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Eight partnerships want a shot at the \$2.1B [remaking of 21 miles of Interstate 4](#), the [Florida Department of Transportation](#) announced March 4.

These eight groups will meet with FDOT during the next several days and the state agency plans to issue request for qualifications March 8. For a look at the firms behind the eight groups, click on the slideshow to the right.

The firms seeking to build and operate the 21 miles of roadway will be narrowed to four in May and one finalist will be chosen in about a year. The group winning the project will take about five years to build it and will operate it for 35 years.

The new roadway will include four, limited access toll lanes in the middle of the highway. FDOT is kicking in \$1 billion for the project and the group landing the contract will pay \$1 billion toward remaking a road completed in the 1960s.

There is more than a passing interest in the work and jobs the \$2.1 billion represents. More than 1,200 registered for [a industry forum March 4](#) detailing how companies can get a piece of the project.

“Today begins the journey to get bid for I-4 Ultimate Project,” FDOT Secretary [Ananth Prasad](#) said of the forum.

FDOT estimates the \$2.1 billion reworking of Interstate 4 will contribute 52,000 direct and indirect jobs during the five years of construction.