

Transportation Planning Division

Northwest Orange County Areawide Transportation Study (NOWOCATS) 1st Community Meeting – Series 1

January 26 & 28, 2026



Presentation Outline

- Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Study Purpose and Objectives**
- Existing Conditions Evaluation**
- Programmed and Planned Improvements**
- Future Conditions Evaluation**
- Study Timeline**
- Public Engagement**



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Welcome and Opening Remarks



Christine Moore
DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER



Welcome and Opening Remarks

Meeting Instructions

- The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period.
- Comments will be addressed in the order they are received.
- If you received a post card, you are on the project mailing list. If you did not, please sign in and provide your address to be added to the mailing list.

NOWOCATS Northwest Orange County Areawide Transportation Study	
MEETING NOTICE NO. 1 JANUARY 2026	
Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore invite you to attend a community meeting for the Northwest Orange County Areawide Transportation Study (NOWOCATS).	
What is NOWOCATS?	
Orange County, in partnership with the City of Apopka, is undertaking NOWOCATS to proactively develop a transportation system that can support anticipated growth while preserving the unique character of the region. The study will function as a long-range transportation plan, identifying and analyzing potential projects to improve connectivity, reduce congestion, and enhance mobility for all modes of travel – including vehicles, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians.	
What are the project limits?	
The study limits encompass the region north of Clarcona-Ocoee Road, south of Orange/Seminole County line, east of Orange/Lake County Line and west of Orange/Seminole County line.	
Study Area Map	
COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES #1	
Due to the size of the study area, there will be two opportunities for the public to attend. The same information will be presented at both meetings.	
January 26, 2026 6:00-8:00 p.m. Apopka Community Center 4719 S Central Avenue Apopka, FL 32719	January 28, 2026 6:00-8:00 p.m. Kelly Park School 4700 Jason Dwyer Parkway Apopka, FL 32719
The meetings will begin with an open house at 6:00 p.m. to allow participants to view the meeting materials prior to the presentation. The presentation will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m., followed by a public comment period. All meeting materials, including the presentation, will be available prior to the meeting on the project website: www.NOWOCATS.com	
What is the intent of this meeting?	
The purpose of the first of two meetings is to present the data collection findings for existing traffic conditions and 2050 model traffic forecasts, and to obtain your feedback on transportation issues important to you!	
Scan the QR Code on the left to obtain more information about this project and the project contacts.	
Escanea el código QR a la izquierda para obtener más información sobre este proyecto y sus contactos.	
We strongly encourage public participation and welcome your comments!	
Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, income, disability, or familial status. Persons who require language translation or interpretive services, which are provided at no cost, should contact Orange County Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator, at 407-224-3400, or via email at TitleVI@orange.fl.us at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing. Persons requiring special accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) may request assistance from County ADA Coordinator Nicola Norton, at 407-836-6568 or nicola.norton@orange.fl.us at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing.	
Speaker Request Card <input type="checkbox"/>	
To be completed prior to making a recorded statement	
COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES NO. 1	
January 26, 2026 Northwest Orange County Areawide Transportation Study (NOWOCATS) Orange County, Florida	
Please Print:	
Name: _____ Last _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____	
Address: _____ Street: _____	
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____	
Telephone: (_____) _____ Area Code: _____	
Representing: Self _____ Firm _____	
Government Agency _____	
Civic Organization _____	
Homeowners Association _____	
Other _____	



Welcome and Opening Remarks

Orange County Project Contact:

Hatem A. Abou-Senna, PhD., P.E.

Project Manager

Transportation Planning Division
Orange County Public Works Department
4200 John Young Parkway
Orlando, FL 32839
Email: Hatem.Abou-Senna@ocfl.net
Phone: (407) 836-8023
Fax: (407) 836-8079



Call, Email, or Visit Website
www.NOWOCATS.com

Consultant Project Contact:

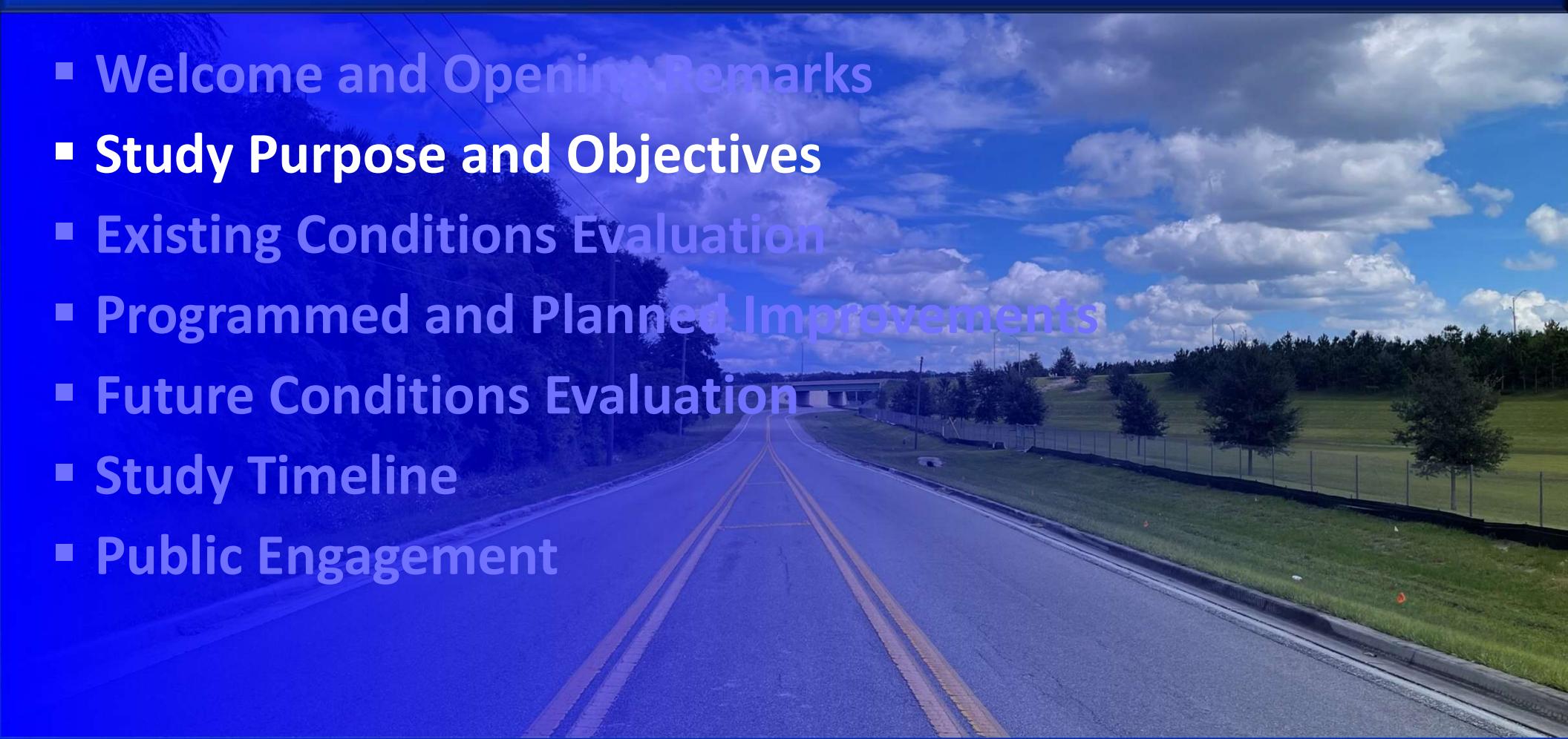
Babuji Ambikapathy, P.E., AICP
VHB
225 E. Robinson Street, Suite 300
Landmark Center Two
Orlando, FL 32801
Email: BAmbikapathy@VHB.com
Phone: (407) 459-1630





Presentation Outline

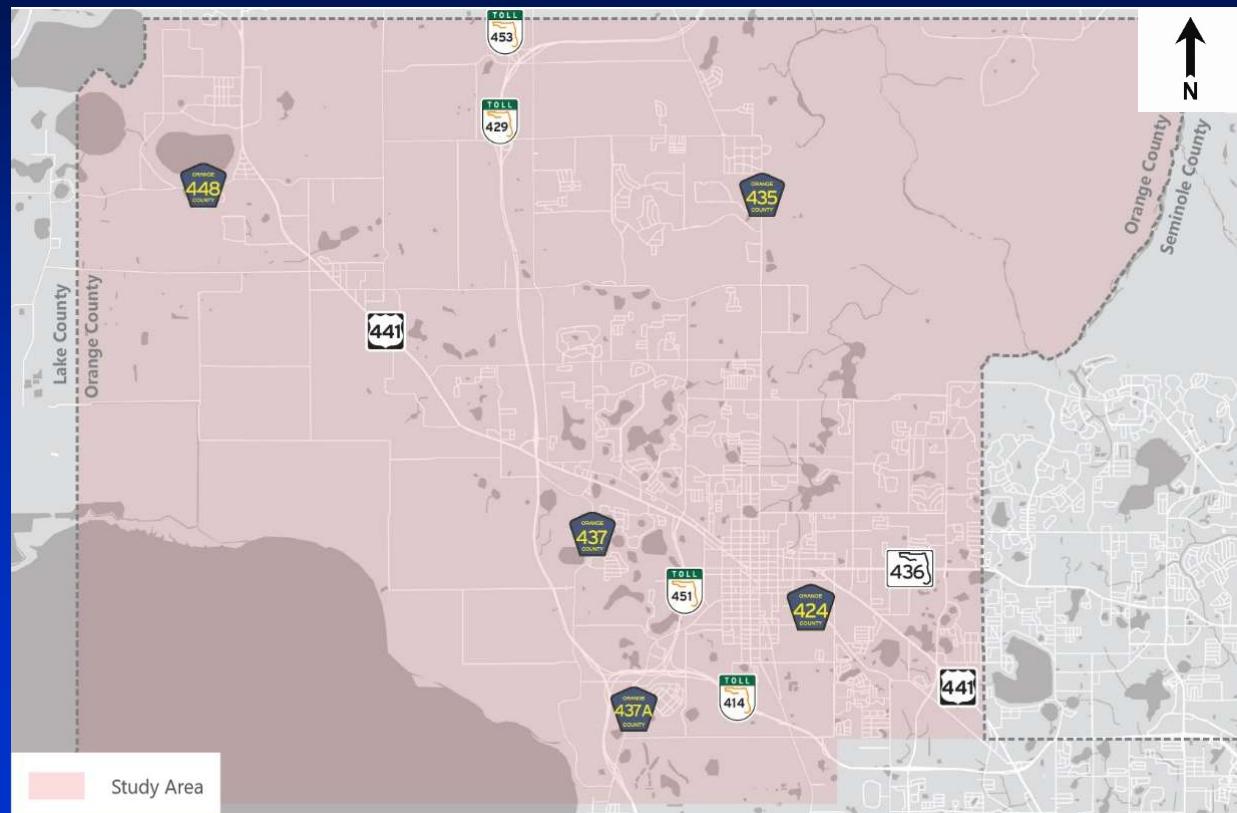
- **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- **Study Purpose and Objectives**
- **Existing Conditions Evaluation**
- **Programmed and Planned Improvements**
- **Future Conditions Evaluation**
- **Study Timeline**
- **Public Engagement**





Study Purpose and Objectives

- Northwest Orange County Areawide Transportation Study (NOWOCATS)
- Identify and prioritize potential transportation projects to support future growth
 - Improve network connectivity
 - Provide relief to constrained corridors
 - Short-term, mid-term, and long-term improvements for all road users

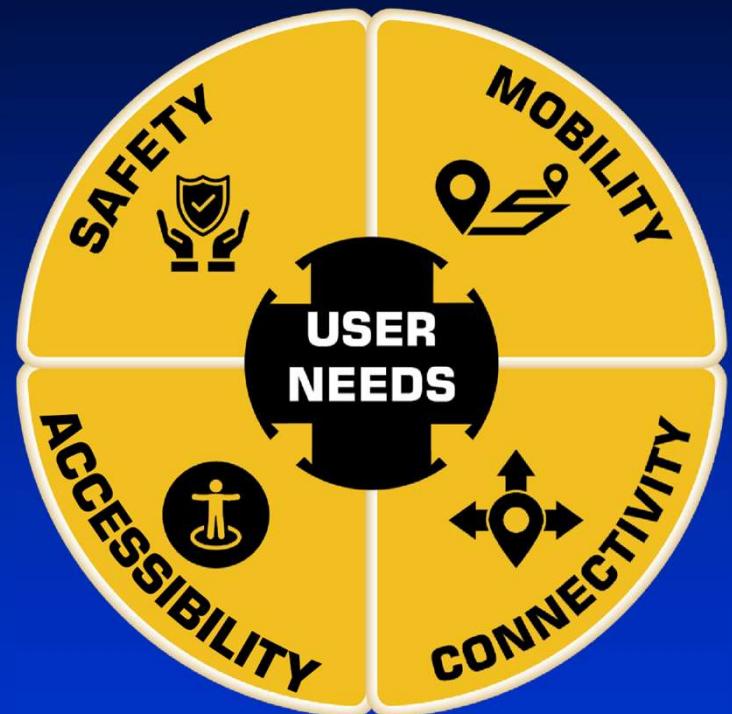




Study Purpose and Objectives

Identify Improvements

- Document Project Need
- Balance Needs of all users
 - Safety
 - Mobility
 - Connectivity
 - Accessibility





