

Why is the FAMU Way project needed?

Extending FAMU Way from South Monroe Street to Lake Bradford Road provides better east/west mobility for residents, students and the community. The extended route as envisioned would also provide an opportunity to enhance the community through such concepts as a linear park, new recreational opportunities and the potential for economic development along the corridor. Economic development will increase the tax base, which would benefit the entire community.

How have citizens been involved?

In late spring 2008, City staff presented the proposed FAMU Way project to Florida A&M University's President and Executive group, as well as its Board of Trustees, for feedback. In late summer 2008, City staff presented the same information to Florida State University's President's staff. The City then took the plan to the community through two public open houses. To ensure as much public input at the two meetings as possible, the City reached out to citizens multiple ways. Fliers were passed out at local businesses, community centers and Bond Elementary. Staff met with the editorial board for the Capital Outlook and appeared on WTAL-AM 1450. Public service announcements also ran on WHBX-FM 96.1 and the FAMU student radio station.

In 2009, after reviewing the community and stakeholder feedback, staff was able to concentrate on a route that would most likely best meet the needs and wants of those potentially impacted by the project. During the outreach in 2008, the City promised to return to the community with more information prior to presenting the project to the City Commission. In order to keep that promise, the City decided to host the FAMU Way Community Breakfast. Outreach for the event included postcards to everyone in the nearby community, fliers at local community centers, a citizens advisory group, letters to all potentially impact property owners and occupants delivered door-to-door by staff members, news releases to local media and outreach to area churches.

Has this project been approved by the City Commission?

No. The City Commission has directed staff to explore extending FAMU Way to Lake Bradford Road, but no decision has been made on a final alignment for project approval. A recommended route will likely come before the Commission in February 2010.

What are the next steps of the project?

We are currently in the public input phase. The project is anticipated to go before the Commission in February. The Commission will review the public input and staff recommendation in deciding how to proceed. They need to approve the alignment and appropriate funding for the project to move forward. Staff will then begin work on a detailed roadway design. After approximately 18 months, when the design is at least 60 percent complete, the City can begin acquiring the property needed to construct the project. Property acquisition would take another 18 months. The earliest construction is anticipated to begin in 2013.

What route is City staff currently planning to propose to the City Commission?

At this time, Alternative 3B, as detailed in this booklet, is staff's preferred alternative. It has the least impact on the neighborhood, allows the project to partner with Blueprint 2000's Capital Cascade Trail along the canal (St. Augustine Branch) and is the most affordable option. Staff is also planning on recommending improvements along the Gamble Street Extension. However, public comment will be used to develop a final recommendation and to identify preferred design alternatives.

What is the Gamble Street Extension?

Because the proposed FAMU Way extension would cross the railroad tracks at ground level, staff is recommending improving Gamble Street from Lake Bradford Road to the new FAMU Way. This would provide an alternative route for traffic, which would be particularly helpful when trains block the crossing on FAMU Way. Improvements would likely include new sidewalks and curb and gutter. The road would primarily follow the existing alignment of Gamble Street and would remain a two-lane road.

How wide will FAMU Way be?

The road, as proposed, would only be wide enough for two lanes of traffic, two rows of on-street parking (one on each side), five-foot wide bike lanes and wide sidewalks. The full width of the right-of-way housing these proposed improvements is anticipated to be approximately 80 feet wide.

What will happen to the ditch (St. Augustine Branch)?

Several alternatives are being discussed (see pages 18, 20, 22) in partnership with the Blueprint 2000 Capital Cascade Trail. The goal is to create a new linear park for residents and the community.

My property lies in the path of the proposed road. When will I know if it will be needed or not? Does Eminent Domain apply?

The property acquisition phase of a project usually begins after design is detailed enough to identify properties needed to accommodate said design. That point usually occurs when a project design is 60 percent complete. For this project, it will take approximately 18 months before we can begin acquiring any needed properties.

What is the projected cost of the project?

The preliminary cost of the roadway project is estimated at \$50 million. Once the preferred alternative is selected, staff can proceed with scheduling and programming a detailed construction and phasing plan for the project.

Whom can I contact for more information?

- Roxanne Manning, Community Redevelopment Agency, 891-6460, Roxanne.Manning@talgov.com
- Gabriel Menendez, City of Tallahassee Public Works Director, 891-8197, Gabriel.Menendez@talgov.com