



**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting**

Marion County Public Library  
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470  
Meeting Room C

**October 8, 2019**

**10:00 AM**

**AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- 2. PROOF OF PUBLICATION**
- 3. PRESENTATIONS**
  - A. Goals & Objectives 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

Staff will present the DRAFT Goals & Objectives for the 2045 LRTP Update, and ask committee members to participate in a goal weighing/ranking exercise
- 4. ACTION ITEMS**
  - A. Trail Safety, Connectivity, and Facility Plan**

Kimley Horn will present on the Trail Safety, Connectivity, and Facility Plan
  - B. “Roll-Forward” Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Staff will present the amended “Roll-Forward” TIP. This document has been prepared from the latest draft of the Florida Department of Transportation’s Tentative Work Program.
  - C. Bylaws**

Staff will present a revised version of the TAC Bylaws.
- 5. CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. June 11, 2019 – Minutes**
  - B. June 18, 2019 – Minutes**
  - C. August 13, 2019 – Minutes**
  - D. September 10, 2019- Minutes**
- 6. COMMENTS BY FDOT**
- 7. COMMENTS BY TPO STAFF**

**8. COMMENTS BY TAC MEMBERS**

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 2 minutes)**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

If reasonable accommodations are needed for you to participate in this meeting, please call the TPO Office at (352) 438-2630 forty-eight (48) hours in advance so arrangements can be made.

*Pursuant to Chapter 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the TPO with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*

*The next regular meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be held on November 12, 2019*



**October 1, 2019**

**TO: TAC Members**

**FROM: Derrick Harris, TPO Assistant Director**

**RE: Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Goals & Objectives**

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TPO staff kicked off the start to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2045 Update in late May. The first part of the plan update is to identify the Goals and Objectives. Rather than a complete rebuild, the TPO decided to use the existing Goals and Objectives from the previous LRTP as a framework to build off of going into this plan update.

In July, TPO staff began their public involvement outreach by using a MetroQuest survey, a Facebook site, and a project specific website [www.ocalamarion2045.com](http://www.ocalamarion2045.com) to help garner participation regarding the Goals and Objectives. In August, TPO staff held several public workshops throughout the TPO Planning Area to discuss this update as well.

This presentation will highlight all of the feedback we have received thus far, and will ask for your help in ranking our Goals and Objectives. The Goals and Objectives set the foundation for this plan moving forward. In addition, the Goals and Objectives will be used for ranking priority projects moving forward. Therefore, it is essential that the Goals and Objectives reflect the needs of the community.

If you have any questions prior to the upcoming meeting, please contact our office at (352) 438-2632.

# Ocala Marion 2045

## RACING TOWARD A CONNECTED FUTURE



### Goals & Objectives

#### **A. Goal – Promote travel choices that are multimodal and accessible**

- Objective 1.1 – Increase transit ridership by providing more frequent and convenient service.
- Objective 1.2 – Increase bicycle and pedestrian travel by providing sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use trails throughout the county.
- Objective 1.3 – Provide safe and reasonable access to transportation services and facilities for use by the transportation disadvantaged (TD) population.
- Objective 1.4 – Provide desirable and user-friendly transportation options for all user groups regardless of socioeconomic status or physical ability.
- Objective 1.5 – Enhance access to tourist destinations

#### **B. Goal – Provide efficient transportation that promotes economic development.**

- Objective 2.1 – Improve access to and from areas identified for employment development and growth.
- Objective 2.2 – Foster greater economic competitiveness through enhanced, efficient movement of freight.
- Objective 2.3 – Address mobility needs and reduce the roadway congestion impacts of economic growth.
- Objective 2.4 – Improve the reliability of the transportation system through operational and incident management strategies.

#### **C. Goal – Focus on improving safety and security of the transportation system.**

- Objective 3.1 – Provide safe access to and from schools.
- Objective 3.2 – Improve the safety of the transportation system for all user groups regardless of socioeconomic status or physical ability.
- Objective 3.3 – Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and freight within the region and to other areas.
- Objective 3.4 – Improve security by enhancing the evacuation route network for natural events and protecting access to military asset.
- Objective 3.5 – Reduce the number of fatal and severe injury crashes

#### **D. Goal – Ensure the transportation system meets the needs of the community.**

- Objective 4.1 – Provide opportunities to engage citizens, particularly traditionally underserved populations, and other public and private groups and organizations.

# Ocala Marion 2045

## RACING TOWARD A CONNECTED FUTURE



- Objective 4.2 – Support community education and involvement in transportation planning.
- Objective 4.3 – Coordinate with local government to consider local land use plans when identifying future transportation projects.
- Objective 4.4 – Collaborate with various agencies including FDOT, Marion County School District, Marion County and its municipalities, SunTran, and providers of freight and rail travel to create strategies for developing a multimodal transportation system.

### **D. Goal – Protect natural resources and create quality places.**

- Objective 5.1 – Limit impacts to existing natural resources, such as parks, preserves, and protected lands.
- Objective 5.2 – Avoid or minimize negative impacts of projects and disruption to residential neighborhoods.
- Objective 5.3 – Support community social values by developing facilities that are user-friendly, multimodal, and encourage healthy and active lifestyles.
- Objective 5.4 – Improve the resiliency of the transportation system through mitigation and adaptation strategies to deal with catastrophic events

### **E. Goal – Optimize and preserve existing infrastructure.**

- Objective 6.1 – Improve the performance of the transportation system through intersection modifications, access management strategies, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) applications, and other emerging technologies.
- Objective 6.2 – Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system and establish priorities to ensure optimal use.
- Objective 6.3 – Maintain the transportation network by identifying and prioritizing infrastructure preservation and rehabilitation projects such as pavement management and signal system upgrades.



**OCALA MARION  
TRANSPORTATION  
PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION**

# **2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

October 8, 2019

# Agenda

- Public Involvement Process
  - Public Meetings
  - On-line Survey
  - Social Media
- Goal Weighting Exercise
- Vision Statement
- Next Steps





# Public Involvement Process

Public Meetings, On-line Survey  
(Metroquest), Social Media



# Public Involvement

## MULTI-MEDIA APPROACH – Public Meetings

- Introduce the project
- Provide opportunity (paper and electronic) to complete Metroquest survey
- Solicit comments on maps
- Offer questionnaire to assess public involvement process

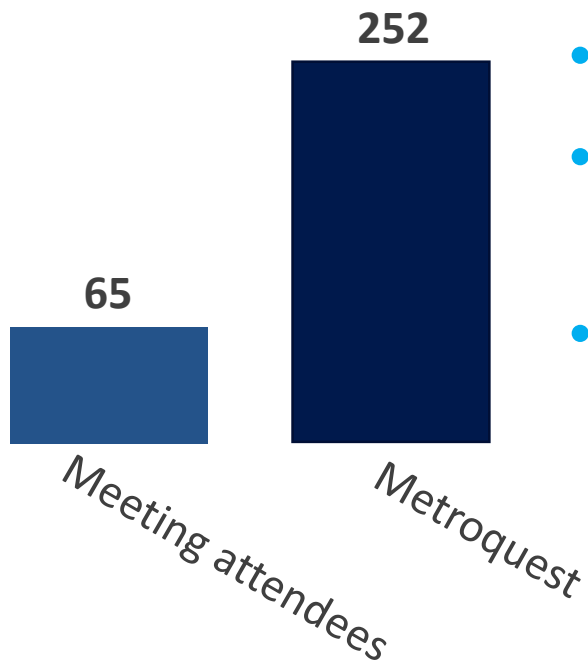
65

Meeting attendees



# Public Involvement

MULTI-MEDIA APPROACH – On-Line Survey

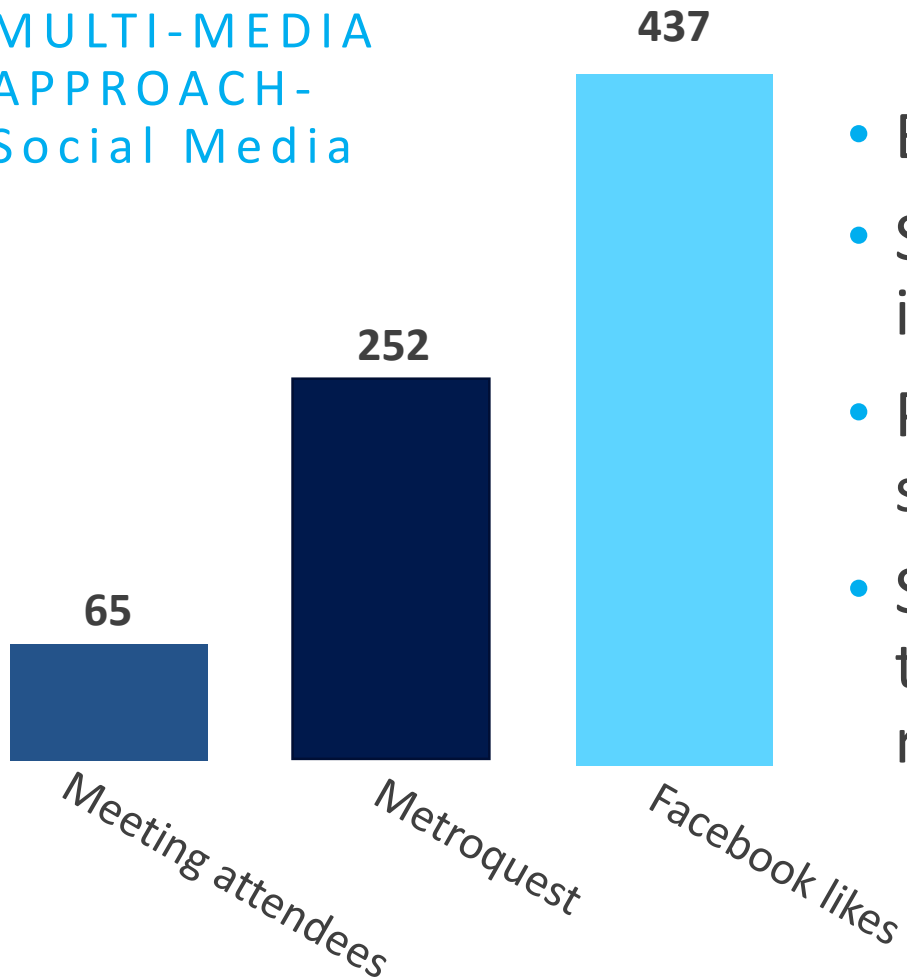


- Goal prioritization
- Existing conditions assessment by mode
- Improvement strategy prioritization



# Public Involvement

MULTI-MEDIA  
APPROACH-  
Social Media



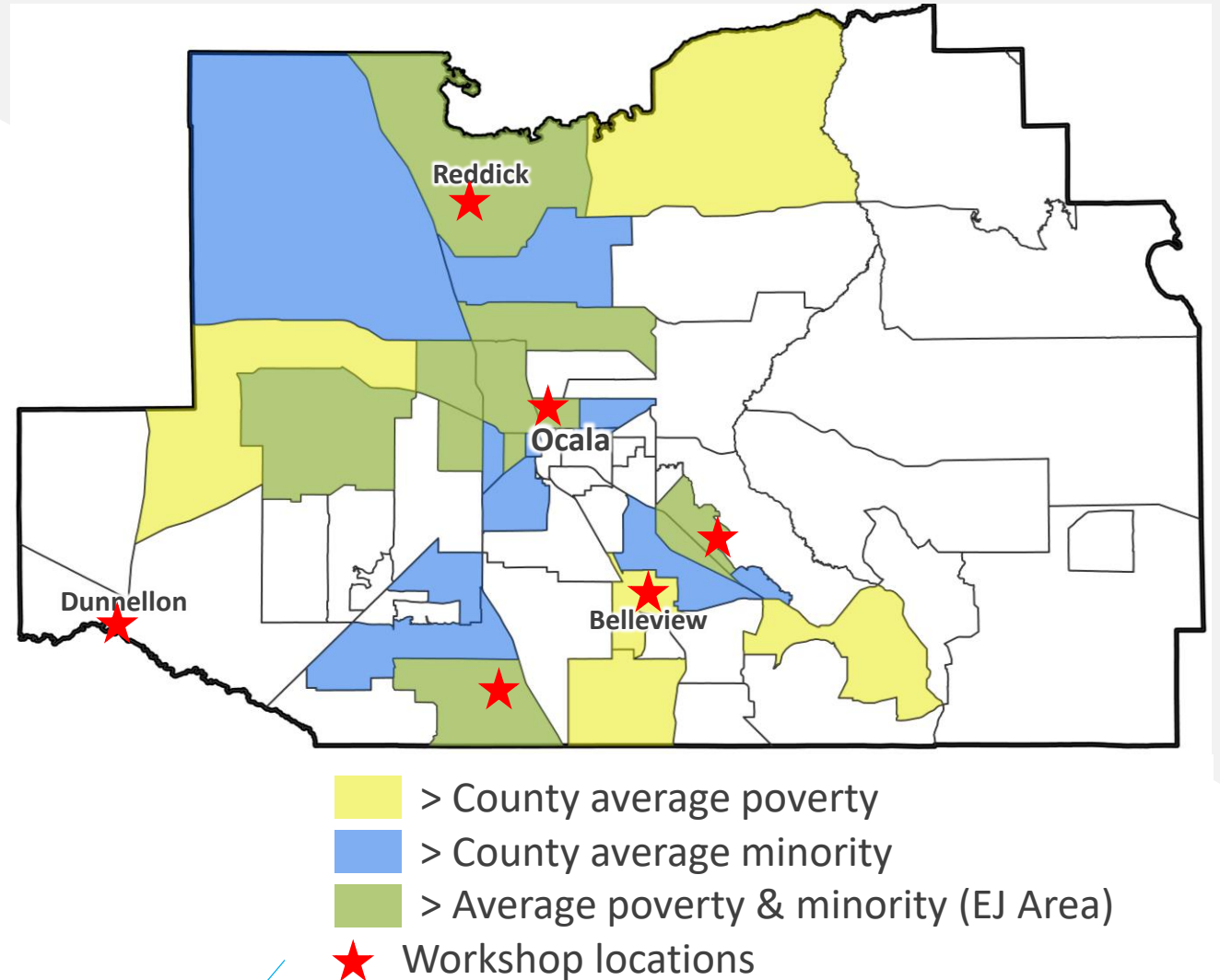
- Build following
- Share meeting information
- Promote on-line survey
- Share interesting transportation related information



# Public Meetings

AUGUST 5-15

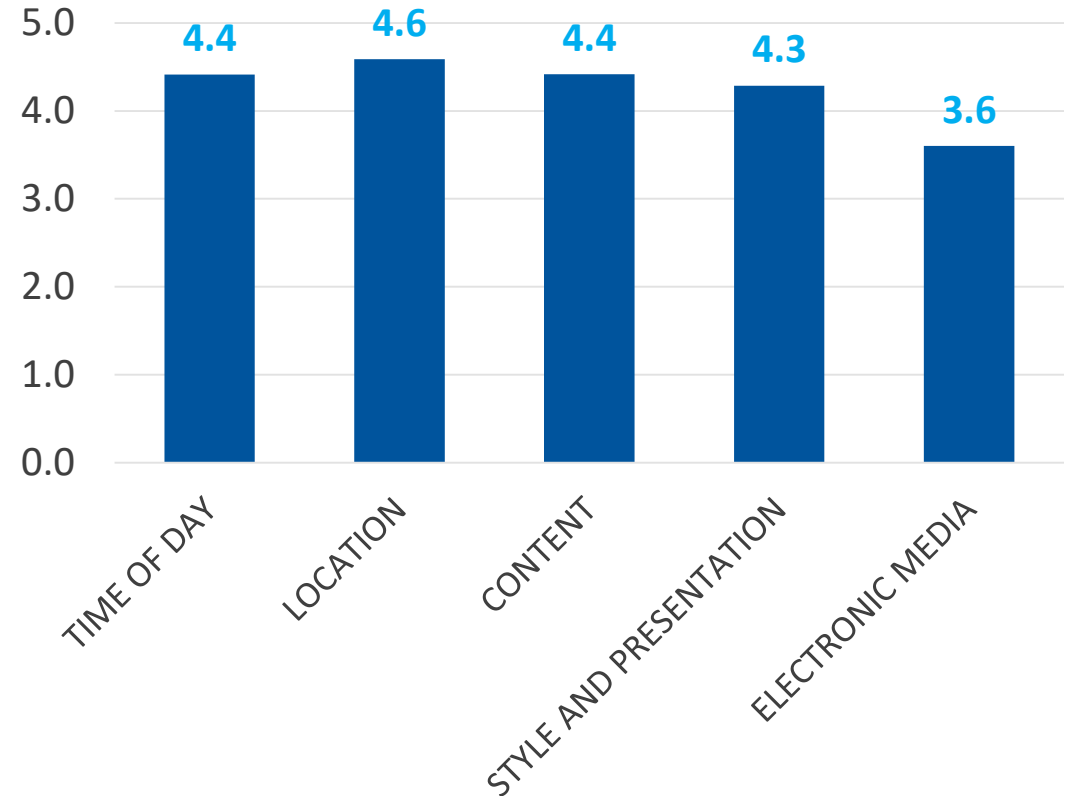
- Six meetings held in August
  - 3 in Environmental Justice (EJ) areas (Reddick, Silver Springs Shores, Marion Oaks)
  - 3 in other areas (Ocala, Dunnellon, Belleview)
- Meeting stats
  - Total attendance – 65
  - Average attendance – 11
  - Number of questionnaires completed – 18



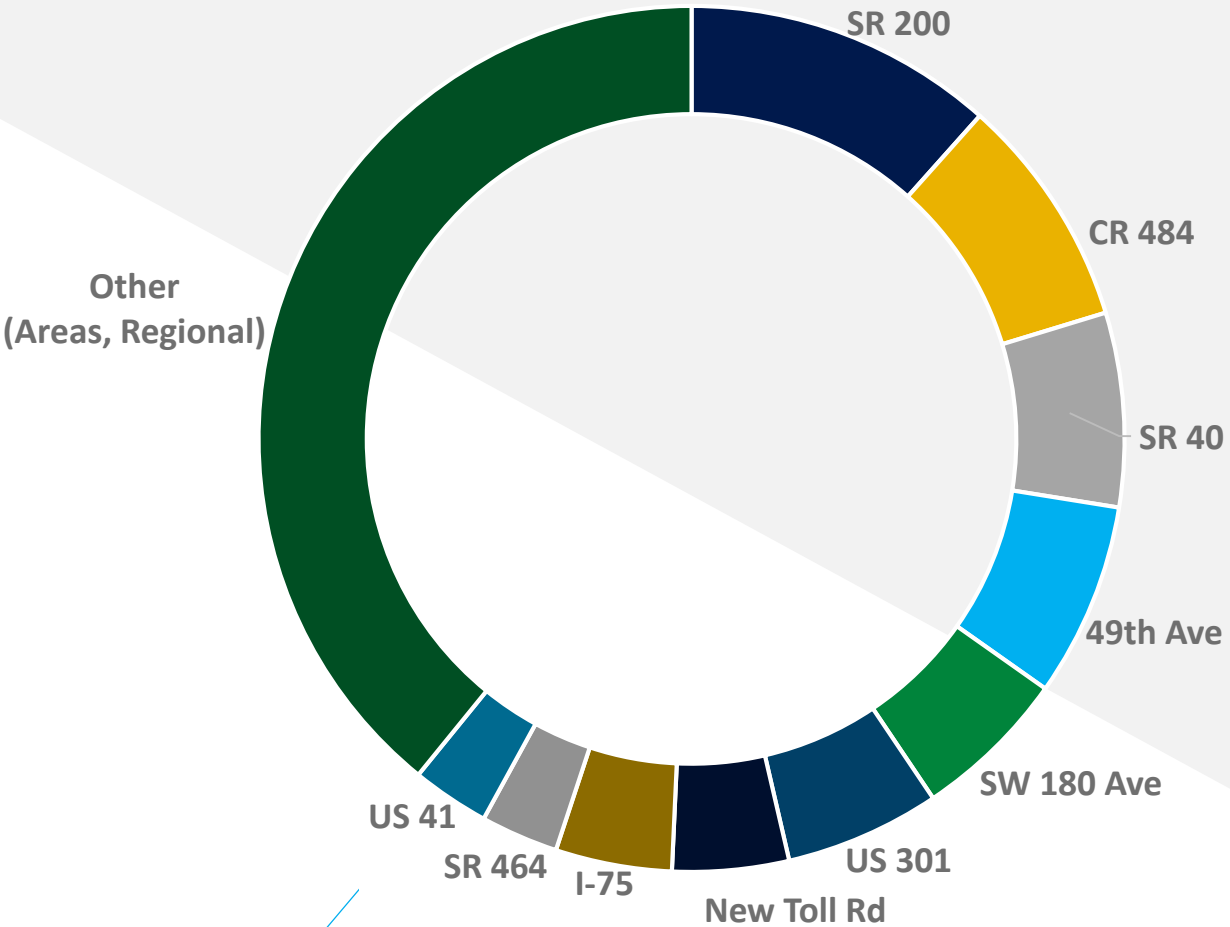
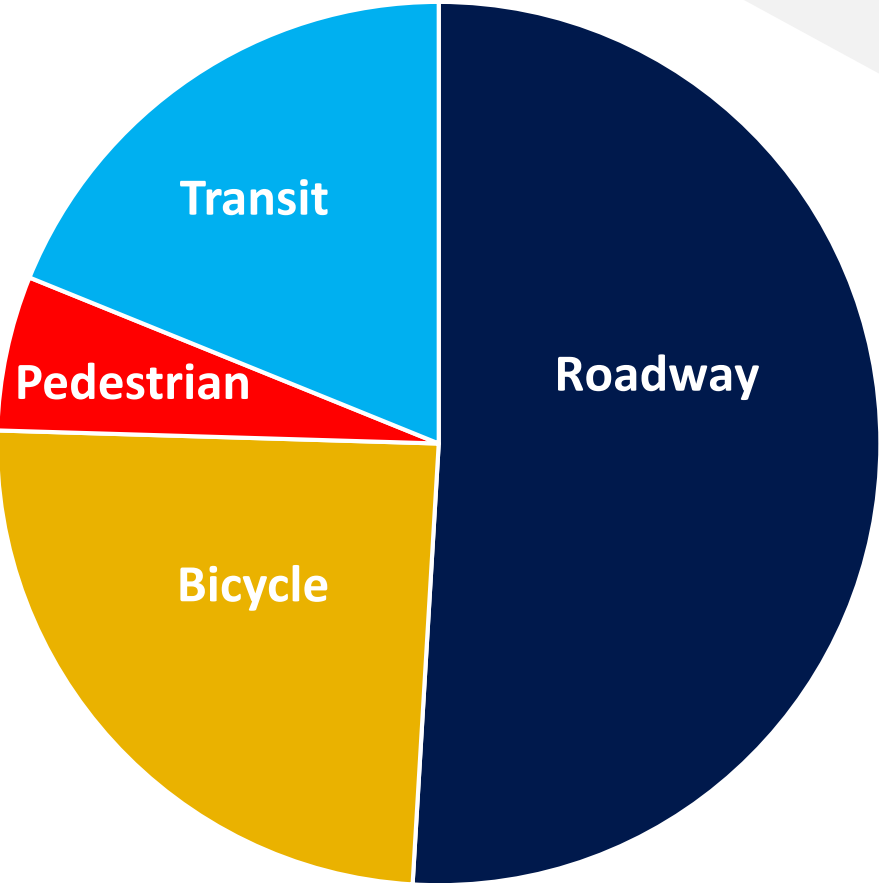
# Public Meetings

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EVALUATIONS

- Questionnaire administered for continuous improvement (goal in PIP is average 4.5 or higher)
- 5 questions asked, rating performance on scale 1 to 5 (1 not good, 5 great)
  - TIME OF DAY chosen to hold the meetings?
  - LOCATION chosen to hold the meetings?
  - Clarity and usefulness of the CONTENT presented at these meetings?
  - STYLE & PRESENTATION of materials presented at these meetings?
  - ELECTRONIC MEDIA developed for this project (Website, Metroquest, Facebook)?

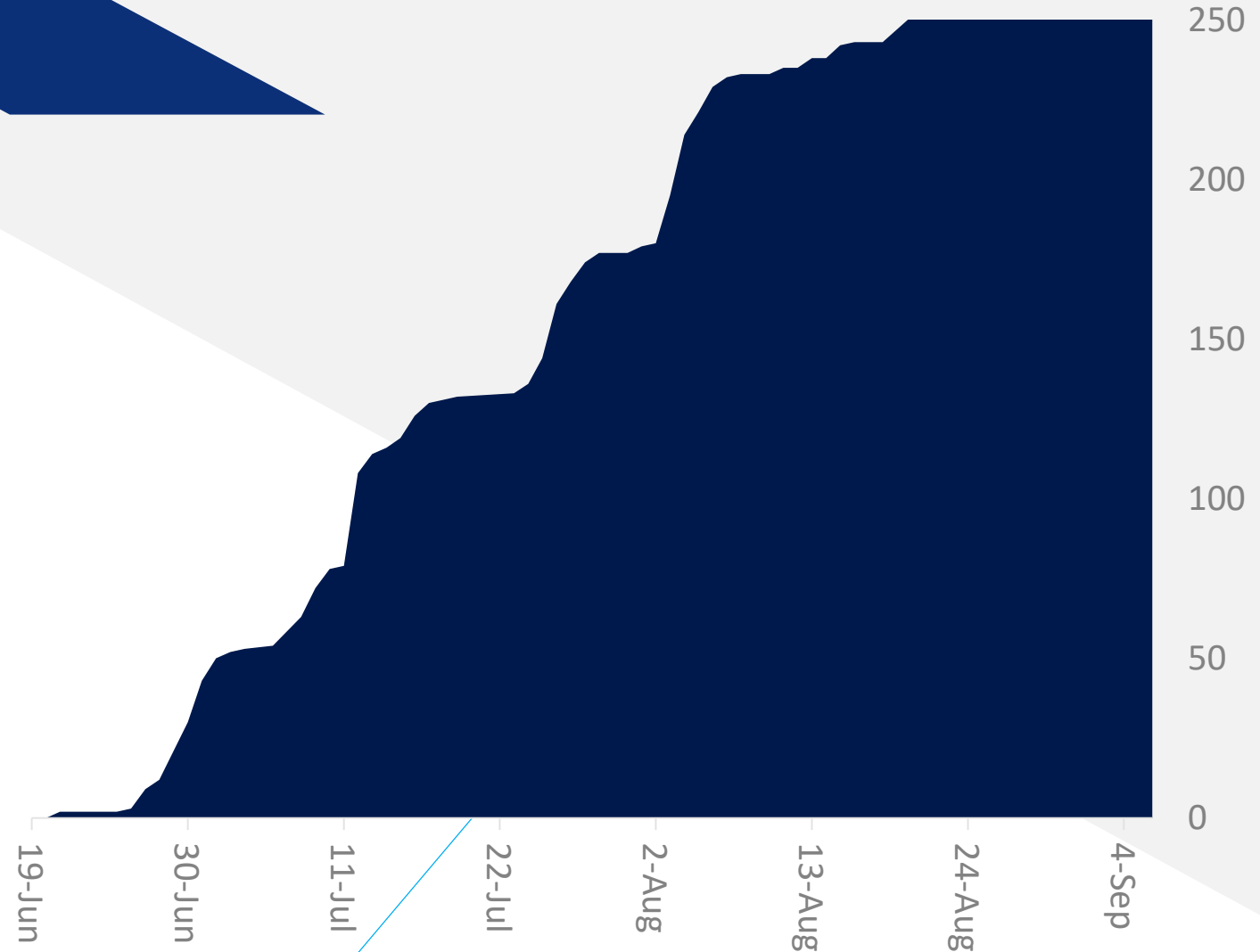


# Public Meetings Comments



# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

- Survey active 2.5 months
- 257 surveys completed
- 48% participated via mobile version
- 52% participated via web version
- Spikes in participation coincide with Facebook advertisement dates



# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

## WELCOME PAGE

Welcome

**We Need Your Input!**

The Ocala/Marion County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is currently developing the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (The Plan). The goal of this Plan is to create a transportation system to serve the needs of Marion County's residents and visitors

[Begin](#)

As part of our public outreach efforts, the Ocala/Marion TPO is seeking input through this survey to help guide Marion County's long term transportation needs

**TPO**  
Ocala • Marion County

1 WELCOME 2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 3 EXISTING CONDITIONS 4 PRIORITIES 5 STAY INVOLVED

[Help](#) [Privacy](#) [About MetroQuest](#)



# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

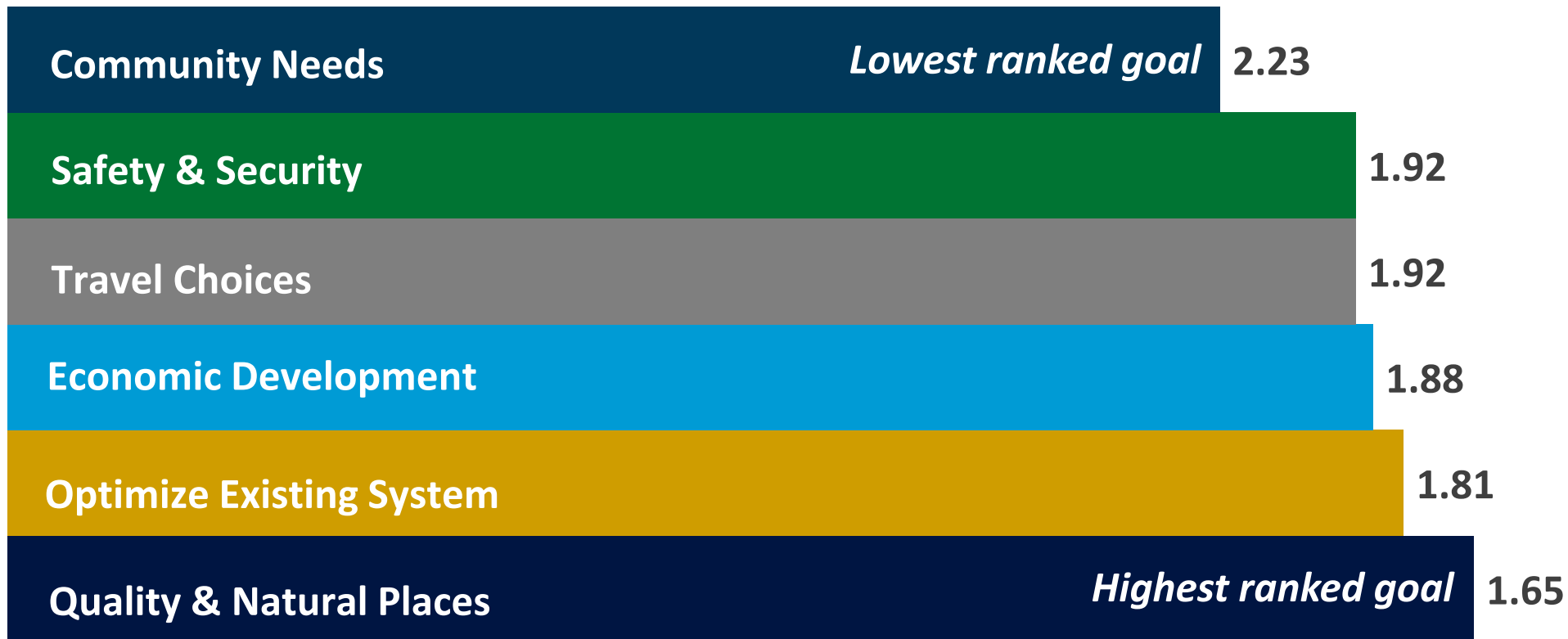
## RANKING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The screenshot shows the 'Goals and Objectives' step of a survey. The interface has a top navigation bar with steps 1-5: 1. WELCOME, 2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (active), 3. RANKING CONDITIONS, 4. PRIORITIES, 5. STAY INVOLVED. Below the navigation, there are buttons for 'What to do' and 'Next Task'. The main content area is titled 'Goals and Objectives' and contains a list of six goals: Community Needs, Safety & Security, Optimize Existing System, Economic Development, Quality & Natural Places, and Travel Choices. A dashed line is positioned above the first two items, with the text 'Order your top 2 items above this line' and arrows pointing up and down. To the right of the list, there is a text prompt: 'Tell us what goals and objectives are most important to you. Click on the Goal to view the associated objectives.' Below this, it says 'Please rank up to 5 items.' and includes a small graphic showing two items being dragged above a line. At the bottom of the list is a 'Suggest another' button. The footer contains links for 'Help', 'Privacy', and 'About MetroQuest'.

This is a close-up of the instruction box from the survey. It has a title bar 'Goals and Objectives' with a close button (X) on the right. Below the title bar, it says 'What to do'. The main text reads: 'Tell us what goals and objectives are most important to you. Click on the Goal to view the associated objectives.' Below this, it says 'Please rank up to 5 items.' At the bottom, there is a graphic showing two items being dragged above a line, with the text 'Please drag 2 of the items above the line in your preferred order.' To the right of the graphic are two buttons: 'Done' (with an X icon) and 'More' (with a right arrow icon).

# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

## AVERAGE GOAL RANKINGS



# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

**Existing Condition Rating**

What to do

Next Task

1 WELCOME

2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

4 PRIORITIES

5 STAY INVOLVED

**Driving Conditions**

For each of the EXISTING driving conditions, please provide your opinion of its rating from 1 to 5 stars.

Walking Conditions

Bicycling Conditions

Transit Conditions

General Driving Travel  
Ease of commuting to and from work or school or traveling for personal errands

Roadway Infrastructure  
Traffic signal timing and coordination, roadway conditions such as potholes, grooved pavement

Roadway Landscaping  
Trees, shrubbery, and other green features along roadways

Roadway Visibility  
Sight distance visibility, clarity of roadway signage

Roadway Safety  
Your feeling of personal safety when driving (dangerous roadways, intersections, crashes, etc.)

Help Privacy About MetroQuest

**Existing Condition Rating**

What to do

Help us understand the EXISTING conditions for all modes of transportation in Ocala/Marion County

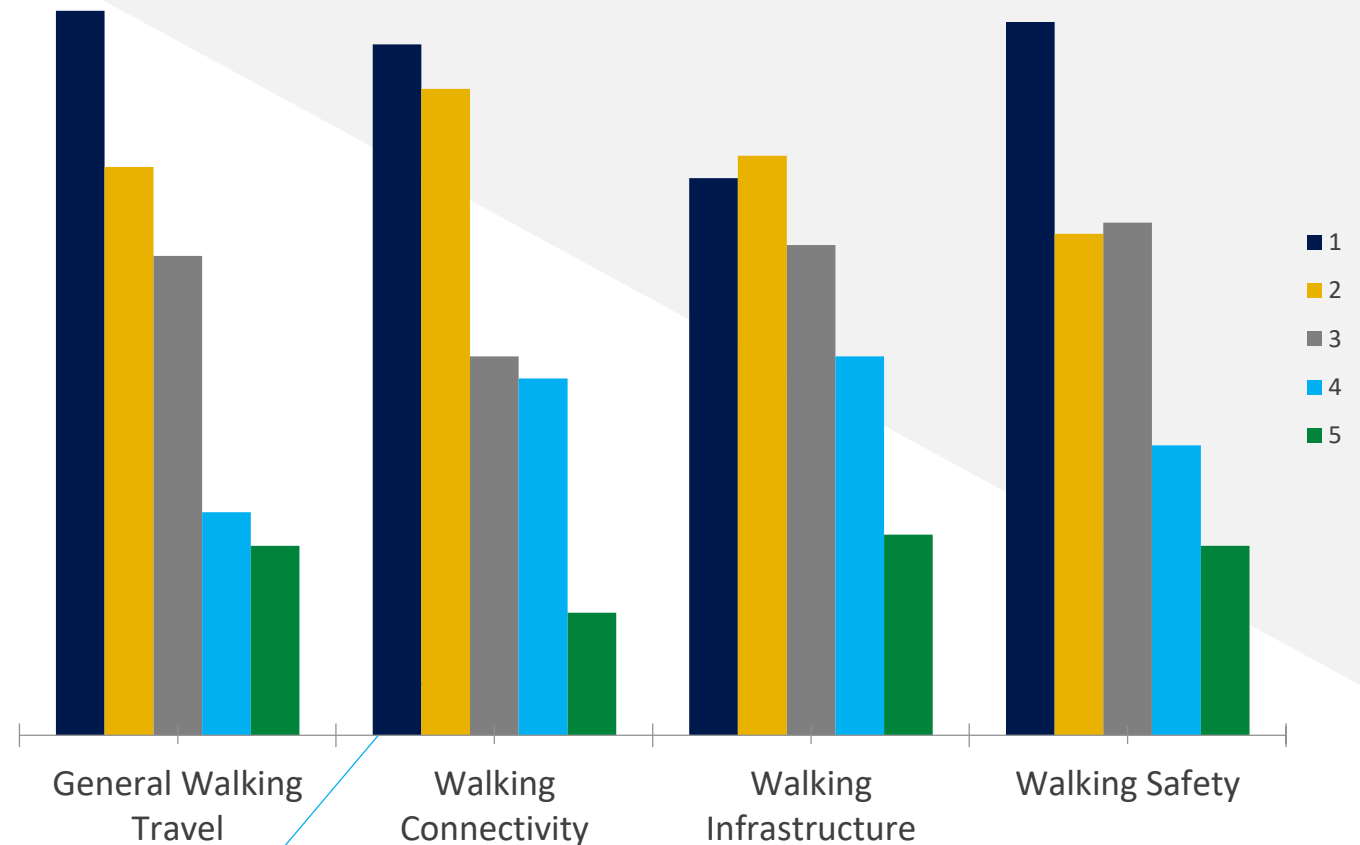
Please give a 1-5 star rating for 5 or more items.

