

Community Meeting #1: Kick-Off and Walkabout

Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:30AM – 12:30PM

Dover Shores Community Center

1400 Gaston Foster Rd, Orlando, FL

Meeting Attendees

- District 2 City Commissioner Tony Ortiz
- District 4 City Commissioner Patty Sheehan
- Orange County Commissioner Mayra Uribe
- City and County Staff
- Consultants from S&ME, Toole Design Group, and Wyche& Associates
- Members of the public

Overview

The first Curry Ford Vision Plan community meeting took place on Saturday February 2, 2019 at the Dover Shores Community Center from 9:30AM until 12:30PM. A total of 50 people signed in, not including commissioners and staff. The breakdown of the Kick-Off and Walkabout were as follows:

9:30 AM to 10:10 AM: Participants were greeted by Jason Burton. Commissioners Sheehan and Uribe also welcomed the participants. S&ME presented a PowerPoint introducing the Curry Ford Vision Plan project scope and schedule, and briefly covered background, City expectations, and future opportunities for public input. Walkabout instructions and safety recommendations were given by S&ME staff.

10:10 AM to 10:20AM: Participants were given the opportunity to choose the route they wished to walk. The participants split into groups and picked up their safety vests. Each route group included a leader/guide and a person in charge of taking notes.

10:20AM to 10:30AM: Traveled by foot or car to the route starting points. The City shuttled participants in the further routes to their starting points.

10:30AM to 11:30AM: Walkabouts took place and participants returned to the Community Center for the map activity portion of the meeting.

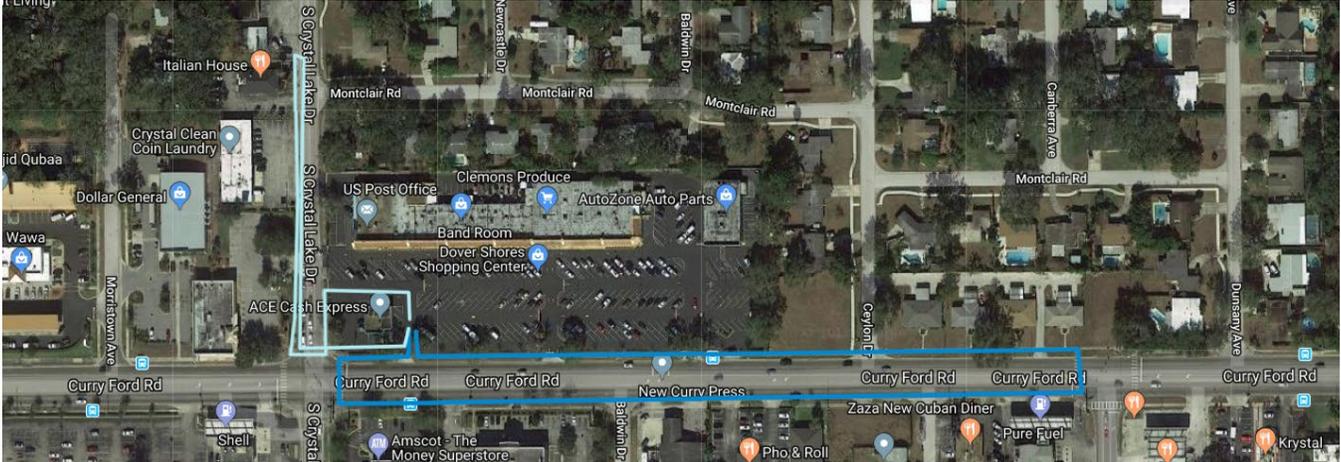
11:30 AM to 12:30 PM: Participants sat at one of six tables and with the help of a facilitator discussed their observations of the corridor and their desired improvements. One participant from each table presented their observations of corridor's limitations and potential improvements to the entire group. S&ME took notes on large notepads for all to see. Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions, none were posed.

Walkabout Session Notes

ROUTE 1

Route Leaders: Pat Tyjeski, Chris Dougherty, Stephanie Shealey

Commissioner Sheehan participated in this route.



