

# State of the TPO

## 2020 Annual Report



OCALA MARION  
TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION





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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2020 was a year of many challenges facing our communities in Marion County. Despite the uncertainty and losses caused by a global pandemic, the TPO forged ahead to complete important plans and programs, while bringing people together in support of transportation. The TPO Board's leadership, in coordination with an excellent team of staff and supporting committees resulted in many significant accomplishments as outlined in this annual report.

Some of the key highlights of 2020 include the development of a TPO website and social media platform to better serve the public; a new Transportation Improvement Program document and interactive map; a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan to serve our seniors and disabled members of the community; and a major update to the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) which will guide our transportation decision-making and prioritization for the next five years.

The TPO also served a critical role in our community through relationship-building and collaboration with key partners at the federal, state and local levels of government. The TPO is a great forum for organizations and people to help define the most critical transportation issues.

It was my pleasure to serve as TPO Board Chair in 2020. I look forward to continued service to the TPO Board and strengthening partnerships to support the future of transportation in Marion County.

Sincerely,



Jeff Gold, Marion County Board of County Commissioners  
2020 TPO Board Chair





# ABOUT THE TPO

Established in 1981, the Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is responsible for allocating state and federal funds to roadway, freight, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects within Marion County. The

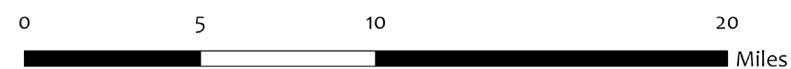
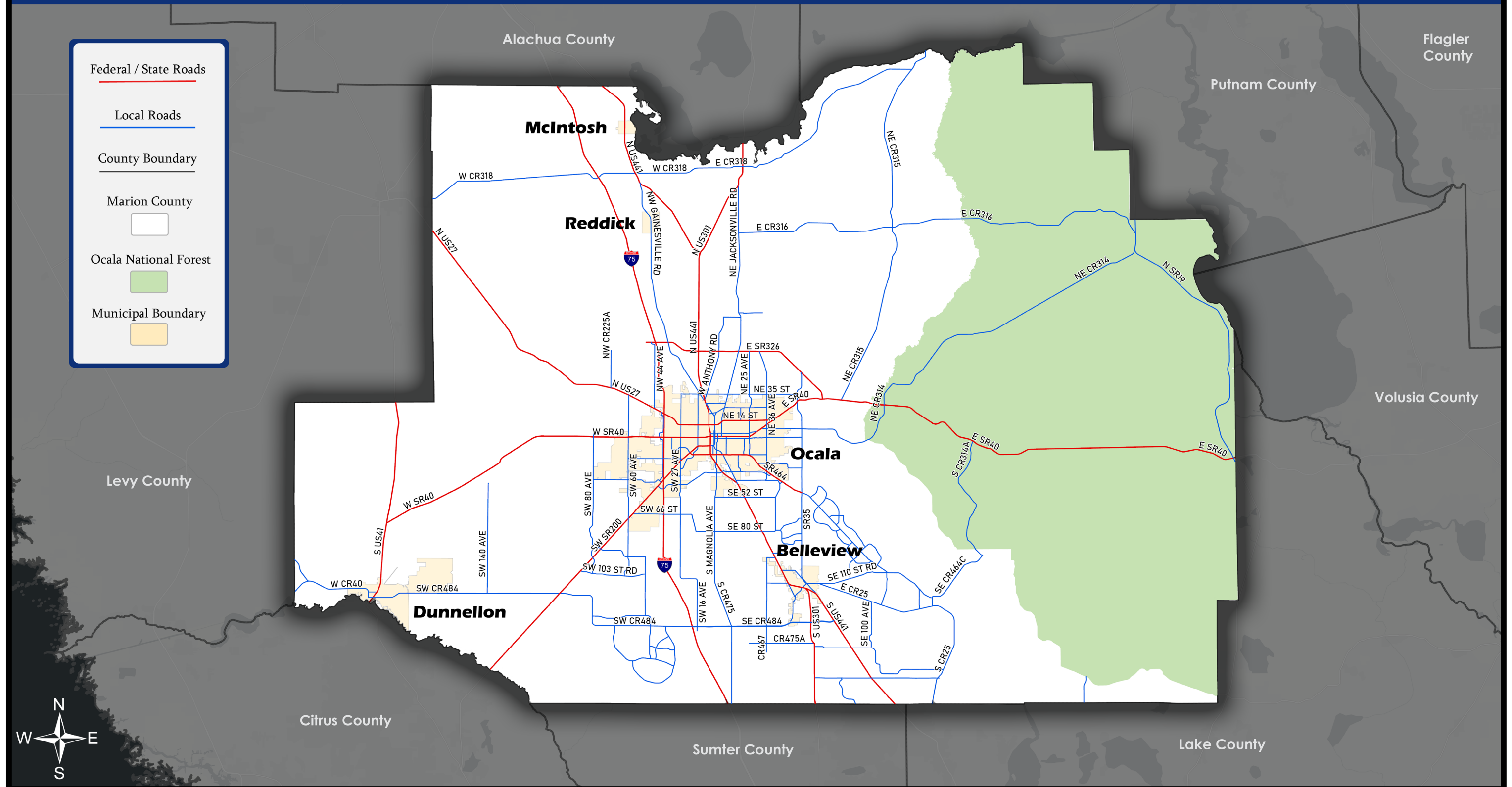
TPO serves the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, Ocala and Marion County, and works to ensure improvements to the transportation system reflect the needs of both stakeholders and the public.

There are over 400 TPOs throughout the United States and are represented in all 50 states. Florida is home to 27, the most of any state. Additionally, TPOs are required in areas with a population greater than 50,000.





