



## **INTERNATIONAL DRIVE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) ANNUAL REPORT**

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 – 2022

Monday April 3, 2023

**BACKGROUND:** The International Drive area, approximately 7,315 acres, is a vibrant destination focused on tourism, entertainment, and convention-related business. This hub of economic activity, a catalyst for the economic success of Orange County, has historically been challenged by transportation deficiencies which threaten the continued economic vitality of this activity center that provides 75,000 jobs throughout the region. The International Drive Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) was created in the 1998 based upon a finding of the existence of transportation-related blight within the International Drive area. A Redevelopment Plan was adopted, and subsequently amended, which identified transportation improvements that could be implemented to address these blighted conditions by improving the transportation system within the CRA. The redevelopment plan includes those transportation projects which are eligible for funding utilizing, among other sources, CRA revenues. The Orange County Board of County Commissioners serves as the governing board for the International Drive Community Redevelopment Agency and directs the activities of the CRA. Additionally, a seven-member Advisory Committee has been appointed to provide recommendations to the governing board regarding implementation of the Redevelopment Plan.

**REVENUE & EXPENSES:** As is the case with all CRA's, the Redevelopment Plan is implemented utilizing tax increment revenues from the properties located within the CRA. The certified taxable value of properties within the International Drive CRA upon its creation in 1998 was **\$1,700,238,322**. As of January 1, 2022, the certified taxable value of these properties was **\$6,527,505,883**. This growth in taxable value of property within the International Drive CRA results in net increment revenues for FY 21- 22 totaling **\$21,173,441**.



**EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN FOR ACTIVE PROJECTS:** The total expenditures during Fiscal Year 21-22 totaled **\$3,039,458**. These expenditures represent full or partial costs associated with eleven (11) projects that were under development or completed during FY21-22. These projects and the related expenditures are listed in the following chart.

PROJECT	EXPENDITURE
Tangelo Park Comm Center	\$303,235.00
Tangelo Park Housing for All-Housing Repair	\$383,265.00
Regional Transit Connectivity	\$1,304,178.00
Intersection Widening	\$25,795.00
International Drive Adaptive System	\$67,275.00
International Drive Pedestrian Overpass	\$25,503.00
Kirkman Road Extension	\$150,873.00
International Drive Ultimate Transit	\$51,791.00
I-Drive Transit Lanes	\$149,115.00
Pedestrian Enhancements	\$570,215.00
Tradeshow Boulevard Improvements	\$8,214.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,039,458.00</b>

Information, details, and specific action steps taken with respect to the eleven projects are included in the following categories.

**TRANSPORTATION |**

**INTERNATIONAL DRIVE TRANSIT LANES:** This project includes design and construction of improvements to International Drive and a portion of Universal Boulevard between Destination Parkway and Sand Lake Road that will provide 12 ft. lanes for transit use along this corridor. These improvements will enhance transit operations and improve traffic flow in this area by removing buses from the general use lanes. Funding in FY 21-22 was utilized to continue the final design and right-of-way assessments.





**TRADESHOW BOULEVARD & KIRKMAN ROAD EXTENSION:** Included as part of the International Drive Transit Feasibility and Alternative Technology Assessment (TFATA) was an evaluation of the potential to implement improvements to Tradeshow Boulevard, to include the addition of vehicular travel lanes and transit lanes between Destination Parkway and Universal Boulevard. Kirkman Road is being extended south of Sand Lake Road and will end at the intersection of Tradeshow Boulevard and Universal Boulevard. The road was designed as a six-lane general use roadway with two dedicated transit lanes. The existing two-lane Tradeshow Boulevard will be over capacity once the Kirkman Road improvements are completed. The project is under design.



Tradeshow Boulevard looking south.

**INTERNATIONAL DRIVE ULTIMATE TRANSIT SYSTEM:** The International Drive Transit Feasibility and



Alternative Technology Assessment (TFATA) was performed in order to define the longer-term transit solution within the CRA. This study evaluated potential transit technologies, alignments, and financial considerations to address traffic congestion more effectively with a sustainable solution that meets the extensive and varying mobility needs within this area. The recommendations included consideration of premium bus rapid transit service that would utilize the infrastructure currently being designed with the International Drive Transit Lanes project. The study was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in 2021. The International Drive Transit Feasibility and Alternative Technology Assessment (TFATA) project has now proceeded into

the preliminary design phase. In this phase, the county will collaborate with the regional transit agency (Lynx) and a hired consulting firm to provide planning and conceptual engineering for the Federal Transit Administration's approval towards the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Small Starts program. This study will include all social, economic, environmental effects, mitigation requirements and will analyze the connection to the overall regional transit efforts along Destination Parkway.