- Dead landscaping - need more consistent landscaping design
- Corporate design (AutoZone, Amscot, etc.) lacks neighborhood feel
- Some participants noted inconsistent signage between businesses in the Conway Shopping Center and wished to see a consistent theme without being so strict that all the signs would look the same.
 - o Some participants wanted to see pole signs prohibited
- Noted how crowded the sidewalk is at the intersection of Curry Ford and Crystal Lake (SE corner). The poles and utility boxes do not leave enough room for wheelchairs to maneuver safely.
- Wider sidewalk (7'+) is more comfortable
- Lighting is insufficient at night and most are not LED
- Remove billboards
- Grade change for driveway aprons is too steep
- Redevelop vacant lots: East-end market, live-work units, park space for festivals, artist work space, gazebo, A la Cart-style food truck park
- Development should provide more “eyes on the street”
- Develop County stormwater facility into park space
- Traffic noise is loud
- Noticed new businesses when they were stuck waiting in traffic from the Road Diet
- Not all residents want sidewalks on their neighborhood streets



Figure 1. Billboard

- Duplex development looks nice
- When the line between on-site parking and the public sidewalk is not delineated, cars tend to encroach into the sidewalk blocking passage.
- Would like community space for library, media center, or board games
- Vacant lots are littered with trash
- Consider using block walls between commercial and single-family sites.
- Put together a façade grant program
- Restrict uses:
 - o No check cashing
 - o No used car lots
- Make sure all bus stops have amenities (bench and cover)
- Reduce speeds on Curry Ford
- Need to make city staff aware of proper placement of tactile warning strips at intersections
- Only saw one trash receptacle in the entire route.
- Talked about how most sites are not very deep. If they redevelop, there will not be enough room to put parking in the rear. It will need to be to the side of the building.
- Noted drainage grills on pedestrian paths. Dangerous for pets.



Figure 2. Duplexes



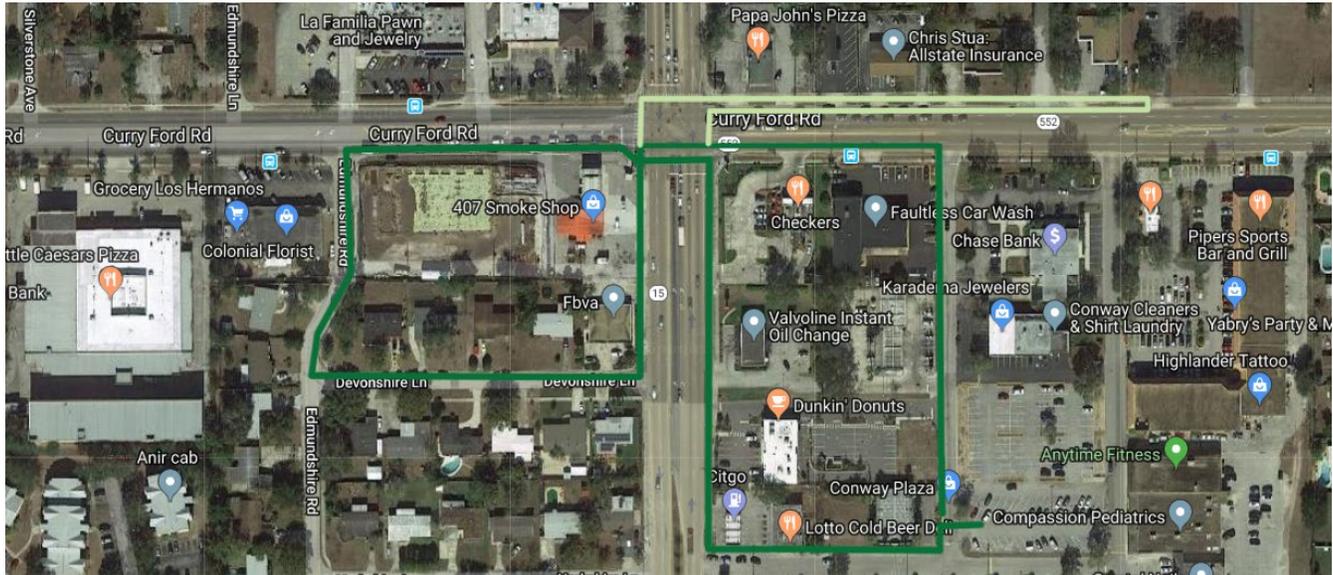
Figure 3. Tactile Warning



Figure 4. Grills

ROUTE 2

Route Leaders: Adeline Collot and Ian Lockwood



- Sight triangle; utility box placement and landscaping make it hard to see what traffic is coming at the Conway & Curry Ford Intersection
- There is a lack of sidewalk connections within commercial plaza
- Uneven sidewalk; overall not very wheelchair friendly
- Sod is not on the same level as sidewalk; tripping hazard
- Lack of pedestrian level lighting at intersections and sidewalk
- Motorist components (i.e. traffic light control boxes) reduce width of pedestrian zone
- Lack of space for pedestrian landing at intersections
- Turning radius at some residential streets seems too large
- Lack of left-turn lane coming out of Walgreens and a lot of businesses in the area
- Lack of lighting at dumpster (Walgreens); creates ambush point; make use of security/defensive landscaping
- ADA detectable warning strip
 - o Placement and layout
 - o Lack of maintenance
 - o Not up to code
- Lack of screening at street drains/inlets
- Lack of shade along sidewalk
- Inconsistent sidewalk width and layout
- Bus shelters; lack of shade/ trash receptacles



