

# Background Conditions Analysis



## 7 Background Conditions Analysis

### Corridor Limits

The Ridge Scenic Highway runs through the central part of Polk County. The scenic highway corridor begins south of Frostproof at the intersection with US 27 in unincorporated Polk County and extends north, paralleling US 27, as it traverses through or adjacent to the communities of Frostproof, Hillcrest Heights, Babson Park, the Village of Highland Park, Lake Wales, Lake of the Hills, Dundee, Lake Hamilton and Haines City. The 38.7-mile scenic highway terminates at the US 17/92 intersection in historic downtown Haines City. *Figure 1* presents the regional corridor location, and *Figure 2* presents the scenic highway limits and the communities through which it passes.

### Roadway and Right-Of-Way Description

The scenic highway's existing state road designation is SR 17, with signs along the route labeling it as "Scenic Highway" or "SR 17 Scenic Highway."

Local governments have functionally classified the entire length of SR 17 as an urban collector. The corridor jogs at two locations along the scenic highway route, once in Lake Wales and again in Dundee. Portions through incorporated areas are signalized. No continuous designated bicycle facilities are located along the corridor, although five-foot wide shoulders are provided along SR 17 in rural areas and are frequently used by bicyclists today. Sidewalks only exist sporadically within some of the municipal limits.

The Florida Department of Transportation owns and maintains SR 17. It is not on the Florida Intrastate Highway System.

There is only one major intersecting roadway along this corridor, SR 60 in Lake Wales, which serves as a Principal Arterial and is grade separated. All other intersecting roads serve the area as Rural Collectors.

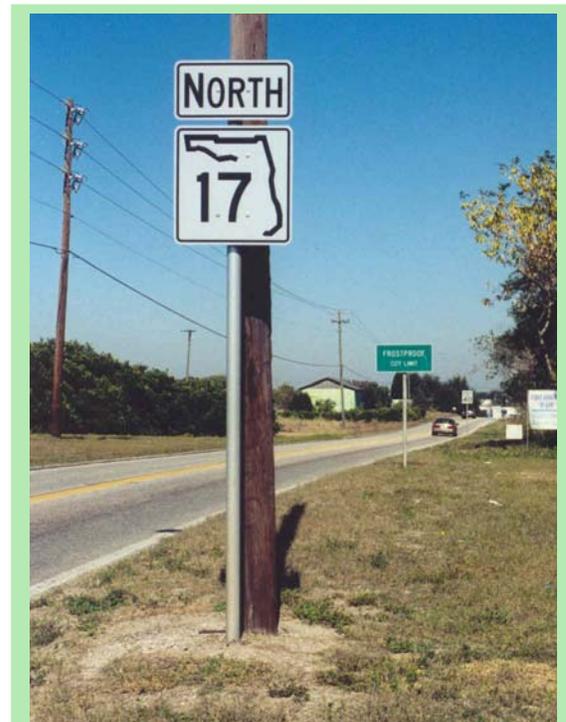
### *Right-of-Way*

Per right-of-way maps obtained from the Florida Department of Transportation dated 1940 and

