



# BUILDING A BETTER I-4

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## Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) Now Open at Sand Lake Road

A new traffic pattern began early Saturday, March 9 at the Interstate 4 (I-4) and Sand Lake Road (State Road (S.R.) 482) interchange. The interchange, a vital gateway to one of Central Florida's busiest tourist areas, was modified to a DDI. This is part of the ongoing Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project to improve safety and reduce congestion through the area. Unlike a conventional interchange, this new traffic pattern now moves traffic on Sand Lake Road to the opposite side of the road at a first traffic light, eliminating left turns across traffic to access I-4, and then moves traffic back onto the right side of Sand Lake Road at a second traffic light.

Central Florida's first DDI opened at Interstate 95 (I-95) and Viera Boulevard in July 2019. A new DDI opened to motorists July 2022 at the interchange of I-4 and County Road (C.R.) 532 near ChampionsGate. An additional DDI for the I-4 corridor is planned at a new interchange being built at Daryl Carter Parkway – that project is underway and is expected to be complete by summer 2025.

## Continuing Improvements at Sand Lake Road

While the Sand Lake Road DDI is now open, the I-4 and Sand Lake Road interchange will continue to undergo improvements until its anticipated completion in 2027.

### Why was the DDI implemented in advance of project completion?

Implementing the Sand Lake Road DDI during the project's construction phase gives crews space to work in the median of Sand Lake Road. Crews need this room to reconstruct the I-4 general use lanes and extend I-4 Express – the two tolled managed lanes in each direction in the center of I-4 – over Sand Lake Road.



The design for this project is ongoing. The final configuration of the interchange will be similar to what is shown in this rendering, but small refinements are anticipated.

## Additional future improvements:

The I-4 and Sand Lake Road interchange will undergo additional improvements so motorists can continue to enjoy safe and reliable choices when they travel, maintaining this heavily traveled gateway to theme parks, shopping, resorts, and more.

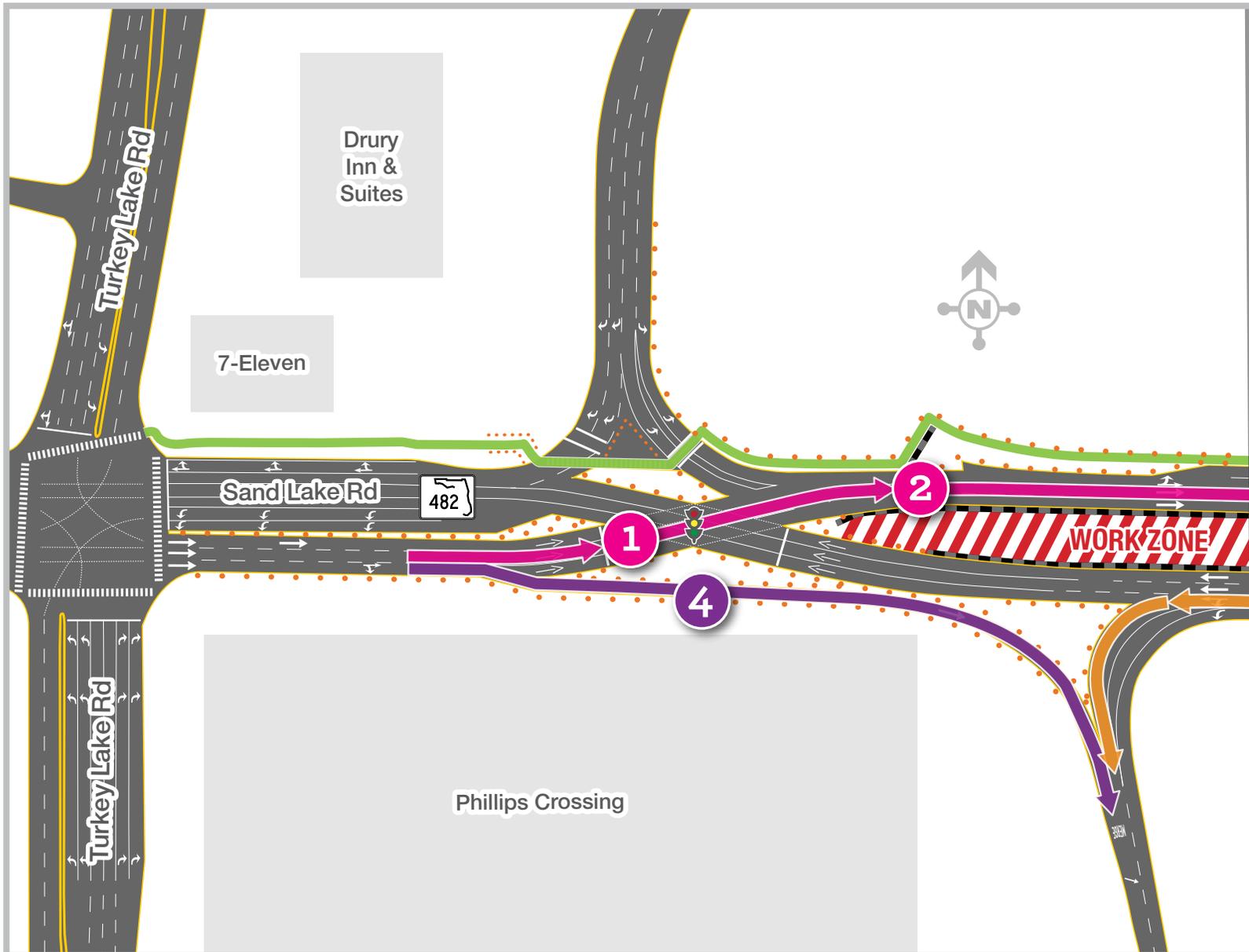
- Reconfiguring and lengthening ramps at the interchange.
- Improving capacity on Sand Lake Road and Turkey Lake Road.
- Replacing the existing left turn from westbound Sand Lake Road to southbound Turkey Lake Road with a new loop ramp.



