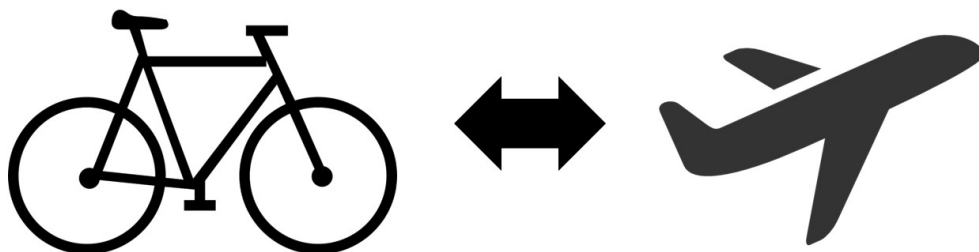


July 20, 2022





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1. Introduction

Even though the Legacy Trail extension through downtown Sarasota was completed recently in March 2022, thought has already turned to extending it farther north. Sarasota City has already put in a request to the state for funding a study, but on June 2, 2022 the governor vetoed the \$500,000 request.

Additionally, it was announced at the June 22, 2022 Newtown Community Redevelopment Area meeting that due to the difficulty of being able to use railroad right-of-way to continue the rails-to-trails style development as the rest of the Legacy Trail, that on-street lanes, possibly with some type of physical barrier are being considered instead.

SRQLegacy.org is advocating that the railroad right-of-way be utilized, despite the expense. If first-class trail construction is good enough for Nokomis and Palme Ranch, why not for the historically black neighborhood of Newtown?

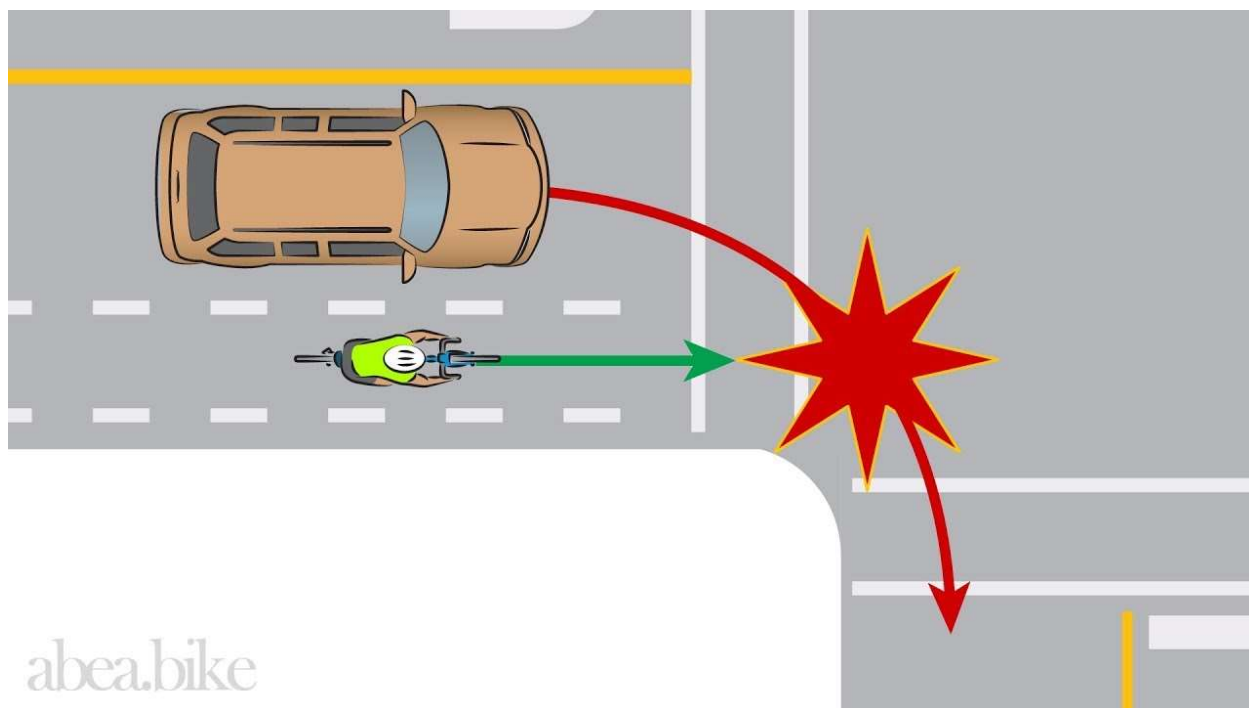
Action Item

Send an e-mail to

Commissioners@SarasotaFl.gov

...stating "I advocate the railroad alignment through Newtown for the Legacy Trail northward extension and *not* on-street lanes."

On-street bicycle lanes are often more dangerous than no lanes at all. They give novice bicyclists a false sense of security, and subject them to the "right hook".



Additionally, while governmental bodies are indeed focusing on routing a trail extension through Newtown, SRQLegacy.org cautions against the temptation to instead route the northward extension of the Legacy Trail to be east of US-301. Many in Newtown use bicycles as transportation, due to lower car

ownership, and not just recreation. By routing the northward extension of the Legacy Trail through Newtown, as SRQLegacy.org advocates, it can support the transportation, as well as recreational, needs of those residents. And the bridge that SRQLegacy.org advocates over US-301 would finally provide a safe connection between neighborhoods and shops on the west side of US-301 with those on the east side.

2. Cost

Because the railroad has expressed a desire to continue running trains on the north-south tracks through Newtown, the basic design of the proposed trail is a trail parallel to the tracks, separated by a chain-link fence. Even with this limitation, the *rumored* cost to obtain this permission is \$18 million.

