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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Oakland Avenue to Undergo Design Changes**

**OCOEE, Fla.** – As part of the City of Ocoee's historic downtown revitalization, Oakland Avenue between Bluford Avenue and Lakewood Avenue will be closed for reconstruction on Monday, February 4 through April 8, 2019. Traffic on Bluford Avenue will not be affected. Traffic on Northbound Lakewood Avenue approaching Oakland Avenue will be directed to turn right toward Lakeshore Drive. The sidewalk on the south side of Oakland Avenue through the closed section of the block will remain open for pedestrian access to Ocoee elementary and middle schools. Attached is a road closure illustration.

When the construction work is completed, Oakland Avenue will be transformed into a cul de sac that will be permanently closed to through traffic making it a safer and more livable public space. It will have angled parking on both sides with an attractive brick paver surface. The new Oakland Avenue will have access only from Bluford Avenue and will no longer connect to Lakewood Avenue. Oakland Avenue will end at the entrance to the Ocoee Lakeshore Center parking lot. The Ocoee Lakeshore Center, West Orange County's premier event destination, is currently under construction to provide a 400-seat main facility and a separate 125-seat space. This project is scheduled to be completed in April 2019.

The intersection of Oakland Avenue and Lakewood Avenue will be converted to a curve. The section of Oakland Avenue that will be removed from service will be turned into a pedestrian bridge linking Ocoee's downtown area to the lakefront without having to cross a street. Construction of the new Ocoee City Hall on the block bound by Bluford Avenue, Oakland Avenue, Lakewood Avenue and McKey Street is expected to begin in July 2019. This construction should not affect local traffic flow. Plans for Oakland Avenue and the city's lakefront improvements can be viewed by visiting <https://www.occoee.org/839/Lakefront-Park-Improvements>.

For more information on the City of Ocoee's historic \$44 million dollar downtown revitalization project, visit <https://www.occoee.org/832/Downtown> or call 407-905-3100.

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