



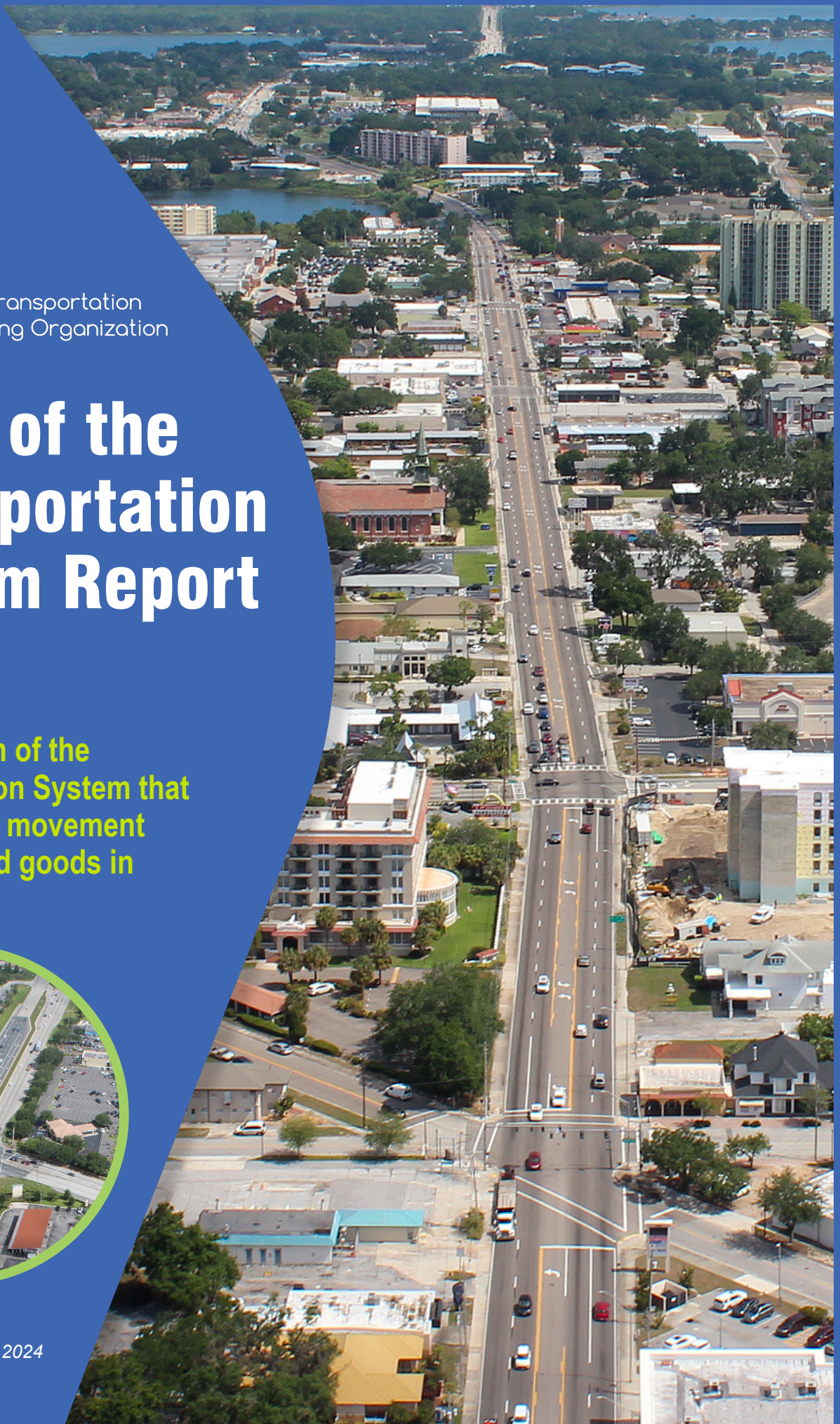
Polk Transportation
Planning Organization

State of the Transportation System Report 2024

A description of the
Transportation System that
supports the movement
of people and goods in
Polk County.



