

Volusia Transit Connector Study – December/February Public Outreach Events Brief Summary

The Department held 5 information public outreach events to kick-off the Volusia Transit Connector Study. The first 4 were at local farmers markets in the Cities of Orange City, DeBary, and Daytona Beach as well as the Volusia Farm Bureau's Farmers Market in DeLand. The fifth public kick-off was held in the City of Deltona just prior to the regular City Commission meeting. These public outreach events were intended to introduce the study to the general public and share contact and study website information and not to solicit information or feedback from them at this time. There will be public workshops held in the spring where the public will have the direct opportunity to provide specific input on potential alternatives.

Quick Summary:

- Talked directly to about 65 – 70 people
- Received a total of 13 comment cards
- Distributed 112 copies of Newsletter # 1
- Received a number of general comments from booth visitors (as provided by event below)

Friday, December 5th, Orange City Farmers Market:

- Event went from 7:30 am to 11 am
- Market was small local market, comprised of 8 – 10 vendor tents
- Spoke to approximately 10 – 12 people, of which 6 signed their names on a sign in sheet to let the Department know that they came by. Of these 6, only 1 person wanted to be added to the Master Contact List
- General comments heard were relative to:
 - Traffic issues/congestion along Saxon Blvd/US 17/92 to travel to DeBary SunRail Station
 - How will people get from Orange City to the SunRail
 - SunRail is needed in DeLand earlier than planned
 - If the alternative is high-speed, then it may be viable, but with no development in between the two areas, this is not a cost-effective project
 - Bike trails will become a bigger issue in Volusia and should be considered a part of this study
 - Provide a monorail from downtown I-4 to Daytona Beach to promote tourism (maybe 50 years from now)
 - Don't see a lot of traffic between DeLand and Daytona Beach, and what is being done along US 92 should be good for the next 10 years
 - Data collected to date barely supports SunRail
 - Need to ensure that tax dollars do not provide options for just the urban areas but should also provide relief for low density areas

Saturday, December 6th, DeBary Farmers Market:

- Event went from 7:30 am to 11:00 am
- Talked directly with approximately 10 people, including Orange City Council member Ron Saylor (who also attended the Orange City event the day before)
- Generally, the people we talked to were curious and wanted to know more about the study.
- Handed out fliers, encouraged people to sign up for our mailing list and to learn more about the project through the web site.
- No one wanted to sign in on the web site, which we had up and running the whole time. There were some questions about SunRail (when will there be weekend service, when will Phase 2 North begin operation, etc.) and about the frequency of Votran service in Deltona.

Sunday, December 7th, Daytona Beach Flea & Farmers Market:

- Event went from 8:30 am to 12 pm
- Talked directly with 10 – 12 people
- Generally, the majority of the people we tried to talk to were not interested in transit, rather they prefer to drive to where they need to go.
- Handed out Newsletter # 1
- Received 3 comment cards, and comments were relative to:
 - Volusia County needs mass transit from Daytona Beach to Orlando to Tampa to Miami. Many people work in Orlando, and it is becoming necessary to have transit
 - Great idea – the more transit the better
 - Provide SunRail to Daytona
- The vendors near and adjacent to the FDOT booth commented that flea market was unusually slow that day – not sure of the reason. They have seen much better foot traffic in past weekends.

Wednesday, December 10, 2014, Volusia Farm Bureau Farmers Market:

- Event went from 6:30 am to 10:00 am
- Talked directly with about 15 people and received 4 comment cards
- Comments in the comment cards were relative to:
 - All 4 modes being considered in the study should be used
 - Need to improve coordination between Votran and LYNX to provide better connectivity
 - Howland Avenue and Graves Avenue needs transit connection to I-4
 - Rail lines will not work without feeder buses
- General comments ranged from very supportive of transit to not interested in transit, specifically:
 - Prefer to drive than wait on transit
 - Transit service takes too long
 - 1 gentleman was engaged in the SunRail process and continues to support the implementation of SunRail Phase II north because there are a lot of small businesses that can benefit. His other comments were that:
 - There is an initiative in which he is actively involved to implement a private shuttle service to supplement Votran. The service would be implemented in DeLand and would provide a

- more frequent service to the SunRail station for people that visit restaurants and stores in the area
- He also wanted to know about the I-4 ultimate project. Basically he was interested in knowing more about express lane operations in general
- Volusia needs rail service
- “Even if better transit were available, I still would drive because transit does not take me everywhere I want to go”
- This is a great idea!
- I completely support transit

Monday, February 2nd, Foyer outside City of Deltona City Commission Chambers:

- Event went from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
- Talked directly with about 20 people
- Generally, people we talked to in Deltona want to see transit (either rail or bus transit) come to Volusia.
- Handed out 30 copies of Newsletter # 1
- Received 8 comment cards, and comments were relative to:
 - It has been a long time coming and is definitely a needed transportation asset
 - I feel a light rail would benefit local students that either work or travel to Daytona State. Making it cost effective for our younger generation.
 - One concern I have is the need for detour signage if there is an accident on I-4 by the St. Johns River, and drivers are exited off onto Doyle Road. They need directions on a way back onto I-4 at Howland through Deltona. Another comment, weekend SunRail service.
 - I recommend the use of buses on I-4.
 - Deltona needs more connection to SunRail. Also, the addition of SunRail nights and weekends. We need SunRail to connect to Daytona International Airport. Also the I-95 to SR 415 road connection.
 - Votran serves West Volusia very scarcely - headways need to be shortened and more pick-ups. We need a multi-modal facility in Deltona for SunRail. Let’s spend some road tax money in Deltona!
 - Central Florida needs more means of public transportation, connecting Volusia, Seminole, and Orange Counties. Should be 1st priority.
 - This study is greatly needed for all of Volusia County. The west side of the county is under-served. To be connected in our community is excellent.

Requests to be added to Master Contact List to date:

- 3 persons have been asked to be added to Master List
 - 2 through the website contact submission feature (received on December 8, 2014)
 - 1 directly to FDOT Deputy PM

Number of Unique Hits on Study Website since website launch (12/2/2014 – 2/11/2015):

- 82 unique hits (approximately 34 new hits per month)
- 550 website page views (approximately 229 views per month)