STATE ROAD 77 WIDENING

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

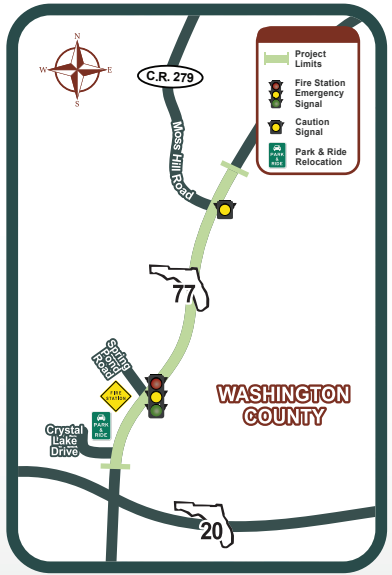
FDOT

FROM THE BAY COUNTY LINE TO NORTH OF MOSS HILL ROAD, WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will begin work **the week of Aug. 10** to widen State Road (S.R.) 77 from two to four lanes from the Bay County Line to north of C.R. 279 (Moss Hill Road). Additional improvements include adding an emergency signal at Spring Pond Road, upgrading the caution signal at Moss Hill Road, relocating the Park & Ride lot to Crystal Lake Drive, and adding drainage. Work is scheduled to be completed spring 2025.

This six-mile construction project is part of a larger 20-mile S.R. 77 widening project. It is also part of the continuing effort by FDOT to improve safety, ease congestion on the S.R. 77 corridor, and encourage economic development opportunities in Washington County.

Motorists are reminded to pay attention to the posted speed limit of 45 mph when traveling through the construction area and watch for equipment entering and exiting the roadway. Speeding fines are doubled when workers are present. All planned construction activities are weather dependent and may be delayed or rescheduled in the event of inclement weather.



Financial Project Identification Number: 217909-3-52-01

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

District Three
Public Information Office
1074 Highway 90
Chipley, FL 32428

STATE ROAD 77 WIDENING

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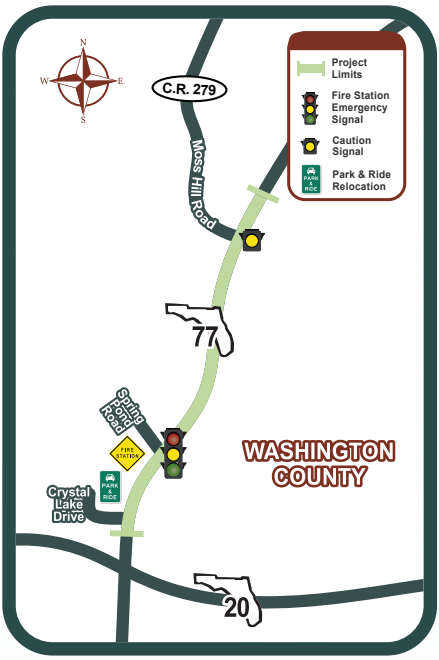

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Should you have questions regarding the project please contact:

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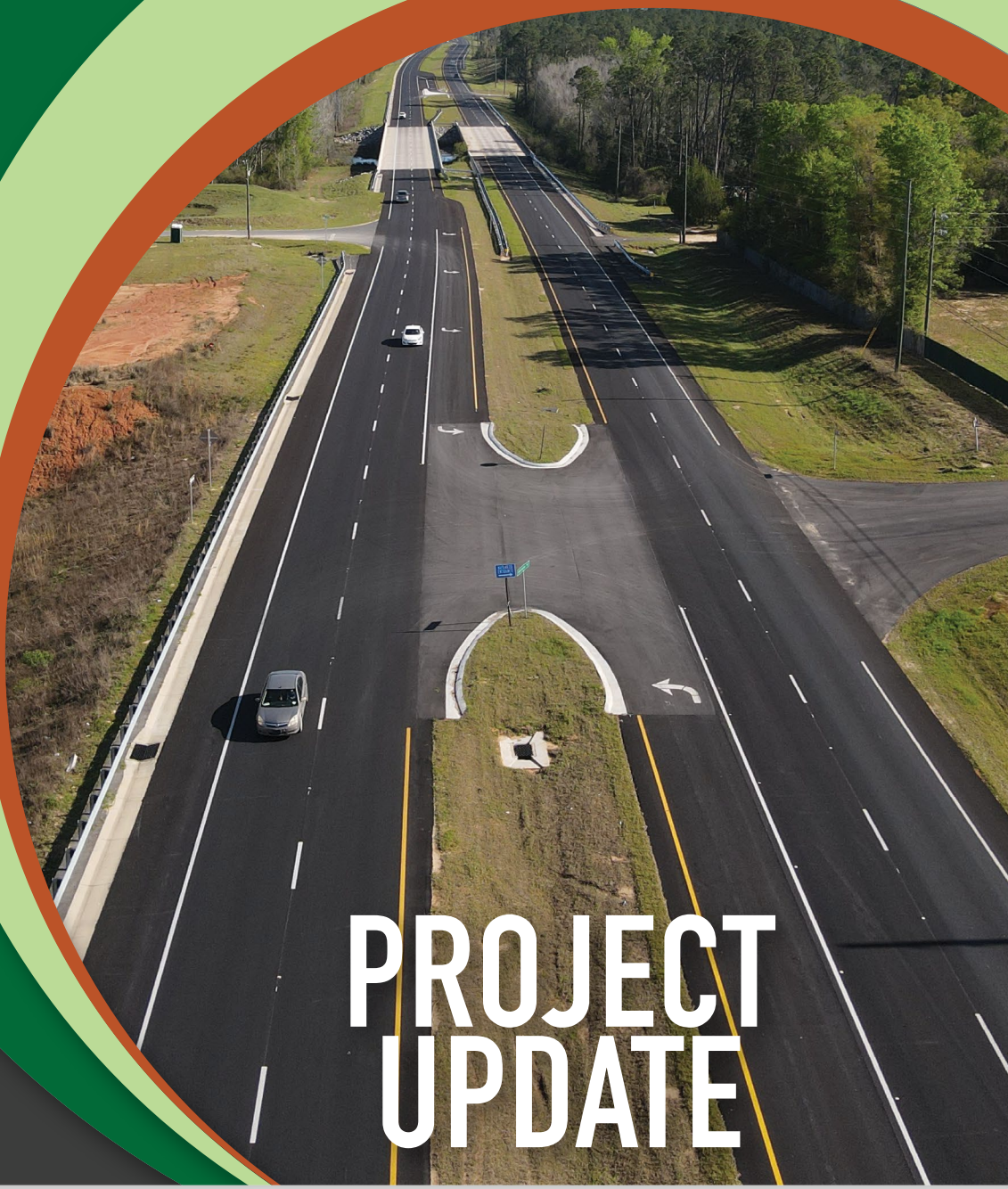


PROJECT UPDATE

STATE ROAD 77 WIDENING

FROM THE BAY COUNTY LINE TO NORTH OF BLUE LAKE ROAD, WASHINGTON COUNTY

FDOT

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BEHIND THE SCENES: STORMWATER PONDS

Man and Machine – Then and Now

Florida is known for short, intense rainstorms. Stormwater ponds are one of the most common means of providing stormwater management throughout the six-mile segment between the Bay County line and Moss Hill Road.

The S.R. 77 stormwater pond and drainage pipe network are major components necessary for the successful completion of the roadway widening project.

Westbound aerial view of the pond just south of Pine Ridge Drive and Rolling Pines Road.

Hundreds of concrete structures and pipes act as channels to divert water off the roadway into one of eight stormwater ponds. By using this network system excess water is removed from the travel lanes, providing a safer roadway surface for the driver with minimal impact on the environment.

Stormwater ponds can be seen alongside the new roadway.

WHY STORMWATER PONDS ARE IMPORTANT

When it rains, excess stormwater needs somewhere to go after it runs off the roadway surface. The ponds provide a stormwater management system that reduces negative environmental impacts, prevents flooding, and minimizes erosion by capturing and holding the vast amount of stormwater runoff that washes from roadway surfaces.

Westbound aerial view of the stormwater pond near the Chain Lake Road and S.R. 77 intersection.

Each pond is designed to contain stormwater runoff for an extended period of time. The ponds protect sensitive water ecosystems by holding excess stormwater long enough for natural processes to remove unwanted sediment and debris before the water is naturally delivered back into the ecosystem.