Below is a back-of-the-envelope cost estimate by SRQLegacy.org

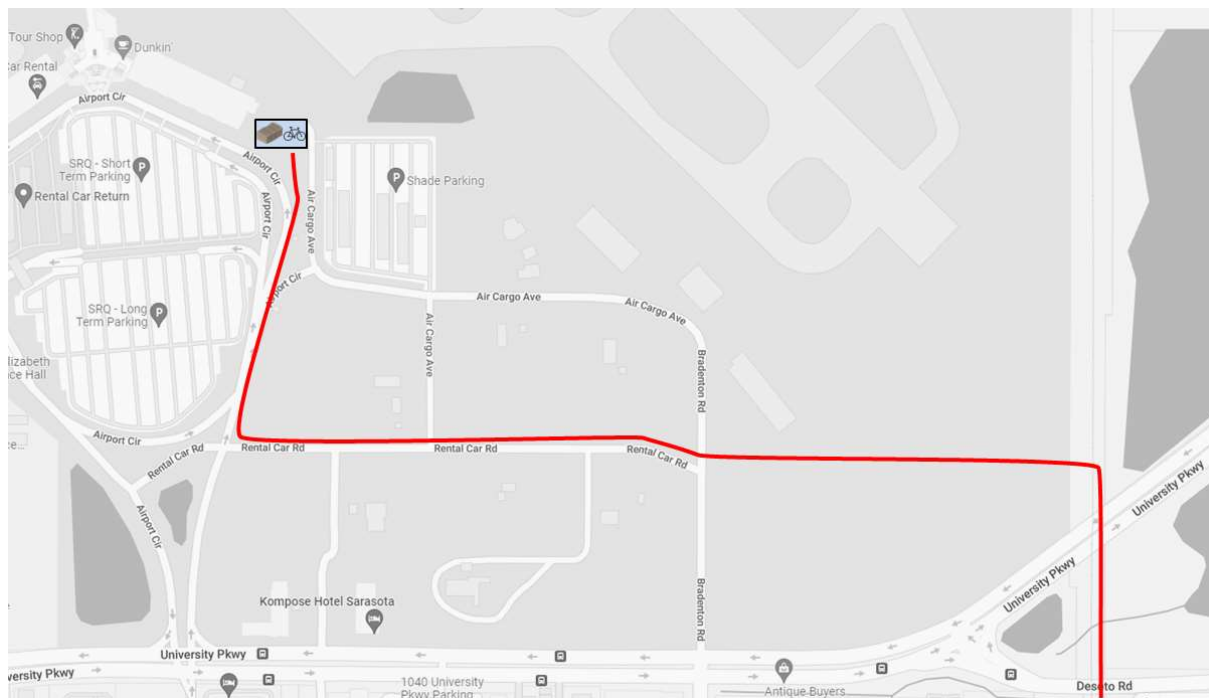
Item	Qty.	Each	Price
Railroad land use			\$40.0 million
Bordering land (per acre incl. Coastal Behavior)	1	\$1 million	\$ 1.0 million
Bridges (Fruitville Rd. and Washington Blvd.)	2	\$4 million	\$ 8.0 million
Bury high voltage lines (per mile at Wash. Blvd.)	1	\$4 million	\$ 4.0 million
HAWK (Orange, MLK, Myrtle, Desoto, Univ.)	5	\$200k	\$ 1.0 million
Asphalt trail per mile	5	\$600k	\$ 3.0 million
Chain link fence per foot	26,400	\$40	\$ 1.1 million
SRQ Airport bicycle locker sheds	20	\$6k	\$ 0.1 million
Signage (per mile)	5	\$10k	\$ 0.1 million
Design (20% of construction)			\$ 3.5 million
Total			\$61.8 million

That comes to about \$12 million per mile. As a point of comparison, the segment of the Legacy trail from Palmer Ranch to Payne Park cost \$60 million for 7.5 miles, or \$8 million per mile.

3. Bicycle Lockers

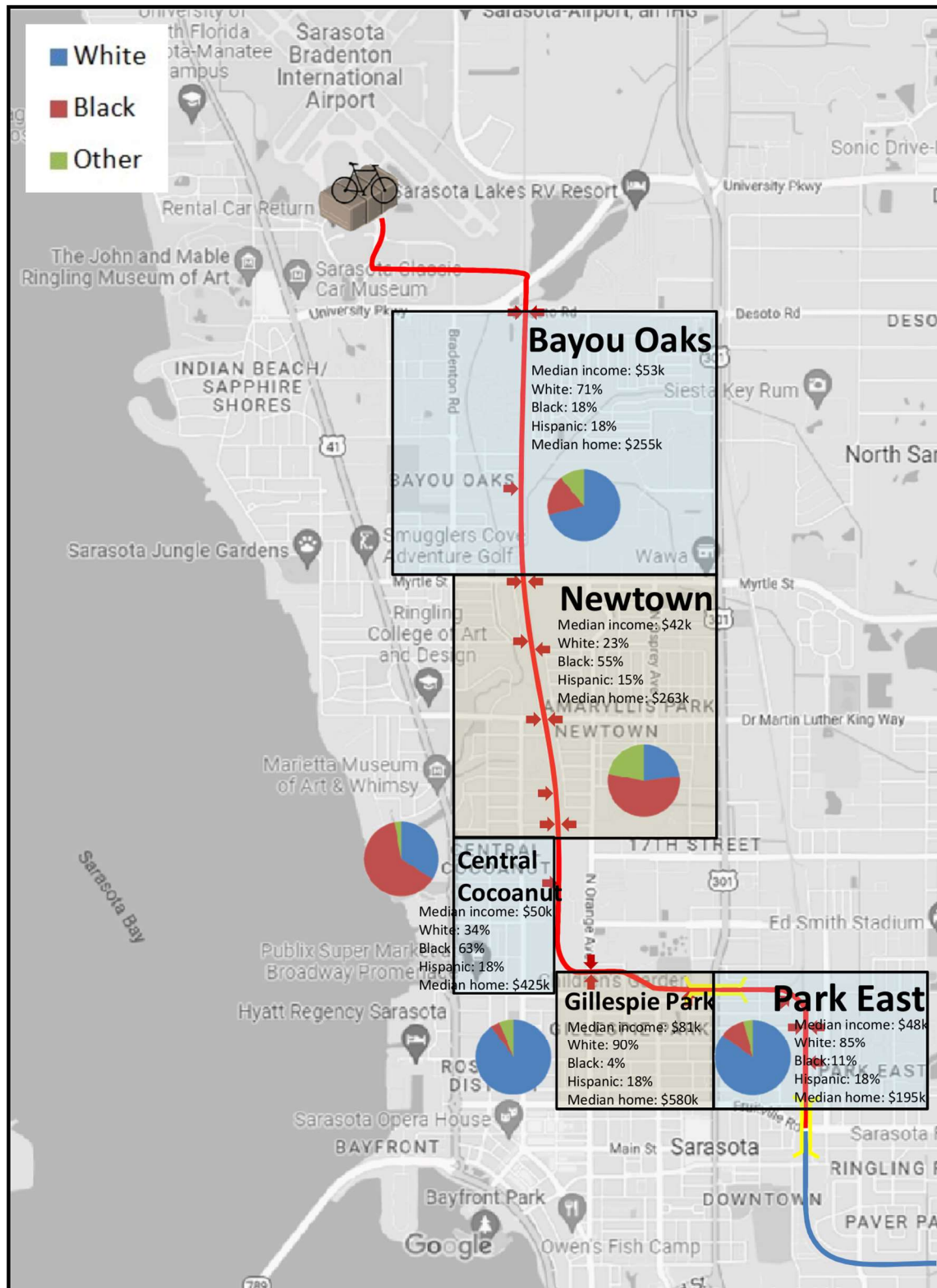
In 2020, Tampa International Airport (TPA) was named the first bike-friendly airport in the U.S. With the SRQ Legacy Trail extension, combined with bicycle lockers, Sarasota's airport has the opportunity to match or better Tampa's airport.