To learn more about the benefits of DDIs, visit [fdot.tips/DDI](https://fdot.tips/DDI)



# How to Navigate the New Diverging Diamond



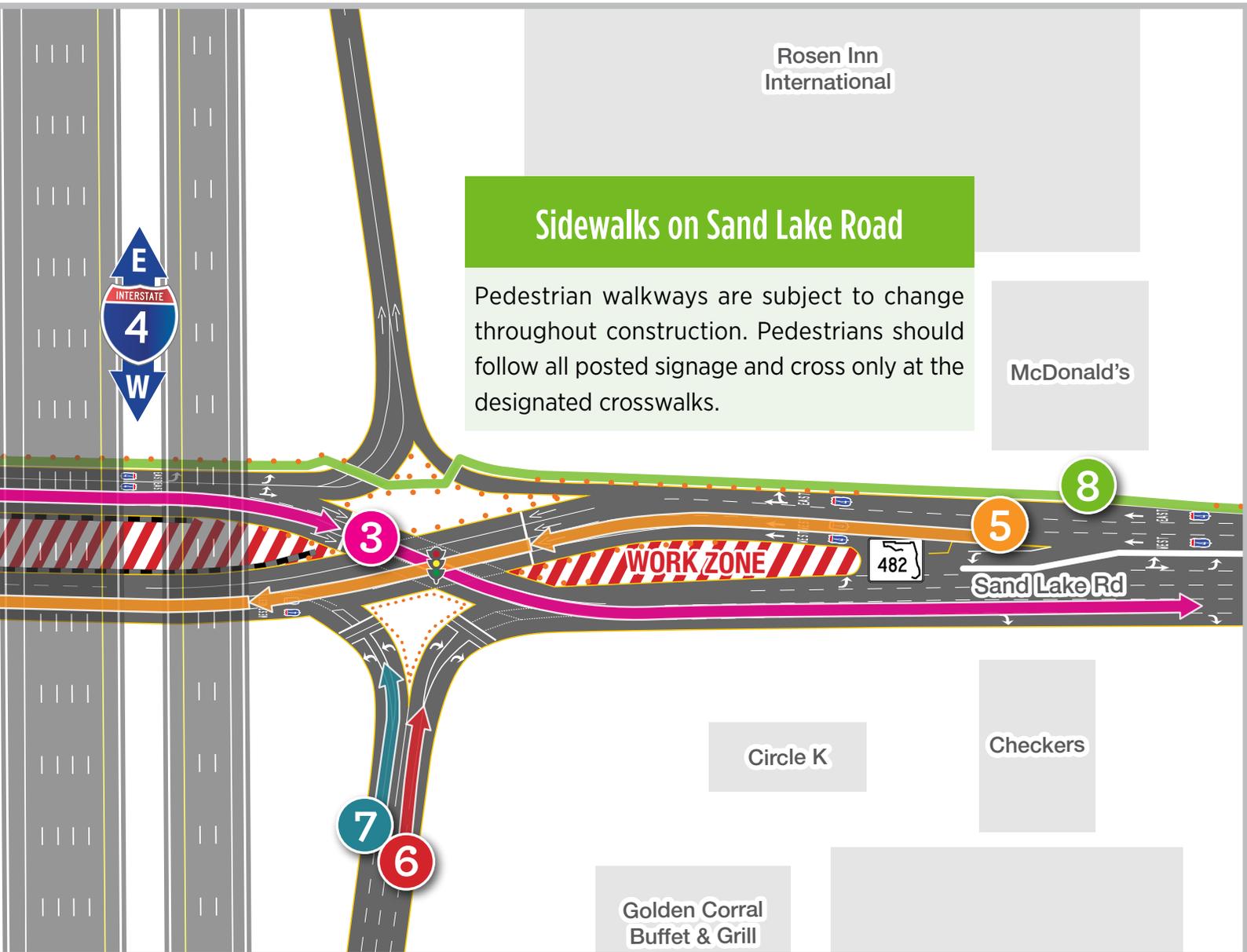
## Going Straight Through the Diverging Diamond

