

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

September 14, 2011

Dear Residents,

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association has been working for the past two years exploring various ideas to provide a safer environment for residents to walk and ride bicycles within our community. Working with Citrus County officials and the Property Owners Associations, we have jointly developed a proposal that we believe will enhance the community, benefit all of our existing residents, and minimize some of the safety concerns that exist today.

A lot of background work was done to explore various proposals and their pros and cons. We have worked with the County to understand the advantages and disadvantages of these options. We collectively concluded that adding separate bike lanes appears to be the most economical and best approach. Our proposal is to add bike lanes to specific roads within the community. These bike lanes can be used by both bike riders and walkers. Since the bike lanes are adjacent and part of the road extension, the same "Rules of the Road" apply. Bike Riders must ride with the flow of the traffic and walkers must face the traffic. Because these bike lanes are separate from car traffic lanes and marked appropriately, their implementation should provide a much safer environment for all concerned.

Our proposal is to add bike lanes to the following roads:

1. **Oak Park Blvd West (CR 480)** from the intersection at Corkwood Blvd traveling west along Oak Park Blvd West (CR 480) and then extending it along Oak Park Lane connecting to the rear (east) entrance to Shoppes at Sugarmill Woods.
2. **Oak Village Blvd** from the intersection at Oak Park Blvd (CR 480) traveling south along Oak Village Blvd to the intersection at US Hwy 98.
3. **Cypress Blvd East** from the intersection at Cypress Circle traveling east and south along Cypress Blvd East to the intersection at Oak Park Blvd West (CR 480).
4. **Oak Village Blvd South** from the intersection at US Hwy 98 traveling south along Oak Village Blvd South to end of the road at the intersection of Poppy Street.
5. **US Hwy 98 South Side** from the intersection at Oak Village Blvd South traveling southeast parallel to US Hwy 98 all the way to the Suncoast Parkway 1 Trailhead. (This segment would have a single ten foot wide bike path on the south side of US Hwy 98 on the outer edge of the road easement.)

The proposed roads were selected because these roads have a 100 foot road easement which allows space to add the bike lanes with minimal impact to residents and these roads provide routes through the center of the two major villages to offer easy access to the greatest number of SMW residents.

The proposed bike lanes would be a five foot wide segment added on the outside of each road, be adjacent to the road, and be clearly designated as a Bike Lane / Walking Path for our community. Adding these bike lanes would use approximately five feet of the available roadway easement. As part of the work effort, the County would relocate any sprinkler heads in the affected area, resod where appropriate, and repair any changes needed to the driveway aprons and drainage area. There would be no expense incurred by the Property Owner.

With respect to funding we explored various alternatives and determined that projects like this one are eligible candidate projects which can be funded by federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. United States Code requires that 10% of the STP funds be reserved for "Transportation Enhancement

Activities” such as bike paths, landscaping for roads, etc. “Transportation Enhancement” funds are distributed annually to each District and the Florida DOT then decides which projects will be funded. If approved, these projects are 100% funded. Matching local funds are not required. Surface Transportation Program Funds are our tax dollars at work. Since we are all tax payers contributing to STP funds, it would be nice to see some of this money put to work in our community.

On August 23, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the recommendation for County staff to submit a Grant Application Request for these Funds to do the necessary survey work and to create a detailed cost estimate for the project. County staff is working on preparing this Grant Application Request now. If this Grant Application is approved, then the survey work and detailed cost estimate work can be done. Upon completion of the survey work and a complete detailed cost estimate, the next step is to submit a second Grant Application Request for the actual construction funds to implement the project. Florida DOT would then review the second Grant Application along with other projects to determine which projects will be funded and when.

Prior to submission of the initial Grant Application, we have scheduled a **Community Outreach Program Meeting** to review the details of this proposal with residents and answer any questions you may have. We have reserved the **Sugarmill Woods Country Club Grill Room on Thursday, October 13, 2011 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM** for this purpose. Representatives of the Civic Association, Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, and County staff will be available to answer any questions. Please take this opportunity to learn about this proposal and provide your feedback.

If we are successful with the above project and residents are supportive, we would propose a second phase be considered to add similar bike lanes to the other major Boulevards in Sugarmill Woods. The ones being considered for Phase 2 would be:

1. **Corkwood Blvd** from the intersection at Cypress Blvd East traveling northeast and south along Corkwood Blvd to the intersection at Oak Park Blvd West (CR 480).
2. **Greenpark Blvd** from the intersection at US Hwy 98 traveling southwest along Greenpark Blvd to the intersection at Oak Village Blvd South.
3. **Glenridge Blvd** from the intersection at Corkwood Blvd traveling northeast to the end of the boulevard.
4. **Around Cypress Circle and Cypress Blvd West** from the intersection at Cypress Circle traveling west along Cypress Blvd West to the intersection at Douglas Street near the main entrance to Cypress Village.

Please mark your calendar for this Informational COP Meeting on October 13 and let us know what you think. Please email me at DuaneDueker@aol.com. Your feedback is important to us and is encouraged.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker
President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

cc: Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods POA