

Northeast Collier County Trail Feasibility Study Public Meeting Frequently Asked Questions

Collier County, FL June 5, 2008 5 - 7 p.m.

Feasibility Study: preliminary assessment undertaken to determine and document a project's viability.

- 1. What is the Northeast Collier County Trail Feasibility Study? The trail will begin at the existing trail on Immokalee Road and continue in the vicinity of the Town of Immokalee and connect to a future trail located in Lee County. The current feasibility study includes a preliminary assessment of potential corridors in the region.
- 2. Who or what will use it? Bicyclists, hikers, in-line skaters, runners, strollers, wheelchairs, and all other non-motorized uses. These uses will benefit local residents, businesses and visitors.
- 3. Whose project is this? Collier County is looking to provide the kind of greenways and trails that are popular in other Florida communities. Florida Power and Light (FP&L) is interested in possible shared use of its corridors.
- 4. Who owns the land? The land is owned by a variety of property owners depending on the alternative being considered. Some rights-ofway are county owned. FP&L and Lee County Electric Cooperative have easements along portions of the corridor for power transmission lines and maintenance.
- 5. Where are potential sources of funding? There is federal and state funding available for projects like this and the study will identify alternative funding sources, such as grants and donations.

- 6. When will it be built? The feasibility study will be completed this summer. Funding availability will determine how quickly individual segments will be constructed.
- 7. Who will maintain the trail? The trail will be approximately 12 feet wide and constructed of both asphalt and concrete. The county will maintain the trail and volunteers can also get involved in trail maintenance.
- 8. What about liability? Municipal liability policies are usually based on land area, and should include the trail. Adjacent landowners are protected by the State's Recreational Use Statute (RUS).
- 9. What affect will this project have on property values and taxes? Studies have shown that access to trails provides an important economic value, with positive effects on adjacent properties.
- **10. What about safety and security?** Studies show that trails do not encourage crime, and in fact have a tendency to deter crime since there are many people (tourists and local citizens) using the trail for diverse activities at various hours of the day.
- 11. Are there other trails along power lines? Yes, the Pinellas Trail along Progress Energy's Power Lines, portions of the FL Keys Overseas Heritage Trail and the Ten Mile Linear Park in Lee County are along power corridors as well.