Quick trips – those requiring just a backpack or other light luggage – can be handled with bicycles, freeing up parking especially during holidays like Thanksgiving.



4. Neighborhoods Served

Demographics



Newtown

For 55 years, from 1914 until around 1969, residents of the historic black neighborhood of Newtown were not allowed to swim at the beach. The placard below, placed at Lido Beach (the beach closest to downtown Sarasota), explains the history.

The Legacy Trail is a fantastic bicycle resource that has now reached Sarasota. Will Newtown have to wait another 55 years to safely access it? The first segment of the Legacy Trail opened in 1988, which was 34 years ago. A realistic timeline for the extension to the airport to open is 10 years, which means it would be 44 years already for Newtown to enjoy the same amenity that neighborhoods farther south have been enjoying.

Newtown is still predominantly black, and many families use bicycles as a primary means of transportation. Constructing the SRQ Legacy Trail extension would allow them to bypass the dangerous heavy industry zone through the Central Coconut neighborhood immediately to the south.



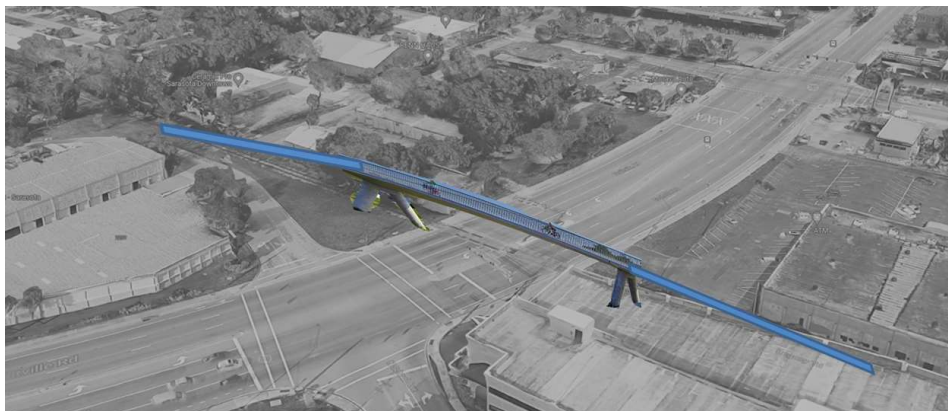
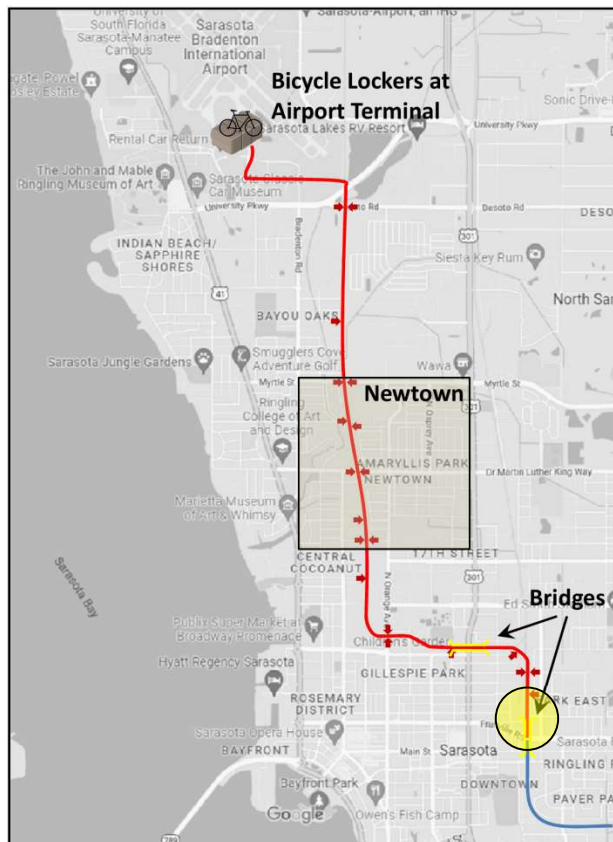
Newtown Central Business District

5. Entrances

Park East Neighborhood

❖ Bridge over Fruitville Rd.

Presently the Legacy Trail comes to an abrupt dead-end on the sidewalk on the south side of Fruitville Rd., making the northernmost 200 feet of the trail – from Fruitville Rd. south to Ringling Blvd. – inaccessible and useless. Due to high prevailing speeds on Fruitville Rd., a bicycle bridge would allow users to safely cross to the north side of Fruitville Rd. and beyond through the neighborhoods and on to SRQ airport.

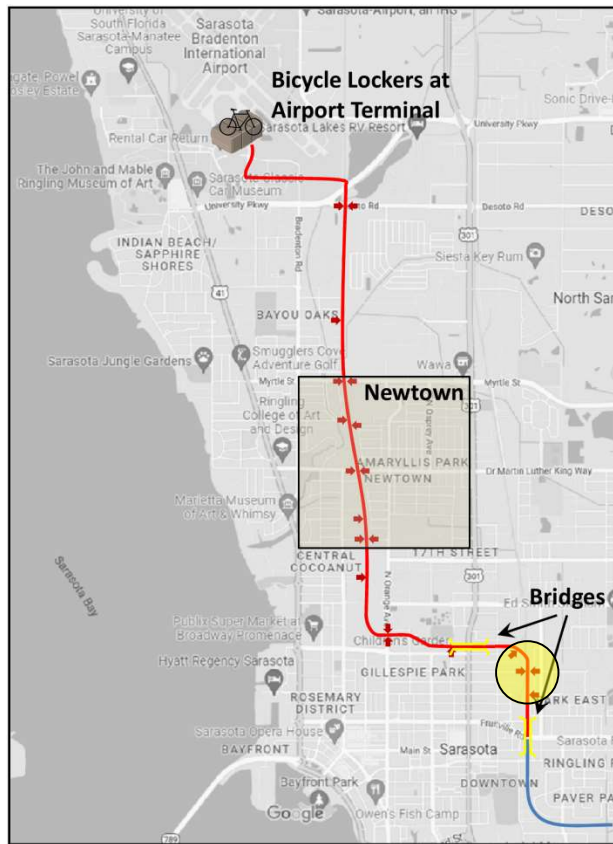


The Legacy Trail presently terminates at the Fruitville sidewalk (right side of image). The other (north) side is presently railroad right-of-way this SRQ Legacy Trail extension proposal recommends should be acquired.

