



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Marion County – Library Headquarters, Meeting Room B
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470
3:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Noel Cooper
Kia Powell
Loretta Shaffer
Eric Smith
Tracy Straub
Bob Titterington
Chuck Varadin

Members Not Present:

Dave Herlihy
Ji Li
Mickey Thomason
Chad Ward

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, Ocala Marion TPO
Sara Brown, Ocala Marion TPO
Shakayla Irby, Ocala Marion TPO
Liz Mitchell, Ocala Marion TPO
Chris Zeigler, Marion County
Daniel DaGraca, Kimley-Horn
Mo Ansari, Kimley-Horn
Ken Odom, Marion County

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Eric Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll and a quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof of Publication

Secretary Shakayla Irby stated the meeting had been published online to the TPO's website, as well as the City of Ocala, Belleview, Marion County, and Dunnellon's websites on March 5, 2024. The meeting had also been published to the TPOs Facebook and Twitter pages.

Item 3. Consent Agenda

Mr. Cooper made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Titterington seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4a. Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update

Ms. Brown presented to the committee and said that Public Involvement was at the center of the transportation planning process, as transportation networks affect the public in a variety of ways. Therefore, the voice of the public was essential in ensuring that the transportation decisions that are made, are efficient and effective at serving the residents they impact. The Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization's (TPO) Public Participation Plan (PPP) documents the goals, objectives, and strategies for ensuring that all individuals have every opportunity to be involved in transportation planning decisions.

In 2024, the TPO conducted an update to the PPP. A 45-day public review period began on February 5, 2024 and will close on March 26, 2024.

A DRAFT 2024 PPP was provided in the agenda packet for the committee to review. The document was updated from the previously approved PPP, which was adopted by the TPO Board on January 26, 2021. The PPP was required to be updated every three (3) years. Some of the key updates were as follows:

- Updated Public Disclosure Statement (pg. 2).
- Addition of text to give more information on What is the Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (pg. 4).
- Addition of Staff section (pg. 7).
- Addition of What is a Public Participation Plan Section (pg. 8). This section was added to give more information for what is required in the PPP and how to get involved.
- An update to some of the Objectives and Measures of Effectiveness (pg. 9 and 10).
- Removed the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Section.
- Added a Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (pg. 13) and a Transportation Studies (pg. 14) sections under Core Plans and Programs.
- Changed the LRTP Program Amendments public comment period from 30 days to 21 days.
- Added Meeting Room Security Section (pg. 15).

- Removed the TPO Online Feedback Form Section. This section is no longer needed. The TPO Online Feedback Form was removed and replaced with Staff emails.
- Added a TPO Staff and Contact Information Section (pg. 17).
- Added summary table for how we use each Strategy and Outreach for the different TPO plans (pg. 18).
- Created an Evaluation section to evaluate different (pg. 18). This will help evaluate the strategies and outreach methods for future use.

Mr. Smith noted that significant changes had occurred, acknowledging the wealth of knowledge present in the room. He emphasized that if a public comment related to a specific subject, it would be acknowledged, though rants would be cut off. He stressed the importance of recognizing that individuals not directly on the committee might possess valuable information to aid decision-making.

Ms. Straub sought clarification regarding changes to the board.

In response, Mr. Smith clarified that no changes had been made to the TPO board. He explained that his previous remarks pertained to changes made to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Mr. Smith also expressed his desire to implement the same process during joint CAC-TAC meetings as it pertained to the TAC.

Mr. Cooper inquired whether the PPP had been reviewed by the FDOT.

Ms. Brown responded that the PPP had indeed been sent to FDOT but had not yet been reviewed.

Ms. Powell reassured that FDOT would review the document and would notify Ms. Brown once the review was completed.

Ms. Straub inquired what comments Mr. Dave Herlihy had shared with Ms. Brown regarding the PPP.

Ms. Brown shared the following comments from Mr. Herlihy for the record:

Public Disclosure Statement

Review sentence 4 of this text which begins with “The TPO will not exclude from participation in...” – Take a look at the phrase.

TPO Planning Area Map

Does it seem as though the County Urban Growth Boundary or Belleview Urban Service Area would be relevant on this map? Might it help prospective public participants to better understand where future growth is expected to be directed/occur? These boundaries lay out that future growth area and do not coincide with the current “Urban Area boundaries” which are generally smaller. Obviously, road funding would not be limited to the Growth or Service Area(s) Boundaries, but it might help with understanding of prioritizing projects.

LRTP Program Amendments

Reducing the comment period seems counterintuitive when this process appears to be aimed at increasing participation.

Q: *Is there a rationale for why the Bike Ped Master Plan section has been replaced with the TDSP portion? Was the Bike Ped MP completed? Now the TDSP is a new program? Was it direction from the TPO body?*

I may have missed an explanation that's elsewhere in the text, but it just seems like this would be helpful to understanding the progression and impetus for the change.

All other aspects appear good/beneficial.

Ms. Brown commented that regarding the planning area map, the TPO map was based on Census data. Additionally, she mentioned that although not included in her presentation, the Bike and Ped Master Plan had been removed from the list of programs and plans, with the TDSP plan being included instead.

Furthermore, Ms. Brown notified that the public comment period would remain open until the upcoming TPO Board meeting, and encouraged anyone with additional comments to email her.

Ms. Straub inquired about how public comments were incorporated.

Ms. Brown clarified that all comments would be presented to the TPO board during the board meeting.

