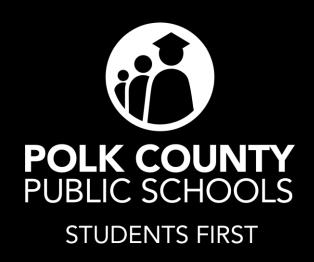
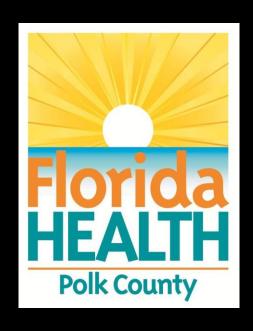


# 2024 State of the County















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# 2024 State of the County Polk County Public Schools

Dr. William Allen, District 1, Board Chair Fred Heid, Superintendent



## Polk Growth & Enrollment Trends

- Polk County is a great place to live, work, play and learn which is attracting incredible population growth.
- We continue to be the fastest growing county in Florida and one of the fastest in the nation! Roughly 80 people a day are moving to Polk County.
- Our school district is now the seventh largest school district in Florida, and the 24th largest school district in the nation!
- Our district now serves 117,000 students. Our enrollment continues to grow even as public school enrollment has been declining nationally over consecutive school years

	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Traditional Public	98,000	96,000	93,000
Charter	19,000	18,600	17,200

### Academic Performance on the Rise

• Polk County is demonstrating significant improvement in school grade designations, particularly by eliminating all "F" schools.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Change from 2020-21
"A" Schools	3	7	9	+6
"B" Schools	7	12	12	+5
"C" Schools	43	67	73	+30
"D" Schools	42	17	11	-31
"F" Schools	8	1	0	- 9

# Impressive Progress & More Success to Come

- Polk's school grade improvements are more impressive considering:
- Florida switched to a new statewide assessment during the 2022-23 school year.
- School grades were limited to proficiency scores alone because learning gains (improvement from the prior year) could not be established with just one year's results.
- For 2023-24, school grades will include learning gains. Results will be coming out soon.
- We anticipate adding learning gains will positively impact many PCPS schools:
  - 9 "D" graded schools are within the range to improve to a "C"
  - 17 "C" graded schools are within the range to improve to a "B"
  - 6 "B" graded schools are within the range to improve to an "A"

# **Accelerating Student Potential**

- PCPS provides rigorous academic programs to challenge students and spur intellectual curiosity:
  - Advanced Placement (AP) courses
  - Dual enrollment classes through post-secondary institutions
  - International Baccalaureate programs at two high schools, four middle schools, and three elementary schools
- In addition, PCPS has expanded opportunities for students to pursue an accelerated method of academic study offered through a division of the University of Cambridge.

# Advanced Placement Exam (AP) Passing Rate (Level 3 and Above)

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
35.2%	40.4%	43.4%

# Dual Enrollment Passing Rate (Grade of C or Higher)

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
89.9%	87.3%	87.9%

# International Baccalaureate (IB) Passing Rate (Level 4 and Above)

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
87.7%	89.0%	96.0%

# **Student Spotlights -- Academics**

Superintendent Scholars

This year, more than 1,100 PCPS seniors will be Superintendent Scholars – earning a 3.8 weighted GPA or higher by their seventh semester.

Commissioner's Academic Challenge

For the second year in a row, Polk County students won first place in what is officially billed as "Florida's premier high school academic competition."

U.S. Presidential Scholars

This year, more than 40 PCPS seniors were named honorees for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, and career and technical education (CTE).

National Merit Scholarship

Last year, five PCPS students were named National Merit Scholarship winners. So far this year, nine students are semifinalists for 2023-24, and winners have not yet been announced.



# **Students Ready for Careers**

- PCPS is preparing students for success beyond the classroom and helping them develop essential skills for entering the workforce.
- Industry certifications rose from 3,161 in 2021-2022 to 4,096 in 2022-2023 an increase of nearly 30 percent.
- We are also working closely with business partners to offer handson learning experiences:
  - Internships/Externships
  - Mentorships
  - Job Shadowing



# **Expanding Academy Programs**

- PCPS has nearly 30 certified or model career academies and is expanding high-interest/high-demand programs.
- Created new programs with aligned partnerships:

- Air Traffic Control
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Assistant
- Network IT
- Network Security
- High School Civics

Hospitality

George Jenkins High Medical Academy Joint Training Exercise with Orlando Health & PCFR

### **Student Spotlights - Career & Technical Education**

- International Builders' Show

  Bartow High's construction academy won first place in Construction Management at the 2023
  International Builders' Show in Las Vegas the first high school team to win the Construction
  Management event on a first attempt!
- Winter Haven High's Central Florida Aerospace Academy
  PCPS expanded the Central Florida Aerospace Academy,
  opening a second site through Winter Haven High.
- Digital Media Academy
   Southwest Elementary successfully launched a Digital Media Academy, our first-ever career pre-academy at the elementary level.
- Elementary Agricultural Science Program (EASP)
   Willow Oak School became the first elementary school to participate in the district's new Elementary Agricultural Science Program.
- Junior Achievement 3DE Program

  Tenoroc High launched the district's first Junior Achievement 3DE prograr empowering students to tackle real world business problems.

# Developing the "Whole Child"



In addition to academics and career-readiness, PCPS is committed to providing a well-rounded educational experience for students with access to the arts, athletics and other important programs.

This "whole child" approach builds a strong foundation for long-term success.

Students are healthy individuals adapt to different situations using creativity, teamwork and critical thinking.

## Fine Arts

#### Fine Arts Courses

More than 80,000 K-12 students were enrolled in fine arts courses last school year.