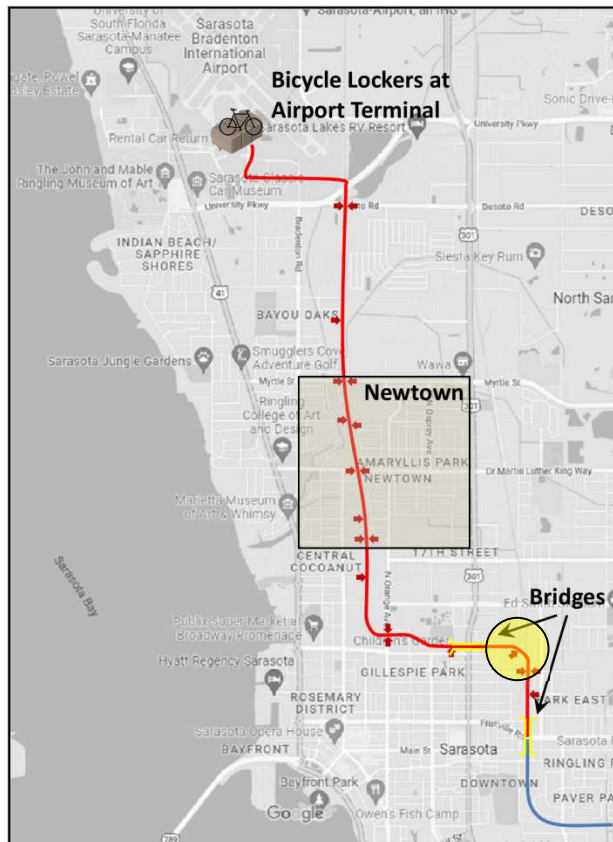
❖ 6th St.



❖ 8th St.



❖ 10th St.



Gillespie Park Neighborhood

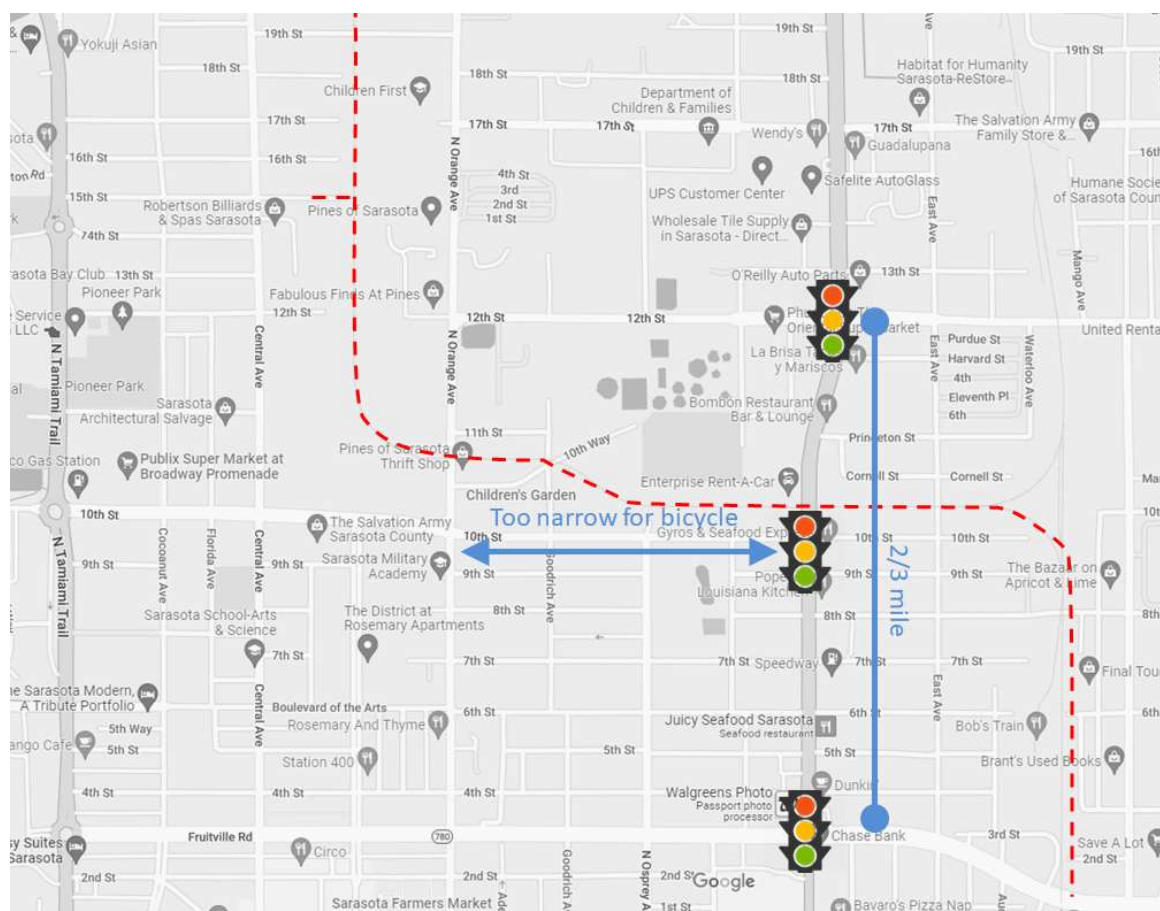
❖ Bridge over Washington Ave.

