

AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM PINE RIDGE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

The Pine Ridge Property Owners Association stands in solidarity with Citrus County Commission M-CORE representatives in expediting SR589 to the originally intended terminus at US19 at Red Level. In so doing they eliminate the currently planned (but originally unintended) terminus at CR486. It is a cost savings measure as funding can be reallocated for the final Citrus stretch to Red Level.

A primary concern has always been the traffic which would ultimately flow through Pine Ridge Estates (PRE). There are many north south arteries and tributaries inside PRE leading to and from the currently planned but originally unintended terminus of SR 589 at CR 486. A close examination of a full area map clearly denotes the 'funneling effect' which will undoubtedly occur. Any objective traffic flow analysis illustrates increasing severity for years to come. Although we can appreciate the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) revising their earlier blueprint by moving the currently planned intersection 1500 feet east at the behest of our residents and their elected officials, in its current form it still does not ameliorate the problem. The road system within PRE becomes the inevitable short cut to/from the 486/589 entrance/exit. At stake are the safety, quality of life and peaceful tranquility in one of only four combined equestrian and golf communities in the country. PRE (10,000 acres, 5,000 properties, 3,100 residents, 165 road miles and 35 miles of horse trails intertwined) is a recognized gem within Florida and Citrus County. Commuter traffic spooking a horse and rider is a tragic event waiting to happen. Whereas we wish the Suncoast could have bypassed PRE completely, we have come to realize the reality of working toward the greater good.

We highly encourage FDOT to save costs by reallocating funding from the unintended but currently planned terminus at SR589/CR486, along with other funds to be identified/allocated or reallocated for FYs 2020-24, applying the aggregate amount toward the final build out of SR589 to its originally intended terminus of US19 at Red Level ideally by 2024 or no later than 2026. We wholeheartedly support this proposed resolution to what has been a contentious issue. Ironically this was the FDOT original goal dating back many years.

Consider in so doing, FDOT will be reestablishing the originally planned terminus at Red Level which is a location not nearly as populated or mature. This was always a solid plan and is now ultimately supported by many groups who have come to realize the Suncoast II is arriving. Rather than creating a burgeoning traffic and safety issue for an existing community or friction points of discussion for current and future Pine Ridge residents and officials, the original FDOT plan allows expected maturation with advance knowledge. This is a Win/Win.