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FDOT promises 'moving' during construction

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By Mike Synan, Reporter **CONNECT**

ORLANDO, Fla. (WOFL FOX 35 ORLANDO) - The Florida Department of Transportation is promising to keep Interstate 4 moving during the six years of reconstruction that begins in earnest next month. Board members for area transportation agency Metroplan Orlando were told on Wednesday that all lanes will remain open during peak travel hours of 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., a great relief to Altamonte Springs Mayor Pat Bates.

"That's huge, because that was my concern originally when all this started was: how are we going to stay on I-4?"

Some intersections or short stretches of auxiliary roads will have to be closed in and around the interstate for short periods of time, according to Loreen Bobo with the FDOT, but most work will be done at night, or behind barricades in the daytime.

"We recognize that just because we are going to be under construction for the next 6 years that people's lives are still going on. They still need to get to work. They still need to get to the doctor, pick up our kids from school. Whatever it may be."

Signs are already going up to warn motorists of pending construction, and what is called grubbing work is also already underway. Bobo says next month and in May they will begin putting the thousands of pilings into the ground they will need to construct the new toll lanes.

"By the time the summer gets here, you'll really know that I-4 is under construction."

Bobo says the work will start around the Kirkman Road exit moving towards downtown where there is a large median to work with, building lanes from the outside in.

"There will be barrier wall up so, just because there is construction folks will feel maybe a little bit more constrained, but you will still have the same capacity you have today."

There are 15 interchanges that will be redone and 140 bridges that will have to be rebuilt. Because of the high number of bridges in the area of downtown Orlando, Bobo told Metroplan that workers are likely to be doing things on that stretch of road morning, noon, and night during the entire six-year construction period. She also says the contractor is likely going to give workers weekends off.

We have a section on our website dedicated to the upcoming I-4 Ultimate Project. To learn more, [click here](#). You can also find updates [on Twitter using the hash tag #i4news](#).

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