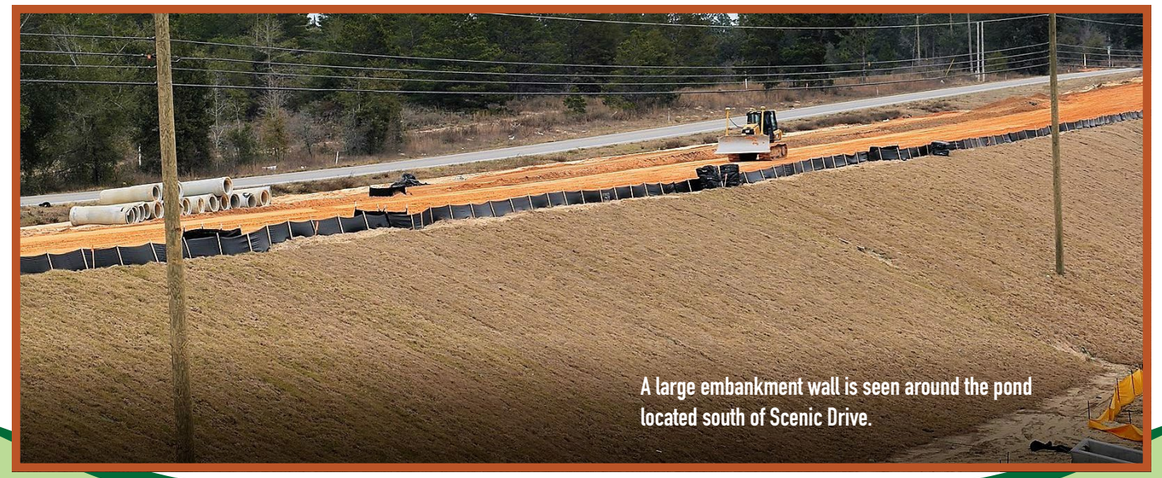
Stormwater ponds function to reduce the potential for flash flooding and minimize erosion. Each pond features an empty space or basin area that manages stormwater runoff by allowing room for excess water to be captured during rain events. The basin design slows the water down and holds it long enough to allow gravity to pull sediments out of the water. The system also allows sunlight to break down pollutants before the basin drains and excess water is released into the ecosystem.

Large drainage structures are an additional stormwater pond feature utilized at six of the eight ponds. Drainage structures are designed to prevent the pond from overflowing by providing drainage relief when the stormwater reaches a certain level. Excess stormwater is released into the environment at a controlled rate.

A stormwater pond early in the making. Dump trucks line up by the dozens during pond site excavation activities near Carter Circle.

SAFETY IS AN FDOT PRIORITY

Safety fencing will be placed around the stormwater pond located near Rolling Pines Road and Pine Ridge Drive. In addition to fencing, embankment areas are graded for maintenance and safety purposes. Crews place sod on the outer rim, or slope, to aid in preventing soil erosion.



A large embankment wall is seen around the pond located south of Scenic Drive.

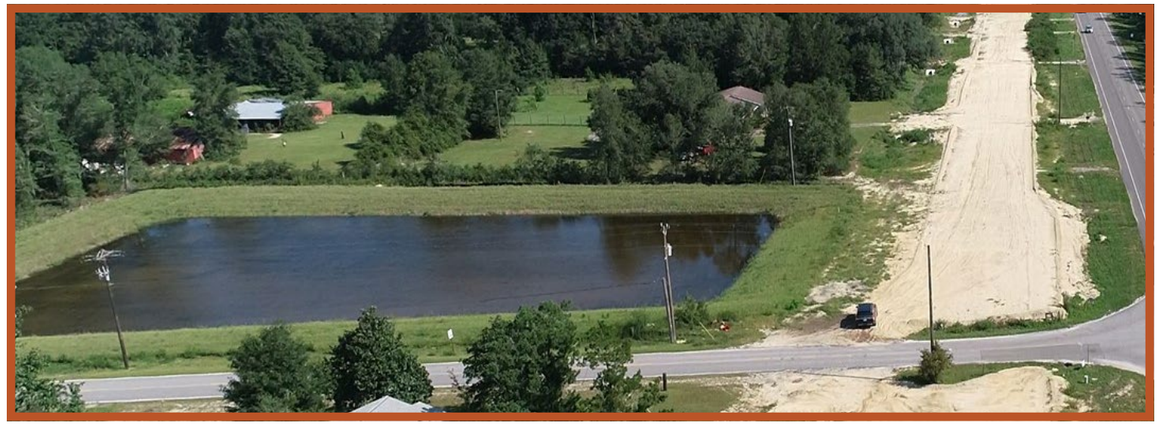
Despite their relatively small size, bulldozer's tank-like tracks allow for speed and maneuverability through rough terrain.

