

## AN URGENT SUNCOAST II UPDATE

Mike Perry  
October 23, 2020

Recent developments regarding the Suncoast Parkway II (SR589) and its future movement into and beyond Pine Ridge are summarized here. **Developments have been evolving positively and rapidly in the last few weeks.**

Here is a summary and just a brief history particularly for our new residents and property owners.

The Suncoast Parkway/SR 589 is the main parkway to and from Tampa. We pick it up at SR 98 (Ponce De Leon Boulevard) in Hernando County.

Construction stopped some 20 years ago while making its way north having never reached Citrus County. Suncoast II was resurrected a few years back and construction into Citrus to SR 44 (Gulf To Lake Highway) is now underway and will be completed in 2022.

Suncoast II, Phase 2 was originally intended to wind its way from SR 44 to Red Level and have a terminus interchange at US 19 (north of Crystal River). Some Pine Ridge properties were and remain in the cross hairs in spite of the best efforts of Board predecessors and other activist groups. That ship has sailed, they know who they are and have already been notified by the State of Florida. We wish more could have been done.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had enough funding for what amounted to another three mile stretch from SR 44 to CR 486. This in turn translated into a terminus interchange dropping at the intersection of Pine Ridge Boulevard and SR 486 (Norvell Bryant Highway).

Jim Tucker the previous Roads Committee Chair worked diligently with FDOT and the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Although, in spite of the best effort to eliminate a 589/486 terminus, Jim was successful in having the planned intersection moved east 1500 feet from Pine Ridge Boulevard. This would at least eliminate a cross (+) intersection alleviating what could have been a gridlock traffic situation. It was no small victory and took the power of the people within Pine Ridge. Many will remember a massive meeting at the Pine Ridge auditorium with nearly 500 residents protesting and making their case to FDOT officials. We then became resigned to a 589/486 terminus---albeit 1500 feet east.

As of October 23, 2020, here is the current situation based on our continuing liaison with FDOT and the BOCC.

Our current Roads Chairman has been meeting with the BOCC after speaking with FDOT officials. The new (apparently outdated) objective was to have the currently planned 589/486 terminus reconfigured adding a continuous right turn (think SR 589 at SR 98 in Hernando County). This could have decreased traffic into and on the roads of Pine Ridge.

During this effort we became aware the BOCC representatives to the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) were more interested in continuing Suncoast II to Red Level than having the 589/486 terminus. The BOCC reps also refocused on safety concerns, peace and tranquility---and overall Pine Ridge quality of life should traffic be funneled through Pine Ridge forever more.

We are now assisting the BOCC in making their case for the original goal of a terminus at Red Level. Their goal of continuing the Suncoast II to its originally intended terminus at Red Level has now merged with our original goal of not having the terminus across from Pine Ridge. We are in a Win/Win situation.

We ask our Pine Ridge residents and property owners to save the next page which is a PDF document. Prepare and forward an email attaching the just saved PDF to each of the listed elected officials. Having the same uniform language will demonstrate unity regarding this issue. PRHOA representatives will continue the follow-up regarding this development.

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