Ms. Straub made a motion to approve the PPP Update. Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5a. City of Ocala Vision 2050

The City of Ocala was in the process of developing Vision 2050, a planning roadmap for the future. The City had been conducting public meetings in February and early March to solicit feedback and input from the public. Jeff Shrum, Growth Management Director, provided an update presentation on the Vision 2050 project.

The slideshow presentation is provided on pages 8-19 of this set of minutes for reference.

In addition to his presentation, Mr. Shrum mentioned an additional public meeting scheduled to take place at Zone Health and Fitness at the Market Street at Heath Brook on Friday, March 29th, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Ms. Straub inquired about the consultant assisting the City of Ocala with their Vision 2050.

Mr. Shrum responded that Kimley-Horn was the consultant and that they were also the same consultant working on the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the TPO, also noting that it could be an opportunity for coordination between the consultants on both plans.

Ms. Straub also shared that Marion County Day would be taking place on Saturday, March 23, 2024, and encouraged anyone interested to attend.

Mr. Shrum noted that the City of Ocala would have a presence at Marion County Day and had already secured a space. He also mentioned that if any groups were interested in participating in the map exercise, the City of Ocala would be happy to join them.

Chairman Smith added that he had participated in a map exercise before and found it very informative. He encouraged anyone able to participate in the exercise.

Item 6. Comments by FDOT

Ms. Kia Powell provided the construction report, which had been updated to include maps, making it more accessible to the public. She shared that there are currently eight road closures within Marion County, which can also be viewed on www.cflroads.com. Additionally, she provided several updates: intersection improvements at S.R. 492 (NE 14th Street) and NE 25th Avenue were estimated to commence in May. The S.R. 492 Bridge Improvements Over the C.S.X. Railroad were also estimated to start in the spring. Furthermore, the Marion County Districtwide Rumble Stripes Installation was scheduled to begin in the spring.

Ms. Powell also talked about the 2023 Annual Joint FDOT/TPO Certification. Annually and pursuant to federal requirements 23 USC 134(k)(5) and CFR 450.334(a), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the TPO perform a joint review of the certification status for the transportation planning process. The 2023 joint certification process was conducted from January to February 2024, including a virtual meeting with FDOT District 5 Liaison team members on February 14.

The development of the Joint Certification package document was conducted by TPO and FDOT District 5 staff.

Ms. Powell proudly announced that the TPO had achieved a score of 100% and was placed in the Low Risk category. She commended the TPO for this achievement and expressed that FDOT was pleased to see consistent high scores, eagerly anticipating continued collaboration.

Ms. Straub complimented the TPO on their 100% scoring and applauded their success.

Mr. Balmes noted that Liz Mitchell from the Ocala Marion TPO, deserved significant credit for the 100% scoring. He emphasized her role in ensuring accurate and timely submission of invoices.

Ms. Straub also inquired about the S.R. 40 and S.R. 492 Intersection Improvements, noting that both the County and she believed the City had received numerous inquiries about why the project was taking so long. She also mentioned that Mike McCammon, Operations Engineer for FDOT, was aware of this issue.

Ms. Powell responded by stating that she maintained close communication with Mr. McCammon and assured the committee that she would continue to work to provide updates on the progress of the project.

Mr. Shrum commented that the City of Ocala had also received similar inquiries.

Chairman Smith added that during the City of Ocala map exercise, he observed many citizens adding marks to those specific areas.

Ms. Powell reiterated her commitment to reaching out to Mr. McCammon to gather information for Mr. Balmes or to provide updates at the next committee meeting.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Balmes informed the committee that in coordination with TPO Board Chair Dreyer, a formal 2050 LRTP Kick-Off Meeting had been scheduled for April 23, 2024 at 2:00 PM at the Marion County Commission Auditorium. The kick-off meeting would be open to the public, and for all elected officials and partner agencies. The regularly scheduled TPO Board meeting would follow at 3:00 PM.

The Kick-Off Meeting would include opening leadership remarks, a project overview session and summary of the project schedule. TPO staff would send out save-the-date and public notices in the near future for the meeting.

A project schedule would be made available at the Kick-Off meeting. The first Community Open House meeting for the LRTP was anticipated to be in September 2024.

Mr. Balmes also provided an MPO/TPO Legislative Update and said State House Bill 7049 and Senate Bill 1032 involved potential impacts to MPO/TPO's and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC). The 2024 State Legislative session concluded on March 8 with no action to the Senate or House bill versions.

Item 8. Comments by TAC Members

There were no comments by TAC members.

Item 9. Public Comment

Mr. Steven Cohoon, the new Marion County Engineer, introduced himself to the committee. He expressed his familiarity with the Lake Sumter MPO and Mike Woods, and he expressed his enthusiasm for working with Marion County.

Item 10. Adjournment

Chairman Eric Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:15pm.