# Ocala Marion TPO Planning Area





# Fast Facts



**301,545**

Number of licensed drivers  
in Marion County



**434,448**

Number of registered vehicles  
in Marion County



The Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is responsible for coordinating transportation projects, including highway, transit, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and paratransit, throughout the county. The TPO allocates federal and state transportation funds and works to improve the region's transportation system by developing a variety of plans and programs.

**5,273**  
Bellevue

**1,810**  
Dunnellon

**360,421**  
Population of  
Marion County\*

**61,549**  
Ocala

**290,747**  
Unincorporated



**77**

Number of miles of bike  
lanes/shoulders in Marion County



**229**

Number of miles of  
sidewalk in Marion County



**9,448**

Total Crashes\*\*

**87**  
Fatalities\*\*

**429**  
Serious Injuries\*\*

**416,000**  
SunTran  
Passengers  
Annually

**7**  
Fixed SunTran  
Bus Routes



**87,250**  
Marion Transit  
Passengers  
Annually

**Rail Lines in  
Marion County**

**51**

Number of miles  
of Class A rail lines



**102**

Number of miles  
of rail lines

**Highest Average Daily Auto  
and Truck Traffic on I-75**

**100,000**

Total Vehicles  
per Day

**20,000**

Trucks per Day



**72,217**  
Ocala International  
Yearly Operations\*\*\*

**38,690**  
Marion County  
Yearly Operations\*\*\*

**4.59 Billion**

Total Annual Vehicle  
Miles Traveled

**38.2**

Miles of Interstate (I-75)

**4,037**

Miles of Roadway



Data Sources: Marion Transit, SunTran, City of Ocala, FDOT, Ocala International Airport, FLHSMV, Marion County, Bureau of Economic and Business Research (University of Florida)

\* 2019 Data; \*\* 2018 Data; \*\*\*Landings, take-offs, touch-and-go landings and fly-overs



[www.ocalamariontpo.org](http://www.ocalamariontpo.org)



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Ocala, FL 34470  
(352) 438-2630





## TPO STRUCTURE

The TPO is made up of a Governing board - the **TPO Board**, the **Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board (TDLCB)** and served by a **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** and a **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**. Each of these entities is informed by both the public, Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Highway Administration and the Florida Department of Transportation.

## TPO BOARD

The **Ocala Marion TPO Board** is a transportation policy-making body responsible for the overall guidance of the transportation planning process in Marion County. This includes providing leadership and oversight for the development of transportation policies, plans, programs and strategies.



**Jeff Gold, Chair**  
Marion County



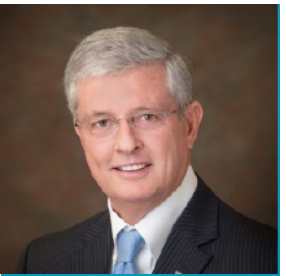
**Brent Malever, Vice-Chair**  
City of Ocala



**Ire Bethea**  
City of Ocala



**Kathy Bryant**  
Marion County



**Craig Curry\***  
Marion County



**Justin Grabelle**  
City of Ocala



**Kent Guinn**  
City of Ocala



**Valerie Hanchar**  
City of Dunnellon



**Ronald Livsey**  
City of Belleview



**David Moore\*\***  
Marion County



**Jay Musleh**  
City of Ocala



**Michelle Stone**  
Marion County



**Carl Zalak**  
Marion County

\* Incoming TPO  
Board Member  
\*\* Outgoing TPO  
Board Member



# TPO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

## CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

The **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)** is comprised of citizens from all areas of Marion County and its municipalities. Its primary function is to advise the TPO on local transportation issues based on the input of citizens in the area they represent. Recommendations by the CAC are presented to the TPO's Board.

Steve Rudnianyn (Chair)  
Richard McGinley (Vice-Chair)  
Davis Dinkins  
Richard Howard  
Andrea Lemieux  
Joe London

Travis Magamoll  
Paul Marraffino  
Suzanne Mangram  
Michelle Shearer  
Clark Yandle



## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** is comprised of professional planners, engineers, and school officials who review transportation plans, programs, and projects primarily from a technical standpoint based on their professional experience.

Elton Holland (Chair)  
Nancy Smith (Vice-Chair)  
David Herlihy  
Steven Neal  
Kenneth Odom  
Bruce Phillips

Loretta Shaffer  
Eric Smith  
Lonnie Smith  
Mickey Thomason  
Vickie Wyche (Non-Voting)





# TPO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

## TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (TDLCB)

The **Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB)** coordinates transportation needs of the disadvantaged, including individuals with physical and economic challenges and senior citizens facing mobility issues.

Commissioner Michelle Stone (Chair)  
Jeffrey Askew (Vice-Chair)  
Jeff Aboumradi  
Tracey Alesiani  
Charmaine Anderson  
Carlos Colon  
James Haynes  
Susan Hanley

Carissa Hutchinson  
Andrea Melvin  
Anissa Pieriboni  
Tracey Sapp  
Kathleen Woodring  
Dennis Yonce  
Tamyika Young



## LEADERSHIP

### Central Florida MPO Alliance

Marion County Commissioner Michelle Stone, Vice Chair  
Marion County Commissioner David Moore  
Marion County Commissioner Jeff Gold, Alternate

### Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC)

Marion County Commissioner David Moore  
City of Dunnellon Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar, Alternate

### M-CORES Northern Turnpike Connector Task Force

City of Dunnellon Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar  
Marion County Commissioner Kathy Bryant





