



Virginia / Lake Highland Transportation and Land Use Study

September 20, 2016 Community Workshop Summary

Introduction

City of Orlando and Renaissance Planning hosted a workshop on September 20, 2016, from 6:30-9:00 pm, at the Harry P. Leu Gardens. The purpose of the meeting was to update the community on project progress and introduce a series of preliminary design concepts for the corridor. Approximately 45 members of the public attended (based on sign-in sheet records and head counts), along with City staff and members of the consulting team.

Preliminary Concept Plans

Base maps and preliminary design concepts were displayed around the meeting room, including the following maps:

- **Existing Conditions**, which included zoning, future land use, parks and open spaces, water bodies, roadway network, sidewalks and trails, and transit routes
- **Composite Existing Conditions**, which included all existing conditions as a means of looking at how existing systems work together and where network gaps were located
- **Development Scenarios**, which included two looks at future development form and scale – a moderate development program and a substantial development program
- **Streetscape Improvements**, which showed potential pedestrian improvements along streets and at intersections
- **Systems Improvements**, which showed potential bike, trail, and roadway network improvements
- **Roadway Cross-section Alternatives**, which illustrated potential roadway improvements for Lake Highland Drive (2 options), Brookhaven Drive (3 options), and Virginia Drive (7 options)
- **South Lake Formosa Drive Sidewalk**, which showed how a sidewalk could be routed along the lake on the north side of the roadway

Workshop Comments and Discussion

Preliminary design concepts were introduced through a PowerPoint presentation, during which the public was invited to ask questions. After the presentation, attendees were able to view maps in detail, discuss the project with the consultant team, and provide input and comments to specific elements of the preliminary plans. The consultant team marked up maps and took notes on flip charts to record public input and note items that needed additional research or follow-up. Key “big picture” discussion during the meeting included:

- **Cut-Through Traffic** – The most popular topic of discussion during the meeting was cut-through traffic and how to reduce it through the existing residential neighborhoods. A number of suggestions were made, but it was also noted that with a connected grid of streets, it will be very hard to eliminate all cut-through traffic
- **Speeding** – There were many comments regarding ways to cut down speeding, including speed humps, speed tables, roundabouts, more 4-way stops, and adding brick pavement surfaces.
- **Bike Lanes** – The bicycle community was pleased that new routes and connections were included in the preliminary concepts, but there was discussion about whether the riding population was better served by adding bike lanes or by making sidewalks wider to include bike riding
- **Vision** – How will this study be implemented by the City? Will easements, rezoning, etc...be done now or will it be done in the future as parcels redevelop?

Next Steps

The project team and City staff will discuss the results of the community workshop and decide how to address and/or incorporate public feedback as the alternatives are refined and/or revised. The project team will also continue to build the transportation system model so that alternative road alignments and priorities can be evaluated. Additionally, field data from the neighborhood parking study will be analyzed and summarized.

The next community meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2016.

FULL LIST OF COMMENTS

- Access to lakes needed for kayaking
- Homeowners on Lake Highland are opposed to allowing boats
- Need a pier or dock for fishing or remote-control boats
- Protect water habitats by reducing spraying and direct runoff to lakes
- Use Brookhaven as bike route to Urban Trail – need treatments there
- Need bike treatments on Virginia if Brookhaven becomes more vehicle-oriented
- Raise bike lane to sidewalk level to separate it from traffic
- Would like protected bike treatments, not just striped bike lanes
- Need flashing lights at trail crossings and at all intersections to make pedestrian more visible
- Better pedestrian crossings will help slow down traffic
- Ferris is an important link to the Urban Trail
- What can be done to favor small local businesses over chains?
- If sidewalks are widened for better pedestrian access and new trees, will bikes still be able to ride on them?
- Need a plan for Alden
- South Lake Formosa Drive – need to narrow street to allow more room for sidewalk/trail
- Need to keep people from running stop signs, especially at Ferris and Lake Highland
- Have costs been established for brownfield cleanup of the old OUC site

- Is there a way to cut down all cut-through traffic? Can streets be blocked off?
- Close Lake Highland Drive as a through-street
- Need speed bumps and more brick pavement to deter drivers
- Don't put grass in green spaces next to roadways – use native plants and groundcovers
- How do we maintain the character of the area from new development?
- Need sidewalks next to development and parking on Brookhaven
- Need parking for employees
- Need bike parking
- Northbound Highland – no right turn onto Lake Highland Drive
- Make Virginia (WB) and Brookhaven (EB) one-way pairs
- Can an at-grade bike crossing of the railroad tracks be done across from New Hampshire – would be cheaper and less scary than an underpass
- No one-way streets, no street closures
- Add speed tables on Lake Highland Drive