



LEGACY TRAIL EXTENSION

In 2008, the Legacy Trail opened, providing more than 10 miles of trail from the Venice Train Depot to Culverhouse Nature Park.

Now 10 years later, an estimated 225,000 people annually use the trail. In addition to providing a safe, recreational trail for walking, bicycling and running, it provides direct access to the City of Venice and popular public beaches.

On Nov. 6, 2018, Sarasota County voters approved a referendum to acquire and improve the Legacy Trail extension railroad corridor as a safe trail for walking, running and cycling. The extension will also enhance connectivity from North Port through Venice to downtown Sarasota, and include improvements such as crossings, overpasses, amenities and increased accessibility.

The extension of the Legacy Trail will:

- Create nearly 30 miles of continuous non-motorized paved multi-use trail, which could become a regional connection between Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto and Charlotte counties.
- Provide access to local neighborhoods and place 27 schools within one linear mile of the Legacy Trail; another 45 would be within two linear miles.
- Enhance connectivity from the City of North Port through Venice to downtown Sarasota.



LEGACY TRAIL EXTENSION (continued)

Pedestrian overpasses

In an effort to complete the Legacy Trail Extension Project expeditiously, Sarasota County asked the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to replace the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Program funding of the extension from Culverhouse Nature Park to Ashton Road with the construction of pedestrian overpasses at both Bee Ridge and Clark roads.

FDOT has approved this change and will now perform the design, construction and bidding of these two overpasses. FDOT has made the change to the official work program.

Trail design

On June 5, the Sarasota County Commission authorized the county administrator to execute a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates for the design and permitting of the Legacy Trail Extension Project. Thirty percent design plans for Trail Segment 1 were submitted to the county in September. Thirty percent design plans for Trail Segment 2 and 3 were submitted to the county in November.

Trail construction

On Sept. 10, the Sarasota County Commission approved an agreement with Jon F. Swift, Inc. as the project's construction manager.

The railroad company is removing the railroad tracks along the corridor.

Bonds

On June 25, the initial bond draw closed for funding the acquisition of the extension, design and initial construction. A second bond draw will occur just prior to major construction activities.