TAC Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2024
Approved – April 9, 2024

Respectfully Submitted By:

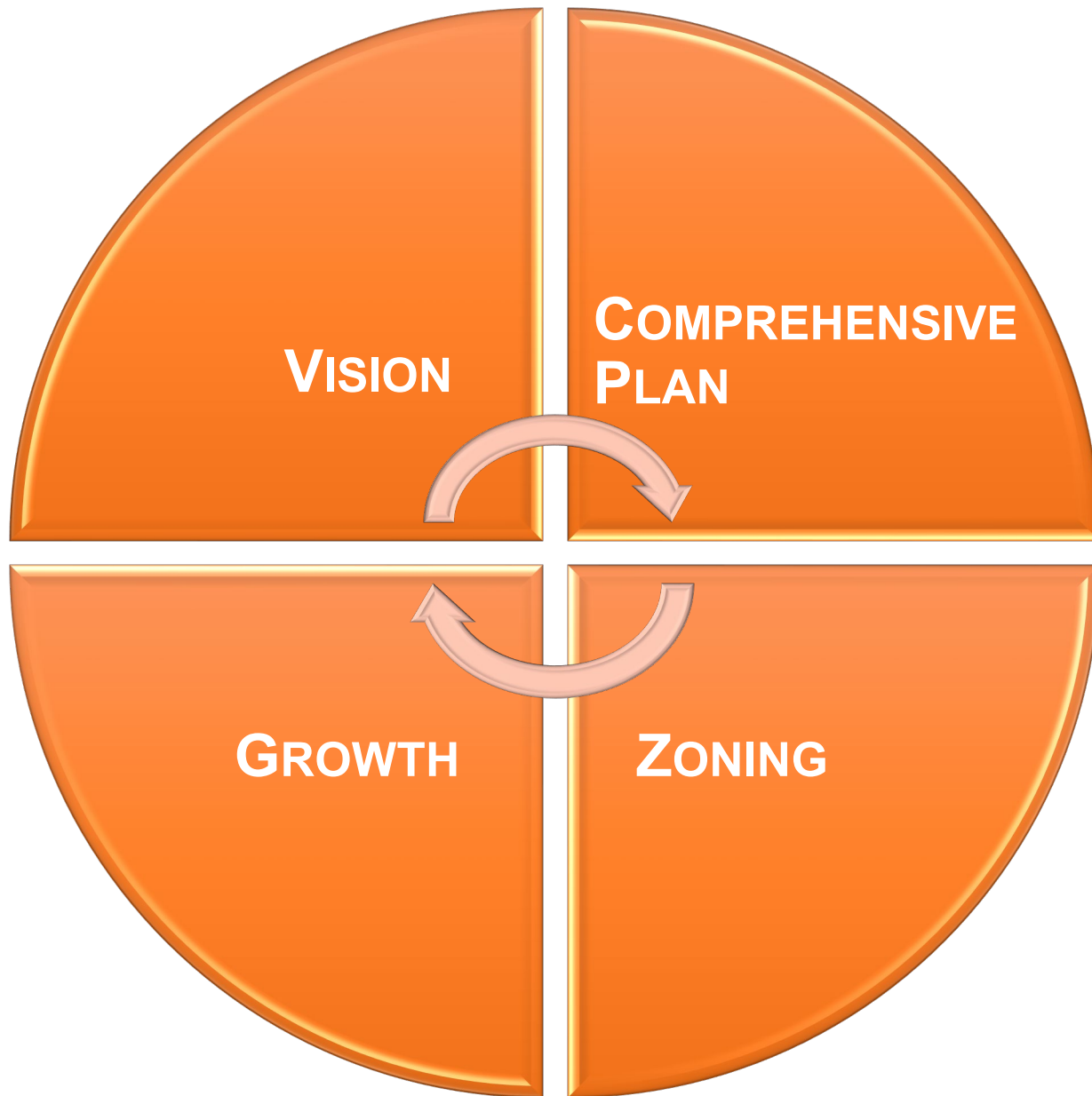
Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant



My

Ocala

What is your vision?



WHY A VISION?

- It is the starting point - the roadmap for the future.
- It utilizes public engagement to build community consensus to clarify the desired Ocala of 2050.
- It serves as the guiding document to update the goals, policies, and objectives of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE OCALA 2035 VISION

- Simplified future land use districts.
- Established Form Based Code standards.
- Improved Implementation of the Community Redevelopment Areas (CRA's) and expanded the Downtown CRA.
- Incentive programs to encourage infill and redevelopment.
- City gateways: SR 200, SR 40, US-27, and US 441.

Ocala 2035 Vision

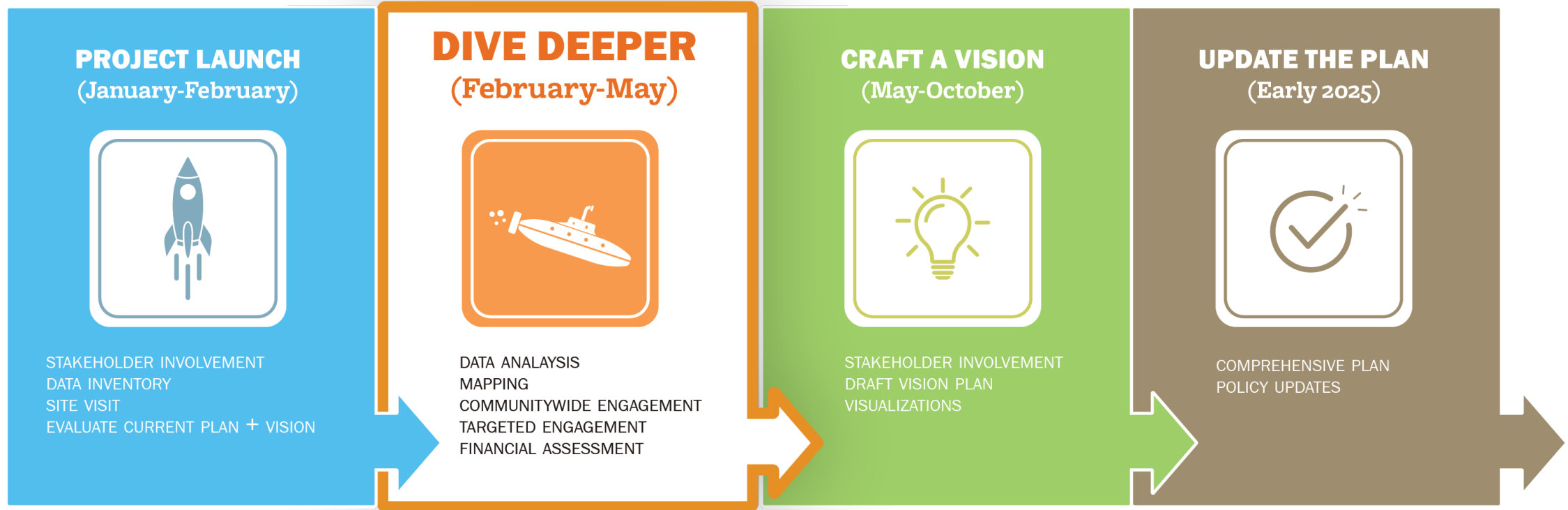
Ocala is...