### Performing Arts Events

Last year, more than 3,000 students participated in various performing arts events, receiving instruction from fine arts professionals outside of the regular classroom setting. Over 1,000 student artworks were juried and accepted in various district exhibitions. This year's participation in such events is expected to rise approximately 5%.



Next week, auditioned students of the Polk County Youth Symphony will be performing a side-by-side concert with the professionals of the Lakeland Symphony Orchestra! This culminating event is the last of six Lakeland Symphony concerts providing all 5th grade students the free opportunity to see a live professional symphonic orchestra during their school day.



# **Student Spotlights -- Fine Arts**

### Art Exhibitions at Polk Museum of Art

Last year, eight juried exhibitions were held at the museum featuring PCPS students, generating the greatest number of entries in recent years.

### Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

This year, students from grades 7-12 submitted 334 original works for consideration, resulting in two National American Vision Award winners, 41 Silver Key Award winners, and 30 Gold Key Award winners.



#### Harrison School for the Arts

This year, Harrison's productions of Cinderella and Sister Act are critically acclaimed, and six students nominated as "Outstanding" actors are competing for a spot at the National Jimmy Awards in New York. More than 30 Harrison students created films accepted into state and international film festivals. Harrison's Wind Symphony has been invited for a third time to a prestigious music festival in France.

## **Athletics**

#### **Student-Athletes**

Last year, more than 11,000 middle and high students participated in PCPS athletic programs. These programs promote physical and mental wellness and positive self-image. Students also learn teamwork, accountability, self-discipline, resilience and fair play.

#### **Academic Excellence**

Our student-athletes work hard on and off the field. The total average student-athlete unweighted GPA in Polk County is 3.276.



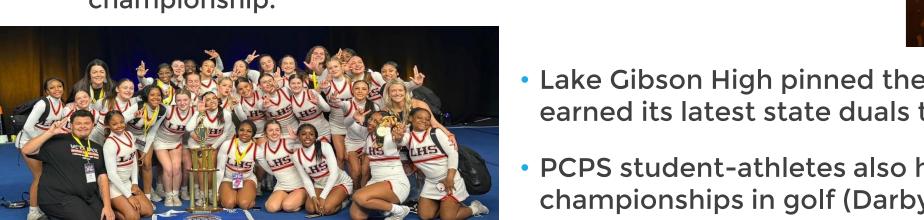
### **Sporting Destination**

PCPS is proud to work with our community partners and make our county a sport tourism destination. This year, our county will host almost 20 statewide championships and all-star matchups for basketball, volleyball, weightlifting, soccer, competitive cheer, cross country, baseball, softball and flag football.

# **Student Spotlights -- Athletics**

# PCPS racked up the hardware in athletics this year. Highlights include:

- Lakeland High's football team won its ninth state championship, and Lakeland also won its second consecutive national title in cheerleading, on the heels of winning its sixth straight state championship.
- Bartow High also scored another state cheerleading championship.





- Lake Gibson High pinned the competition and earned its latest state duals title in wrestling.
- PCPS student-athletes also had individual state championships in golf (Darby Hancock, Kathleen High) and wrestling (Gianni Maldonado and Gabrielle Tedesco from Lake Gibson High).

# **Attracting & Supporting Staff**

School districts nationwide are facing teacher and bus driver shortages, making competition fierce to recruit and retain employees.

Many other positions are also difficult to hire, including counselors, school psychologists, and speech therapists.

PCPS created a new division - Office of Recruitment & Engagement - to solely focus on attracting new employees and finding ways to support our existing staff.



# **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
New Teacher Retention Rate	75%	<b>75</b> %	77%
All Teacher Retention Rate	87%	86%	86%

# **Recruitment & Retention Efforts**

- Hosting more than 20 job fairs each year and attending many other recruitment events.
- Extending conditional offers of employment to PCPS seniors who complete their education academies and successfully graduate from college.
- Providing more than \$1.4 million in grant funding to pay stipends for highly effective and effective teachers and administrators at our most fragile schools.
- Creating a new initiative -- Teachers Coaching Teachers that allows teacher leaders to remain in the classroom but eligible to earn a stipend for providing teacher coaching to support their colleagues.
- Hiring certified teachers from other countries to work in Polk County.
- Creating three unique career/certification pathways for school counselors.
- Streamlining how existing paraeducators can become teachers.

# Ignite Leadership

Succession planning is essential for any successful organization.

The Ignite program is creating tomorrow's leaders by identifying and developing current employees possessing an interest in future leadership roles.

### 3 Cohorts:

- Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) principals and district leaders
- Aspiring Principals
- Aspiring Assistant Principals

# Focus for 2024-25 and Beyond...

# **Building the Future**

Many exciting construction projects are taking place throughout Polk. This school year alone, we opened:

- South Pointe Elementary Winter Haven (\$47 million)
- Modernized campus for Fred G. Garner Academy Winter Haven (\$40 million)
- Modernized campus for Southwest Middle Lakeland (\$55 million)
- A new school site in Haines City unofficially called Scenic Terrace\*\* — began serving as a temporary home for Elbert Elementary, which is undergoing a complete modernization (\$50 million).

Bella Citta's K-8 expansion is well underway in Davenport, and many more projects are on the way in the years ahead...

\*\*Scenic Terrace was made possible through a unique partnership involving a long-term lease/purchase of the facility.







# **Challenges & Priorities**

- Ensuring student and staff safety
- Improving academic outcomes
- Keeping salaries competitive
- Maintaining adequate staffing
- Balancing population growth & growing needs
- Maximizing operational efficiencies

- Undertaking comprehensive rezoning
- Combating chronic absenteeism
- Addressing state-mandated start time change
- Expanding school-to-work/industry program partnerships

# Thank You!

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# Florida Department of Health

State of the County 2024

### Presenter



- Dr. Joy Jackson, M.D.
- Director
- Florida Department of Health in Polk County

# What Encompasses Public Health?

### Public health is...

It's not just in doctors' offices or hospitals.





