

# Media, Articles & Updates

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## What's New on I-Drive!



## Orlando's tourism corridor: More than \$5.5 billion of high-profile development planned for 2026 and beyond in the I-Drive Area

ORLANDO, June 1, 2026 - I-Drive continues to increase its presence as a major player in Orlando's tourism industry. The past several years have brought significant changes to the I-Drive corridor:

[I-Drive District Development map - June 2026 in PDF format](#)

[I-Drive District Updates PowerPoint presentation - June 2026 in PDF format](#)

[International Drive Development: A Look Back \(2015-2025\)](#)

### **A look at what's happening in 2026:**

The Pointe Orlando will be welcoming new tenants this year, including Zukku-San Sushi, an innovative sushi restaurant set to open in spring 2026.

The Hollywood Plaza Garage is now home to **Baires Grill**, a Miami-based Argentine steakhouse, located in the former Mooyah. Completed in March 2026.

bairesgrill.com

ICON Park will be welcoming **Ripley's Crazy Golf**, an indoor, glow-in-the-dark miniature golf experience, which was completed in February 2026. As well as **Nomikay by Sushi Saint**, an innovative Japanese-American steakhouse. ICON Park will also debuted its **28,833 SF, 589-seat entertainment venue**, home to headliner Blue Man Group, which was completed in May, 2026. **Build-A-Bear Workshop** will open a three-story flagship store at ICON Park in summer 2026.

**Villatel Orlando Resort** is a mixed use development will include 516 single family vacation homes, condos and townhomes, multiple lakes, a community clubhouse with a resort style pool, lazy river, restaurant and water park. Phase I includes 96 condominiums, 34 single family homes and 120 townhomes. Phase II includes 80 townhomes, 36 single family homes and 5 condominium lots. Villatel started a phased opening in fall 2023 and was fully completed in 2026. Villatel.com

South I-Drive will soon be home to a new apartment complex. **Grande Pointe Apartments** will be a five-story multifamily complex with 225 units, an attached parking garage, and rooftop amenity deck, completed in 2026.

The former Wyndham site will be getting a two-acre container park and padel complex, **Society Park**, which will boost two restaurants, shopping, a spa, and entertainment. Estimated completion is 2026.

**Orlando Crossings** will welcome another new tenant in 2026, **Hocca Bar**, a Brazil-based restaurant chain.

**Even Hotels and StayBridge Suites** will join Universal Blvd. with a 7-story, 288-room, dual-branded hotel on 4.5 acres. Completion is summer 2026.

**Sushi Kingdom**, an all-you-can-eat sushi restaurant, will be replacing the former Flapjack Johnny's on Westwood Blvd. Completion is 2026.

Tiger Woods' mini golf and dining complex, **PopStroke** will be coming to International Drive. The 5-acre complex will feature two 18-hole mini-golf courses and two restaurants. Completion is 2026.

**SeaWorld** will launch a new ride, **SeaQuest: Legends of the Deep**, which takes riders into the depths of the ocean aboard a state-of-the-art submersible in this suspended dark ride. Completion is 2026.

Vineland Pointe welcomed **Cava Mediterranean Grill** in 2026. They will also welcome two new tenants later this year: **Barnes & Noble**, a retail chain book seller, and **Tifa Chocolate and Gelato**, which will open later in 2026.

**Hyatt Regency and Hilton Orlando** will each undergo \$75 million renovations in 2026, updating the guest rooms, lobby areas, and pools. Hyatt Regency will also be adding a sushi bar.

**I-Drive dedicated transit lanes** from Sand Lake Road to the Beachline. Approximately three miles of dedicated transit bus lanes from Sand Lake Road to the Beachline. New sidewalks, landscaping, and signage. [orangecountyfl.net](http://orangecountyfl.net)

### **2027 and Beyond:**

ICON Park will also welcome, **Arte Museum**, an immersive digital art museum with floor-to-ceiling displays and projection mapping technology. Completion is 2027. ICON Park will also be adding an additional 100,000 SF of retail and commercial space to its parking garage, completion is 2027.

**Universal Orlando** will be replacing the former Rip Ride Rocket with **Fast and Furious: Hollywood Drift**, a 17 story, 360 degree drifting outdoor roller coaster. Completion is 2027.

Pointe Orlando will be welcoming, **Museum of Ice Cream**, and immersive, multi-sensory ice cream attraction. Completion is in 2027.

**Universal Citywalk** will welcome a new live music venue and bar concept from country singer Luke Combs, **Category 10**. This 33,000SF, 3-story venue is set to open in late 2027.

A developer has been chosen for the housing community, **Housing for Tomorrow, now named Catchlight Crossings**, which will be built on donated land from **Universal Orlando**. The project is expected to break ground in late 2023, and will include an additional 1,000 units, 16,000 SF of retail space, a Bezos Montessori

Academy, a health care clinic, a transportation station, and space for a University of Central Florida classroom. This project will begin a phased opening in 2026. [housingfortomorrow.com](https://housingfortomorrow.com)

The interchange between **Sand Lake Road** and I-4 will be reimagined as a diverging diamond configuration to improve traffic flow. Construction will also include reconstructing the general I-4 lanes as well as adding a barrier separated express lane from Sand Lake Rd to Epcot Center Dr. Construction is estimated to be complete by 2027. [i4beyond.com](https://i4beyond.com)

The former Wyndham Orlando will be demolished in the coming months to make way for new hotels, including the InterContinental Orlando Hotel, a 784-room hotel with 5 restaurants, 15,000 SF spa, wellness center, and pool, and 106,000 SF of meeting space. Completion for this hotel is 2028.

