



Interoffice Memorandum

November 17, 2022

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
County Commissioners

FROM: Joseph C. Kunkel, P.E., Director
Public Works Department

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CONTACT PERSON : **Humberto Castillero, P. E., PTOE, Manager**
Traffic Engineering Division
Public Works Department
(407) 836-7891

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SUBJECT: **November 29, 2022 – Work Session**
Rio Grande Pedestrian / Bicycle Safety Project

Orange County is taking a proactive approach to address pedestrian and bicycle safety on its roadways countywide. This has been reinforced with the recent adoption of the Vision Zero Initiative. One important and tangible goal is incorporating safer and more convenient walking and biking facilities in transportation projects. To achieve this, Traffic Engineering has taken a proactive approach to corridors within the County that have been identified as having higher than average pedestrians and transit users.

The Rio Grande Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Study is one such project. The study is along 2.7 miles of Rio Grande Avenue from Holden Avenue to Jones High School and is intended to provide the safe integration of pedestrians and bicyclists with other modes of transportation.

The safety project is arranged into three phases: short-term, mid-term, and long-term improvements. This was done in order to provide more accelerated implementation of portions of the project while still having the ability to make changes based on community needs.

The work session will present the project recommendations and provide board members the opportunity to comment before the first phase of the project is implemented.

This item is for informational purposes; no action is required.

JCK/HLC/dar

Attachments



**Commissioners Briefing
Rio Grande Ave
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Study
November 29, 2022**

Purpose

Summary of presentation scheduled for the November 29th BCC working session.

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Study purpose and need
- Background and summary of improvements
- Current Status
- Next Steps

TRAFFIC FATALITIES AND SEVERE INJURIES

- Each year, more than 40,000 people are killed on American streets.
- Society has considered traffic deaths and severe injuries to be inevitable side effects of modern life.
- We know we can do more to prevent this suffering, and we believe that all of us — whether driving, walking, bicycling, using a wheelchair, or riding transit — have a right to safe mobility.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS

In early 2019, the Rio Grande Ave Pedestrian Safety Study was conducted by the Traffic Engineering Division. The study provides phased improvements for the corridor and is in accordance with the recently adopted Vision Zero initiative. These proposed improvements include:

- Between I-4 and Gore St, repurpose the outside travel lanes in the northbound and southbound direction to provide a 7-foot wide bike lane with a 4' wide buffer.
- Provide midblock crossings enhanced with raised refuge islands, RRFBs, and enhanced lighting at several locations along the corridor.
- Provide median islands throughout the corridor to limit impacts to local access while providing pedestrian refuge locations throughout the corridor.
- Provide a 12 ft. wide shared use path.
- Optimize intersection corners with bulb-outs at various intersections to accommodate trucks while minimizing pedestrian crossing distances and slow vehicle turning speeds.
- Intersection improvements including LPIs at the intersections near schools and/or at locations with a documented history of pedestrian and bicyclist crashes.

Current Status

- Outreach to the following organizations initially to discuss the overall scope and need for the project and the findings of the report after it was completed.
 - District 6 Commissioner
 - Community Stakeholders
 - City Of Orlando Transportation
 - Orlando Venues
 - Orlando Police Department
 - MPO
 - FDOT
 - OBT NEXT
 - Best Foot Forward and Orlando Bike Coalition
 - LYNX
- Short Term plans completed to include the addition of buffered bike lane using pavement markings and delineator posts.
- Speed reduction from 45 MPH to 35 MPH implemented.

Next Steps

- Schedule the installation of the buffered bike line in summer of 2023.
- Pursue funding for other improvements.