Study Purpose and Objectives

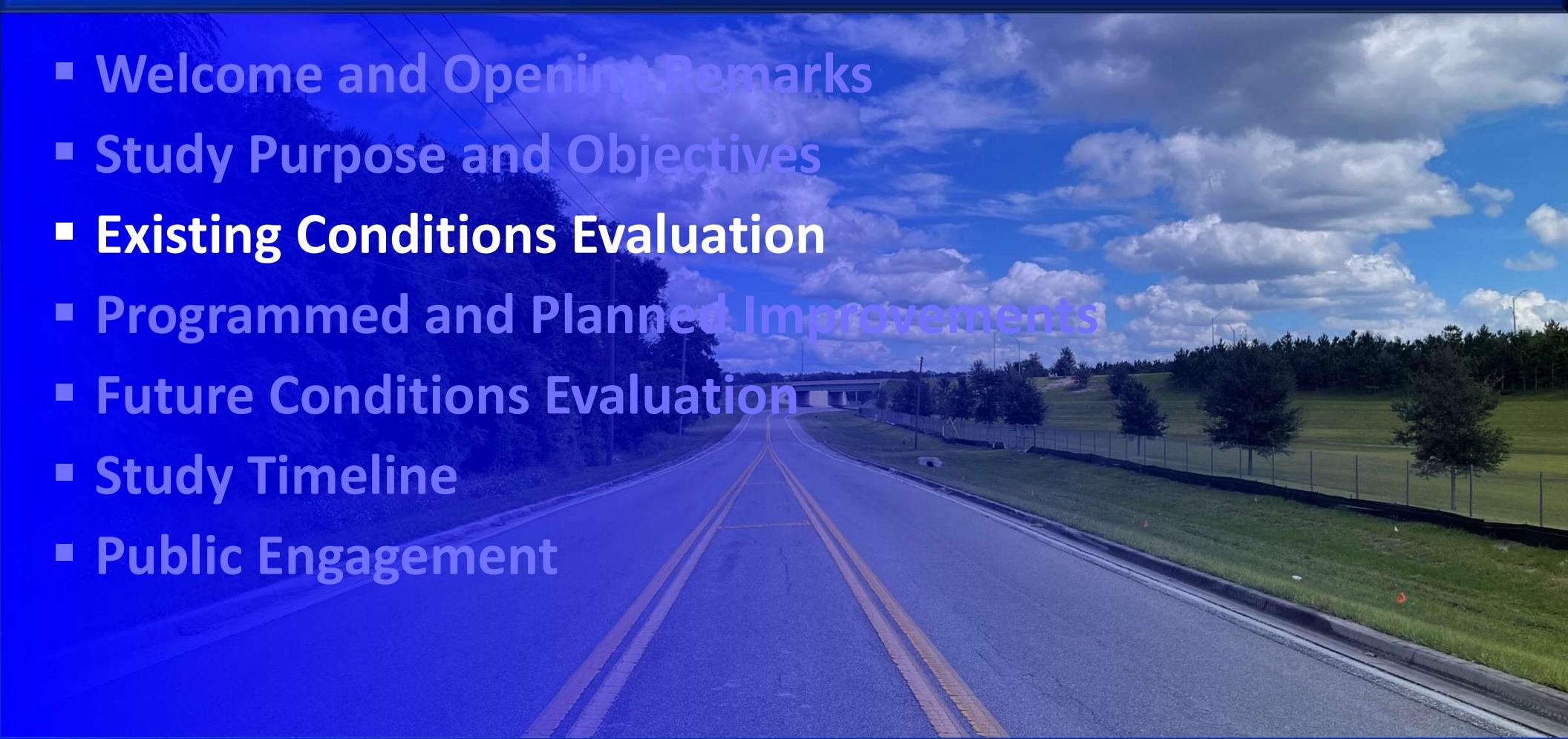
Study Process





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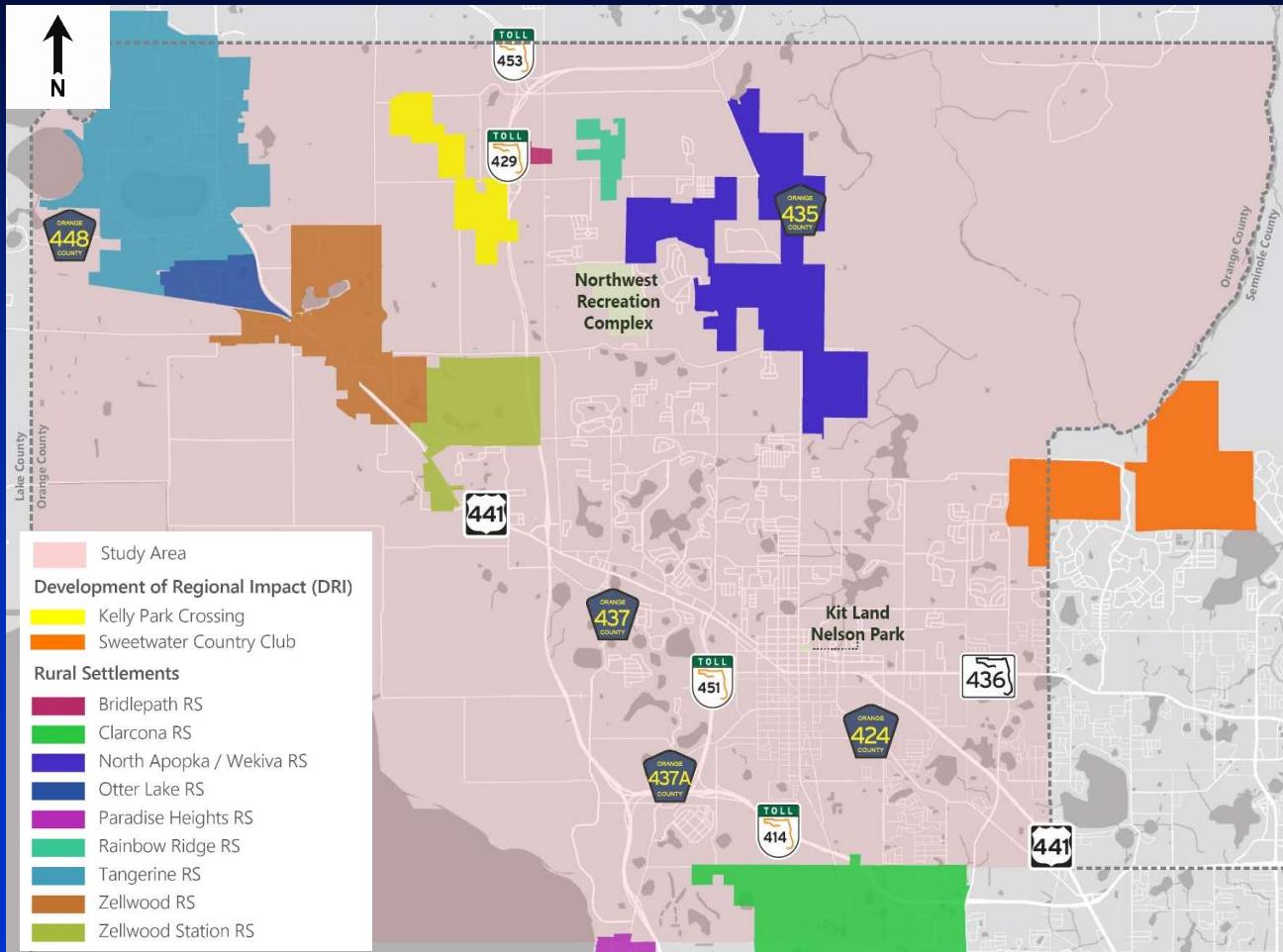




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Study Area Overview

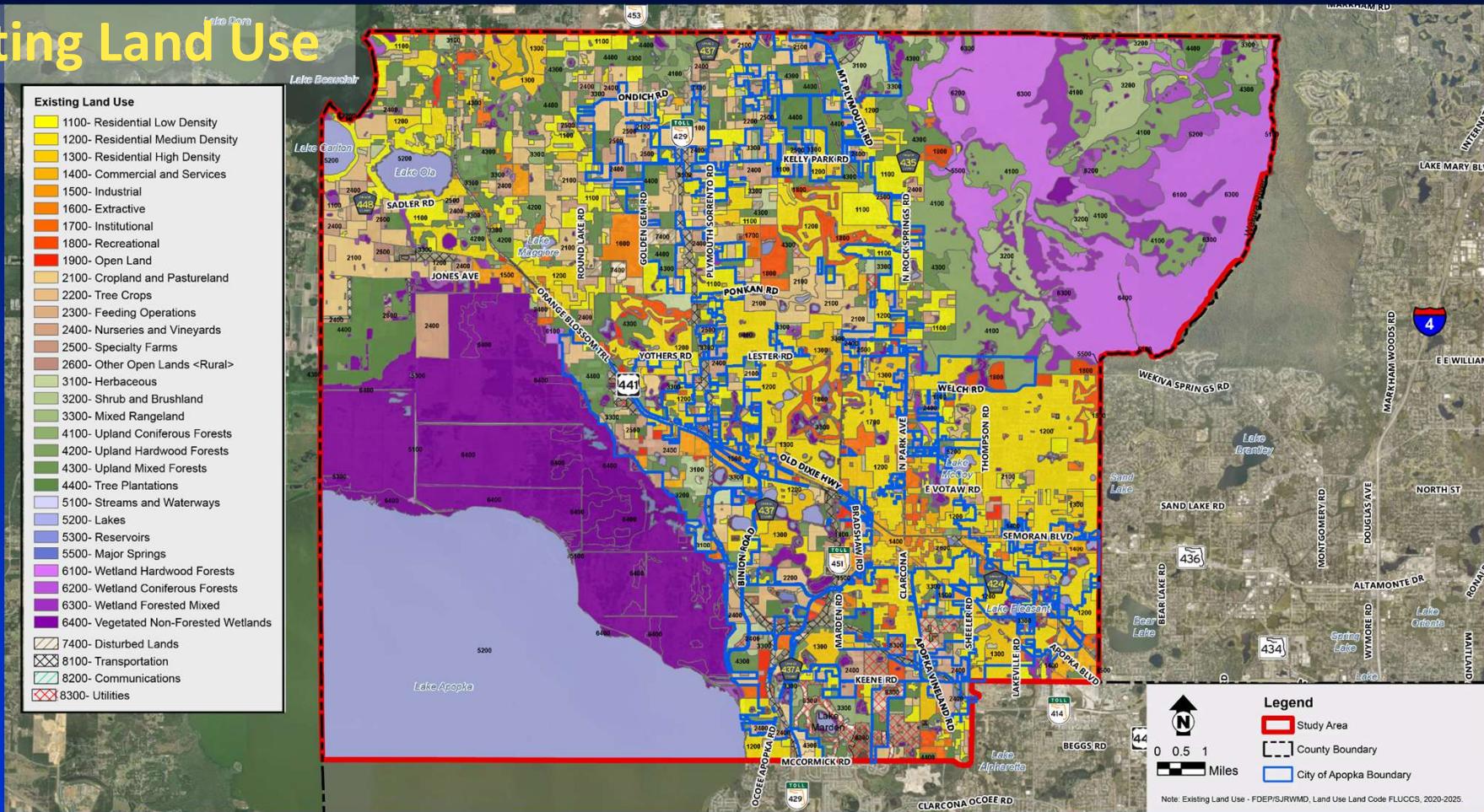
- City of Apopka – core urban center
- Three Parks
 - Wekiva Springs State Park
 - Kelly Park
 - Kit Land Nelson Park
- Major Developments
 - Sweetwater Country Club DRI
 - Kelly Park Interchange Form-Based Code Area
- 44 intersections
- 27 roadways





Existing Conditions Evaluation

Existing Land Use

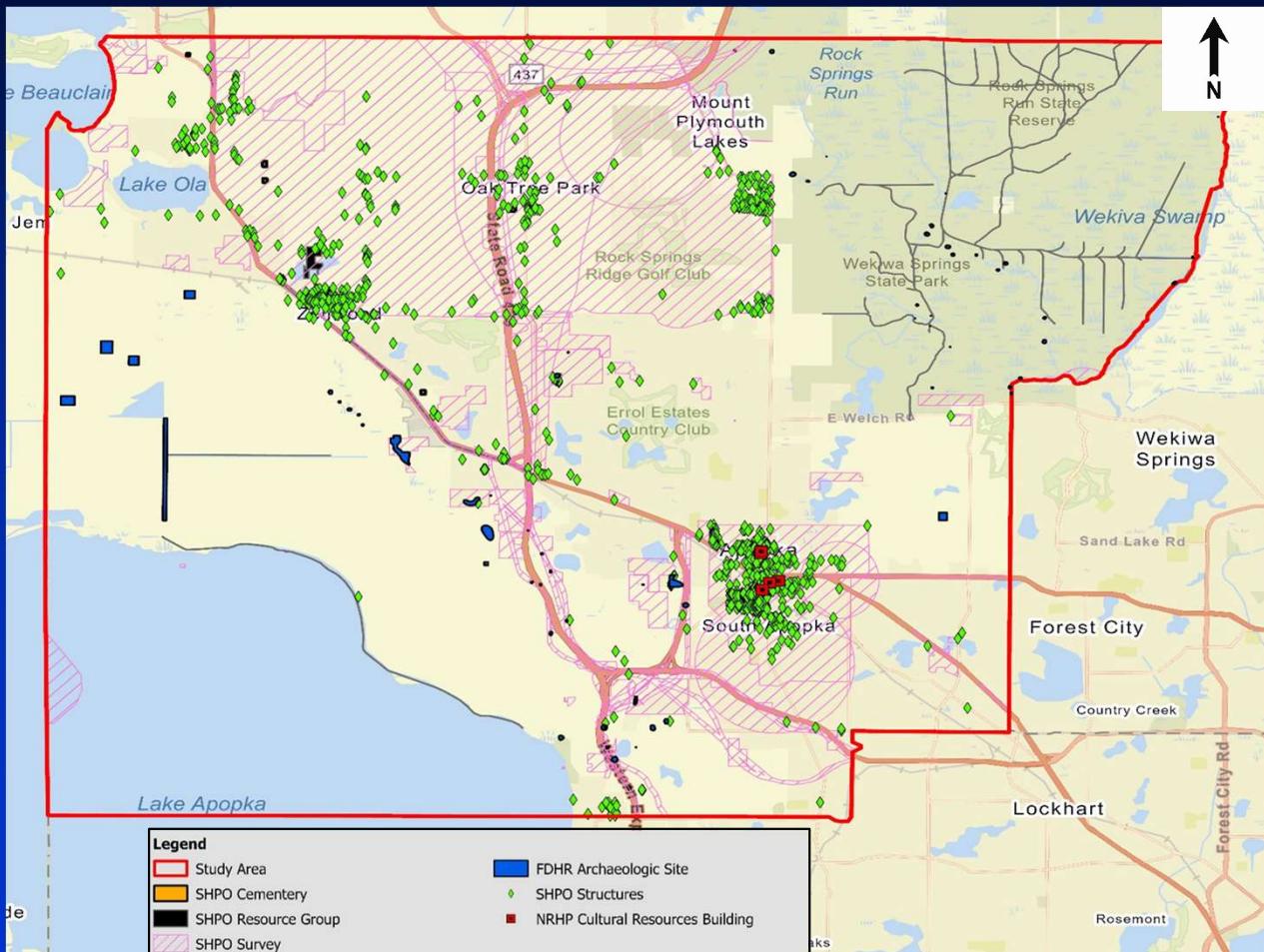




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Cultural Resources

- Structures – 915
- Bridges – 2
- Resource Groups* - 21
- Five known resources eligible for National Listing

