



**Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting**  
Marion County – Library Headquarters, Meeting Room B  
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470  
1:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Richard Howard  
Suzanne Mangram  
Richard McGinley  
Nick Mora  
Michelle Shearer (*arrived at 1:26pm*)

**Members Not Present:**

Matt Fabian  
Travis Magamoll  
Steve Rudnianyn

**Others Present:**

Rob Balmes, Ocala Marion TPO  
Sara Brown, Ocala Marion TPO  
Shakayla Irby, Ocala Marion TPO  
Kia Powell, FDOT

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

Acting Chairman Richard Howard called the meeting to order at 1:03pm. Secretary Shakayla Irby called the roll and a quorum was present.

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

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

### **Item 3. Consent Agenda**

*Mr. McGinley made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Mangram seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Item 4a. Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update**

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. McGinley inquired about the TPO's quarterly meetings with adjacent counties, asking whether meeting minutes were produced. He expressed curiosity about the priorities of these counties and whether they would impact roads in Marion County.

Mr. Balmes mentioned that more formalized topics were identified to cover during the quarterly meetings with the adjacent counties, emphasizing the need to examine shared priorities concerning roadway corridors and to review the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for potential coordination opportunities. Additionally, he highlighted the coordination with Hernando Citrus regarding the State Road 200 corridor. Mr. Balmes also said he would keep the committee informed on future discussions.

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

### **Item 5a. City of Ocala Vision 2050**

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

*The slideshow presentation is provided on pages 6-17 of this set of minutes for reference.*

The committee discussed SunTran services and possible expansions.

Mr. McGinley inquired about the possibility of predominant SunTran expansions within the City of Ocala.

Mr. Shrum responded by stating that the Transit Development Plan (TDP) approved in 2023 outlined significant expansion plans within the County area, including areas like Marion Oaks and Belleview. He mentioned that the \$16 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was specifically designated for electric buses, and they intended to utilize the funding for electric buses and smaller cutaways to function as feeder routes to the main routes. The expansion aimed to enhance access to SunTran services.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Balmes noted that Liz Mitchell from the Ocala Marion TPO, although not present at the meeting, deserved significant credit for the 100% scoring. He emphasized her role in ensuring accurate and timely submission of invoices.

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

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

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

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

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



**Item 8. Comments by CAC Members**

Ms. Shearer inquired about a website to view the City of Ocala Vision 2050.

Ms. Brown provided the website [www.ocalafl.gov/vision2050](http://www.ocalafl.gov/vision2050).

Ms. Shearer also conveyed to FDOT her appreciation for the updated construction report, which included maps, noting that it was a valuable addition.

Ms. Powell mentioned that FDOT was committed to making revisions to the construction report as needed and encouraged the committee to offer any feedback they may have.