Done More

# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

## EXISTING CONDITIONS - WALKING

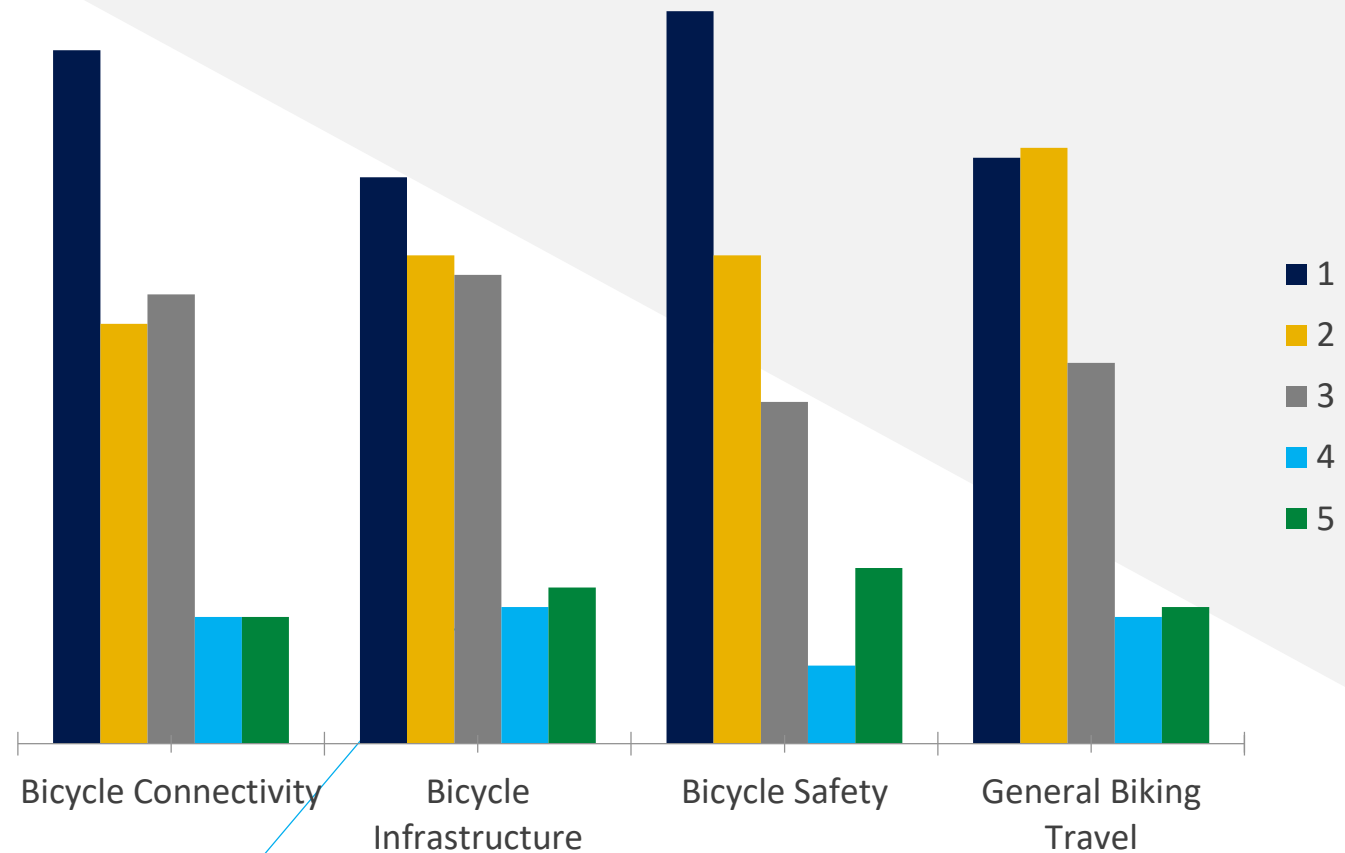
- Variables rated on a scale from 1 to 5
- Average 57% below average (1 or 2)
- Average 22% above average (4 or 5)
- Highest rated variable Walking Infrastructure (26% 4 or 5)
- Lowest rated variable is Walking Connectivity (61% 1 or 2)



# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

## EXISTING CONDITIONS - BICYCLING

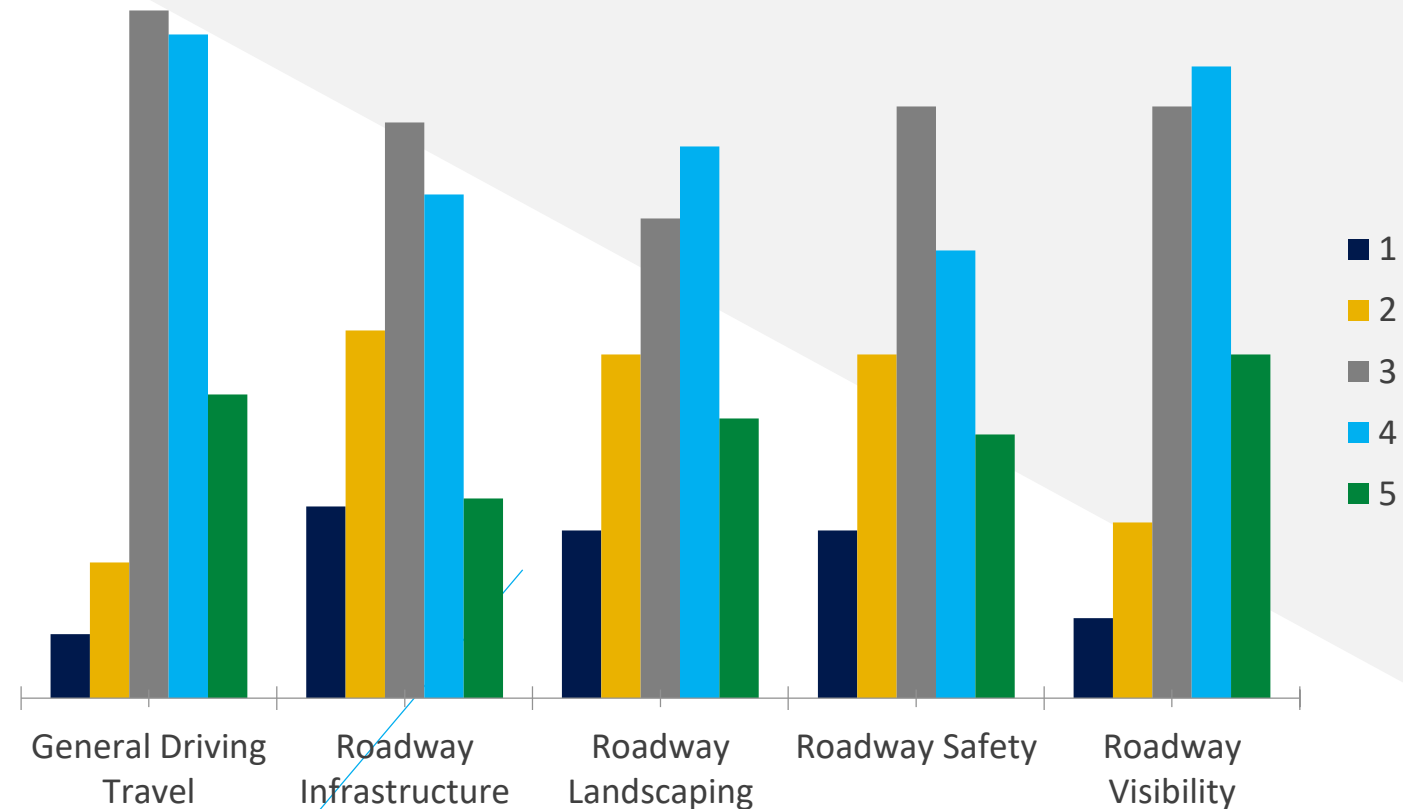
- Variables rated on a scale from 1 to 5
- Average 63% below average (1 or 2)
- Average 15% above average (4 or 5)
- Highest rated variable is Bicycle Infrastructure (16% 4 or 5)
- Lowest rated variable is Bicycle Safety (67% 1 or 2)



# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

## EXISTING CONDITIONS - DRIVING

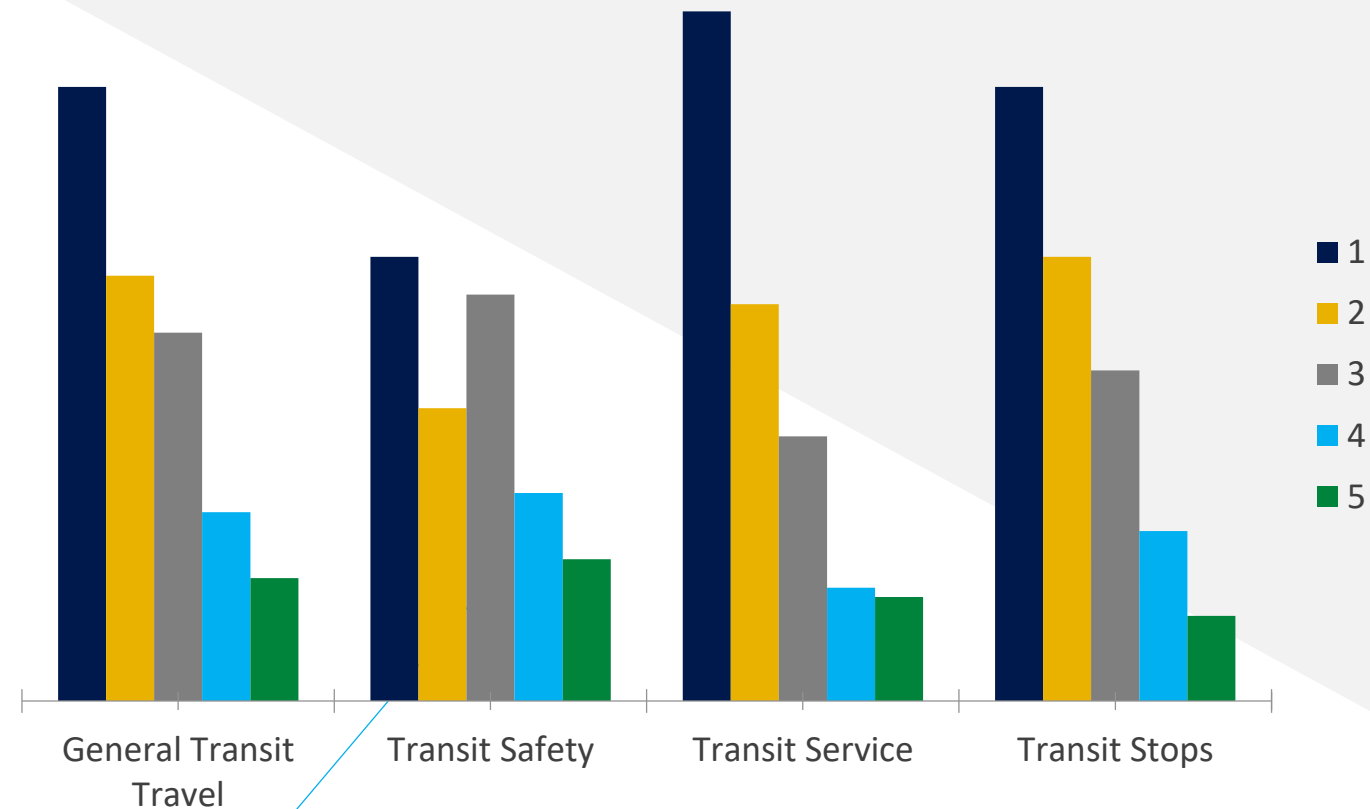
- Variables rated on a scale from 1 to 5
- Average 22% below average (1 or 2)
- Average 46% above average (4 or 5)
- Highest rated variables are General Driving Travel and Roadway Visibility (52-54% 4 or 5)
- Lowest rated variable is Roadway Infrastructure (30% 1 or 2)



# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

## EXISTING CONDITIONS - TRANSIT

- Variables rated on a scale from 1 to 5
- Average 61% below average (1 or 2)
- Average 18% above average (4 or 5)
- Highest rated variable Transit Safety (23% 4 or 5)
- Lowest rated variable is Transit Service (69% 1 or 2)



# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

## PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES

The screenshot displays the 'Transportation Priorities' survey page. The interface features a vertical navigation bar on the left with five steps: 1. WELCOME (yellow), 2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (orange), 3. EXISTING CONDITIONS (blue, currently selected), 4. PRIORITIES (grey), and 5. STAY INVOLVED (yellow). The main content area is titled 'Transportation Priorities' and includes a 'What to do' button with a question mark and a 'Next Task' button with a right arrow. Below the title, a dashed line is followed by the instruction 'Order your top 5 items above this line' with upward arrows. A list of eight transportation improvement options is shown in rounded rectangular buttons: Freight Movement, Improve Bike & Pedestrian, Improve Existing Transit, New Bus Routes, Trails, Local Roadways, New Roadways, and Existing Roadways. To the right of the list, a text box asks: 'Please rank the importance of the following improvements for meeting Ocala/Marion County's FUTURE transportation system and economic development needs.' Below this text is a visual instruction showing three items being dragged above a dashed line, with the text: 'Please drag 5 of the items above the line in your preferred order.' At the bottom of the list is a 'Suggest another' button with a speech bubble icon. At the bottom of the page are links for 'Help', 'Privacy', and 'About MetroQuest'. A floating window on the right side of the screen mirrors the survey content, including the title 'Transportation Priorities', the 'What to do' button, the ranking instruction, the list of items, the visual drag instruction, and 'Done' and 'More' buttons at the bottom.

WELCOME

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

EXISTING CONDITIONS

PRIORITIES

### Transportation Priorities

What to do

Next Task

STAY INVOLVED

Order your top 5 items above this line

- Freight Movement
- Improve Bike & Pedestrian
- Improve Existing Transit
- New Bus Routes
- Trails
- Local Roadways
- New Roadways
- Existing Roadways

Please rank the importance of the following improvements for meeting Ocala/Marion County's FUTURE transportation system and economic development needs.

Please drag 5 of the items above the line in your preferred order.

Suggest another

Help Privacy About MetroQuest

Transportation Priorities  
What to do

Please rank the importance of the following improvements for meeting Ocala/Marion County's FUTURE transportation system and economic development needs

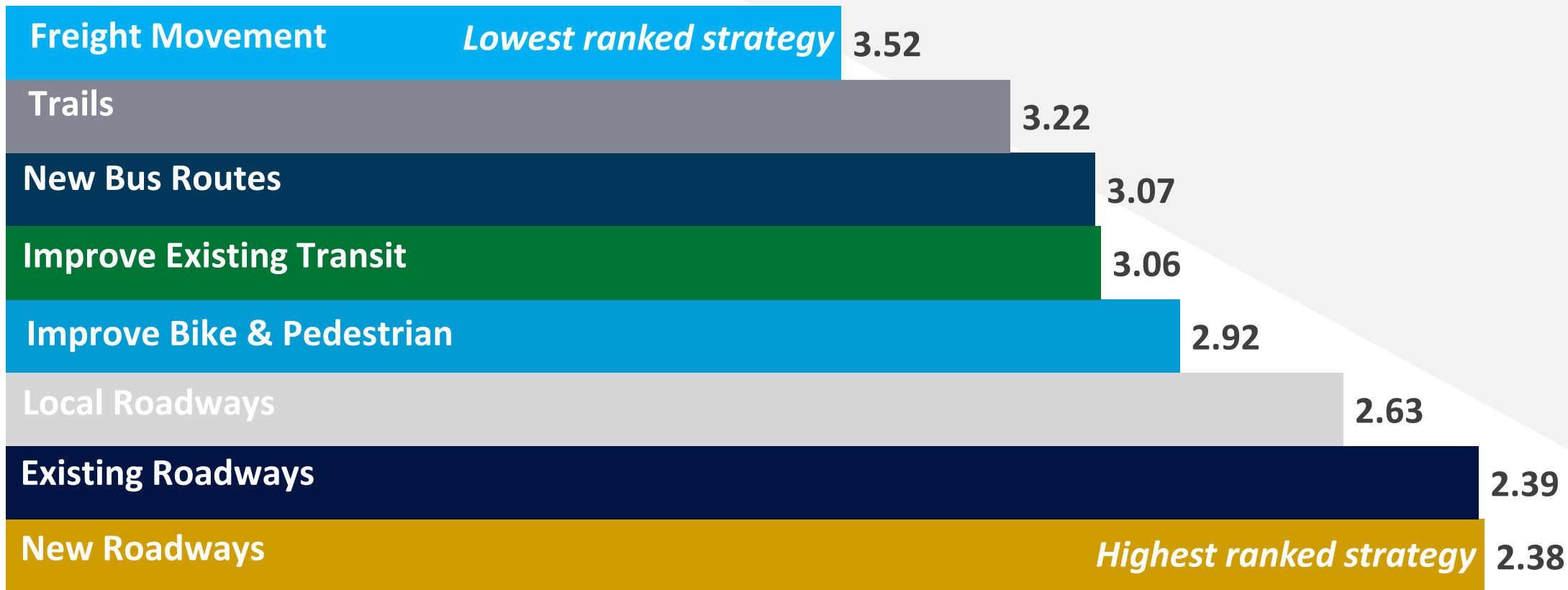
Please drag 5 of the items above the line in your preferred order.

Done More

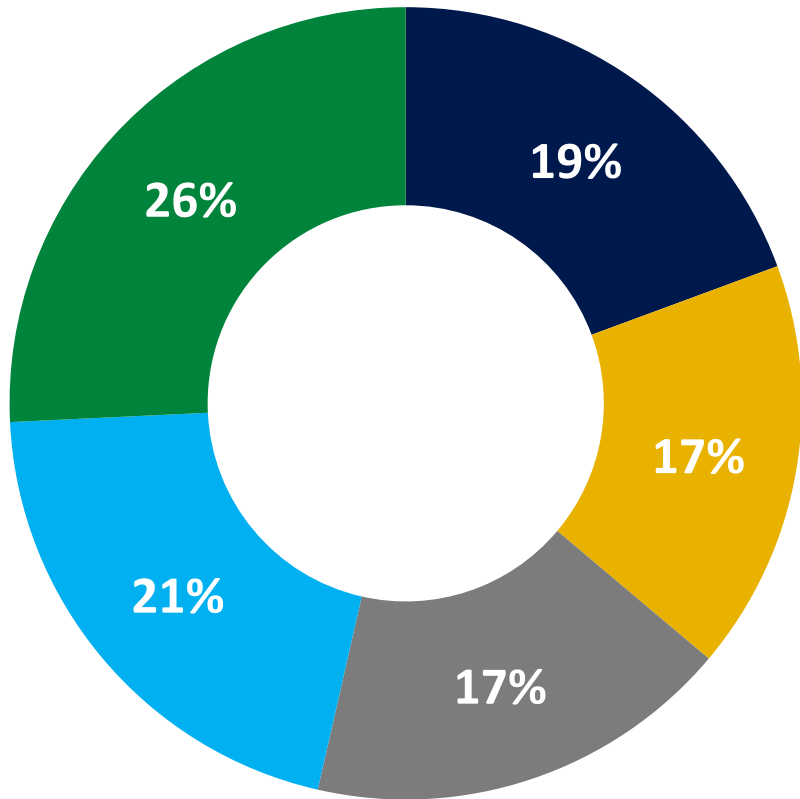


# On-Line Survey (Metroquest)

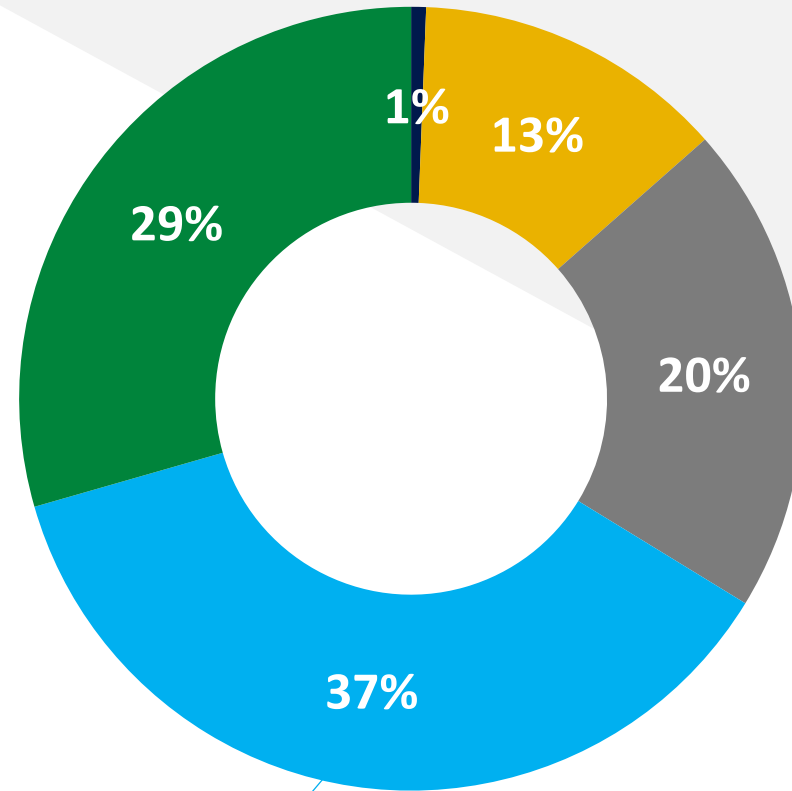
PROJECT PRIORITIES – AVERAGE RANK



# Metroquest Demographics - Age



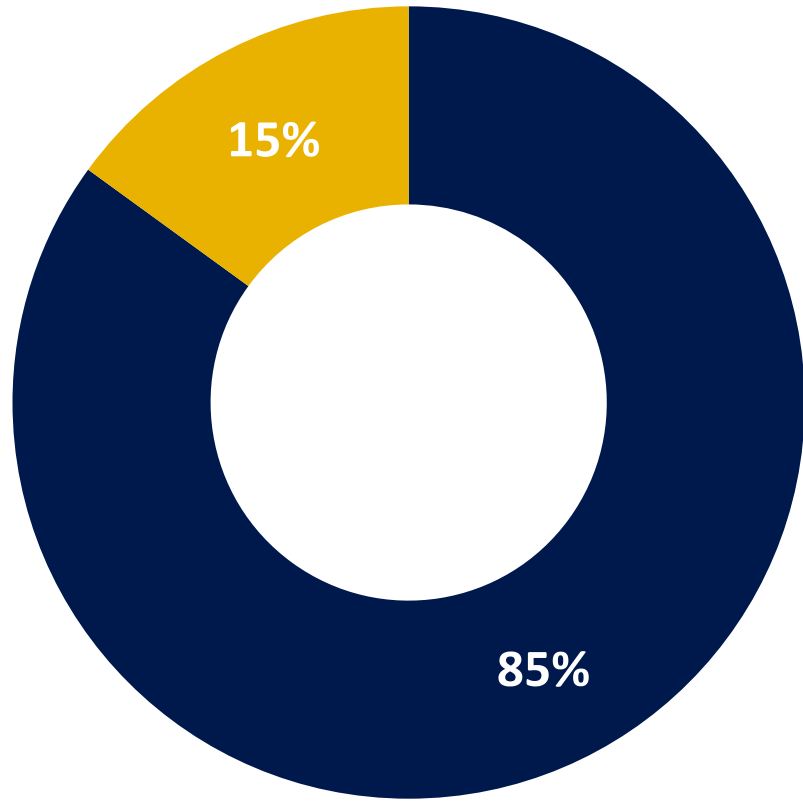
US Census 2010



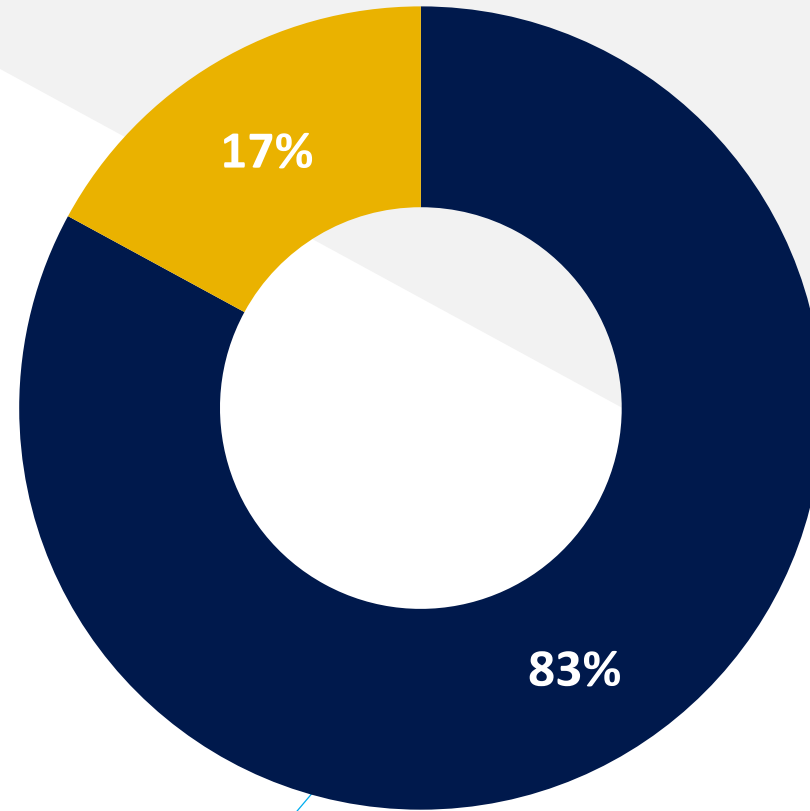
Metroquest Survey

- 18 or younger
- 19 to 35
- 36 to 50
- 51 to 65
- 65 or older

# Metroquest Demographics - Race



US Census 2010



Metroquest

- White Caucasian
- Non-white

# Facebook 2045 LRTP page

- 437 page likes
- 215 engagements for top posts
- 58,788 impressions
- 2,500 average reach for top posts



122 clicks  
41 engagements  
3,636 people reached



# Goal Weighting

Group Exercise to Weight Goals

# 2045 LRTP DRAFT Goals

- Promote **travel choices** that are multimodal and accessible
- Provide efficient transportation that promotes **economic development**
- Focus on improving **safety and security** of the transportation system
- Ensure the transportation system meets the **needs of the community**
- Protect **natural resources** and create **quality places**
- **Optimize and preserve** existing infrastructure



# Goal Weighting

## WHAT IT IS AND WHY WE DO IT

- LRTP goals rooted in FHWA Planning Factors
- Not all goals are equally relevant to all communities
- Allows nuanced project prioritization approach



# Goal Weighting

## EXERCISE

- Complete a matrix choosing more important goal of all 2-goal comparisons

A							

B. Economic Development  
 C. Safety & Security  
 D. Community Needs  
 E. Quality & Natural Places  
 F. Optimize Existing System

A. Travel Choices  
 B. Economic Development  
 C. Safety & Security  
 D. Community Needs  
 E. Quality & Natural Places

A     B     C     D     E     F



# Goal Weighting

## EXERCISE

- Complete a matrix choosing more important goal of all 2-goal comparisons
- Add number of times a goal was more important (A)

						B. Economic Development
						C. Safety & Security
						D. Community Needs
						E. Quality & Natural Places
						F. Optimize Existing System
	A	C	D	E	A	A. Travel Choices
		C	D	E	F	B. Economic Development
			C	C	C	C. Safety & Security
				E	D	D. Community Needs
					E	E. Quality & Natural Places
2	0	5	3	4	1	
A	B	C	D	E	F	

# Goal Weighting

## EXERCISE

- Complete a matrix choosing more important goal of all 2-goal comparisons
- Add number of times a goal was more important
- Divide each goal “score” by 15 (number of combinations)
- Results represent relative weight of each goal

						B. Economic Development
						C. Safety & Security
						D. Community Needs
						E. Quality & Natural Places
						F. Optimize Existing System
A	C	D	E	A		A. Travel Choices
	C	D	E	F		B. Economic Development
		C	C	C		C. Safety & Security
			E	D		D. Community Needs
				E		E. Quality & Natural Places

13%	0%	33%	20%	27%	7%
A	B	C	D	E	F

# Goal Weighting

## APPLICATION

- Score each project against each metric
- Project scores normalized so all projects scored relative to other projects
- Multiply normalized score by goal weight for respective metrics to get weighted score
- Process repeated for every metric, results aggregated for total score

Projects	Safety Score	Normalized Score	Safety Weight	Weighted Safety Score
Project 1	0.5	0.05 (5%)	33%	2 (0.02)
Project 2	11.0	1.0 (100%)		33 (0.33)
Project 3	8.0	0.73 (73%)		24 (0.24)
Project 4	3.5	0.32 (32%)		11 (0.11)
Project 5	9.0	0.82 (82%)		27 (0.27)

# **Vision Statement**

*Develop a transportation system that provides safe, convenient, and accessible options to support the built environment and preserve the natural environment **with a focus on system preservation***

*2040 Vision*

*2045 Addition*

The background features several diagonal lines and shapes. A prominent light gray diagonal band runs from the top-left towards the bottom-right. To the left, there is a solid blue trapezoidal shape. Above it, a thin gray horizontal bar is partially visible. In the top-right corner, a dark blue trapezoidal shape is partially cut off. A thin light blue diagonal line runs from the bottom-right towards the center.

## Next Steps

# Next Steps

- November TAC/CAC with Goal Weighting results
- Identify goals/objectives evaluation criteria (metrics)
- Needs Plan development



# OCALA MARION 2045




**RACING TOWARD**  
**A CONNECTED FUTURE**



## Long Range Transportation Plan Update

### Thank You!

 Derrick Harris – Project Manager,  
Ocala Marion TPO  
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 [ocalamariontpo.org](http://ocalamariontpo.org)

 Franco Saraceno – PM,  
Kittelton & Associates, Inc.  
 813.556.6972  
 [fsaraceno@kittelton.com](mailto:fsaraceno@kittelton.com)

# Ocala Marion 2045

**RACING TOWARD**  
**A CONNECTED FUTURE**



## Goal Weighting Exercise Instructions

1. Complete the matrix by choosing the more important goal of the 2-goal comparisons
2. Add the number of times a goal was more important
3. Divide each goal "score" by 15 (number of combinations)
4. Results represent relative weight of each goal

	<b>B. Economic Development</b>	<b>C. Safety &amp; Security</b>	<b>D. Community Needs</b>	<b>E. Quality &amp; Natural Places</b>	<b>F. Optimize Existing System</b>	
						<b>A. Travel Choices</b>
						<b>B. Economic Development</b>
						<b>C. Safety &amp; Security</b>
						<b>D. Community Needs</b>
						<b>E. Quality &amp; Natural Places</b>

#      A                  B                  C                  D                  E                  F      Report number of times each goal is more important

%      A                  B                  C                  D                  E                  F      Divide number above by 15 for each relative goal weight





**October 1, 2019**

**TO: TAC Members**

**FROM: Derrick Harris, TPO Assistant Director**

**RE: Trail Safety, Connectivity, and Facility Plan**

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TPO entered into a contractual agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates in July of 2018 for services related to a Trail Safety, Connectivity, and Facility Plan. The intent of the plan was to analyze existing trail systems throughout the TPO Planning Area, and to assess how they can be improved upon. Therefore, Kimley-Horn has spent the better part of a year analyzing the existing trail systems in our area, and has formulated those into the plan contained herein.

Some of the major takeaways from this plan include, adding refuges such as shelters along the existing trails, providing better connectivity, and adding signage along the trails to indicate how far users are from towns, refuges, restrooms, parking, etc...

If you have any questions prior to the upcoming meeting, please contact our office at (352) 438-2632.

# Regional Trails Facilities Plan

*A guide for connections and facility improvements in Marion County*



Kimley»»Horn

October 2019



## Executive Summary

In recent years, Marion County has made paved multi-use trails a priority because of the positive correlation to recreation, transportation, health, and economic development opportunities. In working steadily to provide these facilities, the County now has one of the most extensive and well-known continuous trails in Florida, known as the Cross Florida Greenway paved trail. The Greenway alone has attracted well over three million visitors a year for the last four years, many of which take advantage of the trail<sup>1</sup>. This trail has effectively begun to bring these opportunities to the residents of Marion County, and has the potential to be a major asset in providing economic opportunities through continued development and coordination. Long-term, continued coordination among stakeholders including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Marion County, local municipalities, and the Ocala-Marion County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), has allowed trail efforts to mature quickly in a short period of time. As the paved trail is extended, and eventually incorporated into regional trail systems such as the Heart of Florida Loop, these benefits associated with multi-use trails could have a significant impact in Marion County.



As existing projects are implemented, and new projects are planned for the future extension of the trail, a strong focus on **safety and connectivity** will be imperative to maintaining a successful trail system that accommodates different types of users from all over Florida, the United States, and other countries. This Regional Trails Facilities Plan (Plan) makes recommendations based on these two essential elements to ensure the quality of the Cross

Florida Greenway paved trail as a piece of the larger regional trails system. These recommendations are made up of specific suggestions, including:



- ◆ **Make key connections between populated areas and the regional trail system**
- ◆ **Provide safety and facility recommendations as more facilities are constructed and user numbers increase**
- ◆ **Provide appropriate information and amenities to trail users**

<sup>1</sup> Total Attendance Data for Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenways State Recreation and Conservation Area. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2019

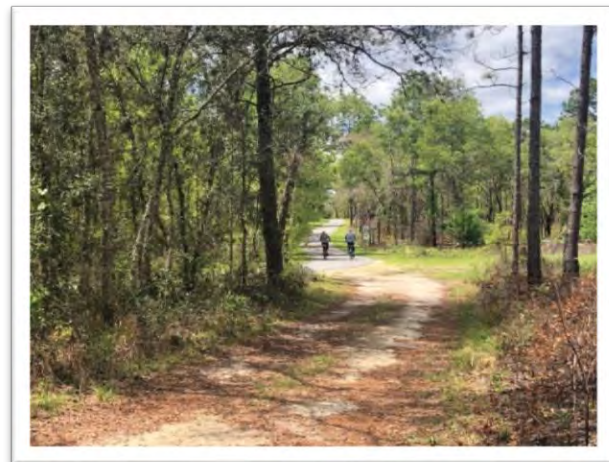


The Cross Florida Greenway paved trail and other planned multi-use trails in the County have the potential to improve the quality of life for Marion County residents and the quality of the experience that it offers its visitors. Application of the recommendations outlined in this Plan to ensure safe, well-maintained connections will ease the burden of accessing the trails and will encourage users of all different skill levels to experience the network and get a better sense of everything Marion County has to offer.

