

Community Involvement

The *Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan's* Community Action Program (CAP) helps produce a vision, foster consensus and promote community ownership. These objectives can be accomplished if the Community Action Program is carefully woven into the fabric of the master planning process. The City works to inform and educate CAP participants and to ensure that their recommendations are objectively considered and appropriately integrated into the Plan.

As community involvement is pivotal to this plan's process and subsequent implementation, this CAP offers a number of avenues for comprehensive participation. These

**All truly great thoughts
are conceived by walking.**

~ Friedrich Nietzsche

specific methods include:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Task Force
- Community Workshops
- Additional Community Outreach
- Final Community Comment
- Website
- Post Development Community Involvement

Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Task Force

A Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Task Force was created in order to include key stakeholders in the development of this Plan. The Task Force consists of interested persons that were solicited through public announcements. Participation occurred regularly during the plan's development by reviewing



Master Plan Task Force

Community Involvement

and making recommendations on draft documents.

Community Workshop

This CAP included a series of Community Workshops that presented the Master Plan development process and existing bicycling and walking conditions as well as solicited public input for the identification of specific needs.

The Community Workshops were held at strategic locations (Clearwater Main Library, Countryside Recreation Center and Morningside Recreation Center) between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. This large time frame afforded greater flexibility for our residents, and this higher level of participation.

Outreach for the Community Workshops was conducted by the City of Clearwater's Parks and Recreation Department. The outreach included press releases, invitations to key stakeholders, flyer distribution and website and listserv postings. There were over 120 participants at the workshop series.

Each Community Workshop utilized a conversational station format that encouraged participation. The

conversational station format fosters discussion and dialogue because participants circulate from one topic station to another. Participants typically make more comments and ask more questions in smaller group settings, rather than traditional large, classroom style meetings.

Each Workshop had five sequential topic stations located around the room, allowing people to participate at their own pace. Participants had the opportunity to understand the importance of bicycling and walking in context to our greater community, while commenting and assessing current conditions. They were also asked to record comments and locate their specific bicycling and walking areas of concern. Staff and Task Force members at each station explained the topic information, answered questions and encouraged comments. The following describes each of the five stations in more depth.

1. Welcome

This first station provided an introduction to the Community Workshop. It included registration and a brief presentation by a staff member describing the opportunities that exist at each station.



Community Involvement

2. **Bicycling and Walking Benefits**

This station demonstrated the various benefits of bicycling and walking activities for both individuals and the community. Benefits such as health and fitness, quality of life, and improved air quality as well as mobility alternatives were presented.

This station also distributed a brief user survey to gather information that relates to current levels of cycling and walking in the City of Clearwater.

3. **Existing Bicycling and Walking Conditions**

This station provided graphics and maps of existing bicycling and walking conditions and facilities within the City of Clearwater. Participants had the opportunity to view bicycle and pedestrian collision data and the findings of the Bicycle and



Workshop Participants

Pedestrian Level of Service analysis.

4. **Goals and Objectives**

At this station, the draft goals and objectives that were developed by the Task Force, specifically for the City of Clearwater's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, were presented. There was also opportunity for participants to suggest additional objectives for each of the specific goal categories.

4. **Community and Neighborhood Needs**

Participants had opportunity to identify the challenge areas and suggest desired modifications that may improve walking and bicycling conditions. Each participant was given a neighborhood map to record their specific concerns. These comments were considered during development of the Implementation Plan.

Community Involvement

Additional Community Outreach

Public comment was solicited by the City of Clearwater throughout the Plan's progress. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator distributed and collected user surveys and information regarding desired facility modifications.

Final Community Comment

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board provided stakeholders and public participants a final opportunity to review the work products and provide final comments. These comments were collected, compiled and summarized, and were considered during the final revision process of the Master Plan.

Website

In addition to the above community outreach efforts, the public had access to meeting notifications, workshop materials and project deliverables on the City's Parks and Recreation Department's website.

Post Development Community Involvement

To ensure the successful implementation of the *City of Clearwater Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*, it is important to maintain post-development community involvement. It is recommended that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Task Force continue to meet regularly to oversee implementation of the Plan.

Conclusion

This CAP includes numerous approaches that will achieve and garner community participation. The resulting, carefully crafted Community Action Program is critical to the implementation efforts and overall success of the *Shifting Gears: City of Clearwater's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan*.

