



International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce

I-4 / Sand Lake Road Interchange Oversight Committee

April 10, 2024

Meeting Purpose:	Weekly International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce – I-4 and Sand Lake Road Interchange Oversight Committee Meeting #35
Meeting Date/Time:	Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location:	Zoom Meeting
Attendees:	I-Drive: David Vallillo (Host), Maria Triscari FDOT: Ryan Flipse, Seta Koroitamudu Orange County: Krista (OCTP), Carter Gresham HNTB: James Moulton, Leeland Shelton Global-5: Dom Scalise, Mike Wacht

Agenda

1. Past Project Status:

Ryan: We do have a new visual for the project area. You can see the DDI implementation with the crane in the median. Our area numbers are related to the image. We tried to keep it similar, thank you Mike! As the project sees progress, we will keep the image current. Our three weeks look ahead, not much has changed. A lot of work is going on in the old loop ramp area. We had a bridge deck pour recently. We will be working in area 1 + 2 to do force main work. We are going to be excavating in the loop ramp. Looking into the future, not much will change. We will continue pile driving over the next couple of days. We anticipate another week and a half of pile driving. Force main work is still going on, it will take time to conduct those tests. It is a process to get it switched over. We will continue working on WB I-4.

1. FDOT to Review past 7 days.

- i. Bridge deck pour
- ii. Place embankment: westbound I-4 off ramp (Area 3)
- iii. Pile driving (14 out of 26)
- iv. Installing force main
- v. Monitored DDI configuration
- vi. Added additional signs, pavement markings, and lighting to DDI
- vii. Ongoing mowing and litter pickup



Ryan: I drove through the project site and got through so smoothly, I was able to do a loop and traverse the whole intersection in 20 minutes, starting back at Universal.

Maria: I have timed myself and I am getting home to Bay Hill in five minutes. Going back only takes seven minutes. I am receiving calls for Universal Boulevard, going left at Sand Lake Road. People traveling at Universal around 5:30 p.m. are having a hard time. Some are saying 55 minutes. I think what is happening, the construction site down there, is causing the problem. The Kirkman detour is piling all the cars to the Universal light. So, this is taking forever due to the detour, and they are blocking the intersection.

Ryan: We know the project team; we can certainly reach out to them. That intersection is outside our area, we will have to coordinate with Orange County. We will also talk to traffic Ops to see if we can coordinate to improve the area.

Jim: Maria, can you explain where this is happening?

Maria: It is on northbound Universal going towards Universal, making a left on Sand Lake Road.

David: I was through that area twice and that construction project does not even resemble what you guys are doing on Sand Lake. It is a mess. This is reminiscent of what it looked like when they first went to extend Sand Lake.

Maria: They are ignoring signaling.

David: Will the lights at this intersection be tied into your project?

Jim: Yes, they will coordinate since they are apart in the same corridor.

Ryan: I am unsure if Orange County has made any changes to timing. We will definitely have this conversation with them.

Brian: I did go through the area twice and I noticed a deputy that was stationed west on Sand Lake, right at the intersection, on both occasions, it just bottlenecks. You got the folks making a right off the exit ramp being backed up. That whole area needs work, I do not know the solution, but it seems to be a problem area.

Leeland: You were going westbound on Sand Lake?

Brian: I was, some folks should have waited, but instead they went and got stuck. But heading east I went back into it again.

Jim: That area is never going to function perfectly, and it never has. It will only improve once we get rid of that left turn at Turkey Lake. When pedestrians come through or when you get slammed with high volume, it fails. It is going to take 3-4 cycles to recover if it can. I think it is functioning better than before. The permanent DDI will fix that.

Brian: I did not add that, I have gotten through faster than before, just wanted to point it out.



Jim: There was a change that eliminated the back up on northbound Turkey Lake Road. The timings have been adjusted and that has improved significantly. DOT is doing a fantastic job to balance it out.