a great place to live, play, and prosper.

 October, 2010 

2050 Project Timeline



Ocala 2050 Vision Participation Opportunities

- Four City-Wide Events (3 completed):
 - Thursday, Feb. 15, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Mary Sue Rich Community Center
 - Wednesday, Feb. 28, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Fort King National Historic Landmark
 - Saturday, March 2, 12 to 2 p.m.
 - Citizens Circle
 - TBD, Late March/Early April
 - TBD, SW Ocala



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON...

PUBLIC AND OPEN SPACE



Ocala is community rich with history and natural beauty. It is important to celebrate, enhance, and protect these resources in a way that feels accessible to all residents of Ocala. Public spaces that are connected and activated improve neighborhood safety, inspire physical activity, promote overall belonging and wellbeing, boost the economy, and create a more sustainable city.

MOBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY



Over the last decade, Ocala has prioritized the development of an interconnected street network that provides travel choices for all users. Different users have different priorities - but a safe, comfortable, and accessible system is a priority for all. A more connected transportation system links destinations throughout the city with complete streets, trails, bike paths, sidewalks, and diverse transit options.

LAND USE AND HOUSING



Ocala is a community of neighborhoods and corridors that supports a robust economy and diverse population. As Ocala continues to grow and develop, it is important to think about the desired future physical character of the different areas of the City. Ocala prioritizes access to quality housing and conveniently located goods and services for all residents.