**Item 9. Public Comment**

*There was no public comment.*

**Item 10. Adjournment**

Acting Chairman Richard Howard adjourned the meeting at 1:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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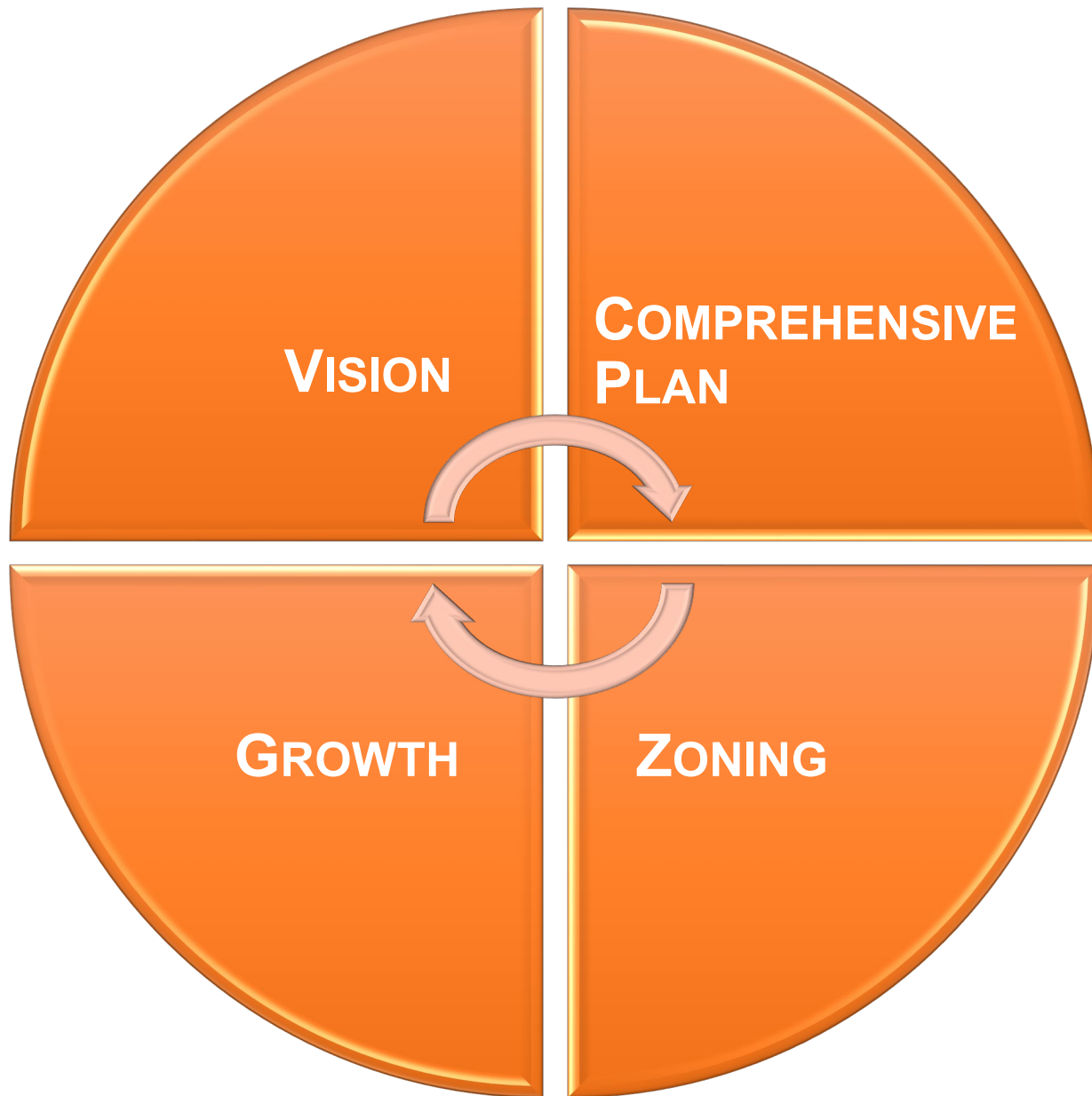
Shakayla Irby, TPO Administrative Assistant



My

Ocala

*What is your vision?*



## WHY A VISION?

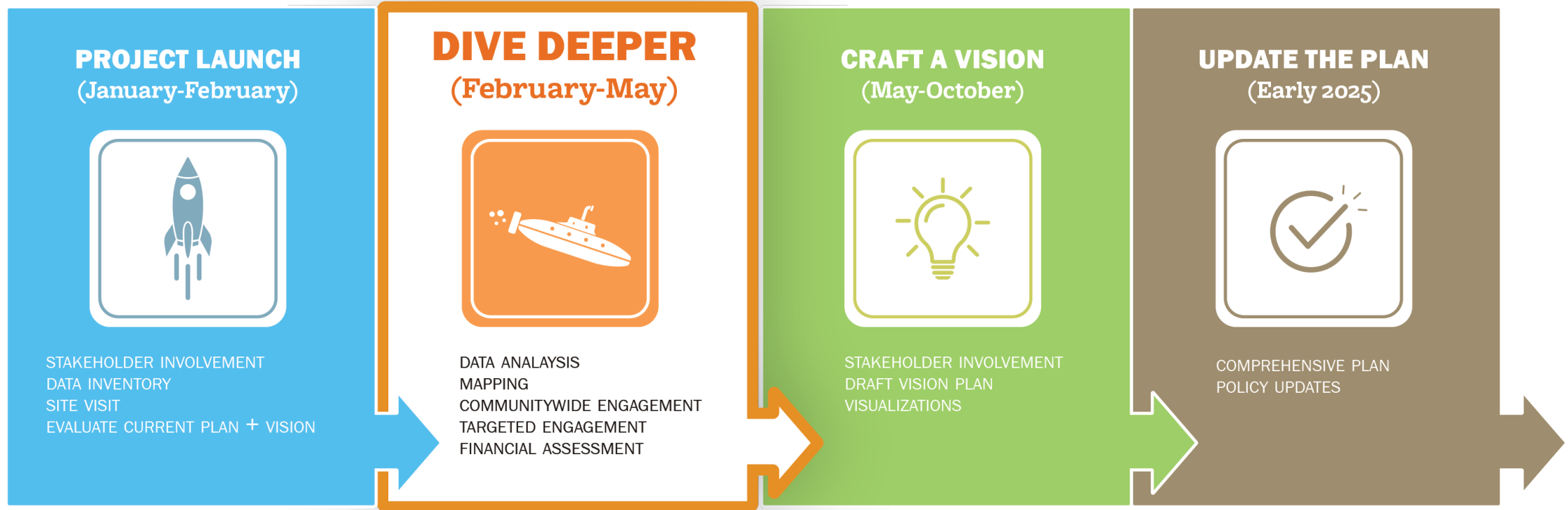
- It is the starting point - the roadmap for the future.
- It utilizes public engagement to build community consensus to clarify the desired Ocala of 2050.
- It serves as the guiding document to update the goals, policies, and objectives of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

# BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE OCALA 2035 VISION

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



# 2050 Project Timeline





# Ocala 2050 Vision Participation Opportunities

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



# SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON...

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## PUBLIC AND OPEN SPACE



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

## MOBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY



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

## LAND USE AND HOUSING



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

## GATEWAYS



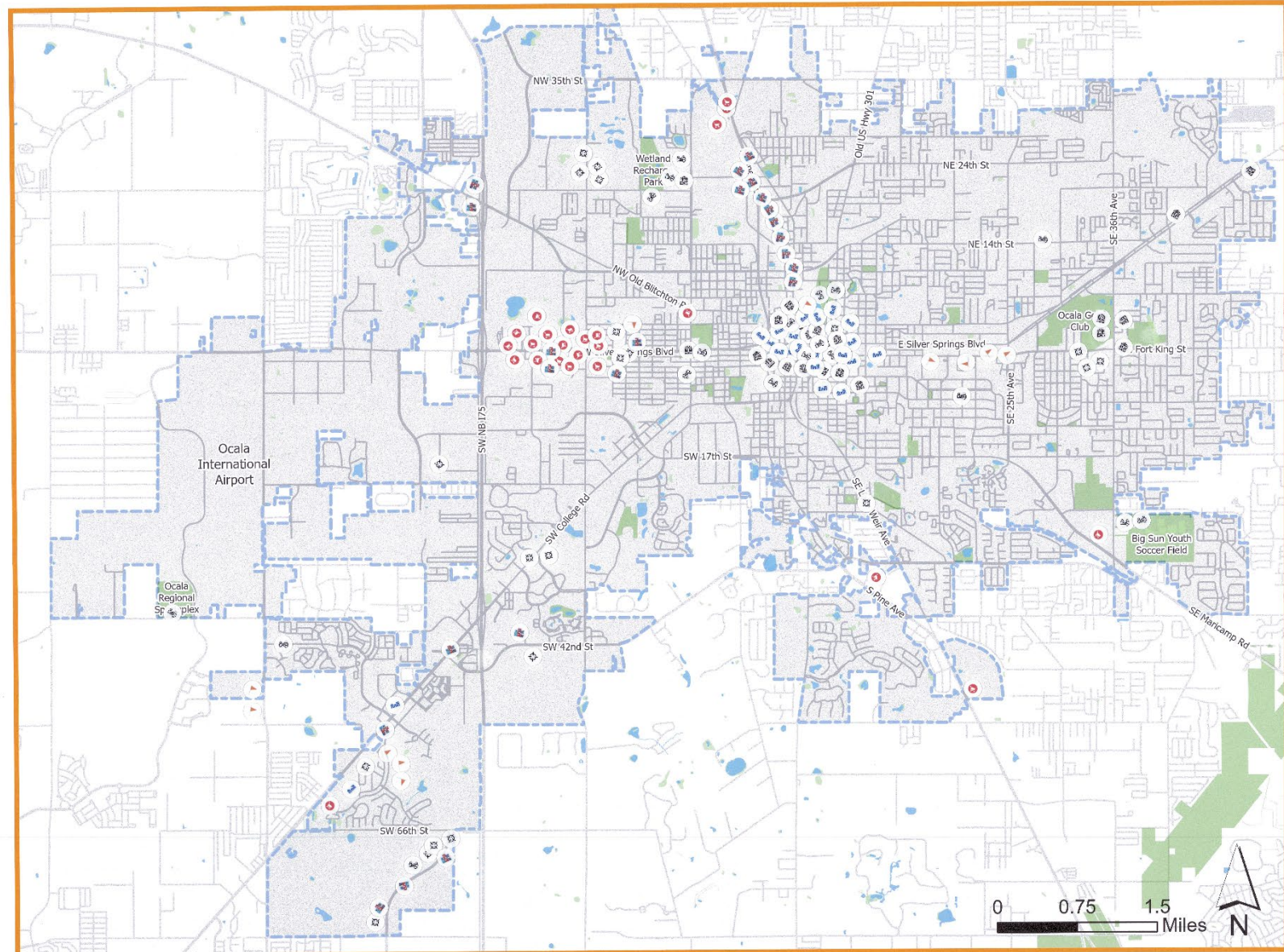
Ocala's gateways serve to welcome residents and visitors to a dynamic community that prioritizes accessible and comfortable spaces to encourage diverse uses and activities. A successful gateway is visible both from a distance and up close and sets the stage for what a community has to offer.