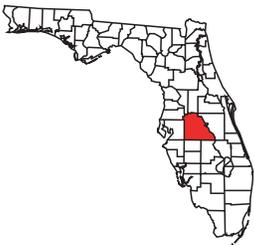
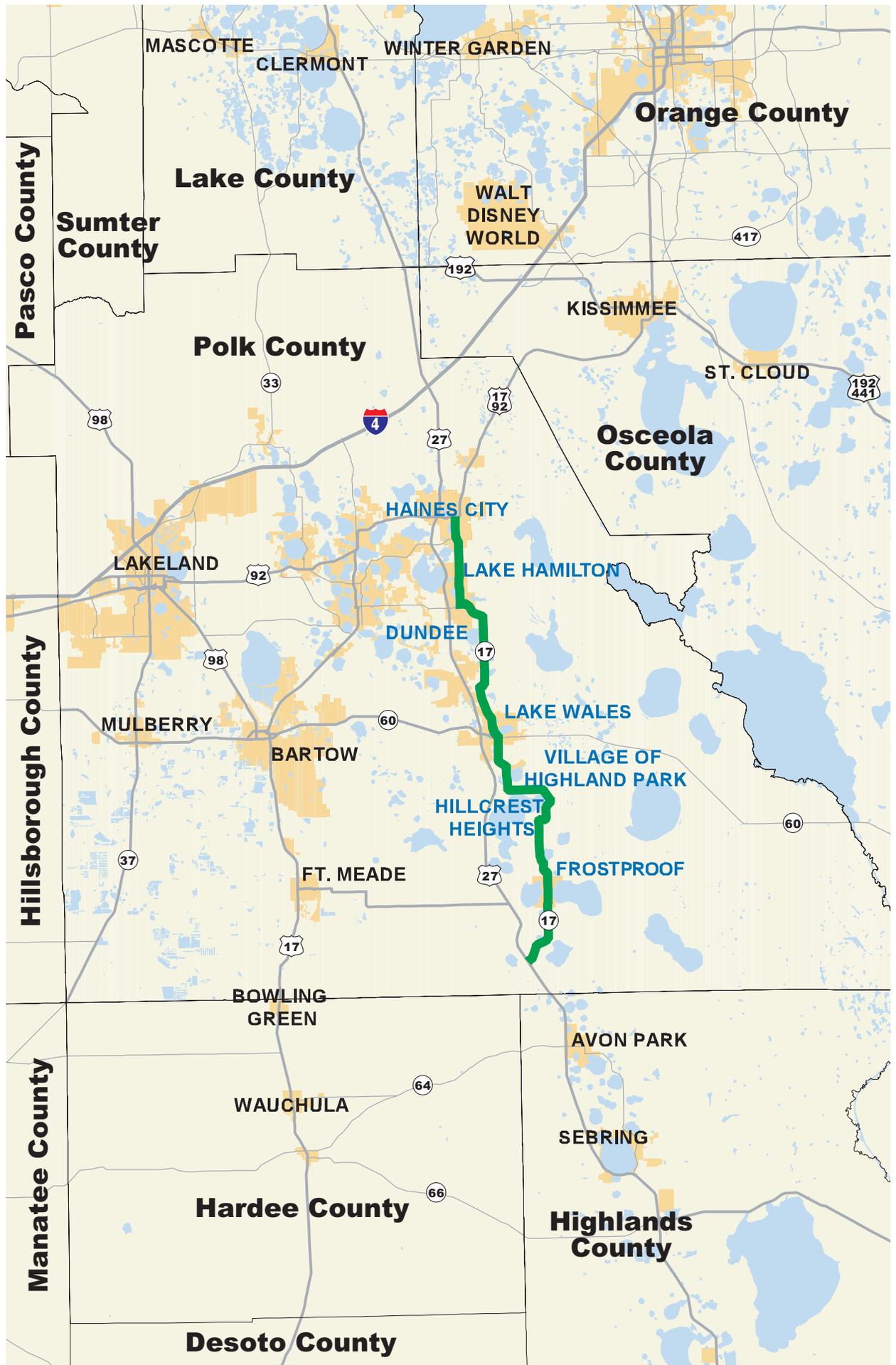
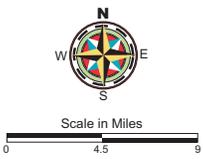
updated in 1997, the right-of-way (ROW) varies considerably along the Ridge Scenic Highway from 60 feet to 105 feet, with narrower widths in more traditionally developed areas. The Comprehensive Plans of adjacent communities protect the existing and planned right-of-way from incompatible development.

### *Maintenance*

The Florida Department of Transportation maintains the corridor on a regular basis. This includes shoulder repairs, asphalt repair, sign repair, and tree trimming.



