

1.0 Project Description

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Designated a regionally significant roadway corridor, Sumter County Road 501 Phase II, from 0.75 miles south of Warm Springs Avenue to C-470, (**CR 501 Phase II**) is a critical widening and reconstruction project needed to support and encourage development of existing rural areas within Sumter County. The Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Long-Range Transportation Plan (Transportation 2040) identifies the CR 501 corridor as a priority to provide necessary transportation capacity for this developing area. The project is located in a rural area – defined as outside of an Urbanized Area (UA) as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The first phase of the CR 501 corridor (CR 501 Phase I), from Warm Springs Avenue (formerly known as C-468) to approximately 0.75 miles south of Warm Springs Avenue, is currently under construction. **CR 501 Phase II** will provide a continuation of this roadway improvement project, for approximately 2.5 miles to the connection at C-470. Once complete, the entire length of the CR 501 segment will be widened from an undivided two-lane section to a divided four-lane section.

Figure 1-1 illustrates **CR 501 Phase II** project limits.

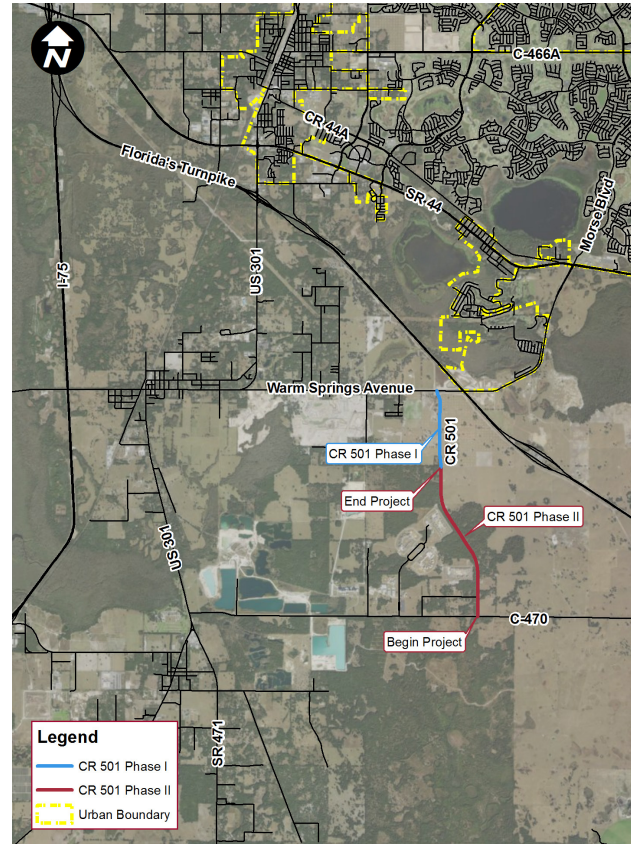


Figure 1-1 Project Limits



CR 501 Phase II - Existing Conditions

As it exists today, CR 501 is a two-lane undivided rural roadway with a posted speed limit of 55 mph. Proposed improvements will include widening to four lanes, constructing a 22.5-foot grassed and landscaped median to provide separation between the two directions of travel, and construction of a closed curb and gutter stormwater system that will connect—by way of joint-use ponds—with adjacent properties through an existing Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement.

These roadway improvements will provide the following benefits:

- Enhanced safety
- Reduced congestion
- Increased transportation capacity and connectivity to support development of adjacent rural communities
- Ability for utility and broadband services to be extended to this rural area

CR 501 Phase II does not require the acquisition of additional right-of-way (except for minor areas needed to facilitate roundabout construction for access to adjacent properties), which enhances Sumter County's ability to move directly into the design and construction phases. Any minor right-of-way needed for this project has already been committed through a PPP agreement with the Villages Land Company, LLC. Eminent Domain property acquisition is not needed for this project. A typical section of the proposed CR 501 roadway is illustrated in *Figure 1-2*.

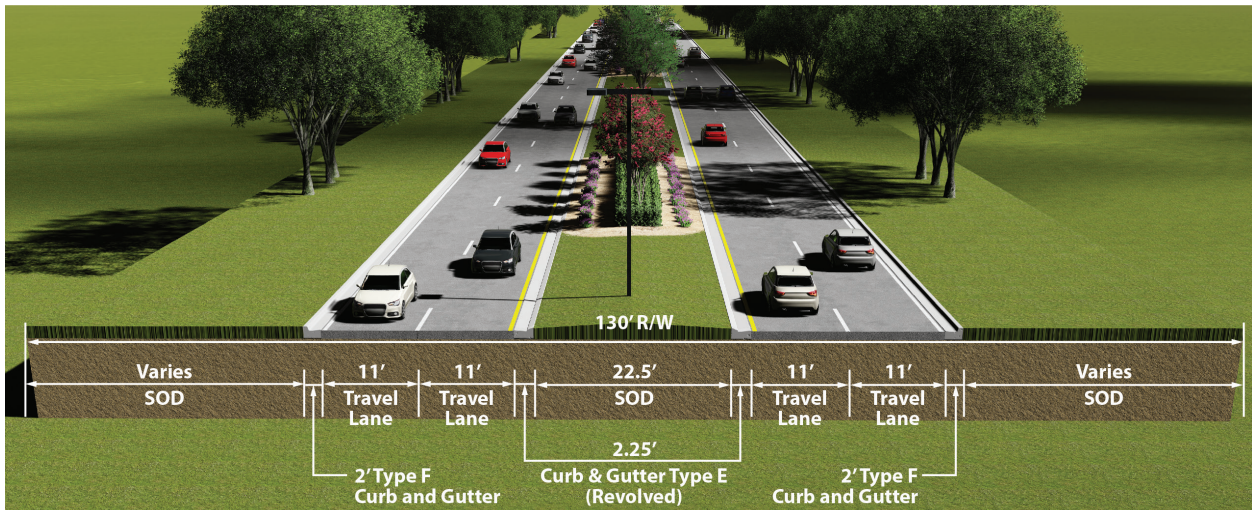


Figure 1-2 Typical Section of Proposed Improvements

A traffic signal at the intersection of CR 501 at C-470 will be constructed as part of **CR 501 Phase II**. C-470 is in the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study phase for widening to four-lanes, with design funds allocated by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in FY 2021/2022 (FM#434912-1) (<http://www.cflroads.com/project/434912-1/C - 470 PD E Study>). Additionally, **CR 501 Phase II** will include the construction of median openings and two roundabouts to provide consolidated access to future development along this regionally significant corridor. Roundabouts have been used extensively by Sumter County on other adjacent roadway projects as an innovative way to consolidate access, and one is currently being constructed as part of CR 501 Phase I (see *Figure 1-7*).