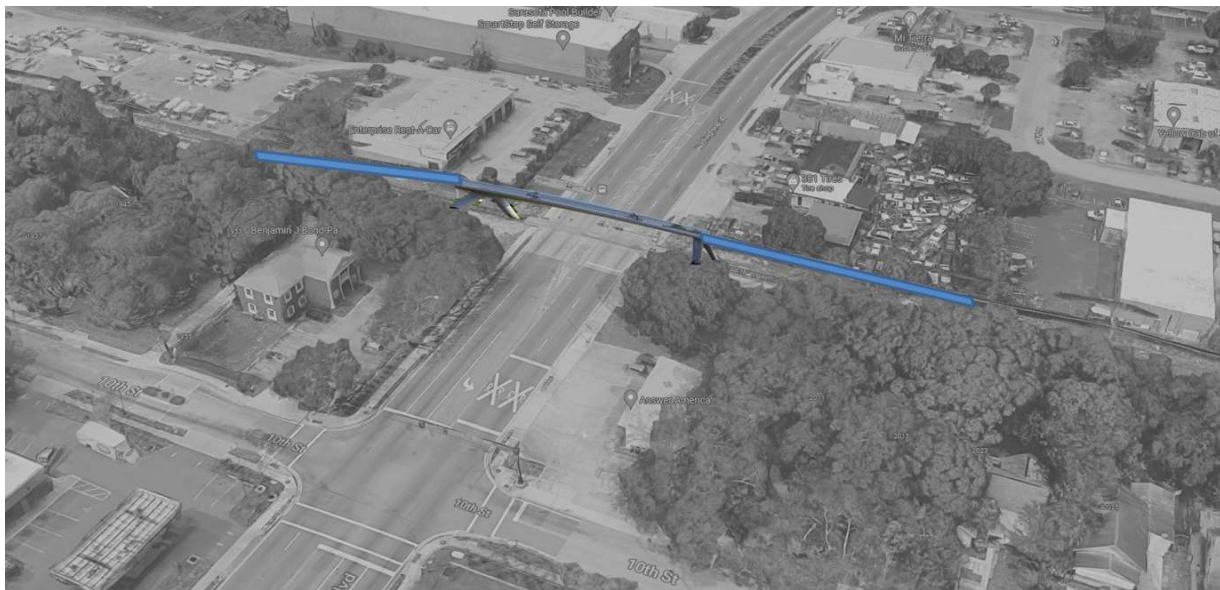
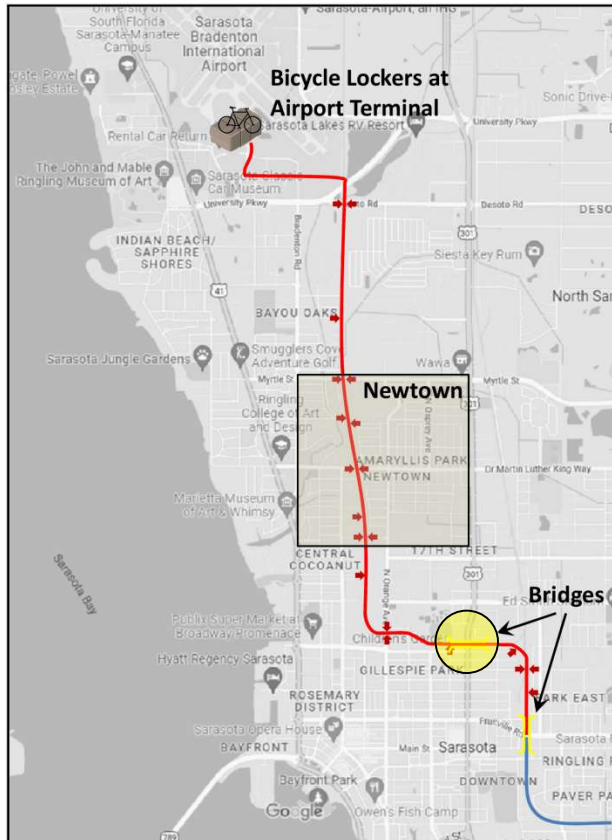
A bridge over Washington Ave. is desperately needed, as presently the west side of Washington Ave. is cut off from the east side. There are no traffic signals north of Fruitville Rd. and south of 10th St. that bicycles may use to cross Washington Ave., and traveling along 10th St. is too dangerous for bicycles given its high volume and extremely narrow width.

That means there is presently no practical way for bicycles west of Washington Ave. to get to the east side (or vice versa) for the 2/3 mile north of Fruitville Rd. and south of 12th St. While that may not sound like much for a long distance trip, these are urban neighborhoods that depend upon connectivity and short trips.

In this manner, the proposed SRQ Legacy Trail extension would serve short trips, long trips, and trips to the airport.

Due to the proximity of the proposed route along the railroad right-of-way to 10th St., where there is a traffic signal, a HAWK crossing would be too close, creating confusion and danger; thus, a bridge is needed to cross Washington Ave.





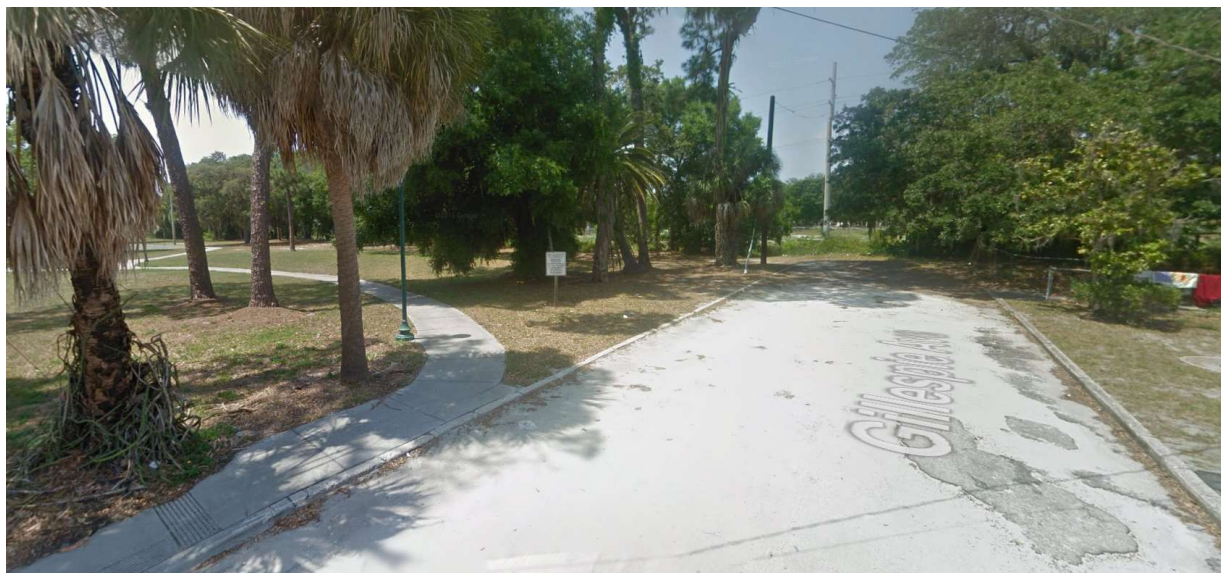
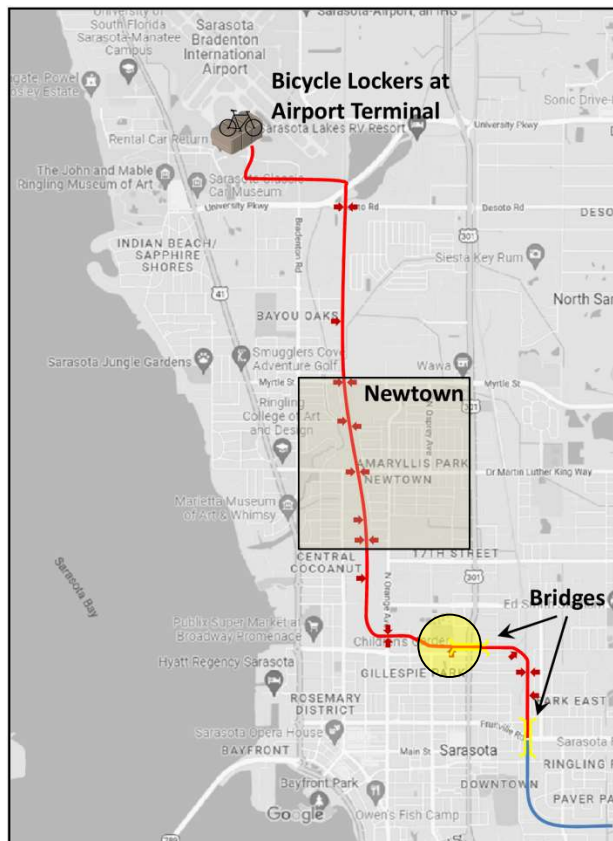
The busy intersection of 10th St. and Washington Ave. (bottom of image) is too close to the railroad right-of-way for an at-grade crossing such as HAWK. Thus a bridge is needed, and it will finally connect the neighborhoods and commerce on the west side of Washington Ave. with those on the east side.