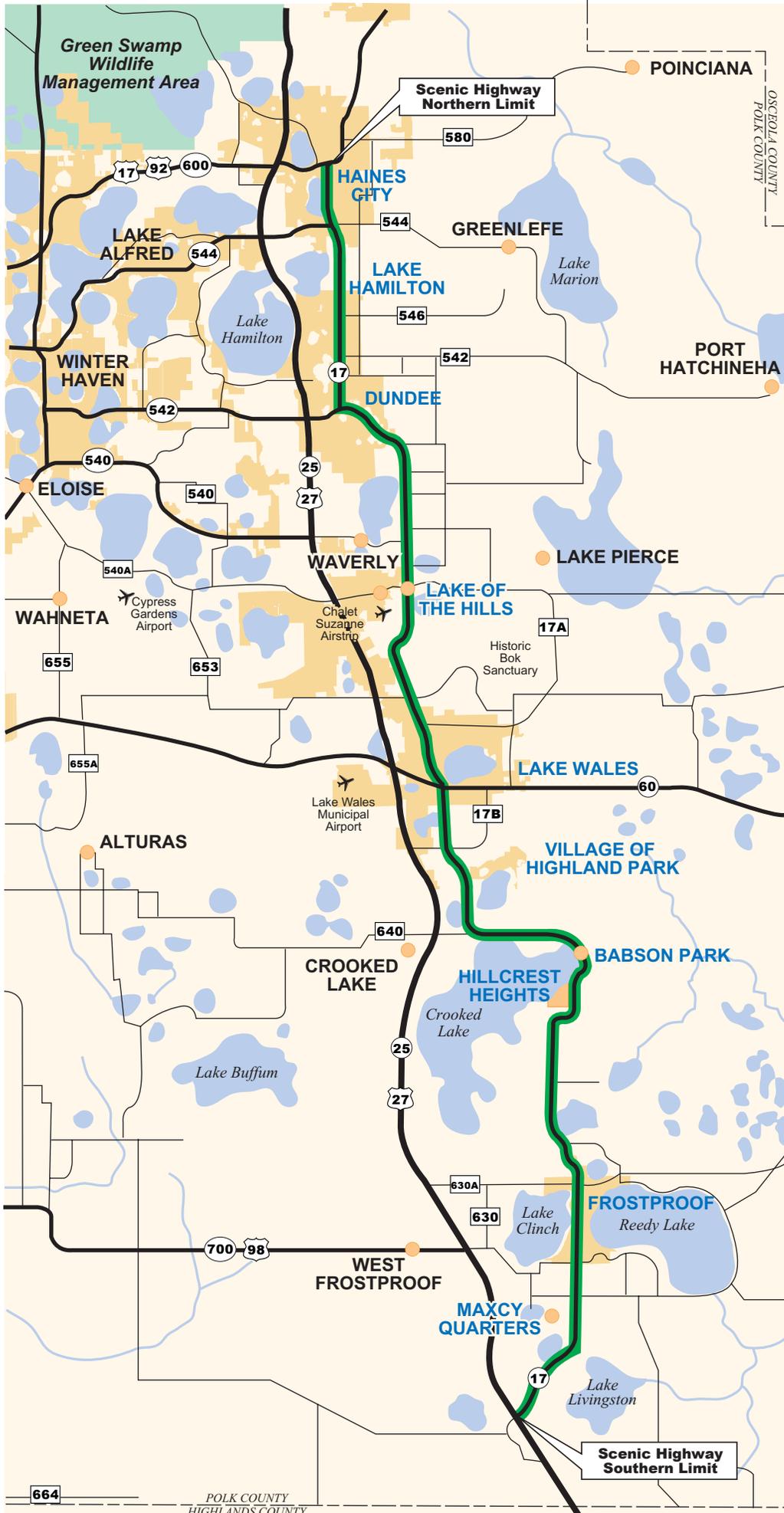
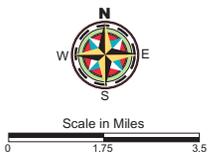
*The Ridge Scenic Highway has a state road designation of SR 17.*



**LEGEND**

-  The Ridge Scenic Highway
-  City Limits

**Figure 1**  
**Corridor Location**



**LEGEND**  
 SR 17 Scenic Highway

**Figure 2**  
 Corridor Limits