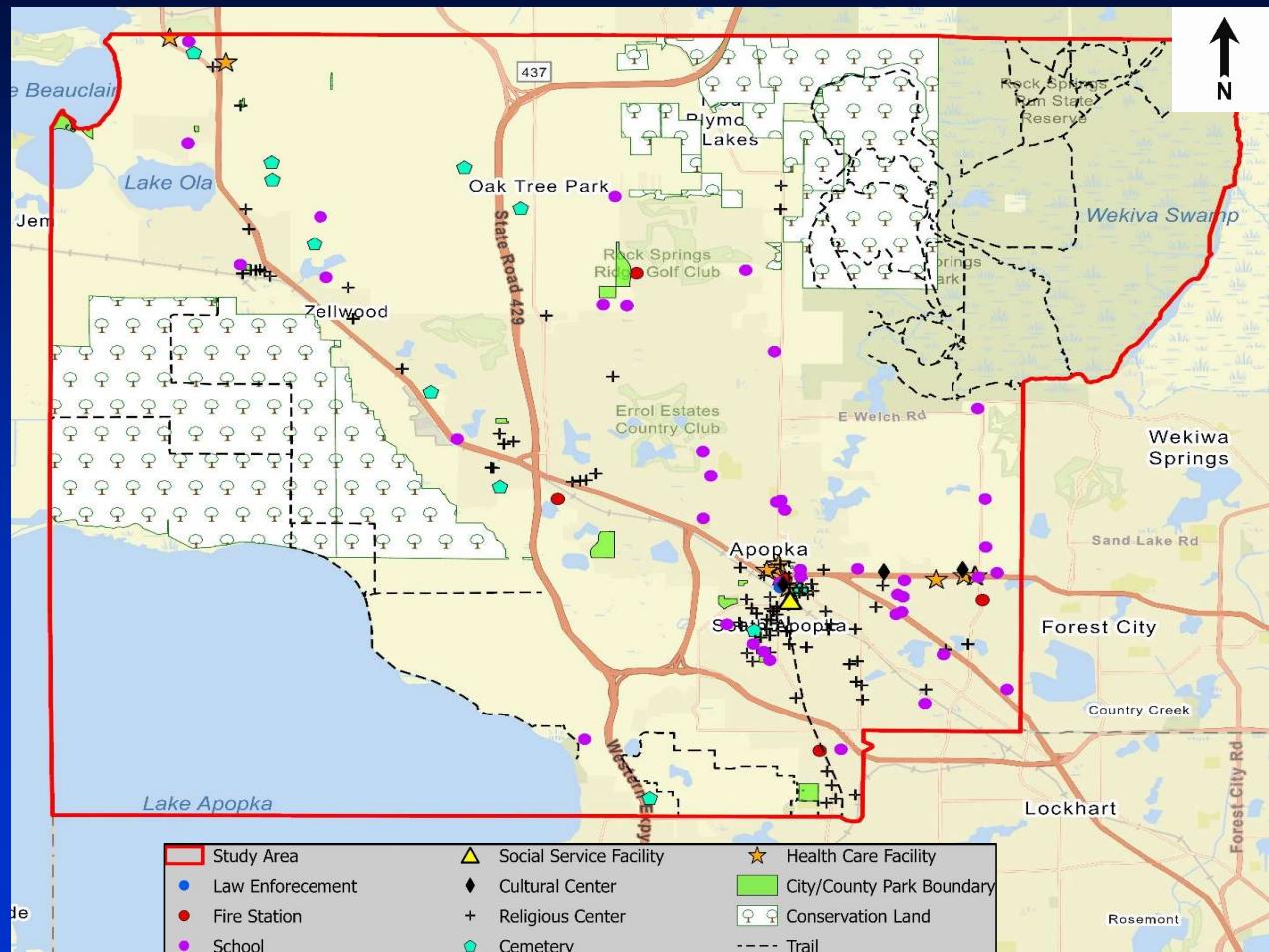




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Social Resources

- Public Facilities
 - Police/Fire – 10
 - Health Care/Hospital – 32
 - Religious Center – 112
 - Schools – 39
 - Parks/Natural Lands – 26
- Utility Agency/Owned Lands – 36
- Conservation/Public Lands – 21





Existing Conditions Evaluation

Natural and Physical Resources

- Potential for protected wildlife species – 54
- Within USFWS Consultation Area for:
 - Everglade Snail Kite
 - Florida Scrub Jay
 - Sand Skink
 - Wood Stork core foraging area for three colonies
- Potential wildlife crossings/habitat connectivity enhancements – 6
- Wetlands – 37,787.75 +/- acres
 - Wekiva River, Tributaries, Lake Apopka North Shore
 - Lakes – Apopka, Bartho, Lerla, Lucie, Carlton, Ola, Prevatt, Alden, Prevatt, McCoy, Upper and Lower Lake Doe, Grassmere, Standish, Page, Pleasant
 - Rock Springs, Rock Springs Run
 - Unnamed systems
- Contamination (potential for/known) – 1,787

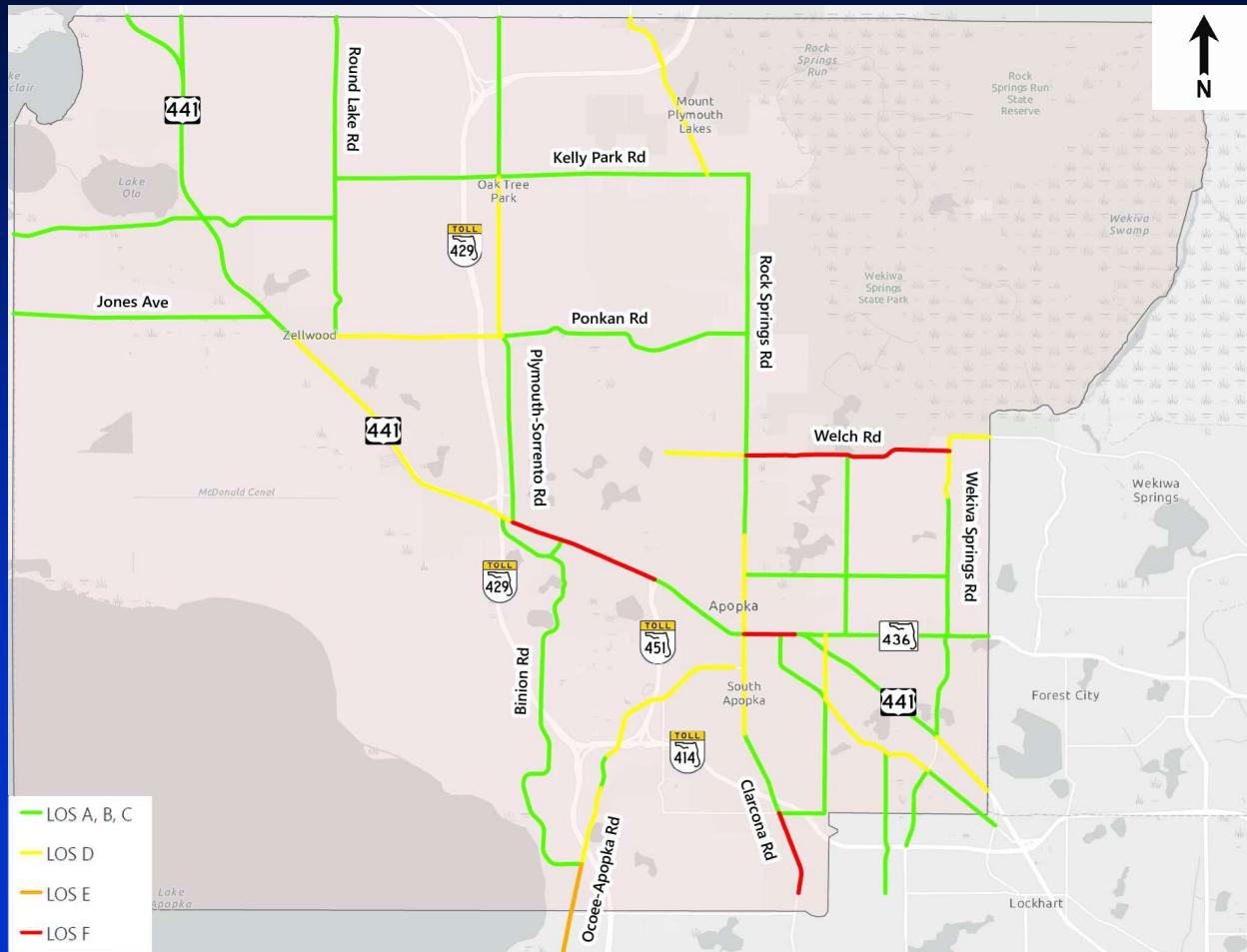




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Roadway Segment Operations

- LOS A through C – 69%
- LOS D – 22%
- LOS E – 2%
- LOS F – 8%
- Failing Roadway Segments:
 - Welch Rd from Rock Springs Rd to Wekiva Springs Rd – LOS F
 - Ocoee Apopka Rd from West Road / Ocoee Crown Pointe Pkwy to Binion Road – LOS E
 - US 441 from SR 436 to Park Ave – LOS F
 - US 441 from Western Beltway to Plymouth Sorrento Rd - LOS F
 - Clarcona Rd / Park Ave from Gilliam Rd to Keene Rd – LOS F

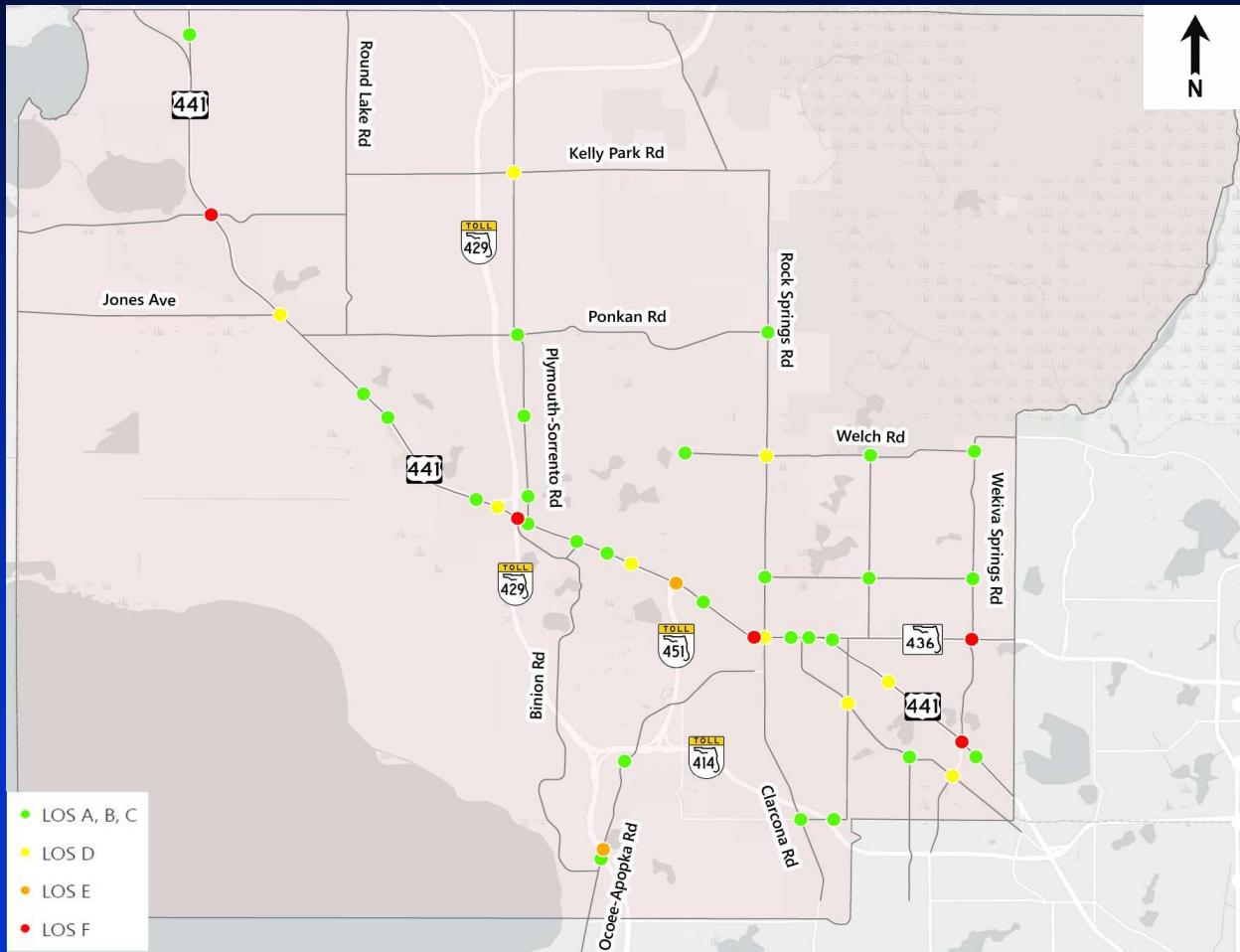




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Intersection Operations

- LOS A through C – 61%
- LOS D – 20%
- LOS E – 7%
- LOS F – 11%
- Failing Intersections:
 - US 441 & Piedmont Wekiwa Rd
 - US 441 & Central Ave
 - US 441 & W Orange Ave
 - US 441 & Sadler Rd
 - Piedmont Wekiwa Rd & SR 436