**INTERNATIONAL DRIVE ULTIMATE TRANSIT SYSTEM CONTINUED:** The end goal of this study is to determine a locally preferred alternative, adopt a long-range transit plan, evaluate, and meet eligibility for federal funding and devise a Project Management Plan.

**I-DRIVE PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS INTERSECTION ANALYSIS AND OVERPASS CONCEPTUAL DESIGN STUDY:**

The International Drive Pedestrian Overpass Intersection Analysis and Overpass Conceptual Design Study will develop conceptual design alternatives for the creation of a pedestrian overpass structure that will serve as both a functional pedestrian/cyclist crossing and an aesthetic gateway to the International Drive

District. The overpass will provide access to, and passage between, each of the four corners of the intersection of Sand Lake Road and International Drive. With the input of a Project Advisory Group and the public, one alternative will be recommended for implementation. The Study will determine the feasibility of constructing the recommended alternative and will provide



estimated cost and right-of-way needs for implementation. Special treatments will be considered to draw motorists' awareness to the architectural significance of the intersection and overpass and their relationship to the I-4 and Sand Lake Road Interchange improvements. The aesthetic gateway design shall establish the structure's relationship to the iconic features being planned for the interchange of I-4 and Sand Lake Road.

**PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENTS:** The CRA continues to be a resource for implementing pedestrian enhancements within this area – with an emphasis on safety. Pedestrian safety assessments and action plans were recently completed for the International Drive and Universal Boulevard corridors. These plans recommended a series of projects to address documented pedestrian challenges within the area. Expenditures in FY 21-22 included design and construction of pedestrian signals along Westwood Boulevard and new traffic signals along International Drive and Universal Boulevard that were recommended for pedestrian safety.



## **AFFORDABLE AND ATTAINABLE HOUSING |**

**TANGELO PARK HOUSING FOR ALL HOUSING REPAIR:** In FY21-22, one home was repaired while three additional homes have been successfully rehabbed. A relocation allowance has been granted to five homeowners.

## **WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT |**

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESOL):** Funding was used in 2022 to improve CRA employers' ability

to attract and retain workers in a time of low unemployment, and to facilitate professional growth, upskilling, and increasing access to higher income opportunities for workers. The English As a Second Language (ESOL) for Working Professionals Pilot Program was launched



in September 2022 in partnership with Rosen Hotels & Resorts, UCF Global, and the Aeras Foundation. In addition to providing free onsite English language instruction to associates during their workday, the pilot tests the impact on learning gains, accessibility, and employer operations. The analysis from the pilot program will be used to design and propose a CRA-wide public / private program offering. Additional information can be found at [www.ocfl.net/esol](http://www.ocfl.net/esol).

## **COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS |**

**THE TANGELO PARK COMMUNITY CENTER:** The Tangelo Park Community Center renovation is currently in design. Renovation includes rebuilding the administrative building, improving HVAC, installing bathrooms, improvements to the gym and replacing the existing pool. The administrative building is going to be demolished by Spring 2023. A center manager has been assigned to the Tangelo Park Community Center and additional staff are being recruited. Currently two modular units have been placed on site to operate limited programs and provide opportunities to engage, inform and educate residents.



## **BEAUTIFICATION AND AESTHETICS |**

**COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS:** Please reference the following summary of the activities related to FY21-22. The entire \$200,000 budget is intended to be spent for the construction of the beautification which is scheduled to be complete in late 2023 or early 2024. The scope of work includes the installation of landscaping, enhanced lighting, new sidewalks, and crosswalks, in addition to new neighborhood entrance markers.

## **GOALS & FUTURE PLANNING |**

**INNOVATION, COLLABORATION & INCLUSION:** With almost four months into his second term, Mayor Jerry L. Demings three leadership principles of innovation, collaboration and inclusion have never been more important. With those leadership principles in mind Mayor Demings believes Orange County can and will be a community that works for everyone all the time. The transformational impact we have been able to achieve throughout the I-Drive community redevelopment area is a testament to his three leadership principles in action. Over the last two fiscal years we have successfully expanded the impact of the CRA's resources throughout the district. With a focus on more than just transportation needs the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at the recommendation of the I-Drive CRA Advisory Committee have invested in a diverse program including a focus on affordable and attainable housing, economic development, community, cultural and institutional programs and beautification and aesthetics. Orange County looks forward with optimism as to what can be accomplished throughout the CRA by expanding the use of these dollars; the net effect we hope will empower the CRA to reach its full potential and provide economic mobility for all who live and work within the CRA.