## What's going on in Marion County?

### *Existing Conditions*

Outdoor recreation is highly popular in Marion County due to its favorable climate, flat terrain, and abundant conservation lands. Although Marion County has the title of the horse capital of the world, cycling has become an increasingly popular activity and key stakeholders such as the Ocala Marion County TPO and FDEP have taken note. The County has been fortunate to have highly involved, collaborative stakeholders champion projects that focus heavily on cycling, which has led to a significant County-wide network. Projects are steadily being planned, funded,



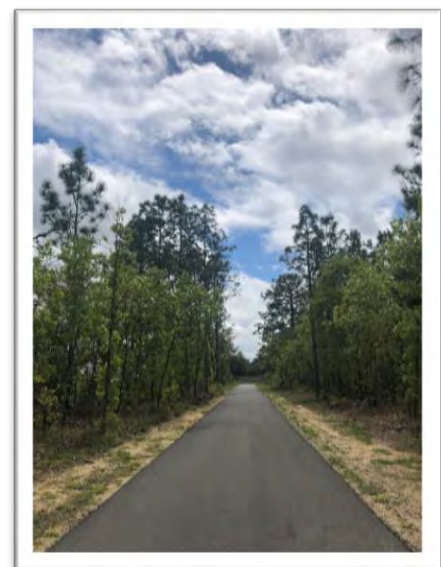
and implemented to continue adding to the network and increase the overall connectivity within Marion County between notable cities such as Belleview, Dunnellon, and Ocala. These cities have also made cycling and other multi-modal transportation options a priority by including them in their planning efforts to ensure a focused, effective approach in line with that of the County's when implementing multi-modal projects.

Improvements to the bicycling network in the County include on-street facilities for bicyclists, and notably, a paved multi-use trail that has been constructed on the Cross

Florida Greenway, which traverses a large portion of the County. These facilities, along with other multi-modal and safety improvements play a huge role in the viability of a strong and reliable bicycle network in the County, and the Cross Florida Greenway serves as the foundation of it. As coordination and projects continue to be planned and funded, it is important to recognize the significance of the Greenway to the network as well as the potential of smaller roadway projects that will connect people to the trail via safe and accessible routes. Existing paved trails and bicycle facilities in Marion County are shown in **Figure 1**.

### **CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY**

The Cross Florida Greenway was originally intended to be a sea-level ship canal in the 1930s, then the Cross Florida Barge Canal in the 1960s, which would have been a commercial shipping channel that cut through the state of



# Regional Trails Facilities Plan



Florida. Support for the canal was based on avoiding dangerous travel around the cape of Florida and providing a shorter route for trade between port cities in the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast of the United States. Public and political support for the canal varied over hundreds of years, and supporters throughout the time cited the importance of the canal as an economic resource, a national security asset, and even a New Deal Project<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, critics highlighted that the canal would disrupt the aquifers and waterways in Florida, and damage to local natural environments would be irreversible. While significant funding and efforts went into design and engineering during several different iterations of the canal throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the canal would never be completed, as the environmental costs of the project would be too far-reaching and unpredictable.

Beginning in the 1960s, famed naturalist Marjorie Harris Carr Cross made the canal a center issue for her environmentalism and worked tirelessly to kill the barge canal project. While significant funding and efforts went into design and engineering to make the canal a reality, it was eventually halted by President Richard Nixon in the 1971, and officially deauthorized and



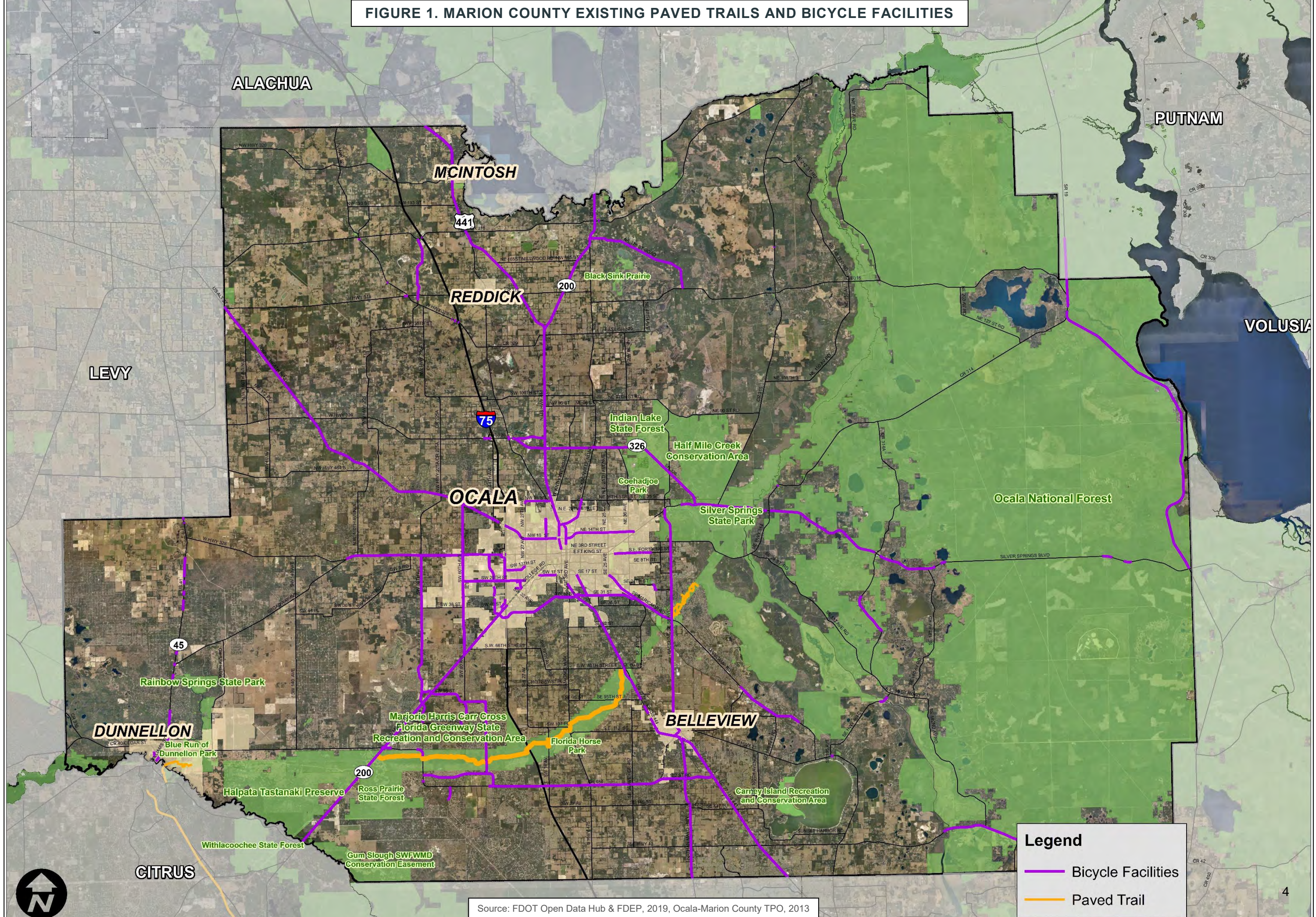
transferred to the State of Florida in 1990 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 1998, the Cross Florida Greenway was named in honor of Mrs. Carr, providing recreational opportunities for the public on virtually unchanged environmental lands. Today, the Cross Florida Greenway is a state park made up of roughly 70,000 acres and offers a wide variety of recreational activities while also continuing to conserve ecologically significant and diverse lands.

Interestingly enough, the Cross Florida Barge Canal was originally intended as an investment to foster economic growth in the central region of Florida, improving

maritime trade efficiency and bringing traffic that would pay a hefty fee for using the canal. While the Cross Florida Greenway certainly serves a different purpose now than originally intended, the economic development opportunity associated with this land remains. The Cross Florida Greenway offers more recreational activities than any other park or conservation area in the State, drawing millions of visitors every year to the park and Marion County. With the addition of the multi-use trail to certain sections of the Greenway in recent years, the park has become the foundation of a dynamic bicycle network in Marion County as well as the region. Although parts of the Cross Florida Greenway trail are in various stages of completion (built, planned, designed), the trail currently offers several miles of paved trail through the greenway. Projects are being considered that would bring the Cross Florida Greenway paved trail more solidly into the regional trail network by connecting to other trail systems in the area such as the Withlacoochee State Trail, the Withlacoochee Bay Trail, the Coast-to-Coast Trail, and the East Coast Greenway. Through these connections, Marion County would be solidly integrated into the cross-county Heart of Florida Loop. These trails are shown in **Figure 2**.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.floridastateparks.org/learn/history-cross-florida-greenway>

FIGURE 1. MARION COUNTY EXISTING PAVED TRAILS AND BICYCLE FACILITIES



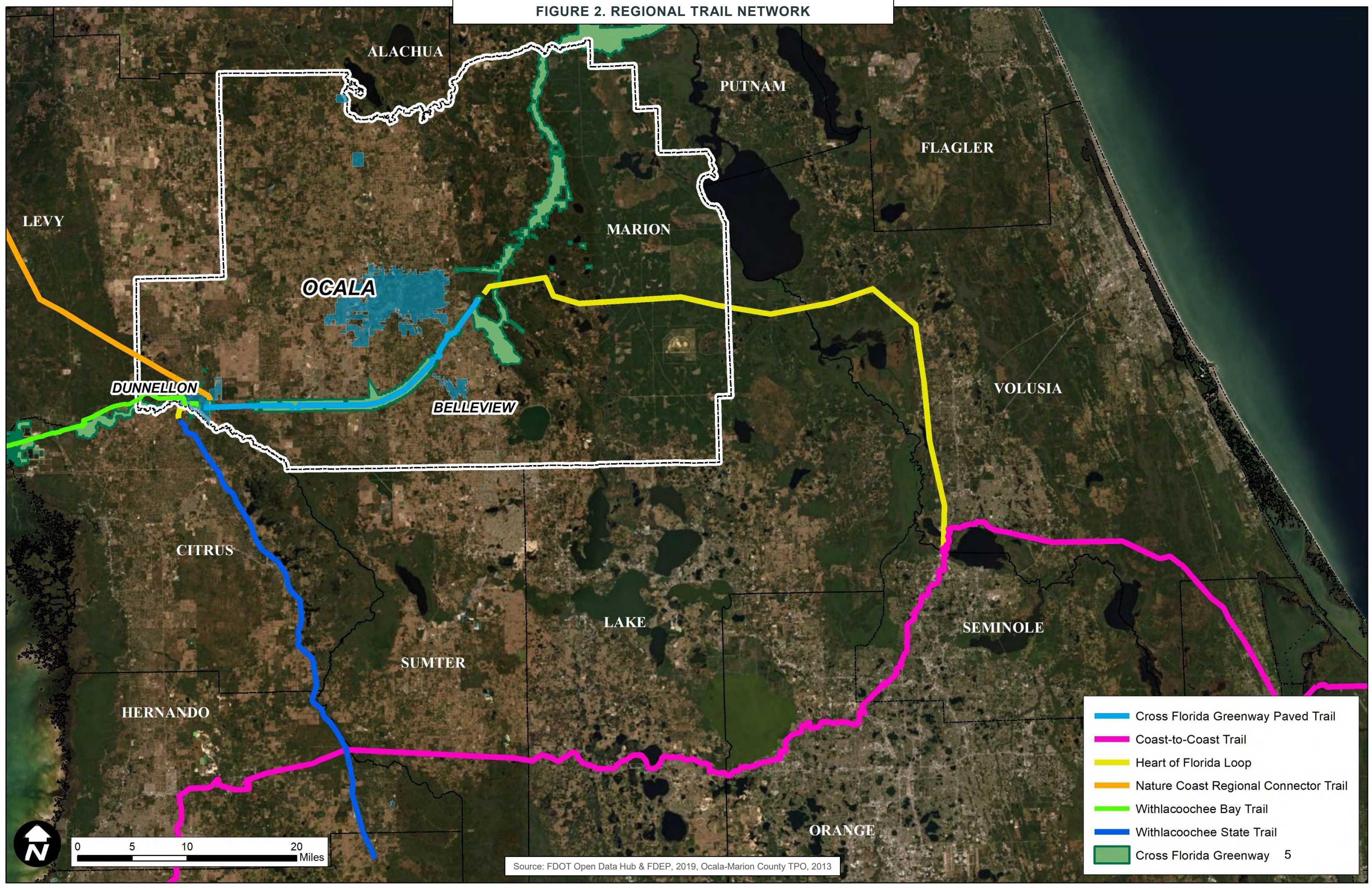
**Legend**

- Bicycle Facilities
- Paved Trail

Source: FDOT Open Data Hub & FDEP, 2019, Ocala-Marion County TPO, 2013



FIGURE 2. REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORK



- Cross Florida Greenway Paved Trail
- Coast-to-Coast Trail
- Heart of Florida Loop
- Nature Coast Regional Connector Trail
- Withlacoochee Bay Trail
- Withlacoochee State Trail
- Cross Florida Greenway 5

0 5 10 20 Miles

Source: FDOT Open Data Hub & FDEP, 2019, Ocala-Marion County TPO, 2013



## PLANNED AND COMMITTED PROJECTS

The success of the Cross Florida Greenway paved trail and a well-connected system made up of bicycle facilities and multi-use trails has led to the pursuit of several key projects throughout the County. The undertaking of these projects is significant as it continues adding to the network at a quick pace and has kept the community excited and motivated about cycling opportunities. There are several projects that are in various stages of planning, design and funding within Marion County and are being led by different agencies and organizations, such as FDOT and Marion County. These projects will contribute significantly to a regional trail network made up of the Coast to Coast Trail, the Nature Coast Trail, the Withlacoochee State Trail, and the Heart of Florida Loop, which are shown in **Figure 2**. While several of these projects are primarily related to roadway improvements and addressing increasing capacity, they are significant because bicycle facilities are being included to supplement the growing bicycle network. Additional multi-use paved trails through natural areas in Marion County such as Indian Lake State Park and Silver Springs State Park that will connect to the Cross Florida Greenway and other existing facilities are also planned. Projects that are already underway or are planned, funded, or committed are described in more detail in **Figure 3**.





**FIGURE 3. PLANNED AND COMMITTED PROJECTS SIGNIFICANT TO NETWORK**

Project	Type	Description	Committed?	Phase
SW 49 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Multi-phase roadway improvements	12-foot multi-use path	Yes	Portions under construction, other in design with construction funded in next couple of years
Marion Oaks Manor Extension	Multi-phase roadway improvements	On-street bicycle lanes or 12-foot multi-use path	Yes	Preliminary Engineering
NW/SW 80 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Multi-phase roadway improvements	12-foot multi-use path	Yes	Funded for Design FY 2020, portions funded for construction
SR 326 (From .03 miles of NW 11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue to SR 40)	Resurfacing – FDOT	7-foot on-street bike lane		
SR 200 (CR 484 to SW 38 <sup>th</sup> Ct.)	Resurfacing – FDOT	7-foot on-street bike lane	Yes	In Construction
Osceola Linear Park	Multi-modal improvements	Addition of multi-modal facilities and recreational space along Osceola Avenue	Yes	Portions in Construction
CR 484 Pennsylvania Avenue	Multi-modal Improvements	Multi-use trail to connect Dunnellon to Cross Florida Greenway and eventually, the Heart of Florida Loop		
SR 40 Black Bear Trail Gap	Trail Project	Multi-use trail that will run parallel to SR 40 to connect Silver Springs State Park to the Black Bear Trail		
Black Bear Trail	Trail Project	Multi-use trail to connect Silver Spring State Park to Ocala National Forest through a 27-mile trail	Yes	Funded for PD&E FY 2020
Indian Lake Trail from Silver Springs State Park to Indian Lakes Trailhead	Trail Project	Multi-use trail to connect these two parks	Yes	Funded for Design FY 2021
“Cannon-Dunnellon” Segment	Trail Project	Multi-use trail from east end of Withlacoochee Trail at Bridges Road to Pruitt Trailhead		
Nature Coast Trail Connector	Trail Project	Future regional trail system to connect City of Tallahassee to the City of Dunnellon		
Silver Springs Bikeway	Trail Project	Multi-phase project to connect Ocala to levee system near Lake County		
Silver Springs to Hawthorne Trail	Trail Project	Multi-use trail to connect Silver Springs Bikeway to Gainesville Hawthorn State Trail in Alachua County		
Silver Springs Bikeway to Downtown Connector	Trail Project	Multi-use trail to connect Downtown Ocala to Silver Springs Bikeway	Yes	Funded for Design FY 2020
Silver Springs State Park to SE 64 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Trailhead	Trail Project	Multi-use Trail from Silver Springs State Park Entrance to the SE 64 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Trailhead		
Pruitt Trail	Trail Project	Multi-use trail to connect Dunnellon and the existing Cross Florida Greenway paved trail	Yes	Funded for Construction FY 2021
Belleview to Greenway Connector	Trail Project	Multi-use trail to connect Belleview to Cross Florida Greenway along US 441	Yes	Included in FDOT resurfacing project FY 2020
Watula Avenue and NE 8 <sup>th</sup> Road Trail	Trail Project	Multi-use trail connecting the Osceola Trail and Tuscawilla Park to bike lanes along CR 200A		
Santos to Baseline Trail	Trail Project	Multi-use trail to connect the Cross Florida Greenway paved trail.		SunTrail Application by FDEP



## *What does Marion County want to achieve?*

Marion County is growing and is expected to see higher populations and development in the next several years, with a projected growth rate of 24.4% by the year 2030<sup>3</sup>. Because of this expected growth, harnessing the unique assets associated with trails as a means to increased revenue and earning potential for residents is critical. Safe connections to and from the trails was also highlighted as an important element in spurring economic development and as a



means for providing safe opportunities for residents to get outside, exercise and enjoy the trail. In creating this trail system and joining the regional network, stakeholders and the public were interested in providing facilities that encourage residents to use them, as well as attract visitors to Marion County for extended, overnight trips. There is also significant potential to improve the overall health of Marion County residents through further trail development, which not only promotes healthy communities but piques the interest of health organizations and agencies as potential partners.

Input was gathered from stakeholders through one-on-one meetings and discussions in order to get a better understanding of the current conditions of the trail and what would be feasible for the future. Stakeholders included local municipalities, trail enthusiasts including bike shop owners, equestrian representatives and state agencies. Public outreach was gathered through a public workshop on April 25, 2019 at the Ocala Police Department. The purpose was to gather thoughts and opinions on potential projects, present signage opportunities, address safety concerns with residents, and interact with the public. There were opportunities for participants to express their interest in specific projects through a dot-voting system, which influenced project prioritization in this Plan. This feedback from the public is further discussed in **Appendix A**.

## *Achieving common goals through this plan*

The purpose of this plan is to consider current conditions related to a regional trail network in Marion County and make recommendations to continue to improve these conditions. Marion County's developing trail network is largely either constructed or committed, marking a significant achievement in providing outdoor recreation and gaining momentum in creating economic opportunities. As the trail is extended, it is critical that stakeholders pay particular attention to the following goals that were highlighted during public and stakeholder outreach:

- ◆ **Make key connections between populated areas and the regional trail system**
- ◆ **Provide safety and facility recommendations as more facilities are constructed and user numbers increase**
- ◆ **Provide appropriate information and amenities to trail users**

Using these goals, recommendations were formulated to provide guidance through specific actionable items related to **connections, safety, and trail design** in Marion County. These recommendations are outlined in further detail below.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/infographics/what-will-floridas-ocala-and-the-villages-look-like-in-2030-infographic/>



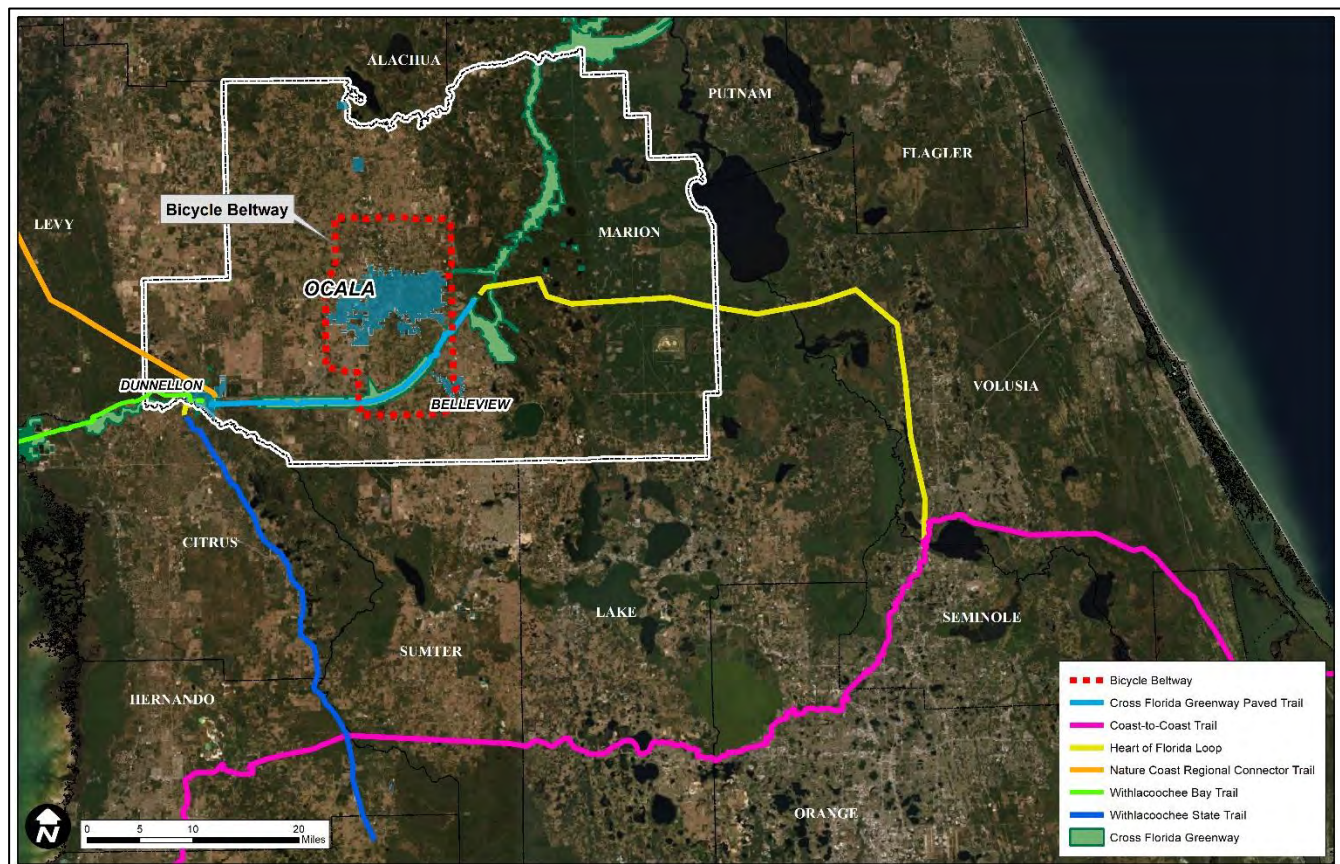
## Project Vision

### *Regional Connectivity: The Bicycle Beltway*

In making recommendations that will improve bicycling conditions and facilities related to trails in Marion County, a project vision was developed that included elements such as connectivity, safety, and quality. Recommendations should be focused on connecting communities and the existing Cross Florida Greenway, and making the trail and other facilities within the County easily accessible to as many people as possible. The Bicycle Beltway, originally proposed in the 2035 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for Ocala-Marion County, exemplifies the kind of connectivity that this Plan seeks to promote and create in areas throughout the County. The Bicycle Bikeway is a proposed loop of designated bicycle facilities around the city of Ocala and Marion County. This Beltway is significant to the Regional Trail conversation because it offers connectivity opportunities to many of the developed areas of Marion County, and offers several opportunities for extended trips within and outside of the County, as shown in **Figure 4**. It also offers a range of facilities for every skill level of cyclist, from multi-use trails to on-street bicycle lanes.

Because the Bicycle Beltway is such a significant asset to the region, all projects proposed in this plan either connect directly to the beltway or connect to a facility that will provide a safe route to it. Currently, several roadways that connect to the Bicycle Beltway already provide bicycle facilities.

**FIGURE 4. THE BICYCLE BELTWAY IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT**



# Regional Trails Facilities Plan



The following roadways associated with the Bicycle Beltway already have bicycle facilities, or facilities are planned:

- ◆ Baseline/SE 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Bicycle Lanes from Maricamp Road to SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Place Road, and an 8' multi-use path from SE 66<sup>th</sup> St. to the Greenway underpass exist along this stretch.
- ◆ NW/SW 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Planned to construct a 12' multi-use trail
- ◆ SW 95<sup>th</sup> Street – Bicycle Lanes
- ◆ SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue - Planned to construct a 12' multi-use trail
- ◆ NE 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Partially made up of the future Silver Springs to Indian Lake Forest Trail

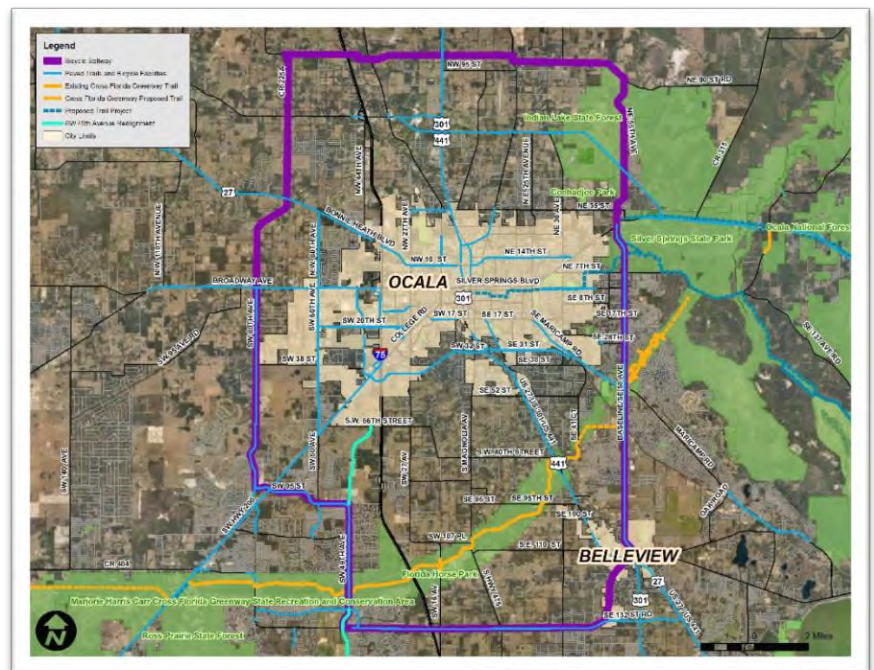
The following roadways do not currently have facilities, nor projects planned, and would be suitable for future projects that encourage connectivity:

- ◆ NE 97<sup>th</sup> Street Road
- ◆ NE Jacksonville Road
- ◆ NW 100<sup>th</sup> Street
- ◆ CR 225A
- ◆ CR 484
- ◆ SE Hames Road

Facilities on these corridors will vary. However, it is recommended that off-street facilities such as a multi-use path are considered initially, and if there are any constraints, a 7' buffered bike lane should be pursued. The minimum recommended facility for roadways included in the Bicycle Beltway are on-street 6' bike lanes.

In implementing this, Marion County should coordinate with FDOT to ensure that facilities are included on future resurfacing and repairment of any of these roadways. Completion of the Bicycle Beltway will occur incrementally, and the addition of each segment should be justified using the criteria outlined in this plan, especially connectivity.

As the recommendations in this Plan are considered and implemented, keeping the vision associated with the Bicycle Beltway in mind will be crucial in continuing to provide excellent trails and bicycle facilities throughout the County. Providing the Beltway in addition to the Cross Florida Greenway Trail as a central facility that connects to other projects, such as those outlined in this plan, will give cyclists countless opportunities to connect to areas around the County and beyond.





## Recommendations

The following recommendations are broken down into three categories:



- ◆ **Projects**
- ◆ **Safety**
- ◆ **Trail Design Standards**

Each set of recommendations addresses a specific issue related to the theme, and gives the County and stakeholders actionable, specific suggestions to continue providing high-quality facilities and amenities that will encourage more residents and visitors to use them. Recommendations are designed to be incorporated and adopted into future iterations of bicycle-related plans and documents, and to encourage uniformity in what Marion County provides.



## Projects

As the Cross Florida Greenway paved trail continues to be constructed and becomes part of the regional trail network throughout central Florida, safe connections that provide access to the trail for higher numbers of people will be needed throughout the County. Currently, the bicycle network that connects the trail to high population areas is fragmented. According to American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Silver Springs Shores, Marion Oaks, Summerfield and Reddick are the most populated areas within Marion County. Census tracts ranging from 10 – 50% of the population below the poverty line are also located within these populated areas and near the existing trail and the Greenway. Household vehicle availability was also evaluated; however, most areas in the county have low levels of households lacking vehicles. This is indicative of a lack of alternative transportation opportunities in these areas such as bicycle facilities and routes that provide connections to points of interest. These Projects are intended to improve existing conditions, offer alternative transportation opportunities to the public, and determine how best to connect high density areas and ensure equitable access of the trail facilities.

The Projects laid out in this plan are new and unique unless otherwise stated in the following project pages and should be considered for inclusion in future updates to plans regarding the development of trails and bicycle facilities in Ocala, Dunnellon, Belleview, McIntosh, and other areas in Marion County. They were identified using the following criteria:

- Demographic data– routes that serve areas of high poverty, elderly populations and low vehicle ownership were identified. Routes that specifically serve areas of high population density were prioritized.
- Public and Stakeholder input – if a route or project came from discussions or comments during the public and stakeholder outreach process, then the project is considered “supported by public and stakeholders”
- Existing facilities – if bicycle facilities, such a designated bike lane or a paved trail are located near the proposed project, then the project is considered to “provide connectivity to existing trails or bicycle facilities”

Based on this information, the projects were then prioritized into “low”, “medium”, and “high” categories depending on their ability to connect high density areas and ensure equitable access of the trail facilities. They then were ordered numerically for ease of implementation, with “1” being the most significant and high priority project, and “6” being important but of lower priority.

In addition to prioritization based on the criteria, planning level cost estimates were developed to give a general idea of costs associated with each of the proposed projects in this plan. Using trail length in miles and the following costs based on FDOT’s Long Rang Estimates (FDOT LRE), approximate project cost was calculated, and is included on the following project pages. Approximate costs with a 30% contingency were also included to account for unforeseen costs associated with the design and construction of bicycle facilities.

Trail Type Costs per Mile	
Type	Cost per mile
<b>Multi-use Trail*</b>	\$287,000.00
<b>Shared-Lane Markings</b>	\$30,000.00

\*These costs are based on FDOT Long Range Estimates for 2 Directional 12’ shared use path, updated in July 2019.

# Regional Trails Facilities Plan

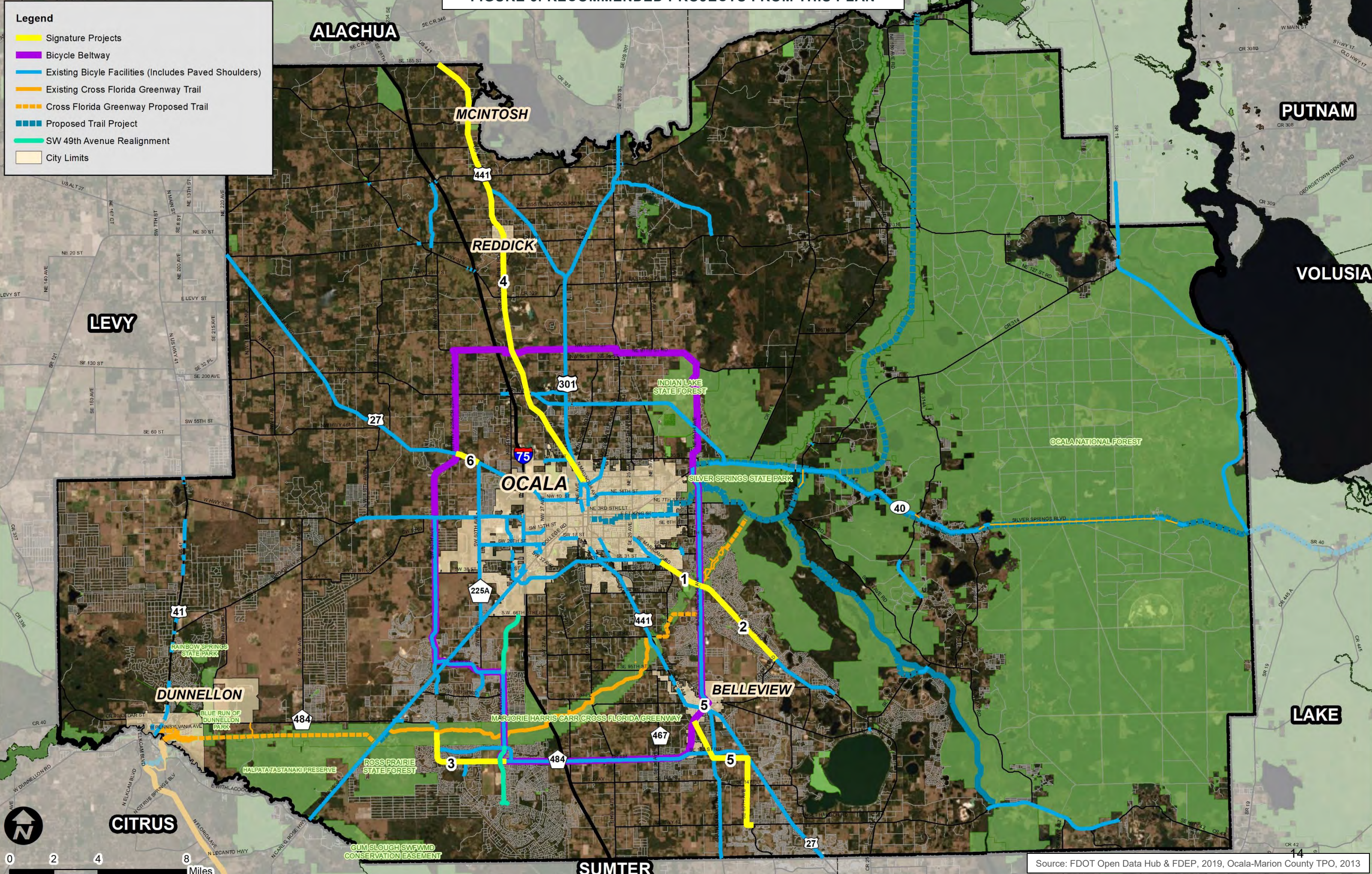


The following projects will provide significant opportunities for a well-connected Cross Florida Greenway paved trail that provides opportunities to all members of the public. According to the population data in **Appendix B**, if all of these projects are completed, approximately 60,000 residents in Marion County will be within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of a bicycle facility that connects them to a paved trail. Residents and visitors will be able to access the trail as well as economic centers like Ocala, Dunnellon, and Belleview exclusively via alternative transportation methods. These projects also contribute to extended trips that provide recreational opportunities and health benefits for trail users. In supporting and implementing these projects, Marion County can economically benefit in sectors such as property value and revenue, as described earlier in this plan. With further-reaching connections, the trail will serve as a strong segment for future regional trail connections in Central Florida. Entities responsible for these projects will vary, but FDOT, FDEP, Marion County, Ocala-Marion County TPO, and local municipal governments are examples of potential funders. All Recommended Projects are shown in **Figure 5** and are shown in more detail in specific project maps in this section.