❖ Gillespie Ave. (access to the park of Gillespie Park)

The Legacy Trail already serves Payne Park in downtown Sarasota, as well as numerous other parks farther south along its long route. By following the railroad tracks, the SRQ Legacy Trail extension would add the park of Gillespie Park to its repertoire, facilitating park-to-park bicycle recreation.

Gillespie Park would be a good place for a bicycle repair station, like the ones at other parks along Legacy Trail.

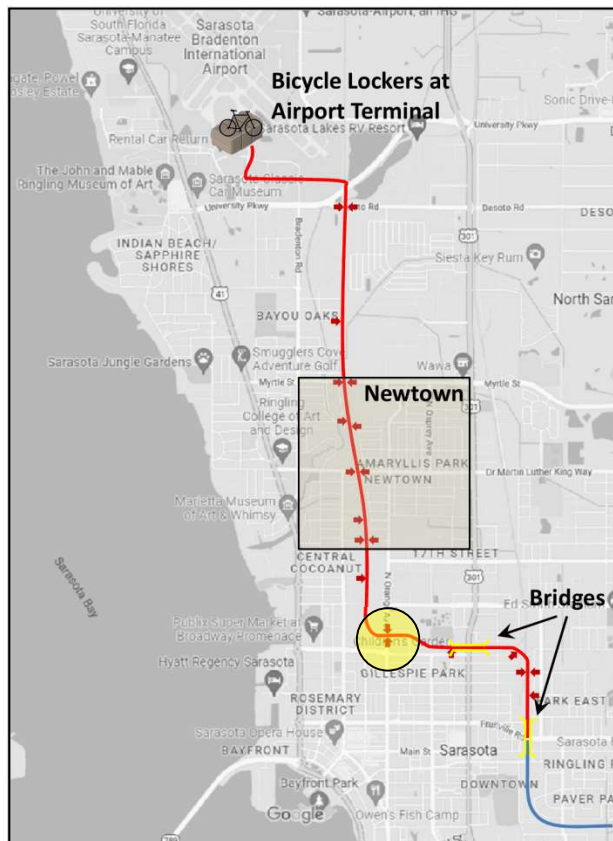




❖ **N. Orange Ave.**

Two buildings down from where the proposed SRQ Legacy Trail extension crosses N. Orange Ave. is the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, founded in 1999.

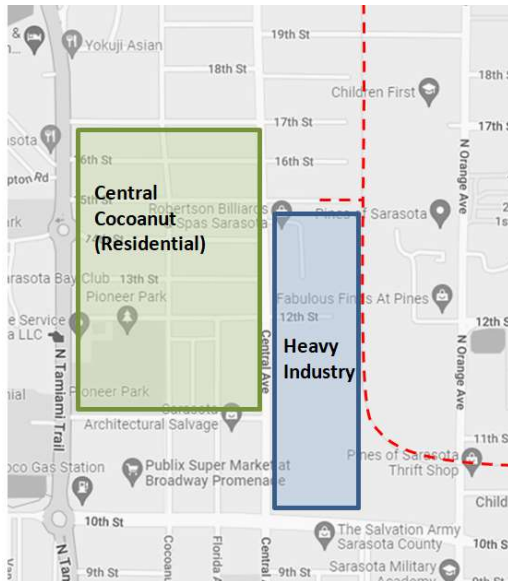




Central Cocoanut Neighborhood

Due to its proximity to Sarasota Bay and the bayfront parks on 14th St., 10th St., and 6th St., the Central Cocoanut neighborhood enjoys median home values higher than its neighbors to the north. However, due to a lack of zoning a century ago at the founding of the neighborhood, a strip of heavy industry on its eastern border both separates it from access to points east and makes it treacherous for bicycles to mix with heavy dump trucks and cement trucks.

The proposed 15th St. entrance to the proposed SRQ Legacy Trail extension would allow bicycles – whether originating from Central Cocoanut itself or from Newtown to the north – to completely avoid Central Ave. and the heavy industry zone.



A bicyclist can be seen on the west side. Bicyclists are frequent on Central Ave. as Newtown residents utilize it to reach downtown. Heavy trucks are also frequent on Central Ave. – coming from Cemex just north of 10th St. and from U.S. Recycling near 14th St. It is a dangerous mix. Having the proposed SRQ Legacy Trail extension would bring out additional bicyclists who are presently too uncomfortable to ride in this present dangerous situation.



❖ 15th St.



Newtown Neighborhood

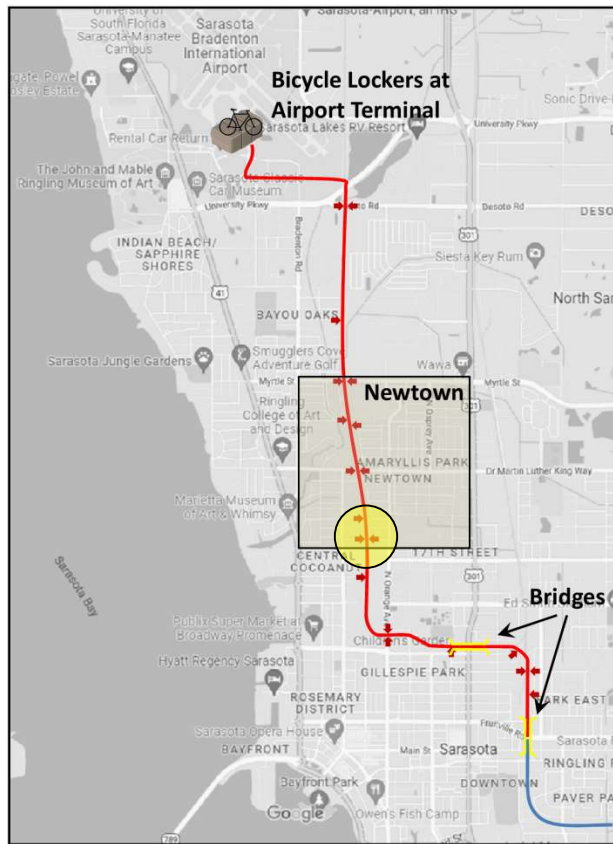
Besides being an historically black neighborhood, Newtown also recently added brand new affordable housing for seniors at 20th St. and N. Orange Ave., just two blocks from the proposed 19th St. entrance to the proposed SRQ Legacy Trail extension.

