

**July 22, 2009**

**Media contact:** Susan Walsh, 941-861-5504; cell 941-650-4791; [swalsh@scgov.net](mailto:swalsh@scgov.net)

**Project contact:** Ryan Newcomb, cell 941-232-3043; [rnewcomb@scgov.net](mailto:rnewcomb@scgov.net)

## **Groundbreaking for Fruitville Road improvements set July 28**

Construction of Fruitville Road improvements from Coburn Road to Debrecen Road, east of Interstate 75, officially will kick off at a 9 a.m. groundbreaking celebration Tuesday, July 28. The public is invited to the brief ceremony, which will be held in the parking lot of Scott Paint, 7839 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.

The work will be done in two phases. The \$4.35 million contract for Phase I was approved by the Sarasota County Commission July 21. That phase involves the widening and reconstruction of a ¾-mile section of roadway from two to four lanes from Debrecen Road to east of Tatum Road. The project also includes 4-foot-wide bicycle lanes, streetlights, 10-foot-wide concrete sidewalks on both sides of the road, intersection improvements, a water main and stormwater pipes, inlet structures and stormwater ponds. Preliminary work such as relocation of utility service lines already has begun.

Russell Engineering Inc., with offices in Fort Lauderdale and Bradenton, was awarded the construction contract for Phase I. The project is expected to take eight months to complete.

A separate construction contract for Phase II is expected to go to the commission in early September. Phase II will extend from Coburn Road to east of Tatum Road, and include similar improvements.

Together, the two phases will improve a total of 2.2 miles of Fruitville Road between Coburn Road and Debrecen Road.

The Fruitville Road improvement project is part of the Sarasota County Economic Stimulus Program (ESP) of fast-track, capital-improvement projects. Funding for ESP projects is provided primarily by the voter-approved penny surtax (1-cent sales tax).

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000, or visit the county's Web site at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net).

-end-