CHERRY ROAD CORRIDOR

PEDESTRIAN & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

TPA BTPAC Presentation
April 4, 2019
WESTGATE CRA AREA

Approx. 1,300 acres
2 square miles –

Less than 3 Miles to Downtown WPB

Close proximity to I95 & Florida’s Turnpike

Westgate CRA Boundaries:
N – Okeechobee Blvd.
S – Belvedere Rd.
E – Florida Mango
W – Military Trail
CRA OVERVIEW

- Created in May 1989 by BCC pursuant to FS 163 Part III and is the only CRA in unincorporated Palm Beach County
- Agency receives annual Tax Increment Revenue (TIF) based on incremental increases in property values from Unincorporated PBC
- Leverage TIF dollars with State & Federal grant funding to implement goals of the WCRA Community Redevelopment Plan
WESTGATE CRA

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

- To eliminate blighted conditions and increase the tax base through economic opportunity, housing availability, community enhancement, and improvements to public infrastructure
The purpose of the TA grant is to help fund connected infrastructure for non-motorized users.

- Can fund local streets
- Construction funding is 3 years out
- Maximum grant reimbursement of $1 million

Belvedere Heights Streetlights & Sidewalks Project

The CRA was awarded TA grant funding for the Belvedere Heights Streetlights & Sidewalks Project Phase 1 in 2017 and Phase 2 in 2018.
Westgate Avenue Corridor Complete Streets Project

The CRA was awarded LI grant funding for the Westgate Avenue Corridor Streetscape Project in the TPA’s 2018 grant cycle.
Cherry Road Corridor Project Boundary

- From Military Trail to Quail Drive
- Cherry Road is the only roadway directly connecting the Belvedere Homes neighborhood to the Military Trail commercial corridor
Cherry Road Corridor Project Scope

Proposed improvements include:

- High-visibility crosswalks at two critical points along the corridor
- New 6 ‘sidewalk on south side of roadway
- New pedestrian scale lighting
- Traffic Calming measures -
  - Raised landscaped median and hardscaped median
  - Reduced Lane Width
Existing Conditions & Cross Section

- 60’, 65’ and 80’ rights-of-way at different sections of roadway
- 2 through lanes and a center turn lane in the center and west sections
- Approximately 6’ swales on both sides
- 6’ sidewalk on north side only
Proposed Cross Section Area A

- New sidewalk
- Lighting
Proposed Cross Section Area B

- New sidewalk
- Raised landscaped center median
- High visibility crosswalk
- Lighting
Proposed Cross Section Area C

- New sidewalk
- Striped center median
- High visibility crosswalk
- Lighting
TA Grant Scoring Criteria based on whether the project furthers the goals of the TPA Long Range Transportation Plan and satisfactorily addresses these important criteria:

1. Safety, Security, & Complete Streets
2. Maximize TPA funding
3. Equity
4. Local support
5. Environmental
6. Non-motorized connectors
7. Efficient transit
8. Proximity benefit
Improves Non-Motorized Traffic For Pedestrians

- Existing 6-foot sidewalk on north side to remain
- New 6-foot sidewalk added on south side of roadway
- Pedestrian lighting along both sides of the street
- High visibility crosswalks

Traffic Calming

- Raised and striped medians
- Reduced width of traffic lanes
Improves safety in an area identified as a Bike/Ped crash hot spot or corridor by TPA’s Ped and Bike Safety Plan

- The Westgate CRA area is located within a zone that the TPA recognizes as having medium–high levels of pedestrian and bicycle crash incidents.
**Efficient Transit & Non-Motorized Connectors**

- **Cherry Road** is only direct connection between Belvedere Homes neighborhood and Military Trail
- Two bus routes on this corridor
- Addition of High Visibility crosswalks
- HAWKS signalization at Country Club
- Sidewalks on both sides of street to improve connectivity and reduce unprotected pedestrian crossings
- **Military Trail** is an arterial roadway identified on the County’s Thoroughfare Improvement Map (TIM)
Local and Alternative Funding

- Will maximize TPA funds by utilizing local funds through budgeted CRA increment revenue and funding from alternative sources for design and administrative costs

- CRA will coordinate the proposed project with the County Engineering Department to connect into the TPA funded Westgate Avenue improvements
Traditionally Underserved Population

Equity

The racial composition of CRA residents has dramatically diversified in the past 30 years, as only 1.97% of the total population were identified in the 1980 Census as non-white. In 2014, 56% were identified as non-white, with the largest population growth seen from those of Hispanic or Latino origin.

In 2014, 57% of WCRA households were in lower income ranges, 28% were considered very-low income range. By comparison, 30% of PBC households were within the low to very low, with 50% falling within the moderate and above categories. In 2018, the PBC median household income was $73,800.
Environmental Impacts

- Project does not impact any existing vegetation
- Improved landscaping in swale areas along both sides of the road
- Center median landscaping
- Landscaping to meet "Florida Friendly" standards
**Proximity Benefit - Schools**

- Two schools within 2 miles of Cherry Road:
  - Planned Adult Education Facility and
  - Westgate Elementary School
Proximity Benefit – Shopping

- Shopping Centers within 2 miles of Cherry Road:
  - Military Trail commercial corridor
  - Cross County Mall
  - WalMart
Proximity Benefit - Parks

- Parks within 2 miles of Cherry Road:
  - Westgate Recreation Center
  - CRA’s Oswego Oaks Park (in construction)
  - Dogwood Rd neighborhood park
Local Support

Public Outreach

- The Cherry Road Pedestrian & Safety Improvements Project was presented to the residents of the Westgate community at a Public Outreach meeting held on February 20th of this year
- Received support for the project from attendees at the meeting
- A letter of support from the Palm Beach County’s Sheriff’s Office was received
- A resident survey was mailed out to property owners within approx. 750 ft of the project boundaries
  - 13 residents responded in support of the project; no resident responses were received against the project