Many seniors living there do not have automobile transportation and could make ready use of the SRQ Legacy Trail extension for recreation, exercise, and transportation.



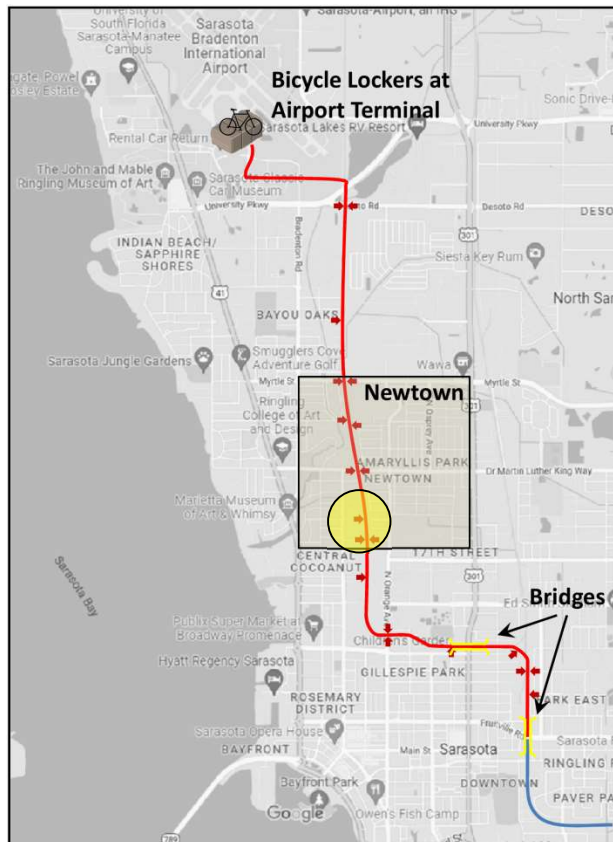
Amaryllis Park Place introduced 84 units of affordable senior housing to 20th St. and N. Orange Ave. in February, 2022. It is two blocks from the recommended 19th St. entrance to the proposed SRQ Legacy Trail extension.

❖ 19th St.



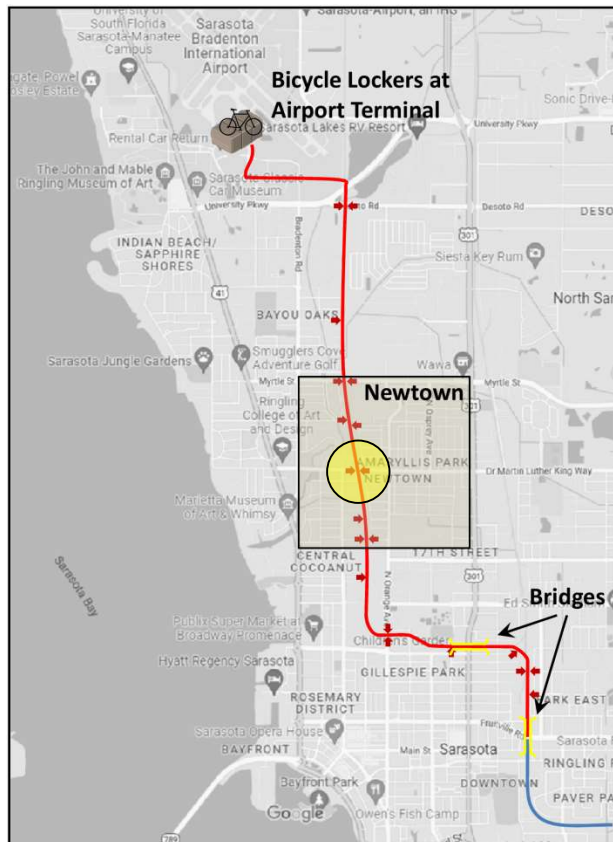
The route south from this intersection (headed to the right side of the image) would allow bicyclists to duck behind the heavy industry and avoid truck traffic along Central Ave.

❖ 21st St.



Another potential entrance in the heart of Newtown – and being a dead-end for automobile traffic, a safe one.

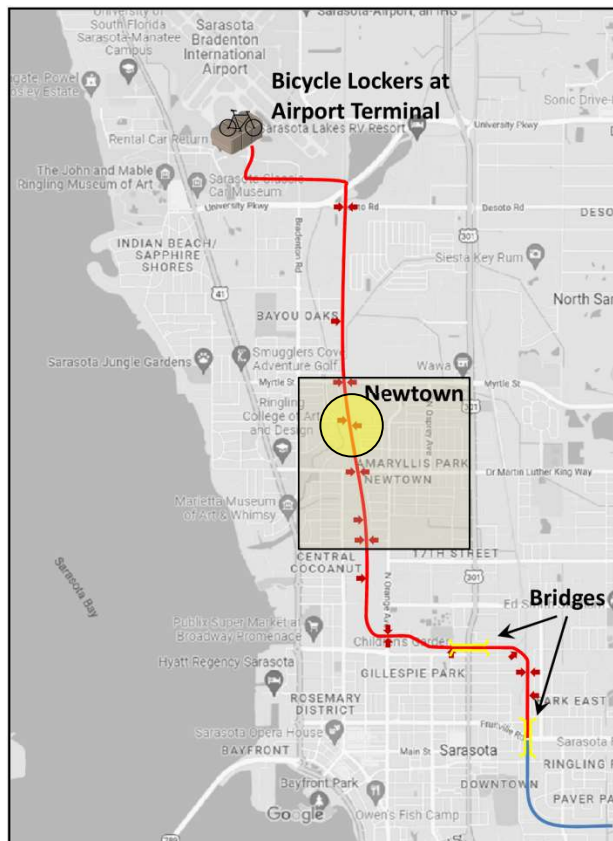
❖ Dr. Martin Luther King Way (central Newtown)



