

**Alternatives Public Workshop
(Oct 17 and Oct 24, 2024)
Comments and Summary Report**

Florida Department of Transportation, District One
Old Dixie Trail PD&E Study
Connecting the Trailheads of Auburndale-TECO Trail to Haines City
Trail Polk County
FPID: 435391-1-22-01
Federal Aid Project Number: D117 054 B
EDTM Number: 14328

In-Person Public Meeting: Oct 17, 2024

Virtual Public Meeting: Oct 24, 2024

Public Questions/Comments and Responses

Note: Public Feedback was recorded as received from both meetings, without altering the original language.

Comment Number	Public Feedback	Public Comment Responses
1	I would like to receive what is the proposed construction plan right behind my home at XXX. Thanks in advance.	<p>Thank you for your comment. The proposed trail will be situated in the former railroad right-of-way located north of your property, as shown in the attached plan. Additional details will be finalized during the design phase, which Polk County is set to begin in 2025.</p> <p>Attach plan sheet to email - Old Dixie Concept Plans_082324_204 Dixie.pdf</p>
2	Strongly supportive of this preferred alternative route. Offers great connectivity to the proposed ‘Lakes District Mixed-Use Village Center’ none on Auburndale’s vision plan, located along Lake Alfred Road. Offers great connectivity to the proposed new urbanist community adjacent to ‘Adams Estate’ in Lake Alfred. Consider a boardwalk segment along south shoreline of Lake Alfred. This could be an amazing community resource and link “Lions Park” to this network.	<p>Thank you for your comment and support of the Old Dixie Trail. We have forwarded your feedback to Polk County, which will begin the design phase in 2025 for evaluation. We appreciate your input and enthusiasm.</p>
3	The pedestrian crossing at Deen Blvd + SR 559 needs to be addressed. With it being along a state road and truck route through Auburndale, I am highly concerned with having a road level crosswalk. I believe a pedestrian bridge is needed for safety purposes. I’m looking forward to the work beginning.	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Your comment to evaluate a bridge over the Deen Blvd and State Road 559 intersection will be considered for the Design phase of the project, and we have passed your comment on to Polk County, which is starting the design phase in 2025 for evaluation. If a pedestrian bridge is not selected, a signal warrant may be considered at this intersection to give trail users an opportunity to safely cross. If a signal is not warranted, a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) may be studied for implementation.</p> <p>The Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study recommends a PHB based on guidelines from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The closest traffic count for the major road, Berkey Road, was taken about 1,300 feet south of the intersection, just north of Old Dixie Highway. This count showed an</p>

		<p>afternoon peak volume of 1,428 vehicles per hour in 2019. According to the MUTCD, we need at least twenty trail users per hour to justify a PHB. A rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) is not recommended because Berkeley Road has a speed limit above 45 mph.</p>
4	<p>Very concerned about proper drainage because of the growth. Are you planning for the addition of maybe public transportation?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We have considered drainage in the PD&E study. Any future development will be coordinated during the design phase. We have forwarded your comment to Polk County, which will start the design phase in 2025 for further evaluation. Additionally, the trail will connect to the existing Citrus Connection Purple bus route.</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback.</p>
5	<p>For Segment 5, please consider incorporating a redesign of Pierce St W, this is an already dangerous road with very little space on either side for pedestrians. Please do not construct any portion of this trail where it would permit access to the rear/side of any residential properties due to increased risk of crime. Consider renaming the trail/project as “Dixie” has a very negative connotation among certain demographics.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Your comment about Pierce Street will be considered during the project's design phase. We have forwarded your input to Polk County, which will begin evaluating the design phase in 2025. The proposed trail location was selected to balance safety, accessibility, and the impact on properties.</p> <p>The Old Dixie Trail's name comes from the Old Dixie Highway. We have also forwarded your comment to consider renaming the trail to Polk County, which is starting the design phase in 2025 for evaluation.</p>
6	<p>A bridge needs to be considered at Berkeley Road crossing.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Your comment to evaluate a bridge over the Deen Blvd and State Road 559 intersection will be considered for the Design phase of the project. We have forwarded your comment to Polk County, which is starting the design phase in 2025 for evaluation. If a pedestrian bridge is not selected, a signal warrant may be considered at this intersection to give trail users an opportunity to safely cross. If a signal is not warranted, a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) may be studied for implementation.</p> <p>The Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study recommends a PHB based on guidelines from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The</p>

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7	<p>Thank you for taking the time to work on this regionally important project. Please keep in mind a few things. There are willing property owners, especially along Old Lake Alfred Road who want to see this project come to fruition. This is the section with the largest right of way needs between Auburndale and Lake Alfred. Get the right of way needs for this portion set now and lined up. Consider existing developments - IE Downtown Auburndale Park does not need additional trail with it, just tie into existing park. Consider constrained corridors and approaches such as 8-10 ft paths instead of 12 feet; consider placing a curb and trail at curb - in places where it might make the indifference between a viable project and in lieu of taking on unnecessary right of way acquisitions. Consider if needed, prioritizing the segment from Auburndale - Lake Alfred first as this will provide a connection to the State system with existing trail networks. There are quite a few folks and City's that are very interested in helping and seeing this project through including Winter Haven, please lean on these entities for assistance during design, ROW and construction if needed and as practical 6, A Joint Sun Trail Grant was submitted for the portion between Auburndale- Lake Alfred in Dec 2023 for design, ROW, construction and CEI. We have not heard back on the results of this but would like to be in a position to continue advocating for these funds.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback and support. The width of Old Dixie Trail varies by segment and will be further refined during the Design phase when topographic survey information is available. We have passed your comment on to Polk County, which is starting the design phase in 2025, for consideration. We encourage you to get involved and advocate for the Old Dixie Trail.</p>
8	<p>Gapway Grove Corporation owns property with frontage on Old Lake Alfred Rd (Pierce Street) between Lake</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback and support of the Old Dixie Trail! Many people will appreciate the shade provided by Live Oak</p>

	<p>Alfred and Auburndale and supports this route for the Old Dixie Trail. For several years, as the citrus groves declined, we have been planting Live Oak trees along the boundary of our property to provide shade for a trail if located on this proposed route.</p>	<p>trees. We have forwarded your comment to Polk County, which will begin the design phase in 2025.</p>
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