GATEWAYS

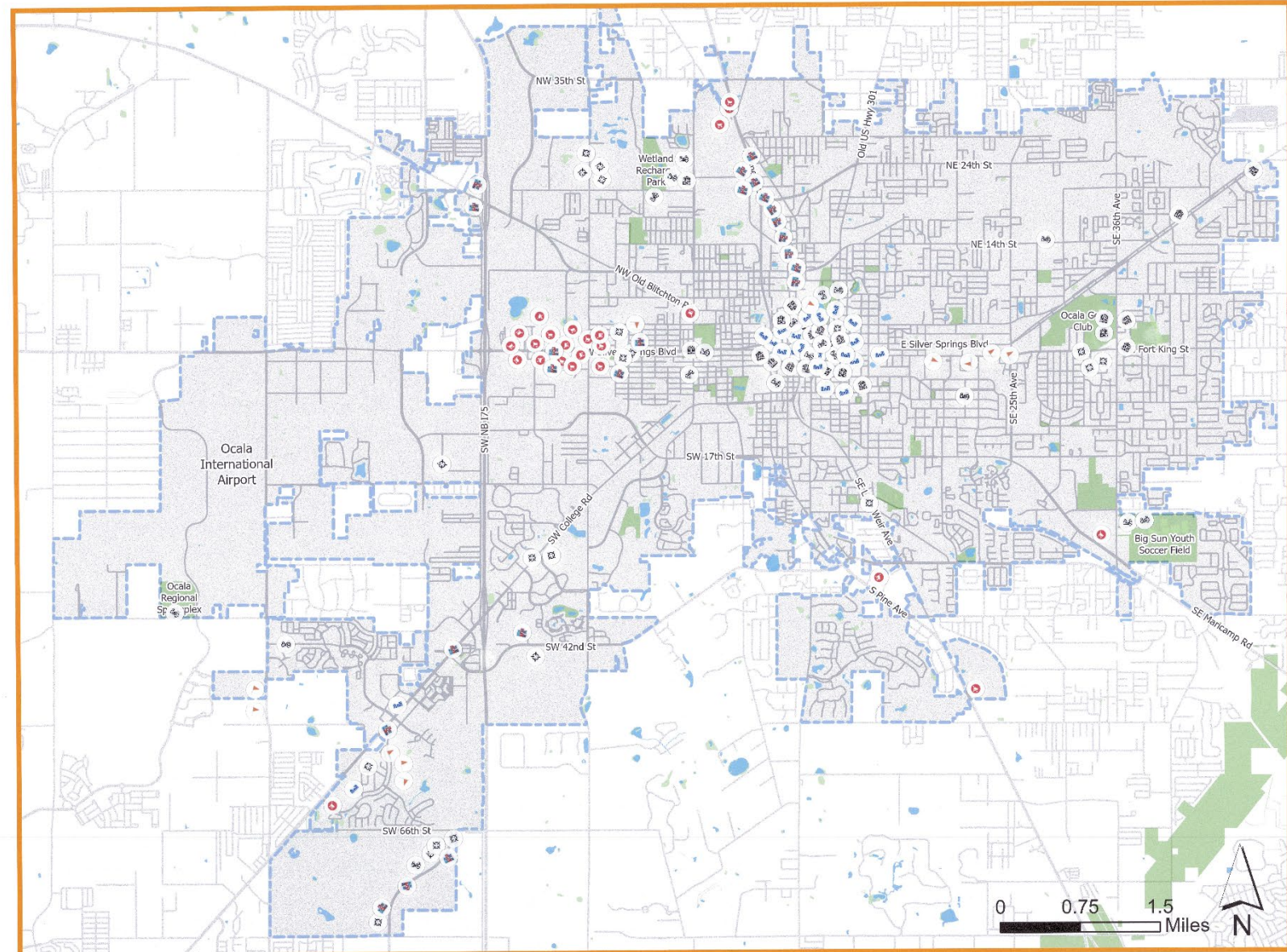


Ocala's gateways serve to welcome residents and visitors to a dynamic community that prioritizes accessible and comfortable spaces to encourage diverse uses and activities. A successful gateway is visible both from a distance and up close and sets the stage for what a community has to offer.

Share with us...








Use the key below (also in your brochure) to put stickers on the map and let us know what you think about Ocala today and tomorrow.

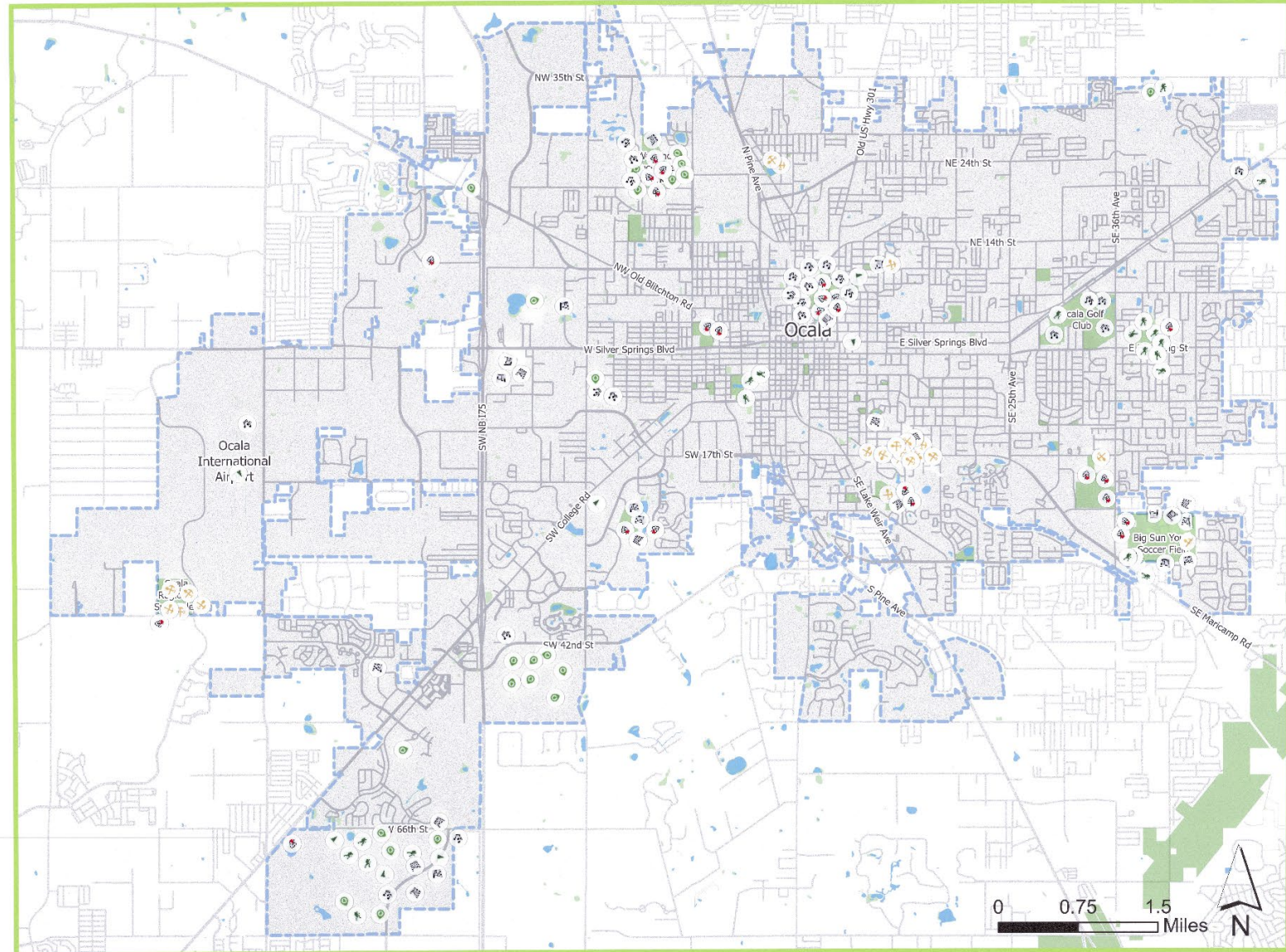
-  Buildings look appropriate for the area
-  Family-friendly area
-  Preserve this area and/or building
-  Needs grocery/other business
-  Needs more affordable housing options in this area
-  Area needs a better mix of residential and commercial areas
-  Other



Share with us...

Use the key below (also in your brochure) to put stickers on the map and let us know what you think about Ocala today and tomorrow.

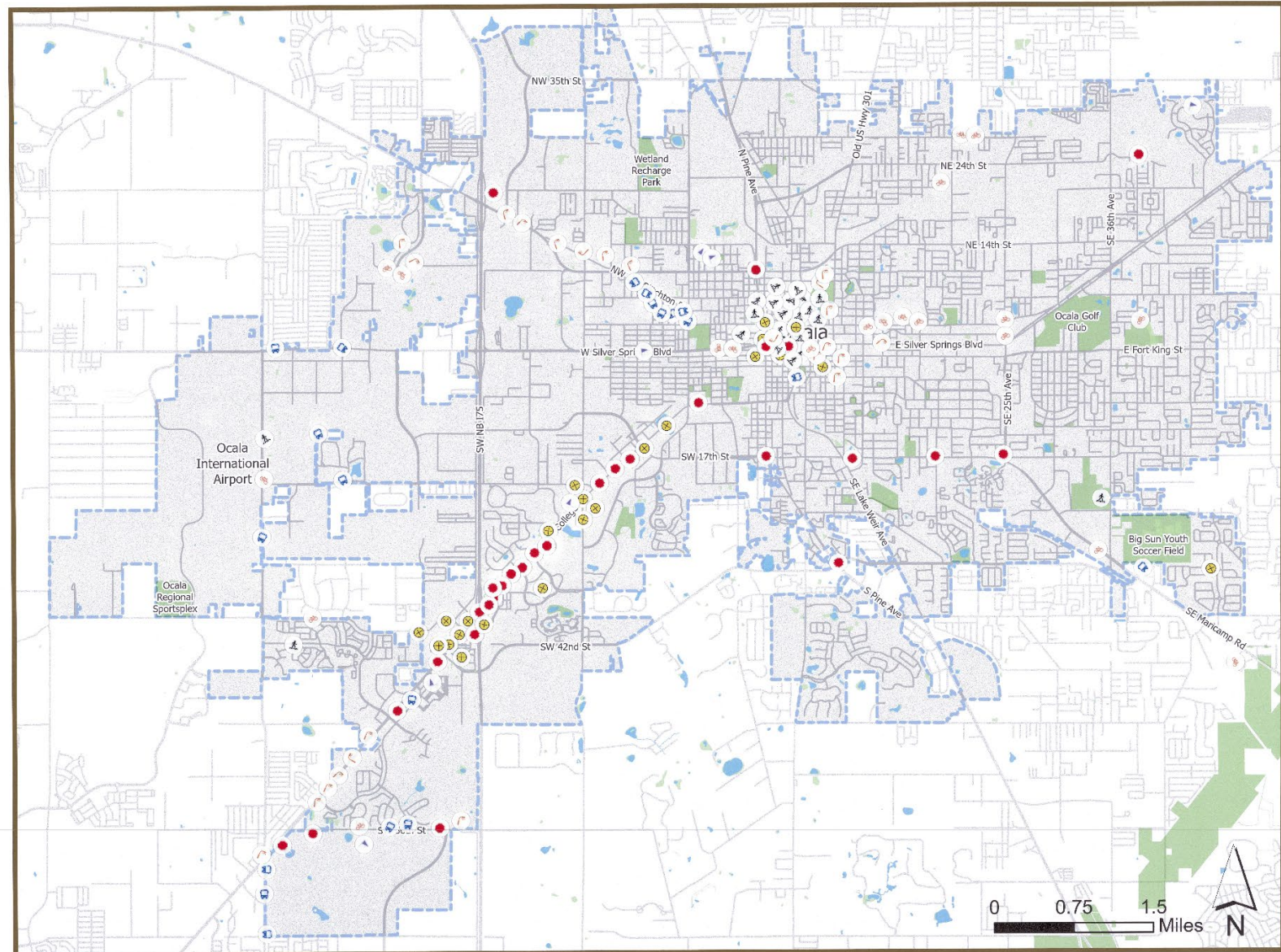
-  Park needs maintenance
-  Well maintained park or recreation amenity
-  Park needs amenity improvements or additions
-  Potential new park/open space location
-  Potential location for public art, concerts, and/or events
-  Needs more hiking and/or biking trails
-  Other



Share with us...

Use the key below (also in your brochure) to put stickers on the map and let us know what you think about Ocala today and tomorrow.

-  Traffic congestion
-  Needs improved lighting
-  Needs bicycle and/or sidewalk improvements
-  Needs bus accessibility
-  I feel safe walking here
-  I have difficulty navigating this area
-  Other

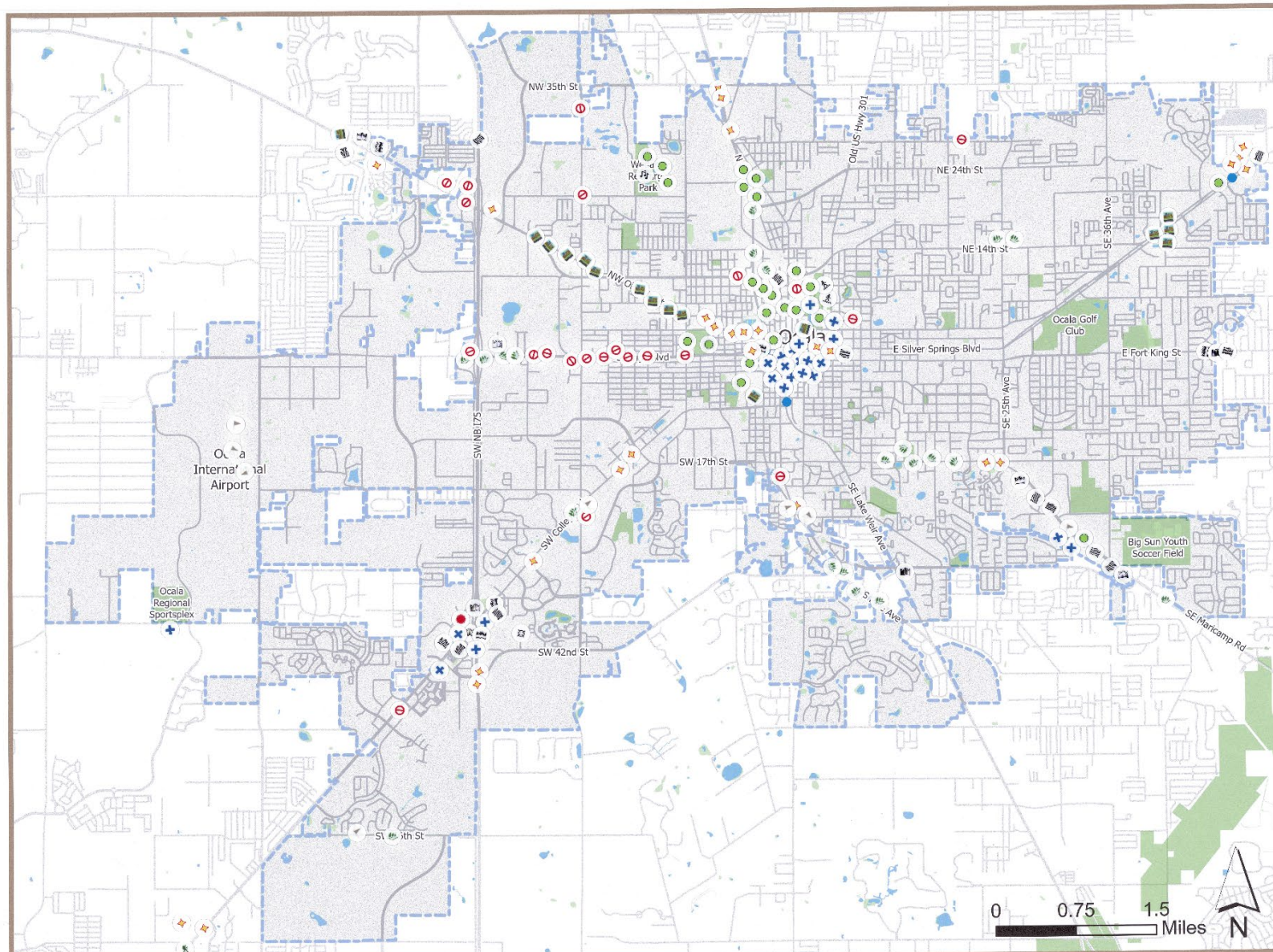


MY OCALA GATEWAYS //

Share with us: What do you envision for the gateways to Ocala?

Use the key below (also in your brochure) to put stickers on the map and let us know what you think about Ocala today and tomorrow.

-  Area feels inviting/comfortable
-  Location is good for current/future public art
-  Area does not feel inviting/comfortable
-  This building feels like it is too far from the road
-  Needs streetscape improvement (improved landscaping in medians, trees, along roadways)
-  I feel like I'm entering Ocala here
-  This area should be highlighted as a main entry into the City
-  Other



TWO ONLINE SURVEYS:

www.ocalafl.gov/vision2050



VISION 2050 PULSE SURVEY
A quick three-minute survey



MAP SURVEY
10-minute, in-depth survey that is an interactive mapping dashboard.

Select recommendation below and move cursor to click on the map to add a point.