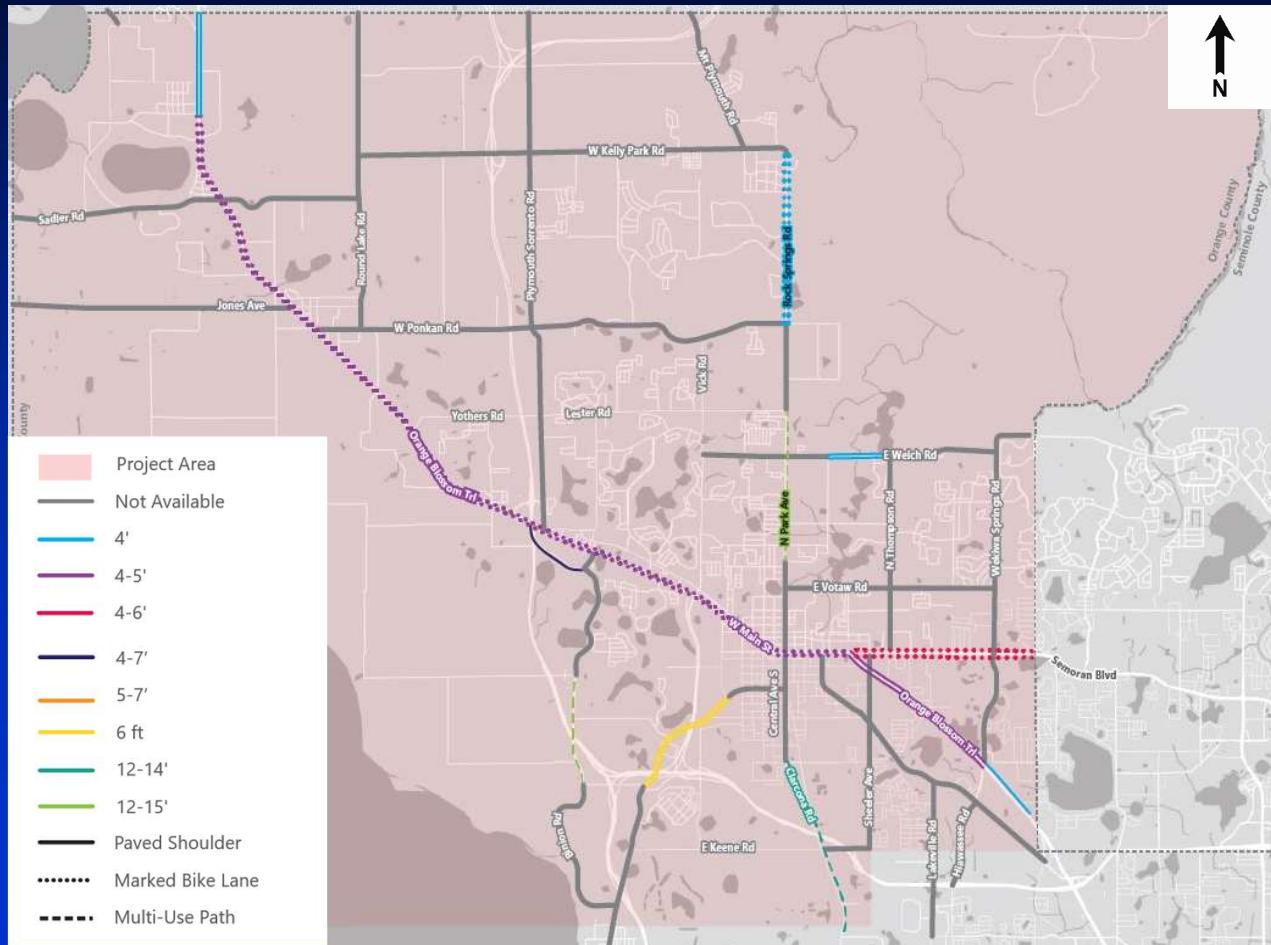




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Three Types of Bicycle Facilities

- Bicycle Lanes
- Paved Shoulders
- Multi-use Paths
- No Sharrows or Buffered Bike Lanes

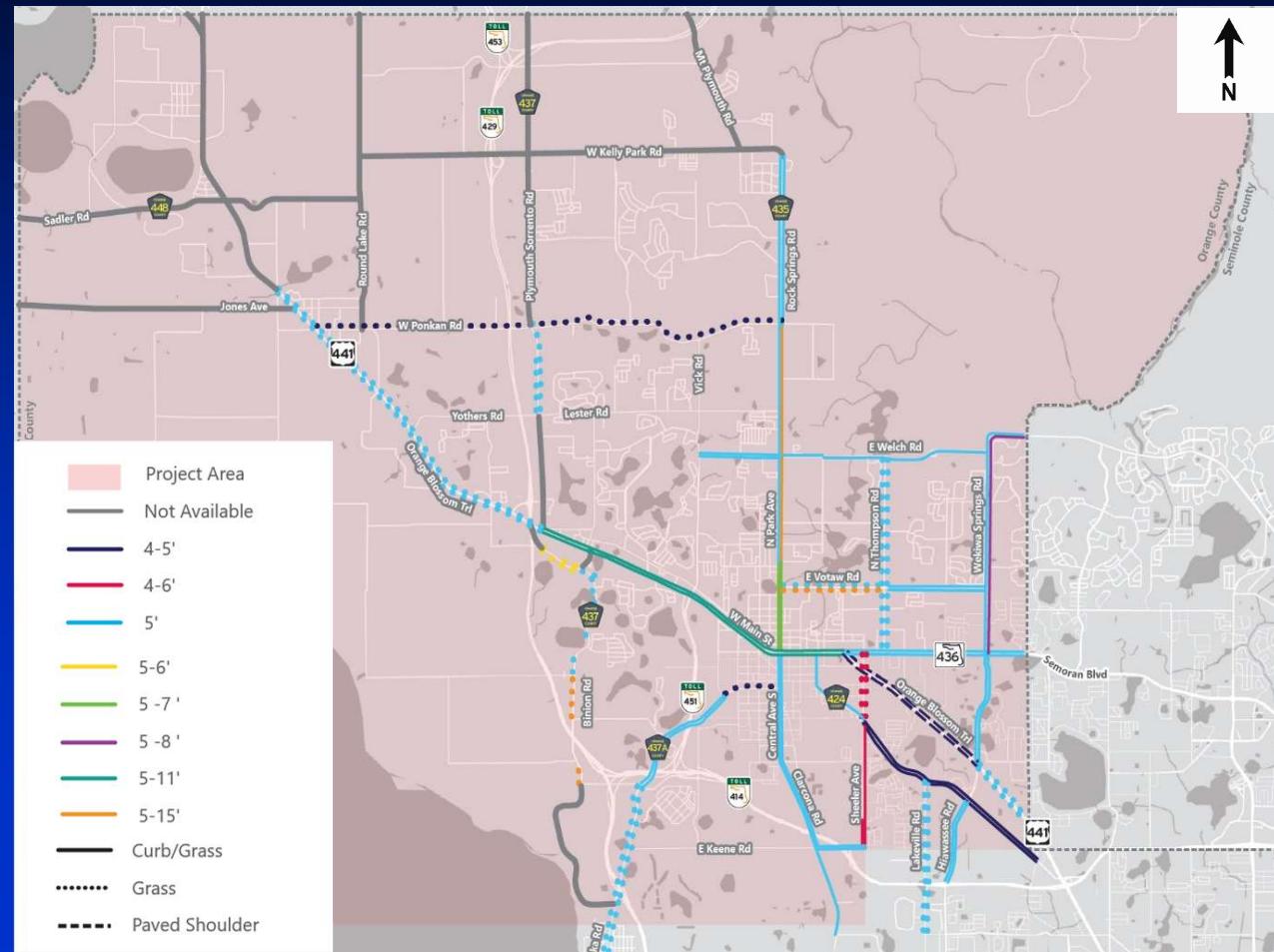




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Pedestrian Facilities

- Primarily Sidewalks
- Curb/Grass
- Paved Shoulder





Existing Conditions Evaluation

Pedestrian & Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) Analysis

Pedestrian LTS Factors Considered

- Presence of sidewalk
- Posted speed
- Is there a separation



Bicycle LTS Factors Considered

- Presence of bicycle facility
 - Width of bicycle lane
 - Is there a separation
- Posted speed
- AADT