Share with us...

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








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

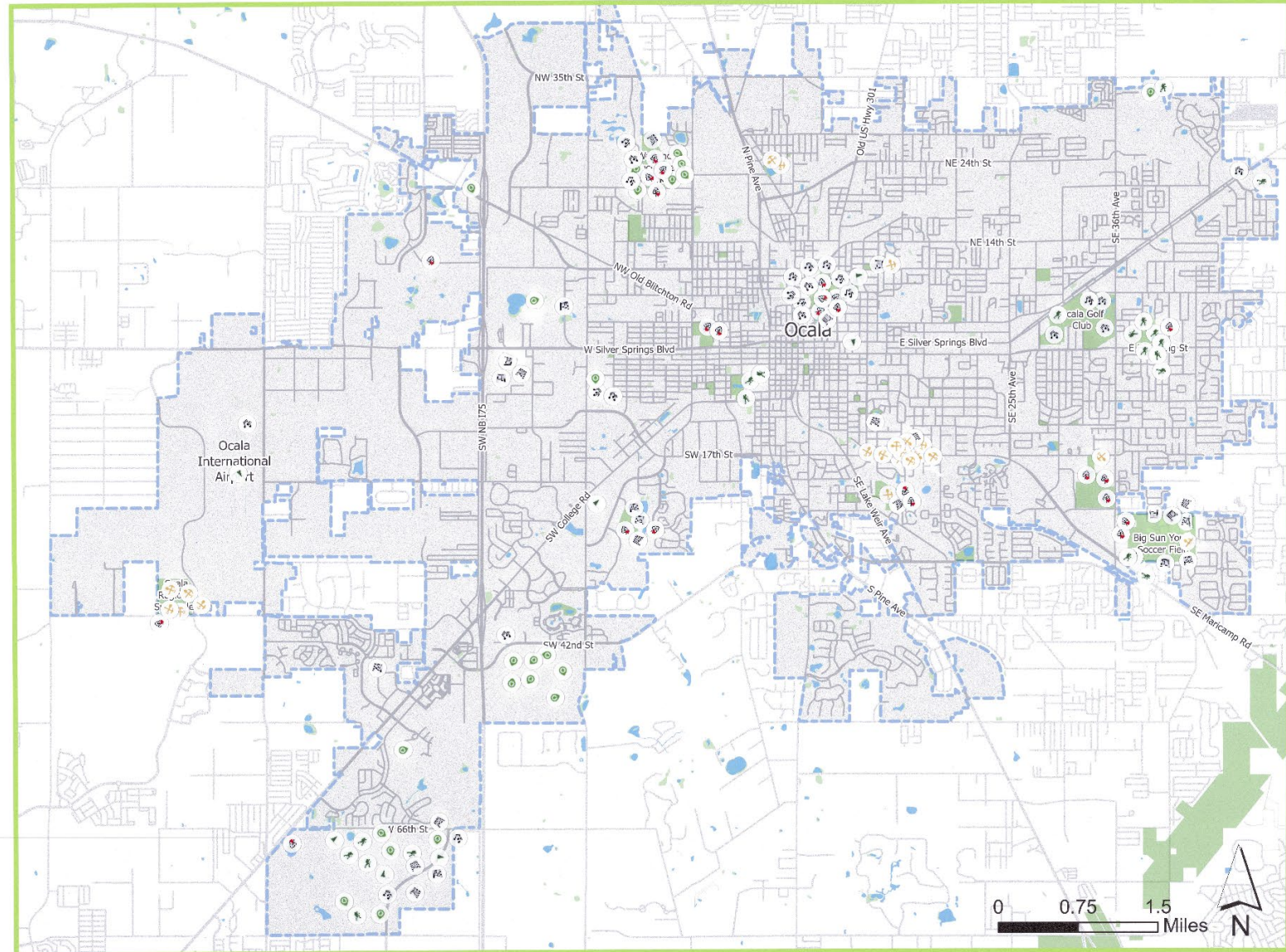




Share with us...