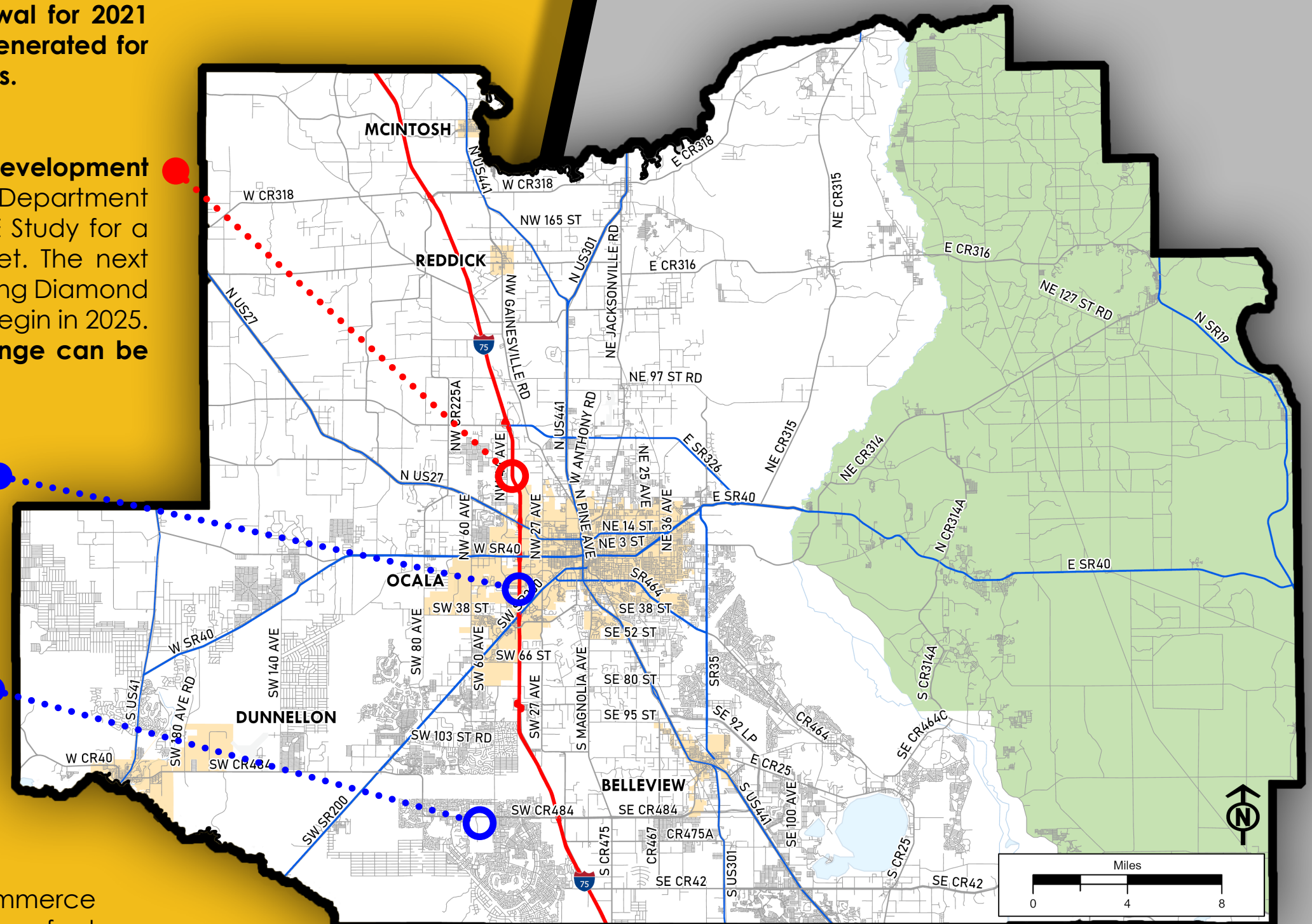
# 2020 MAJOR PROJECTS & STUDIES (PART 1/2)

On November 3rd, Marion County voters overwhelmingly approved (70%) the Penny Sales Tax Renewal for 2021 to 2024. An estimated \$196 million will be generated for infrastructure and public safety improvements.

**I-75 @ NW 49th Street Interchange Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study:** The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) conducted a PD&E Study for a new interchange at I-75 and NW 49th Street. The next phase of the project is the Design of a Diverging Diamond Interchange. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025. **A graphic of a Diverging Diamond Interchange can be found on the following page.**

**I-75 PD&E Study:** FDOT is conducting two PD&E studies to evaluate future transportation improvements and upgrades to I-75 in Marion County. The PD&E studies are being conducted from 2020 to 2023.

**Florida Crossroads Commerce Park:** The project promotes economic growth in southwest Marion County. This includes extension of water and sewer services and the extension of SW 49th Avenue Road south of CR 484, and a 1 mile widening of CR 484, west of Marion Oaks Course. The Commerce Park supports a brand new 1.7 million-square-foot distribution center for Dollar Tree on 198 acres.





# 2020 MAJOR PROJECTS & STUDIES (PART 1/2)

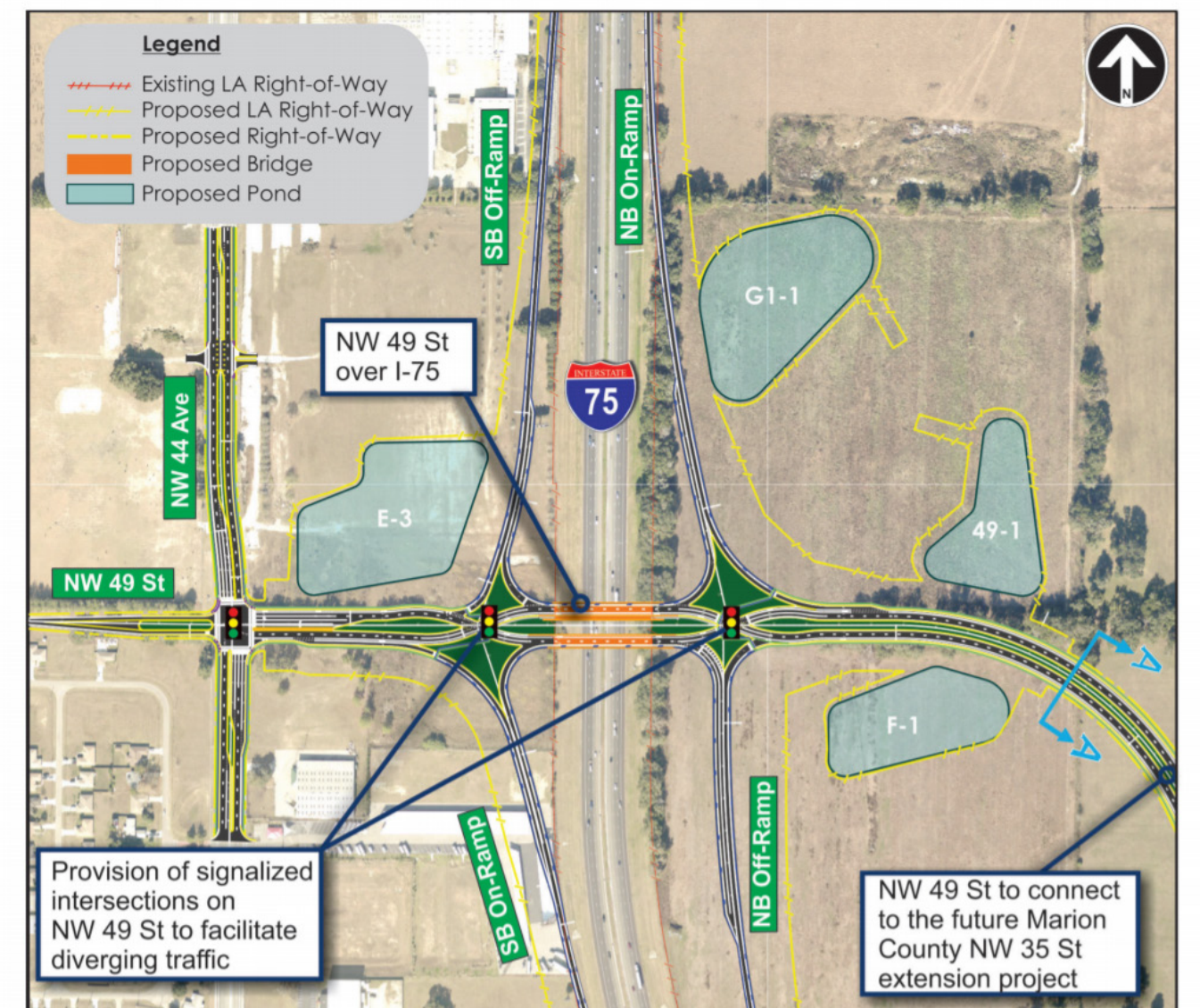
## I-75 @ NW 49th Street Interchange Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study:

The preferred alternative of the project consists of a new diverging diamond interchange with on and off ramps to NW 49th Street, similar to a traditional diamond interchange. However, along NW 49th Street, the two directions of traffic crossover, or diverge, to the opposite side at the on/off ramps. A short video is available at the following website, which illustrates how traffic would flow at this interchange:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=im3SzMjc93Y>



## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE - DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE





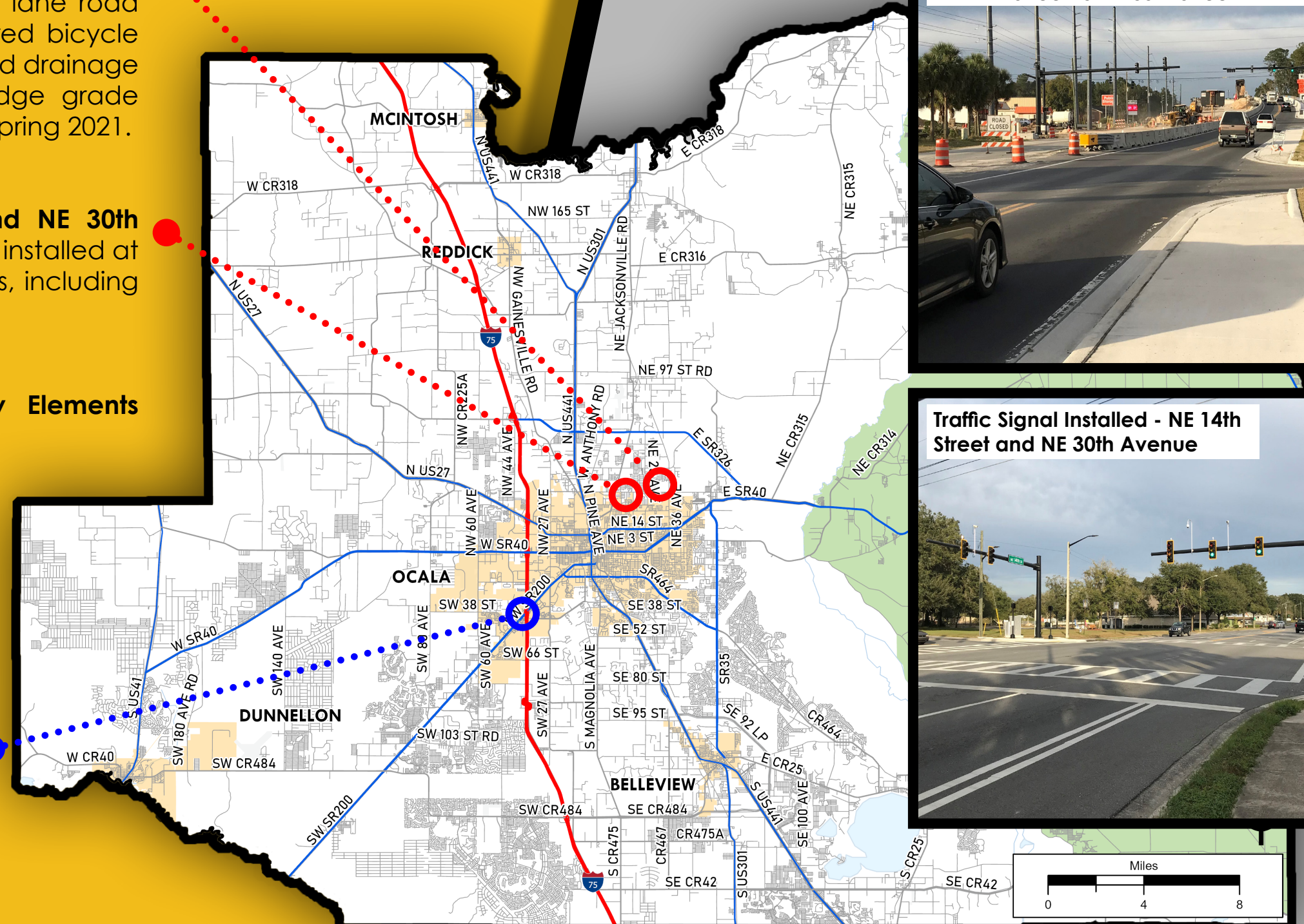
# 2020 MAJOR PROJECTS & STUDIES (PART 2/2)

**NE 36th Avenue Widening and Bridge - NE 14th Street to NE 35th Street:** Widening of the existing two lane road to a four-lane roadway with five-foot buffered bicycle lanes; six-foot sidewalks; a 20-foot median; and drainage and signalization improvements and a bridge grade separation at the CSX railroad. Completion: Spring 2021.

**Traffic Signal Installed – NE 14th Street and NE 30th Avenue intersection :** A new traffic signal was installed at the intersection to improve safety for all users, including pedestrians.

**FDOT Florida Regional Advanced Mobility Elements (FRAME) Project:** FDOT is adding technology called FRAME along several major roadways, including I-75, State Roads 40, 200, 326, and 464, and U.S. 27, 301, and 441. FRAME technology supports efforts to manage congestion and improve traffic flow in Marion County. Completion: Spring 2021.

**SR 200 at I-75 Turn Lanes:** Installation of new traffic signals and turn lanes on eastbound and westbound ramps at the interchange, along with median, curb ramps, guardrail, landscape, drainage and lighting improvements.



**NE 36th Avenue Widening and Bridge - NE 14th Street to NE 35th Street**



**Traffic Signal Installed - NE 14th Street and NE 30th Avenue**



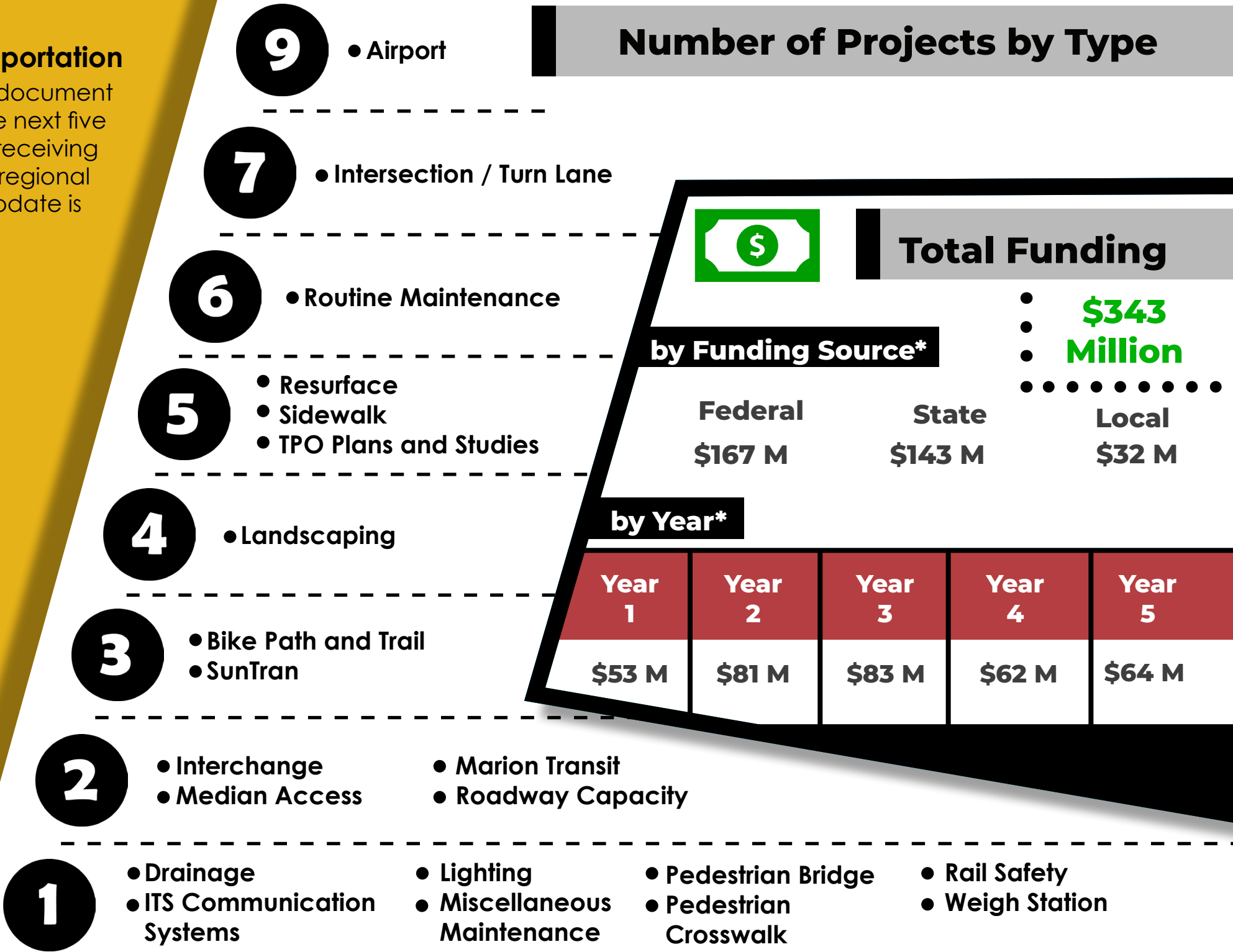
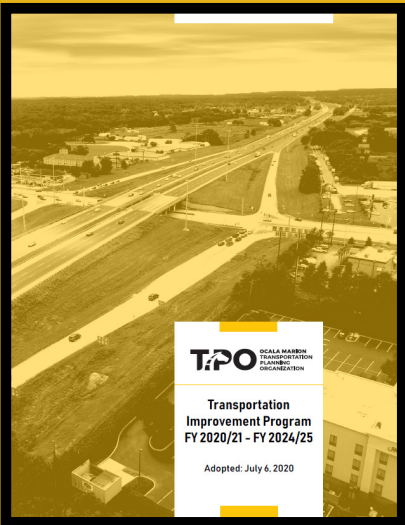


# SHORT RANGE PLANNING

2020 - 2025

In July, the TPO adopted its short-range plan, the **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**. Also known as the TIP, the document states which projects are planned to receive funding within the next five (5) years. For a project to be included in the TIP, it must be receiving federal funding and/or be considered as a project with regional significance. The TIP is updated on an annual basis; the next update is scheduled to occur in June 2021.

This year, the TIP has undergone a few major changes from previous years. First, the layout of the document has been updated, allowing readers to more easily access key information, such as how much a project will cost and when it will be built. Second, the text has been re-written and consolidated. This was done to more effectively explain the purpose of the TIP and how other tasks carried out by the TPO are related. The last major change to the TIP has been an update to the maps. In addition to improving the readability, the TPO has also created five new maps, which display groups of projects in individual areas of Marion County. These newly developed maps allow readers to visualize the location of a project in relation to others. Additionally, the TPO has created an interactive map of TIP projects, which is explained in further detail on the following page.



\$

\$343 Million

Federal \$167 M

State \$143 M

Local \$32 M

\*Due to rounding, funding amounts may not equal \$343 million.



# SHORT RANGE PLANNING

2020 - 2025

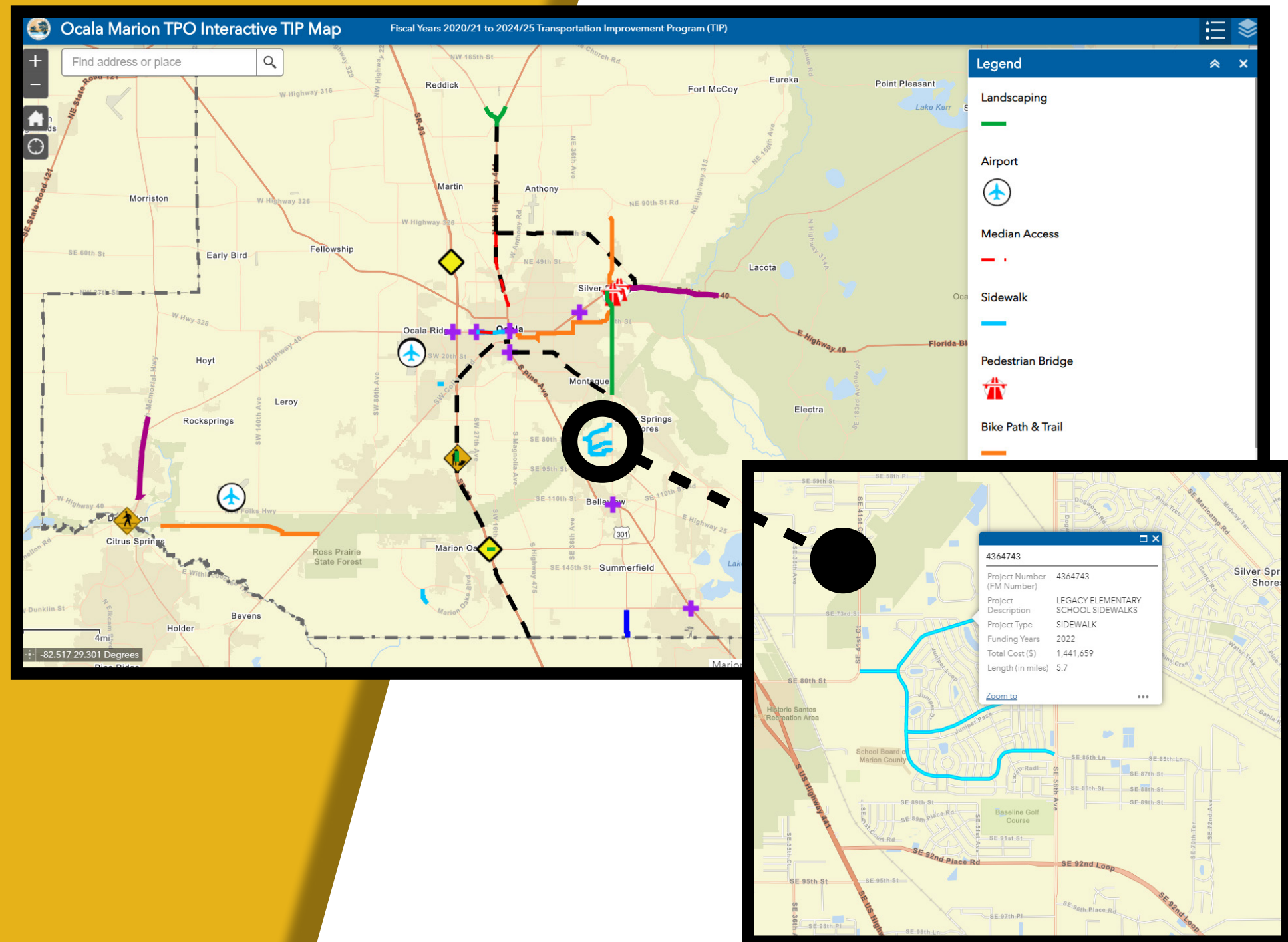
## Interactive TIP Map:

Beginning in 2020, the TPO has developed an interactive map of TIP projects. In addition to showing the location of projects, map users can select an individual project to view the following information:

- Project Number
- Project Description
- Project Type
- Funding Years
- Total Cost
- Length (in miles)

The interactive TIP map can be found at the following website:

<https://ocalamariontpo.org/plans-and-programs/transportation-improvement-program-tip/>





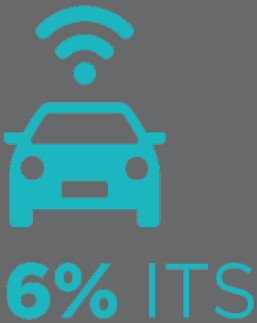
On November 24th, the TPO Board adopted the **2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**. The LRTP is the cornerstone of the TPO’s transportation planning process, as it serves as a twenty-five (25) year blueprint for transportation improvements for the entire county. The document considers all modes of transportation, including roadways, transit, bicycles, pedestrians, trails, freight and aviation. Additionally, the LRTP:

- Describes the current status of transportation in Marion County
- Includes a vision, set of goals and objectives, financial projections, and estimates of future traffic
  - Projects future population employment
- Analyzes impacts on the anticipated transportation system



Chapter 7 of the LRTP includes the Cost-Feasible Plan (CFP). As the culmination of the LRTP, the CFP outlines the transportation improvements that are scheduled to be funded during the next 25 years. The CFP utilizes and factors in the anticipated revenue from the U.S. government, the Florida Department of Transportation and local funding sources.

The update of the LRTP took 18 months and involved an extensive participatory process with input from partners, stakeholders and the general public. To view the LRTP, visit the TPO’s website at [www.ocalamariontpo.org](http://www.ocalamariontpo.org). The next LRTP update will occur in November 2025.



82% Roadway Capacity



10% Multimodal



2% Roadway Operational



0.3% Corridor Studies

### Breakdown of Project Types in Cost-Feasible Plan\*

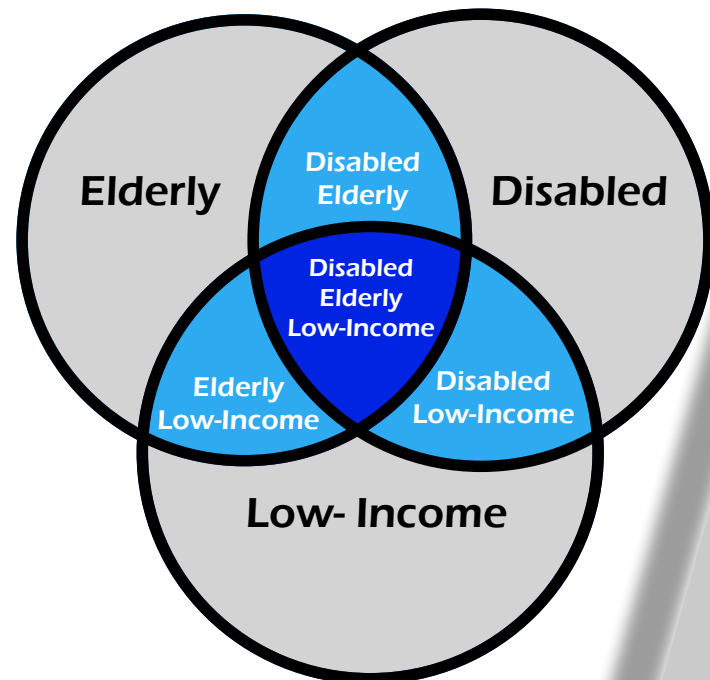
\*Due to rounding, percentages shown may not equal 100%



# TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD)

# MARION TRANSIT

On July 1, 2020 **Marion Transit** was re-appointed as the new CTC to provide Marion County **Transportation Disadvantaged (TD)** services until 2025. Every five years the TPO's Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (TDLCB) selects a Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) through a competitive proposal process for the position. The CTC is responsible for coordinating and/or providing transportation services to individuals who are transportation disadvantaged. This group includes people who are unable to drive and do not have access to other transportation options due to age, income, or disability.



“Nearly **2** in **5** Marion County residents are considered **Transportation Disadvantaged**”

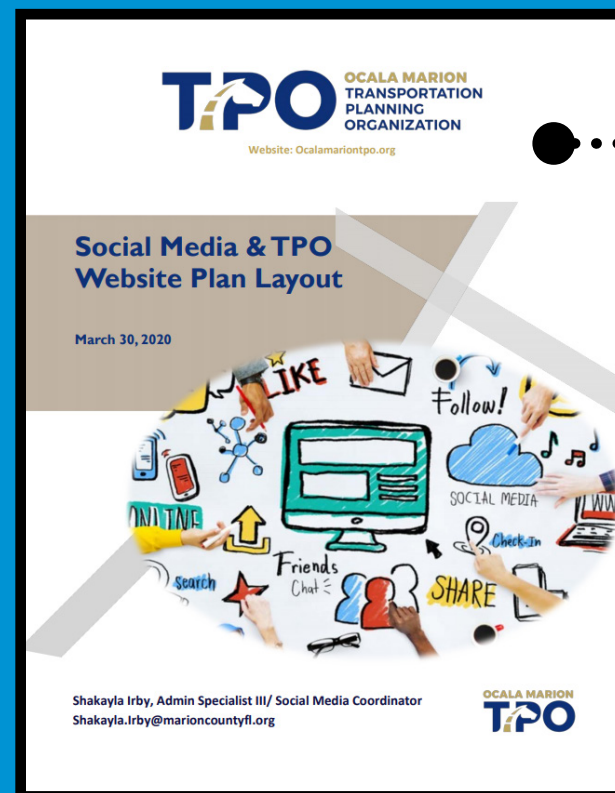
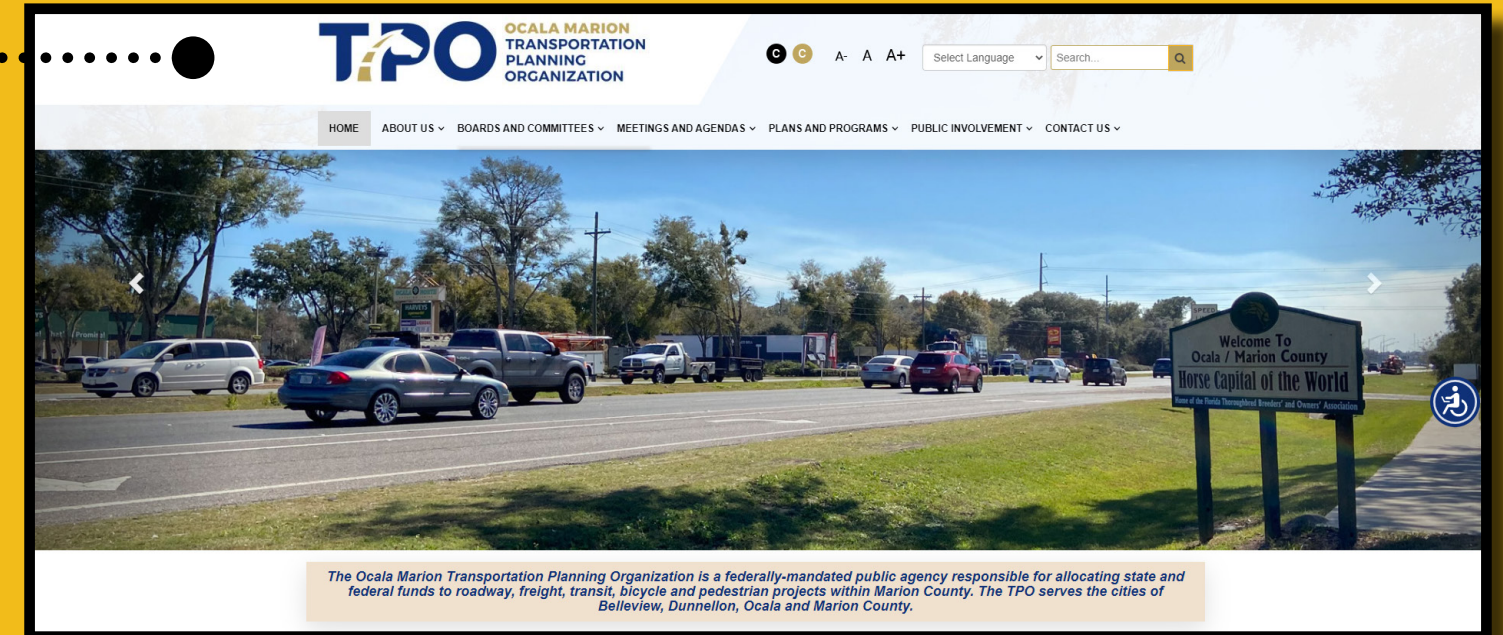
The TD program concept is to offer a level of service comparable to that provided to persons without disabilities. Together, Marion Transit, the TDLCB, and the TPO produce a **Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP)**. In October, the TPO developed a new TDSP, which details TD operations for the next five years (2020-2025). To learn more about this plan, visit the TPO's website at: <https://ocalamariontpo.org/plans-and-programs/transportation-disadvantaged-service-plan/>





# TPO WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

In early 2020, the TPO released a new, stand-alone website to better serve the public. The TPO website features information on current and upcoming construction projects, priority projects, committee descriptions, meeting schedules and times. TPO staff contact information and sections that allow for the download of TPO documents. The website is continually updated and maintained by TPO staff. The TPO website is the primary location of the most up-to-date information regarding all TPO activities. The website may be accessed at: [www.ocalamariontpo.org](http://www.ocalamariontpo.org).



The TPO instituted the use of social media via **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **LinkedIn**. A Social Media Plan was also published that guides staff on methods for social media posting, making announcements and disseminating information. Facebook and Twitter specifically serve as tools for announcing all TPO meetings, draft and final documents for final review and staff/committee or board announcements. The social media pages may be accessed at:



<https://twitter.com/OcalaMarionTPO>



<https://www.facebook.com/ocalamariontpo>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ocalamariontpo>



# TITLE VI STATEMENT

The Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from the transportation planning process and welcomes input from all interested parties, regardless of background, income level or cultural identity. The Ocala Marion TPO will not exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination, anyone on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, income or family status.

The Ocala Marion TPO welcomes and actively seeks input from the public, to help guide decisions and establish a vision that encompasses all area communities. Anyone requiring special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or requiring language assistance (free of charge) should contact Liz Mitchell, Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator at (352) 438-2634 or [liz.mitchell@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:liz.mitchell@marioncountyfl.org).

# CIVIL RIGHTS

The Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) was established to provide a forum for the development of transportation policy and transportation planning services for all of Marion County. The TPO is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from the transportation planning process and welcomes input from all interested parties, regardless of background, income level or cultural identity. The TPO does not tolerate discrimination in any of its programs, services, activities or employment practices. Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other nondiscrimination statutes, regulations and authorities. In order to accomplish equality for all partners and stakeholders the TPO put together a concise Title VI/Non-Discrimination Plan. The plan outlines a prompt and reasonable complaint procedure with the inclusion of a complaint form for ease of usage.

# TPO STAFF

Rob Balmes  
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Administrative Specialist III /  
Social Media Coordinator  
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