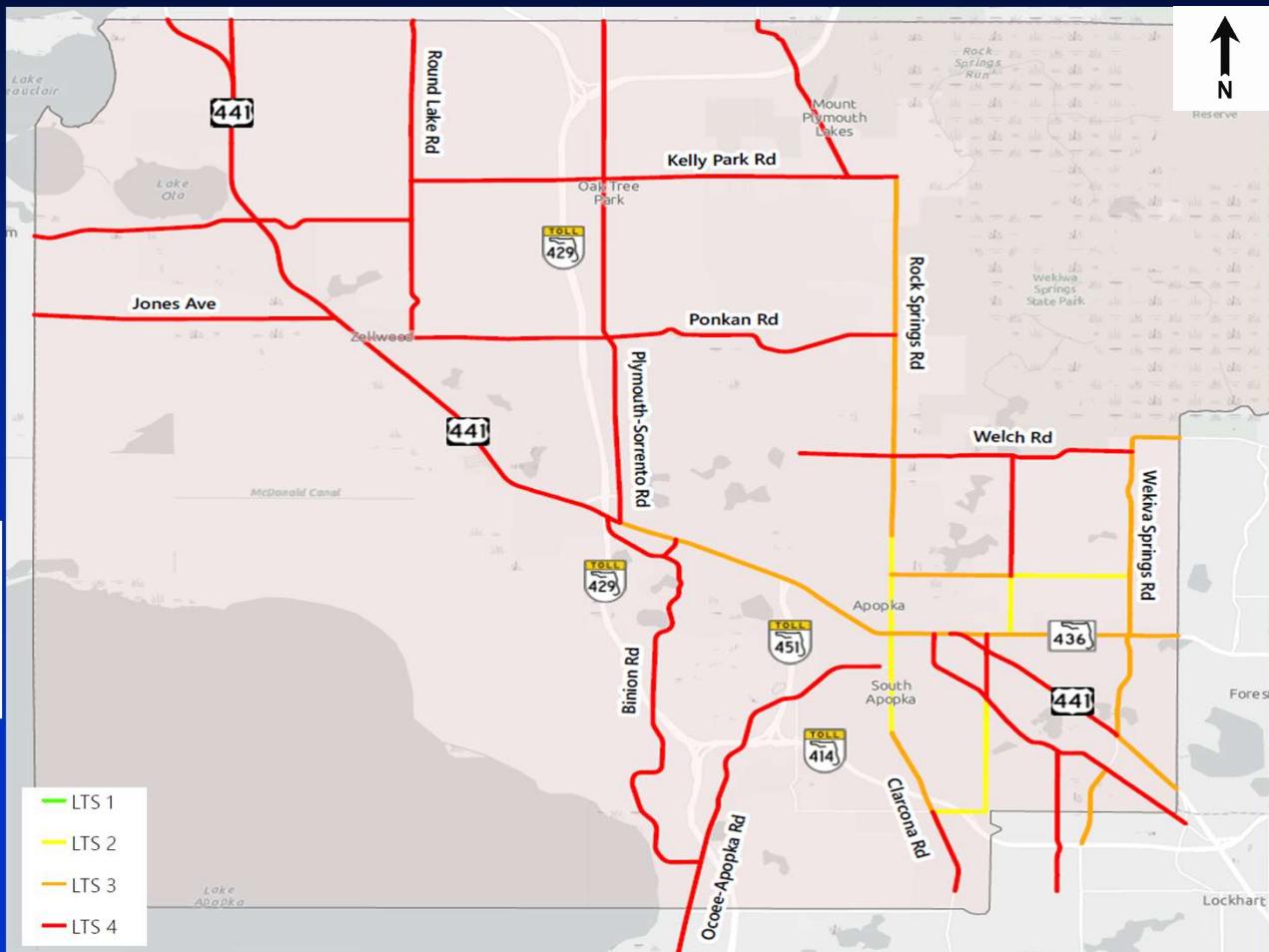




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Pedestrian LTS Analysis

- LTS 1 – 0%
- LTS 2 – 10%
- LTS 3 – 27%
- LTS 4 – 63%

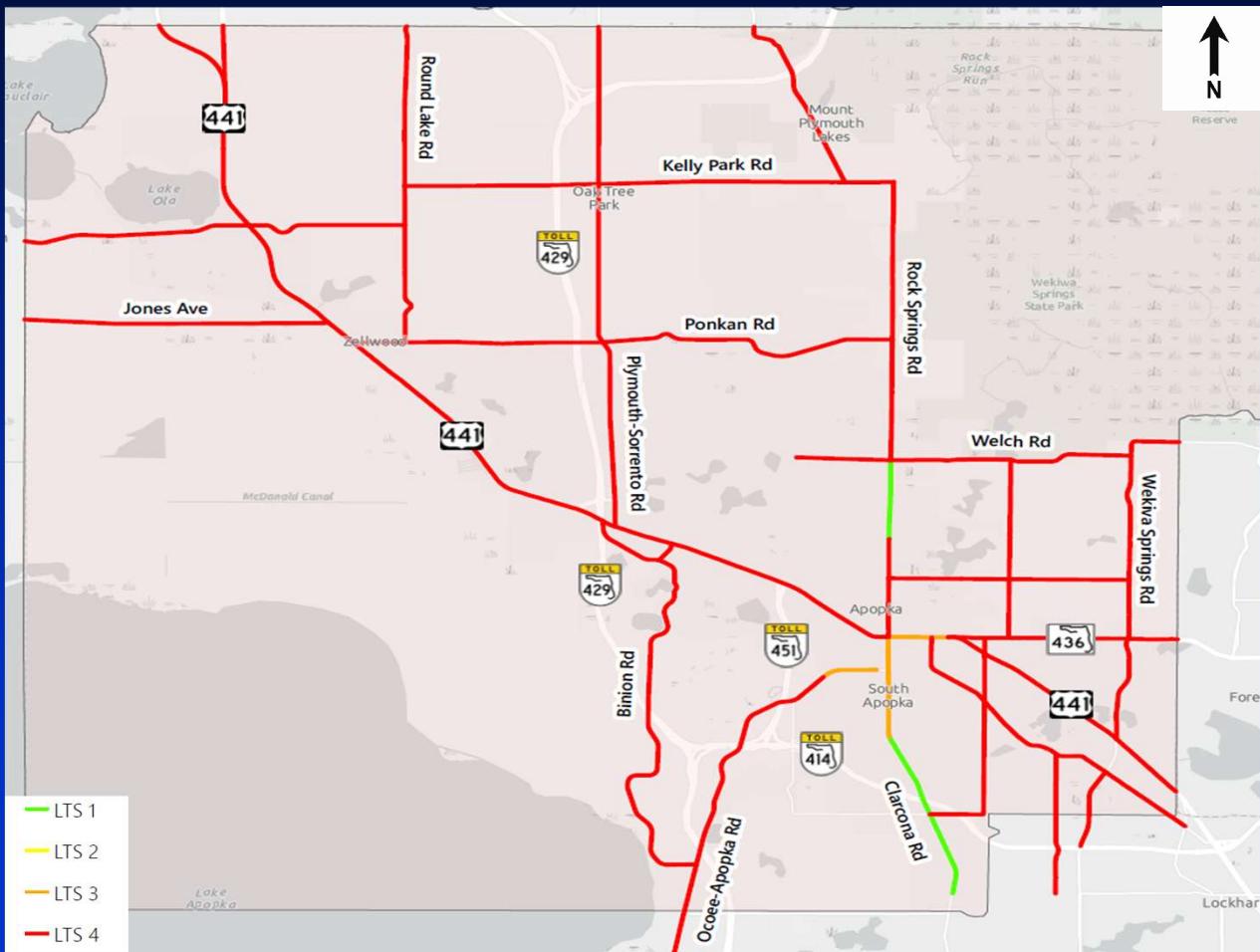




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) Analysis

- LTS 1 – 5%
- LTS 2 – 0%
- LTS 3 – 5%
- LTS 4 – 90%

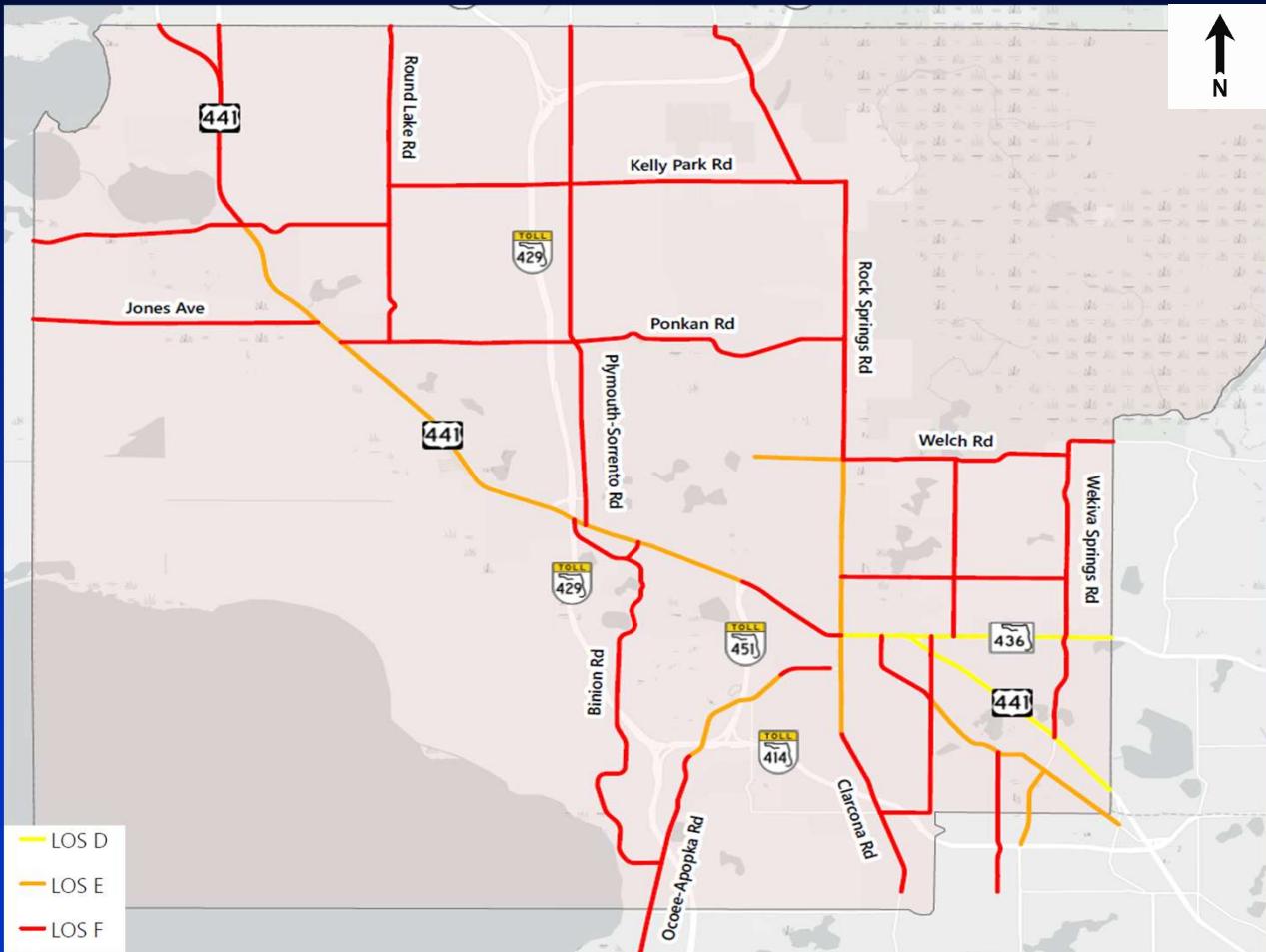




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Transit LOS Analysis

- Majority of study segments have either LOS E or F due to:
 - Lack of bus routes and
 - Low service frequency





Existing Conditions Evaluation

Transit Route Characteristics

■ Route 44

- Total FY 2024 Ridership: 140,493
- Frequency – 60 minutes

■ Route 106

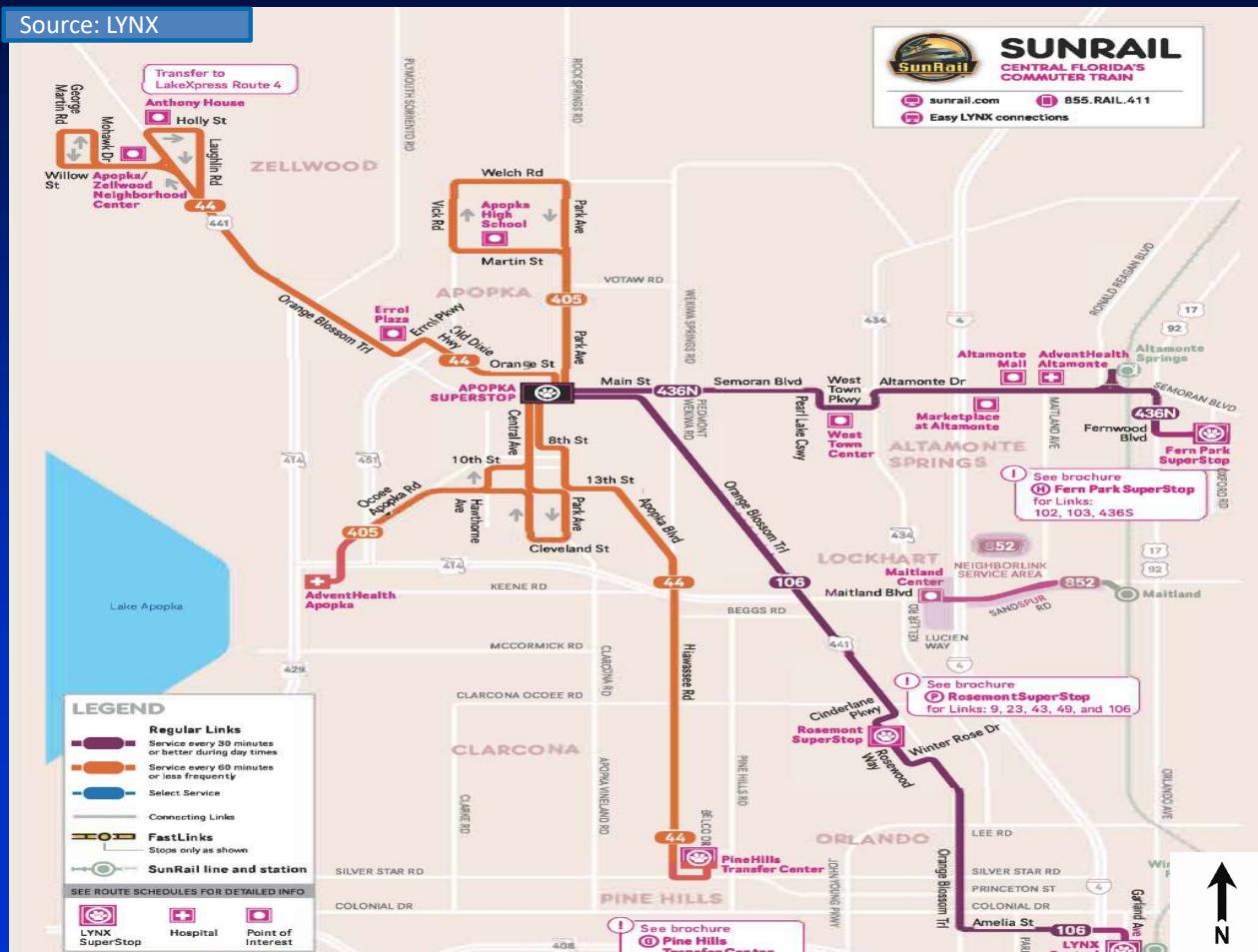
- Total FY 2024 Ridership: 434,914
- Frequency – 30 minutes

■ Route 405

- Total FY 2024 Ridership: 51,535
- Frequency – 60 minutes

■ Route 436N

- Total FY 2024 Ridership: 324,572
- Frequency – 30 minutes

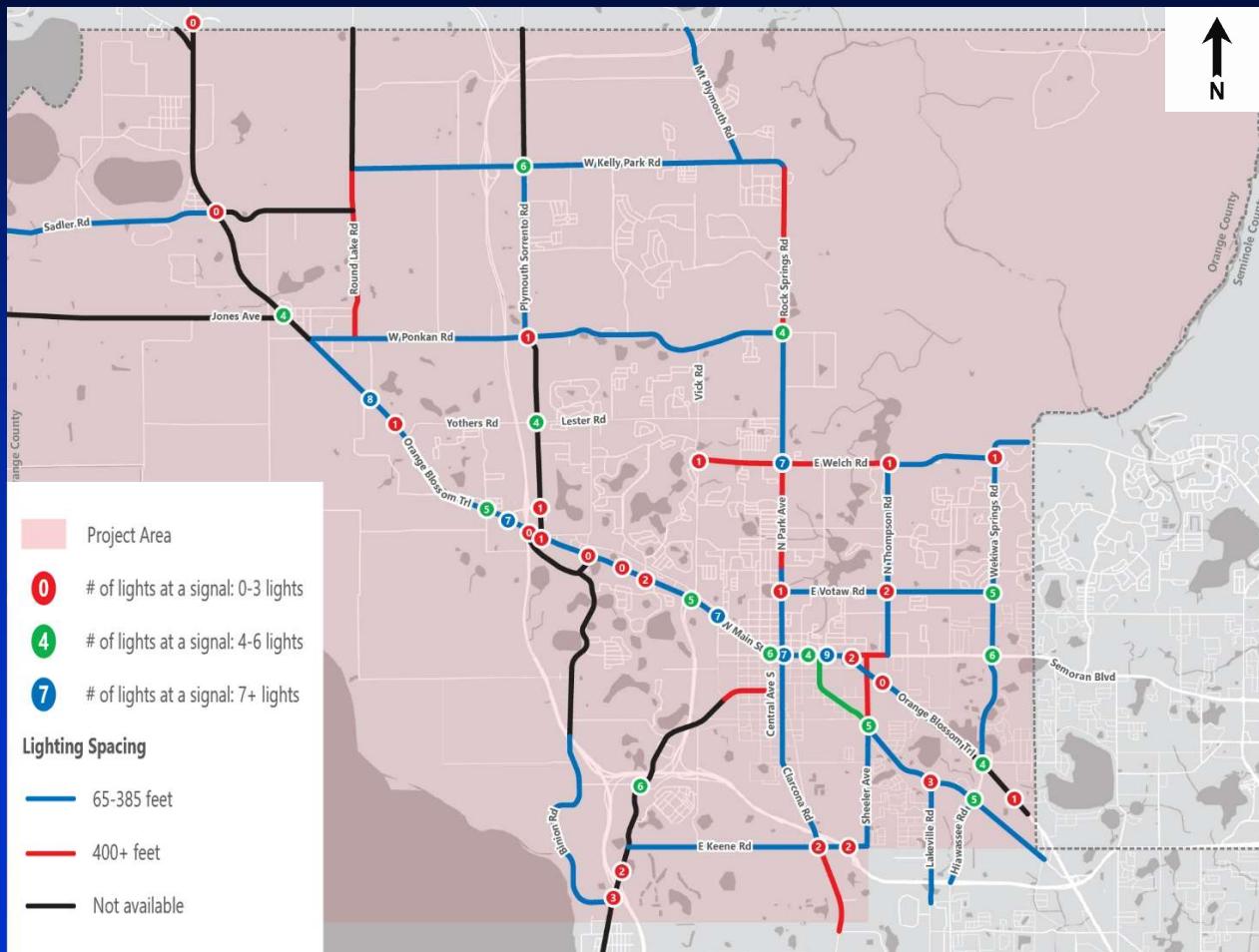




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Lighting Conditions

- Based on desktop review
 - Lighting spacing along segments
 - Number of lights at Intersections
 - Majority 0-3 lights