Published: June 28, 2024





ROADWAY NETWORK DATABASE (RND)

Updated annually, the information reported in the RND allows planners to track attainment of transportation performance measures and targets.

The RND includes system performance information such as roadway capacity, traffic volume, level of service, and crash rate. The RND also reports physical information such as the presence of transit services, sidewalks and bicycle facilities.

The RND includes current roadway performance data for

1,344 miles

of state, county and city-maintained major roads in Polk County, FL.*

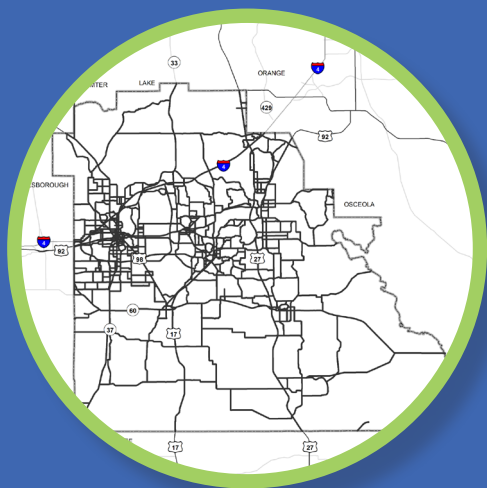


Figure Shows RND Network in Polk County

*28 Miles of new roadway were added to the RND in 2023



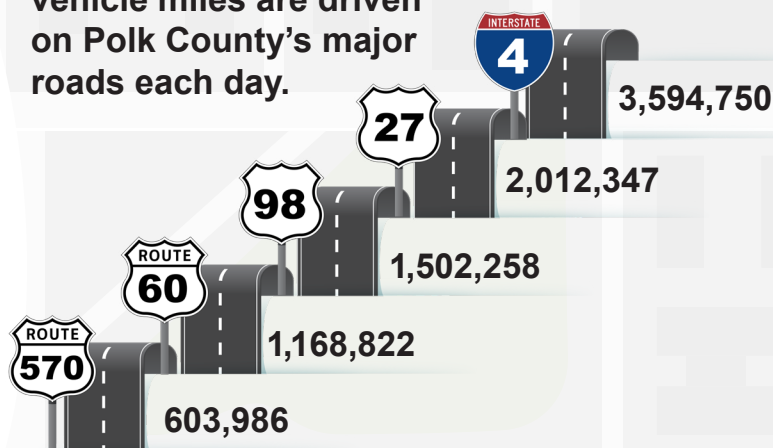
ROADWAY PERFORMANCE

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and roadway Level of Service (LOS) are used in the RND to assess total miles driven and delay experienced by motorists traveling along Polk County's major roadways. VMT is a traffic metric that measures the total number of miles driven by vehicles in a specified area and time period. LOS standards assess road performance according to a scale of "A" (least delay) through "F" (most delay).

