

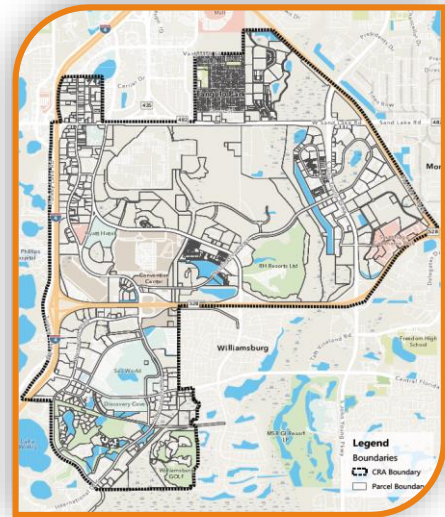
INTERNATIONAL DRIVE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA) FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



BACKGROUND

The International Drive area 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 within this region.

The International Drive Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) was created in 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. This 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.

REDEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTIVITIES

The Redevelopment Plan consists of transit and infrastructure improvements, which increase roadway capacity, improve traffic operations, enhance pedestrian safety, and manage neighborhood traffic. The FY 19-20 budget includes several projects including John Young Parkway and Interchange at Sand Lake Road, International Drive Transit Lanes, International Drive Ultimate Transit Improvements, Pedestrian Enhancements, and Transportation Systems Management (TSM). These projects are further described below:

John Young Parkway (Interchange at Sand Lake Road)

This project is a partnership project with the Florida Department of Transportation. It includes design and construction of a new grade-separated urban interchange at John Young Parkway and Sand Lake Road (SR 482). These improvements, which were completed along with the FDOT project to widen Sand Lake Road to six lanes, will greatly enhance the operations of this highly congested intersection. FY 19-20 expenditures were for the I-Drive CRA's contribution to the construction of this partnership project. Construction is now complete and this new interchange is open to traffic.



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 19-20 was utilized to continue the final design and right-of-way assessments.



International Drive Ultimate Transit System

The International Drive Transit Feasibility and Alternative Technology Assessment (TFATA) is currently being completed in order to define the longer-term transit solution within the CRA. This study is evaluating potential transit technologies, alignments, and financial considerations to more effectively address traffic congestion with a sustainable solution that meets the extensive and varying mobility needs within this area. Current recommendations include consideration of premium bus rapid transit service that would utilize the infrastructure currently being designed with the International Drive Transit Lanes project.



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 19-20 included design of pedestrian signals along Westwood Boulevard and new traffic signals along International Drive and Universal Boulevard that were recommended for pedestrian safety. Additionally sidewalks were constructed along Sea Harbor Drive.



REVENUES/EXPENDITURES

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, 2020, the certified taxable value of these properties was \$6,345,836,103. This growth in taxable value of property within the International Drive CRA results in net increment revenues for FY 19-20 totaling \$22,169,373.

Total expenditures during FY 19-20 were \$1,526,184. These expenditures represent full or partial costs associated with six (6) projects that were under development or completed during this fiscal year: John Young Parkway and Interchange at Sand Lake Road, International Drive widening, International Drive Transit Lanes, International Drive Ultimate Transit System, Pedestrian Enhancements throughout the CRA, and Transportation Systems Management (TSM) along with minor administration-related costs. Additional funding of approximately \$74.5 million has been budgeted for future capital outlay in order to continue development and construction of the approved Capital Improvement Program including the Kirkman Road Extension and transit-related

improvements recommended as an outcome of the I-Drive Transit Feasibility and Alternative Technology Assessment which is currently underway.

Because the approved redevelopment plan for the International Drive CRA is focused on transportation projects, there have been no expenditures on affordable housing for low-income and middle-income residents. However, an update to the International Drive CRA Redevelopment Plan is currently being developed which has identified opportunities to expand the scope of this CRA with the potential for incorporation of affordable and attainable housing within the redevelopment program. This would create options for employees working within the CRA to live in closer proximity to their jobs, support a strategy that reduces the demand on transportation systems and infrastructure, and continue advancing Orange County's *Housing for All* initiative.

GOALS/ACHIEVEMENTS

The International Drive CRA has successfully invested in a diverse program of significant transportation improvements within this area in order continue supporting the economic vitality of this activity center. The previously approved and amended Redevelopment Plan for the International Drive CRA identified 15 projects and ongoing transportation strategies for implementation in order to address the blighted transportation conditions within the area. Of those 15 projects/strategies 13 have either been completed or, in the case of transportation strategies, continue to be implemented on an ongoing basis within the CRA (i.e Pedestrian Safety, Transportation Systems Management, Traffic Calming, Sequencing of Traffic Signals, etc). A critical component of the redevelopment program that remains under planning and development is a robust transit system that will meet the growing needs of the employees and visitors to this area. While these transit plans are currently being developed, the CRA will need to continue making the longer-term investments in the necessary capital improvements and operations for this transit system to support the International Drive area.