FIGURE 5. RECOMMENDED PROJECTS FROM THIS PLAN

**Legend**

- Signature Projects
- Bicycle Beltway
- Existing Bicycle Facilities (Includes Paved Shoulders)
- Existing Cross Florida Greenway Trail
- Cross Florida Greenway Proposed Trail
- Proposed Trail Project
- SW 49th Avenue Realignment
- City Limits





# Regional Trails Facilities Plan



## PROJECT #1

SE Maricamp Road (From SE 31st St. to Baseline/SE 58th Ave.)

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

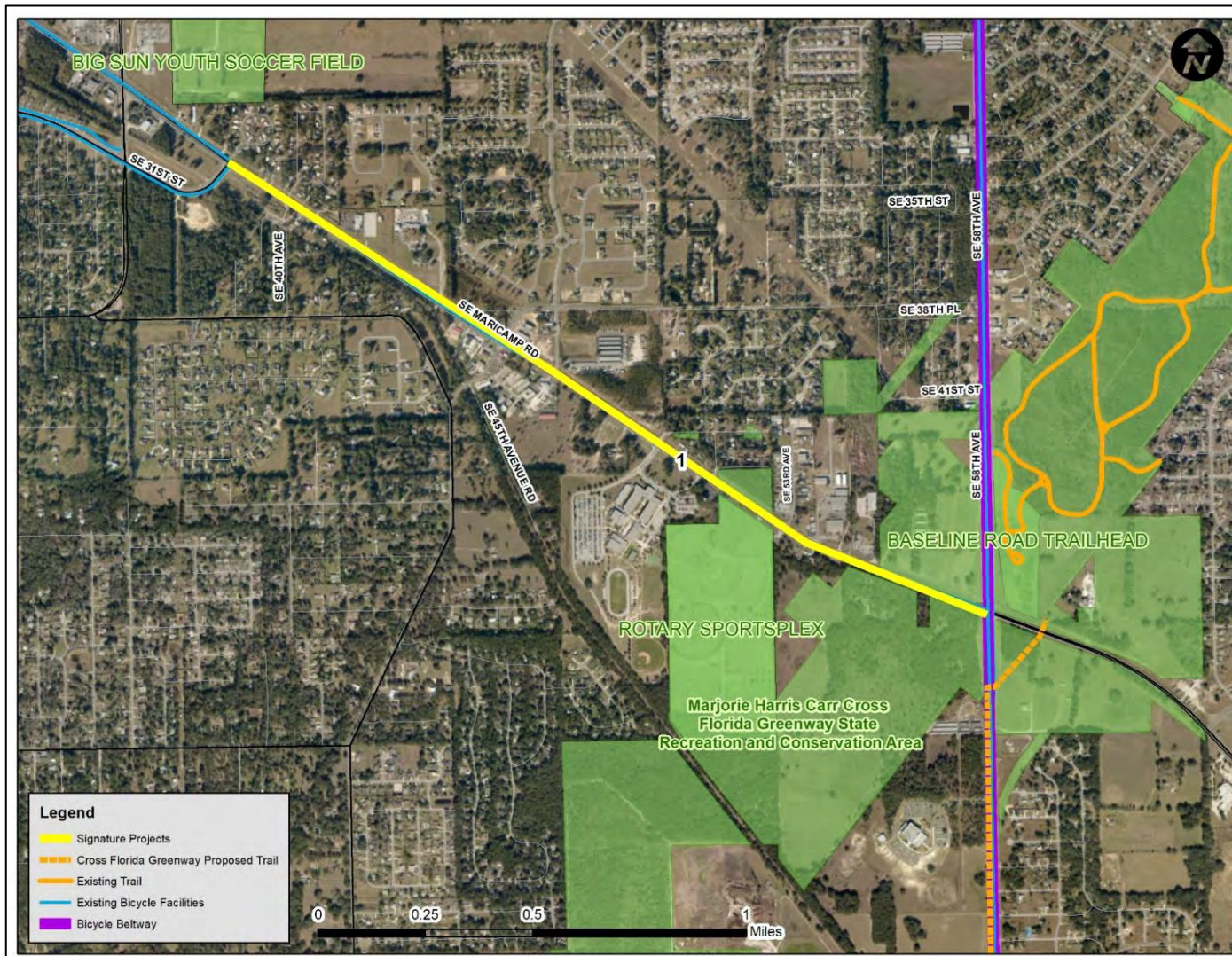
This project includes a 12' multi-use trail on the southwest side of SE Maricamp Road. This corridor is a significant and busy roadway in Marion County that currently carries approximately 30,427 cars daily (FDOT Daily Traffic Info: AADT, 2019). With current levels of vehicular traffic, the existing paved shoulders aren't sufficient, and an off-road facility should be constructed which would allow for a connection to the Baseline Road Trailhead, the Cross Florida Greenway and existing bicycle lanes in Ocala on SE 31<sup>st</sup> St. Once the Cross Florida Greenway gap located south of the Baseline Road Trailhead is complete, this addition will provide significant connectivity for residents to connect to the city of Ocala. There is right of way available along this corridor for additional facilities. Marion County is currently working with FDEP to make improvements and connect the Baseline Road Trailhead to the Rotary Sportsplex, which are located at the Southeast end of this proposed project.

### PROPOSED FACILITIES

12' multi-use trail

### PRIORITY

High



### CRITERIA

Criteria	Does project meet criteria?
Serves an area of high population density?	✓
Provides connectivity to existing trails or bicycle facilities?	✓
Supported by public and stakeholders?	✓

This project will give access to highly populated residential areas surrounding this section of Maricamp Road and will provide connectivity to existing facilities at Baseline Road Trailhead as well as Rotary Sportsplex. This will also offer an opportunity to connect to future trail additions to the Cross Florida Greenway, and facilities in downtown Ocala. This project was generally supported by the public and stakeholders and was discussed at the public workshop. Because each of this criterion was met, this project is prioritized as high.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<b>Project Considerations</b>	SE Maricamp Road is a state road, which would require coordination with FDOT. It may be possible to include this project in a future roadway project.  Ditches and drainage swales may limit the constructability within the available right-of-way. Drainage modifications along the corridor are likely for the trail construction.
<b>Maintenance Responsibility?</b>	FDOT
<b>Next Steps</b>	Feasibility / Planning
<b>Potential LAP Project?</b>	Yes

### PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATE

Project	Trail Type	Approximate Distance	Approximate Cost*	Approximate Cost with 30% Contingency**
SE Maricamp Road	12' Multi-use trail	2.10 miles	\$602,700.00	\$783,510.00

\*Approximate costs from FDOT LRE July 2019 update.

\*\*The approximate cost with a 30% contingency is intended to provide a realistic idea of what the cost will look like if there are additional needs such as further design, utility relocation, right-of-way issues, drainage needs, etc. More refined cost estimates will be necessary at future stages. Planning level costs do not include potential right-of-way acquisition.

# Regional Trails Facilities Plan



## PROJECT #2

Maricamp Road (From Baseline/SE 58<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Designated Bike Lane east of Oak Road)

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

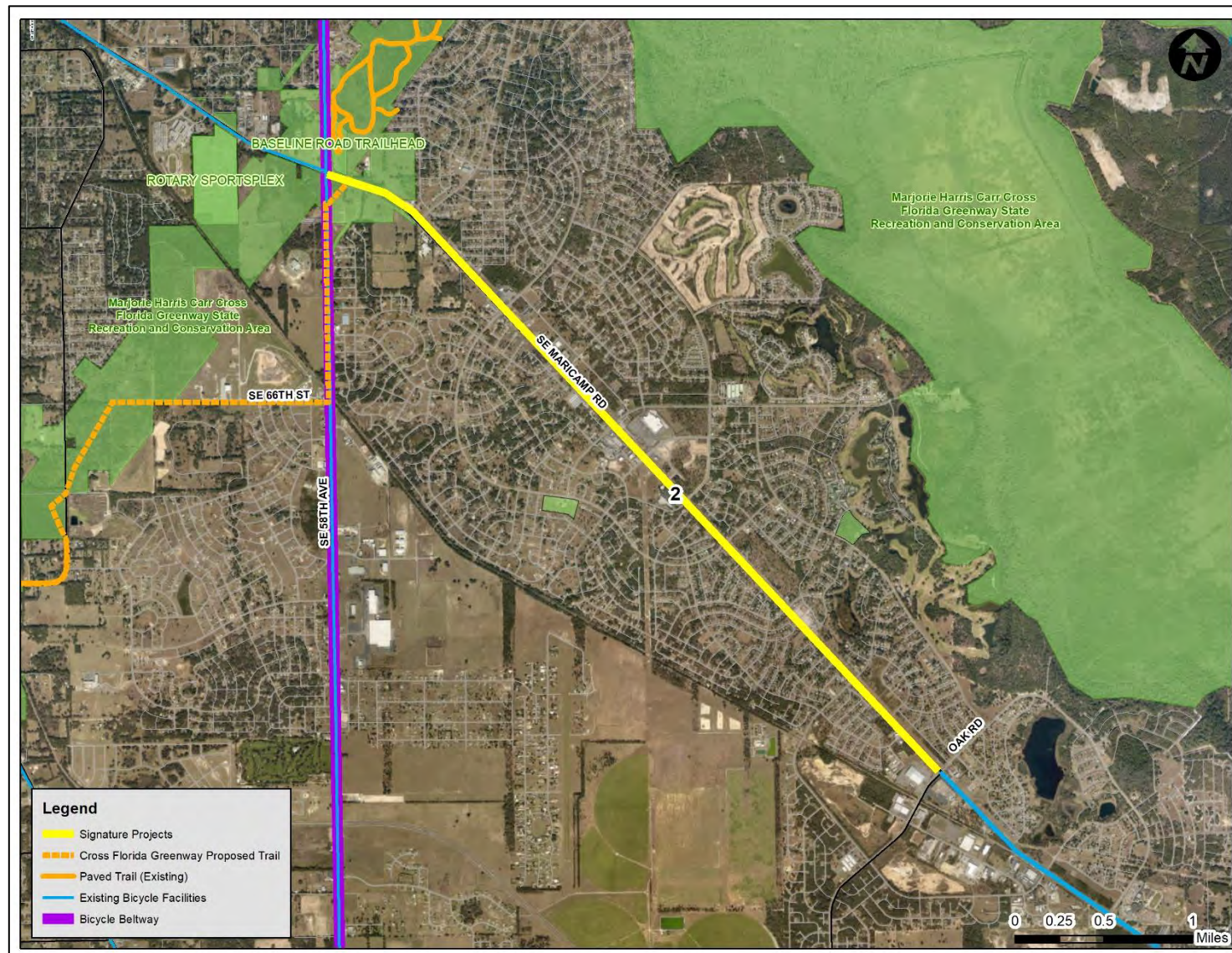
This 12' multi-use trail on the southwest side of the corridor from the Baseline Trailhead is an expansion on Project #1 on SE Maricamp Road and connects to nearby neighborhoods that have concentrated population density. This improvement would provide safe options for accessing the Baseline Trailhead along Maricamp Road from residential areas south. No bicycle facilities exist along this section of Maricamp Road. An underpass does currently exist southeast of the Baseline Road Intersection, which would provide a safe crossing for users trying to access the Cross Florida Greenway and the Baseline Road Trailhead.

### PROPOSED FACILITIES

12' multi-use trail

### PRIORITY

High



### CRITERIA

Criteria	Does project meet criteria?
Serves an area of high population density?	✓
Provides connectivity to existing trails or bicycle facilities?	✓
Supported by public and stakeholders?	✓

This project will give access to highly populated residential areas surrounding this section of Maricamp Road and will provide connectivity to existing facilities at Baseline Road Trailhead and the multi-use trail proposed on SE Maricamp Rd. for Project #1. This will also offer an opportunity to connect to future trail additions to the Cross Florida Greenway and facilities in downtown Ocala. This project was generally supported by the public and stakeholders and was discussed at the public workshop. Because each of this criterion was met, this project is prioritized as high.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<b>Project Considerations</b>	Maricamp Road is a state road, which would require coordination with FDOT. It may be possible to include this project in a future roadway project.  Ditches and drainage swales may limit the constructability within the available right-of-way. Drainage modifications along the corridor are likely for the trail construction.  Portions of the roadway have an existing sidewalk. Right-of-way appears limited on the southwest side of the roadway in some sections.
<b>Maintenance Responsibility?</b>	Marion County
<b>Next Steps</b>	Feasibility / Planning
<b>Potential LAP Project?</b>	Yes

### PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATE

Project	Trail Type	Approximate Distance	Approximate Cost*	Approximate Cost with 30% Contingency**
Maricamp Road	12' Multi-use trail	4.85 miles	\$1,391,950.00	\$1,809,535.00

\*Approximate costs were obtained from FDOT LRE July 2019 update.

\*\*The approximate cost with a 30% contingency is intended to provide a realistic idea of what the cost will look like if there are additional needs such as further design, utility relocation, right-of-way issues, drainage needs, etc. More refined cost estimates will be necessary at future stages. Planning level costs do not include potential right-of-way acquisition.



## PROJECT #3

CR 484 (Cross Florida Greenway to Designated Bike Lane on CR 484)

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed 12' multi-use trail along this corridor would give bicyclists an alternative option to connect the Marion Oaks neighborhood along the CR 484 corridor. Within the community, bike lanes are located on main roads including Marion Oaks Course and Marion Oaks Lane, but lack connectivity to areas of interest outside of the community, such as the Cross Florida Greenway paved trail. Currently, bicyclists do not have any continuous facilities to connect safely to the Cross Florida Greenway paved trail on SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue nor from CR 484. Providing bicycle facilities along CR 484 offers the opportunity to travel safely along the roadway to the entry point for the Cross Florida Greenway Trail on CR 484 north of the underpass. This project would also connect to existing bicycle facilities to the east on CR 484, providing opportunities for connections to other locations and neighborhoods. It also has the potential to tie into roadway improvements in the Marion Oaks area.

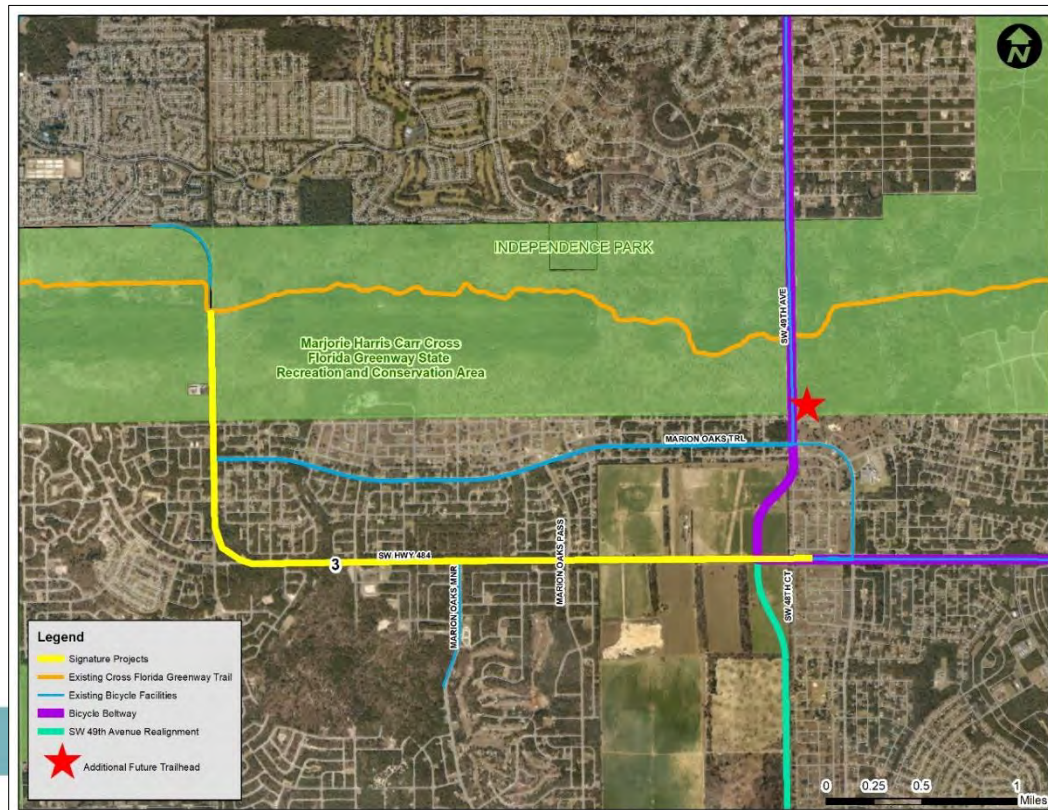
Because of bicycle facilities on Marion Oaks Trail, this project could be less extensive and cover just the northern section of CR 484 between the Cross Florida Greenway Paved Trail and Marion Oaks Trail because of existing facilities on the latter. This variation of the project would include the improvement of the existing bicycle lanes on Marion Oaks Trail with additional markings, signage, and buffering the bicycle lanes with either physical delineators or additional lines on the pavement to create more space between the traffic and the cyclists. This project will rely heavily on future widening projects to determine its feasibility and can tie into the SW 49th Avenue realignment project, which will include bicycle facilities. There are also plans to include an additional trailhead on the east side SW 49th Avenue on the southern edge of the greenway, indicated below by a red star, through a land swap between Marion County Parks and Recreation and FDEP.

### PROPOSED FACILITIES

12' multi-use trail

### PRIORITY

High



### CRITERIA

Criteria	Does project meet criteria?
Serves an area of high population density?	✓
Provides connectivity to existing trails or bicycle facilities?	✓
Supported by public and stakeholders?	✓

This project will give access to highly populated residential areas surrounding CR 484 such as Marion Oaks and will provide connectivity to existing facilities on the Cross Florida Greenway. This will also offer an opportunity for an alternative, safe connection to the Cross Florida Greenway via CR 484. This project was generally supported by the public and stakeholders and was discussed at the public workshop. Because each of this criterion was met, this project is prioritized as high.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<b>Project Considerations</b>	There are potential right-of-way constraints along the route, limiting multi-use trail width and feasibility. Drainage ditches and swales may limit construction within existing right-of-way.  This project should be considered with future widening / capacity projects.
<b>Maintenance Responsibility?</b>	Marion County
<b>Next Steps</b>	Design (included within roadway capacity projects)
<b>Potential LAP Project?</b>	Yes

### PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATE

Project	Trail Type	Approximate Distance	Approximate Cost*	Approximate Cost with 30% Contingency**
CR 484	12' Multi-use trail	4.4 miles	\$1,262,800.00	\$1,641,640.00

\*Approximate costs were obtained from FDOT LRE July 2019 update.

\*\*The approximate cost with a 30% contingency is intended to provide a realistic idea of what the cost will look like if there are additional needs such as further design, utility relocation, right-of-way issues, drainage needs, etc. More refined cost estimates will be necessary at future stages. Planning level costs do not include potential right-of-way acquisition.

# Regional Trails Facilities Plan



## PROJECT #4

McIntosh to Ocala Connector

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A connector between the town of McIntosh in northern Marion County and the City of Ocala via multi-use trail would provide a significant transportation connection as well as give recreational bicyclists a long, scenic route through the County. This project has the potential to also connect to the Hawthorne Trail, an existing trail in Alachua County, which would provide the opportunity for an extensive north-south trail network between the two counties, creating economic opportunities and attracting overnight trail users. This connector would run along US 441 and 25A (NW Gainesville Road), as indicated by the map. 25A offers a lower capacity road with shade and right-of-way to accommodate a multi-use path.

This project will provide access to the town of McIntosh, and a trailhead should be considered near this location to provide important facilities to bicyclists accessing long-range bicycling opportunities through this trail. Because of limited right-of-way within the town of McIntosh, a series of neighborhood roads with sharrows and signage could be included to allow access to a trailhead within the town. Sharrows and signage along W. 10<sup>th</sup> St., between Avenue H and Avenue B could serve this neighborhood network purpose to connect the trail and a trailhead within McIntosh. Another option is to use NW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue up until Avenue C. A neighborhood network system on the east side could allow for a trailhead to be added to the McIntosh Civic Center. Alternatively, a trailhead could be included at the overlook area outside of McIntosh along US 441 that allows excellent views of Orange Lake.

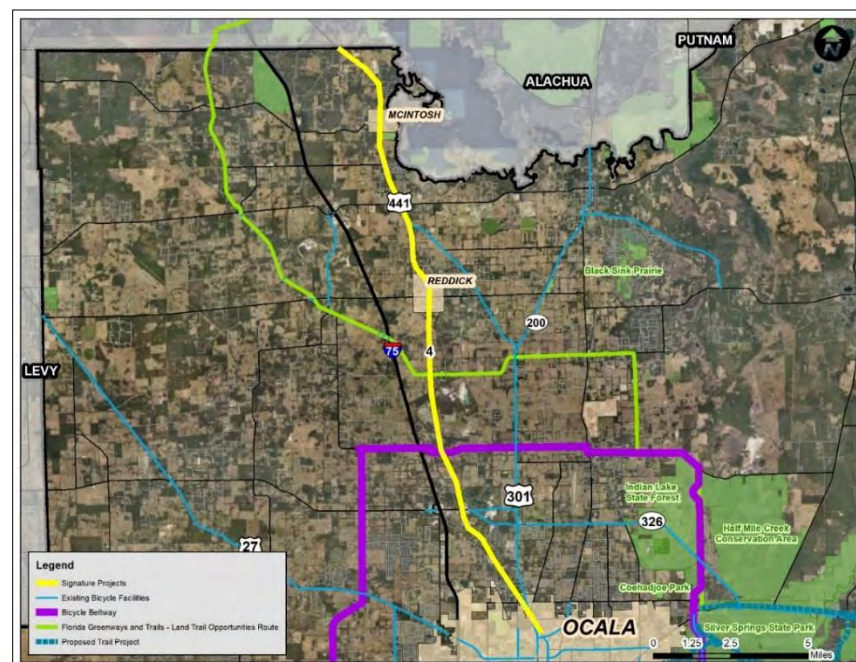
This project will be part of a future regional network that will connect the cities of Gainesville and Ocala. FDEP's Office of Greenways and Trails has also identified a similar connection as a Land Trail Opportunity that would connect Ocala to trails in Alachua County, which is shown in the map below. Both routes would provide beneficial transportation opportunities and connect McIntosh to other trails in Marion County and Alachua County.

### PROPOSED FACILITIES

12' multi-use trail

### PRIORITY

High



### CRITERIA

Criteria	Does project meet criteria?
Serves an area of high population density?	✓
Provides connectivity to existing trails or bicycle facilities?	✓
Supported by public and stakeholders?	✓

This project will provide connectivity between communities within Marion County such as Ocala and McIntosh, as well as trails in Alachua County. This will also offer an opportunity for safe connections to anywhere along this route. This project was generally supported by the public and stakeholders and was discussed at the public workshop. Because each of this criterion was met, this project is prioritized as high.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<b>Project Considerations</b>	US 441 and 25A are state roads, which would require coordination with FDOT. It may be possible to include this project in a future roadway project.  This is a long stretch of facilities; there would be a high cost for entire project. Project could be phased.  There are potential right-of-way constraints along the route, limiting multi-use trail width and feasibility – specifically through McIntosh.
<b>Maintenance Responsibility?</b>	FDOT
<b>Next Steps</b>	Feasibility / Planning
<b>Potential LAP Project?</b>	Yes, as a stand-alone project. Alternately could be included in design of roadway resurfacing.

### PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATE

Project	Trail Type	Approximate Distance	Approximate Cost*	Approximate Cost with 30% Contingency**
McIntosh/Ocala Connector	12' Multi-use trail	21 miles	\$6,027,000.00	\$7,835,100.00

\*Approximate costs were obtained from FDOT LRE July 2019 update.

\*\*The approximate cost with a 30% contingency is intended to provide a realistic idea of what the cost will look like if there are additional needs such as further design, utility relocation, right-of-way issues, drainage needs, etc. More refined cost estimates will be necessary at future stages. Planning level costs do not include potential right-of-way acquisition.

# Regional Trails Facilities Plan



## PROJECT #5

Old Ocala-Summerfield Rd./135<sup>th</sup> St./SE 80<sup>th</sup> Ave.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

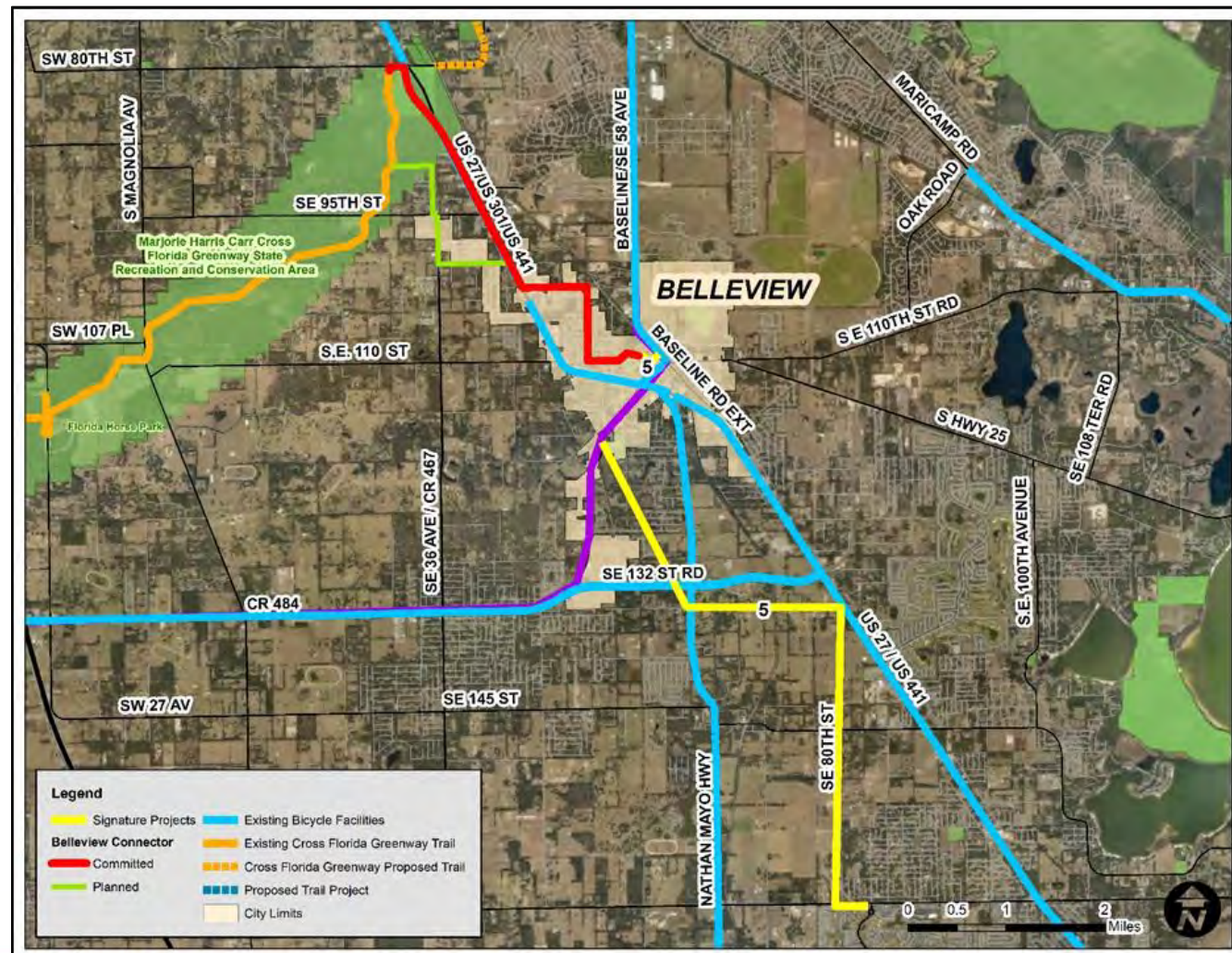
This project would connect areas of Marion County such as Summerfield and Belleview to the Cross Florida Greenway and other facilities, giving access to County-wide facilities and outdoor recreation. Facilities along these roadways would include a mix of sharrows and enhanced crossings depending on traffic and safety on the roadways identified. This project begins on CR 42, which has a low AADT of 18,900 (FDOT Daily Traffic Info: AADT, 2019) and a speed limit of 45 mph, and will mainly serve residents of The Villages because neighborhoods north of the corridor can access SE 80<sup>th</sup> St. through safe, neighborhood streets. Because bicyclists will only be on CR 42 for such a short period of time, a multi-use trail is not necessary to make this connection. This potential project would immediately connect to the Bicycle Beltway, which would yield further connections through the Belleview Greenway Connectors and the Ocala Downtown area, and further trail systems such as the Silver Springs Bikeway. In order to maintain connectivity, a small piece of Project #6 connecting the Bicycle Beltway to the Belleview Connector will need to be completed first. This project will give users opportunities for longer trips and higher connectivity to points of interest.

### PROPOSED FACILITIES

Varies

### PRIORITY

Medium



### CRITERIA

Criteria	Does project meet criteria?
Serves an area of high population density?	✓
Provides connectivity to existing trails or bicycle facilities?	✓
Supported by public and stakeholders?	

This project will give access to highly populated residential areas in Belleview and Summerfield and will provide connectivity to existing facilities on the Cross Florida Greenway. This area of Marion County will serve as an important location for the growing bicycle network. Support for this project was not expressed by stakeholders or the public when presented for voting. Because only some of this criterion was met, this project is prioritized as medium.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<b>Project Considerations</b>	There are potential right-of-way constraints along the route, limiting multi-use trail width and feasibility.  Private driveways along route could affect treatment. Vertical curvature could affect treatment.
<b>Maintenance Responsibility?</b>	Marion County
<b>Next Steps</b>	Feasibility / Design / Construction – initial implementation (sharrows/signage) could be implemented as a stand-alone construction project or with roadway resurfacing, feasibility would be necessary for multi-use trail section.
<b>Potential LAP Project?</b>	Yes

### PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATE

Project	Trail Type	Approximate Distance	Approximate Cost*	Approximate Cost with 30% Contingency**
Old Ocala-Summerfield Rd./135 <sup>th</sup> St./SE 80 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Sharrows Signage Traffic Calming	7 miles	\$210,000.00	\$273,000.00

\*Approximate costs were obtained from FDOT LRE July 2019 update.

\*\*The approximate cost with a 30% contingency is intended to provide a realistic idea of what the cost will look like if there are additional needs such as further design, utility relocation, right-of-way issues, drainage needs, etc. More refined cost estimates will be necessary at future stages. Planning level costs do not include potential right-of-way acquisition.

# Regional Trails Facilities Plan



## PROJECT #6

US 27/Bonnie Heath Blvd. (NW 60<sup>th</sup> Ave. to CR 225A)

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This would serve as a connection between existing bicycle facilities on SW 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the proposed Bicycle Beltway. This is a high-speed road (55 mph) that would benefit from off-street facilities to accommodate bicyclists trying to make connections to existing facilities. If off-street facilities such as a multi-use trail are not feasible, then the minimum acceptable facilities on Bonnie Heath Blvd. are a separated 7-foot cycle track. However, plenty of right-of-way appears to exist along the corridor.

### PROPOSED FACILITIES

12' multi-use trail

### PRIORITY

Low



### CRITERIA

Criteria	Does project meet criteria?
Serves an area of high population density?	
Provides connectivity to existing trails or bicycle facilities?	✓
Supported by public and stakeholders?	

This project will connect existing facilities on NW 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Bicycle Beltway. This short stretch will facilitate an easy connection for bicyclists looking to access various locations throughout the County. Support for this project was not expressed by stakeholders or the public when presented for voting. Because this criterion was only met in a limited capacity, this project is prioritized as low.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<b>Project Considerations</b>	US 27/Bonnie Heath Boulevard is a state road, which would require coordination with FDOT. It may be possible to include this project in a future roadway project.  Drainage swales and grading of adjacent properties will require additional design and potential drainage swale modification for construction.
<b>Maintenance Responsibility?</b>	FDOT
<b>Next Steps</b>	Feasibility / Planning
<b>Potential LAP Project?</b>	Yes, as a standalone project, or could be included within future resurfacing project.

### PLANNING LEVEL COST ESTIMATE

Project	Trail Type	Approximate Distance	Approximate Cost*	Approximate Cost with 30% Contingency**
US 27/Bonnie Heath Blvd.	12' Multi-use trail	1.15 miles	\$330,050.00	\$429,065.00

\*Approximate costs from FDOT LRE July 2019 update.

\*\*The approximate cost with a 30% contingency is intended to provide a realistic idea of what the cost will look like if there are additional needs such as further design, utility relocation, right-of-way issues, drainage needs, etc. More refined cost estimates will be necessary at future stages. Planning level costs do not include potential right-of-way acquisition.



## Safety

The safety of all users on multi-use trails in Marion County is a top priority, as indicated by both stakeholders and the public. Trail users typically encounter safety conflicts related to intersections with other user types, roads, and vehicular traffic. Each of these conflicts presents their own unique challenges for recreational trail users and should be addressed individually to promote safety for each type.

### CONFLICT WITH OTHER USER TYPES



Existing signage along the Cross Florida Greenway

Trail user types include bicyclists (both mountain and road), hikers, and equestrians; trails for these user types frequently converge and intersect on the Cross Florida Greenway. These intersections can become dangerous and may impact the quality of the user experience if not addressed. Cross Florida Greenway intersection areas also include trailheads, tunnels and land bridges. The convergence of these diverse types of trail traffic can cause issues that impact each user group differently. Because bicyclists may travel at high, sustained speeds along the paved section of the trail, they typically do not anticipate cross traffic from hikers or equestrian users. Equestrian users travel at slower speeds, but horses may become spooked by bicycles traveling at high speeds through intersections, which can be hazardous for each group of users involved. Additionally, hikers, who travel at slower speeds, may not be able to avoid the high speeds of bicyclists or the unpredictable nature of the horses' reaction when not anticipating or looking out for traffic of this type. Issues with visibility have been reported on the Cross Florida Greenway at

intersections between mountain biking trails and the paved trail. There is also concern about conflicts between cyclists and tubers and the general public near the Rainbow River in Dunnellon, which will eventually be connected to the Cross Florida Greenway. While conflict related to collisions is not common, conflict can simply be a contentious encounter between two different types of user on the trail. This type of conflict is common because each user type has different needs and interests associated with multi-use trail usage and does not typically account for interaction. For this reason, recommendations must be specifically tailored to address each user type without giving higher importance to a certain type of user group over another.

As a major concern for trail users and governing bodies such as American Trails, user conflict is usually addressed through the promotion of trail etiquette and the minimization of conflict areas. When users are well-educated on their role in maintaining a safe and efficient



Example of signage to address conflict on the trail



trail system, trails typically function more smoothly and provide added safety in preventing avoidable conflict<sup>4</sup>. Trail etiquette promotion does not require huge investments nor significant additional infrastructure and can improve the atmosphere of the trail, which may encourage less confident users to take advantage of outdoor recreation opportunities. FDEP has done an excellent job in providing signage, mirrors and other markings at approach locations for different user types along the Cross Florida Greenway Paved Trail in an effort to address conflict issues between paved trail users and equestrians in order to “improve situational awareness”<sup>5</sup>. FDEP is also working with Marion County on additional opportunities for connectivity features under county roads during widening projects, such as SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue. These projects are important because they install crossing facilities that separate equestrians, bicyclists, and hikers, and minimize conflicts and potential hazards. These initiatives combined with an emphasis on proper trail etiquette can significantly reduce conflict

situations between trail users. The following recommendations will enhance the improvements already made by FDEP in addressing this.