Off-road dump trucks are fitted with hydraulic mechanisms which unload materials with ease during pond site construction, reducing operation costs.

Excavators provide impressive muscle power and are being used to construct eight stormwater ponds, including the pond site south of Rolling Pines Road and Pine Ridge Drive.

Construction of these eight stormwater ponds began in 2021. Excavators, bulldozers, and large off-road dump trucks are being used to perform the pond excavation and earth moving operations. These types of heavy equipment are more cost-effective in use of the pond construction as they can distribute and manage large amounts of materials.

STORMWATER POND VIEWS



Stormwater pond near Chain Lake Road.

Aerial view of the stormwater pond located just south of Moss Hill Road.

Panoramic view facing west from Pine Ridge Drive of the nearby stormwater pond.

With stormwater pond construction well underway, and a large portion of the drainage system in place, construction of the new road has begun. Excess soil that was removed from the pond sites is being redistributed throughout the project to build the new road. Completion of this six-mile widening project is anticipated in spring 2025.

APPROACHING THE FINISH LINE

The S.R. 77 widening and improvement efforts from north of C.R. 279 to 1 Mile south of Wausau City Limits and from 1 Mile N. of Wausau City Limits to Blue Lake Road are set to be completed late summer 2022. In the past few months, crews have been wrapping up pond construction and paving activities in preparation for the traffic to be switched to its final configuration.

A southbound view of paving progress south of Mobile Swamp Road.

Completion of stormwater pond construction near Sunny Hills Boulevard.

A roadway widening project is built in various phases. Maintaining traffic flow through the corridor is vital. what is knowns as transition lanes are constructed to allow motorists to safely merge and change lanes, if necessary as the road widens and narrows. This is done to keep traffic moving safely from one area to another as work progresses. Crews perform grading activities in preparation for paving the temporary lanes to transition drivers to south of Sunny Hills Boulevard.

The contractor grades limerock in preparation for paving.

North and southbound traffic between Sunny Hills Boulevard and Rogers Road shifted to the newly constructed northbound lanes in February.

ALL ABOUT ASPHALT

DID YOU KNOW?
Paving in the colder months can be a tricky task.

When asphalt arrives at the worksite, it should be maintained, at a minimum, 300 degrees Fahrenheit. If the asphalt dips below 185 degreess Fahrenheit, it will become too stiff to compact and shape. Once the asphalt is installed, crews must move quickly to compact the asphalt before it cools excessively. This ensures a long life, smooth ride and attractive surface.

Coordination is key on construction projects. Crews work together to pave one of the new lanes south of Sunny Hills Boulevard. As one crew lays the hot new asphalt, the other is smoothing and compacting the material before it cools to get a perfect product.

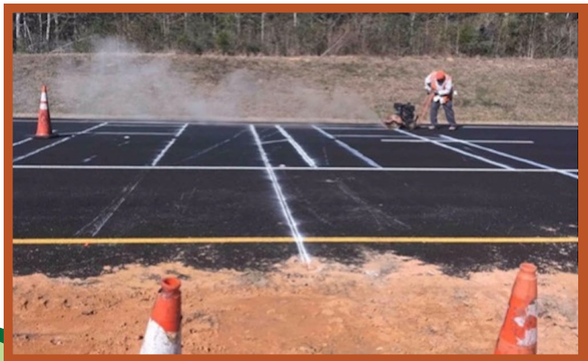
On a major roadway, such as S.R. 77, different types of openings are implemented for a variety of reasons – one being safety. Median crossovers are connections of the opposing travel lanes that cross the median of a divided highway. These medians are sometimes necessary on median divided highways to allow for safe, additional turning and through movements. Crews pave a median crossover south of Sunny Hills Boulevard.