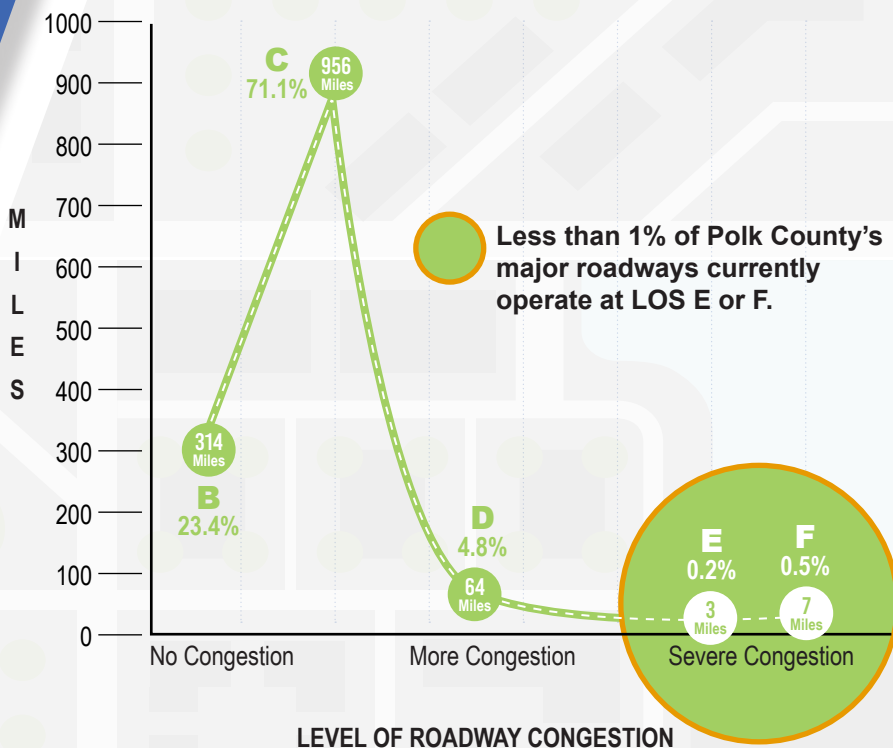
On average

18,837,913

vehicle miles are driven on Polk County's major roads each day.



2023 RND Network Summary by LOS





TRAFFIC GROWTH

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

12.7%



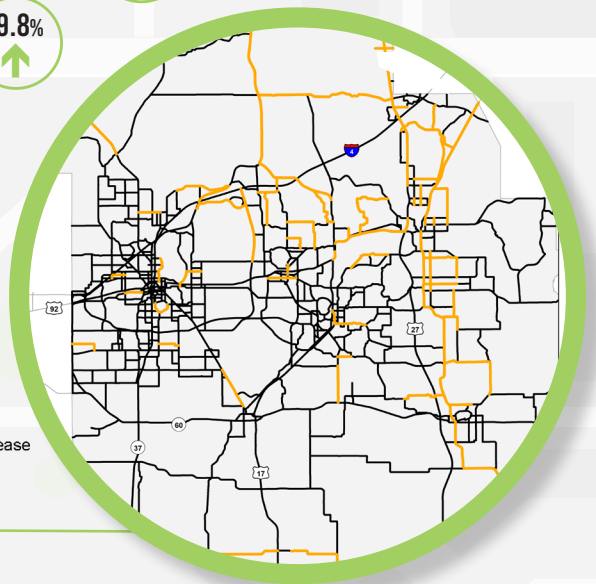
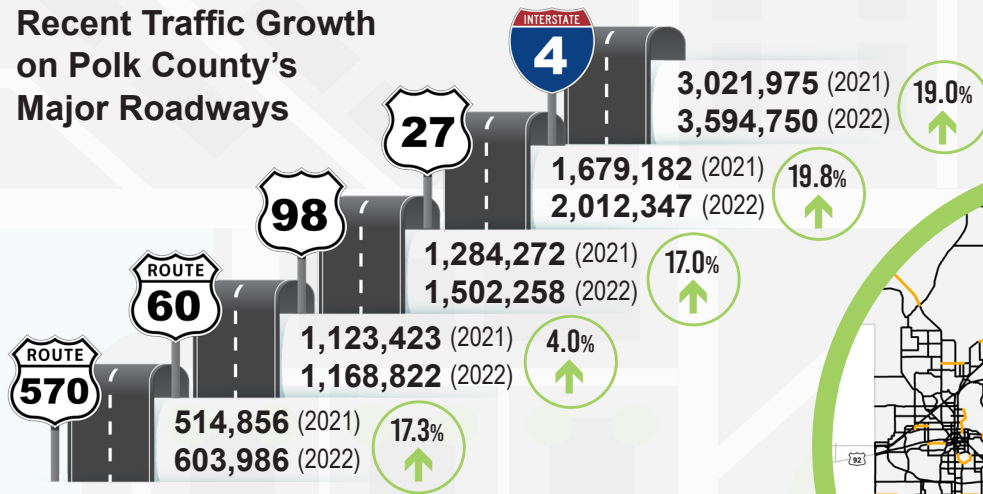
Total VMT on Polk County's major roads increased by 12.7% in two years from 16,709,055 in 2021 to 18,837,913 in 2023.