# Access Beyond Medical Care

- Behavioral health care.
- Education.
- Healthy foods.
- · Safe environments.











# **Access Beyond Medical Care**

#### Babies

Safe sleep (alone, back, in the crib).

### Children

- Good schools.
- Nutritious foods.
- Safe spaces for play.
- Drowning prevention.
  - Leading cause of preventable injury death.
  - Children ages 1-9 in Polk County.



# **Access Beyond Medical Care**

### Pregnant Women

- Access to prenatal care.
- Strong family support.

### Older Adults

- Chronic disease management.
- Fall prevention.
- o Aging at home.



### **Health Care Access**

- Indigent Health Care
  - Polk County's health care safety net.
- Dental Sealant Program
  - School-based program.
- Mobile Health Bus
- Access through Navigators
  - United Way of Central Florida
  - Peace River Center
    - Outreach in clinic waiting areas.



# ·Collaborations



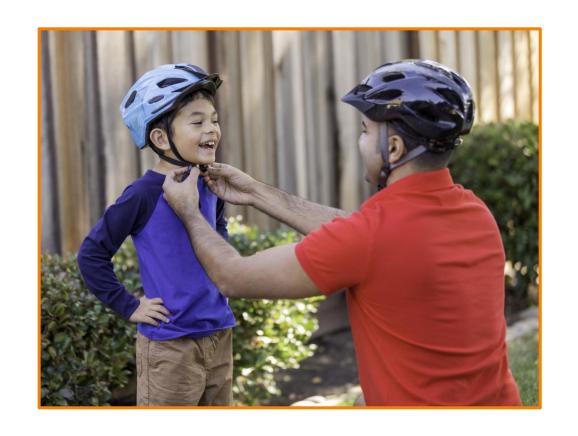
#### Collaborations - Polk Vision

- Behavioral Health
- Academic Gap Analysis in Health Sciences.



#### Collaborations - Polk Vision

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety
- Polk County statistics.
- Standards-based pedestrian and bicycle safety curriculum for Polk County Public Schools.



#### Collaborations - Polk Vision

#### Food Security Council

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hunger Action Summit
- SNAP/EBT enrollment campaign.
- Disaster Response Team
- Partner resources in the area:
  - GIS map of Polk County for providers to use for collaboration.



#### **What Comes Next?**

- Community Health Assessment (CHA)
- 2020 CHA top issues:
  - Behavioral health.
  - Access to care.
  - Exercise/weight/nutrition.
- Led us to collaborative work we've been doing for the last five years.

#### **What Comes Next?**

- Community Health Assessment (CHA)
- CHA in progress:
  - o Process underway:
    - Will identify new (or reaffirm current) top priorities for our community.
    - Will inform work for the next five years.
    - Document will be published by June 2025.
  - Collecting data:
    - Outreach in clinic waiting areas.
  - Hearing from the community:
    - What are the top health concerns in Polk?
    - Scan the QR code and take our Community Health Survey



#### **Contact Information**

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Director

Florida Department of Health in Polk County

863-519-7900

PolkCommunications@FLhealth.gov











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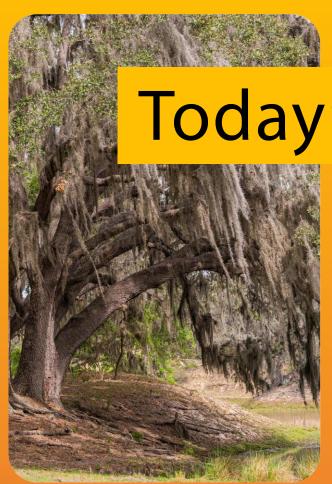












Today's Themes

Other Board Priorities

Population Growth Continues

Polk's Economic Development

Preserving our Environment

Expanding
Infrastructure
(Public Mobility)