### Recommendation: Trail Etiquette Signage

Trail etiquette signage should be located at specific locations along the Cross Florida Greenway to promote safe travel and awareness of the potential encounters with other user types. Trail etiquette signage locations are detailed in **Figure 6** through 8. Because trails are a shared public space, this signage would include information, rules, laws, and suggestions for maintaining trail etiquette and co-existing with other user types, especially at areas of conflict such as trailheads, tunnels, land bridges, and trail intersections. In the state of Florida, bicycles are legally defined as a vehicle, and the bicyclist as a driver, which is significant in determining trail etiquette and indicates that bicyclists yield to all other trail user types, especially pedestrians. This was considered when determining what signage and etiquette information is recommended. Trail etiquette signage should be implemented by Marion County in coordination with FDEP at appropriate locations along the trail suggested by the trail design standards section of this Plan. Trail etiquette signage information and suggestions include:



Example of trail etiquette signage in Miami-Dade County

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/conflicts-on-multiple-use-trails>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/marjorie-harris-carr-cross-florida-greenway>



# Regional Trails Facilities Plan















- Bicyclists yield to all other user types at crossings
- Follow all trail safety signage
- Communicate effectively with other trail users, making obstacles that may be ahead known, and let others know about your needs (or your horses) as a specific type of user
  - Bells on bicycles
  - Announce when passing
- Be courteous and respectful
- Anticipate encounters with other user types and be prepared to respond appropriately



Example of trail signage to reduce conflict

**FIGURE 6. SAFETY RECOMMENDATION FOR MULTIPLE USER TYPES #1**

**Legend**

-  Proposed Trail
-  Paved Trails and Bicycle Facilities
-  Railroads
-  Mountain Bike Trails
-  Equestrian Trails
-  Existing Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Campground
-  Crossing
-  Land Bridge
-  Planned Underpass
-  Underpass

**Pruitt Trailhead**

Currently, Pruitt Trailhead is primarily an equestrian trailhead, but as the proposed trail becomes constructed in the future, the trailhead may be utilized by other user types.

Recommendations:

- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types

**Ross Prairie Trailhead**

Recommendations:

- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types

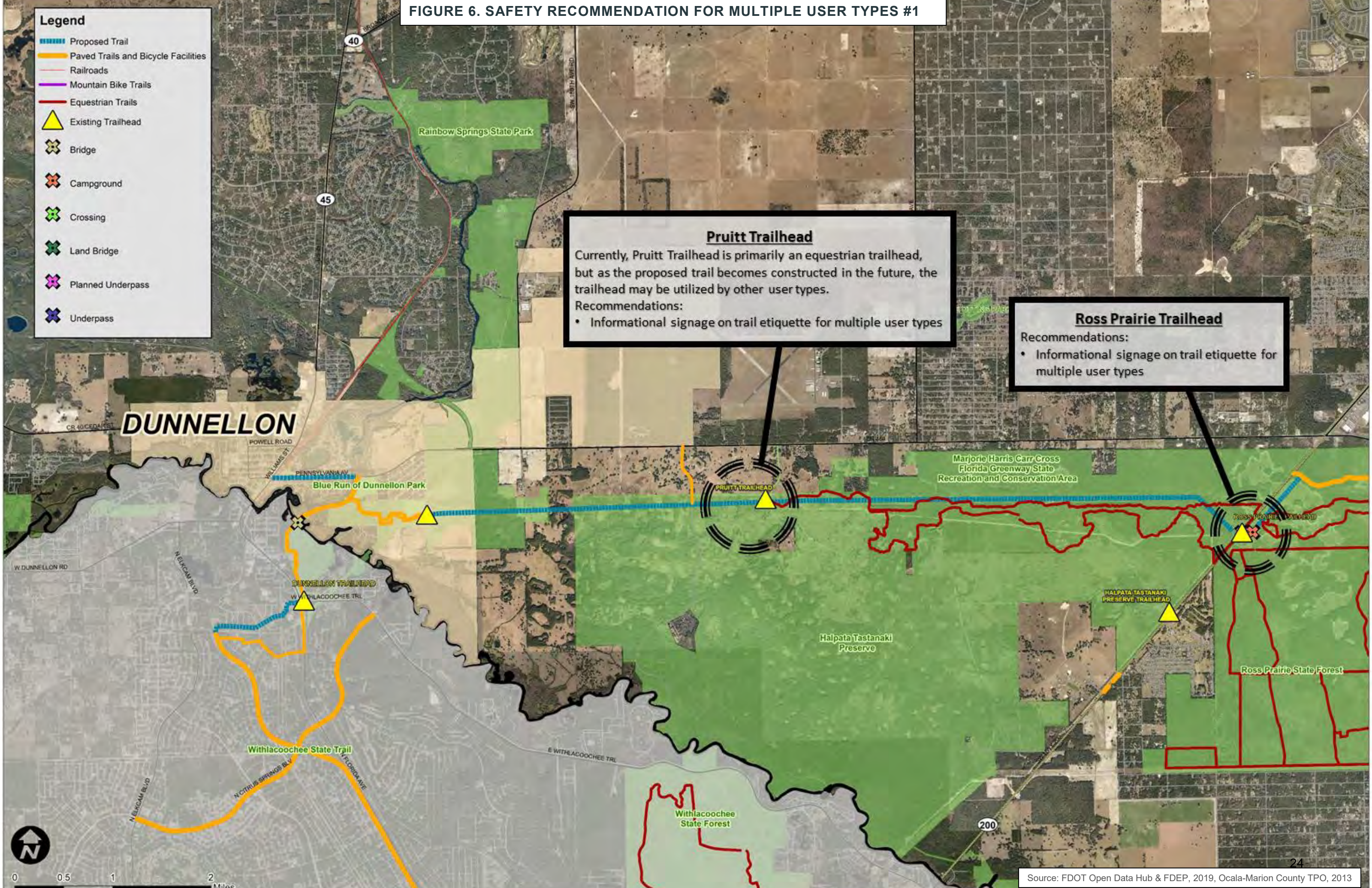
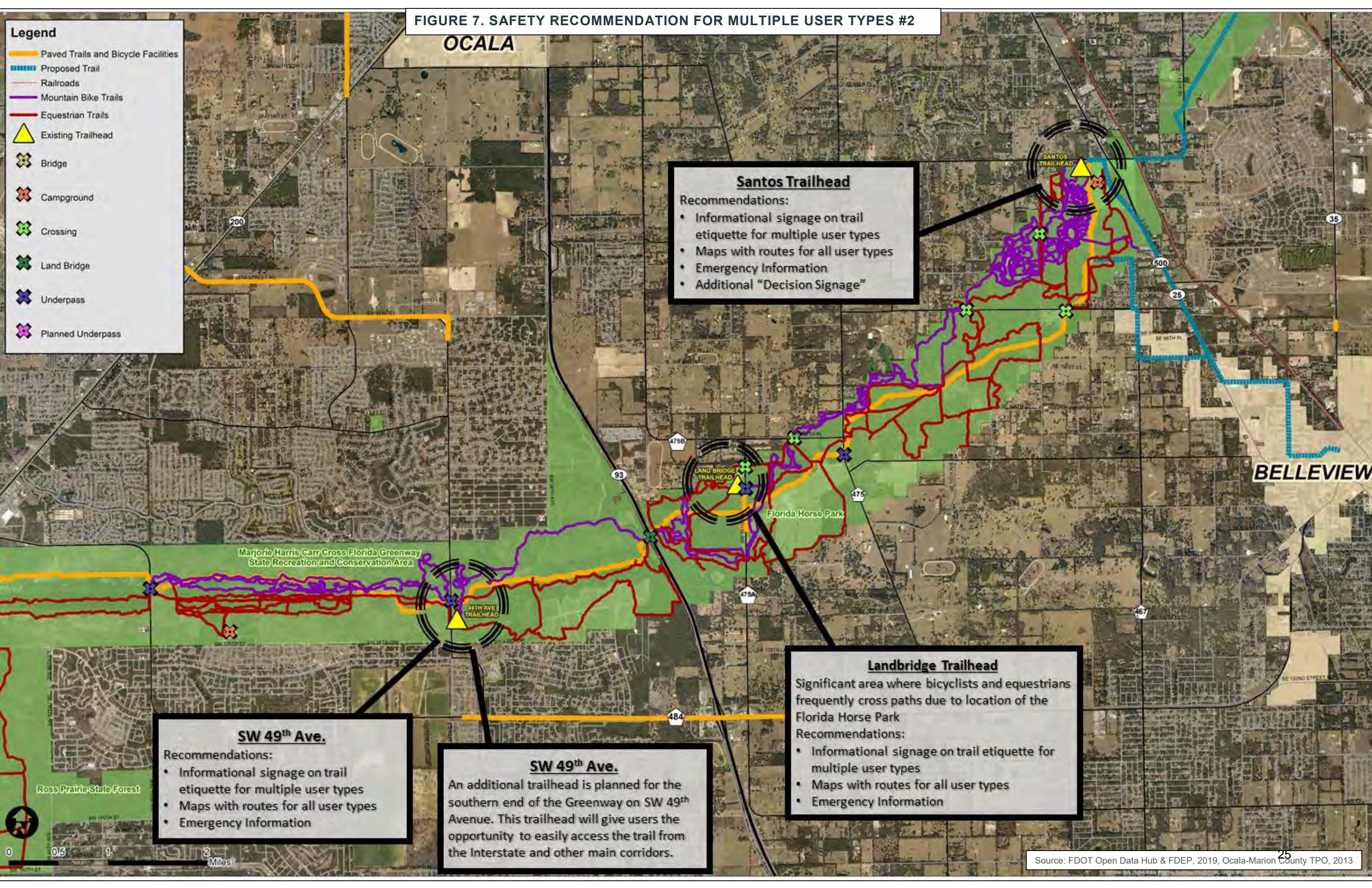


FIGURE 7. SAFETY RECOMMENDATION FOR MULTIPLE USER TYPES #2

**Legend**

-  Paved Trails and Bicycle Facilities
-  Proposed Trail
-  Railroads
-  Mountain Bike Trails
-  Equestrian Trails
-  Existing Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Campground
-  Crossing
-  Land Bridge
-  Underpass
-  Planned Underpass



**Santos Trailhead**

Recommendations:

- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types
- Maps with routes for all user types
- Emergency Information
- Additional "Decision Signage"

**Landbridge Trailhead**

Significant area where bicyclists and equestrians frequently cross paths due to location of the Florida Horse Park

Recommendations:

- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types
- Maps with routes for all user types
- Emergency Information

**SW 49<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

Recommendations:

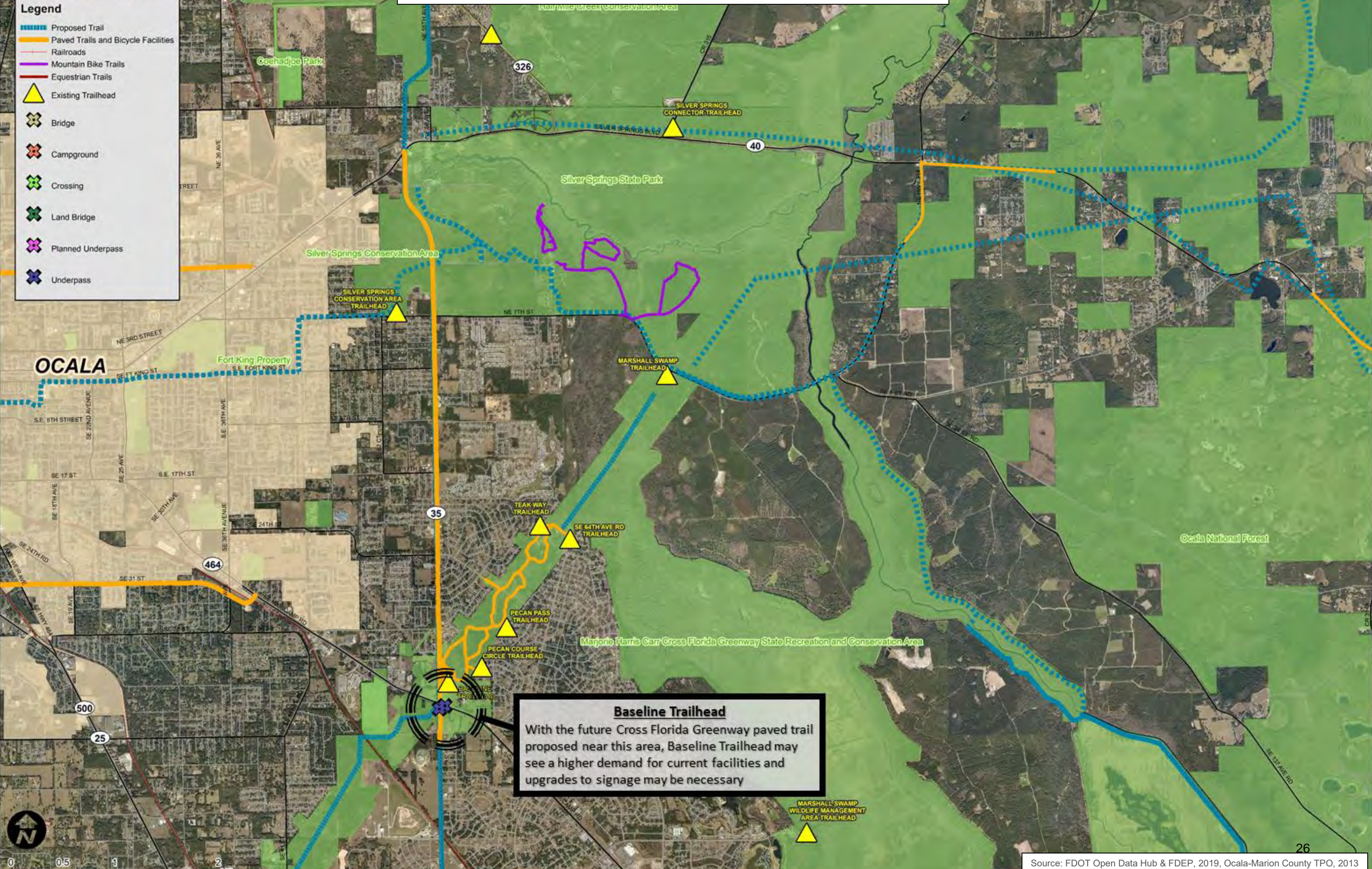
- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types
- Maps with routes for all user types
- Emergency Information

**SW 49<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

An additional trailhead is planned for the southern end of the Greenway on SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This trailhead will give users the opportunity to easily access the trail from the Interstate and other main corridors.



**FIGURE 8. SAFETY RECOMMENDATION FOR MULTIPLE USER TYPES #3**

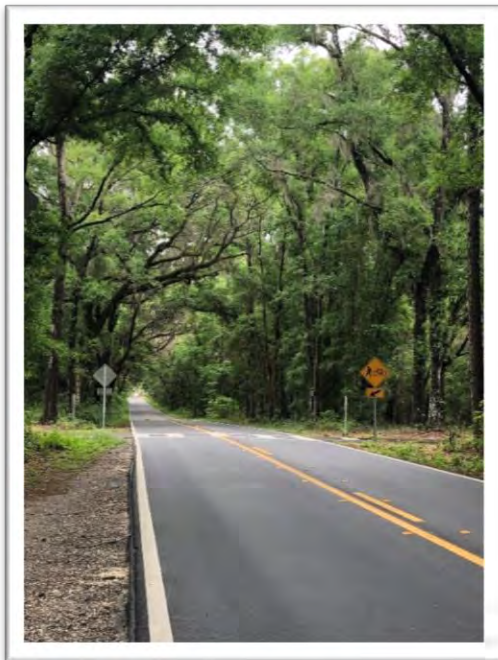




## ROADWAY INTERSECTION CONFLICT

Because of the expansive nature of the existing and planned trail system within Marion County, there are locations where it intersects with roadways, creating several potential conflict areas. Stakeholders in Marion County have been committed to providing safe alternatives for crossings through underpasses, land-bridges, crosswalks, and installed signage at several locations along the trail. These locations include

- ◆ **SR 200 South of CR 484 (Ross Prairie Trailhead)**
- ◆ **CR 484**
- ◆ **SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue (SW 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trailhead)**
- ◆ **CR 475A (Land bridge Trailhead)**
- ◆ **CR 475, and the SR 464 (Baseline Trailhead).**



As the trail continues, it is imperative that all crossings have the same signage and that improved infrastructure is incorporated to facilitate safe crossings and foster connectivity along the trail. When a trail is perceived as safe and protected from vehicular traffic, more users of varying skill level will feel more comfortable using the trail. Trail and Road conflict locations are detailed in **Figures 10** through **12**.

*Recommendation: Provide pedestrian crossings at locations along the trail that currently lack signage or markings*

Using site visits, stakeholder and public feedback, and GIS analysis, it was determined that a pedestrian crosswalk is needed from Santos Trailhead to the north side of SE 80<sup>th</sup> St. This will accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the road to the north side of SE 80<sup>th</sup> Street and will likely benefit the future paved trail extension that is proposed along

this roadway to reconnect the trail with the disconnected section of the Cross Florida Greenway that is just northeast of Santos Trailhead. This project should be implemented by Marion County in coordination with FDEP. The proposed crosswalk location is shown in **Figure 9**.

FIGURE 9. PROPOSED CROSSWALK FROM SANTOS TRAILHEAD



*Santos Trailhead and Campground*



0 0.005 0.01 0.02  
Miles



Recommendation: As the proposed sections of the trail continue be designed and constructed, adequate crossings in line with past improvements on the trail should be placed at intersections and roadways



High emphasis crosswalk markings on the Cross Florida Greenway

The Cross Florida Greenway Trail is proposed to continue northeast along the Cross Florida Greenway and should continue to include crossings and trailheads to accommodate user types and keep those users safe from roadways and vehicular traffic. Marion County has been proactive in addressing these intersections and should continue to do so using the following where appropriate and feasible:

- Trail warning/yield signs and high emphasis crosswalk markings for lower speed/lower volume roadways
- Underpasses or additional emphasis on roads with speeds of 50 mph with moderate to high traffic volumes
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) or signalized crossings at intersections along highly trafficked and high-speed roadways where an underpass is infeasible or interaction with the roadway is desired (i.e. bike lane)
- Approach signage for trail users in all cases where the paved trail intersects with the roadway



Underpass and trail etiquette signage on the Cross Florida Greenway

FIGURE 10. SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PAVED AND PROPOSED TRAIL ROAD CROSSINGS

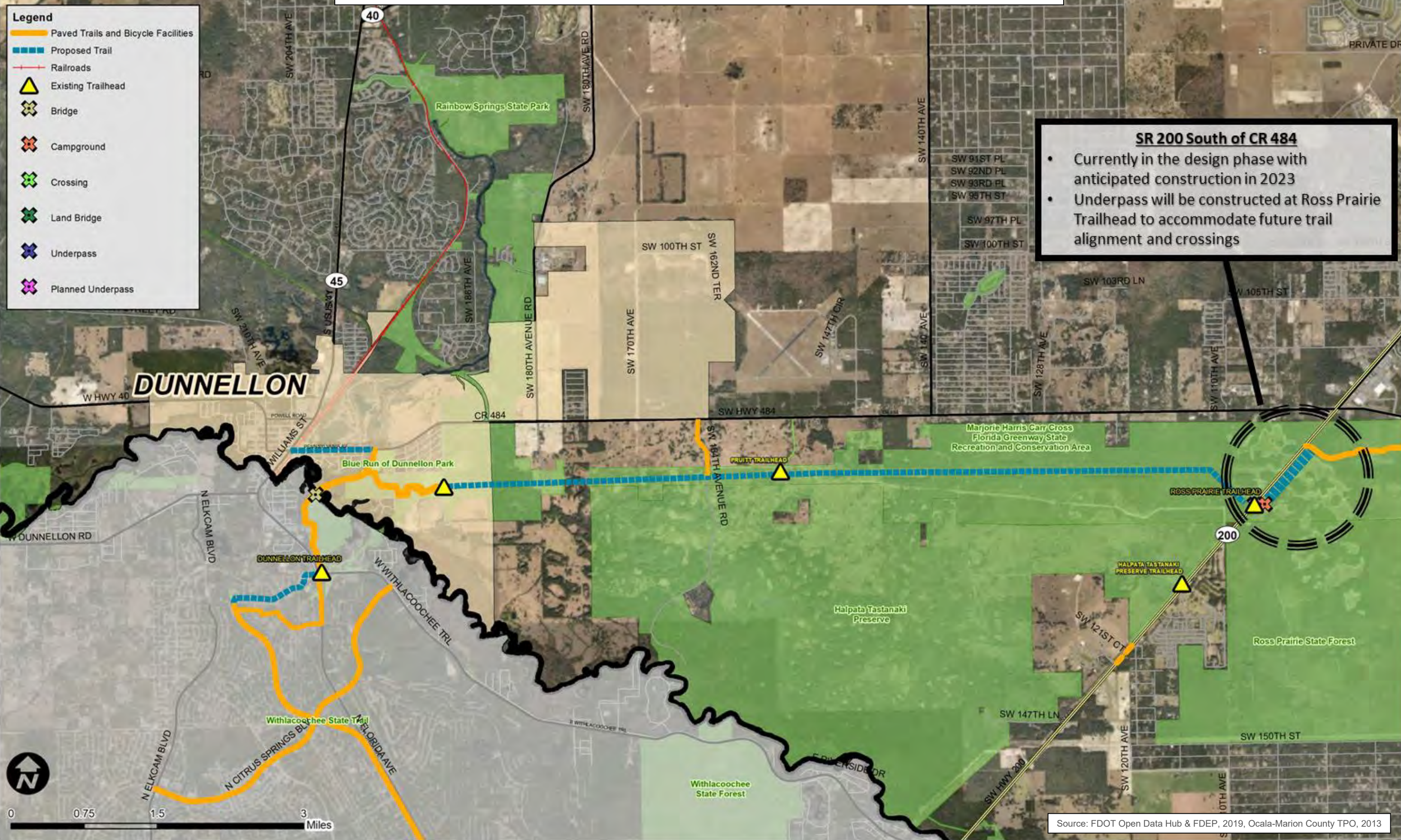




FIGURE 11. SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PAVED AND PROPOSED TRAIL ROAD CROSSINGS

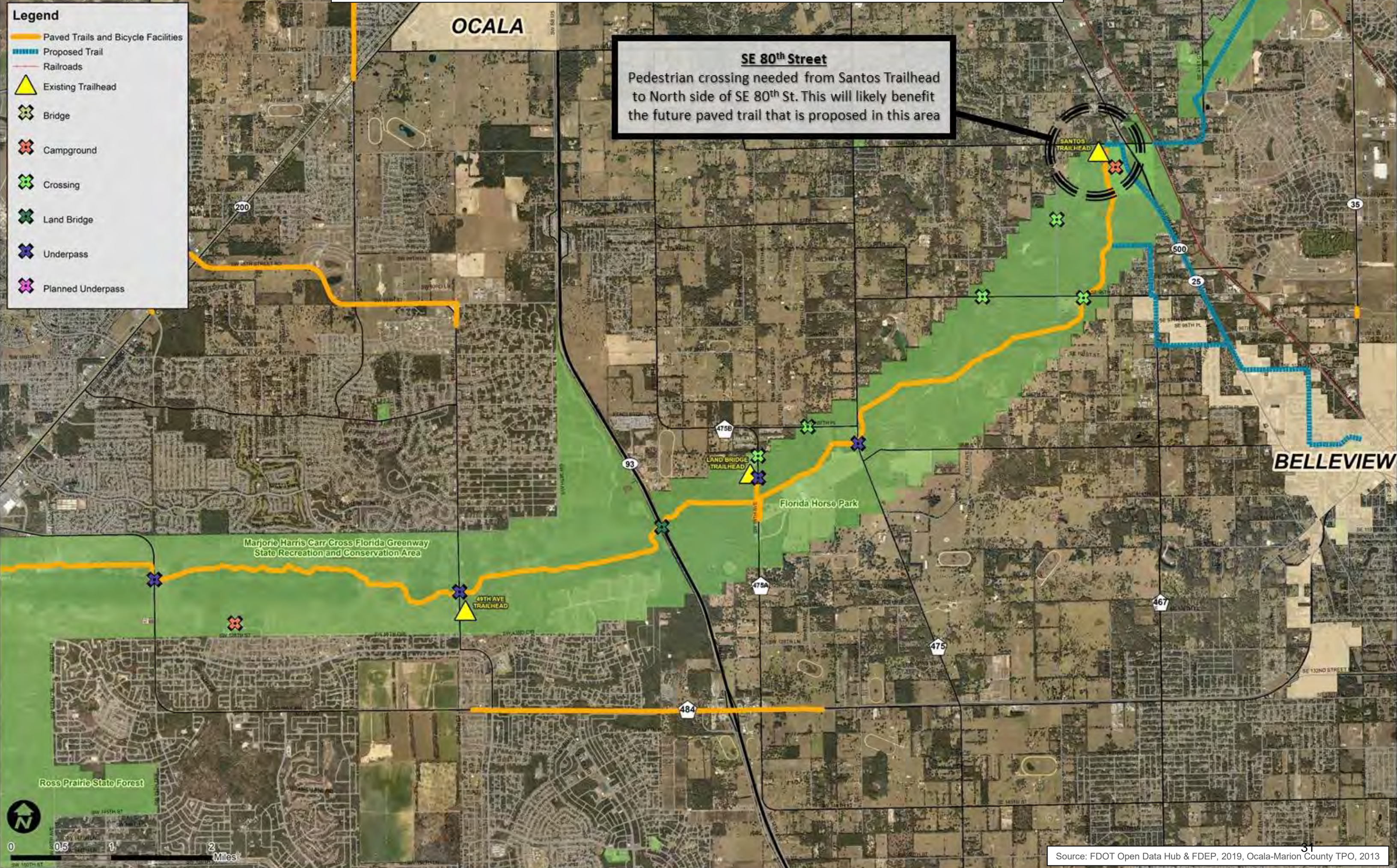


FIGURE 12. SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PAVED AND PROPOSED TRAIL ROAD CROSSINGS #3

**Legend**

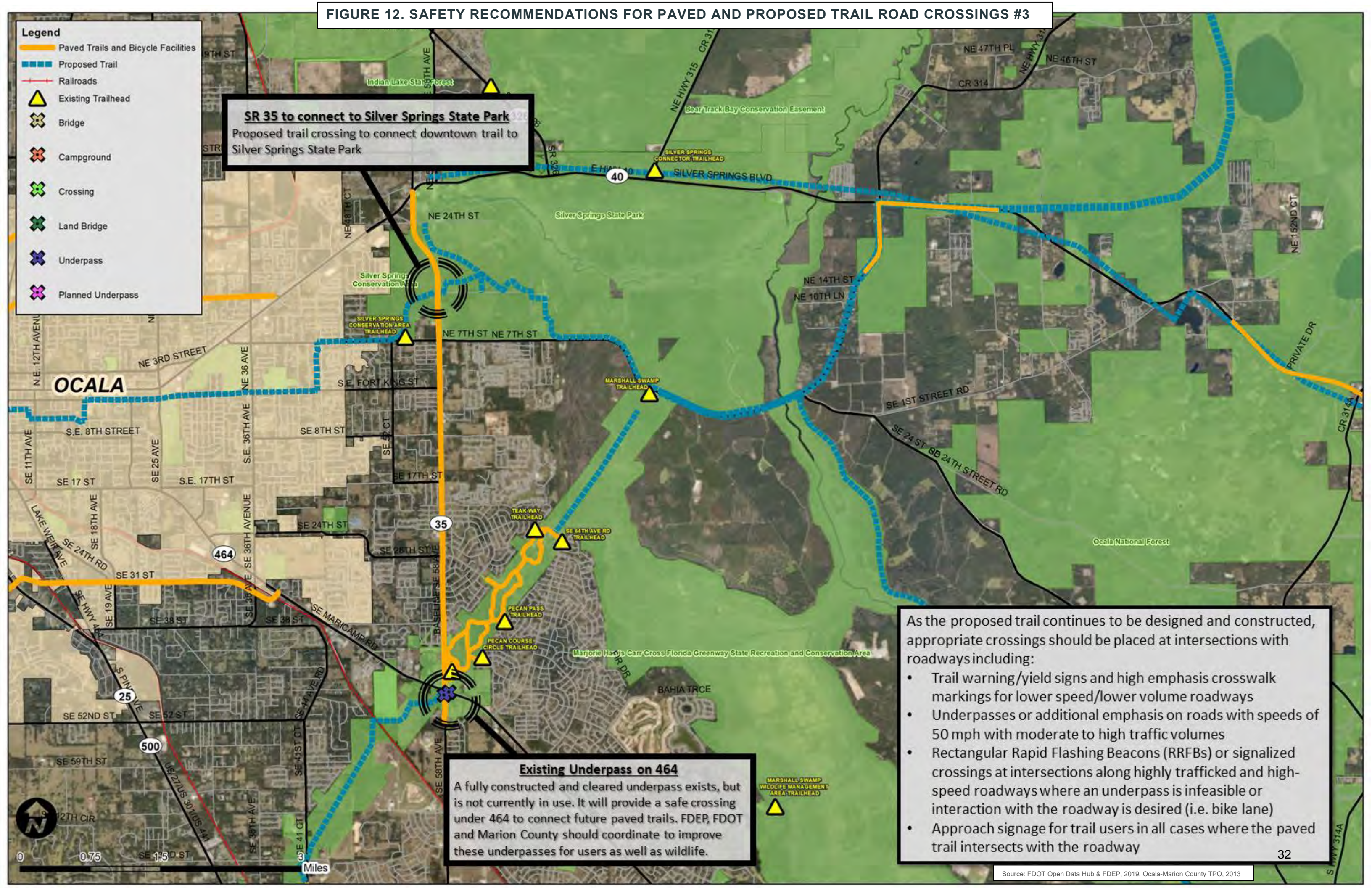
-  Paved Trails and Bicycle Facilities
-  Proposed Trail
-  Railroads
-  Existing Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Campground
-  Crossing
-  Land Bridge
-  Underpass
-  Planned Underpass

**SR 35 to connect to Silver Springs State Park**  
 Proposed trail crossing to connect downtown trail to Silver Springs State Park

**Existing Underpass on 464**  
 A fully constructed and cleared underpass exists, but is not currently in use. It will provide a safe crossing under 464 to connect future paved trails. FDEP, FDOT and Marion County should coordinate to improve these underpasses for users as well as wildlife.

As the proposed trail continues to be designed and constructed, appropriate crossings should be placed at intersections with roadways including:

- Trail warning/yield signs and high emphasis crosswalk markings for lower speed/lower volume roadways
- Underpasses or additional emphasis on roads with speeds of 50 mph with moderate to high traffic volumes
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) or signalized crossings at intersections along highly trafficked and high-speed roadways where an underpass is infeasible or interaction with the roadway is desired (i.e. bike lane)
- Approach signage for trail users in all cases where the paved trail intersects with the roadway





## Trail Design Standards

Trail design standards typically guide the construction of a trail and provide guidance for certain aspects such as facilities and signage. They can also provide a level of safety in ensuring that certain requirements are met when providing a trail for recreational uses. For the purposes of this Plan, trail design standards that will be suggested regarding the Cross Florida Greenway Trail include trailheads, shelters, and signage.

## TRAILHEADS & SHELTERS

Trailheads are significant features of a trail because this is the starting point for most users on their experience. Trailheads provide users with amenities such as parking, restrooms, seating, and shelter. As discussed previously, the ability and interest of trail users varies, and providing specific amenities that can accommodate a range of needs is critical. Trailheads can range in size and purpose, from a major access point with ample parking, to a refuge shelter designed to protect trail users from fast moving summer storms.

Along the Cross Florida Greenway, several trailheads already exist. These include

- ◆ **Ross Prairie Trailhead**
- ◆ **49<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trailhead**
- ◆ **Land Bridge Trailhead**
- ◆ **Santos Trailhead.**

Several others exist along areas of the Cross Florida Greenway where the multi-use trail is not yet paved. Refuge shelters are also located sporadically along the existing

network. These trailheads are of varying size and offer a range of different amenities and are not currently located at fixed intervals to ensure accessibility from specific locations along the trail. As the trail is extended and gaps are filled, it is important that more trailheads are located along the trail to accommodate high numbers of users, and their specific and different needs.



Small shelter along the Cross Florida Greenway

*Recommendation: Adopt a hierarchy of trailhead classes based on varying locations along the trail system.*

Trailhead classes can promote safety by providing different types of services and amenities at trailheads based on their size and classification. Trailhead classes are elements of trail design standards, and are categories based on intensity of the amenities available and how often they should be located along a network.



49<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trailhead is a Class I Trailhead on the Cross Florida Greenway

Because so many trailheads exist along the current and proposed trail, it is important that existing trailheads be designated into appropriate trailhead class categories to ensure that appropriate amenities are provided at reasonable distances for trail users. These classes will also help determine what additions, if any, should be made to include sufficient access to amenities. Where no trailhead currently exists, trail design standards recommended in this section should be used to provide these amenities and services. The trailhead

classifications recommended in this Plan have been implemented along other trail systems. Marion County, in coordination with FDEP and the TPO, should take the lead on adoption of this recommendation. The following trailhead classes should be adopted in an effort to provide these amenities and services.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Location Recommendation</i>
Class I	Major access points for trails. Class I Trailheads will include parking for all user types including designated parking for persons with disabilities and equestrian vehicles, loading and unloading areas, restrooms, water, shelter areas, signage, trashcans, motorized wheelchair recharge stations, bicycle repair stations, trail etiquette signage and maps	Every 10 miles along a trail system or at logical termini.
Class II	Minor access points for trails. Class II Trailheads will include minor parking areas, designated parking for persons with disabilities, restrooms, trashcans, water, minimal signage, motorized wheelchair stations	Every 5 to 10 miles along the trail system
Class III	Rest area/weather refuge. Class III Trailheads include stand-alone rest area/shelter, trashcan, water, and benches.	Every 1 to 3 miles along a trail system

# Regional Trails Facilities Plan



Using these Trailhead Classes, trailheads currently located along the paved Cross Florida Greenway or on future sections of the trail or other projects are classified as follows:

## **CLASS I**

Pruitt Trailhead  
Ross Prairie Trailhead  
49<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trailhead  
Land Bridge Trailhead  
Santos Trailhead  
Baseline Trailhead

## **CLASS II**

Marshall Swamp Trailhead  
Centennial Trailhead  
Silver Springs Connector Trailhead  
Bear-N-Oak Trailhead

## **CLASS III**

Teak Way Trailhead  
Pecan Pass Trailhead  
Pecan Course Circle Trailhead  
SE 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road Trailhead



Santos Trailhead is a Class I Trailhead on the Cross Florida Greenway



## SIGNAGE

Trail signage is important because it ensures safety of the trail users by directing them and keeping them on the trail system, and serves as a means of providing connectivity through coordinated, universal messaging. Uniform signage is also helpful in pointing out significant features along the trail and can make the experience more enjoyable and informative for the user. Furthermore, signage can encourage users to access local communities by providing detailed information about mileage, attractions, and businesses surrounding the trail that might otherwise be unknown to the user.<sup>6</sup> As noted previously, signage additions are relatively inexpensive compared to other costs associated with trail development but can improve the overall user experience by providing significant information.



Trailhead Signage at the Santos Trailhead on the Cross Florida Greenway (bikeflorida.net)

*Recommendation: Implement a standardized hierarchy of trail signage to mark locations along the trail and promote wayfinding.*

Different types of signage should be provided along the Cross Florida Greenway Paved Trail in an effort to better inform users about their location, and distance proximity to notable destinations along the trail, such as trailheads, parks, or cities. This signage would ideally be glommed onto signage throughout the County to supplement existing designs and serve as an added feature for identifying the network. The following trail signage types should be adopted in an effort to provide relevant information and simple wayfinding along the Cross Florida Greenway Paved Trail. Marion County and FDEP should coordinate to implement these signage strategies along the trail. Potential locations along the Cross Florida Greenway for each type of signage are shown below and in **Figure 13**. Some examples of signage design options are shown in **Figures 14, 15** and **16**.