25.0%



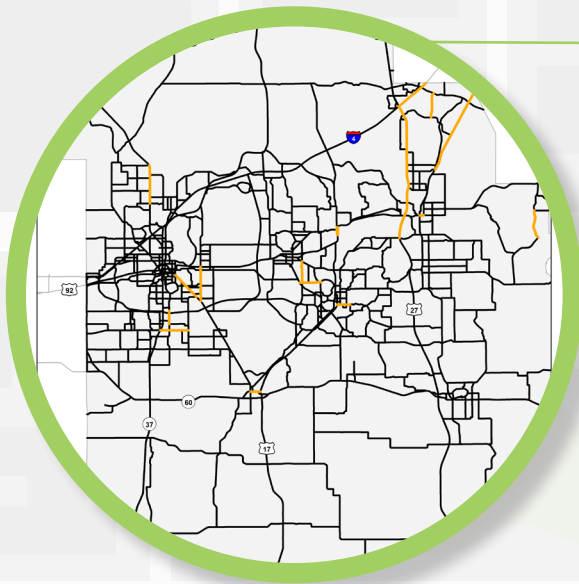
During the same two-year period, 78 roadway segments in Polk County recorded an increase in VMT greater than 25.0%.

Recent Traffic Growth on Polk County's Major Roadways



Legend

- Roadways with 25% or Greater VMT Increase
- RND Roadways



Legend

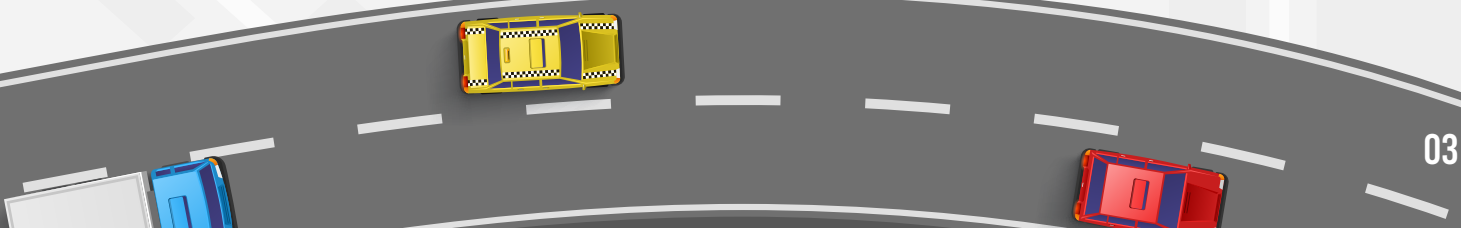
- Roadways with LOS "F" in 10 Years (2033)
- RND Roadways

Future Traffic Growth on Polk County's Major Roadways



Assuming no system improvement and a continued 2% annual growth rate in traffic, in 10 Years conditions on 45 miles of roadway in Polk County will degrade to Level of Service "F".

Assuming the cost feasible system improvements included in the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan are made, conditions on nearly 146 miles of roadway in Polk County will function at Level of Service "F" by year 2045.



ROADWAY SAFETY

Polk County Crash Statistics

Crash data was collected for Polk County from the Florida Department of Transportation's Crash Analysis Reporting System (CARS), and the University of Florida's Signal Four Analytics (S4). Crash data was collected from 2017 through 2021 and analyzed as part of the TPO's 2023 Vision Zero Conditions Assessment. Key crash statistics identified in that analysis include:



82,374
Total Crashes
(45 per day)



1,746
Severe Injury Crashes
(7 per week)



56,767
Property Damage Only Crashes
(31 per day)