Leeland: With us no longer having that storage under the bridge, it backs the traffic volume up to Turkey Lake Road. Now the DOT has made those timing changes, and it allows some of the traffic to get through. The change we are making will add storage back, and that will stack some more cars in there. We are still seeing bad behavior increasing the congestion. The DDI in full configuration, the interchange will flow very nice.

Ryan: We have noticed once you cross over, it is pretty open and available space to utilize to store up traffic.

Leeland: We should be able to stack 70-90 cars.

2. FDOT to Review next 7-Days.

- i. Excavate bridge footers (median)
- ii. Connect force main to existing (Area 2)
- iii. Remove overhead jacks (Area 3)
- iv. Pile driving
- v. Monitoring DDI configuration
- vi. Ongoing mowing and litter pickup

3. Committees Comments & Suggestions

Maria: On the left, there is a lot of trash and papers there. On the right going westbound off I-4, all the equipment and trucks. Is it possible to have a cover there? There is no screening on this fencing. I was surprised it was not covered.

Leeland: We will add any screening if there is none there.

Jim: Where specifically was that paper?

Maria: Area 6, there is paper and area 7 is the trucks and signage. I do not believe there is screening on that fencing.

Leeland: I can look at it tomorrow. Today the clean team was near the Rosen medical center.

Brian: Just before Phillips Crossing, on the backside, some of the vegetation is growing back in and pulling the fencing. The screening is getting loose. They may need to cut it back.

Leeland: That was added to their schedule on Monday.

2. Future Major Milestones

1. FDOT to review next 14 – 21 days.

- i. Excavating loop ramp (Area 3)
- ii. Install and maintain temp drainage (Area 3 and 4)



- iii. Remove existing force main (Area 2) Ryan: this says 21 days, but it will most likely remain longer, as I mentioned, this process takes a while.
- iv. Continue traffic pattern on westbound I-4
- v. Bridge and roadway work on outside of westbound I-4
- vi. Ongoing mowing and litter pickup
- 2. Committee's Comments & Suggestions
- 3. Cleanliness Review
 - 1. Committees Observations over past 7-Days
- 4. Condition Review
 - 1. Committees Observations over past 7-Days
 - 2. (Fencing, Wraps, Barricades, Temp. Signage)

Ryan: Leeland and Jim and I all talked about this; we are constantly looking for improvements with the concrete sidewalk improvements. Sweeping and cleaning the sidewalk and maintaining the sidewalk is in a clean condition. A clean job site is a safe job site. We also have the construction equipment clean up in area 7. Leeland when you check on the screening tomorrow, check to see if there is any equipment that could be stored elsewhere.

David: On 528, will you put steel over I-4.

Ryan: Yes, it is a road widening.

David: Is that going to impact the area here?

Ryan: They have had detours.

Leeland: It will be months from now.

David: Can we just keep that on our radar, for the stakeholders who travel that way?

- 5. Old Business
 - 1. Public Input or Comments
 - i. Presentation to OCCC staff: April 19

Ryan: We get comments, a lot of questions about timing, the DDI, and people love to give their recommendations. We always take a look and see if there is validity in each comment. We respond accordingly but I am not aware of one that came across my desk from a stakeholder.

David: The communications of the stakeholders are coming through the chamber.

- 2. Commitments Update
 - i. Fencing and screening
 - ii. Banners
 - iii. Mowing and cleaning
 - iv. Clean Team
 - v. Ponds



Ryan: Mike is going to go out there with a fresh banner to see if they are sun faded. We will make sure the areas are mowed and clean. I know Leeland is always out there directing crews. We do have a meeting with Orange County regarding ponds.

6. New Business

1. Next meeting 4/17/24.

David: Did the ChampionsGate have a long time in transition or was it a quick conversion?

Ryan: It was an immediate conversion. Their goal was to get it done in 18 hours, but they achieved it in 12 hours. They did this by utilizing full closure.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 3:44 P.M.