<i>Signage Type</i>	<i>Location</i>
Decision Signage	Located at popular starting locations along the trail to educate users on how far other destinations are from their location, as well as on designated bicycle facilities and streets in Marion County to promote awareness of connectivity among users
Directional Signage	Located within each destination area to direct users a more specific location
Marker Post	Located periodically along the trail system to inform users how far the next major destination is while using the trail

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.railstotrails.org/build-trails/trail-building-toolbox/design/signage-and-surface-markings/>



Recommendation: Develop specific branding for trail signage and glomming that is universally recognizable and coordinated with signage throughout Marion County.



Example of branding for the Florida Trail (floridahikes.com)

In providing signage along the Cross Florida Greenway Paved Trail, it is recommended that the County work with key stakeholders to decide upon a universal color scheme and brand for this signage. All recommended signage in this plan should be created using this agreed upon branding and should incorporate input from cities including Dunnellon, Belleview, and Ocala. This is critical in representing a united, connected trail system throughout Marion County. This recommendation should be completed by Marion County to ensure a uniform system that is used throughout the region.

Recommendation: Develop a Signage Master Plan to determine specific requirements and locations for specific types of signage.

In order to tie the hierarchy of trail signage and the branding components together, a Marion County specific Master Plan related to signage and wayfinding is recommended. This Master Plan will help determine the design for a number of tools that will improve wayfinding in the County, including signage, maps, brochures, gateways, and websites. These materials will enhance public awareness about the trail and other amenities that the County has to offer. The Master Plan should be pursued in coordination with Marion County, the Ocala-Marion County TPO and the Visitors and Convention Bureau. A Signage Master Plan also offers the opportunity for local storytelling through interpretation. This provides visitors with a better understanding of the local flavor of the different communities throughout Marion County, and can offer a valuable resource for providing information to both local school groups and the general public. This type of signage would include wayside exhibits and interpretive panels.

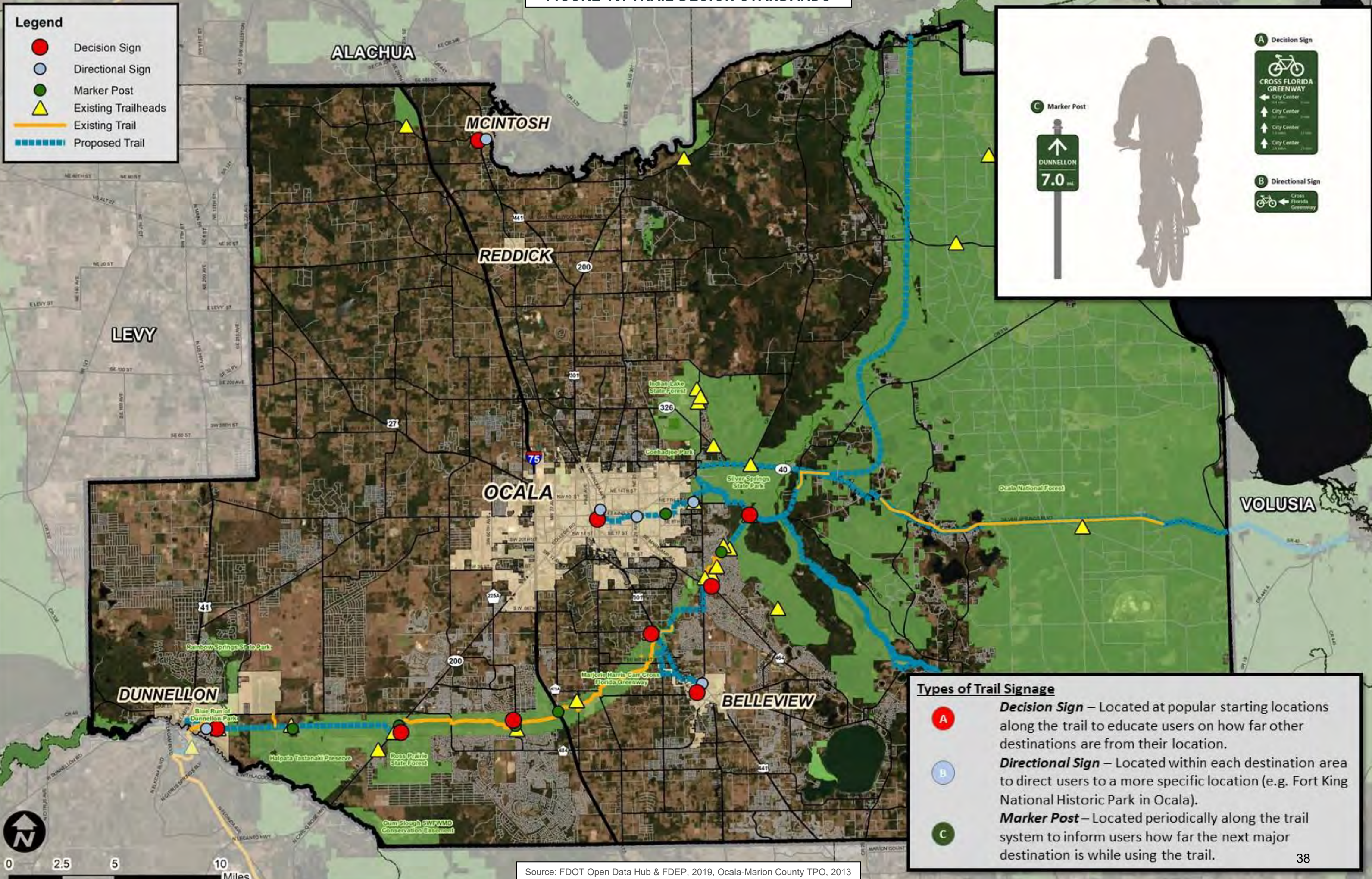


Example of cohesive signage on the Withlacoochee State Trail



Example of interpretive signage at Fort Cooper State Park (trailsoffloridasindianheritage.org)

FIGURE 13. TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS



- Legend**
- Decision Sign
  - Directional Sign
  - Marker Post
  - ▲ Existing Trailheads
  - Existing Trail
  - - - Proposed Trail

**A Decision Sign**

**B Directional Sign**

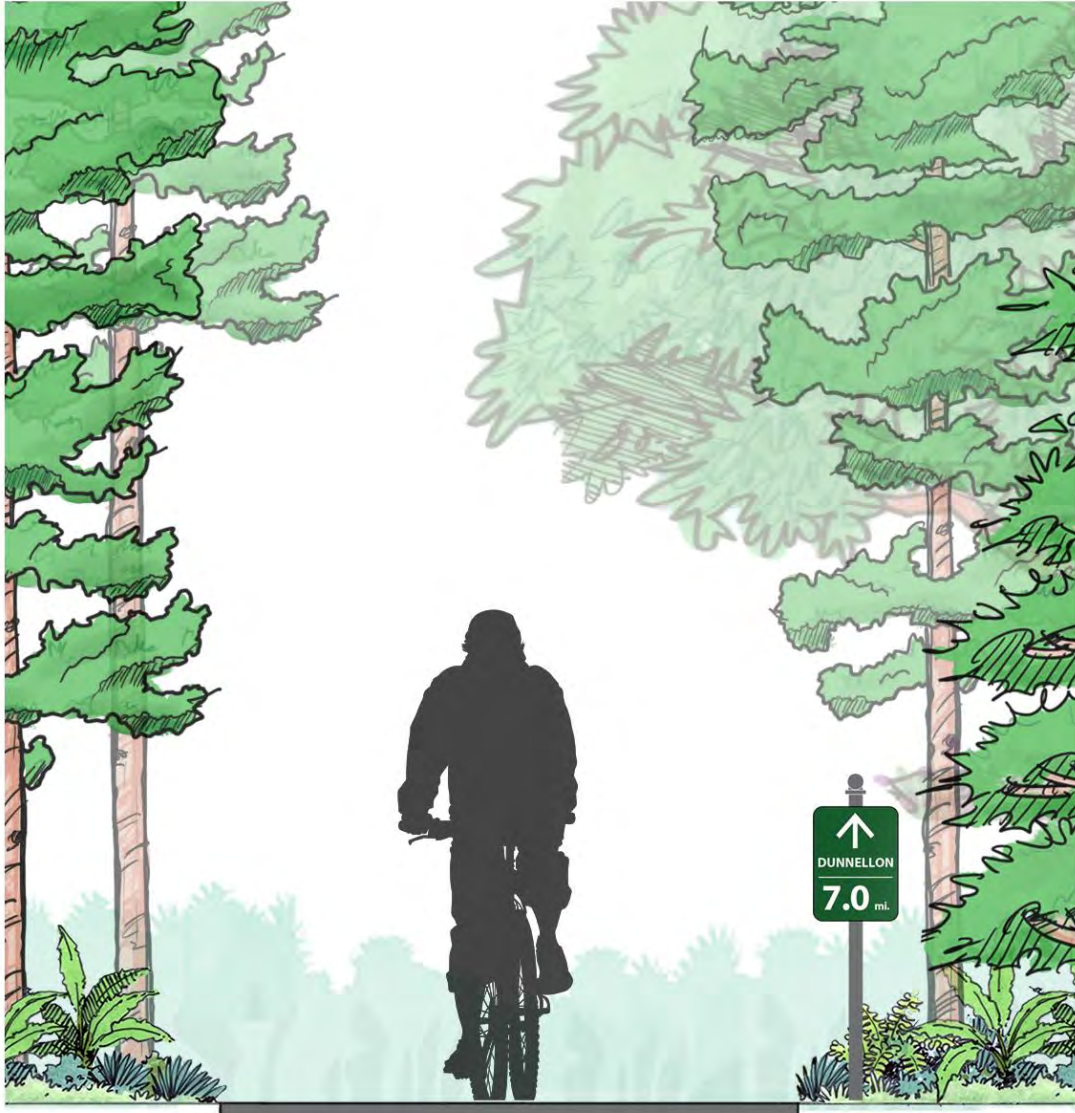
**C Marker Post**

**Types of Trail Signage**

- A** *Decision Sign* – Located at popular starting locations along the trail to educate users on how far other destinations are from their location.
- B** *Directional Sign* – Located within each destination area to direct users to a more specific location (e.g. Fort King National Historic Park in Ocala).
- C** *Marker Post* – Located periodically along the trail system to inform users how far the next major destination is while using the trail.

Source: FDOT Open Data Hub & FDEP, 2019, Ocala-Marion County TPO, 2013





## Mileage Marker Sign

Signs placed along trail to indicate location and progress along trail

Figure 14. Mileage Marker Sign



## Trail Directional Sign

Guides cyclist along trail through more developed areas



## Combined Trail Directional Sign

Sign is attached to existing sign to reduce signage clutter

Figure 15. Directional Signs



## Trailhead Decision Sign

Placed at the trailhead or major trail intersections

Figure 16. Decision Sign



## Next Steps

Marion County has made significant progress in recent years including multi-modal facilities and creating paved multi-use paths for the public to enjoy as well as boost ecotourism opportunities. The Cross Florida Greenway currently offers trail users several opportunities related to recreation, exercise and alternative travel modes. It also has facilitated the conversation regarding the economic benefits of multi-use trails and how best to connect economic centers within the county to offer people access to businesses, restaurants and lodging. As Marion County and the Cross Florida Greenway become more popular due to these facilities, it is imperative that the momentum continue.

## Projects

The recommendations made in this plan regarding projects should be considered for inclusion and adoption by the County and the cities of Dunnellon, Belleview, McIntosh, and Ocala in all future iterations of multi-modal focused plans, including the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, relevant sections of Comprehensive Plans and the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). They should also be considered in the project design phase for currently committed and planned projects as a means of uniting existing facilities and continuing to provide a connected and cohesive trail system within Marion County.

## Safety

The recommendations in this plan related to safety should be considered and implemented wherever appropriate. Addressing conflict points and providing well-thought out and thorough information on signage is critical in improving user experience and accommodating different user types. FDEP has already done an excellent job providing safety amenities such as mirrors and appropriate signage for crossings, and should continue to provide this as the trail continues to be expanded.

## Trail Design Standards

Signage opportunities, facility improvements and trailhead and shelter classification provide opportunities that will improve user experience. Adopting trailhead classes and continuing to designate trailheads and shelters by what amenities they provide will ensure that users have access to those amenities regardless of where they are located on the trail. Providing cohesive signage that can be seen throughout the County will also improve wayfinding and offers an element of economic development in letting trail users know where businesses are located. These classifications can also aid in public awareness through mapping, informational brochures, and informational websites which can be outlined more thoroughly in a signage and wayfinding master plan for the County.

In moving forward with these recommendations, Marion County will continue to provide more bicycle facilities and ensure the benefits associated with the Cross Florida Greenway paved trail as the foundation of the Heart of Florida Loop.



# ***Appendix A:***

## ***Public Involvement***

The following stakeholders were interviewed for the development of this plan:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date</b>
Sandi McKamey and Bruce Phillips	City of Belleview	11/8/18
Doug and Michelle Shearer	Shady Greenway Society/Equestrian Rep.	11/8/18
Mickey Thomason	FDEP	11/8/18
Jim Couillard	Marion County Parks & Recreation Dept.	11/8/18
Loretta Shaffer	Visitors & Convention Bureau	11/8/18
Julie Johnson	City of Ocala Parks & Recreation Dept.	11/8/18
Beth Nelson	Town of McIntosh	11/12/18
County Growth Services	TDC Visioning Meeting	

<b>Bike Shops</b>	<b>Date</b>
Brick City Bicycles	11/7/18
Blue Run Bike & Kayak	11/7/18
Santos Trailhead Bike Shop	11/7/18
Greenway Bicycles	11/7/18
Ocala Bike Center (Trek)	11/7/18
Top Gear Bicycles	11/7/18

The following individuals reviewed the draft plan and were consulted on project consistency:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date</b>
Elton Holland	Marion County Design Engineer	8/16/19
Ken Odom	Marion County Growth Management	8/16/19
Mickey Thomason	FDEP	8/16/19
Jim Couillard	Marion County Parks & Recreation Dept.	8/16/19
Pete Lee	City of Ocala Growth Management	8/16/19

# Multi-Use Bike Trails in Ocala & Marion County PUBLIC WORKSHOP

*Come out and provide input on the future of this unique trail system!*

**Date:** Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
**Location:** Ocala Police Department  
402 South Pine Avenue Ocala  
Ocala, Florida 34471  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



## ***Project Purpose***

The Ocala/Marion County TPO is developing a world class multi-use trail system for its citizens that will provide transportation options, recreational opportunities, and economic development for generations to come. This project will result in guidance that will clearly establish how all subsequent multi-use trails will be built and implemented in the future.

**Contact Information:** Please contact either Kate Widness ([Katelyn.Widness@Kimley-Horn.com](mailto:Katelyn.Widness@Kimley-Horn.com)) or Derrick Harris ([DHarris@OcalaFL.org](mailto:DHarris@OcalaFL.org)) with any questions.

*Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status.*



The Ocala/Marion County  
Transportation Planning Organization  
Complies with Various

Non-Discrimination Laws and Regulations  
including  
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Public Participation is solicited without regard to  
race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion,  
disability, income, or family status.

Persons wishing to express concerns about  
Title VI may do so by contacting:

Ocala/Marion TPO

201 SE 3rd St. | Ocala, Florida 34471  
352 629 8297 | [tpo@ocalamariontpo.org](mailto:tpo@ocalamariontpo.org)



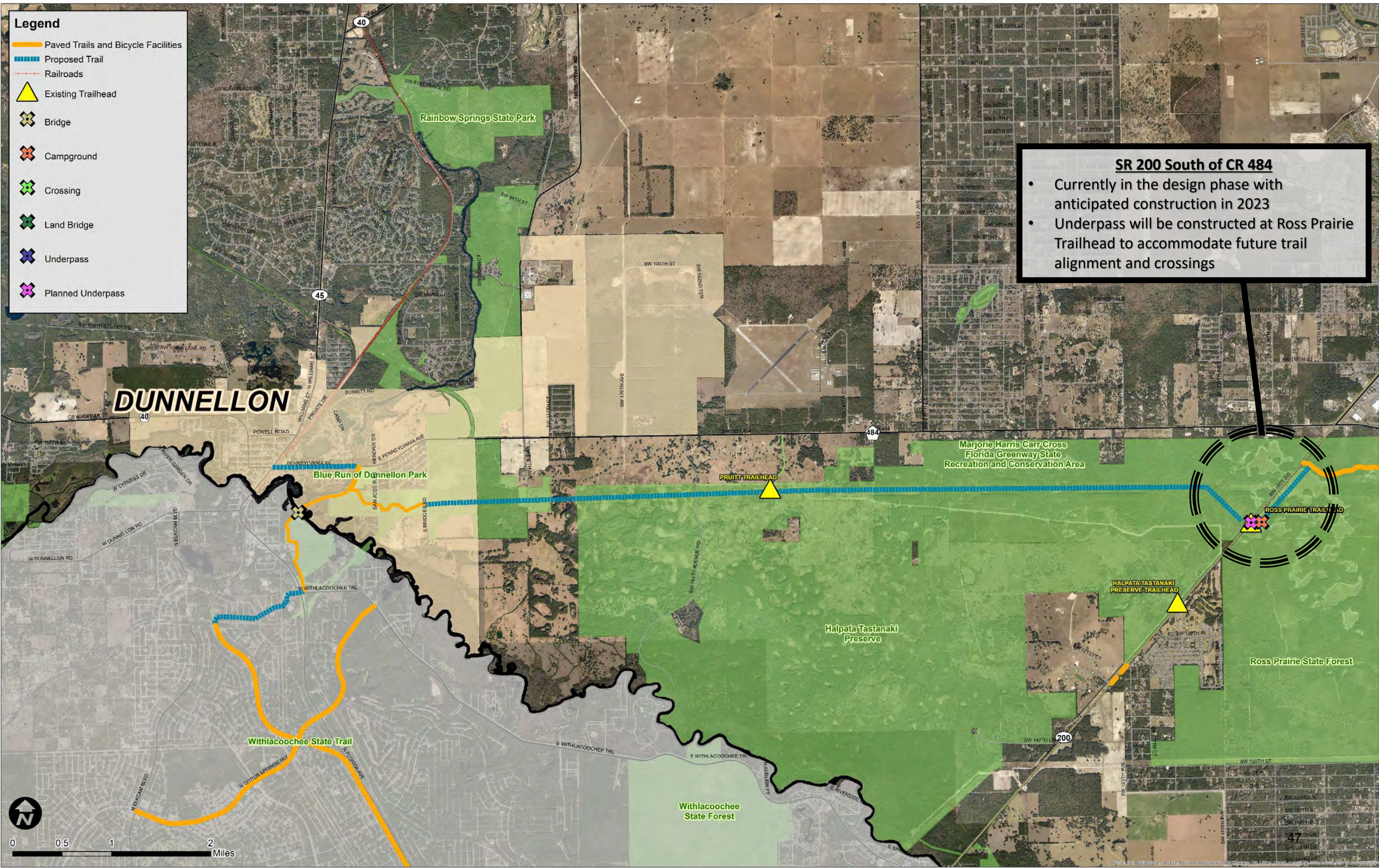
# Safety Recommendations for Paved & Proposed Trail Road Crossings

**Legend**

-  Paved Trails and Bicycle Facilities
-  Proposed Trail
-  Railroads
-  Existing Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Campground
-  Crossing
-  Land Bridge
-  Underpass
-  Planned Underpass




**SR 200 South of CR 484**

- Currently in the design phase with anticipated construction in 2023
- Underpass will be constructed at Ross Prairie Trailhead to accommodate future trail alignment and crossings



# Safety Recommendations for Multiple User Type Crossings

**Legend**

-  Paved Trails and Bicycle Facilities
-  Proposed Trail
-  Railroads
-  Mountain Bike Trails
-  Equestrian Trails
-  Existing Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Campground
-  Crossing
-  Land Bridge
-  Underpass
-  Planned Underpass

**Pruitt Trailhead**

Currently, Pruitt Trailhead is primarily an equestrian trailhead, but as the proposed trail becomes constructed in the future, the trailhead may be utilized by other user types.

Recommendations:

- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types

**Ross Prairie Trailhead**

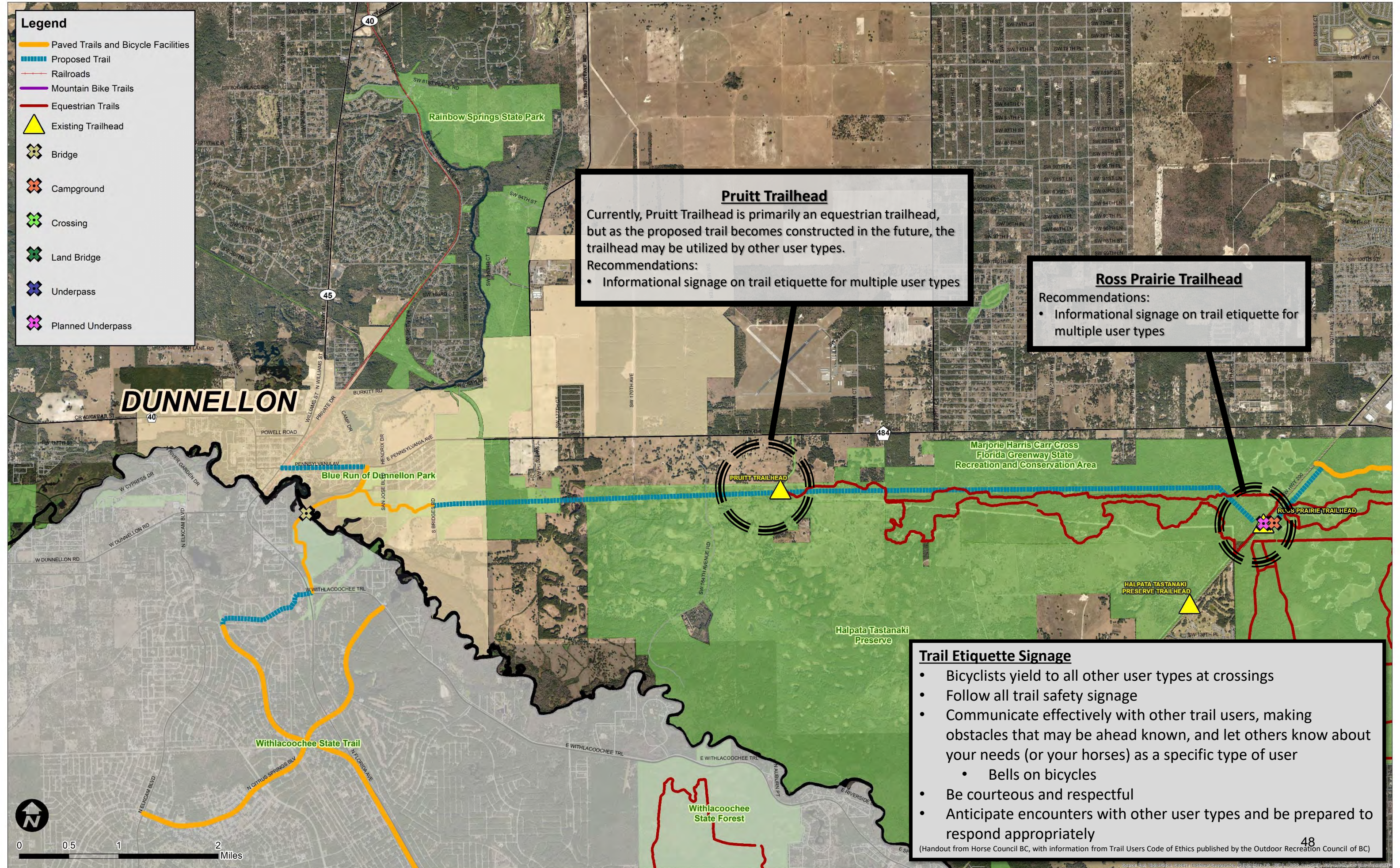
Recommendations:

- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types

**Trail Etiquette Signage**


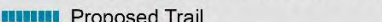
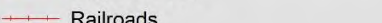
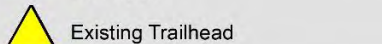

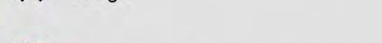
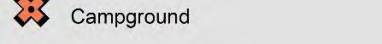

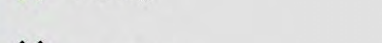
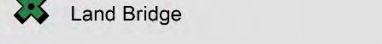
- Bicyclists yield to all other user types at crossings
- Follow all trail safety signage
- Communicate effectively with other trail users, making obstacles that may be ahead known, and let others know about your needs (or your horses) as a specific type of user
  - Bells on bicycles
- Be courteous and respectful
- Anticipate encounters with other user types and be prepared to respond appropriately

(Handout from Horse Council BC, with information from Trail Users Code of Ethics published by the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC)

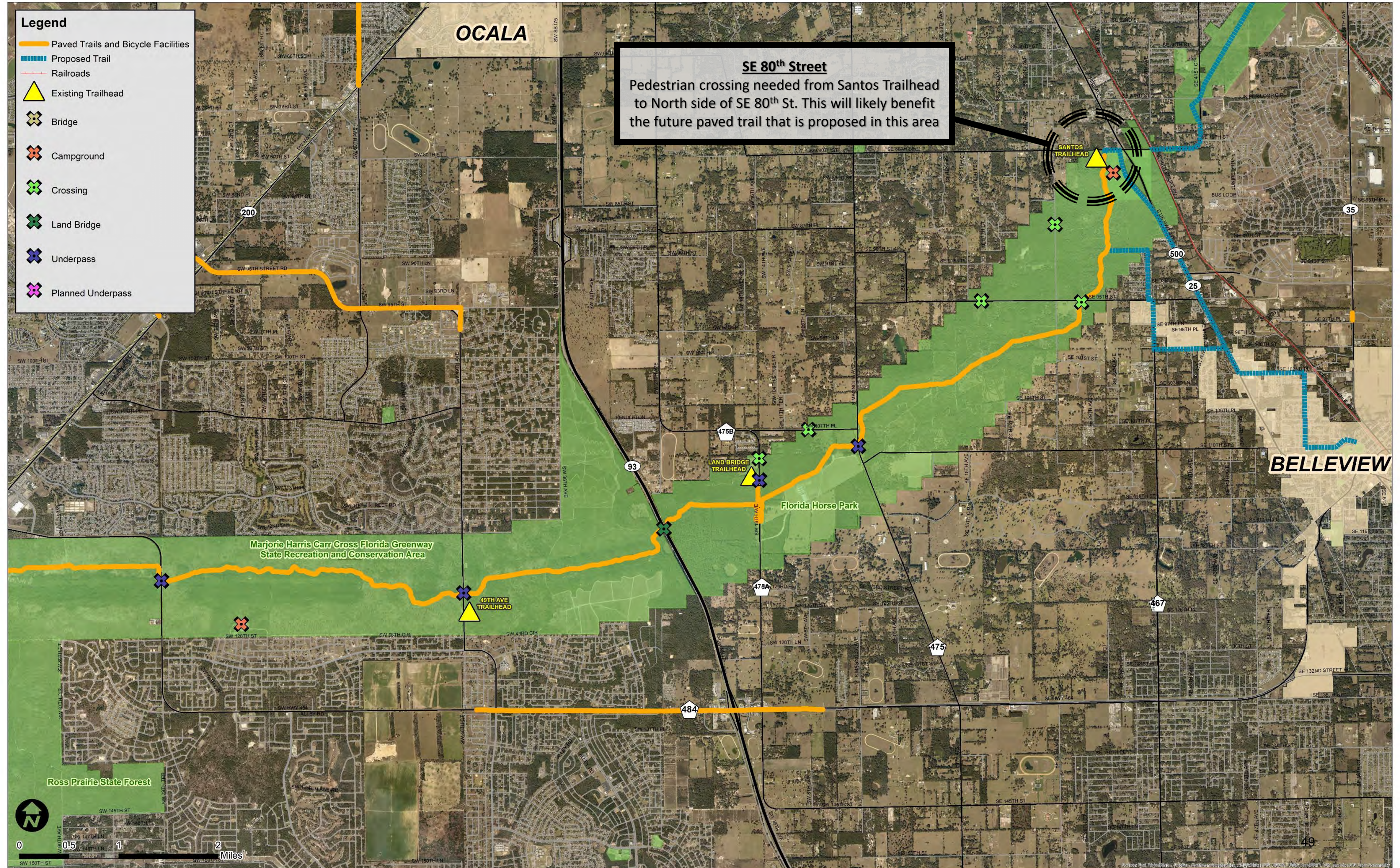


# Safety Recommendations for Paved & Proposed Trail Road Crossings

**Legend**

-  Paved Trails and Bicycle Facilities
-  Proposed Trail
-  Railroads
-  Existing Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Campground
-  Crossing
-  Land Bridge
-  Underpass
-  Planned Underpass

**SE 80<sup>th</sup> Street**  
 Pedestrian crossing needed from Santos Trailhead to North side of SE 80<sup>th</sup> St. This will likely benefit the future paved trail that is proposed in this area



# Safety Recommendations for Multiple User Type Crossings

## Legend

-  Paved Trails and Bicycle Facilities
-  Proposed Trail
-  Railroads
-  Mountain Bike Trails
-  Equestrian Trails
-  Existing Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Campground
-  Crossing
-  Land Bridge
-  Underpass
-  Planned Underpass

## Trail Etiquette Signage

- Bicyclists yield to all other user types at crossings
- Follow all trail safety signage
- Communicate effectively with other trail users, making obstacles that may be ahead known, and let others know about your needs (or your horses) as a specific type of user
  - Bells on bicycles
- Be courteous and respectful
- Anticipate encounters with other user types and be prepared to respond appropriately

(Handout from Horse Council BC, with information from Trail Users Code of Ethics published by the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC)

## Santos Trailhead

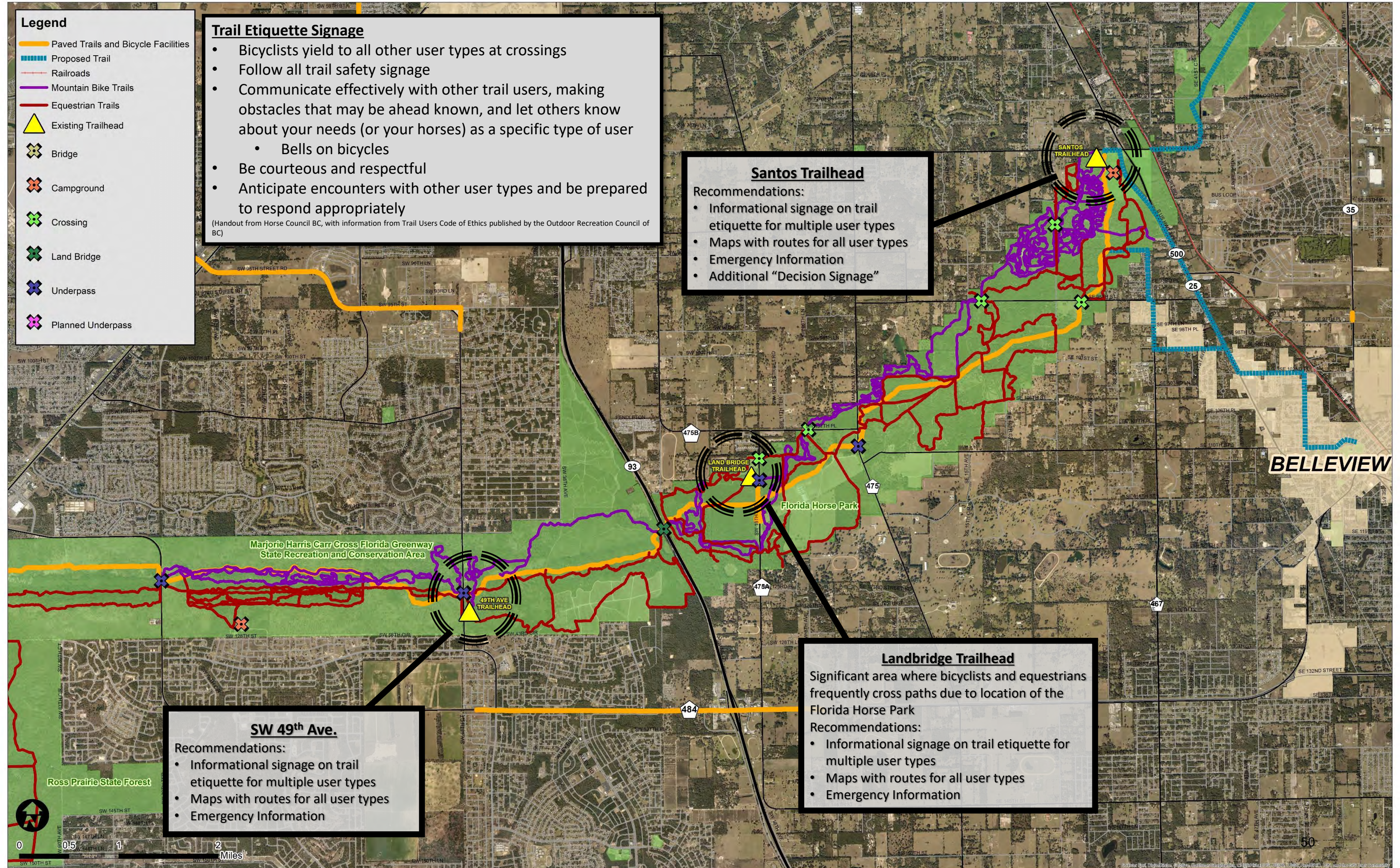
- Recommendations:
- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types
  - Maps with routes for all user types
  - Emergency Information
  - Additional "Decision Signage"

## Landbridge Trailhead

- Significant area where bicyclists and equestrians frequently cross paths due to location of the Florida Horse Park
- Recommendations:
- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types
  - Maps with routes for all user types
  - Emergency Information

## SW 49th Ave.

- Recommendations:
- Informational signage on trail etiquette for multiple user types
  - Maps with routes for all user types
  - Emergency Information



**BELLEVIEW**



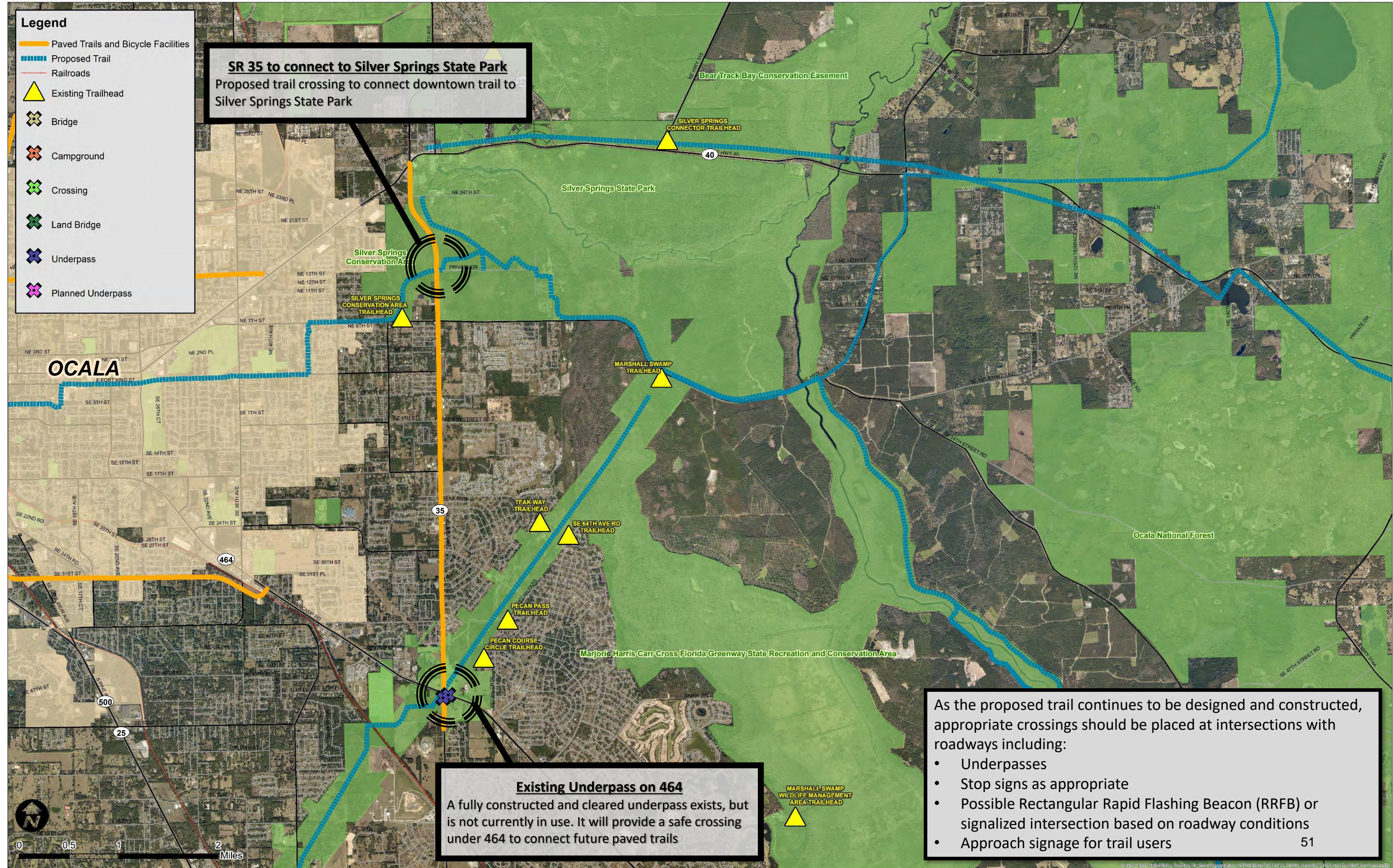
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

