

# State money added to parkway plan

Scott Gunnerson, Brevard 7:01 p.m. EDT June 25, 2014



(Photo: Craig Bailey Photography)

An extra \$3 million from the state should help keep plans for a road to connect Palm Bay and Melbourne International Airport on track.

The Florida Department of Transportation grant will go toward building a 3.1-mile segment of the St. Johns Heritage Parkway from Palm Bay to U.S. 192, while freeing up county money for another phase of the project.

“We have enough funding to probably do that segment between Palm Bay and 192, but we want to make sure we have enough money for the overall project,” County Commissioner Andy Anderson said.

The entire parkway project will create a highway west of Interstate 95 with interchanges at Ellis and Micco roads.

Transportation planners anticipate the parkway will reduce traffic on I-95 and improve mobility for Palm Bay residents.

“Any time you can take traffic off the interstate and make travel more convenient for local motorists is a win-win,” said Georganna Gillette, transportation program specialist for the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization.

Brevard County plans to begin construction of the Palm Bay-192 section in October. That segment is expected to cost \$16 million.

The next phase would run between U.S. 192 and Ellis Road. Parkway advocates expect the state grant will make county money available to help pay for right-of-way land acquisition north of U.S. 192.

“The \$3 million helps keep us on track to move forward to the next phase of going from 192 up to Ellis,” said Tres Holton with Friends of the Parkway, who has been promoting the project since 1997. “This keeps it on schedule to extend the parkway north.”

Construction of a \$44 million interchange for I-95 and Ellis Road is expected to begin in the summer of 2016. Planners must still determine how to solve drainage and right-of-way issues before proceeding with the widening of Ellis Road.

When completed, Ellis Road is expected to relieve traffic congestion on U.S. 192 east of I-95.

The parkway is expected to link workers in Palm Bay with jobs in the vicinity of Melbourne International Airport, where companies such as Embaer Executive Aircraft and Northrop Grumman are expanding operations.

Anderson is confident the \$3 million state grant will allow the county to move forward with the 2.2-mile section of the parkway north of U.S. 192.

“Now we can make sure that Palm Bay traffic goes all the way up to Ellis Road,” Anderson said. “That is a big deal, especially with all the expansion planned for the airport.”

Contact Gunnerson at [sgunnerson@floridatoday.com](mailto:sgunnerson@floridatoday.com) (mailto:sgunnerson@floridatoday.com), 321-360-1016 and Twitter [@scottgunnerson](https://twitter.com/scottgunnerson)

Read or Share this story: <http://on.flatoday.com/1v7bXkg>



# Targeted Mailing Lists

[postcardmania.com/MailingLists](http://postcardmania.com/MailingLists)

Increase Your Response Rate  
w/Our Targeted Mailing Lists.  
Call Today!

## MORE STORIES



**Photos: Airmen remember  
Khobar bombing (/picture-**

/picture-

gallery/news/local/2014/06/25/photos-

airmen-

remember-

khobar-

bombing/11375107/)

**gallery/news/local/2014/06/25/photos-airmen-  
remember-khobar-bombing/11375107/)**

June 25, 2014, 6:47 p.m.



**Photos: Waste Management  
opens natural gas station  
(/picture-**

/picture-

gallery/news/local/2014/06/25/photos-

waste-

management-

opens-natural-

gas-

station/11370815/)

[gallery/news/local/2014/06/25/photos-waste-management-opens-natural-gas-station/11370815/](#)

June 25, 2014, 5:30 p.m.



[Video: Waste Management reduces carbon emissions with natural gas](#)

[\(/videos/news/local/2014/06/25/11365271/\)](#)

[\(/videos/news/local/2014/06/25/11365271/\)](#)

June 25, 2014, 3:15 p.m.

[\*\*Brown Mackie College\*\*](#)

[visit.brownmackie.edu](http://visit.brownmackie.edu)

Get a career-focused education from Brown Mackie. Take the next step!