606
Fatal Crashes
(2 per week)



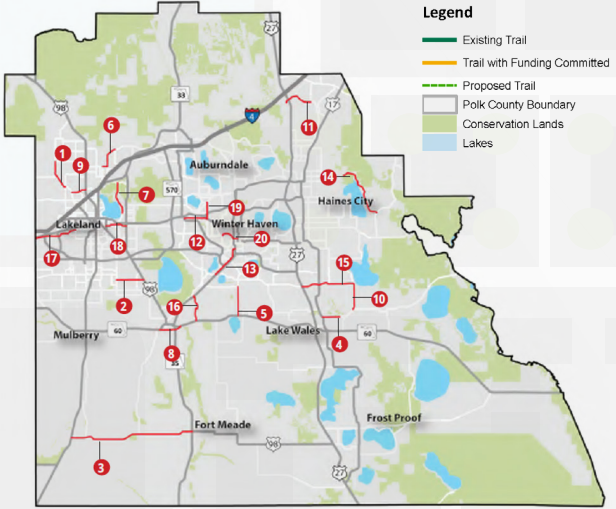
25,001
Total Injury Crashes
(14 per week)



\$12.8B
Cost to Society
(\$7.0M per day)

Source: Assuming FDOT KABCO Crash Costs in the FDOT 2022 Design Manual.

HIGH INJURY NETWORK, 2017-2021



Source: Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

The County and City maintained roadways with the highest rate of serious crashes include:

1. CR 35A (Kathleen Road)
2. CR 540 (Clubhouse Road)
3. CR 630 (Brewster Road)
4. CR 17A (Burns Avenue)
5. CR 655 (Rifle Range Road)

“Crashes involving cars leaving their lane (Fixed Object/Run-Off Road) make up the greatest percentage (22.1%) of fatal crashes.”

On average, **every week** in Polk County **2 people die** in traffic crashes

while another **7 people** suffer serious injuries,

and **every day 31 crashes** cause nearly **\$7 million** in property damage.

Our most vulnerable users include those walking along our roadways. **PEDESTRIAN** crashes account for **2% OF ALL CRASHES** but **18% ALL FATAL CRASHES** in Polk County.

Data indicates that certain conditions increase the likelihood of a fatality or severe injury in crashes across Polk County.

CONTEXT Over half of pedestrian and bicycle fatal and severe injury crashes occurred in Suburban Commercial areas.

BEHAVIOR 40% of fatal crashes in Polk County involve drugs/ alcohol. Another 39% of fatal crashes involved those that were not wearing seatbelts.

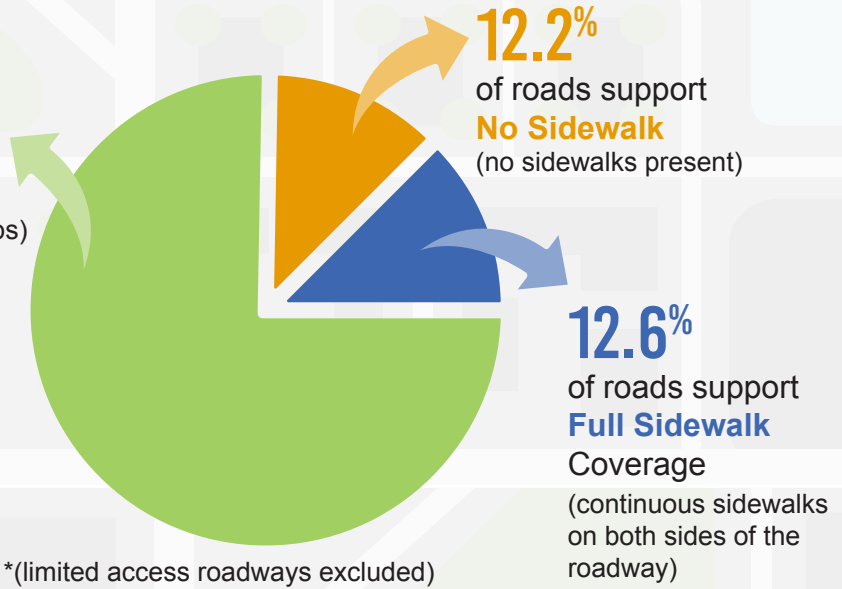
SPEED Roadways with a speed limit of 25-mph or less comprise 1 percent of all fatal and severe injury crashes. Higher speed roads prove to be more dangerous.



PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FACILITIES

The major roadways within Polk County's urbanized areas support **618 miles of sidewalks**.

