



REQUEST TO BE HEARD

LBK
Bike
Assoc

Agenda Item: 15 Subject: GOALS + OBJECTIVES Date: 4/7

Name: (Please print legibly) TOM SAUNDERS

Address: 629 ROUNDTREE DRIVE

*E-Mail Address (optional): SAUNDERTOMR@gmail.com

*Phone Number (optional): 281 853 5960

Please check one:

- ☒ Public
☐ Applicant/Presenter
☐ Staff

FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ONLY

To present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you must complete and sign the following oath.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation which I am about to give or present to this Board at the public hearing, held this 7 day of Apr, 2025, is truthful.

Signature: [Signature]

1 of 2

Please read the Pledge of Public Conduct and Town Code Section 30.06(E), Addressing the Commission, printed on the back of this form. **Give this request to the Town Clerk** for submission to the Mayor. The Mayor will call upon you to speak at the appropriate time.

***Note:** Under Florida law, e-mail address and phone number are considered public records when submitted to a government entity. If you do not want this information released in response to a public records request, you should not complete this section of this form. All written documents are also considered public records and open for inspection upon request.

Longboat Key Bicycle Association Input to LBK Goals and Objectives Workshop

April 7, 2025

- Introduction
 - Tom Saunders, 629 Rountree Drive, Longboat Key Estates
 - New President of Longboat Key Bicycle Association (LBKBA), in second term of LBK representative for Sarasota County Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Advisory Board
- LBKBA
 - +/- 170 Members with interests in GMD Bike Lane and Multiuse Sidewalk (really a sidewalk that is used by multiple users; it has not been "designed to accommodate the movement of pedestrians and cyclists")
 - Three areas of focus
 - Communication through our Bulletin Board
 - Maintenance of existing facilities; eyes on the ground and interface with Police, Public Works, FDOT, etc
 - Advocate for the future, specifically for a proper Multi Use Path (MUP) and Complete Streets
- Value of Recreation along GMD
 - Local Users, Surrounding Area's drive here, Tourist, 650 members of Sarasota Manatee Bicycle Club (SMBC) and 200 members of Village Idiots Bicycle Club, etc.
 - Along with Health and Wellness Benefits is Economic impact for the Town.
- Status
 - Could it be better? Yes, many people feel is it unsafe to ride on either option: People drive off the island to cycle on the Legacy Trail for safety reasons. Creating more traffic!
 - Town Survey. The Bike Lane and/or Sidewalk was not even listed as a "Town Amenity"? Probably has more users than any other Amenity. If not, than at least a more diverse user group.

- Tendency to push any concern about bike lanes and sidewalk to.. That's FDOT responsibly!. Town may need to take more ownership to meet residents need.. Like CCS?
 - Wouldn't it be great if everyone with 2-3 miles bicycled or walk to Town Center, Publix, Whitney Plaza, etc. Less traffic!
 - Btw.. The best time to bicycle/walk is when the traffic is busiest (winter/spring).
- Consider this for an objectives/goals (to address traffic, roadway and pedestrian safety)
 - Short term improvements to make our sidewalk into a proper MUP (ideally wider, with a center line, controlled intersections, sign posted, etc ("designed to accommodate the movement of pedestrians and cyclists). Especially address the poor/dangerous condition north of Town Center.
 - Cancel the resurfacing, accelerate the Complete Streets project.
 - Failing the above, include a proper MUP in the Resurfacing Project (my understanding is that the current plan (26-28) is to replace the sidewalk as is).
 -
- Then figure out a way to expedite it without waiting on FDOT. Like CCS, Friends of Legacy Trail model, state and national representatives?..
- Let use know how we can help
- Thank You



REQUEST TO BE HEARD

LBK Bike
ASSOC

Agenda Item: 45 Subject: Goals: Safe Biking Date: 4/7/25

Name: **(Please print legibly)** Andrea Edson

Address: 3416 Winding Oaks Drive

*E-Mail Address (optional): andie825@gmail.com

*Phone Number (optional): 617-686-7489

Please check one:

- ☐ Public
☐ Applicant/Presenter
☐ Staff

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Signature: Andrea Edson 2 of 2

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Longboat Key Bike Association Board

Andrea Edson
3416 Winding Oaks Drive

4/7/25

LBK offers much to residents and visitors.

One thing LBK does not offer, and that's why I'm here with Tom, is safe bicycling for casual riders. We must do something that makes the present too-narrow "sidewalk" into a wider multi-purpose path friendly to bike riders and walkers.

What we are advocating for is a change in all future designs and an immediate change of name and design concept from sidewalk to multi-use path with this body embracing that. Calling it a "sidewalk" does not let everyone who uses it know what it is being used for. It is not just for walking on the side of a road, which is what the name sidewalk implies.

We urge you in your future GMD intentions to refer to this as a MUP, multi-use path, in the same way that multi-use paths on Sanibel, the Legacy Trail and St. Pete are termed. For each of these entities, multi-use paths are a tremendous boon to tourists, visitors and locals and in our opinion, this is the future of safe biking here on LBK *in addition* to the dedicated bike lane which is for more serious bikers. Both the bike lane and the multi-use path have their uses, yet they are different and appeal to different users. How nice for us to have both and the room to make these both happen!

Our number 1 concern is safety for everyone, whether they are on the bike lane or more casual cyclists or pedestrians using the multi-use path. Referring to the multi-use path as that instead of sidewalk will clarify that the multi-use path is exactly that, multi-use.

To that end, even in the short term, we need on this "sidewalk," a line down the middle and signage, and any improvements on GMD to take the well-studied design of safer and better multiuse paths into account or else we have lost a wonderful opportunity to enrich casual, fun and SAFE biking on LBK.

We all know that casual biking in the thin bike lane adjacent to GMD is dangerous. Many residents would never ride or take their families on the GMD bike lane and instead ride on the sidewalk and are scowled at by pedestrians, by EarPods wearing walkers that don't hear their bells, and by vehicles entering from driveways that are not alert.

If there can be anything that we would hope you take from this meeting it is that any future improvements must be made to rename, amend and as much as possible **widen** the present "sidewalk" with the addition of a center line, better graphics on the ground, and signage so that all who use it know that we are safely enjoying and sharing an essential benefit of this amazing LBK.