

## CHANNEL 13 NEWS

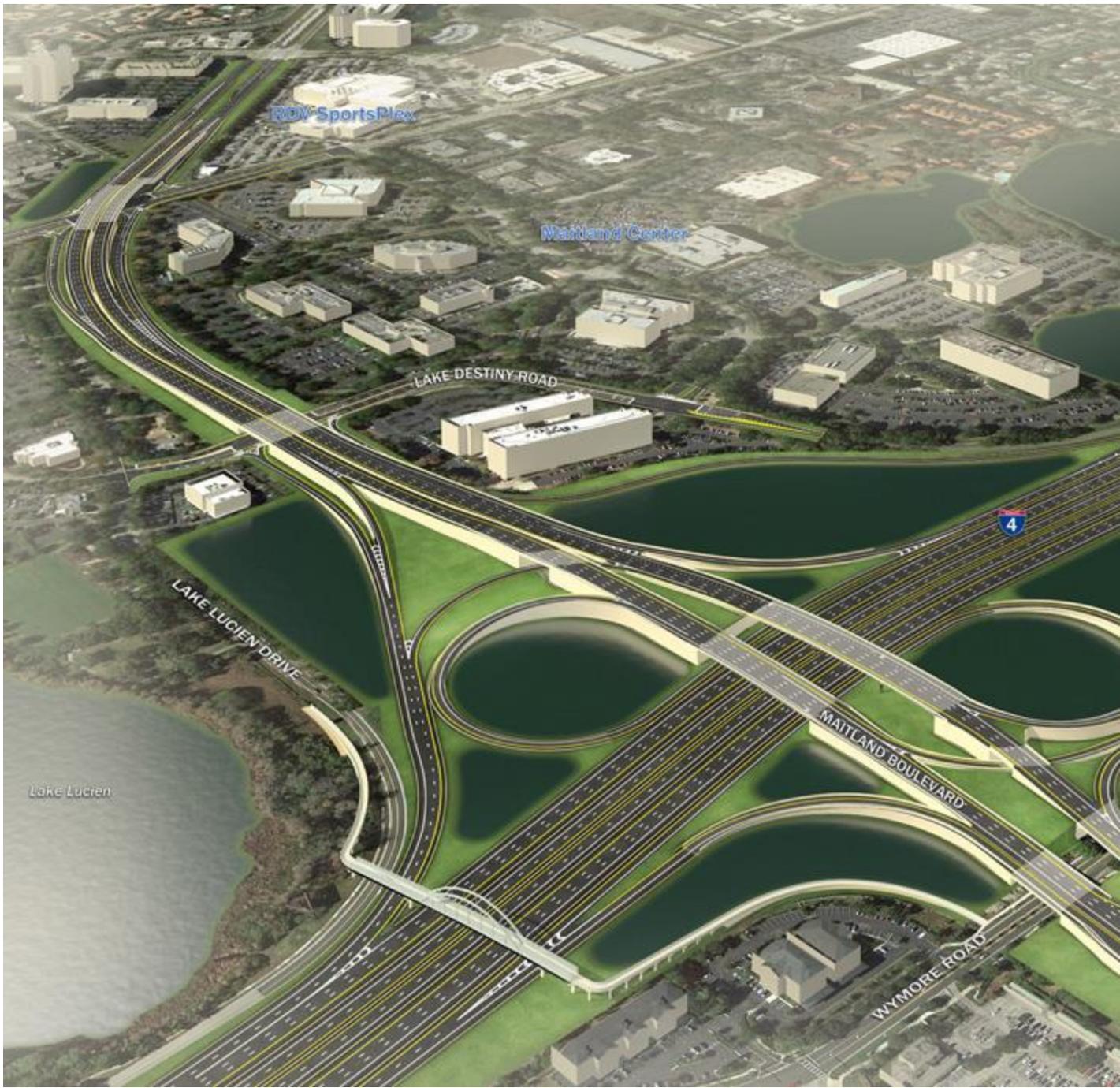
### How I-4 expansion would ease traffic with 4 new toll lanes



(GRAPHIC/I-4 Ultimate Project) A 3-D rendering of how an expanded I-4 would look traveling through downtown Orlando with four new express toll lanes.

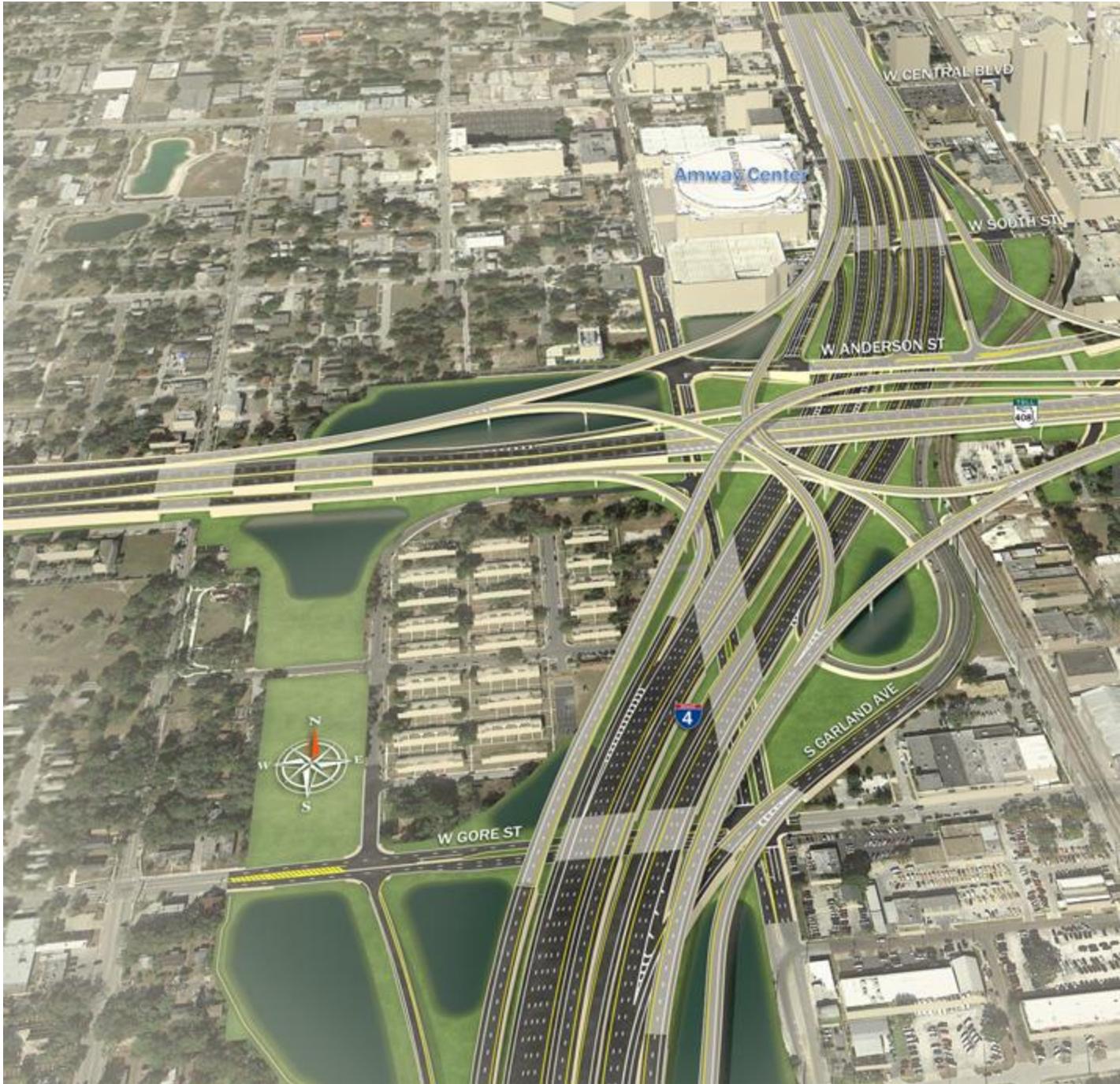


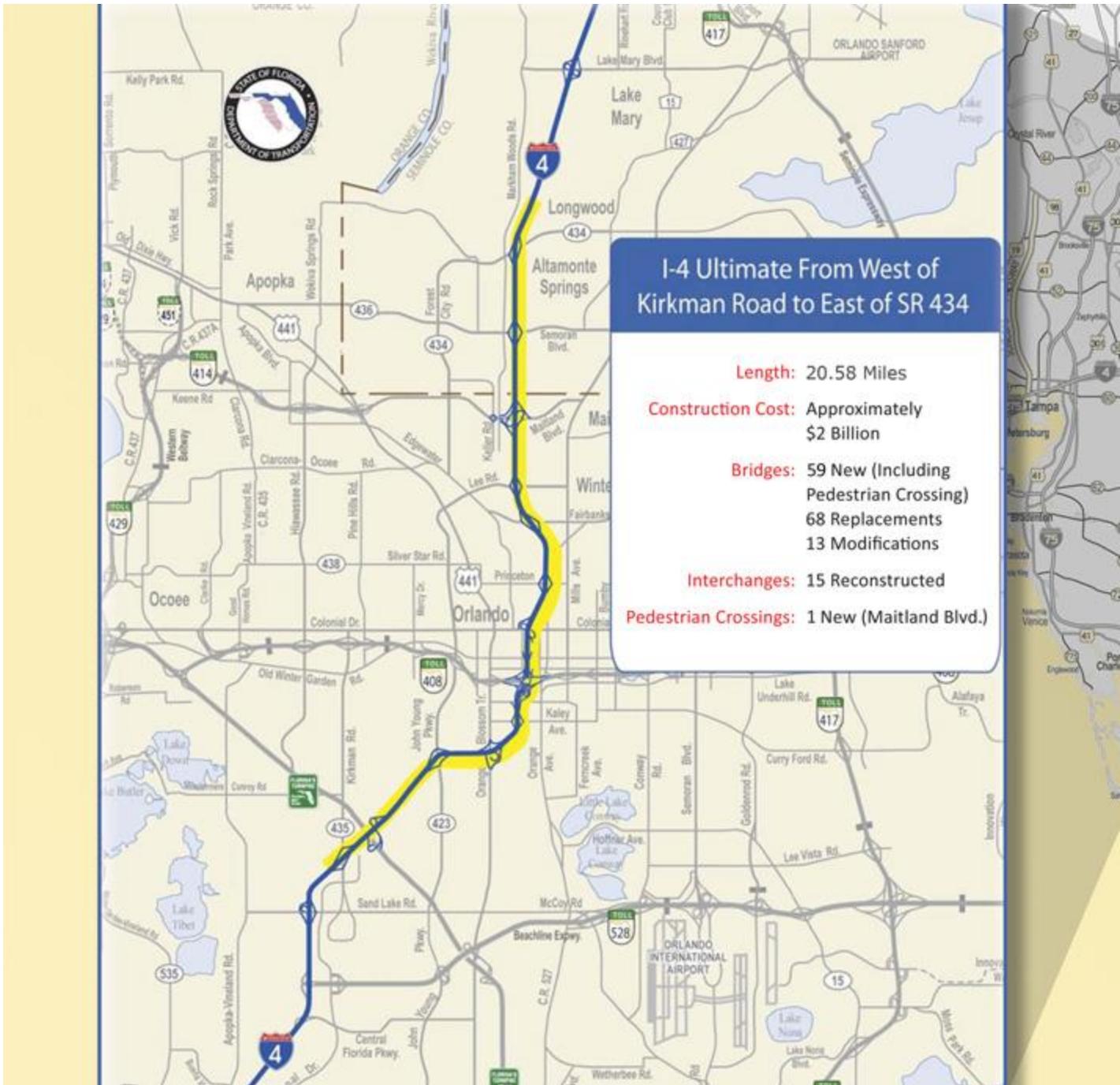












By Kelli Cook, Reporter

Last Updated: Tuesday, March 05, 2013, 8:11 AM

**ORLANDO --**

Express toll lanes on Interstate 4 have been discussed by Florida leaders for nearly 20 years, but on Monday, a major step was taken to make them a reality.

About 1,200 potential investors packed Orlando's Rosen Center to learn more about ponying up the cash to pay for managed toll roads along the interstate.

"This project is attracting the 'who's who' as it relates to private-public partnership," said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad.

The state is paying about 43 percent of the \$2.1 billion project, or about \$903 million. The rest will come from private investors.

"The entity we contract with will not only be responsible for design building for the years, but [to] finance, operate and maintain the facility for 35 years after the construction is done," said Prasad.

Transportation officials said this new approach will get the construction done faster and relieve the already much complained about traffic in Orlando.

"I-4 is horrendous during rush hour, and downtown Orlando, I don't even want to get into," said Orlando driver Dan Wilson. "If there is any way humanly possible to avoid I-4, I will."

The new toll lanes would cover 21 miles, from west of Kirkman Road in Orlando (Exit 75) all the way to Longwood, just east past State Road 434 (Exit 94).

That would expand I-4 to six free lanes, plus four express toll lanes, along with new ramps and 56 new bridges, including one new pedestrian crossing at Maitland Boulevard.