#### **Growth Realities\***

Polk's an attractive place to live and work



Fastest growing county in Florida

Almost all growth (88%) driven by domestic migration



Largest growth rate of U.S. counties in 2023

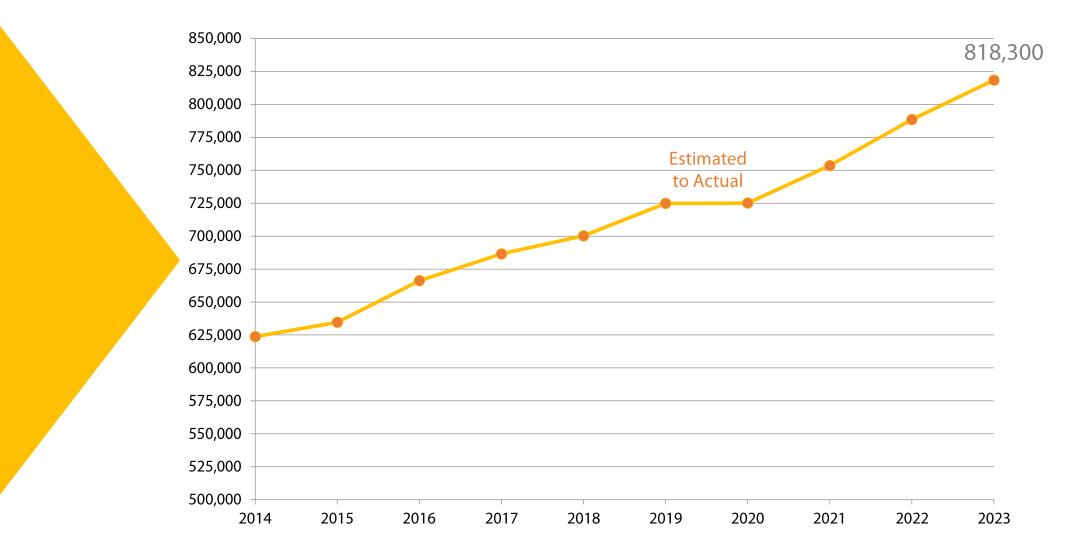
3.8%



#### Ten-Year

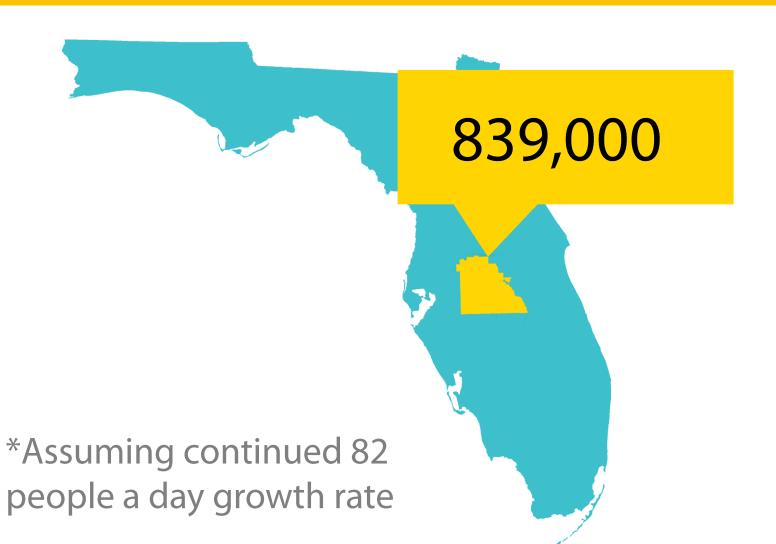


#### **Population Growth Rate**





#### April 2024 Est. Population\*



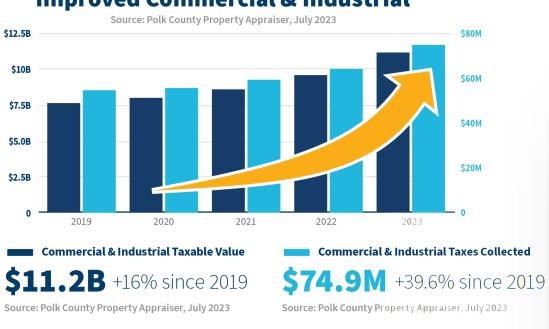






## Central Florida Development Council **Economic Snapshot**

#### **Improved Commercial & Industrial**





Average annual wage increased
6.75% to
\$51,588



Polk's Business and Leisure Travel

**Visit Central Florida** 

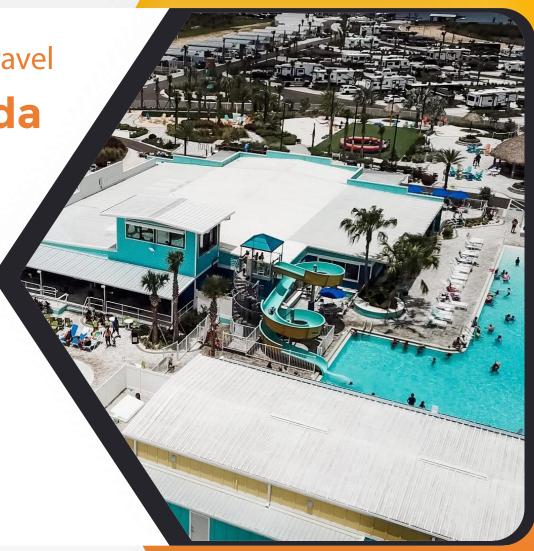
5.8 Million

**Visitors** 

\$4.1

**Billion** 

Economic Impact







#### **2023 Sports Marketing**



308 Events \$218

Million

Economic Impact

"Epicenter" of Spring Baseball



Detroit Tigers will remain in Lakeland through 2044, an unprecedented 110-year run at the same spring training site



550+ companies in the exhibit area, Future of Flight Plaza for kids and superstar entertainers brought 100's of thousands of guests to Polk