Dedicated turn lanes are used at busy intersections to prevent vehicles from making a turn left or right from slowing down the through traffic. Dedicated turn lanes provide extra space for the turning traffic that essentially takes the turning vehicles out of the general traffic flow, helping reduce the risk of accidents. Crews complete southbound paving operations of dedicated turn lanes south of Sunny Hills Boulevard.

FEATURE FOCUS: TRAFFIC MONITORING SYSTEMS

DID YOU KNOW?

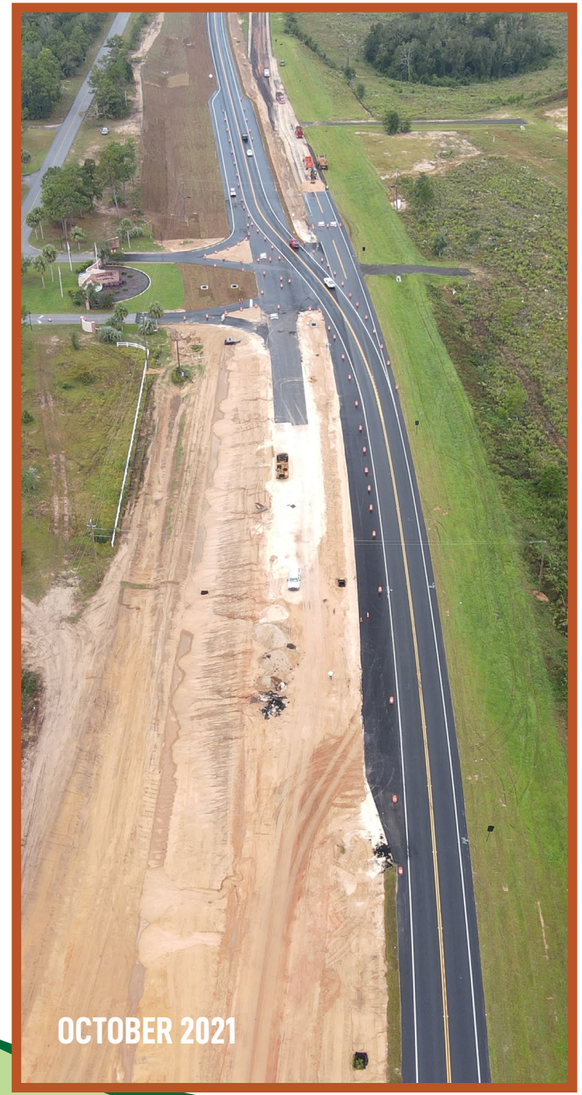
State road departments started collecting traffic data as early as 1936. Not only is this information required for analysis of current and future vehicular movement, FDOT must have a detailed understanding of why and how our roadways age, including certain factors such as the number, type, and weight of the vehicles using Florida's roads and bridges in order to make improvements. Traffic Monitoring Systems (TMS) will be a new addition to S.R. 77 to provide the FDOT with data relating to speed and volume of drivers traveling on the corridor.