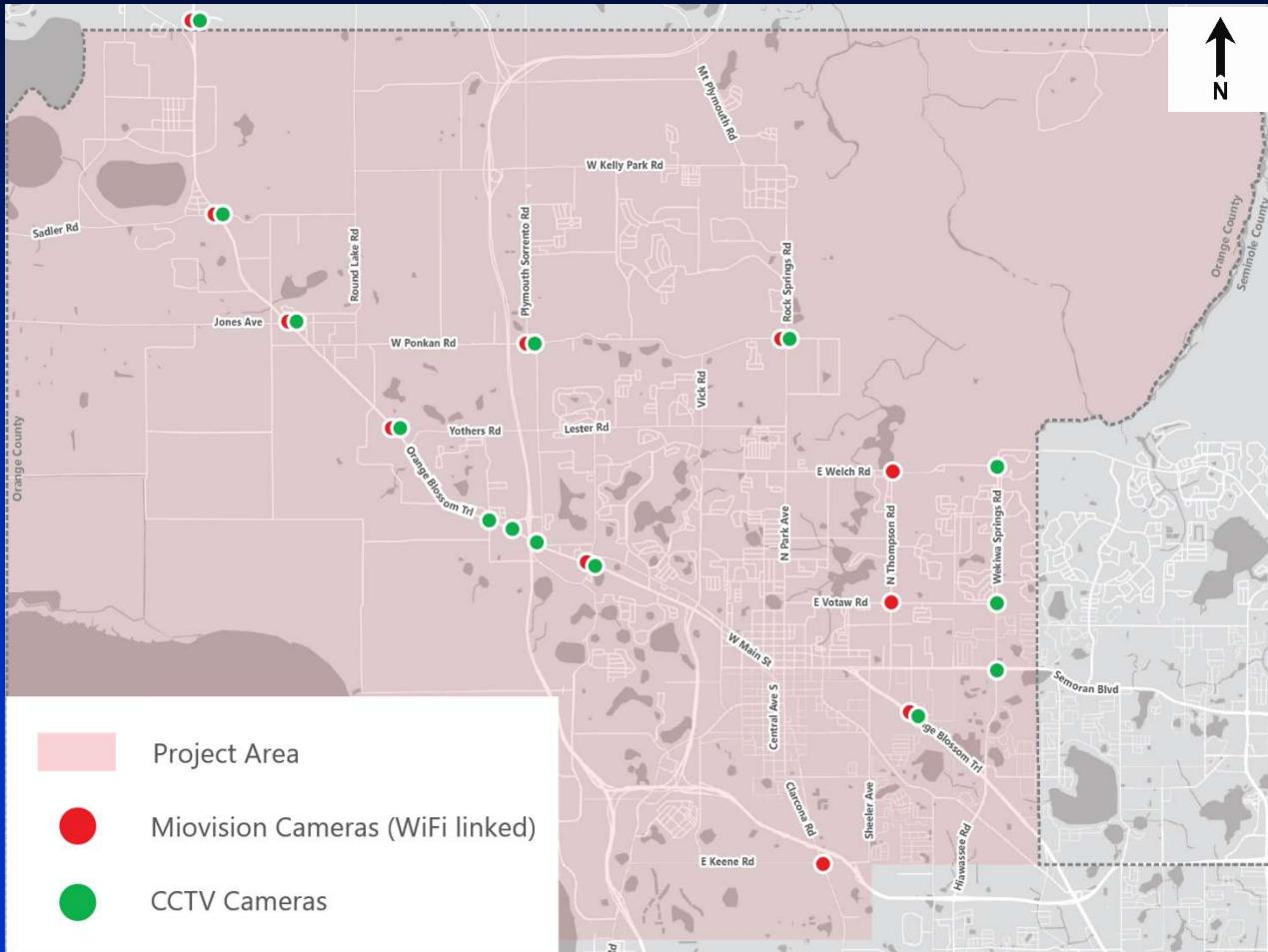




Existing Conditions Evaluation

ITS Features

- Traffic signals - Regional Traffic Management Center
- Most ITS-enabled signals use Miovision cellular connections for communication
- Fiber coverage exists mainly along key north–south corridors.

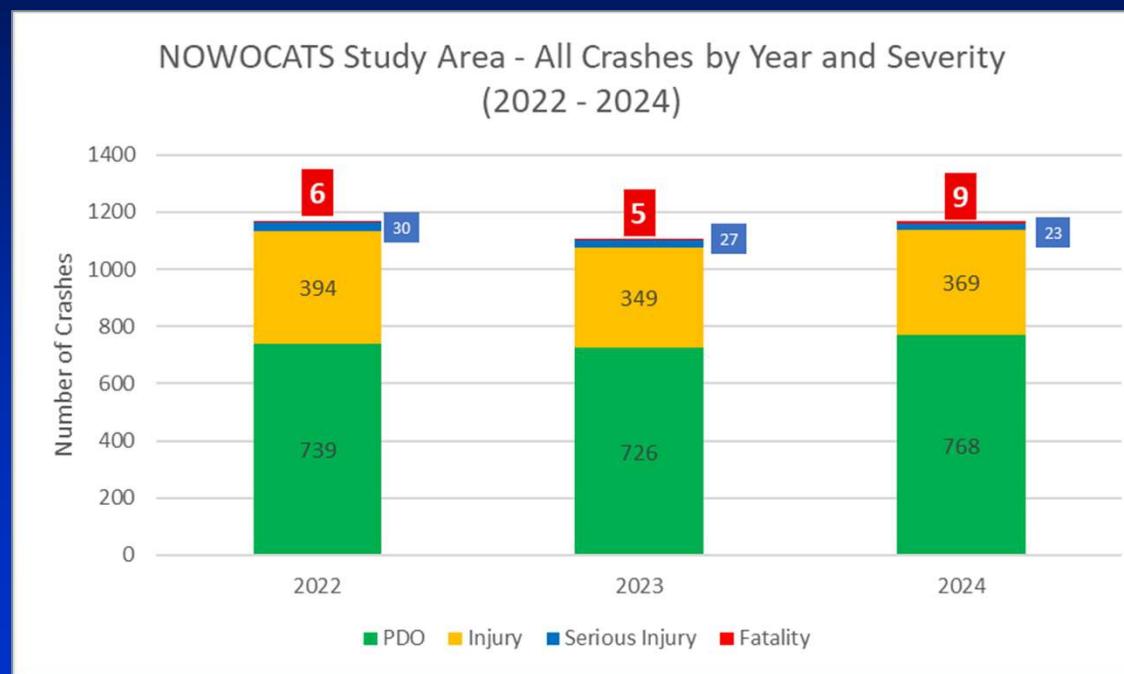




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Historic Crash Analysis (2022-2024)

- Total Crashes (roadways + intersections)
 - 3,445
 - 20 Fatalities
 - 1,192 Injury Crashes
 - 2,233 Property Damage
 - Major Types – Rear End, Left Turn, Sideswipe, and Angle
- Intersections – 770 (22.4%)
- Mid-segments – 2,675 (77.6%)

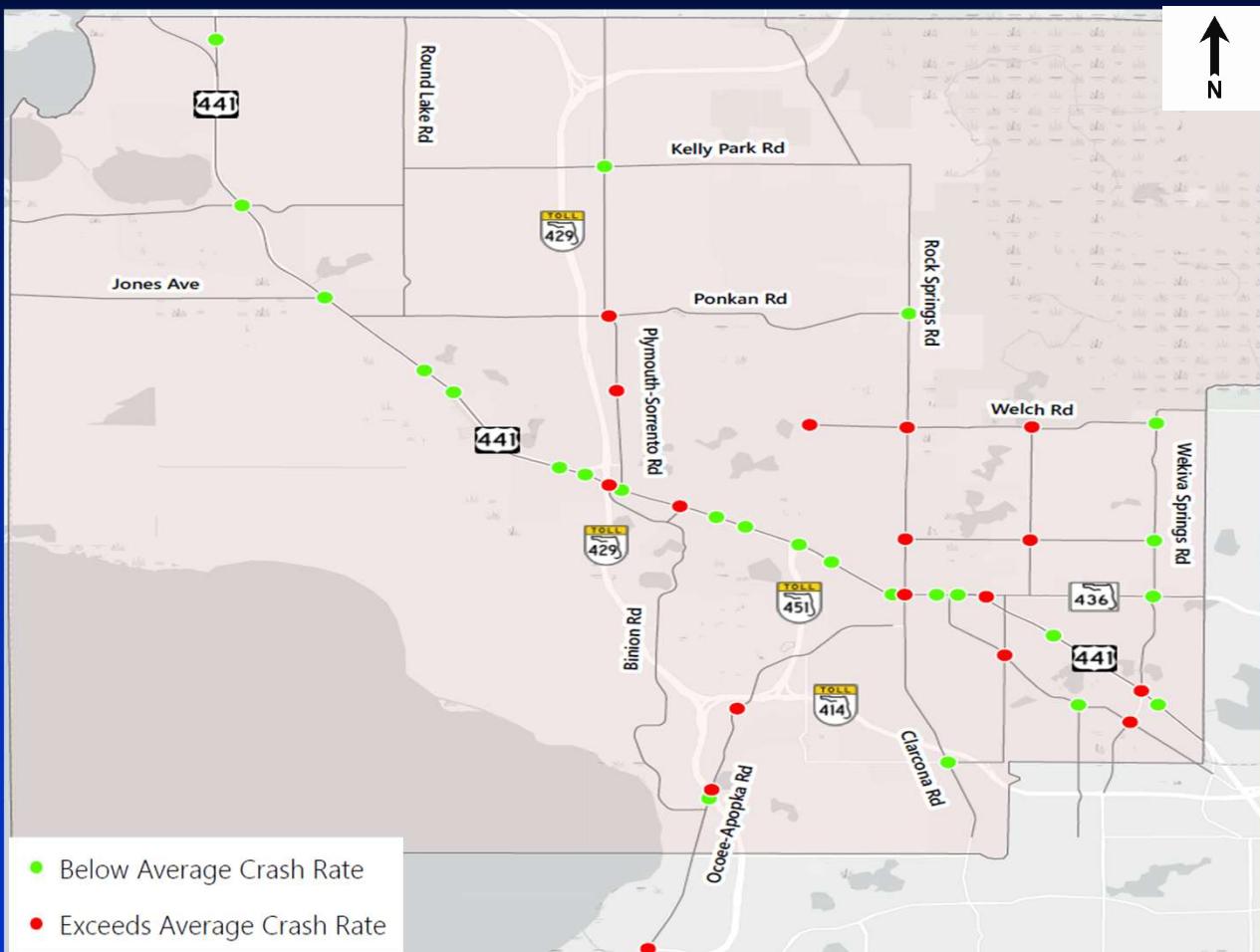




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Intersection Crash Hot Spots