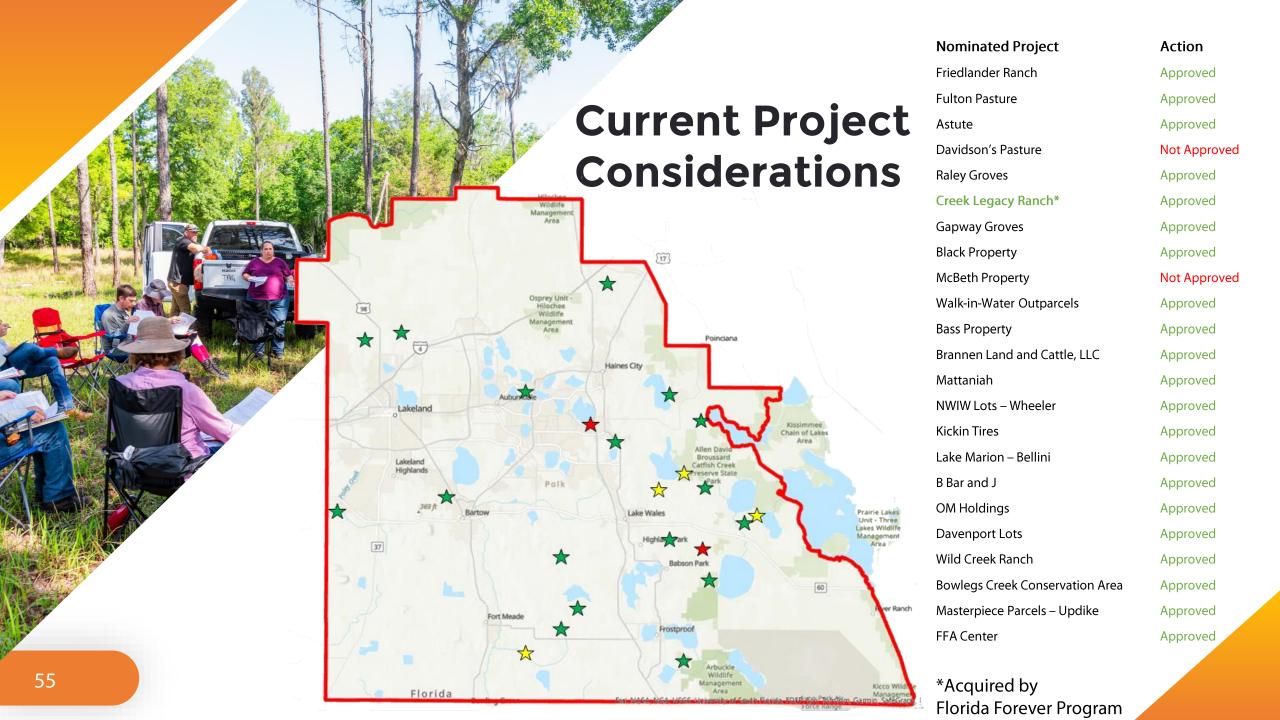




58% Voter-Approved Referendum in November 2022

Preservation and protection of environmental lands for water resources, fish and wildlife habitat and natural resource benefits

.2000 mills generated \$11.3 million in FY 2023/24









#### Comprehensive Plan

#### **Elements in the Plan**

Future Land Use

Infrastructure

Housing

Transportation

Conservation

Public School Facilities

Recreation and Open Space

Economic

Intergovernmental Coordination

**Capital Improvements** 



#### **Comprehensive Plan 2050 Update**



Summer/Fall 2024 Stakeholder Engagement

Spring/Summer 2024 Data Gathering

#### Infrastructure

Future of Transportation



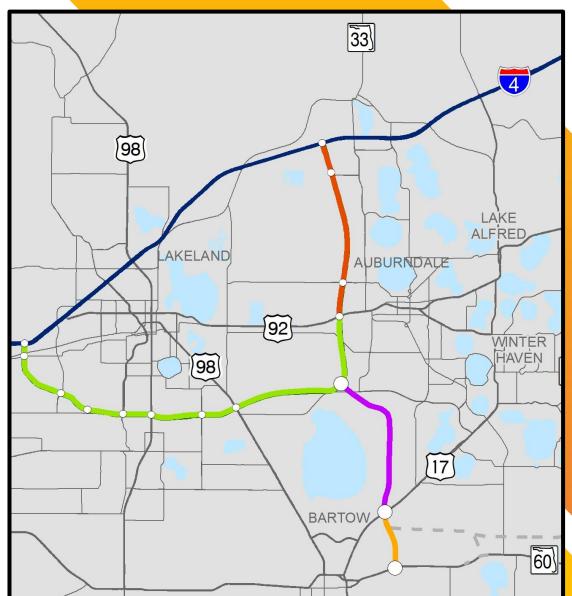


#### **Central Polk Parkway**

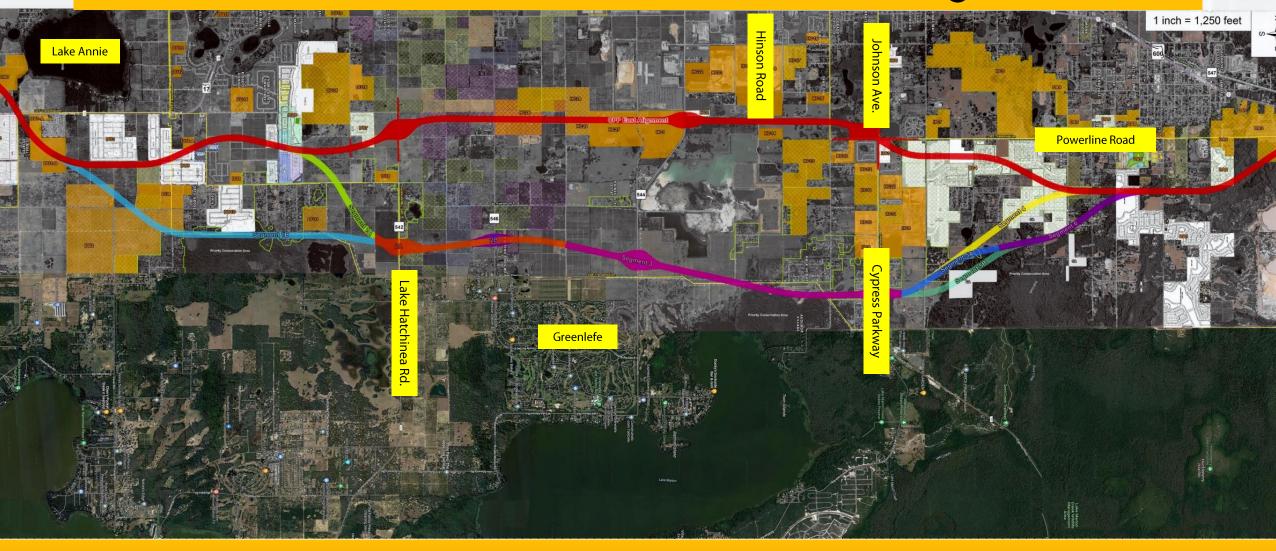
Closed Exit 14 westbound with detour through Auburndale