75.1% of roads support **Partial Sidewalk Coverage** (sidewalks on one side of the roadway or sidewalks with gaps)

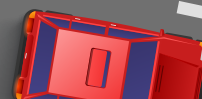
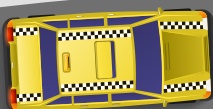
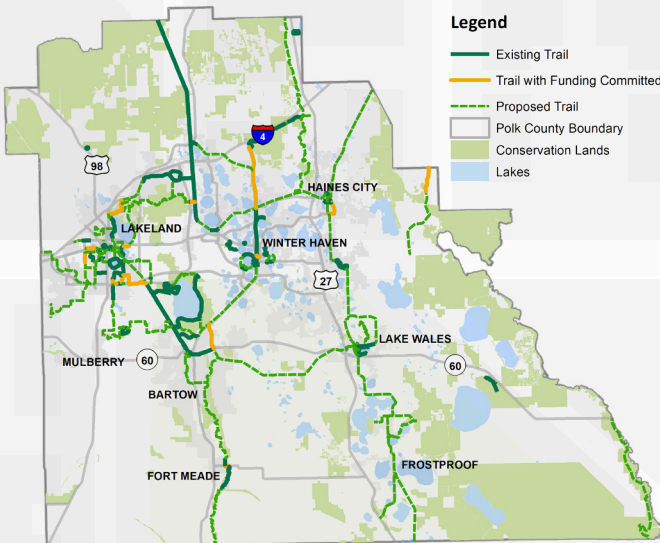
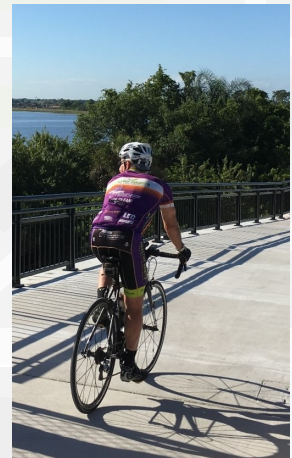


Similarly, the major roadways within Polk County's urbanized areas support **687 miles of bicycle facilities**. However, 44% of roadways have no bicycle accommodation.

Regional Trails

Bicycle and Pedestrian activity in Polk County is further supported by an extensive regional trail system. Currently 83 miles of regional multiuse trails exist across Polk County.

As of Spring 2024, there are 18 miles of additional multi-use trails funded for construction in Polk County. These new trail segments will help link large sections of the existing trail system and connect the County and its cities to the larger statewide network of regional trails.



TRANSIT






Fixed-route public transit in Polk County is provided by the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (LAMTD) which operates as the Citrus Connection.



In 2023, Citrus Connection's 29 Fixed Routes supported **812,426** Passenger Trips.

With the elimination of pandemic restrictions and full restoration of transit services in 2023, the total number of fixed route trips increased by 27.5 percent from 2022.

The top five performing transit routes account for 51% of the system's ridership:

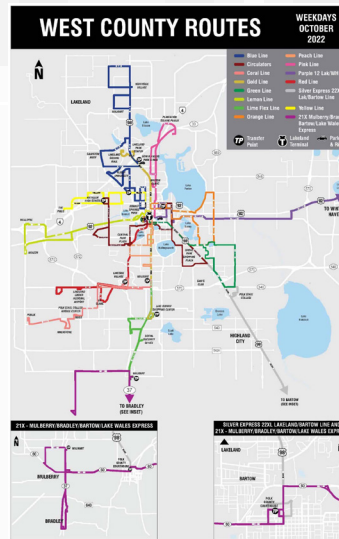
-  Gold Line (183,133 trips)
-  Purple Line (83,904 trips)
-  30 Route 30 (55,401 trips)
-  Blue Line (50,328 trips)
-  15 Route 15 (44,732 trips)

Citrus Connection also provides a call-ahead, door-to-door service for persons unable to use regular fixed-route bus service. A specialized fleet of small, wheelchair lift-equipped buses is currently available to older adults and people with disabilities. In 2023, Citrus Connection provided