Editor

Settings

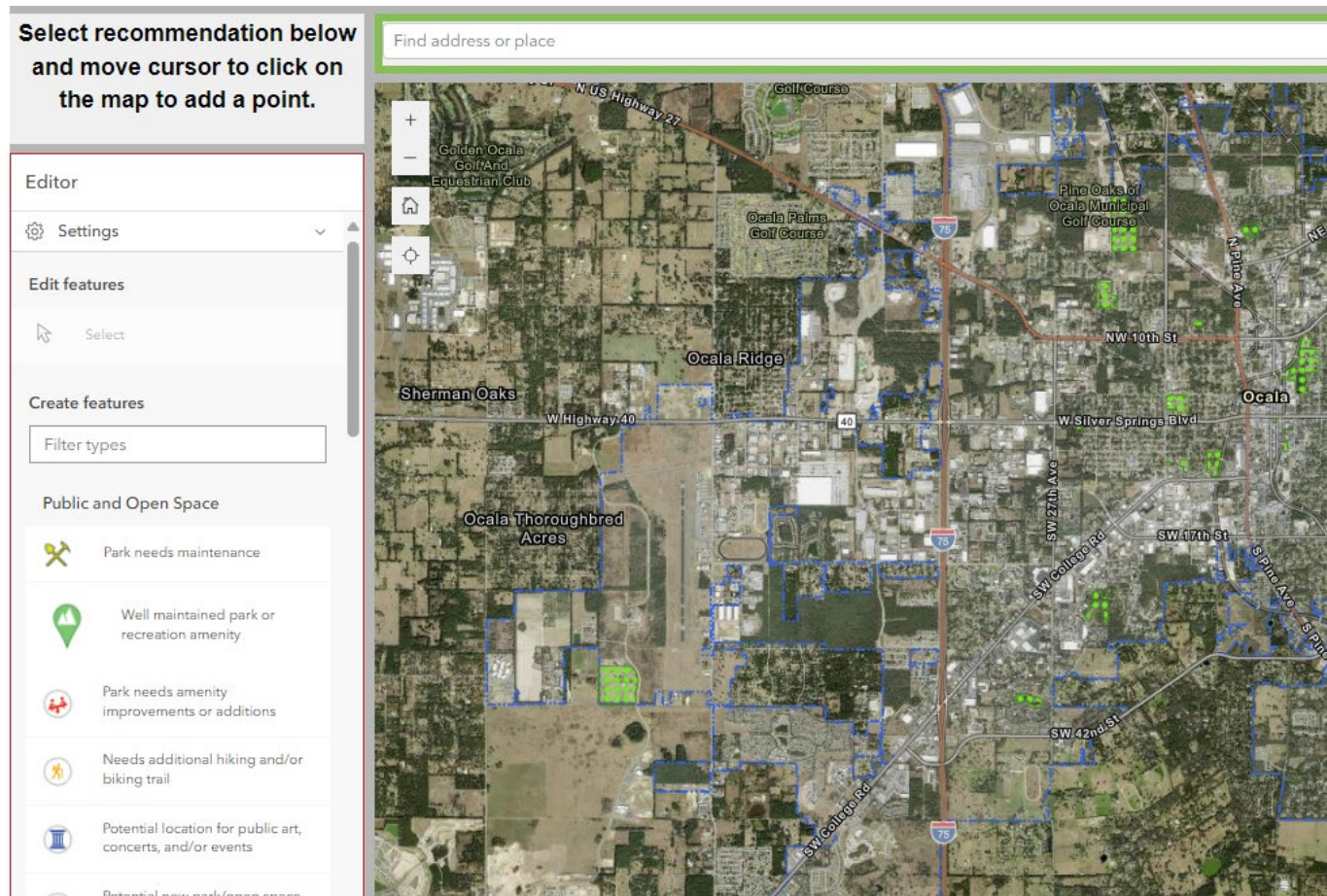





Edit features

Select

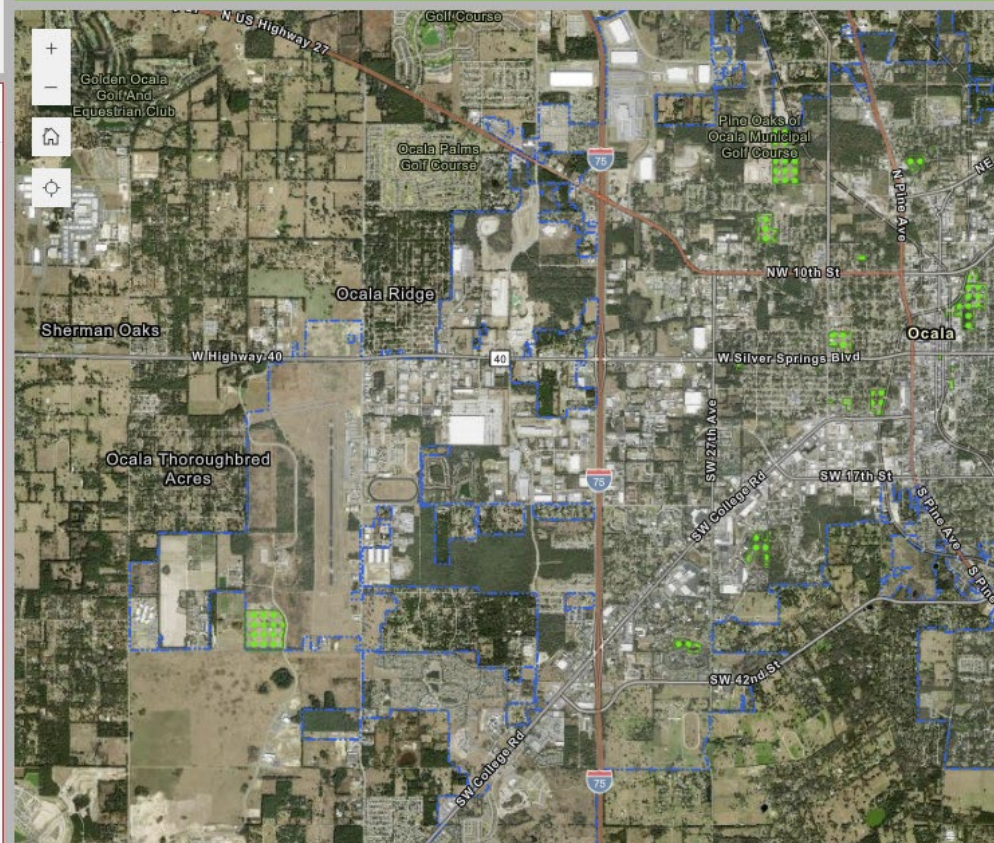
Create features

Filter types

Public and Open Space

-  Park needs maintenance
-  Well maintained park or recreation amenity
-  Park needs amenity improvements or additions
-  Needs additional hiking and/or biking trail
-  Potential location for public art, concerts, and/or events
-  Potential new park/open space

Find address or place





Additional Opportunities

We are looking for more community groups to reach out to.

- Check out www.ocalafl.gov/vision2050
- Email: gmd@ocalafl.gov