City of Tampa Walk-Bike Project Plan: Overview

In 2009, the City updated its Comprehensive Plan to encourage growth within the City's three core "Business Centers" (Downtown, Westshore, and USF), along major transit corridors, and within designated "Mixed-Use Corridors and Villages." In order to serve the mobility needs of existing and future residents and businesses, it is necessary to narrow down past transportation studies and planning efforts to identify and prioritize feasible bicycle and pedestrian projects and put a business plan in place to get those projects completed.

Projects identified and prioritized by this effort will generally fall into two groups:

- 1. "Complete Streets" projects which re-configure an existing roadway facility to more fully incorporate bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes. (e.g. converting a 4-lane undivided roadway to a 2-lane divided roadway with pedestrian refuge islands and bicycle lanes).
- 2. Stand-alone projects which do not require re-allocation of available automobile travel lanes (e.g. constructing sidewalks along a roadway from point A to point B or modifying lane widths to accommodate marked bicycle lanes).

The goal of the project is to identify and vet about a half-dozen feasible "Complete Streets" projects and approximately twenty bike lane or sidewalk projects.

Projects identified/prioritized by this effort will be used to:

- Allocate City tax revenues (i.e. local option gas tax, capital infrastructure sales tax),
- Identify right-of-way needs and opportunities within City, County, and FDOT resurfacing projects and other public works projects
- Identify projects along the major road network eligible for Federal "Enhancement" funds or Federal Highway Safety Program funds.

Development of a concrete list of bicycle and pedestrian projects will also help determine whether the City requires the additional flexibility of a multimodal mobility fee to further fund non-roadway capacity projects.

The planning effort commenced September 3, 2010, and a presentation of preliminary findings to the Hillsborough MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Livable Roadways Committee and MPO Board are planned for November/December. The project is expected to be complete by March of 2011.

City of Tampa Comprehensive Plan Urban Form Vision Map

