SUN Trail Funding Fact Sheet

Archer Braid Trail

Funding assistance from the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail program is helping implement Alachua County's Mobility and Bicycle Master Plans. Established in 2015 under Section 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 for administration 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 and improving connections to and through lands of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act.

Beginning in 2004 the Alachua County Commission and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for the Gainesville Urbanized Area began ranking the Archer Braid Trail as their highest priority bicycle-pedestrian project. Since then, partners successfully applied, received, and administered funding from a variety of sources to implement their vision for providing people with traveling options between Archer and Gainesville, and those traveling between residential and mixed-use developments to the University of Florida and other destinations beyond the urban area.

Predating the SUN Trail program and opening in 2013, the first segment of Archer Braid Trail received federal funding assistance from the source now known as the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program, also administered by the FDOT. The initial Archer Braid Trail extends over six miles from the Water Tower Trailhead in downtown Archer through the unincorporated area.

FDOT received an application for extending the Archer Braid Trail by approximately two-and-a-half miles with SUN Trail funding in 2016. In 2017 the SUN Trail program provided $428,658 for designing the segment. In 2020 the SUN Trail program awarded $1,677,896 for constructing this 10-foot-wide segment. In 2023 the SUN Trail program provided over $17,000 to complete the project. Adjacent to the southside of State Road 24 / Archer Road and mostly within a Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) corridor this trail extension connects SW 75th Terrace to SW 41st Boulevard, just west of Interstate 75. The Gainesville Regional Transit System (Go-RTS) operates multiple bus stops within the project boundary. Most RTS buses have bicycle racks, providing additional mobility options. The vision and continuous strides for connecting the network contributes to the City of Gainesville's recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community in 2022 by the League of American Bicyclists.

To visit the trail or for more information, please contact
Alachua County
352-374-5249 • www.alachuacounty.us

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

TRAIL

FDOT DISTRICT NUMBER: 2

CITY: Gainesville

COUNTY: Alachua

WIDTH: 10 feet

LENGTH: 2.4 miles

SURFACE TYPE: Asphalt

PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NUMBERS: 439934-1, 439934-2

LIMITS: State Road 24 / Archer Road from SW 75th Terrace to SW 41st Boulevard

CONSTRUCTION START: July 2022

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: December 2023

PHASE: Design, Construction, and Construction Engineering Inspections

A consistent vision provides the ability to secure funding for connecting facilities

FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2017, 2020, 2023

AMOUNT: $2,124,048 was awarded by the SUN Trail program. Within the project boundary an additional $74,347 was provided by other FDOT sources beginning in 2017.

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

Systems Implementation Office
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FloridaSunTrail.com

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