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Massive interstate reconstruction plan known as 'I-4 Ultimate' project begins next month

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By Holly Bristow, Reporter [CONNECT](#)

ORLANDO, Fla. (WOFL FOX 35 ORLANDO) - Interstate 4, as you know it, is about drastically change.

"We're reconstructing and completely overhauling 21 miles of I-4 from SR 434 in Longwood down to Kirkman Road in Orlando," says Jessica Keane, spokesperson for the Florida Department for Transportation.

That's right, the construction project you've been hearing about for years is going to break ground next month. FDOT is calling this the "I-4 Ultimate Project."

"Everything out there will be completely new," said Keane. "We'll be re-doing the 15 major interchanges and over 140 different bridges."

That's all of the interchanges, with the exception of the ones at Conroy Road and John Young Parkway.

"Those have been newly constructed, so they're able to accommodate the widening that we're doing for I-4."

The part of I-4 ultimate that people are most excited about is the four added toll express lanes. Two will be going in each direction, right down the middle of I-4. The express lanes will be divided by concrete barriers and are designed to keep traffic going at at least 50 miles per hour. And in 6-and-a-half years, when the project is complete, the speed limit through this stretch will go up to 60 miles per hour.

"We're gearing up!" Keane said.

So you're probably wondering what construction will mean for your daily commute. Don't worry, FDOT and the construction company have put a lot of thought into that. The good news is, the same number of lanes open now, will be open throughout your daily commute during construction.

"The time we could potentially have for lane closures would be 8:30 p.m. at night to 7 a.m. in the morning."

While there will be construction going on throughout the day, it shouldn't slow your commute down too much as crews build the infrastructure to make the back bone of central Florida a faster, smoother, safer ride.

The I-4 Ultimate Project isn't being done one stretch at a time. FDOT tells us the construction company will be working on the entire 21 mile stretch at the same time.

We have a section on our website dedicated to the upcoming I-4 Ultimate Project. To learn more, [click here](#).
