



This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

New Four Lane Road to Lead to USF Poly Will Cost \$34.8 Mil.

By [Tom Palmer](#)

THE LEDGER

Published: Friday, December 25, 2009 at 3:29 a.m.

LAKELAND | The new University of South Florida Polytechnic campus will be served by a new four-lane entrance road, thanks to federal stimulus money and state transportation funds.

Florida Department of Transportation officials awarded a \$34.8 million contract to design and build the road to Jacobs Engineering and APAC Southeast on Wednesday.

Design of the road will begin immediately and construction will begin by spring, said DOT spokeswoman Cindy Clemmons.

The 5.7-mile road will go from State Road 33 to the Polk Parkway at the planned Pace Road interchange and will include a loop through the campus, which will be near the Polk Parkway and Interstate 4 in northeast Lakeland.

The bulk of the money for the road will come from \$28 million in federal stimulus money. It was Polk County's top priority for the money.

The rest is coming from DOT funds that became available after other projects came in below initial cost estimates.

DOT officials received the bids earlier this month, but had to analyze the options, depending on whether all or part of the road would be four lanes or two lanes.



The road is expected to be completed by fall 2011.

The first phase of the new USF Poly campus is scheduled to open in fall 2012.

Construction is scheduled to begin early in 2010 on the \$41.9 million Pace Road interchange, which will provide access to the new campus from the Polk Parkway.

Pace Road will connect to the #campus from Berkley Road.

According to Florida Turnpike Enterprise spokeswoman Christa Deason, work on the interchange is scheduled to be completed by fall 2011.

[Tom Palmer can be reached at tom.palmer@theledger.com or 863-802-7535.]

Copyright © 2010 TheLedger.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.