North I-Drive will be getting a 303,372 SF. 300-room hotel tower, **GZ Universal Tower**. More details to come with the expected completion in 2028.

A new one-of-a-kind hotel will be coming to South I-Drive, **Bourbon Hotel Orlando**, a seven-story, 300-room hotel. Construction is expected to begin in 2027 with completion in 2028.

A new **Hyatt House** will be constructed on Westwood Blvd. With 7 stories and 274 extended stay rooms. This property will have a pedestrian skywalk connection to OCCC. Completion is 2028.

The **Orange County Convention Center** will be completing its 5A Expansion plan in the coming years, with the addition of 40,000 SF of meeting space, a 100,000 SF ballroom, and the Convention Center Way Grand Concourse in the North-South Building. Construction is expected to begin in 2026 with completion in 2029. [occc.net/expansion](https://occc.net/expansion)

**Tradeshow Boulevard** will be receiving some improvements in early 2027, including widening from 2 lanes to 4 lanes from Universal Blvd. to Destination Pkwy. The project will also include 2 transit lanes, and a multi-use path on both sides of the road for pedestrians and cyclist. Improvements will also be made to lighting, landscape and signalization. Expected completion is early 2029. [orangecountyfl.net](https://orangecountyfl.net)

### **Awaiting details**

Phase 2 of Dezerland Apartment's, **Revel Apartments**, has begun construction which will add an additional 365 units to their portfolio is estimated to be complete in TBA.

A new 13,000 SF retail development will be constructed next to I-Fly, which will house a new **Chipotle** and **Prison Island**, an escape room. Expected completion is TBA.

**Universal Epic Universe** is set to begin construction on a new 55,886 SF, 2-story event space. Completion is TBA.

The former TGI Fridays will be replaced with a **Portillo's**, a fast food chain specializing in Chicago-style foods. Completion is TBA.

**Bear Hug Brewing** will be replacing George's Music with a microbrewery and tasting room. Completion is TBA.

The **former Magical Midway**, is being redeveloped and will bring two new restaurant pads to North I-Drive. Completion as well as the tenants are yet to be known.

**43W Townhomes at Westwood** will bring 31 new townhomes to South I-Drive, with a community clubhouse, gym, and pool. Completion is TBA.

South I-Drive will be receiving a new apartment complex, **Paros Apartments**, with 6 4-story buildings totaling 400 units. Completion is TBA.

South I-Drive will also welcome a new **Extended Stay America** with 138 rooms. Expected completion is TBA.

South I-Drive will soon be home to a new extended stay hotel brand, **Everhome Suites** by Choice Hotels. This will be a 6-story, 109-room extended-stay hotel, with completion TBA. [everhomesuites.com](https://everhomesuites.com)

The **Brightline Train** is coming to Orlando and making a stop near Universal Boulevard. **The Brightline/Sunshine Corridor Station** is the proposed stop and possible SunRail link. It will be built on land donated by Universal. Estimated completion date TBA. [orlandosrightrail.com](https://orlandosrightrail.com)

Taking over the old Marriott Grand Pines Golf Club is the **Paradiso Grande Resort Orlando**, a 157-vacation-home community featuring townhomes and single-family vacation homes ranging from 3 to 15 bedrooms. This will also feature a community clubhouse, resort-style pool with a lazy river, and walking trails. Phase 2 is currently under construction, with an estimated completion is TBA.

[paradisograndehomes.com](http://paradisograndehomes.com)

Universal Blvd. will welcome a new hotel, the **Grand Hyatt Orlando**, a luxury resort on 45 acres, developed in multiple phases, with the first phase having 1,200-1,300 rooms and ending with a grand total of 2,500 rooms. This resort will be located adjacent to the Hyatt Regency.

**Cambria Hotel by Choice Hotels** will be adding another I-Drive location, this time south I-Drive. The hotel will be a prototypical design Cambria Hotel, which consists of 4 stories and 151 rooms. Completion is TBA.

South I-Drive will also be getting a pair of **Home2 Suites by Hilton**. Each hotel will be 139-rooms and will have an outdoor amenity area and surface parking. Completion is TBA. [home2suites.com](http://home2suites.com)

**SeaWorld Orlando** will move forward with plans to build 2 themed hotels. The first, located at International Drive and Central FL Parkway, will be a 15-story, 504-room hotel with a conference center, ballroom, and a walkway to the theme park. Completion is TBA. [seaworldorlando.com](http://seaworldorlando.com) The second hotel will be located at Discovery Cove and will be a 250-room hotel with a spa, meeting spaces, and a large amenity area. Completion is TBA.

A new **Marriott branded W Hotel** on Universal Blvd. will consist of a 22-story tower hotel, 400 rooms and a 3,000 SF live music venue. Completion date is TBA. [w-hotels.marriott.com](http://w-hotels.marriott.com)

**I-Drive 2040 Vision Plan** - Recognizing the importance of creating a shared vision for the International Drive Area, Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs appointed a Steering Review Group (SRG) composed of I-Drive-area stakeholders and landowners who are committed to maintaining I-Drive as the world's premier global destination for tourism and family entertainment. She envisioned a vibrant International Drive

corridor that would be a dynamic gathering place for visitors and residents alike. See the plan here.

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For additional information on the I-Drive area, visit  
[www.InternationalDriveOrlando.com](http://www.InternationalDriveOrlando.com)

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Updated: June 2026