



Town of Indian Trail
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PLANNING AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Zoning Staff Report

Case: CPA 2011-001 Bicycle Master Plan		
Reference Name(s)	Bicycle Master Plan	
Applicant	Town of Indian Trail	
Submittal Date	May 2011	
Location	Town-Wide	
Tax Map Number	N/A	
Recommendations & Comments	Bike Plan Steering Committee	Recommend approval of the proposed Plan to the Planning Board and Town Council

Executive Summary:

This is a request to amend the Comprehensive Plan with the addition of the Bicycle Master Plan. Adopted in 2005, the Comprehensive Plan serves as the guiding plan for future development within Indian Trail. Since its adoption, several supplementary plans have been adopted as amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and were created to help carry out the overall vision of the Plan. Among those adopted include the Downtown Master Plan, the Pedestrian Plan, the Park and Greenway Master Plan and now finally, the Bicycle Master Plan.

Recognizing the vision of the Comprehensive Plan of Indian Trail as a place where its residents can “work, live, and play in a safe environment”, the Bicycle Master Plan lays out a vision for bicycle infrastructure improvement and multimodal connectivity throughout Town.

Analysis:

The Bike Plan is a 20 year long range plan designed to help the Town to improve existing and establish future bike facilities. The end result is a comprehensive bicycle system network, providing safe multimodal connectivity for residents of Indian Trail and surrounding area.

The Plan’s development relied heavily on public input. Mechanisms ranged from Steering Committee input, an online community survey, stakeholder workshops, bicycle

audit, social media, and public outreach at a number of Indian Trail community events. The existing bike infrastructure was inventoried, along with the types of current bike users in Town. Considering the current situation of biking in Indian Trail and the desires of the community, the vision of the Bicycle Master Plan was developed by the Steering Committee.

Bicycle Master Plan Vision

“To promote a bicycle-friendly environment within Indian Trail by improving connectivity between neighborhoods and destination; where multi-use paths, greenways and bicycle facilities are further developed and integrated and all users are provided safe and convenient access.”

“Indian Trail will work to forge partnerships, educate the community, and design facilities that are safe and pleasing.”

The proposed plan includes three major components for the improvement and development of bike infrastructure:

- Neighborhood Loops: Primarily uses existing and future neighborhood streets to connect users to their destinations.
 - **19 Loops totaling 45 miles**
- Town-Wide Connectors: A system of longer connections that use major thoroughfares, overhead transmission lines, railroad corridors and sewer easements.
 - **12 Town-Wide Connectors totaling 55 miles**
- Neighborhood Connectors: Currently existing as informal connections between neighborhoods, these links will be formalized by creating short, paved trails that will safely connect neighborhoods.
 - **7 Neighborhood Connectors, 2 of which have been identified as Pilot Projects.**

A total of 120 bicycle projects have been identified through this plan. The projects were divided between four equal-size quadrants within Town and ranked through a criteria developed by the Bike Plan Steering Committee. By dividing the Town into four quadrants, the idea was to equally distribute bicycle related projects throughout town.

Following the ranking of the projects, staff identified four pilot projects, to be constructed within the next three years that would illustrate the commitment of the Town to improve bicycle mobility. The concepts for the individual pilot projects were developed with the assistance of Dan Burden from Liveable Walkable Communities, Inc. Mr. Burden was chosen for his expertise in the field of bicycle planning. He was instrumental in the general development of the plan, particularly the pilot projects.

A pilot project was chosen for each quadrant within Town and they are as follows:

- **Idlewild Village Center Connector**
 - Includes bicycle signed within the Beacon Hills and Hemby Acres area
 - The creation of bicycle/pedestrian connector between the Crismark and Beacon Hills neighborhoods
 - Improvements to a bicycle/pedestrian connector between Idlewild Commons shopping center and the Hemby Acres neighborhood.
- **Bonterra/ Poplin Elementary School Connection**
 - Installation of a high visibility school crosswalk, connecting the Bonterra neighborhood and Poplin Elementary School along Poplin Road.
- **Sun Valley High School Connection**
 - Installation of a high visibility crosswalk, connecting Sun Valley High School to the Sun Valley retail shopping center along Wesley Chapel Road.
- **Brandon Oaks Parkway Bike Lane**
 - Installation of a colorized bike lane along Brandon Oaks Parkway
 - Inclusion of signed bike route along full length of project.

Steering Committee Recommendation

The Bike Plan Steering Committee recommends that the Planning Board and Town Council make the required consistency findings and that the Town Council adopts the Bicycle Master Plan as presented.

Consistency with Comprehensive Plan

The Steering Committee, as well as staff, is of the opinion that the Bicycle Master Plan is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposed plan provides a network of safe, multimodal transportation to neighborhoods, businesses and other destinations within Indian Trail.

Planning Board Action

Receive the staff report and present to Town Council:

1. A recommendation for approval; or
2. A recommendation for disapproval; or
3. Table the plan for further research.

Staff Contact

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