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

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

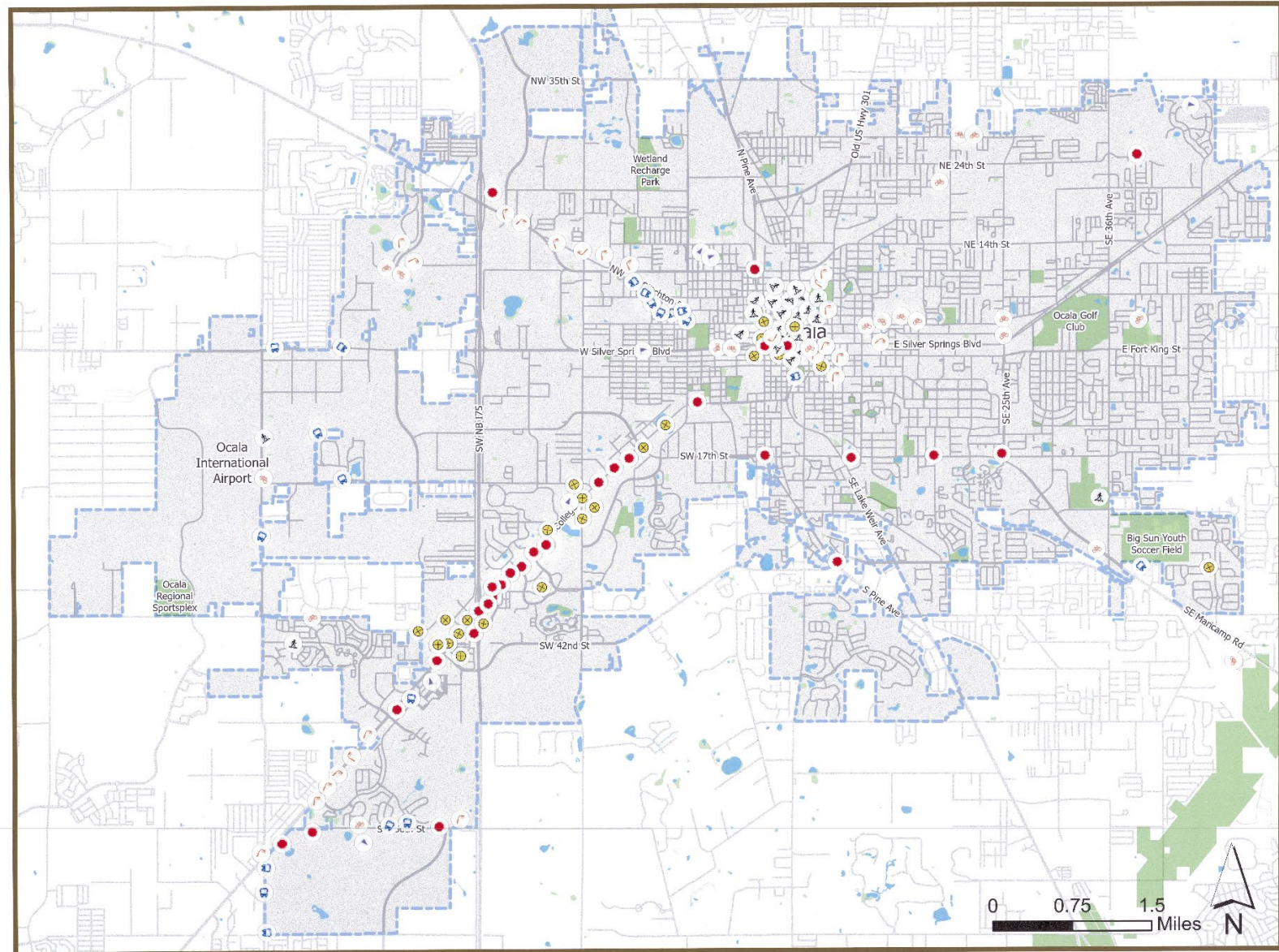




Share with us...