Braddock Road Exit now open

Open Tolling



### **Central Polk Parkway**





#### **Congestion Relief Projects**

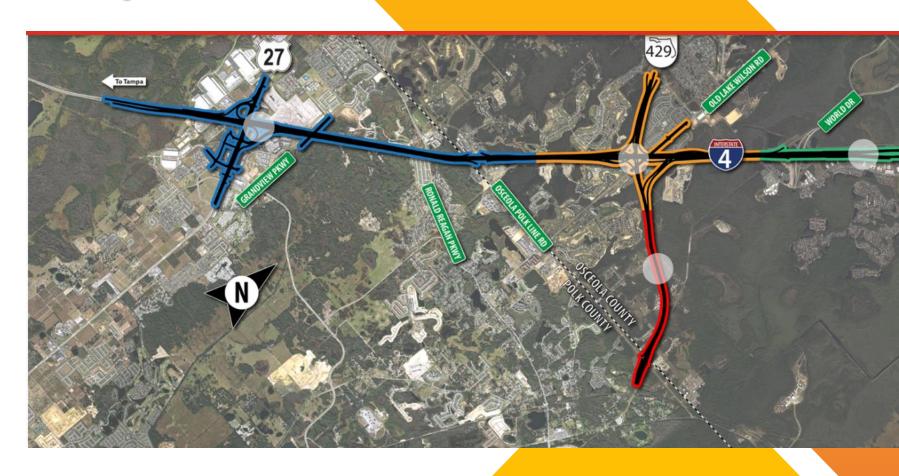


I-4 Widening in Polk& Osceola (FDOT)

Multiple segments to widen 14.7 miles of I-4 in Osceola and Polk counties from six to ten lanes, including through managed express lanes



4 miles from Osceola-Polk County Line Road/CR 532 to north of the Interstate 4 /SR 429 interchange



# Unfunded Capacity Projects

Funding Needed = \$2,078,230,000

Priority	PROJECT	TOTAL
1	Power Line Road Extension (SR 17 to CR 542)	120,000,000
2	Power Line Road Extension (CR 542 to CR 544)	75,000,000
3	Power Line Road Extension (CR 544 to CR 580)	52,000,000
4	Power Line Road Extension (CR 580 to US 17/92	60,000,000
5	Kathleen Road Extension (Duff Road to US 98)	100,000,000
6	Grandview Parkway Extension /Flyover	91,000,000
7	FDC Grove Road/Northridge Trail Flyover	86,000,000
8	North Ridge Trail Phase IV (Waverly Barn Road to Deen Still Road)	9,800,000
9	Waverly Barn Road (US 27 to 0.5 mile west)	7,360,000
10	FDC Grove Road Ext. (Patterson Road US 27 to Ernie Caldwell Blvd)	75,000,000
11	Deen Still Road (US 27 to 0.5 mile west)	7,410,000
12	Pine Tree Trail Widening	45,000,000
13	Holly Hill Extension (Patterson Road US 27 to Florida Development Road)	20,000,000
14	CR 580 from Powerline Road to W Solivita Blvd	160,000,000
15	Hatchineha Road Widenig (Powerline Road Ext to Marigold Avenue)	180,000,000
16	Kokomo Road Widening (Powerline Road Ext to Hwy 27)	75,000,000
17	Marigold Avenue Widening Phase 2 (Hatchineha Road to Palmetto Avenue)	150,000,000
18	Lake Marion Creek Rd Widening (Johnson Avenue to Marigold Avenue)	175,000,000
19	CR 547 West/Sanders Road Extension (US 27 west to CR 17)	11,000,000
20	Marcum Road Extension (US 98 to Green Road)	11,500,000
21	Dean Still Road Realignment/Extension West (US 98 to US 27)	75,000,000
22	CR 547 (Hwy 17/92 to Ronald Reagan Pkwy (CR 54))	68,000,000
23	CR 547 West (US 27 TO US 17/92)	56,000,000
24	CR 17A (Chalet Suzanne Road) (US 27 to SR 17)	40,000,000
25	West Pipken Road 5 Laning (Harden Blvd to SR 37)	6,000,000
26	Ewell Road (County Line Road to SR 37)	80,000,000
27	Wabash Avenue: Ariana Street to US 92	4,160,000
28	Spirit Lake Road (SR 540 to US 17)	74,000,000
29	CR 542A (Galloway Road) From 10th Street W to CR 35A	32,000,000
30	CR 542A (Galloway Road) From US 92 to 10th Street W	34,000,000
31	CR 546 (Old Dixie Hwy to CR 655/Berkley Road)	20,000,000
32	Spirit Lk/42nd/Charlotte Road from Recker Hwy to US 92	78,000,000
	TOTAL PRESENT- DAY COST:	2,078,230,000





