



Winkler Canal Shared Use Path Feasibility Study Project – Fact Sheet

Engineering Consultant: Jacobs Engineering Group

Winkler Canal Shared-Use Path Feasibility Study

The City has entered into a Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to undertake a planning feasibility study described as the Winkler Canal Shared-Use Path Feasibility Study. The feasibility study began in August 2017 and will be completed by March 31, 2018.

The City of Fort Myers is seeking to determine the feasibility of constructing a 10-foot wide shared-use path within the general vicinity of the Winkler Canal and the Fort Myers Country Club/ Hill Avenue from west of US 41/Cleveland Avenue to McGregor Boulevard. The Feasibility Study will identify right-of-way, concept design, costs, safety, security, maintenance, and community and environmental impacts for developing a 10-foot wide shared-use path within the project study area.

History of the Project

The City of Fort Myers has a Local Agency Program (LAP) agreement with FDOT for a feasibility study to look at east-west corridor options for a bicycle-pedestrian connection between McGregor and US 41/Cleveland Avenue. There was neighborhood opposition against developing a bicycle and walking pathway located adjacent to the Winkler Canal because of impacts to adjacent homes. The Fort Myers City Council voted to look at other alternative alignments than the Winkler Canal corridor. The City then expressed to FDOT that they would like to use the programmed funds of \$150,000, noting that there are other pathway alignments in the neighborhood that should be examined. This planning feasibility study is keeping with the original LAP agreement that allowed and encouraged exploring other options for improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities and an alignment for a pathway.

The study team is evaluating several alternative alignments that require little to no right-of-way acquisition, contribute to the goal of an interconnected bicycle and pedestrian network, and take into account existing and planned projects in the area. Criteria established to rank the proposed alternatives include safety, trail function/efficiency, cost, anticipated and noted public support, environmental and community impact, and connectivity to parks, schools, and transit stops.

A project kick-off meeting was held on August 28, 2017. Those in attendance included representatives from Jacobs Engineering Group, Alta Planning and Design, FDOT, the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Cella, Molnar and Associates. A Conceptual Design Workshop was held December 6 through 8, 2017. Additional agencies that were invited to participate in the workshop include the Lee County Sheriff's Office, Fort Myers Police, City of Fort Myers and Lee County Parks and Recreation. The project team shared the history of the project, presented design options and important considerations being evaluated, and there was a valuable exchange of information, comments and feedback with all agency representatives in attendance. A public workshop is scheduled for January 29, 2018.

Winkler Canal Shared-Use Path Feasibility Study Area and Alternatives Being Evaluated



For more information please contact the City's Public Information Consultant for the project:

Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc. at (239) 337-1071 or by email to MAvola@cella.cc.