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

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



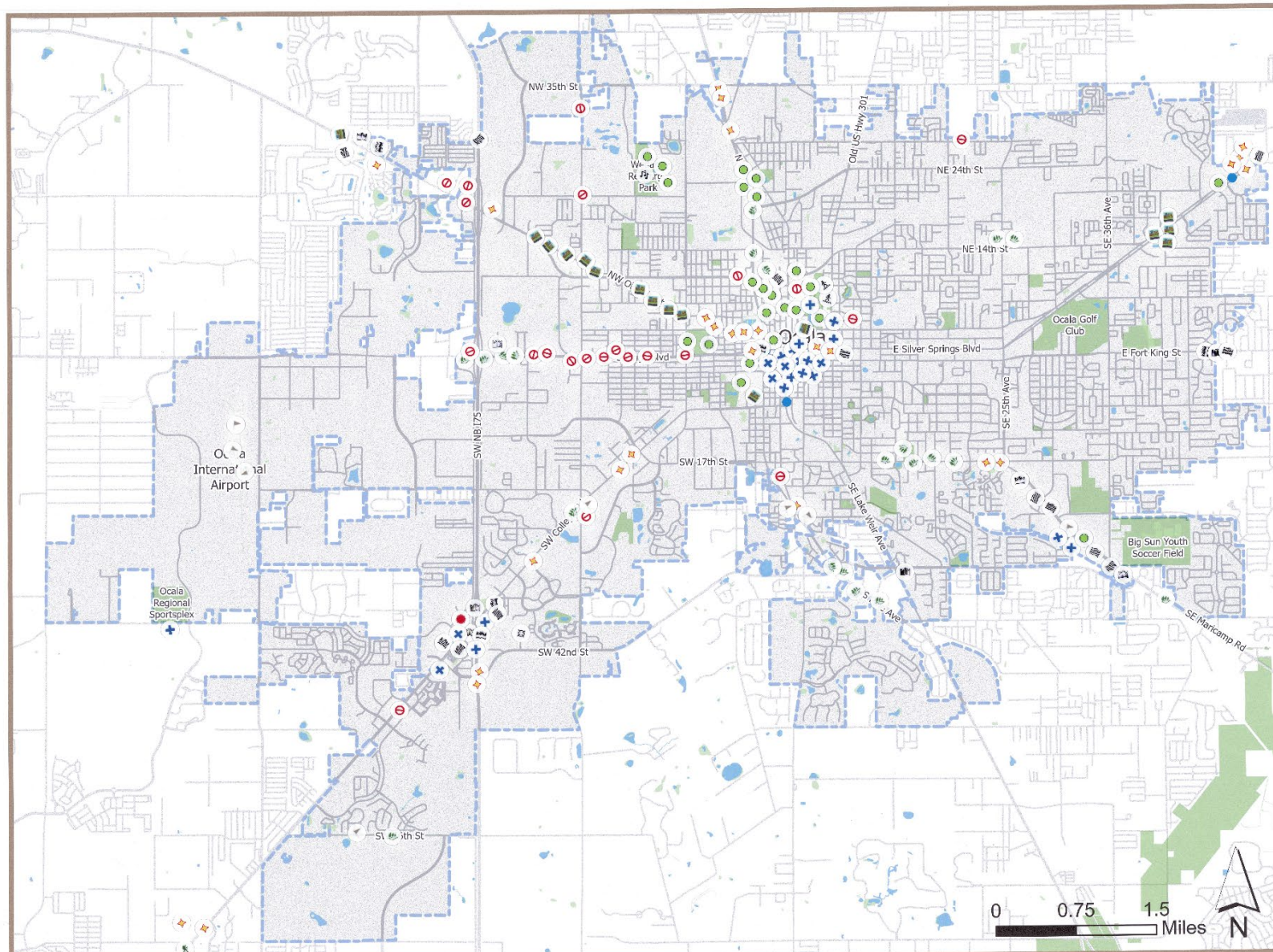


# MY OCALA GATEWAYS //

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

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

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





# TWO ONLINE SURVEYS:

[www.ocalafl.gov/vision2050](http://www.ocalafl.gov/vision2050)



