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## Intersection improvements expected to start within a year for Chiefland intersection



This part of an aerial photograph overlaid with graphics shows the intersection with concrete barriers, an offset for both left turn lanes off of U.S. Highway 19, some of the future signage and painting on the roads to improve safety and efficiency for motorists at this intersection. This photo is from the larger, better project display that was at the meeting on Tuesday night.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © July 26, 2017 at 6:47 a.m.

**CHIEFLAND** – After the public hearing Tuesday night (July 25), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is preparing to seek a contractor for the proposed median modifications on U.S. Highway 19 (State Road 55) at Northwest 21st Avenue in Chiefland.

The FDOT is still accepting input from the public in regard to the project.

Comments can be sent to the FDOT Project Manager at [Amanda.Farnell@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Amanda.Farnell@dot.state.fl.us).

Please send comments by Aug. 4 to be included in the public hearing public record.

This project is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2018, however, the schedule can change at any time depending on funding.



The front door of the FDOT Office in Chiefland was well-marked to show members of the general public where to go for the hearing on Tuesday evening.

Kevin Carey, PE, PTOE, is the project manager from Faller, Davis & Associates Inc. – Highway Engineering Specialists.

Carey and several FDOT staff members were present to

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field questions and take input from the public during the hearing on Tuesday night at the FDOT Office in Chiefland.

This traffic flow revision is at the intersection where Taco Bell is on the northeast corner and Murphy Express is on the northwest corner. Motorists have complained about the intersection, which has included accidents as a result of how it currently exists.

This project is scheduled to modify an existing full median opening, and to change it into a directional left turn median. The barriers to be constructed and the revisions to the median will provide more visibility to northbound and southbound traffic on U.S. Highway 19 at the intersection of Northwest 21st Avenue in Chiefland.

Vehicles will be able to turn left from either northbound or southbound lanes.

Vehicles approaching U.S. 19 from Northwest 21st Avenue will be required to make a right turn only onto the highway. There will be no more crossing of the highway by traffic from either side.

In order to increase visibility of oncoming traffic, while making left turns from U.S. 19 to Northwest 21st Avenue, the turn lanes have been shifted to the left.

Other improvements include updated pavement markings and signing along with minor drainage upgrades.

This project is considered a push button contract, which allows the design and construction for small improvements to roadways to be accelerated, since this project does not require a full design process and advertisement for construction.

Public participation is sought without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or family status. For more information, contact FDOT Project Manager Amanda Farnell at 800-749-2967 or at [Amanda.Farnell@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Amanda.Farnell@dot.state.fl.us).

Other areas the FDOT staff have looked at for potential improvement at some point in the future include the intersection of U.S. Highway 129 and Levy County Road 320 west (near Clyatt House Learning Center in Chiefland); the road that goes behind Winn Dixie and crosses U.S. Highway 19 at a 45 or so degree angle (where motorists can't see each other very well unless they take great care); and other federal- and state-funded and maintained thoroughfares in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties.

To learn more about this project and other projects around Northeast Florida, please visit [NFLRoads.com](http://NFLRoads.com).