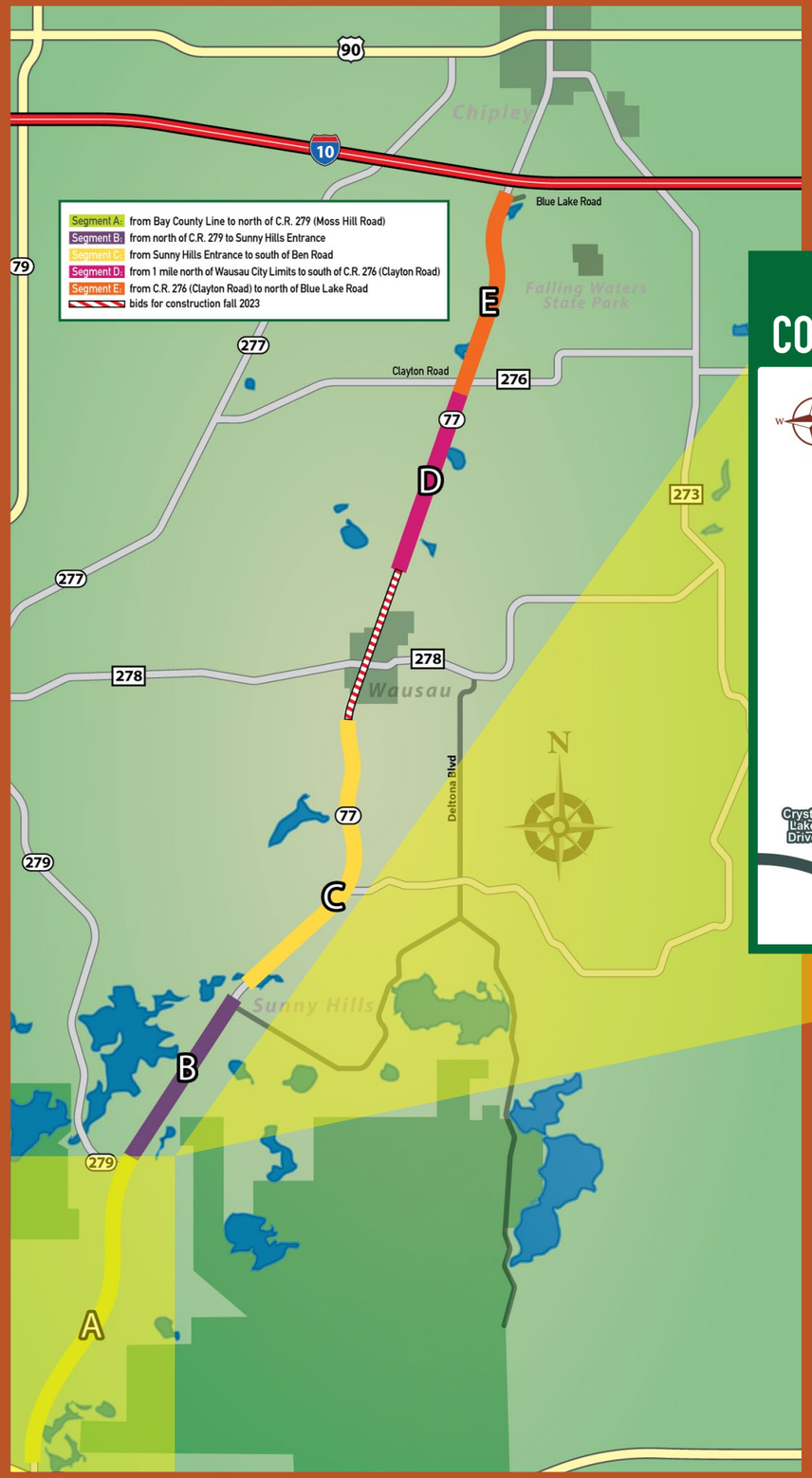


Installing those Traffic Monitoring Systems is a very tedious process as it takes very precise measurements and care. Here, crews create grooves in the road for the TMS to lay flat and in-place while vehicles drive over it.

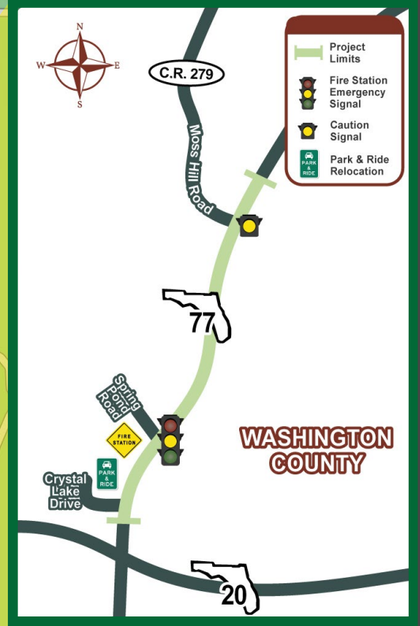
PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

AERIAL VIEW OF NEW CONSTRUCTION AT SUNNY HILLS BOULEVARD





NEW PROJECT CONSTRUCTION AREA



COMING SOON!

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

- Constructing embankment
- Constructing Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) wall in Phase A north of Crystal Lake Road
- Continuing roadway subgrade and drainage work throughout the project
- Excavating operations throughout the project limits
- Monitoring erosion control measures
- Relocating Comcast utilities
- Paving and striping activities

STATE ROAD 77 WIDENING

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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