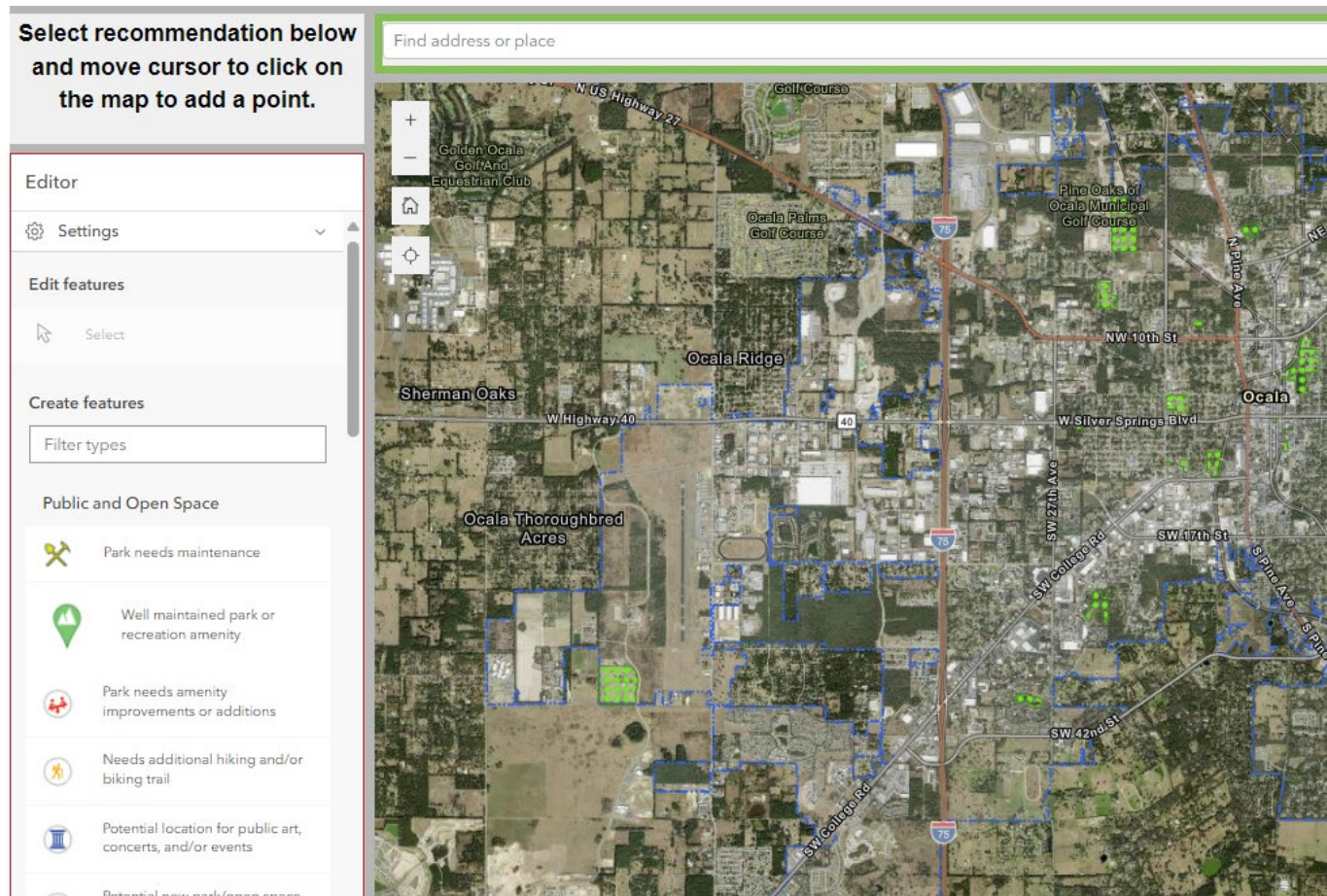
**VISION 2050 PULSE SURVEY**  
A quick three-minute survey



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

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

Find address or place



**Editor**

- Settings
- Edit features
  - Select
- Create features
  - Filter types
- Public and Open Space
  - Park needs maintenance
  - Well maintained park or recreation amenity
  - Park needs amenity improvements or additions
  - Needs additional hiking and/or biking trail
  - Potential location for public art, concerts, and/or events
  - Potential new park/open space



# Additional Opportunities

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

- Check out [www.ocalafl.gov/vision2050](http://www.ocalafl.gov/vision2050)
- Email: [gmd@ocalafl.gov](mailto:gmd@ocalafl.gov)