Commuter Rail

## SunRail

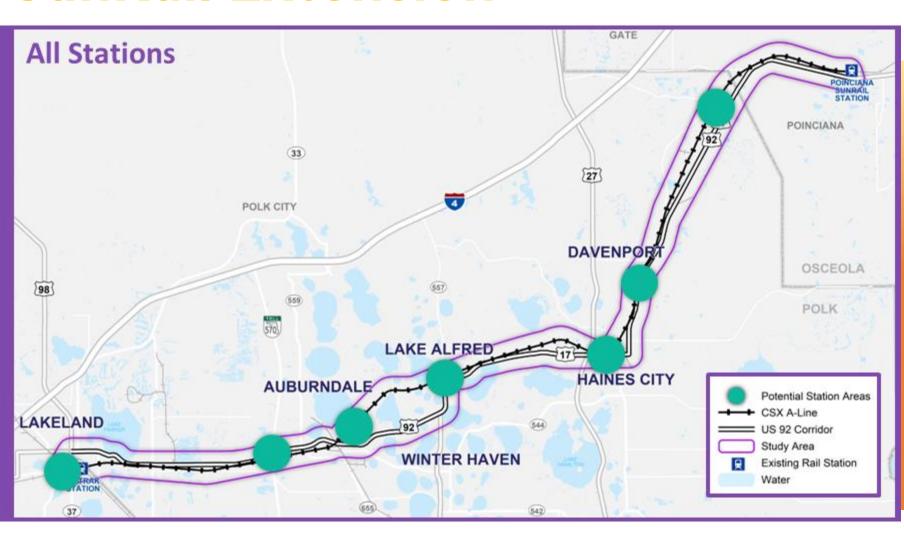
#### Regional Transportation Initiatives

## POLK

#### **Potential SunRail Extension**

#### 7 Stations

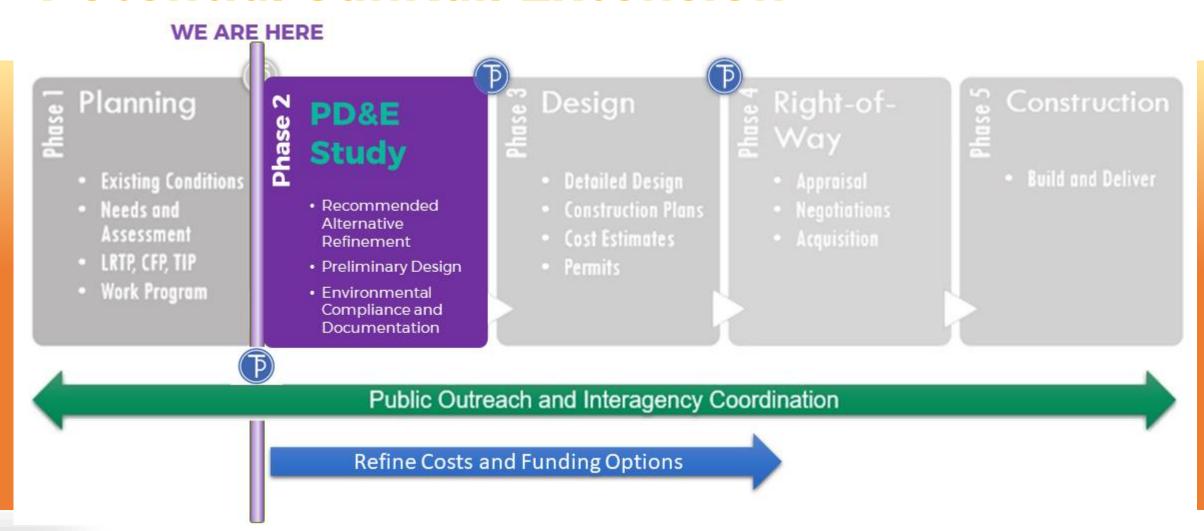
- Lakeland
- Polk Parkway
- Auburndale
- Lake Alfred
- Haines City
- Davenport
- Loughman



#### Regional Transportation Initiatives



#### **Potential SunRail Extension**







**Destination Rail** 

## Brightline

#### Regional Transportation Initiatives



**Brightline Phase III (Tampa)** 



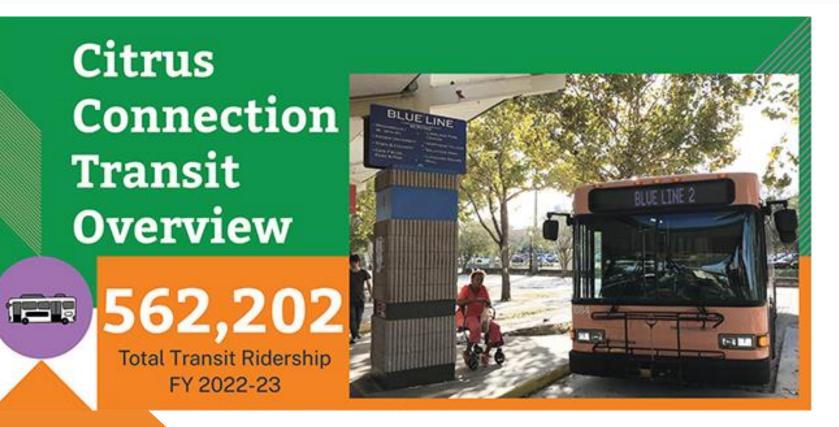




Transit

# Public Mobility





2.8 million miles driven in FY 2022/23





## Transportation Disadvantaged/ADA Programs

- Transportation Disadvantaged is a state-funded program that provides FREE transit to senior citizens and people with disabilities throughout Polk
- Paratransit, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), is a call ahead, door-to-door service for seniors and the disabled
- 75,571 Riders in FY 2022/23