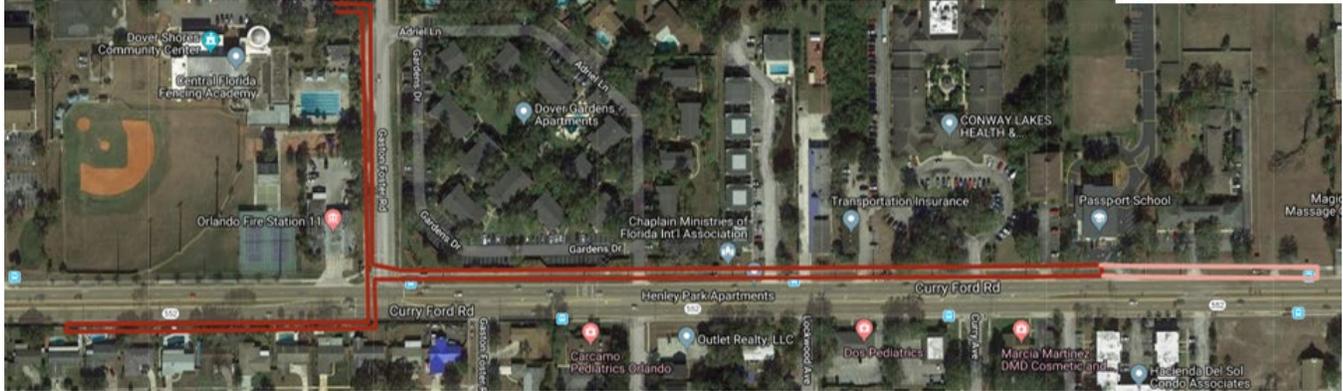
Figure 5. Uneven Surfaces

- Missing bike lanes; saw a biker crossing Curry Ford midblock and almost got hit
- Biker-pedestrian conflict; sharing same sidewalk
- Owner-City responsibility to maintain sidewalks?
- Kids walking to school- is it safe?

ROUTE 3

Route Leader: Jay Hood

Commissioner Ortiz participated in this route.



- Narrow sidewalks
- Bike connection to the school/community center is lacking
- Park entrance is hidden
- Need better/consistent wayfinding across the district
- Need more buffer between sidewalks and road
- Improve tree cover
- Look into signal timing for pedestrian crossing of Curry Ford at Gaston Foster (long delay)
- Guard railing and tall wall create a claustrophobic environment
- Need to pick up litter
- Crosswalks & curbs are worn, not ADA compliant
- Not all bus stops have shelters/amenities or sidewalks that lead to the curb
- Passport school needs a mid-block crossing so kids can safely traverse
- The City & FDOT are discussing how to reduce speeds on Curry Ford and adding a light at Frederica
- There are large parcels with high redevelopment potential, need to think about uses we want to see
- Add recycle bins along Curry Ford
- Need more public open space



Figure 6. Bus Stop

Breakout Session Notes

- Walking environment needs to be more fluid, fewer obstacles in sidewalk and extending sidewalks west of Bumby along Curry Ford
- Create design guidelines for facades and signage (no billboards)
- Create a design overlay to keep the area unique but make it more consistent (i.e. setbacks)
- Shortage of public greenspace, create parklets
- Improve landscaping along streets and in medians (no crepe myrtles) and keep it consistent
- Coordinate with Market Street to reach out to businesses about making improvements
- Improve bike environment (i.e. shared use trail)
- Develop mid-block crossings to improve connectivity and accessibility
- Implement traffic calming strategies along Curry Ford and in the neighborhoods with cut-through traffic
- Develop a neighborhood identity/brand through wayfinding, and placemaking
- Expand the Conway Special Plan restrictions along Curry Ford
- Expand the mix of uses to keep the area lively past 5PM
- Improve lighting (shielded lighting)
- Create transitions between residential and commercial
- Redesign Curry Ford
- Develop more community uses (library, parks, etc.)
- Explore opportunities for public uses in the County stormwater ponds
- Install new tactile warning strips at intersections to meet ADA requirements
- Determine undesirable uses (i.e. used car dealerships)
- Evaluate existing bus routes and stop locations for ease of access

Workshop Photos & Sign In Sheets