- Below Average Crash Rate – 57%
- Above Average Crash Rate – 43%

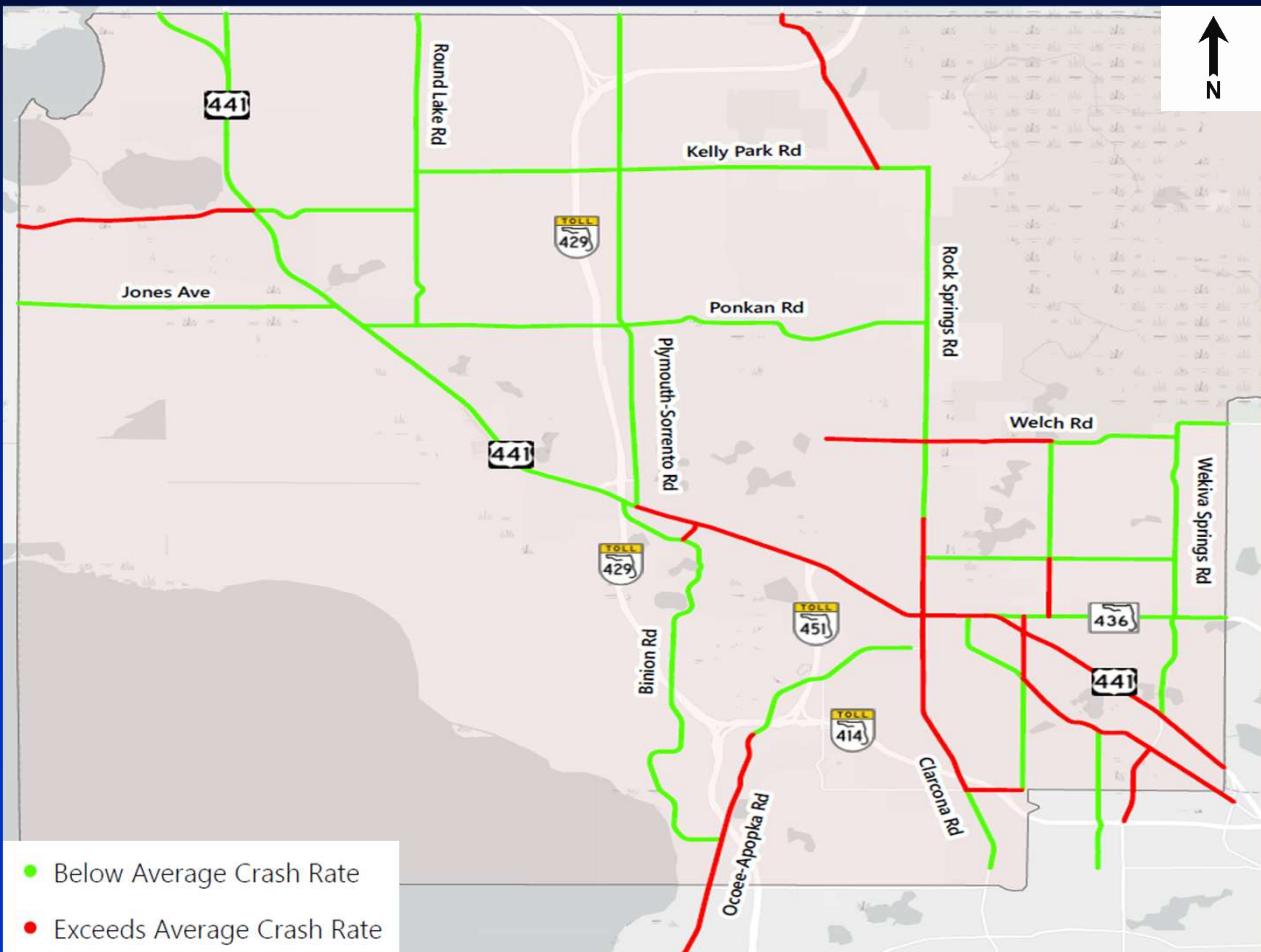




Existing Conditions Evaluation

Roadway Segment Crash Hot Spots

- Below Average Crash Rate – 63%
- Above Average Crash Rate – 37%



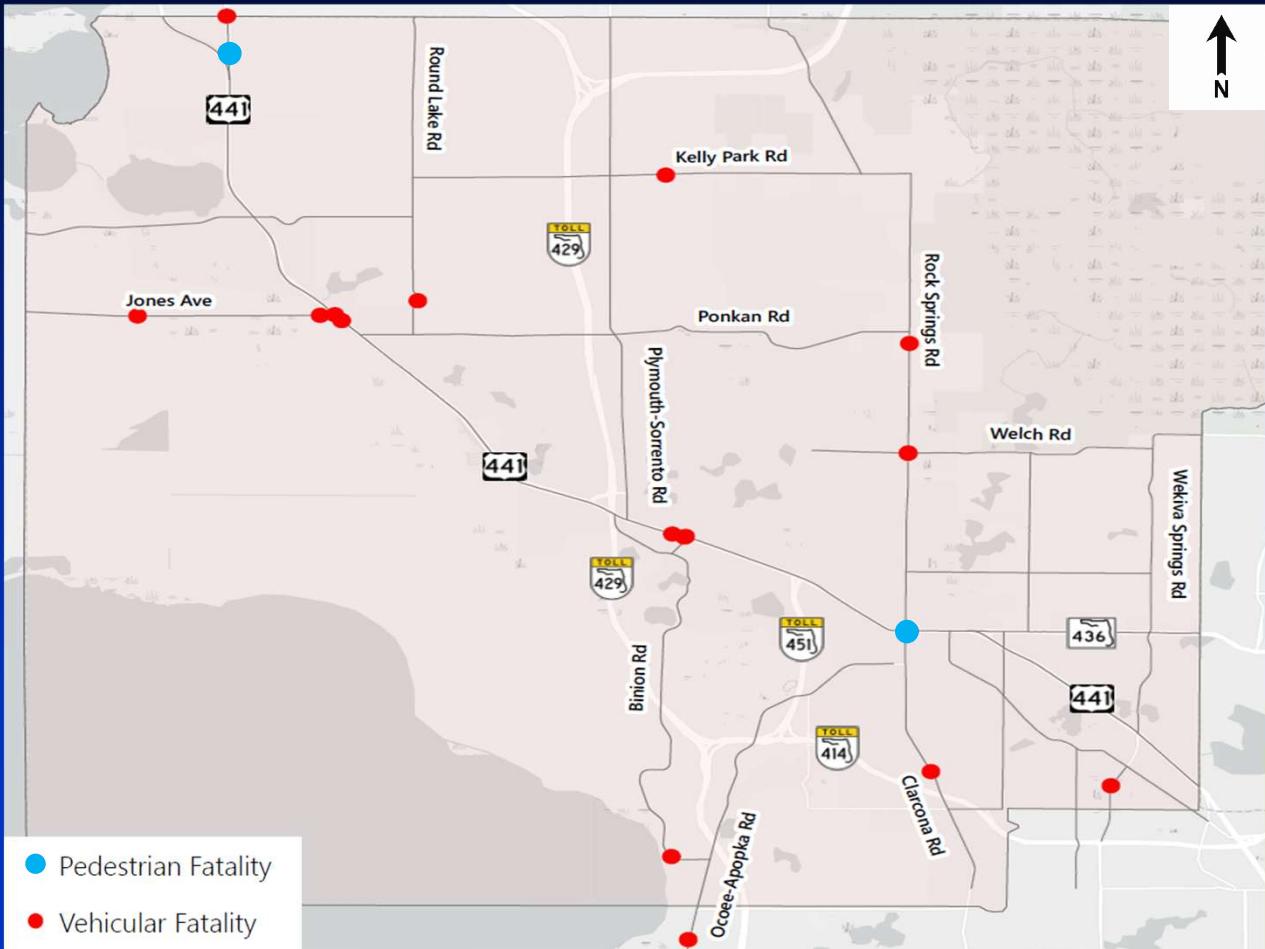


Existing Conditions Evaluation

Fatal Crashes - 20

- Vehicular – 18 (90%)
- Pedestrian – 2 (10%)
- Leading crash types
 - Off Road, Head On and Left Turn
- 85% in low-light conditions (dark, dusk and dawn)

***Additional Pedestrian Fatal Crashes – 6 in 2021 and 1 in 2025**





Presentation Outline

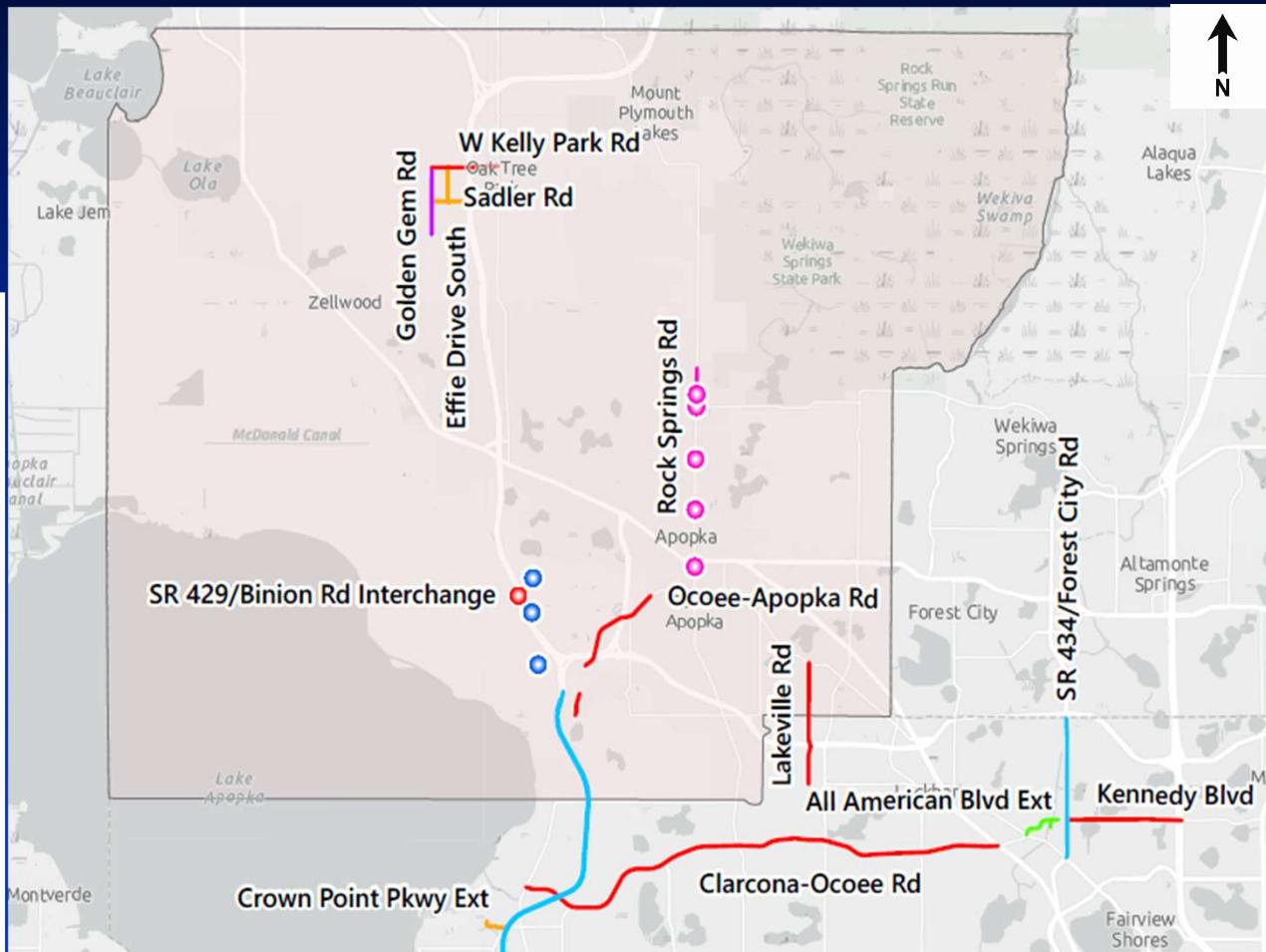
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Programmed and Planned Improvements

Programmed Improvements

- New 2 lane Extension
- New 4 lane Extension
- New Interchange
- Widen to 3 lanes
- Widen to 4 lanes
- Widen to 6 lanes
- Complete Streets
- Intersection Improvement
- New Roundabout
- New Interchange