# Safety Recommendations for Paved & Proposed Trail Road Crossings

**Legend**

- Paved Trails and Bicycle Facilities
- - - Proposed Trail
- Railroads
- ▲ Existing Trailhead
- ⊗ Bridge
- ⊗ Campground
- ⊗ Crossing
- ⊗ Land Bridge
- ⊗ Underpass
- ⊗ Planned Underpass

**SR 35 to connect to Silver Springs State Park**  
 Proposed trail crossing to connect downtown trail to Silver Springs State Park



**Existing Underpass on 464**  
 A fully constructed and cleared underpass exists, but is not currently in use. It will provide a safe crossing under 464 to connect future paved trails

As the proposed trail continues to be designed and constructed, appropriate crossings should be placed at intersections with roadways including:

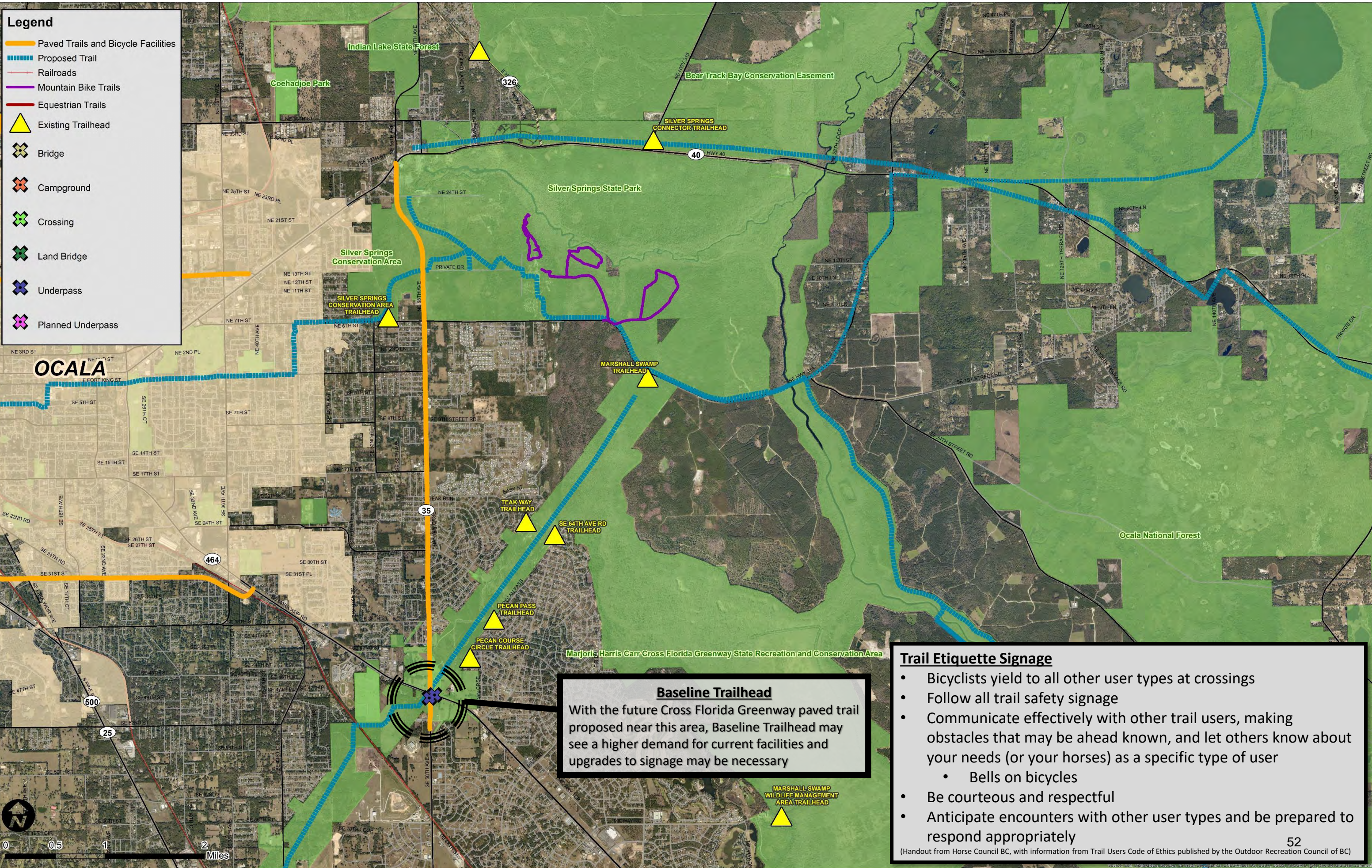
- Underpasses
- Stop signs as appropriate
- Possible Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) or signalized intersection based on roadway conditions
- Approach signage for trail users



# Safety Recommendations for Multiple User Type Crossings

**Legend**

-  Paved Trails and Bicycle Facilities
-  Proposed Trail
-  Railroads
-  Mountain Bike Trails
-  Equestrian Trails
-  Existing Trailhead
-  Bridge
-  Campground
-  Crossing
-  Land Bridge
-  Underpass
-  Planned Underpass



**Baseline Trailhead**  
 With the future Cross Florida Greenway paved trail proposed near this area, Baseline Trailhead may see a higher demand for current facilities and upgrades to signage may be necessary

**Trail Etiquette Signage**

- Bicyclists yield to all other user types at crossings
- Follow all trail safety signage
- Communicate effectively with other trail users, making obstacles that may be ahead known, and let others know about your needs (or your horses) as a specific type of user
  - Bells on bicycles
- Be courteous and respectful
- Anticipate encounters with other user types and be prepared to respond appropriately

(Handout from Horse Council BC, with information from Trail Users Code of Ethics published by the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC)



# Trail Design Standards

**Legend**

- Decision Sign
- Directional Sign
- Marker Post
- ▲ Existing Trailhead
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail

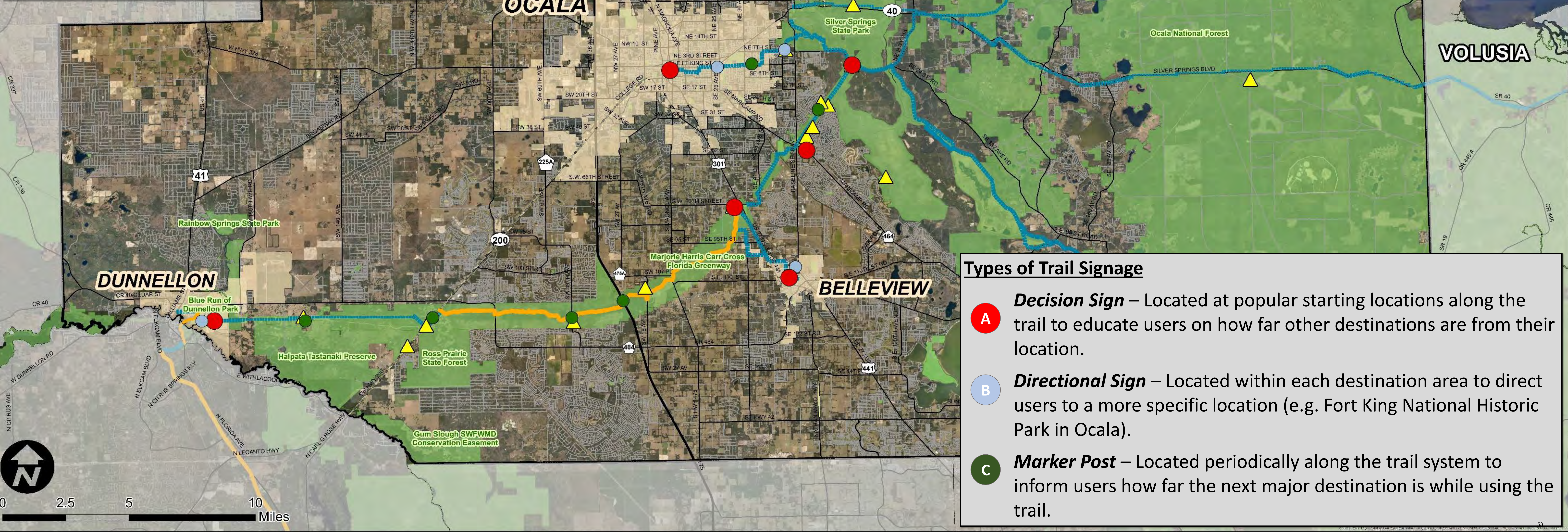
**A Decision Sign**

**B Directional Sign**

**C Marker Post**

Trailhead Classes		Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Characteristics	Role	Major access points for trails	Minor access points for trails	Rest area/weather refuge
	Amenities Considered	Parking for all user types including designated parking for persons with disabilities and equestrian vehicles, loading and unloading areas, restrooms, water, shelter areas, signage, trashcans, motorized wheelchair recharge stations, bicycle repair stations, trail etiquette signage, maps	Minor parking areas, designated parking for persons with disabilities, restrooms, trashcans, water, minimal signage, motorized wheelchair recharge stations	Stand-alone rest area/shelter, trashcan, water, bench
	Approximate Distance	Located approximately every 10 miles along a trail system or at logical termini	Located approximately every 5 to 10 miles along a trail system	Located approximately every 1 to 3 miles along a trail system

\*All facilities will be developed according to current applicable standards with the goal of providing universal accessibility



**Types of Trail Signage**

- A Decision Sign** – Located at popular starting locations along the trail to educate users on how far other destinations are from their location.
- B Directional Sign** – Located within each destination area to direct users to a more specific location (e.g. Fort King National Historic Park in Ocala).
- C Marker Post** – Located periodically along the trail system to inform users how far the next major destination is while using the trail.

# Cross Florida Greenway Connector Projects

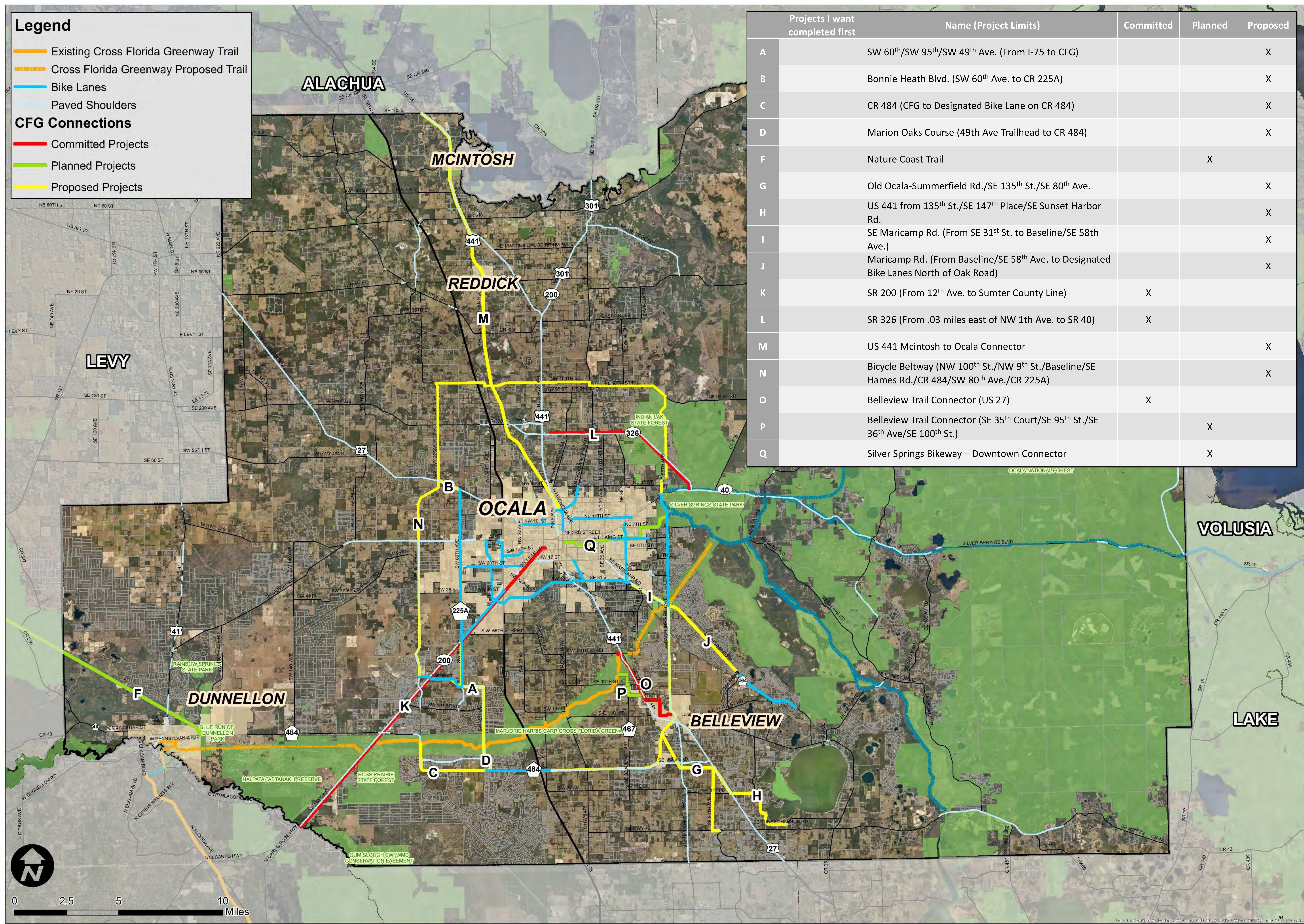
**Legend**

- Existing Cross Florida Greenway Trail
- Cross Florida Greenway Proposed Trail
- Bike Lanes
- Paved Shoulders

**CFG Connections**

- Committed Projects
- Planned Projects
- Proposed Projects

	Projects I want completed first	Name (Project Limits)	Committed	Planned	Proposed
A		SW 60 <sup>th</sup> /SW 95 <sup>th</sup> /SW 49 <sup>th</sup> Ave. (From I-75 to CFG)			X
B		Bonnie Heath Blvd. (SW 60 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to CR 225A)			X
C		CR 484 (CFG to Designated Bike Lane on CR 484)			X
D		Marion Oaks Course (49th Ave Trailhead to CR 484)			X
F		Nature Coast Trail		X	
G		Old Ocala-Summerfield Rd./SE 135 <sup>th</sup> St./SE 80 <sup>th</sup> Ave.			X
H		US 441 from 135 <sup>th</sup> St./SE 147 <sup>th</sup> Place/SE Sunset Harbor Rd.			X
I		SE Maricamp Rd. (From SE 31 <sup>st</sup> St. to Baseline/SE 58 <sup>th</sup> Ave.)			X
J		Maricamp Rd. (From Baseline/SE 58 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to Designated Bike Lanes North of Oak Road)			X
K		SR 200 (From 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to Sumter County Line)	X		
L		SR 326 (From .03 miles east of NW 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave. to SR 40)	X		
M		US 441 Mcintosh to Ocala Connector			X
N		Bicycle Beltway (NW 100 <sup>th</sup> St./NW 9 <sup>th</sup> St./Baseline/SE Hames Rd./CR 484/SW 80 <sup>th</sup> Ave./CR 225A)			X
O		Bellevue Trail Connector (US 27)	X		
P		Bellevue Trail Connector (SE 35 <sup>th</sup> Court/SE 95 <sup>th</sup> St./SE 36 <sup>th</sup> Ave/SE 100 <sup>th</sup> St.)		X	
Q		Silver Springs Bikeway – Downtown Connector		X	





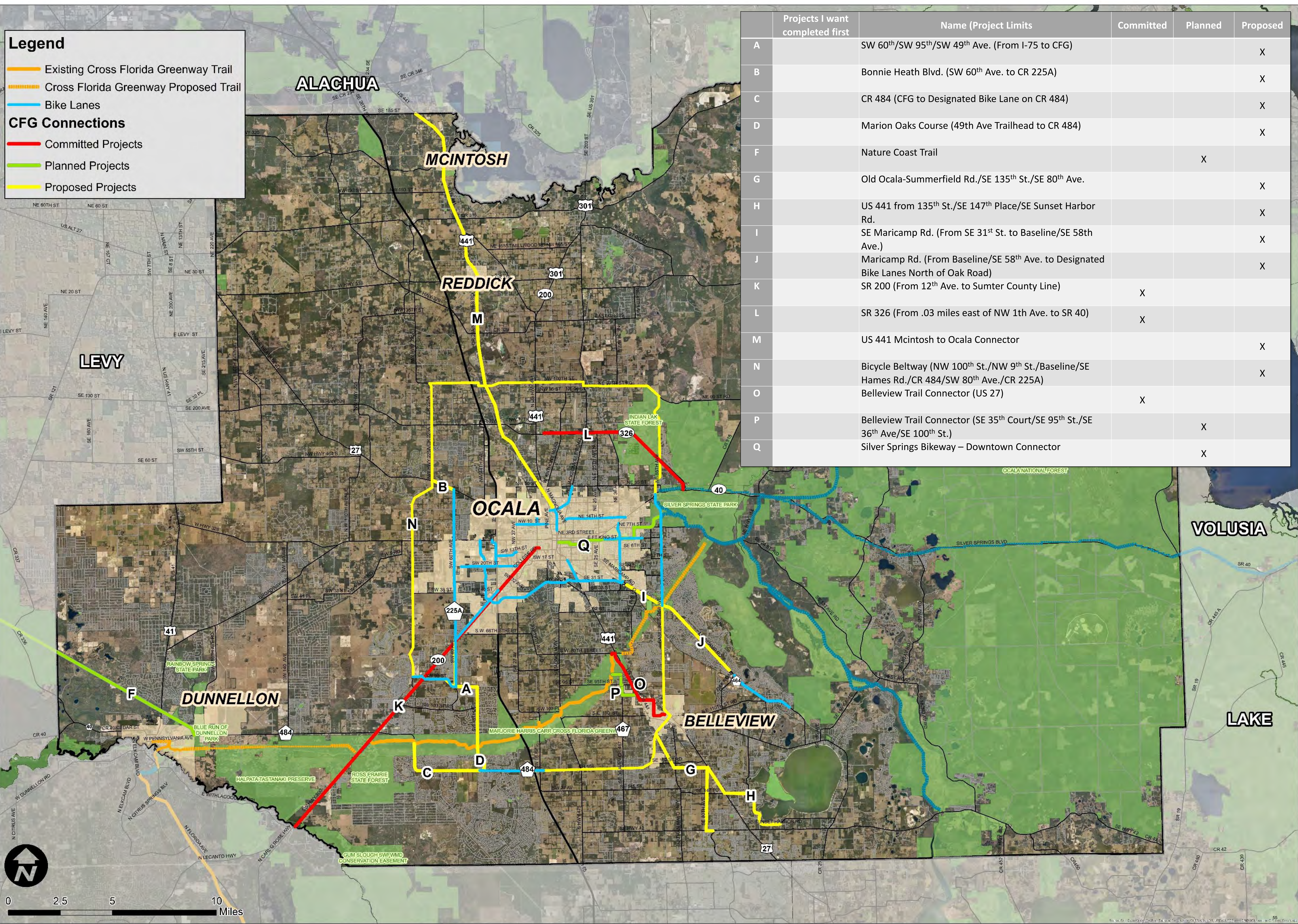
# Cross Florida Greenway Connector Projects

**Legend**

- Existing Cross Florida Greenway Trail
- Cross Florida Greenway Proposed Trail
- Bike Lanes

**CFG Connections**

- Committed Projects
- Planned Projects
- Proposed Projects



	Projects I want completed first	Name (Project Limits)	Committed	Planned	Proposed
A		SW 60 <sup>th</sup> /SW 95 <sup>th</sup> /SW 49 <sup>th</sup> Ave. (From I-75 to CFG)			X
B		Bonnie Heath Blvd. (SW 60 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to CR 225A)			X
C		CR 484 (CFG to Designated Bike Lane on CR 484)			X
D		Marion Oaks Course (49th Ave Trailhead to CR 484)			X
F		Nature Coast Trail		X	
G		Old Ocala-Summerfield Rd./SE 135 <sup>th</sup> St./SE 80 <sup>th</sup> Ave.			X
H		US 441 from 135 <sup>th</sup> St./SE 147 <sup>th</sup> Place/SE Sunset Harbor Rd.			X
I		SE Maricamp Rd. (From SE 31 <sup>st</sup> St. to Baseline/SE 58 <sup>th</sup> Ave.)			X
J		Maricamp Rd. (From Baseline/SE 58 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to Designated Bike Lanes North of Oak Road)			X
K		SR 200 (From 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave. to Sumter County Line)	X		
L		SR 326 (From .03 miles east of NW 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave. to SR 40)	X		
M		US 441 McIntosh to Ocala Connector			X
N		Bicycle Beltway (NW 100 <sup>th</sup> St./NW 9 <sup>th</sup> St./Baseline/SE Hames Rd./CR 484/SW 80 <sup>th</sup> Ave./CR 225A)			X
O		Bellevue Trail Connector (US 27)	X		
P		Bellevue Trail Connector (SE 35 <sup>th</sup> Court/SE 95 <sup>th</sup> St./SE 36 <sup>th</sup> Ave/SE 100 <sup>th</sup> St.)		X	
Q		Silver Springs Bikeway – Downtown Connector		X	



# Directional Signage Locations

Recommended Destination	Comments

Let us know which  
projects should  
get completed  
first!



Kimley»Horn

Regional Trail Corridor and Supportive Facilities Plan

April 25, 2019 – Public Workshop

Ocala Police Department

NAME	AGENCY/CITIZEN	EMAIL	PHONE	HOME ZIP CODE
Doug Sheaver	Greenway Equestrians	dcsheaver29@gmail.com	352-816-2353	34480
Ken Weyrauch	Marion County Growth Services	Kenneth.Weyrauch@marioncountyfl.org	352-438-2677	34470
Donald R Morgan	FL DEP, OGT	donald.morgan@floridadep.gov	850 245 3126	32312
Ken Odom	Marion County Growth Serv.	KENNETH.ODOM@MARIONCOUNTYFL.ORG	352-438-2620	34471
Tracy Straub	MCBCE	tracy.straub@marioncountyfl.org	352-671-8686	34471
Michelle Shearer	GREENWAY EQUESTRIANS	SEA HORSE 22222@gmail.com	352-817-0182	34480



## Regional Trail Corridor and Supportive Facilities Plan

### Public Comment Form

Please take a moment to provide your thoughts:

#1 EQUESTRIAN TRAIL PARALLEL TO PAVED TRAILS  
GOING TO BASELINE TH FROM SANTOS  
! ALL ALONG CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY  
PALATKA ~~TRAIL~~ INCLUS

#2 SIGNAGE ON PAVEMENT FOR  
HORSE KING AHEAD

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status.



The following optional questions are only used for informational purposes to determine who our public involvement activities are reaching and appealing to.

Your answers are confidential and will not be used for any other reasons.

Are you a trail user?  Yes  No

What user type best describes you?

- Bicyclist
- Equestrian
- Hiker
- Mountain Biker
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Any safety concerns, amenity needs, or other desires along the trail system?

SEPARATE TRAIL HEADS FOR EQUESTRIANS  
NO PAVEMENT IN PARKING LOT  
BATHROOMS w/ EASY ACCESS FROM

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status.

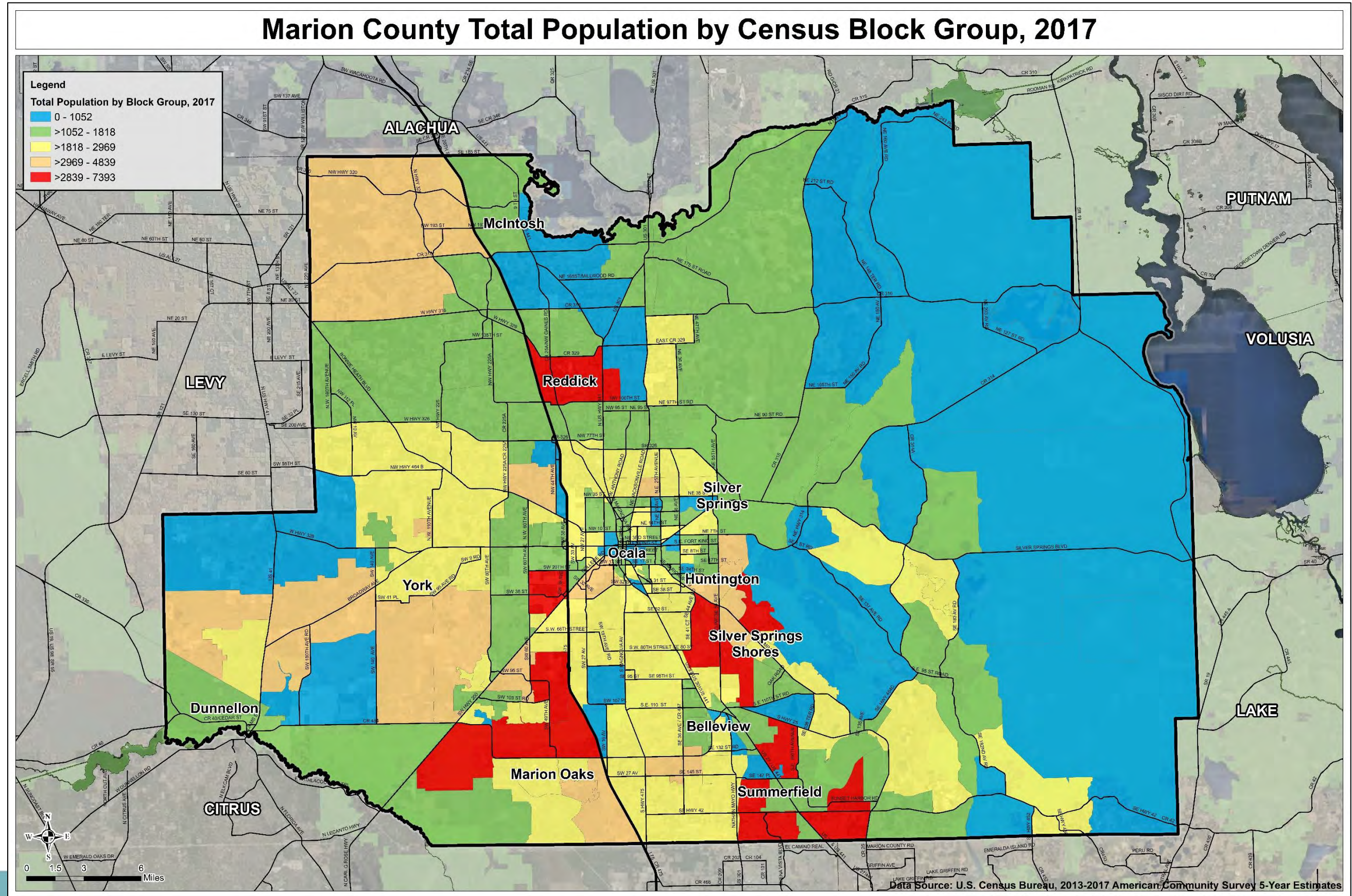


# ***Appendix B:***

## ***Census Data***



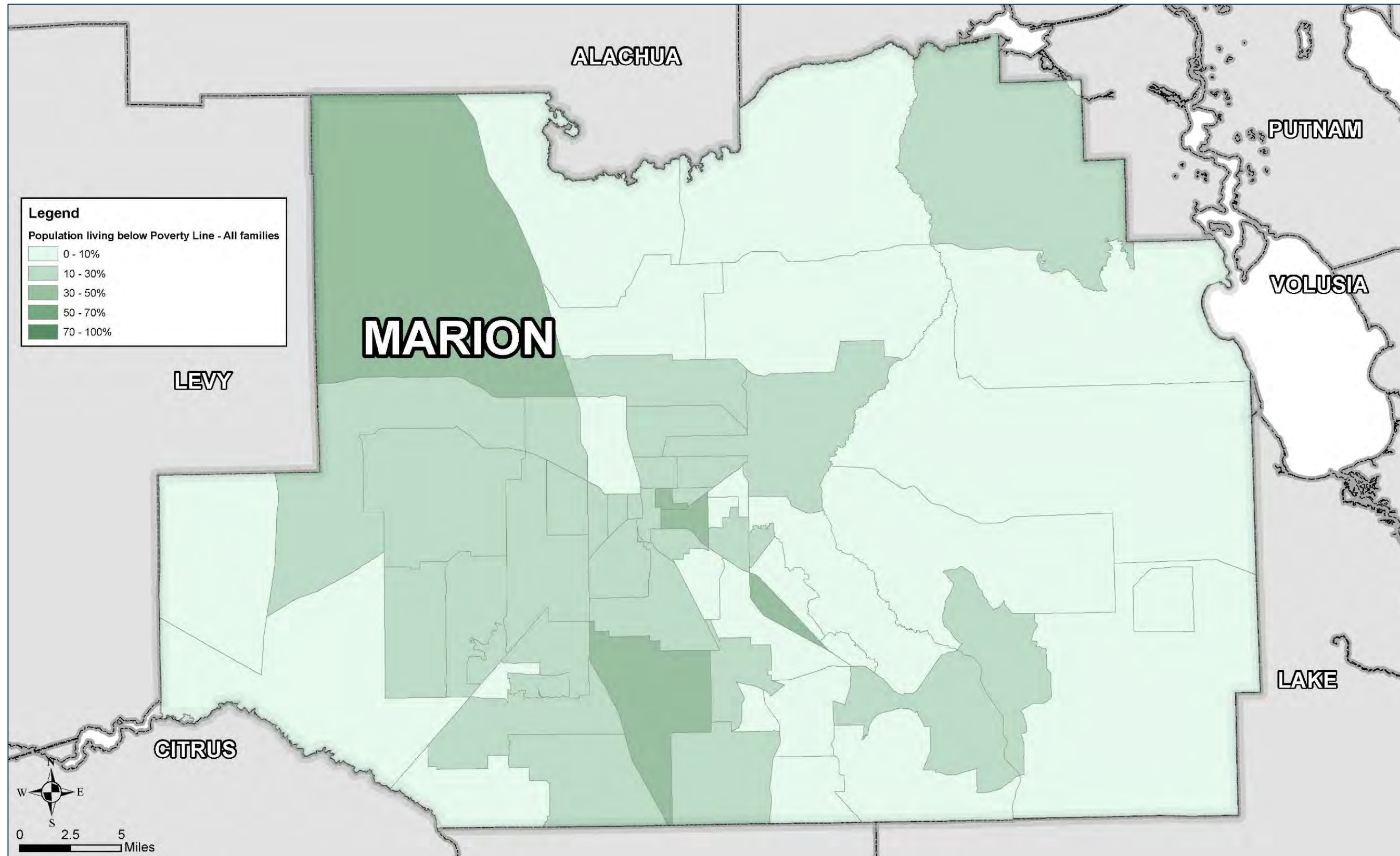
APPENDIX FIGURE 1. TOTAL POPULATION BY CENSUS BLOCK GROUP, 2017





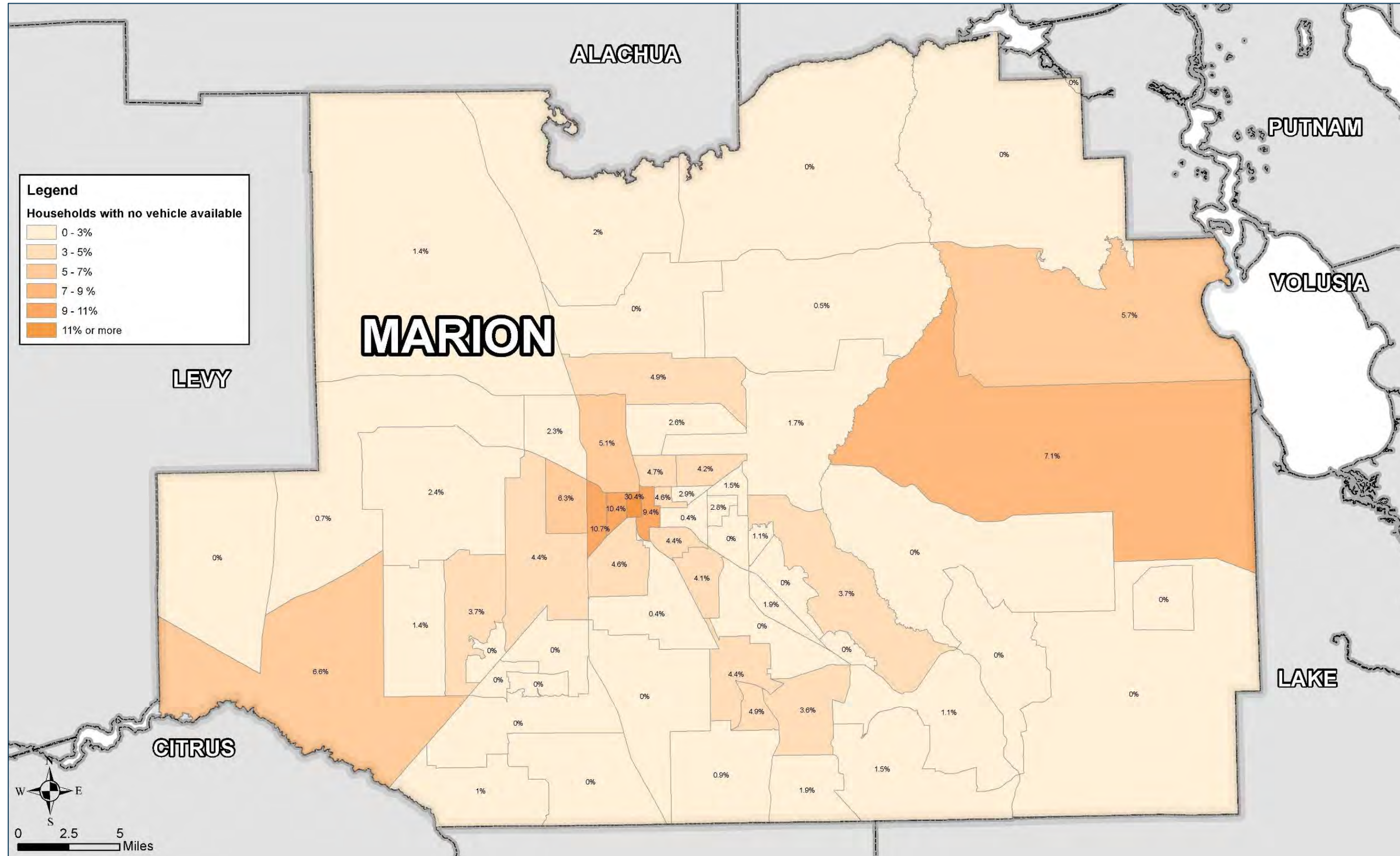


APPENDIX FIGURE 2. POPULATION LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE – ALL FAMILIES BY CENSUS TRACT (AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5 YEAR ESTIMATES, 2017)



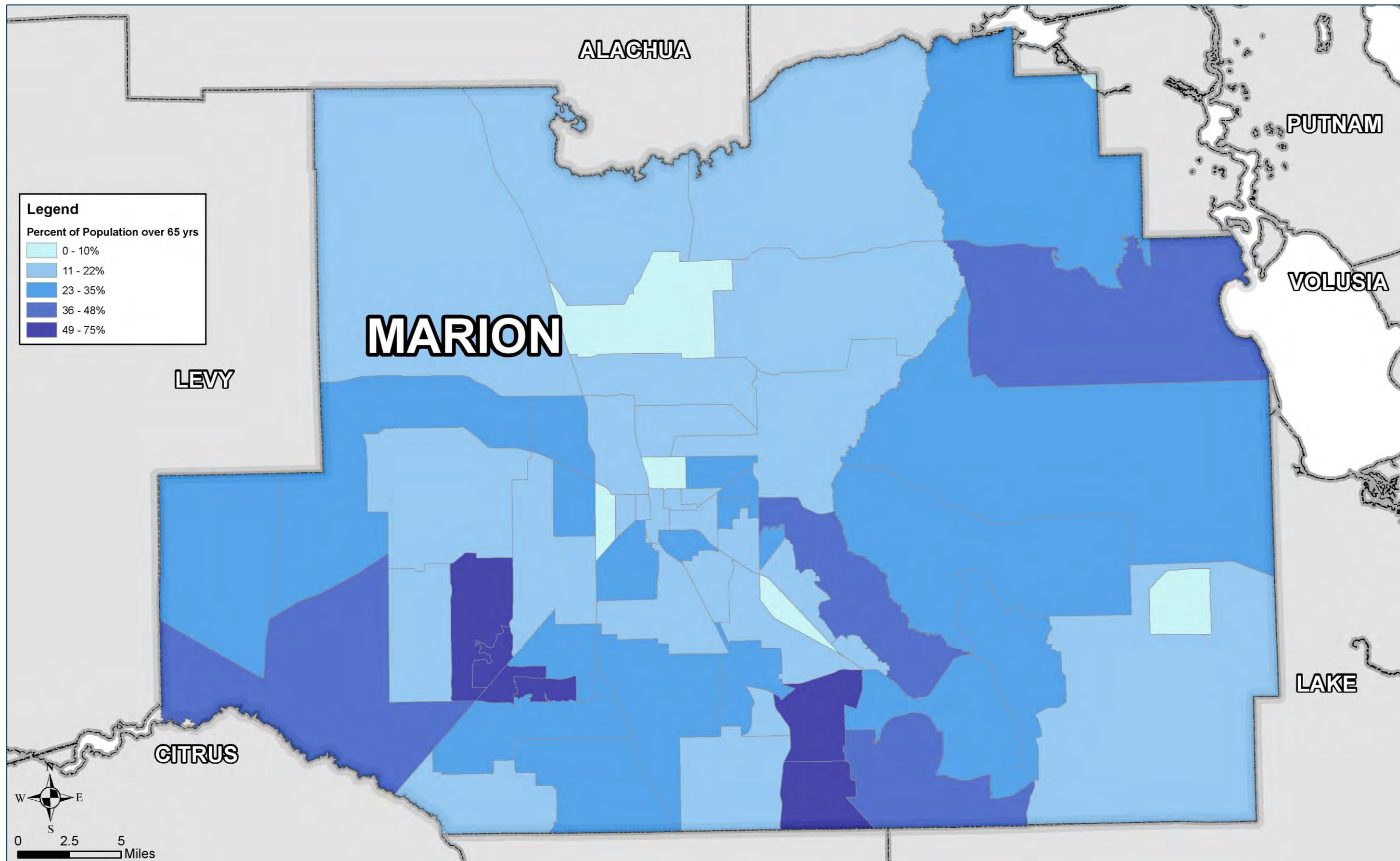


APPENDIX FIGURE 3. HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO VEHICLE AVAILABLE BY CENSUS TRACT (AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5 YEAR ESTIMATES, 2017)





APPENDIX FIGURE 4. PERCENT OF POPULATION OVER 65 YEARS OLD BY CENSUS TRACT (AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5 YEAR ESTIMATES, 2017)





**TO: TAC Members**

**FROM: Rob Balmes, Director**

**RE: Draft Fiscal Year 2019/2020 – 2023/2024 “Roll-Forward” Transportation Improvement Program**

---

When the TPO’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Work Program become adopted on July 1<sup>st</sup>, there are cases in which some projects were not yet authorized. These projects, in addition to funding changes within other projects, “roll forward” automatically into the Work Program, but not in the TPO’s TIP. Therefore, there is a need each year to reconcile the two documents.

