

Cape Coral Trail

Funding from the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail program is helping improve bicycle and pedestrian conditions throughout the state. Established in 2015 under 339.81, Florida Statutes, the SUN Trail program receives an annual allocation from the redistribution of new vehicle tag revenues deposited in the State Transportation Trust Fund. Administration of the program is by the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Systems Implementation Office. The competitively awarded funding is one source for expanding a safe statewide system of interconnected, high priority, and strategic paved multi-use trails (SUN Trail network) for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The City of Cape Coral's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, adopted in 2017, establishes their community's vision for improving safety, convenience, and enjoyment of walking and biking and recognizes trails adjacent to roads, nature preserves, scenic canals, marinas, golf courses and the Caloosahatchee River as key components. It indicates that almost half of the city's population is at an age where they cannot legally drive or are not able to drive due to aging-associated issues. To implement their vision, the City of Cape Coral and Lee County joined the Gulf Coast Trail Alliance to coordinate with the six counties of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Collier to connect an over 300 mile regional system, originally known as the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and now known as the Gulf Coast Trail. Increasing the use of transportation options, including bicycling, by aging road users is also an objective of the FDOT 2022-2025 Safe Mobility for Life Strategic Action Plan.

In 2017 the SUN Trail Program provided nearly \$1 million for design of six-and-a-half-miles of trail between Burnt Store Road and Del Prado Boulevard North. Completion of the design, which includes phasing for construction of the trail, occurred in August 2020. This first threeand-a-half-mile segment, awarded over \$3.6 million for construction from the SUN Trail program, extends east between Burnt Store Road and Nelson Road, along Van Buren Parkway, continuing along El Dorado Boulevard North and Kismet Parkway. It includes a trail bridge over the Zanzibar Canal. Within the project boundary, the City of Cape Coral provided additional funding for designing and construction of concrete driveway "aprons" at private residents located adjacent to the trail. These aprons provide homeowners with safe parking separate from the trail. Within the project boundary, other funding sources are providing roadway improvements that include the extension of Kismet Parkway's westbound lanes from Chiquita Boulevard to NW 18th Place. Completion of this trail segment provides travel opportunities and implements the vision of the Florida Transportation Plan, which guides the state's transportation future and helps provide safe, efficient travel routes for bicyclists and pedestrians.



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

TRAIL

FDOT DISTRICT NUMBER: 1 CITY: Cape Coral COUNTY: Lee WIDTH: 12 feet LENGTH: 3.5 miles SURFACE TYPE: Asphalt, with a trail bridge over the Zanzibar Canal

PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NUMBER: 440236-1

LIMITS: Along Van Buren Parkway, El Dorado Boulevard North, and Kismet Parkway from Burnt Store Road to Nelson Road

CONSTRUCTION START: June 2021

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: February 2023

PHASE: Design, Construction

FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2017, 2019

AMOUNT: \$4,619,633 was awarded by the SUN Trail program. Within the project boundary an additional \$1,664,707 was provided by other FDOT state funding sources.





Florida Department of Transportation Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Program

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FloridaSunTrail.com



This trail is in a community where half of the population is unable to drive due to aging