



Financial Project IDs:
21790946201, 21790956201,
21790776201 & 21790986201
SUMMER 2016



State Road 77 Widening

from north of County Road 279 to north of Blue Lake Road

In an effort to reduce congestion, improve safety, enhance economic opportunity and move people, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has initiated the \$58 million State Road (S.R.) 77 Widening (Multilane) Design-Build project.

Summer construction activities: It's all about the base

Establishing a good foundation is key to constructing a quality roadway. Crews continue to work along State Road 77 from south of Clayton Road to north of Blue Lake Road to create a solid base in preparation for the new roadway.



Embankment construction begins. Embankment consists of compacted layers of suitable material (typically clay or rock-based) placed on top of each other until the level of the subgrade surface is reached. Embankment construction is ongoing throughout the project.



Nine different utility companies are involved on the four segments along the corridor. Here, AT&T Florida attaches cables to poles that have been relocated. Utility work is a huge part of widening projects and requires close coordination efforts between government, public and private sectors.

What's been going on:

Summer construction activities from south of Clayton Road to north of Blue Lake Road (Segment D) have included clearing trees and shrubs, pond excavation, embankment construction, utility relocation and installation of drainage structures including formation of a box culvert south of State Park Road. Additionally, a temporary stormwater pumping station has been installed in Blue Lake to control the water level until the new permanent pumping station is constructed later in the project.

Coming down the pipe:

Crews will continue earth work between Clayton Road and Blue Lake Roads and are anticipated to begin clearing trees and shrubs to the south, from one mile north of the Wausau city limits to south of Clayton Road (Segment C), in mid-October. Stormwater pond excavation, from north of County Road (C.R.) 279 to north of the entrance to Sunny Hills (Segment A), is also anticipated to begin in the southern-most portion of the project later this fall.



Precision is key. Crews measure the density of the embankment soil to ensure that dirt stabilization meets FDOT standards.



Drainage improvements are underway. Crews are working to install a box culvert south of State Park Road. This 22 x 186 foot concrete drainage structure will carry water under the new roadway to a designated drainage area.



Crews continue to clear trees and shrubs, excavate and construct embankment along the 16 mile corridor.

About the roadway:

S.R. 77 is a transportation and economic lifeline for Washington County. It serves as the primary route connecting Interstate 10 to the cities of Chipley and Wausau and the community of Sunny Hills. It provides a direct route to and from the beaches of Bay County. The highway also serves as a principal evacuation route in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster.

What is a Design-Build project?

The Florida Department of Transportation utilizes a Design-Build contract method to begin planned projects sooner than using traditional methods of design-bid-build contracting. Design-Build projects reduce administrative burden, save time and costs, create opportunity for innovation, and improve risk management.

The S.R. 77 Widening (Multilane) Design-Build project combines four separate projects into one construction contract and names the separate projects as "Segments".

The four segments are:

A: S.R. 77 from north of C.R. 279 to north of Sunny Hills Entrance

B: S.R. 77 from north of Sunny Hills Entrance to 1 mile south of the Wausau city limits

C: S.R. 77 from one mile north of the Wausau city limits to south of Clayton Road

D: S.R. 77 from south of Clayton Road to north of Blue Lake Road



Planned improvements include:

- Widening the roadway to four lanes.
- Constructing two new bridges at Flat Creek and Hard Labor Creek.
- Twenty stormwater ponds with associated ditches and piping.
- A stormwater pumping station and piping at Blue Lake. This pumping station will control the water level in Blue Lake and prevent S.R. 77 from becoming inundated with water.
- New signage and pavement markings.

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