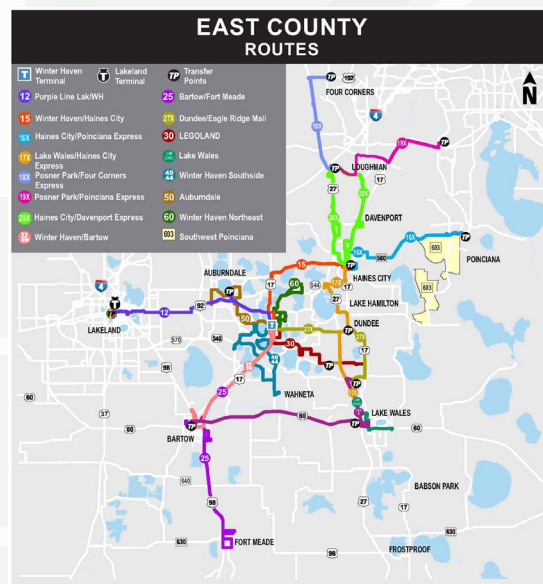
79,293 paratransit trips to these groups in Polk County.



Citrus Connection Route 19X connects to the Poinciana SunRail Station and provides access to Central Florida's regional rail system.



In addition to Citrus Connection, LYNX operates two transit routes that service areas of northeast Polk County including Haines City and Poinciana. These routes connect Polk County residents with the Orlando Metropolitan Area.



GOODS MOVEMENT

With more than 13 million Florida residents located within 100 miles of Polk County, the County's transportation system located at the center of the state plays an important role in supporting regional and statewide goods movement.



The FDOT designates a series of transportation facilities with special importance in statewide mobility and economic activity as part of the State's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS).

Several facilities in Polk County are designated as part of the SIS these include:



Central Florida Intermodal Logistics Center (ILC)



Lakeland Linder International Airport



224 miles of Railway



318 miles of Highway

Based on figures reported in the Freight Mobility & Trade Plan published by FDOT District 1 in 2023, Polk County supports more than 81 million square feet of freight-related land use. A total area more than twice that of the freight-related activity in the other counties located within District 1.

Freight Related Land Use in Polk County

Land Use	Square Feet
Warehouse & Distribution Centers	55,715,310
Light Manufacturing	17,254,440
Canneries, Bottlers/Brewers, Distilleries, & Wineries	4,365,270
Fruit, Vegetable, & Meat Packing Plants	1,920,030
Mining Lands, Petroleum Lands, & Gas Lands	1,911,420

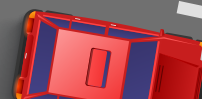
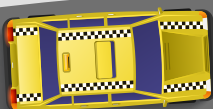


The 318-acre Central Florida ILC located in Winter Haven is a major freight activity center with the capacity to process up to 300,000 containers per year.



Roadways with the highest daily truck volumes in Polk County include:

- I-4 (near Hillsborough County) - 19,500
- SR 570 (near SR 37) - 6,464
- SR 60 (near US 27) - 6,440
- US 27 (near US 17/92) - 5,568



