



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 more than 10 years later, an estimated 290,000 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 48 schools within two linear miles of the Legacy Trail.
- Enhance connectivity from the City of North Port through Venice to downtown Sarasota.

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.



LEGACY TRAIL EXTENSION (continued)

Trail design

On June 5, 2019, 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. Ninety percent design plans for Trail Segment 1 were received in April. Trail Segment 2 60 percent plans were received in March and Trail Segment 3 60 percent plans were received in April. The North Port Connector 30 percent plans were received in March.

Kimley-Horn and Associates has completed a typical sections analysis to better determine what the physical trail will look like.

Trail construction

On Sept. 10, 2019, the Sarasota County Commission approved an agreement with Jon F. Swift, Inc. as the project's construction manager.

The railroad company has removed the railroad tracks along the corridor. Construction on the Legacy Trail Extension is expected to begin mid-2020.

The recommended construction order of the Legacy Trail Extension, which is based on how quickly each segment can be brought through design and permitting, is as follows:

- Segment 1 will extend from Proctor Road to Bahia Vista Street with a trailhead at Webber Street.
- Segment 2 will extend from the current northern terminus of the trail at Culverhouse Nature Park to Proctor Road with a trailhead at Ashton Road.
- Segment 3 will go from Bahia Vista Street to Ringling Boulevard with a trailhead at Pompano Avenue.

It is anticipated that all segments may be under construction concurrently.

Bonds

On June 25, 2019, 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.