

Preliminary Engagement Summary — the Kincaid Loop Trail Project

This document serves to summarize the County's preliminary community engagement efforts, input received, and proposed next steps for the Kincaid Loop Trail Project.

1

WHAT WE DID: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT METHODS & ACTIVITIES

2

WHAT WE HEARD: COMMUNITY INPUT RECEIVED

3

NEXT STEPS


1

POSTCARD MAILER

On January 16th, the County mailed 1,792 postcards to property owners along the Kincaid Loop Trail — to share project information, invite them to the February 3rd Community Meeting, and provide other opportunities for input.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

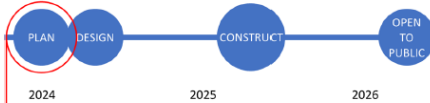


Alachua County
Department of Growth Management
10 SW 2nd Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

SCOPE
The County is planning to construct 3.34 MI of 10 FT wide multi-use path, and related stormwater improvements, on the following three corridors:

- SE 15th Street from northern Boulware Springs entrance to SE 41st Avenue (Payne's Prairie entrance)
- SE 41st Avenue from SE 15th Street (Payne's Prairie entrance) to SE 27th Street
- SE 27th Street from SE 41st Avenue to SE Hawthorne Road

SCHEDULE



We are here, looking to get community input before commencing design

BUDGET: \$2,817,551

What sort of input is the County looking to receive?

- Observed safety issues, especially for people walking and biking
- Preferred side of the road for the trail
- Important crossing locations
- Scenic and/or landscape opportunities
- Lighting issues

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PROJECT WEBSITE

The County developed a project website, including a project overview, project background, and ways to get involved: <https://growth-management.alachucounty.us/Planning/>

Schedule

SCHEDULE

PLAN (2024) → DESIGN (2024) → CONSTRUCT (2025) → OPEN TO PUBLIC (2026)

We are here, looking to get community input before commencing design

BUDGET: \$2,817,551

Kincaid Loop Trail

Project Overview | Project Background | Get Involved/Contact

Provide Your Input on the Kincaid Loop Trail!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The County is planning a 3.34 mile trail for the Kincaid Loop and want to hear from you!

WHAT: Community Meeting, followed by an optional group bike ride of the project area

WHERE: Saturday, February 3, 2024, 9:00 am

WHERE: TB McPherson Center, 1717 SE 35th St

****Light Reflections and Bike Safety gear provided, while supplies last****

PROJECT OVERVIEW

PLANNED FACILITIES - KINCAID LOOP

Project Scope

Construct 3.34 MI of 10 FT wide multi-use path, and related stormwater improvements, on the following three corridors:

- SE 15th Street from northern Boulevard Springs entrance to SE 41st Avenue (Payne's Prairie entrance)
- SE 41st Avenue from SE 15th Street (Payne's Prairie entrance) to SE 27th Street
- SE 27th Street from SE 41st Avenue to SE Hawthorne Road

EQUITY

The project area is designated as an **Area of Persistent Poverty** & an **Historically Disadvantaged Community**, per USDOT and US Census Data. The County is prioritizing transportation safety investment in this historically disadvantaged area.

EXISTING FACILITIES - KINCAID LOOP

Existing Conditions:

The Kincaid Loop – SE 15th St, SE 41st Ave and SE 27th St – is deficient in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

On the south end of SE 15th St, there is an asphalt path, but it is highly degraded and does not meet accessibility standards.

SE 41st Ave and the south end of SE 27th St, there is no dedicated pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure. Additionally, there is little to no lighting for much of the loop.

Images below for reference.

What Sort of Input Is the County Looking to Receive?

- What transportation safety issues have you observed along the route? Specifically for people walking and biking?
- Where do people walk and bike most in the area?
- Is there one side of the road (SE 15th St, SE 41st Ave, SE 27th St) that people use more?
- Where do people try to cross the road?
- Is there anywhere in particular you observe speeding and/or reckless driving?
- Are there specific areas where better lighting is needed?

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PROJECT EMAIL LIST, PRESS RELEASE, SOCIAL MEDIA

The County compiled a project contact list (72 contacts), sent direct email invites, included the event in its Community Update newsletter, produced a Press Release, and advertised the event in Social Media.

| | A | B | D | E |
|----|--|--|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | NAME | EMAIL | PHONE | CONTACT GROUP |
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The January 24 Issue of Community Update is Out!

Bret Bostock
To Bret Bostock

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

Reply Reply All Forward

Wed 1/24/2024



Kincaid Loop Trail Project Community Input Meeting

Alachua County is hosting an upcoming community meeting to seek input from Southeast Gainesville residents for its [Kincaid Loop Trail](#) project.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. at the TB McPherson Center (1717 SE 15th St, Gainesville). Light refreshments and bike safety gear will be provided, while supplies last.

Plans for the 3.34-mile [trail](#) include a 10-foot-wide multi-use path and stormwater improvements that extend from:

- Boulware Springs entrance on Southeast 15th Street to Southeast 41st Street
- Southeast 41st Avenue to Southeast 27th Street
- Southwest 27th Street to Hawthorne Road

The county is tentatively planning to begin construction of the \$2.8 million project in 2025 and is eying a completion date in mid-to-late 2026.

After the meeting, attendees have the option to participate in a group bike ride along the [Kincaid Loop Trail](#).

Facebook · Alachua County
30+ reactions · 2 years ago

Alachua County - Great event coming up. Get a look at our...
Alachua County is hosting an upcoming community meeting to seek input from Southeast Gainesville residents for its [Kincaid Loop Trail](#) project.

Alachua County
<https://alachuacounty.us> › news › Article › Pages › Ki...

Jan 17, 2024 — The county is tentatively planning to begin construction of the \$2.8 million project in 2025 and is eying a completion date in mid-to-late 2026.

Alachua Chronicle
<https://alachuachronicle.com> › kincaid-loop-trail-proje...

Jan 17, 2024 — Alachua County is hosting an upcoming community meeting to seek input from Southeast Gainesville residents for its [Kincaid Loop Trail](#) project.

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com> › Facebook Groups

Alachua County is hosting an upcoming community meeting to seek input from Southeast Gainesville residents for its [Kincaid Loop Trail](#) project. The meeting ...

Putnam Blueway -
Kincaid Loop Trail Project Community Input meeting ... County is hosting ... Gainesville residents for its [Kincaid Loop Trail](#) project. The meeting will ...

Mainstreet Daily News
<https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com> › local-living

Alachua County to host community meeting on Kincaid Trail
7 days ago — Alachua County will be hosting a community meeting to seek input from Southeast Gainesville residents for its [Kincaid Loop Trail](#) project.

WUFT
<https://www.wuft.org> › transportation › alachua-count...

Alachua County plans multi-use trail for southeast ...
3 days ago — Alachua County is planning a \$2.8 million project to build a 10-foot wide, 3.34-mile multi-use path along the [Kincaid Loop](#) in southeast ...

1

PIGGYBACKING ON LEGACY EAST GAINESVILLE EVENTS: 1/18 & 1/27

Because the area impacted/served by the Kincaid Loop Trail is largely coincident with that of the Legacy East Gainesville project, Staff attended Legacy meetings to present and get input on the Trail. These efforts proved valuable in expanding the scope of engagement and, hopefully, minimizing “meeting fatigue” for the community.



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COMMUNITY MEETING & OPTIONAL BIKE TOUR AT MCPHERSON CENTER

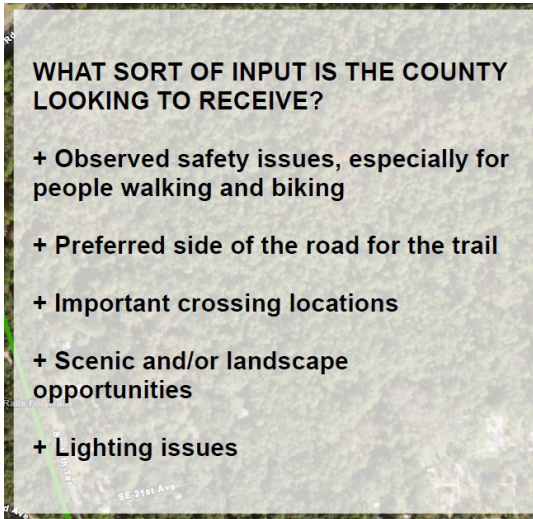
On February 3rd, the County invited community members to an community meeting to provide their input on the Kincaid Loop Trail project. The meeting was Open House-style, with project boards, available staff, comment cards, refreshments, and bike safety gear. The bike tour included 7 proposed stops at areas of interest and the opportunity for participants to add their own.



2

WHAT WE HEARD

To reiterate, County sought community input regarding the following questions:



This section includes a summary of all 70 comments received — by email, phone, and from the two Legacy Meetings, and the February 3rd Community Meeting & Bike Tour — regarding the above topics.

The following page includes a chart of all major “concerns and interests” cited by residents.

OBSERVED SAFETY ISSUES, especially for people walking and biking, were cited by **55%** of residents. Specific issues included excessive vehicle speeds, lack of shoulders, lack of separated bicycle/ pedestrian facilities and the tight curves of the roadway at the SW and SE corners, and resulting run-off-the-road crashes. Anecdotally, the SE corner suffers the most run-of-the-road crashes and commenters suggested strong barriers should an outer alignment be chosen.

PREFERRED SIDE OF THE ROAD FOR THE TRAIL—Relatively few community members (18) listed a preference regarding trail alignment. An **"outer" alignment** of the Loop (west of SE 15th St, south of SE 41st Ave, and east of SE 27th St) was **preferred in general** (by 67% of the 18 responsive), but there was some nuance based on road...

- All seemed to prefer the west side of SE 15th St for its access to adjacent trails, parks, bus stops and schools.
- Most (67%) seemed to prefer using the south side of SW 41st Ave for better access to adjacent trails, parks, bus stops and schools.
- There was lack of consensus regarding SE 27th St. While most neighbors supported an outer Loop, several SE 27th St residents raised concerns about the potential for motorist/trail user conflicts, if sited on the east side.

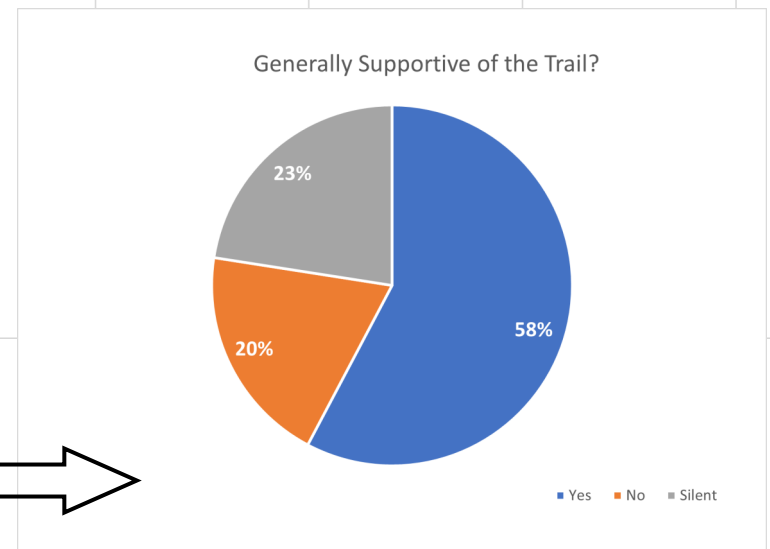
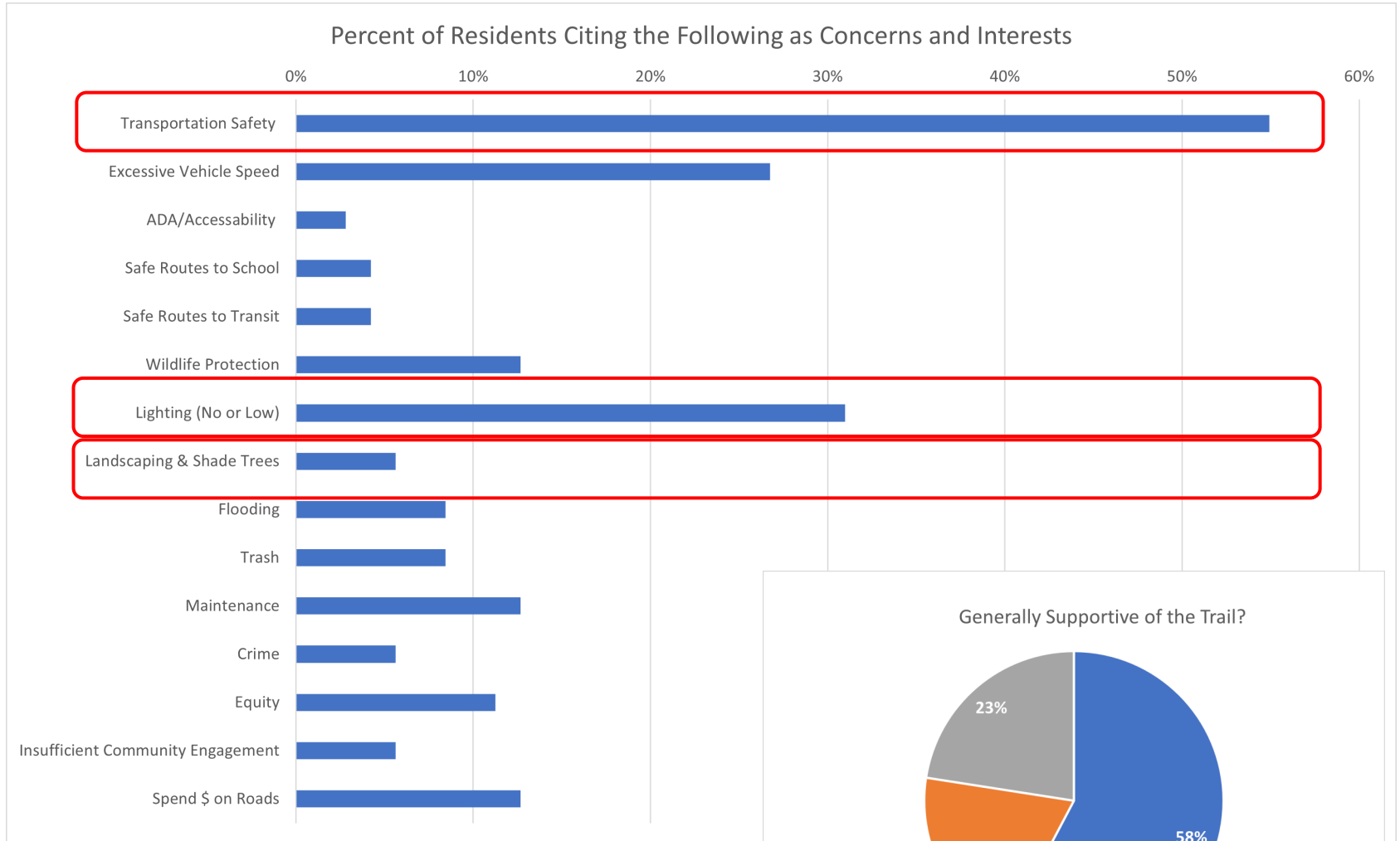
IMPORTANT TRAIL CROSSING LOCATIONS—Even fewer community members (4) cited specific trail crossing locations. Specific mentions pertained to crossings needed to accommodate shift in alignment and specific generators (e.g., Midblock on SE 41st Ave, to avoid the SE corner of the Loop; North of the SE corner, if using the west side of SE 27th St; On SE 15th St when Prairie View Elementary is in use; At SE 21st Ave bus stops).

SCENIC AND/OR LANDSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES—Six percent (**6%**) of commenters specifically suggested the incorporation of native plants and/or shade trees.

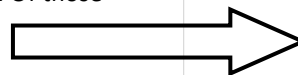
Trail **LIGHTING** was a major topic mentioned in comment cards with **31%** of residents requesting no or low-lighting to minimize impacts to nearby wildlife.

2

WHAT WE HEARD



Also, though not asked directly, the County found that **58% of residents support the trail**, 20% oppose and 23% are silent, but cited specific design requests (e.g., low/no-lighting). Of those opposing, most are concerned with impacts to the “quiet/rural character of the area.”



3

NEXT STEPS:

Alternatives Analysis of the SE 27th St Alignment & Finalize Alignment

As discussed, the Kincaid Loop Trail enjoys strong community support, with over twice as many respondents expressing support than opposition, for the project. On the critical topic of trail alignment, there is a general preference for an “outer” alignment, which would provide Kincaid Loop residents with the most direct access to adjacent trails, parks, bus stops, and schools.

Respondents expressed a preference for the trail on the west side of SE 15th St and the south side of SE 41st Ave for easier access to these amenities.

On SE 27th St, however, where the majority of residential development is on the east side/outer portion of the Loop, there is less consensus. Some residents prefer an east side alignment for better access to the above amenities, while others prefer a west side alignment due to predicted high levels of trail use and potential for motorist/trail user conflicts. Some respondents also expressed concern about non-motorist safety at the outer edge of the SE corner of the Loop—site of numerous run-off-the-road crashes.

The lack of consensus on the SE 27th St alignment, as well potential opportunities for traffic calming via a “hybrid alignment,” which would transition from outer to inner loop, and employ a safe crossing and traffic calming devices, suggest further analysis is warranted. An alternatives analysis for SE 27th St may include the following factors: motorist/trail users conflicts at minor streets and driveways, overall trail safety, right-of-way availability, topography, drainage, shade/tree canopy, local ecology, etc.

The alternatives analysis, preferred alternative for SE 27th St, and final Kincaid Loop Trail alignment will be documented in a Memo and be made available to the public, at which point project design will commence.