

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

October 1, 2011

Dear Residents,

The Sugarmill Woods Civic Association together with Citrus County Public Works / Engineering, Cypress Village POA and Oak Village Association will be jointly hosting a Community Outreach Program session to review with SMW residents a proposal to add bike lanes to selected Blvd Roads within the Sugarmill Woods community.

The SMW Bike Lane Proposal Open House will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2011 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club (Grill Room). The meeting format will be an Open House setting where residents are invited to come anytime between the hours of 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM to meet with County, Civic Association, and POA representatives to review the details of this proposal. We will have detailed maps of the proposed routes, documents showing the end product, proposed schedules, what the proposed changes involve, comment forms, etc. Residents are encouraged to come to the session, meet with representatives, ask questions to get a complete understanding of the proposal, and provide their feedback. Comment forms will also be available for residents to submit their written comments, suggestions, and position on the proposal. Please take this opportunity to learn about this proposal and provide your feedback.

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.

The County, Civic Association, and POAs collectively concluded that adding bike lanes to select SMW Boulevards (collector roads) appears to be the most economical and best approach to provide a safer environment for bike riders, walkers, and drivers. The bike lanes can be used by both bike riders and walkers. The proposed bike lanes would be a five foot wide segment added on the outside of each road, be directly adjacent to the road, and be clearly designated as a Bike Lane / Walking Path for our community. The addition of these bike lanes will provide a much safer environment for all concerned.

The 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 right of way easement.)

The proposed Blvd roads were selected because these roads have a significant right of way easement which allows space to add the bike lanes with minimal impact to residents. These roads provide routes

through the center of the two major villages and offer easy accessibility to the greatest number of SMW residents.

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 the **SMW Bike Lane Proposal Open House which will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2011 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Sugarmill Woods Country Club (Grill Room)**. County, Civic Association, Cypress Village POA, and Oak Village Association representatives will be available to discuss the proposal with you in detail and answer your 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 other major Boulevards in Sugarmill Woods. The ones being considered for Phase 2 are:

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 along Glenridge Blvd 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 very important Open House session on October 13 and let us know what you think. Please email me at DuaneDueker@aol.com. Your opinions are important to us and we encourage your feedback. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker
President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

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