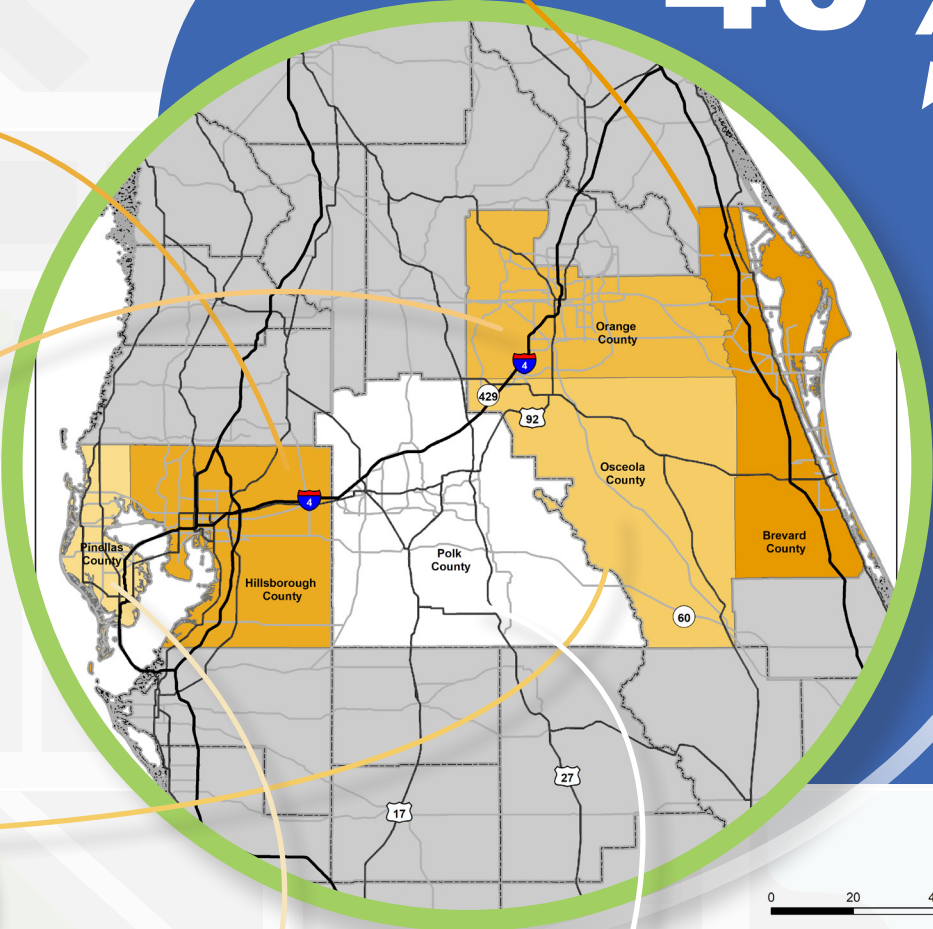
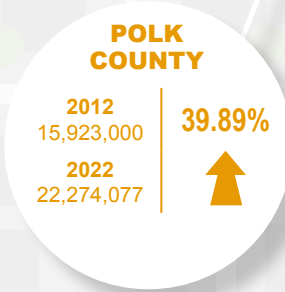
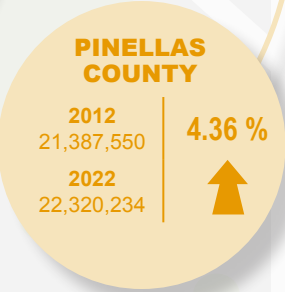
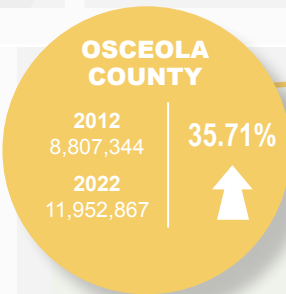
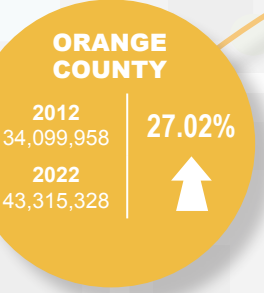
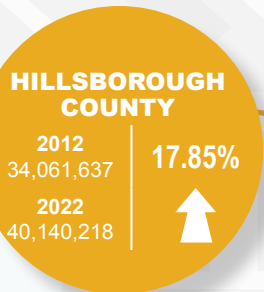
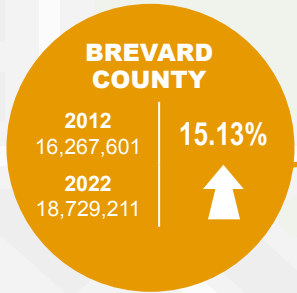
REGIONAL COMPARISON

2012 – 2022 Regional Comparison of Traffic Growth

Over the past decade, traffic on Polk County's roads has grown faster than in other counties in the region, increasing in Polk County by nearly

40%

TOTAL DAILY VMT



- LEGEND**
- Brevard County
 - Hillsborough County
 - Orange County
 - Osceola County
 - Pinellas County
 - Polk County

* Figure Above Reports Information From FDOT Public Road Mileage and Miles Traveled (DVMT) Report, 2012 and 2022