November 2, 2026

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM 5 A

TALLAHASSEE TO HAVANA TRAIL/ORCHARD POND GREENWAY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND ALTERNATIVES STUDY APPROVAL

TYPE OF ITEM: Presentation/Discussion/Action

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

This item seeks approval of the CRTPA Tallahassee to Havana Trail/Orchard Pond Greenway Environmental Impact and Alternatives Study ("Study"), including the identification of a preferred project alternative.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Option 1: Recommend the CRTPA approve the Tallahassee to Havana Trail/Orchard Pond Greenway Environmental Impact and Alternatives Study.

BACKGROUND

The Tallahassee to Havana Trail Feasibility Study was completed by the CRTPA in 2022 and evaluated a potential multi-use trail connection between Tallahassee and Havana. Specifically, the study analyzed the potential to construct a 10 to 12-foot multi-use trail between the Orchard Pond Parkway in Leon County and Salem Road in Gadsden County.

Additionally, the Study's proposed improvements were identified in the Tallahassee-Leon County Greenway Master Plan, adopted in 2015, which noted that the project "*will convert an approximately 3.6-mile segment of Orchard Pond Road to a 12' wide, paved pedestrian and bicycle (bike-ped) trail.*"

Subsequent to approval of the CRTPA's Tallahassee to Havana Trail Feasibility Study in 2022, the CRTPA applied for and was awarded SUN Trails funding to advance the next phases of the trail project. Specifically, the *Leon County* segment was awarded funding ($976,000) for the development of a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study/Environmental Impact and Alternatives Study (which is being managed by CRTPA). Note: The *Gadsden County* segment was awarded design funding ($678,000) and that phase is being managed by the Gadsden County.

THE STUDY

The Tallahassee to Havana Trail/Orchard Pond Greenway Environmental Impact and Alternatives Study was initiated in the summer 2025 subsequent to CRTPA Board approval of the selection of Halff consultants to develop the Leon County study. The study's limits are from Old Bainbridge Road (CR 153) at the Ochlockonee River to Orchard Pond Greenway at the eastern trailhead, a distance of approximately 4.6 miles, as reflected *below*:



Efforts associated with study development include the following:

- Engineering Analysis
  - Trail and Bridge Alternatives Analysis
  - Drainage Analysis
  - Traffic Analysis Technical Memorandum (Traffic Counts)
  - Preliminary Engineering Report
  - Limited Design Survey
- Environmental Analysis
  - Contamination Screening Evaluation Study (CSER)
  - Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS)
  - Natural Resources Evaluation Report (NRE)
  - Sociocultural Effects Evaluation (SCEE)
  - Section 4(f) Evaluation

- Public Involvement
  - Stakeholder Meetings
  - Direct Mailings to Property Owners, Stakeholders and Elected Officials
  - Informational Brochures
  - In-person Alternatives Public Meeting (June 4 & November 9, 2026)
  - Trail User Survey
  - Public Involvement Log
  - Comments and Coordination Report

RECOMMENDED TYPICAL SECTION

The study includes improving the existing unimproved trail between the eastern and western trailheads, making it more usable while considering environmental and community effects. The recommended typical section for this segment includes a separate, open-graded, paved 8- to 10-foot-wide multi-use trail, an equestrian trail area where space allows, and a drainage swale, included ***below***, which may also be viewed in greater detail on the *project page (*Note: all of the graphics shown on the following pages may be viewed on the above project page link):



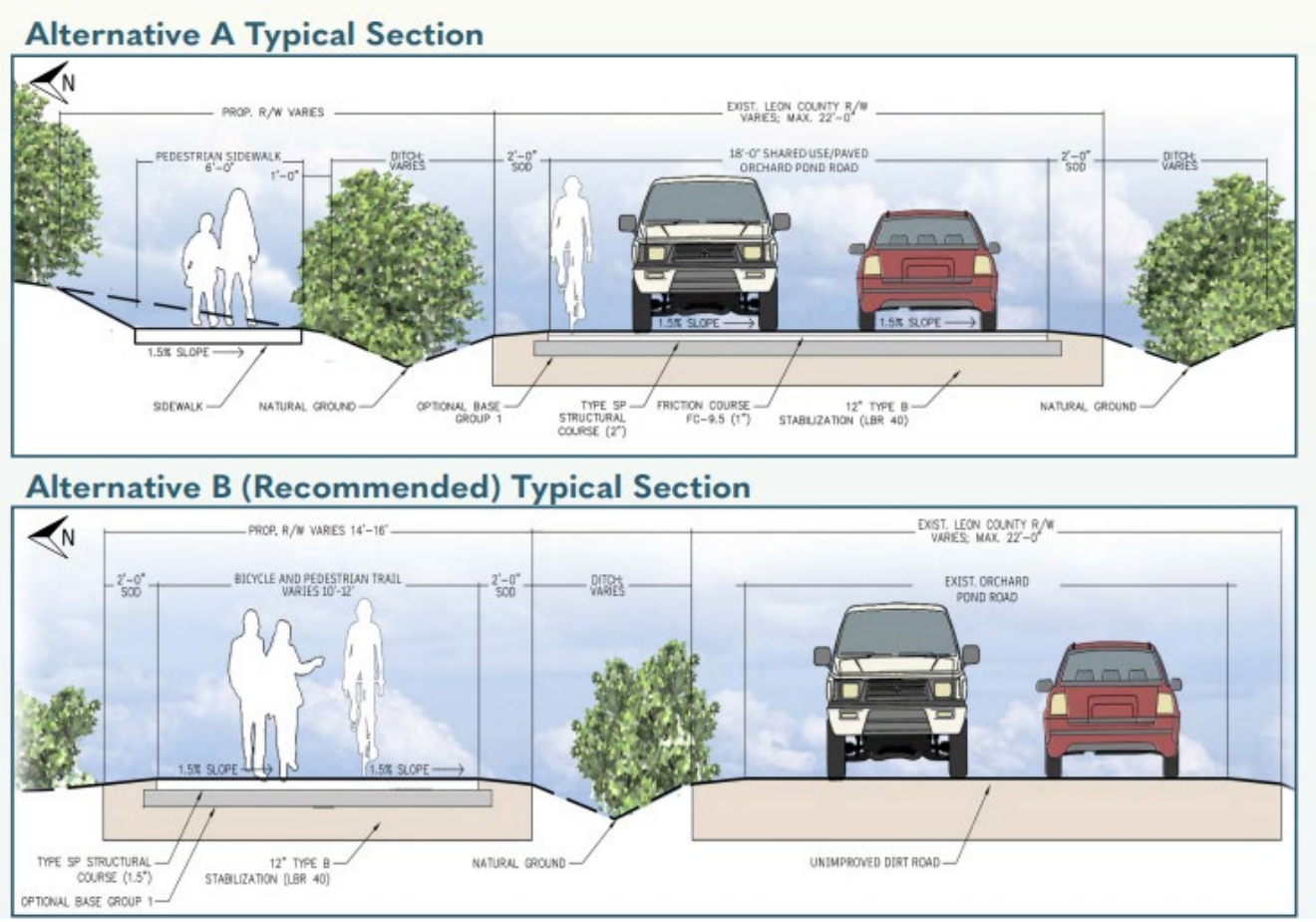
Typical Section (Recommended)