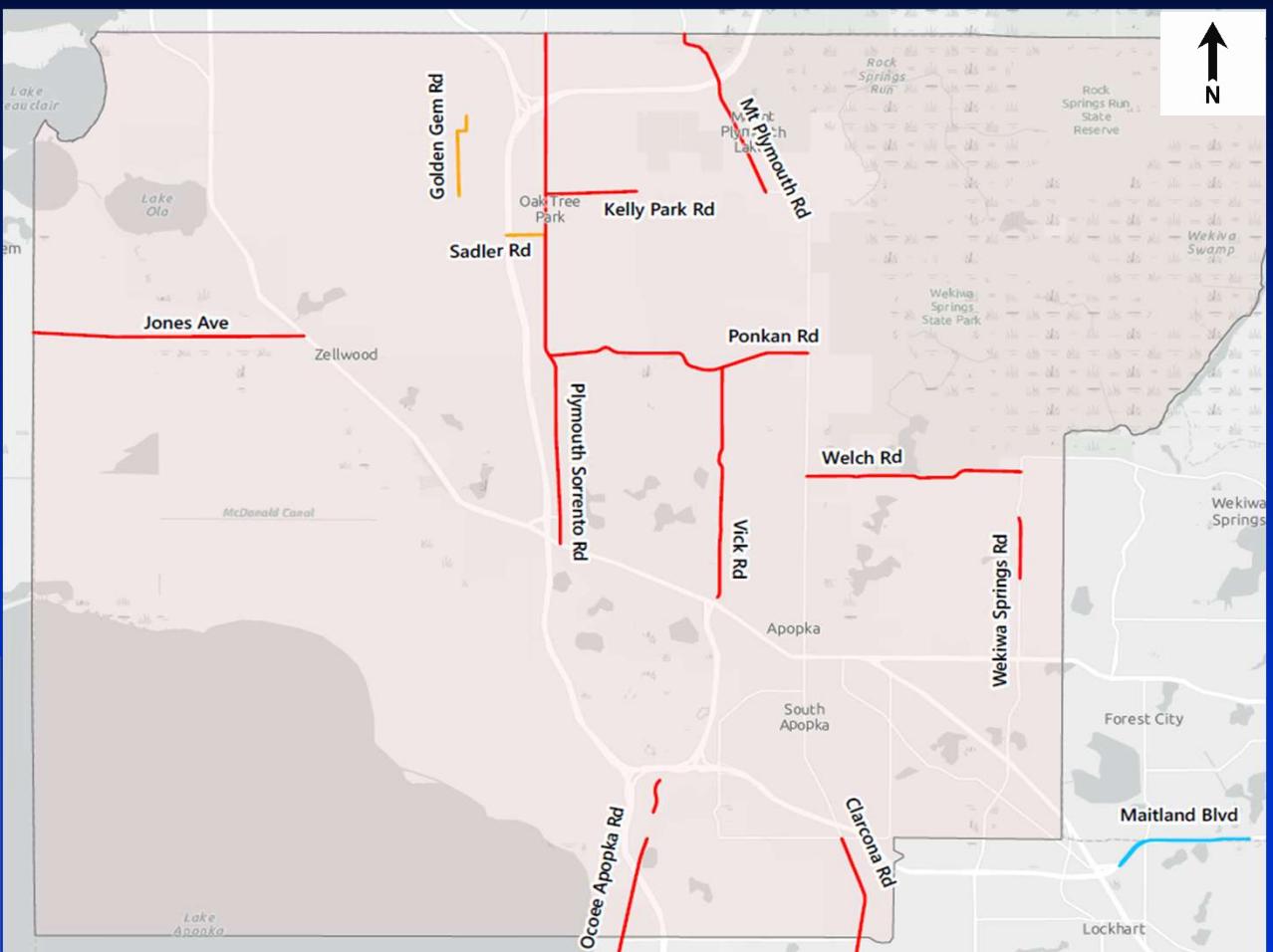




Programmed and Planned Improvements

Planned Improvements

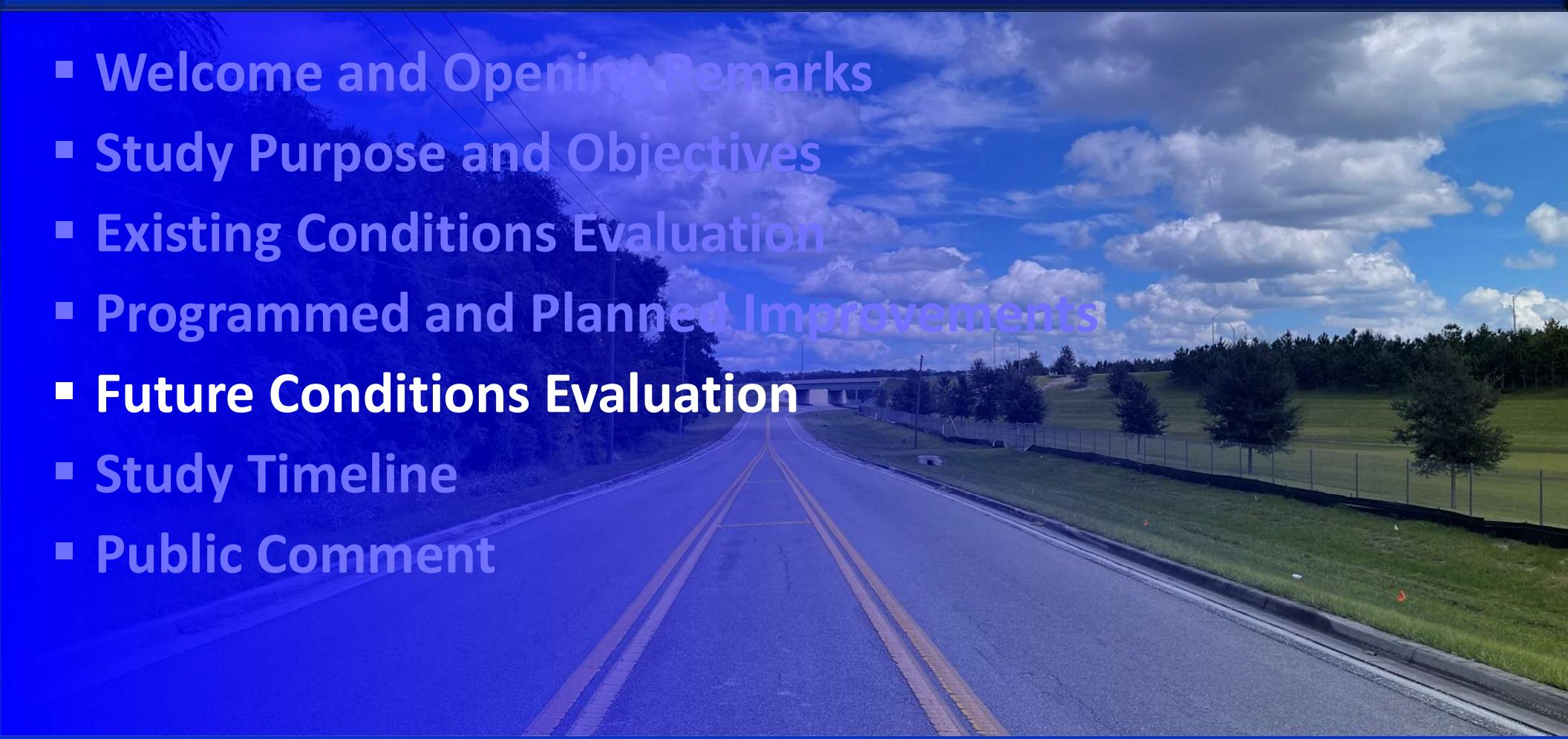
- New 2 lane Extension
- Widen to 4 lanes
- Widen to 6 lanes





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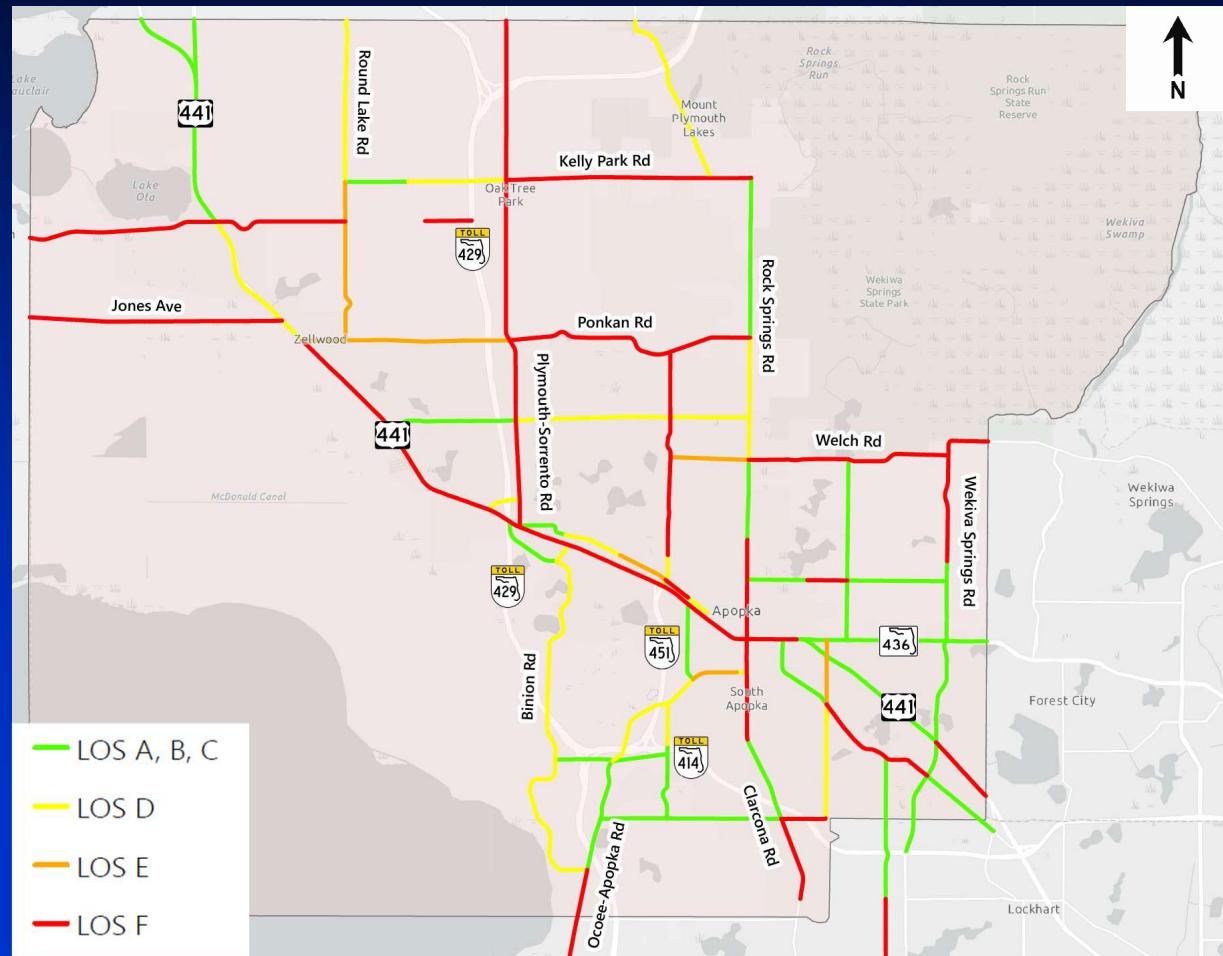




Future Conditions Evaluation

2050 No Build (Based on Programmed Improvements) Roadway Segment Operations

- LOS A through C – 36%
- LOS D – 17%
- LOS E – 6%
- LOS F – 41%

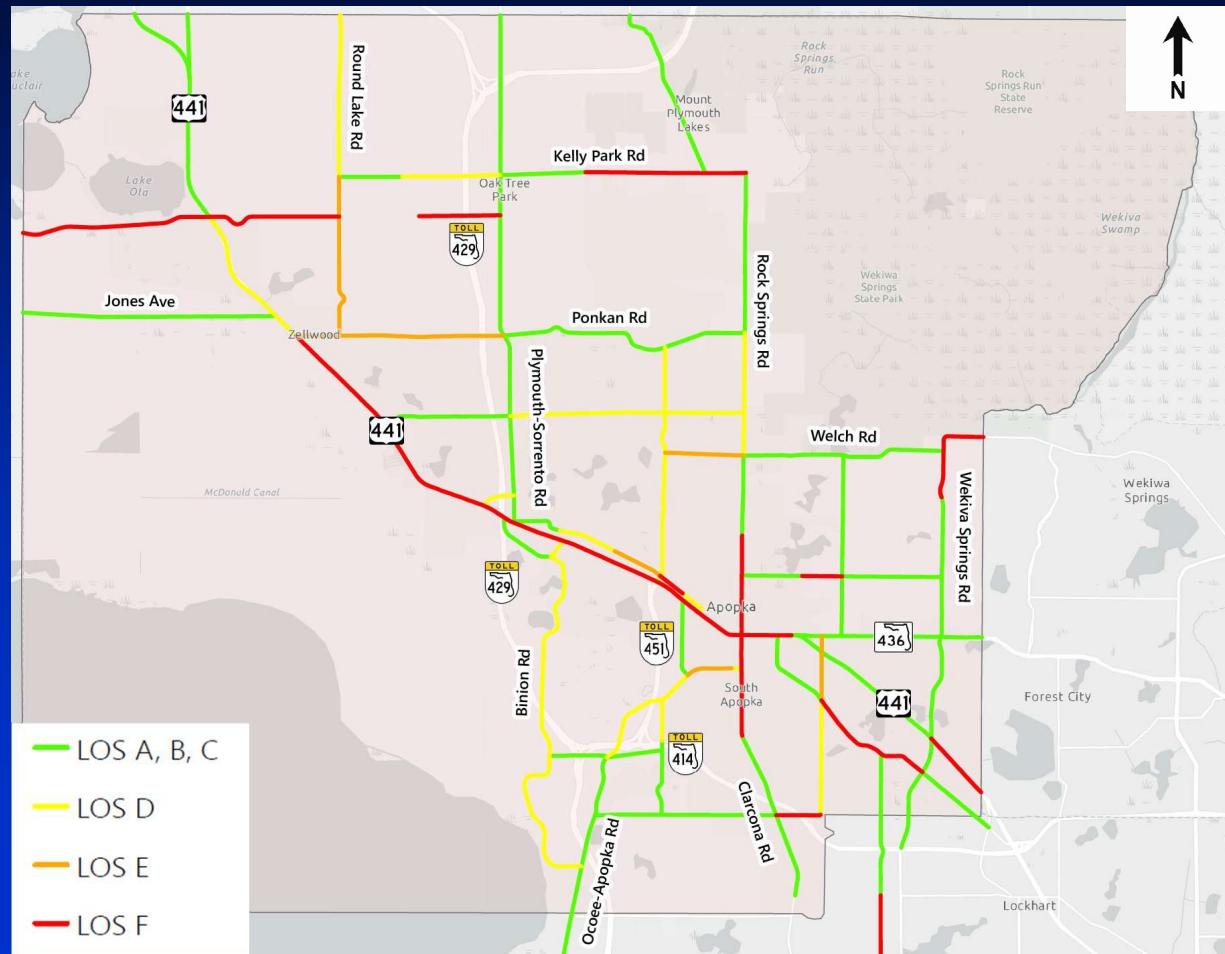




Future Conditions Evaluation

2050 Build (Based on Programmed and Planned Improvements) Roadway Segment Operations

- LOS A through C – 55%
- LOS D – 16%
- LOS E – 7%
- LOS F – 22%





Future Conditions Evaluation

Future Year Needs Plan

- Develop & prioritize short-term, mid-term, and long-term improvements:
 - Short-term – 2030
 - Low-cost improvements; TSM&O
 - Mid-term – 2040
 - May need additional funding
 - Can be constructed within 10-15 years
 - Long-term – 2050
 - Major improvements
 - > 20 years

Short-term

- Signal Retiming
- Safety Improvements
- New Signals
- Lighting Upgrades
- Low-cost multimodal improvements
- Turn lane extensions

Mid-term

- Multimodal Improvements / Complete Streets
- Capacity Improvements
- Access Management
- ITS

Long-term

- Innovative Intersections
- Bus Rapid Transit
- New Roadways
- Transportation Demand Management
- AV / CV Scenarios



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Study Timeline

Project Schedule

	2025			2026						
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Project Kick-Off	●									
Community Meetings				●		●				
Local Planning Agency (LPA)/Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Workshops & Public Hearings							●	●		
Data Collection & Analysis	●									
Transportation Modeling		●	●							
Evaluation of Scenarios & Needs Plan			●	●						
Environmental Analysis	●									
Final Report & Project Wrap Up							●			



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Public Engagement

Public Engagement Opportunities

- Community Meetings
- Project Website www.nowocats.com
- Call/Email
- Attend LPA & BCC Hearings

The website features a header with icons for an orange, a person walking, a bicycle, and a car. Navigation links include Home, Study Process, Study Schedule, Project Documents, and Submit Feedback. A section titled "ANNOUNCEMENTS" invites users to participate in a public kickoff meeting for the Northwest Orange County Areawide Transportation Study, which will be held in person at the Apopka Community Center on January 26 and 28, 2026. A map shows the study area, and a photo shows a presentation in progress.

Northwest Orange County Areawide Transportation Study (NOWOCATS)

Northwest Orange County, home to the City of Apopka and a mix of long-established communities, expanding suburban neighborhoods, and key commercial and industrial areas, is projected to face increasing transportation mobility challenges in the coming years. Several major corridors are already experiencing traffic volumes that exceed their capacity, and continued growth in population, employment, and development activity will further strain the existing transportation system. Without strategic planning and investment, the current infrastructure in Northwest Orange County will not be able to meet the area's future mobility demands.

To proactively address these challenges, Orange County has initiated NOWOCATS to develop a transportation system that can support anticipated growth while preserving the unique character of the region. The study, kicked off in April 2025, will function as a long-range transportation plan, identifying and analyzing potential projects to improve connectivity, reduce congestion, and enhance mobility for all modes of travel – including vehicles, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians. Through a comprehensive and inclusive public engagement process, NOWOCATS will produce a prioritized list of roadway and transit improvements. This plan will guide short-term capital investment decisions and serve as a strategic framework for aligning future transportation needs in Northwest Orange County and City of Apopka Joint Planning Area (JPA). A detailed [study schedule](#) is available for review on the project website.

We encourage you to [sign up](#) to receive project updates and submit your feedback using the online form or email to others in your community about this important effort.

Study Area
For a larger view click on the study area map image.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **January 26, 2026**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Apopka Community Center, 519 S Central Ave, Apopka, FL 32703
- **January 28, 2026**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Kelly Park School, 4700 Jason Dwyer Parkway, Apopka, FL 32712

Additional project information is available on this website for your review. At this time, we invite you to join our mailing list.





Public Engagement

Orange County Project Contact:

Hatem A. Abou-Senna, PhD., P.E.

Project Manager

Transportation Planning Division
Orange County Public Works Department
4200 John Young Parkway
Orlando, FL 32839
Email: Hatem.Abou-Senna@ocfl.net
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VHB
225 E. Robinson Street, Suite 300
Landmark Center Two
Orlando, FL 32801
Email: BAmbikapathy@VHB.com
Phone: (407) 459-1630





Public Engagement

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS