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November 20, 2019

Mayor Jerry Demings
Orange County Board of County Commissioners
201 S Rosalind Ave
Orlando, FL 32801

Mayor Demings:

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the East Orlando Chamber of Commerce and our 353 business members, I am writing to encourage you and the Central Florida Expressway's (CFX) Board to support the new preferred route for an eastward extension of the Osceola Parkway, known as the Split Oak Minimization Alternate Route, as presented in the Osceola Parkway Extension PD & E Study to the CFX Project Advisory Group. Recently, our Advocacy Advisory Council and Board voted overwhelmingly to support this route with the hope that it will be extended to I-95 or appropriate thoroughfare in the future. This expansion would impact the growth of commerce and new residences in Central Florida positively affecting our region which encompasses over 440 square miles of Orange County.

The Osceola Parkway Extension has been identified as a need in several local, long-range and master plans to help connect residents and visitors in the region and to reduce congestion. This future connection is included in the long-range transportation plan of The Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) and was part of the Osceola County Expressway (OCX) Master Plan prior to the merger of the organization into CFX. Additionally, this extension is included in the implementation of the Governor's Task force recommendation for East Central Florida.

With the region's continued growth, the ability to extend improved mobility is a necessity. . Developing this east-west route prior to development avoids obstacles for a successful multi-modal corridor. This route also offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to designate significant and additional lands for conservation in perpetuity. It will create an expansion of conservation areas 25 times greater than the acreage of the recommended Osceola Parkway Extension's impact of Split Oak. This means significantly more land will be conserved and protected for future generations, wildlife and native plants.

It is for these reasons; we respectfully ask the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to support the preferred Split Oak Minimization Alternate Route for the Osceola Parkway Extension and act to ultimately help carry this project forward to the state of Florida through Florida's Communities Trust.

Thank you for your service and commitment to Orange County.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cole
President/CEO
East Orlando Chamber of Commerce

Cc:

Commissioner Betsy Vanderley
Commissioner Christine Moore
Commissioner Mayra Uribe
Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero
Commissioner Emily Bonilla
Commissioner Victoria Siplin

Trustee Members

