed to the FDOT District Five Public Information Office at <u>FDOT-D5COMM@dot.state.fl.us</u> or by phone at 386-943-5593.

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The Florida Department of Transportation's mission is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of the state's environment and communities. The department is committed to building a transportation system that not only fits the current needs of Florida's residents and visitors, but also enhances mobility throughout the state to accommodate its consistent and rapid growth. The unique nature of the Sunshine State and its year-round warm climate provides numerous opportunities to achieve the department's mission through multiple transportation modes including highways/streets, air, rail, sea, spaceports, transit, and the ever-expanding deployment of bicycle & pedestrian facilities.