Typical Section – where space is limited

Additionally, the study includes the development and evaluation of new trail alignments from the western trailhead to the Ochlockonee River Bridge, and the identification of a recommended or preferred alternative to satisfy the project goals.

The following two (2) graphics provide a summary of the two alternatives identified for this segment of the project including the recommended alternative (Alternative B):



Furthermore, the study evaluated three bridge alternatives to accommodate the multi-use trail crossing the Ochlockonee River. Alternative 1 is a cantilevered bridge deck panel option that can be added to the existing structure. Alternative 2 provides widening the existing bridge and includes support piers to provide additional space for the multi-use trail. Alternative 3 constructs a new separate bridge for trail users alongside the existing bridge. Based on the analysis and public input, Alternative 1 is the recommended bridge alternative. See the bridge alternative renderings, ***shown below***.



ALTERNATIVE 1
Cantilever Bridge Deck Panels



ALTERNATIVE 2
Bridge Widening


12'
ALTERNATIVE 3
Separate Multi-Use Trail Bridge



Finally, a summary of project impacts associated with the alternatives is shown ***below***:

PROJECT IMPACTS			
PROJECT GOALS	**No-Build**	**Alternative A**	**Alternative B (Recommended)**
Improve Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety	No	Yes	Yes
Expand and Connect Regional Trail Networks	No	Yes	Yes
Increase Recreational Opportunities	No	Yes	Yes
Meets SUN Trail Requirements	No	No	Yes
Maintain Equestrian Accommodations Between Trailheads	No	Yes	Yes
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS			
Number of Business Relocations	0	0	0
Number of Residential Relocations	0	0	0
Number of Affected Parcels	0	1	1
Additional Right-of-Way Needed	0	0.88 Acres	1.84 Acres
CULTURAL RESOURCES EFFECTS			
Number of Archaeological/Historic Sites	0	2	2
Number of Section 4(f) Sites	0	1	1
NATURAL RESOURCES EFFECTS			
Wetland Impact Area	0	0.10 Acres	0.16 Acres
Protected Species within Study Area	0	0	0
PHYSICAL RESOURCE EFFECTS			
Number of Potential Contamination Sites	0	0	0
PERMITTING			
Permitting Difficulty (Low/Medium/High)	None	Low	Low
COST ESTIMATE ($ MILLIONS)			
Engineering (Plans and Permitting)	$0.00	$0.84	$0.67
Construction*	$0.00	$7.03	$5.58
Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI)	$0.00	$0.70	$0.56
Right-of-Way Acquisition	$0.00	$0.03	$0.06
Total Cost Estimate	**$0.00**	**$8.61**	**$6.87**

* Includes Cantilevered Bridge Alternative

PROJECT PAGE

A project page for the Study has been developed which includes an interactive Story Map discussing the project as well as the project's connectivity and context with regards to other regional trail projects. Information on the page includes handouts and a matrix that will be publicly presented at the November 9 public meeting, including the identified preferred project alternative discussed above and scheduled to the CRTPA Board at their November 23 meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement associated with the study has included:

- **Public Alternatives Meeting** conducted on June 4, 2026, at the Lake Jackson Community Center (3840 N Monroe St.). Material Meeting materials were placed on the CRTPA's project page prior to the meeting. Additionally, comments received related to the project are also available for review on the project page.
- **Preferred Alternatives Public Meeting** is scheduled to be conducted on November 9, 2026, at the Lake Jackson Community Center (3840 N Monroe St.).

NEXT STEPS

Subsequent to CRTPA approval, the CRTPA will actively seek funding for the next phase (design) of the project, *shown below*.