- 1** The driver should proceed through the first traffic light on Sand Lake Road, staying in the lane in which he or she is driving.
- 2** The lanes will be bordered by barrels in the project's construction phase DDI and will guide the driver to the opposite side of Sand Lake Road.
- 3** Before the lane crosses back to the right side of Sand Lake Road, the driver will encounter one more traffic signal.

## Entering I-4 from Sand Lake Road

- 4** If the driver wants to turn right onto I-4 from Sand Lake Road, they should use the right turn lane, just like at a conventional interchange.
- 5** When turning left onto I-4 from Sand Lake Road, the driver should stay in the left lane and follow the lane through the first traffic light to the other side of Sand Lake Road. Then, before going through the second traffic light, the driver will turn left onto the I-4 entrance ramp.

# Interchange at I-4/Sand Lake Road (S.R. 482)



## Sidewalks on Sand Lake Road

Pedestrian walkways are subject to change throughout construction. Pedestrians should follow all posted signage and cross only at the designated crosswalks.

## Exiting I-4 onto Sand Lake Road

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Turning right onto Sand Lake Road from one of the I-4 exit ramps is as easy as taking a right turn at a conventional interchange. When turning right onto Sand Lake Road, remember to yield to oncoming traffic and watch for pedestrians and bicyclists using marked walkways.

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To turn left onto Sand Lake Road, follow the left lane and, when traffic allows, turn left. The lanes will be bordered by barrels which will guide the driver from the left side of the road to the right side of the road at the next traffic signal – similar to going straight through the interchange.

## Walking along Sand Lake Road

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During the project's construction phase DDI, pedestrians walking along Sand Lake Road will be directed use the sidewalk on the northern side of the interchange while crews work on the southern sidewalk.



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## GET PROACTIVE ABOUT WORK ZONE SAFETY

The new Sand Lake Road DDI will be in an active construction work zone until project completion in 2027. Remember to always use caution while driving, riding, or walking in the area, and follow the tips below.

- » **Be Alert** — Dedicate your full attention to the road and your surroundings in the work zone.
- » **Adjust Your Speed** — Speeding accounted for more than 29% of all traffic fatalities in 2021.
- » **Don't Tailgate** — Rear-end collisions are the most common type of work-zone crashes.
- » **Be Prepared for the Unexpected** — Be aware of workers and their equipment.
- » **Minimize Distractions** — Avoid changing the radio, eating, or touching electronics.

### Sources:

The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Federal Highway Administration

### DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNS?



A lane will shift slightly toward the left or right of the roadway, but the route is otherwise unchanged.



There's road work ahead. Be on the lookout for unusual driving conditions.



A construction flagger is ahead. Be prepared to stop and follow instructions.



Motorists will need to take an alternate route.



A lane will soon end, requiring its motorists to merge into the adjacent lane.



The end of the work zone has been reached. Resume regular safe driving habits.



To learn more about this project, visit:  
[I4Beyond.com/SandLake](https://I4Beyond.com/SandLake)

