

Capital City Cyclists Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path Position Statement - November 2021



The Capital City Cyclists Board of Directors (CCC) approves this position statement regarding the Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path currently being considered by the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)

1. The CCC believes that the section of Thomasville Rd from Betton St. north to Metropolitan Blvd is currently not sufficiently safe for bicycles and other modes of active and environmentally responsible transportation.
2. In line with typical guidance from the Federal Highway Administration, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), traffic volumes and traffic speeds in the Thomasville road corridor call for a separated bicycle facility. CCC strongly supports the implementation of a multi-use path, which has the ability to improve safety and address current and future needs not only for cyclists, but also for pedestrians, joggers, strollers, etc.
3. The CCC supports the CRPTA Board continuing with this project beyond the current feasibility study phase. A good design of the multi-use path will make Thomasville Road safer, not only for cyclists, but for all users.
4. The need for multi-modal mobility in this corridor is clear from the high ranking in the recent Leon County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. This need has only grown in the current Covid crisis, and the current climate crisis. We feel it is necessary for our community to make it possible for people to choose environmentally responsible and healthy forms of transportation, without jeopardizing their lives.
5. The CCC strongly supports the CRTPA efforts to obtain community input during this process and wants to be kept informed as the project continues through the planning, design, and implementation stages.

Supporting facts and considerations:

The CCC is aware that Thomasville Road is an important north-south arterial road in Leon County and that the multi-use path in this corridor has been identified as a major multi-modal project in the current Leon County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

The CCC is aware that many neighborhoods along the corridor rely on Thomasville Rd as their only exit and entrance point. This currently limits multi-modal choice for these communities, while it also limits the possibility for alternative routes.

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Thomasville Road should be maintained as a welcoming thoroughfare to and from the downtown/midtown areas for all modes of transportation, rather than merely an express route for motorized traffic to get from downtown to I-10 and beyond.

This project is of great importance to the rapidly expanding Tallahassee cycling community. The multi-use path would provide a safe linkage from Midtown to the Market District for residents, commuters, and recreational users. It allows non-motorized forms of transportation to more safely and effectively access neighborhoods, community parks, schools, and businesses.

This project enhances the livability of Tallahassee, while making it possible for residents to choose active and environmentally responsible forms of transportation that have a positive impact on air quality, noise pollution, global warming, and health.

CCC looks forward to the design phase of this project, which we believe can be done in a way that increases safety for both automotive as well as alternative/active modes of transportation, and that allows all users of the corridor to get to their destinations safely and harmoniously.

ATTACHMENT J

From: [Slay, Greg](#)
To: [Slaughterback, Lindsay](#); [Widness, Katelyn](#)
Subject: FW: Meeting with Betton Hills Reps
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:26:54 PM

From: Slay, Greg
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:46 AM
To: Williams-Cox, Dianne <Dianne.Williams-Cox@talgov.com>
Cc: Kostrzewa, Jack <John.Kostrzewa@talgov.com>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Betton Hills Reps

Good morning Commissioner,

See below –

I'd be happy to meet w/ you to discuss if you'd like.

Greg

From: Williams-Cox, Dianne <Dianne.Williams-Cox@talgov.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 8:27 PM
To: Slay, Greg <Greg.Slay@talgov.com>
Subject: Meeting with Betton Hills Reps

Greg,

I took a few notes from yesterday's meeting with Mike Betzin, Mary Kay and Donna from the Betton Hills Board. Here are my notes and I am happy to explain them when opportunity permits:

- They are in favor of the alternative loop to the old Post Road to Thomasville Road. They want to know who owns Post Road...City, County or Private.

The City owns the right-of-way on Post Road from Thomasville Road to Trescott Drive. The property south of Post Road down to Betton Road is privately owned.

- They are not in favor of the route that includes the ditch.

There are some challenges on the Trescott Ditch option. We met with Underground Utilities on-site in late September to review the plans for covering the ditch. They will be including essentially a sidewalk along the improvements they will begin making after the first of the year. We're not sure we would be able to add the necessary width to make it a multiuse path due to right-of-way constraints so we're still looking into that. The swale on top of the ditch covering makes adding a multiuse path a significant challenge. One thing we learned on the site visit is that a good portion of the heavily treed area behind the businesses along that stretch is privately owned.

- How difficult is to get a proposed design for people to react to it instead of speculating in their minds how things will look ?

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In order to get any decent level of detail, we would have to initiate the design phase to at least 30-60% completion (design has three major review points: 30%, 60% and 90% of completion). Since we'd have to do survey, traffic data collection/analysis, and a significant amount of work to get that far, I'm guessing we would be in the range of \$200-400,000 based on a \$535,000 budget (FDOT current estimate for the design).

- They ask if several scenarios may be provided to show potential options...such as a board walk around the tree...

We are working on some renderings that will show before/after images of the path. They should be completed next week. We don't have one showing a boardwalk around any tree since we're not proposing anything like that at this point.

- They assure me that they are trying to help find potential solutions...

I don't doubt that a bit. Mike was responsible for arranging our first in-person meeting with residents of Betton Hills and had talked extensively with Jack throughout the project. Mary Kay has been in constant communication w/ Jack and myself throughout as well.

- Let folks work together and maybe the businesses will give some of their properties to help

That's always an option but is usually easier said than done. One of the things Utilities mentioned during our site visit was that the business along the service road, especially Centennial Bank, were adamant the access road coming up from Betton be maintained/improved so I'm not sure how receptive they would be to giving up that right-of-way. Another concern I would have is the impact to the trees. The Trescott Ditch project will already have an impact to the tree canopy. We would probably be looking at clearing another significant swath of trees if we were put a path on the private property along that stretch.

- They believe that Underground Utilities and the Parks and Rec folks should be involved also.

We have coordinated extensively with both Departments since we began the project. As I mentioned earlier, we've met with Utilities on-site and actually began coordination with them last year when we first learned of the project covering the ditch. Parks and Rec was one of our first stakeholder meetings when we began the project and have been continuously involved. Jack gave a presentation on the project to the Parks and Rec Advisory Board last week. I know Ashley Edwards has reservations about the path going through Mccord Park so we've been discussing that option quite a bit with her.

- There are other issues that may need to be addressed such as dumpsters near the nature trail that is a mess

I'm not sure who might be responsible for that but will pass it along to both Parks and Rec as well as Public Works.

- Suggests that collaboration with Blueprint on marketing and working with visuals might be considered.

Thanks,

Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox, MBA, CPM

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**Dangerous Situation at Entrance to Waverly Hills
Improvements Needed Along Thomasville Road
North and South of the Entrance to Waverly Hills**

**Prepared by Meg Bates, 721 Kenilworth Road
October 2021**

I have prepared this brief overview to address the critical need for improvements for pedestrians traffic on the west side of Thomasville Road both north and south of Waverly Road. It includes a description of the current situation, along with pictures showing the problems described.

While there are entrances to Waverly Hills at both Thomasville and Meridian Roads, it is the one at Thomasville Road that is generally considered the “main” entrance, and the one that deals with more traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian.

There are sidewalks on both the east and west sides of Thomasville Road. On the east side is a standard paved sidewalk. However, on the west side, the “sidewalks/paths” going both north and south from Waverly Road are in a significant state of disrepair making it extremely hazardous and unsafe for any pedestrian, jogger, stroller, wheelchair, bicyclists, etc.

The CRPTA is currently assessing the Multi-Use Path project along Thomasville Road from Midtown to Market District. As a part of this project, or as a separate issue, the **City of Tallahassee needs to repair and upgrade the sidewalks/pathways along the west side on Thomasville Road north and south of Waverly Road to make them useable and safe for any pedestrian, jogger, stroller, wheelchair, bicyclists, etc.**

In order for pedestrians, joggers, bicyclist, strollers, etc. from Waverly Hills to access the sidewalk on the east side of Thomasville Road, it is necessary to cross Thomasville Road. The light at Armistead/Gardenia is the closest traffic light to Waverly Road - just south about a 1/4 mile. If a person wants to walk, jog or bike on the west side of Thomasville Road down to Armistead/Gardenia, it is a challenge, at best, and dangerous at worst. In its current state, this section of “sidewalk” is basically unusable. This section must be improved to make the surface such that it can be used to safely get from Waverly Hills to the light at Armistead/Gardenia.

It is equally bad for any person trying to head north. This section is quite treacherous with varying elevations and a slope down to Thomasville Road. If you want to stay on the west side of Thomasville and head north to walk, bike, push stroller, etc., the ability to do so safely is not possible in some sections.

The other problem is entering into Waverly Hills from either the north or south as a pedestrian, jogger, stroller, wheelchair, etc.

If you enter Waverly Hills from the south, there is a short sidewalk that ends at a drainage ditch and a blindspot in the curve on Kenilworth Road.

If you enter from the north, the very narrow sidewalk is routinely overgrown requiring any person to go into Waverly Road and risk being in the way of cars that may be turning into Waverly Hills from Thomasville Road.

If the CRPTA project to improve and upgrade the sidewalk/path along Thomasville Road from Midtown to the Market District goes forward, the improvements on the west side of Thomasville Road and entering Waverly Hills should be a high priority.

However, regardless of whether the Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path project occurs, this section on the west side of Thomasville Road - north and south of Waverly Road - needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Below are pictures of the “sidewalks/pathways” on the west side of Thomasville Road and the entrance into Waverly Hills. The first set of pictures show the horrible, unsightly and UNSAFE condition of these “sidewalks” or “pathways” - they really qualifies as neither. The second set show the hazards and obstacles for pedestrians, bicyclists, etc. face when trying to enter Waverly Road from either the north or south.

Set 1 Pictures: The “sidewalk/path’ on the west side of Thomasville Road both north and south of Waverly Road.





Set 2 Pictures: Hazards for pedestrians, bicyclists, etc. entering Waverly Hills from either the south and north on the west side of Thomasville Road.



ATTACHMENT K