Passenger Air

## Avelo

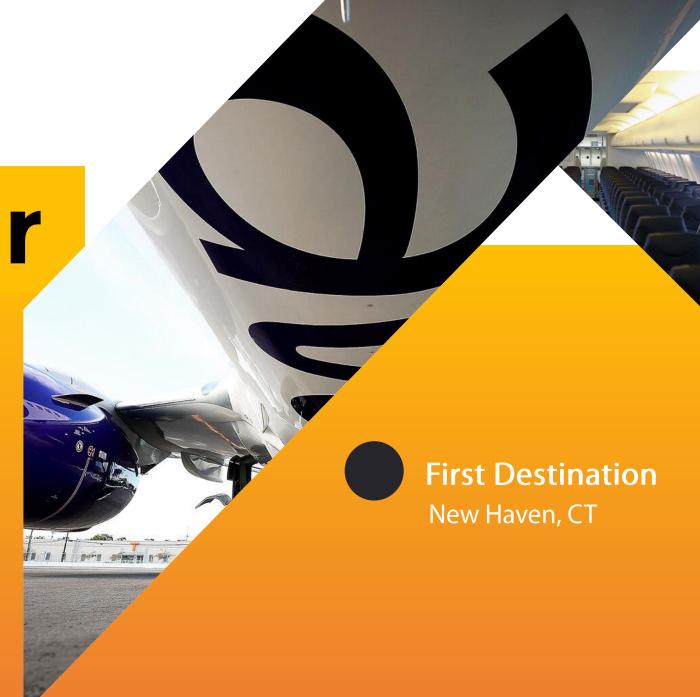


June 2024

Avelo Air

First commercial airline in Polk in 10+ years

15-year agreement with City of Lakeland







Board

## Priorities

# Polk's Investment



	FY 21/22	FY 22/23
Funds Expended	\$4,805,124	\$8,239,003
Total Housing Units Improved	387	460
Down Payment Assistance	53	44
Community Housing Development (CHDO)	2	0
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	28	30
Demolition/Reconstruction	10	14
New Construction	3	0
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	51	51
Multi-family Housing Units	0	176
Emergency Solutions Grant	240	145

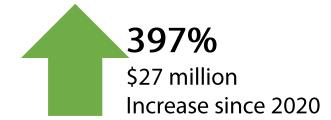
## **ARP**

### **Emergency Rental Assistance**

	Expended	Clients Served
Polk County BoCC	\$14,787,984	2,222
FL Rural/Debt Management Credit Counseling	\$3,985,085	665
Agriculture and Labor Program, Inc. (ALPI)	\$8,110,000	1,398
Heart for Winter Haven	\$4,725,000	641
Salvation Army of Winter Haven	\$1,100,000	161
TOTALS	\$32,708,069	5,087

### FY 2023/24 Behavioral Health Budget





\$2,740,889 Mandates

\$2,285,112 LIP IGT's

\$7,278,456 Grants and Aid

\$2,725,717 United Way Project

\$1,700,000 Polk HealthCare Plan

\$7,533,461 Strategic Spending Plan

Opioid Settlement \$6,776,558

Indigent Health Care Funds \$24,263,635

Behavioral Health

\$34,405,155

Mental Health Trust Fund \$22,400

General Fund \$250,000

Grants

\$3,092,562

#### **Helping HANDS**

- \$700,000 Federal SAMHSA Grant (PRC BH Navigators)
- \$492,566 Federal DOJ 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Grant (Cove BH MAT)
- \$900,000 State DCF CJMHSA Grant (TCHS Peers & Case Mgrs; (PRC Mobile Crisis Counselor)

#### Behavioral Health Improvement Project

• \$999,996 Federal SAMHSA Grant

(Multi-Partner Collaboration):

- -Polk Vision \$123,672
- -Crescendo \$396,800
- -NAMI \$34,980
- -Nat'l Council \$31,344
- -TCHS STARR \$336,098



**Behavioral Health Highlights** 

\$250,000 Peace River Domestic Violence Shelter

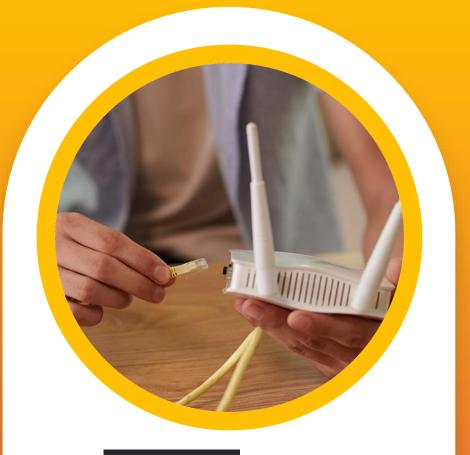
\$2.2 million allocated for Low Income Pool Match to generate additional state and federal funding

\$6.7 Opioid Abatement Funding

- Formation of Opioid Abatement Council
- Program initiations to begin 10/1/24

\$3.1 million in grant funding obtained for programming expansion and improvements









Partnership with communities and service providers

Serve 27,757 locations countywide

\$24.5 million Investment

Internet

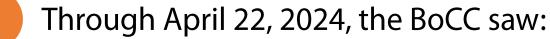
## Broadband





## Cybersecurity

BoCC Cybersecurity Comparison20192024Events reported annually5.9 Million3.7 Billion



- 282,549,037 "Events"
- 32 alerts, with 9 escalated by cybersecurity software
- Generative AI more sophisticated attacks







Thank You

## Questions



### MAY 1, 2024, 9 AM

Polk State College Center for Public Safety Campus 1251 Jim Keene Boulevard, Winter Haven, FL 33880 8:30 a.m. Coffee + Networking



Keynote Speaker Dr. Lisa Strohman Clinical Psychologist, Author, Public Speaker, Founder + Director Digital Citizen Academy

#### Conversations in Behavioral Health:

Navigating the Digital Age will include a keynote speech from Dr. Lisa Strohman, co-author of Digital Distress: Growing Up Online.

#### Other presenters include:

Dana Chandler, co-author of Digital Distress; Growing Up Online: Companion Workbook, and Amanda Wilson, author of You Can SOAR: From Trauma & Grief to Triumph & Glory.

This event will provide valuable insights for both professionals and parents alike.

Presented by

#### Register at Ikld.co/polkvision

Event is FREE to the public. Registration is required.















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