Please find attached a draft ‘Roll-Forward’ Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/2020 – 2023/2024 list for your review. The following highlights the most notable project-specific changes, including funding:

- 4112565:** SR 35 (US 301) Dallas Pond Redesign – Add \$240K Construction, Right-of-Way
- 4261791:** Silver Springs State Park Pedestrian Bridges – Add \$409K Survey, Consultant
- 4302521:** ITS Countywide – Add \$1.13M
- 4306431:** I-75: N/O SR 500/US 27 to Alachua Co – Add \$221.3K, Resurfacing
- 4336521:** SR 40: SW 40<sup>th</sup> Ave to SW 27<sup>th</sup> Ave Turn Lanes – Reduce \$2.5M, Right-of-Way
- 4336611:** US 441: SR 40 to Broadway Traffic Operations – Reduce \$188K project costs
- 4354861:** Silver Springs Trail, SE 64<sup>th</sup> to Silver Spgs St. Park – NEW - \$4.5M (FY ‘24/25)
- 4356592:** SR 200 @ I-75 E & W Add turn lanes – NEW \$416K (FY ‘19/20)
- 4367561:** Dntown Ocala Trail to Silver Spgs St. Park – Moved PE \$253K ’19/20 to ‘24/25
- 4373441:** SR 200: SW 60<sup>th</sup> to SW 38<sup>th</sup> – NEW \$783K, Resurface
- 4375962:** SR 50: NW 27<sup>th</sup> to SW 7th Sidewalk – NEW \$1.28M Tied to SR 40 Turn Lanes
- 4385621:** I-75 Rest Area Marion County – Reduce \$20.3M CST
- 4392381:** US 441: SR 25 to SR 200 – Reduce \$2.2M, Resurface
- 4431701:** I-75: Sumter Co. to SR 200 – Reduce \$2.7M, Resurface

TPO staff is requesting approval of all projects and their associated tables within the draft ‘Roll-Forward’ TIP document. If you have any questions regarding the TIP or any of the ‘Roll Forward’ projects, please contact me at 438-2631.

*Cooperative and comprehensive planning for our transportation needs*  
*Marion County • City of Belleview • City of Dunnellon • City of Ocala*

## **FY 2019/20 to 2023/24 "Roll Forward" Transportation Improvement Program**















FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 OFFICE OF WORK PROGRAM  
 MPO ROLL-FORWARD REPORT

Ocala-Marion TPO

HIGHWAYS

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
ITEM NUMBER:439238 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:SR 25/500/US441/ FROM SR 35/SE BASLINE RD TO SR 200/SW 10TH STREET *NON-SIS* DISTRICT:05 COUNTY:MARION TYPE OF WORK:RESURFACING ROADWAY ID:36010000 PROJECT LENGTH: 10.612MI LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 6/ 6/ 0								
PHASE: PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY FDOT								
DDR	2,241,110	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,241,110
DIH	83,742	6,119	0	0	0	0	0	89,861
DS	464,133	118,225	0	0	0	0	0	582,358
PHASE: RIGHT OF WAY / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY FDOT								
DDR	6,000	229,000	0	0	0	0	0	235,000
DIH	865	9,135	0	0	0	0	0	10,000
PHASE: RAILROAD & UTILITIES / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY FDOT								
DDR	30,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	30,000
PHASE: CONSTRUCTION / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY FDOT								
DDR	0	3,884,000	0	0	0	0	0	3,884,000
DIH	0	5,130	0	0	0	0	0	5,130
NHRE	0	2,705,901	0	0	0	0	0	2,705,901
SA	0	17,569,632	0	0	0	0	0	17,569,632
<b>TOTAL 439238 1</b>	<b>2,825,850</b>	<b>24,527,142</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,352,992</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>2,825,850</b>	<b>24,527,142</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,352,992</b>

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
ITEM NUMBER:439887 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:MARION COUNTY PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING BUNDLE A *SIS* DISTRICT:05 COUNTY:MARION TYPE OF WORK:LIGHTING ROADWAY ID:36004000 PROJECT LENGTH: 1.234MI LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 4/ 0/ 0								
PHASE: CONSTRUCTION / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY DUKE ENERGY								
ACSS	0	165,000	0	0	0	0	0	165,000
<b>TOTAL 439887 2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>165,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>165,000</b>
<b>TOTAL DIST: 05</b>	<b>72,733,466</b>	<b>30,646,971</b>	<b>2,714,000</b>	<b>253,364</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>185,303,402</b>	<b>291,651,203</b>
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAYS</b>	<b>72,733,466</b>	<b>30,646,971</b>	<b>2,714,000</b>	<b>253,364</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>185,303,402</b>	<b>291,651,203</b>

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 OFFICE OF WORK PROGRAM  
 MPO ROLLFORWARD REPORT

DATE RUN: 07/05/2019  
 TIME RUN: 07.32.35  
 MBRMPOTP

Ocala-MARTON TPO

=====

**MAINTENANCE**

=====

ITEM NUMBER: 418107 1  
 DISTRICT: 05  
 ROADWAY ID:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: MARION PRIMARY IN-HOUSE  
 COUNTY: MARION  
 PROJECT LENGTH: .000

\*NON-SIS\*  
 TYPE OF WORK: ROUTINE MAINTENANCE  
 LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 0/ 0/ 0

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
PHASE: BRDG/RDWAY/CONTRACT MAINT / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY FDOT								
D	33,509,117	1,767,734	1,831,973	1,831,973	1,831,973	1,781,973	0	42,554,743
<b>TOTAL 418107 1</b>	<b>33,509,117</b>	<b>1,767,734</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,781,973</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,554,743</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>33,509,117</b>	<b>1,767,734</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,781,973</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,554,743</b>
<b>TOTAL DIST: 05</b>	<b>33,509,117</b>	<b>1,767,734</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,781,973</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,554,743</b>
<b>TOTAL MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>33,509,117</b>	<b>1,767,734</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,831,973</b>	<b>1,781,973</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,554,743</b>





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF WORK PROGRAM  
MPO R.O.I.FORWARD REPORT

OCALA-MARION TPO

=====  
TRANSIT  
=====

ITEM NUMBER:427188 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:SUNTRAN/OCALA/MARION /URBAN CAPITAL/FIXED ROUT ES/FTA SECTION 5307-200 \*NON-SIS\*  
DISTRICT:05 COUNTY:MARION TYPE OF WORK:CAPITAL FOR FIXED ROUTE  
ROADWAY ID: PROJECT LENGTH: .000 LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 0/ 0/ 0

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
PHASE: CAPITAL / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY Ocala								
FTA	0	2,132,968	0	0	0	0	0	2,132,968
LF	0	733,242	0	0	0	0	0	733,242
<b>TOTAL 427188 1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,866,210</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,866,210</b>

ITEM NUMBER:427188 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:SUNTRAN/OCALA/MARION URBAN CAPITAL FIXED ROUTE FTA SECTION 5307-2009 \*NON-SIS\*  
DISTRICT:05 COUNTY:MARION TYPE OF WORK:CAPITAL FOR FIXED ROUTE  
ROADWAY ID: PROJECT LENGTH: .000 LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 0/ 0/ 0

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
PHASE: CAPITAL / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY MARION COUNTY TRANSIT								
FTA	0	11,815,033	2,325,554	2,395,321	2,467,181	2,541,196	0	21,544,285
LF	0	2,953,758	581,389	598,830	616,795	635,299	0	5,386,071
<b>TOTAL 427188 2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,768,791</b>	<b>2,906,943</b>	<b>2,994,151</b>	<b>3,083,976</b>	<b>3,176,495</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,930,356</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,635,001</b>	<b>2,906,943</b>	<b>2,994,151</b>	<b>3,083,976</b>	<b>3,176,495</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,796,566</b>

ITEM NUMBER:433304 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:MARION-BLOCK GRANT OPERATING ASSIST FOR FIXE D ROUTE SERVICE SEC 5307 \*NON-SIS\*  
DISTRICT:05 COUNTY:MARION TYPE OF WORK:OPERATING FOR FIXED ROUTE  
ROADWAY ID: PROJECT LENGTH: .000 LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 0/ 0/ 0

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
PHASE: OPERATIONS / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY Ocala								
DPTO	0	1,260,629	685,858	720,151	0	0	0	2,666,638
FTA	400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	400,000
LF	607,437	1,260,629	685,858	720,151	0	0	0	3,274,075
<b>TOTAL 433304 1</b>	<b>1,007,437</b>	<b>2,521,258</b>	<b>1,371,716</b>	<b>1,440,302</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,340,713</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>1,007,437</b>	<b>2,521,258</b>	<b>1,371,716</b>	<b>1,440,302</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,340,713</b>

ITEM NUMBER:445377 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:MARION Ocala SECTION 5339 SMALL URBAN CAPITAL \*NON-SIS\*  
DISTRICT:05 COUNTY:MARION TYPE OF WORK:CAPITAL FOR FIXED ROUTE  
ROADWAY ID: PROJECT LENGTH: .000 LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 0/ 0/ 0

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
PHASE: CAPITAL / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY Ocala								
FTA	0	281,434	0	0	0	0	0	281,434
LF	0	70,359	0	0	0	0	0	70,359
<b>TOTAL 445377 1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>351,793</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>351,793</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>351,793</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>351,793</b>
<b>TOTAL DIST: 05</b>	<b>1,007,437</b>	<b>20,508,052</b>	<b>4,278,659</b>	<b>4,434,453</b>	<b>3,083,976</b>	<b>3,176,495</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,489,072</b>
<b>TOTAL TRANSIT</b>	<b>1,007,437</b>	<b>20,508,052</b>	<b>4,278,659</b>	<b>4,434,453</b>	<b>3,083,976</b>	<b>3,176,495</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,489,072</b>





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 OFFICE OF WORK PROGRAM  
 MPO ROLL-FORWARD REPORT  
 =====  
 MISCELLANEOUS  
 =====

Ocala-Marion TPO

ITEM NUMBER:430252 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:OCAJA ITS COUNTYWIDE MARION COUNTY TYPE OF WORK:ITS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM \*NON-SIS\*  
 DISTRICT:05 COUNTY:MARION LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 0/ 0/ 0  
 ROADWAY ID: PROJECT LENGTH: .000

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
PHASE: CONSTRUCTION / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY MARION COUNTY ENGINEERING DRPT								
ACSL	0	1,129,340	0	0	0	0	0	1,129,340
SL	1,976,243	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,976,243
<b>TOTAL 430252 1</b>	<b>1,976,243</b>	<b>1,129,340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,105,583</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>1,976,243</b>	<b>1,129,340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,105,583</b>

ITEM NUMBER:438328 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:NATURAL DISASTER MARION COUNTYWIDE - TROPICAL STORM HERMINE TYPE OF WORK:EMERGENCY OPERATIONS \*NON-SIS\*  
 DISTRICT:05 COUNTY:MARION LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 0/ 0/ 0  
 ROADWAY ID: PROJECT LENGTH: .000

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
PHASE: MISCELLANEOUS / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY FDOT								
DER	2,607	600	0	0	0	0	0	3,207
<b>TOTAL 438328 1</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,207</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,207</b>

ITEM NUMBER:438329 1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION:NATURAL DISASTER MARION COUNTYWIDE EMERGENCY SIGN REPAIR TYPE OF WORK:EMERGENCY OPERATIONS \*NON-SIS\*  
 DISTRICT:05 COUNTY:MARION LANES EXIST/IMPROVED/ADDED: 0/ 0/ 0  
 ROADWAY ID: PROJECT LENGTH: .000

FUND CODE	LESS THAN 2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	GREATER THAN 2024	ALL YEARS
PHASE: MISCELLANEOUS / RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: MANAGED BY FDOT								
D	0	101	0	0	0	0	0	101
<b>TOTAL 438329 1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>TOTAL DIST: 05</b>	<b>1,978,850</b>	<b>1,130,041</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,108,891</b>
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>1,978,850</b>	<b>1,130,041</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,108,891</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>144,028,088</b>	<b>59,067,474</b>	<b>9,171,632</b>	<b>6,519,790</b>	<b>4,915,949</b>	<b>4,958,468</b>	<b>185,303,402</b>	<b>413,964,803</b>
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**October 1, 2019**

**TO: TAC Members**

**FROM: Derrick Harris, TPO Assistant Director**

**RE: Bylaws DRAFT**

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TPO staff has revised the Bylaws based on discussion with TAC members from the preliminary DRAFT review at our September meeting. The version contained herein should reflect the intent, and spirit of the comments made.

If you have any questions prior to the upcoming meeting, please contact our office at (352) 438-2632.



## Bylaws of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

### Purpose

- ❖ The purpose of the TAC shall be to offer advice, critique, and feedback to TPO staff on a variety of transportation planning programs, studies, and reports. Ultimately, the TAC will make recommendations to the TPO Board based on their expertise and once reaching consensus on the items staff puts before them.

### Membership

- ❖ The TAC shall include local engineers, planners, and a variety of other professionals throughout the County. The following includes the voting members of the TAC:
  - Two (2) representatives from Marion County
  - Two (2) representatives from the City of Ocala
  - One (1) representative from the City of Belleview
  - One (1) representative from the City of Dunnellon
  - One (1) representative from SunTran as assigned by the City of Ocala
  - One (1) representative from the Marion County School District
  - One (1) representative from Greenways and Trails
  - One (1) representative from Marion County Tourism
- ❖ A representative from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 5, will serve as a non-voting advisor.
- ❖ Ocala Marion TPO will provide staff support for the meeting.

### Appointment & Terms of Office

- ❖ Each member ~~requires shall have written~~ consent from the governing body of the jurisdiction in which they represent. All members appointed shall have an alternate if desired. If an alternate is determined the governing body must formalize in writing to the TPO. Alternate members may only vote in the absence of the official member.
- ❖ The TPO Board will ~~be informed of review and approve all committee-membership on an annual basis. nominations.~~
- ❖ ~~It is requested that~~ the jurisdiction and/or municipality ~~must~~ be mindful to select individuals within departments with keen expertise in all matters transportation. This will help ensure that the plans and documents ~~that~~ the TPO proposes will have adequate feedback and help guide the transportation system throughout Marion County as a whole.



- ❖ Each member is expected to fulfill their requirements in terms of feedback, but also in terms of attendance. If a member cannot make it to a meeting, it is expected that they arrange for their alternate to attend if at all possible. In the event a member or their alternate misses three meetings in a calendar year, ~~a letter will be drafted to TPO staff will notify~~ their governing body ~~notifying them~~ of their attendance record.
- ❖ Member and their alternates may serve an undetermined amount of time at the pleasure of their governing bodies.

## Officers and Duties

- ❖ At the last regular meeting for the calendar year, the TAC shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson.
- ❖ Officers ~~shall will~~ be elected by a majority of the voting members ~~present~~. The term shall be for one (1) calendar year. An officer may be re-elected, but may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- ❖ The chairperson shall preside at all meetings. In the event of their absence or at their direction, the vice-chairperson shall assume the powers and duties of the chairperson.
- ~~❖ In the event of the permanent incapacitation of the chairperson or vice-chairperson of the TAC, a new officer will be elected from the membership at the next scheduled meeting~~

## Meetings

- ❖ Regular meetings of the TAC shall be held at least quarterly. At the last regular meeting of each year, the TAC will approve the following year's meeting schedule. Regular meeting dates and times may be changed by the chairperson or vice-chairperson to accommodate special circumstances such as holidays.
- ❖ Roberts Rules of Order shall be used as a guideline to conduct all meetings
- ❖ A majority of the whole number of voting members of the TAC shall constitute a quorum. No official action shall be taken without quorum.
- ❖ In the absence of the chairperson and vice-chairperson, the TPO staff representative ~~will shall~~ determine whether a quorum is present and in that event ~~will shall~~ call for election of a temporary chairperson. Upon the arrival of the chairperson, or vice-chairperson, the temporary chairperson ~~will shall~~ relinquish the chair upon conclusion of the business immediately before the TAC
- ❖ Agenda meeting notices and packets shall be provided to TAC members and the public at least seven (7) days prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.
- ❖



- ❖ Special meetings may be called by the Chair with a minimum of a three (3) calendar day notice, and indication of the reason for the meeting.
- ❖ TPO staff will record and summarize the minutes for all TAC meetings.
- ❖ ~~All~~ meetings will be open to the public.

### **Amendments**

- ❖ These bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members or their designated alternate, provided the proposed amendment ~~shall have~~ has been sent to every member at least seven (7) calendar days before voted on.

### **Sunshine Law and Public Records Law**

- ❖ The TAC and all proceedings shall be governed by the Florida Sunshine Law, Chapter 286 and Florida Statutes, Chapter 119.



## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Ocala Citizens Service Center  
201 SE 3rd Street, Ocala FL 34471

**June 11, 2019**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Members Present:**

Nicholas Blizzard  
Dave Herlihy  
Joel Graff (*for Vickie Wyche*)  
Bruce Phillips  
Kenneth Odom  
Lonnie Smith  
Mickey Thomason

#### **Members Not Present:**

Oliver Cromwell  
Nancy Smith

#### **Others Present:**

Derrick Harris  
Elizabeth Mitchell  
Kristen Woodruff

### **Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Dave Herlihy called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Secretary Shakayla Pullings called the roll. A quorum was present.

### **Item 2. Proof of Publication**

Secretary Shakayla Pullings stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website, the City of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites on June 5, 2019.

### **Item 3a. List of Priority Projects (LOPP) Ranking**

Mr. Harris presented the LOPP Ranking and said that at the May TPO Board Meeting, staff received feedback regarding how to formally proceed with the ranking of the 2019 LOPP. It was determined that an internal interim ranking criteria developed by TPO staff would be used. The ranking criteria developed was grouped into six categories.

First, the ranking criteria looked at whether a project incorporated different modes of transportation into the project or was multimodal. Therefore, if a project incorporated bike lanes, sidewalks, transit options, or offered a new alternative, such as a trail, it received one point for being multimodal.

Second, the ranking criteria looked at Performance Measures. Based on the latest major transportation legislation, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law on December 4, 2015, which required MPO/TPOs to measure the performance of projects. This was done by measuring projects on safety, system performance, pavement/bridge condition, and transit asset management. Therefore, the LOPP gave weight to any project that met one of the performance measures, and an additional point if the project met two.

Next the ranking criteria looked at where the projects were in their development. For example, if a project was in the Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) stage it received one point, and it received an additional point for each stage the project was in until construction, which would have been four points.

Mr. Harris noted that projects could only qualify for one of the phases, with one to four points possible. Another factor in the ranking criteria was funding availability. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had mentioned on several occasions, funding was limited.

Therefore, if a project had a lower cost associated with it, or a lower cost was still needed, the project could have received one additional point.



There was committee discussion regarding the ranking of projects and it was ultimately decided by the committee to take additional time to review the priority projects and provide Mr. Harris with any progress updates on the listed projects to ensure all project received correct ranking.

*Mr. Odom made a motion that TPO staff make the changes recommended by the TAC committee members as far as the restructuring of the scoring with the projects that were discussed. In the event there were additional TPO staff comments outside of the room the representatives of the TAC would have to reconvene within one week in order to approve the action item. Mr. Phillips seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 3b. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Kristen Woodruff presented the committee members with a draft of the FY 2019/20 – 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for members to review. The listing of scheduled projects in this document are pulled from the Florida Department of Transportation’s Tentative Work Program.

Notable additions to this year’s update include:

- 433652-1: SR 40 intersections at SW 40th Avenue and SW 27th Avenue – Add turn lanes (additional \$1.3 million)
- 4261791-1: Silver Springs State Park Pedestrian Bridges – Pedestrian/Wildlife Overpass (additional \$2.6 million)
- 433651-1: CR 484 from SW 20th Avenue to CR 475A – Interchange Improvement (Construction phases and additional ROW funding, \$6.8 million)
- Updated SunTran and Congestion Management Process language in Executive Summary

### **Item 5. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Harris said that the TPO Board voted for the TPO to be moved from being hosted by the City of Ocala to being hosted by Marion County starting July 1<sup>st</sup> and in August the TAC committee would be meeting at a new location more than likely at the County.

Mr. Harris also mentioned that at the last TPO Board meeting it seemed to be consensus with the board to let the City of Ocala run the day to day operations of the SunTran and the attorneys were cleaning up agreements.

Also, a new TPO Director was hired and within the next two months he would be on board.

### **Item 6. Comments by TAC Members**

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Harris what his role was with the TPO.

Mr. Harris responded that he was the Interim Director and prior the Interim title he was the Fiscal Manager/ Transportation Planner.

**Item 7. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**Item 8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Herlihy at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Pullings, TPO Administrative Assistant



## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Ocala Citizens Service Center  
201 SE 3rd Street, Ocala FL 34471

**June 18, 2019**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Members Present:**

Nicholas Blizzard  
Dave Herlihy  
Bruce Phillips  
Kenneth Odom  
Nancy Smith

#### **Members Not Present:**

Oliver Cromwell  
Vickie Wyche  
Lonnie Smith  
Mickey Thomason

#### **Others Present:**

Rob Balmes  
Derrick Harris  
Elizabeth Mitchell  
Kristen Woodruff

### **Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Dave Herlihy called the meeting to order at 10:02am. Secretary Shakayla Pullings called the roll and a quorum was not present.

### **Item 2. Proof of Publication**

Secretary Shakayla Pullings stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website, the City of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

### **Item 3a. List of Priority Projects (LOPP) Ranking**

Mr. Harris presented the LOPP Ranking and said that at the May TPO Board Meeting, staff received feedback regarding how to formally proceed with the ranking of the 2019 LOPP. It was determined that an internal interim ranking criteria developed by TPO staff would be used. The ranking criteria developed was grouped into six categories.

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Therefore, if a project had a lower cost associated with it, or a lower cost was still needed, the project could have received one additional point.

**Item 4. Comments by FDOT**

*There were no comments by FDOT.*

**Item 5. Comments by TPO Staff**

*There were no comments by TPO Staff.*

**Item 6. Comments by TAC Members**

*There were no comment by TAC Members.*

**Item 7. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**Item 8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Herlihy at 10:40am.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Pullings, TPO Administrative Assistant



## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Marion County Growth Services  
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470

**August 13, 2019**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Members Present:**

Mike Roberson (for Nicholas Blizzard)  
Oliver Cromwell  
Dave Herlihy  
Vickie Wyche  
Kenneth Odom  
Mickey Thomason

#### **Members Not Present:**

Bruce Phillips  
Lonnie Smith  
Nancy Smith

#### **Others Present:**

Rob Balmes  
Derrick Harris  
Elizabeth Mitchell

### **Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Dave Herlihy called the meeting to order at 10:03am. Secretary Shakayla Pullings called the roll. A quorum was present.

### **Item 2. Proof of Publication**

Secretary Shakayla Pullings stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website, the City of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

### **Item 3a. TPO Logo & Website**

Mr. Balmes gave a brief presentation on the TPO logo and website and showed the committee the current TPO logo and website page and said that with the move to Marion County it was a good time to create a new logo and user friendly website.

Mr. Balmes noted the following regarding the TPO logo:

- The current Logo was created for TPO and SunTran in 2010
- The goal was to update and modernize the logo to reflect the new TPO
- The TPO was focused on being cost-effective
- The TPO planned to contract with a local graphic artist vendor
- The TPO would seek feedback via survey voting from the TPO Board, TAC, and CAC
- Project to take place in August and conclude in September

Mr. Balmes made clear to the committee that this would not be considered a rebranding project.

Mr. Balmes also noted the following regarding the TPO website:

- Current Website was a subpage of City of Ocala
- Modern, Independent, Customized Website was needed
- Staff reviewed websites of 26 MPO/TPO's in FL
- Staff conducted calls with 6 peer MPO/TPO's
- Staff had discussions with FDOT, FHWA-FL
- Staff had meetings with Marion County IT

Mr. Balmes said that the TPO staff findings were that MPOs/TPOs having independent sites was the standard and that modernization was crucial (user friendly and intuitive). ADA compliance was also essential.

The proposed plan was to request for quotes to receive the lowest and best value and bring a DRAFT review to the TPO Board, TAC, and CAC in October or November 2019. The website project was expected to be completed by December 31, 2019.

### **Item 3b. 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update**

Mr. Harris gave a brief presentation on the 2045 LRTP Update and said that the Federal Highway Act of 1962 established legislation that mandated that any Urbanized Area (UA) with a population of 50,000 or more that expends United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) funding must implement a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process. The UA of the Ocala/Marion County TPO included the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, and Ocala, as well as Marion County. As a part of the required continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process, the TPO had to produce and implement certain plans, one being the LRTP.

The LRTP was the cornerstone of the transportation planning process for the Ocala Marion County area and served as a twenty-five year blueprint for transportation improvements for the entire county. The plan projected future population and employment and analyzed their impact on the anticipated transportation system. In addition, it included goals, objectives, and financial projections, as well as estimates of future traffic.

Mr. Harris gave the committee a timeline of the LRTP:

- Summer 2019- Project Kick Off (where the TPO was currently)
- Fall 2019- Establish Goals and Objectives
- Spring 2020- Identify Needed Improvements
- Summer 2020- Project Prioritization
- Fall 2020- Plan Adoption

Mr. Harris encouraged the committee to visit the 2045 LRTP website ([ocalamarion2045.com](http://ocalamarion2045.com)) and take the survey.

### **Item 4a. Bylaws Update**

Mr. Harris said that the TPO staff would begin discussion regarding the proposed update/creation of Bylaws and that an update would be on the next agenda in September 2019 for the committee to review.

### **Item 5. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Wyche had no project updates but announced that there would be a US 441 Resurfacing Public Hearing on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the NOW Church in Ocala, FL at 5:30pm.

### **Item 6. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Balmes mentioned that he would like to get feedback from the committee on Mobility Week which would take place October 25<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>. TPO staff would send an email out seeking feedback closer to the time of the event.



**Item 7. Comments by TAC Members**

*There were no comments by TAC Members.*

**Item 8. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**Item 9. Adjournment**

Chairman Herlihy adjourned the meeting at 10:35am.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Pullings, TPO Administrative Assistant



**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting**  
Marion County Growth Services- Training Room  
2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470  
September 10, 2019  
10:00 AM

## **MINUTES**

### **Members Present:**

Nicholas Blizzard  
Vickie Wyche  
Kenneth Odom  
Nancy Smith

### **Members Not Present:**

Oliver Cromwell  
Dave Herlihy  
Bruce Phillips  
Lonnie Smith  
Mickey Thomason

### **Others Present:**

Eric Smith  
Tony Nosse, FDOT  
Rob Balmes  
Derrick Harris  
Elizabeth Mitchell  
Judy Pizzo, FDOT

### **Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Acting Chairman Kenneth Odom called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Secretary Shakayla Pullings called the roll. A quorum was not present.

### **Item 2. Proof of Publication**

Secretary Shakayla Pullings stated that the meeting had been published online on the TPO website, the City of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### **Item 3a. Florida Transportation Plan (FTP)**

Judy Pizzo with the FDOT gave a slideshow presentation to the TAC on the FTP and said that FDOT was updating the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) which defined goals, objectives, and strategies for Florida's transportation system statewide. The FTP was the overarching transportation plan for all of Florida and affected every resident, business, and visitor.

Part of Ms. Pizzo's presentation was an interactive survey that allowed the committee members to express what they thought would be concerns in there near future concerning modes of transportation and advancing technologies.

### **Item 4a. Bylaws DRAFT**

Mr. Harris presented the Bylaws DRAFT to the TAC and said that TPO staff had recently discovered that bylaws for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was never established. Therefore, staff had begun the discussion and action of creating bylaws for the committee, by presenting the DRAFT version.

Mr. Harris said the bylaws were merely a DRAFT version and was likely to be discussed over the next couple of meetings with the goal to discuss, revise, and bring back to the committee in October.

The Membership section of the DRAFT Bylaws stated the "The TAC shall include local engineers, planners, and a variety of other professionals throughout the County." The following included the voting members of the TAC:"

- Two (2) representatives from Marion County
- Two (2) representatives from the City of Ocala
- One (1) representative from the City of Belleview
- One (1) representative from the City of Dunnellon
- One (1) representative from SunTran as assigned by the City of Ocala
- One (1) representative from the Marion County School District
- One (1) representative from Greenways and Trails

- One (1) representative from Marion County Tourism
- A representative from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 5, would serve as a non-voting advisor.
- Ocala Marion TPO would provide staff support for the meeting.

Mr. Harris said that a written consent from the governing body of the selected individual would be needed to be part of the committee and the TPO board would review the selections.

Also, attendance would be included in the Bylaws. If a member missed three meetings in a calendar year the TPO would inform the governing body in hopes that reaching a quorum would not be an issue.

Nancy Smith said she would say “be designated by the governing body” to have in writing in the Bylaws and she did not expect the TPO board to approve the selected individuals.

#### **Item 4b. Transportation Regional Incentives Program (TRIP) List Update**

Mr. Balmes presented the TRIP List Update and said in August 2019, a decision was made by the TPO/MPO Directors of the six members of the Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA) to develop a revised Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Priority List. Moving forward, the CFMPOA would revise the list on an annual basis. The list would serve as an important resource to identify projects in each respective TPO/MPO area that may be eligible for TRIP funding.

As background, the purpose of TRIP was to encourage partnerships for transportation projects that were regionally significant. TRIP funds were awarded by the Florida Department of Transportation, and were used to match local or regional funds up to 50% of the total project costs.

In essence, TRIP was a matching program to leverage investments in projects with substantial local/regional commitment. A TRIP Fact sheet with further information was provided to the TAC.

TPO staff were proposing to recommend one project to the TPO Board for submission to the CFMPOA for the Ocala/Marion County TPO 2019 TRIP Priority List.

- NW 49th Street Interchange @ I-75 (new interchange)

The project had been the top priority in the TPO’s List of Priority Projects (LOPP) for two consecutive years. The project had significant local matching funds by Marion County, making it eligible for TRIP funding.

TPO staff was requesting the TAC to recommend this project to the TPO Board for their approval and submission to the CFMPOA for inclusion in the 2019 TRIP Priority List.

There was consensus with the committee that that NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange @ I-75 was a good recommendation.

### **Item 5. Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda was not approved due to lack of quorum and would be listed on the October meeting agenda.

### **Item 6. Comments by FDOT**

Ms. Wyche told the committee she had not received an update construction report.

Ms. Wyche informed the committee of a LAP Policy Incubator Workshop on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 from 1:30-4:30pm at the Florida Turnpike in Ocoee, FL.

### **Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff**

Mr. Harris gave an update of the Taskforce Kick-Off Meeting in Tampa and said that Taskforce would be holding upcoming meetings for the Northern Turnpike.

Mr. Balmes said he appreciated the support of the logo survey and planned to reveal a final logo to the TPO board at the end of the month.

### **Item 8. Comments by TAC Members**

*There were no comments by the TAC members.*

### **Item 9. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

### **Item 10. Adjournment**

Acting Chairman Kenneth Odom adjourned the meeting at 10:54am.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant