



EXTEND THE LEGACY-MAKE THE CONNECTION-BE PART OF THE LEGACY

December 2013

Request for Support

The Friends of Sarasota County Parks, Inc., a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization, and its Chapter the Friends of The Legacy Trail request your support of the extension of the Legacy Trail to Payne Park/Fruitville Rd/downtown Sarasota. We hope you can advise the County Commissioners and City Officials of your support. If possible we would like a letter of support we can share with others.

The extension of the Legacy has many benefits to Sarasota County. Economic, health and wellness and social benefits to Sarasota will be great as the extended Legacy connects downtown Sarasota and Venice by non-motorized multiple use trail (walking, dog walking, jogging/running, rollerblading and bicycling). The extension will create thirty miles (Legacy 20 and VWP 10) of connected non-motorized trail with non-motorized access to many of our historical sites.

The Extension has special meaning as it create a safe and motor vehicle free route to school (see, map of school locations and the dotted line of the extension). Non-motorized multiple use trails provide significant educational and health opportunities for our children. The trail will provide hands-on historical and natural resource education. The trail will be a significant forum for fighting child obesity.

FLT has a nine minute narrated "Extend the Legacy" PowerPoint available at www.LegacyTrailFriends.org . As requested, we make live presentations regarding the Extension and the Legacy Trail.

On August 28 the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners took action to authorize a Feasibility Study:

Board Action: Authorized the allocation of up to \$75,000.00 from the Trails Master Plan Capital Improvement Program Fund for a Feasibility Study regarding a proposed extension of the Legacy Trail to connect the northern terminus at Sawyer Loop Road to School Avenue, with the Private Sector providing financial assistance if the cost exceeds \$75,000.00, and with future exploration of funding sources should the Board choose to proceed with a land lease or purchase for the proposed Legacy Trail extension. Moved by Barbetta, seconded by Patterson, carried by a 5-0 vote.

The County Engineer estimates the study cost at \$100,000 to \$150,000 County for a Feasibility Study for the Extension of the Legacy Trail from the current north terminus to downtown Sarasota. The Friends of Sarasota County Parks, its Chapter the Friends of the Legacy Trail and Sarasota businessman Jesse Biter have offered to rally citizen and business support to raise funds for the Legacy Trail Extension. The County will be looking to non-public funds for study costs above \$75,000. It is estimated the Feasibility Study will take five months from award of the contract.

As of December 20, 2013 we have obtained resolutions/letters of support to elected officials from the Sarasota School Board, City of Sarasota, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, Osprey-Nokomis Chamber of Commerce and others. We have raised \$16,900 toward our possible share of the Feasibility Study. Email and hard copy addresses of our elected officials and some suggested text are on the FLT website for your use.

Thank you for your support,

Bruce Dillon, Chair, Legacy Trail Extension Capital Campaign
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FLT is a Chapter of The Friends of Sarasota County Parks a 501 C 3 organization