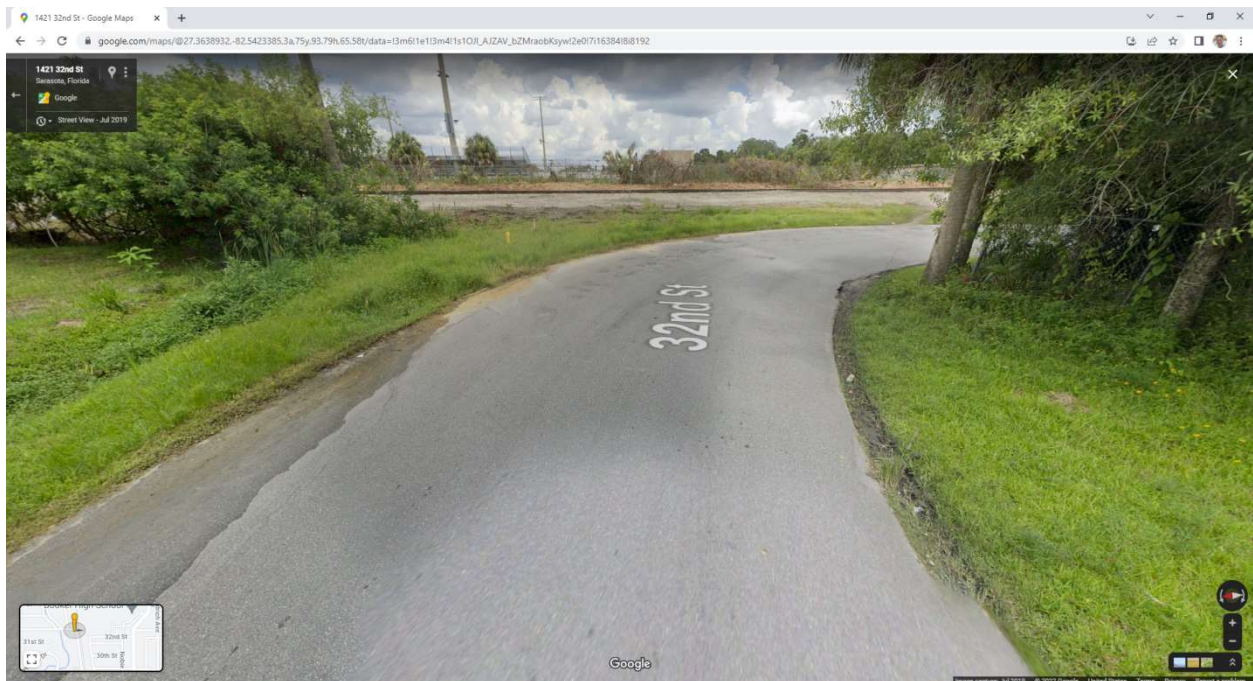
❖ 32nd St. (Booker High School)

The Booker High School campus, which is 73% minority enrollment, would have its own entrance to the SRQ Legacy Trail extension.

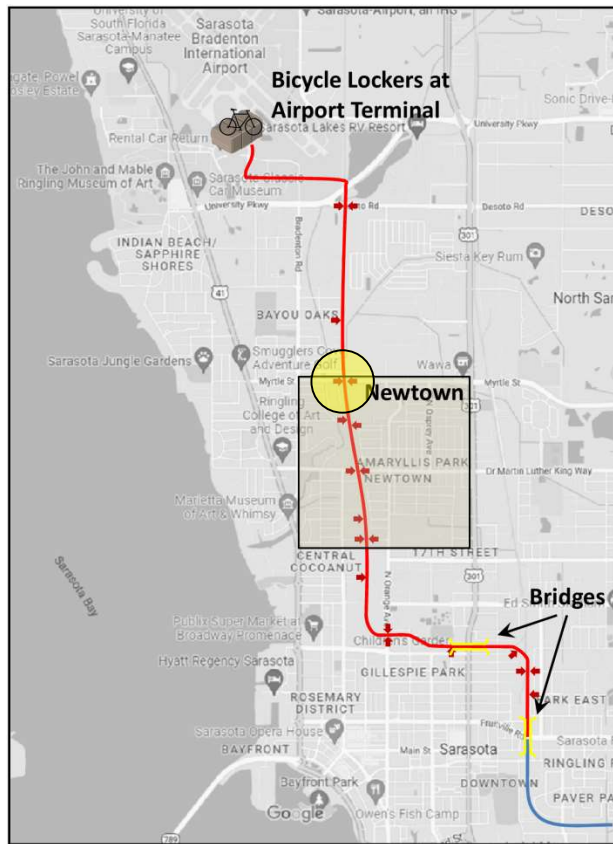




❖ West side of 32nd St.

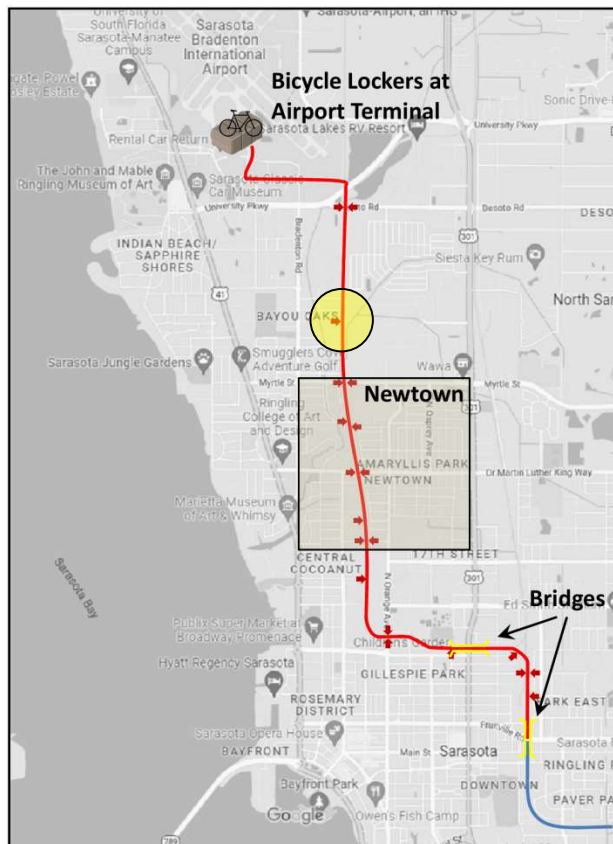


❖ Myrtle St.



Bayou Oaks Neighborhood

❖ 44th St.



❖ University Pkwy. plus Desoto Rd.

Although a bridge that crosses over both University Pkwy. and Desoto Rd. together would add safety and convenience – as there are a total of three automobile carriageways (roadways) to cross – alternatives such as HAWK may prove sufficient.



SRQ Airport

See page 5 for additional maps and birds-eye views.



6. Contact Representatives and Leaders

Sarasota City Commissioners

❖ All Commissioners at Once

The northward extension of the Legacy Trail to the SRQ Airport proposed by SRQLegacy.org lies almost entirely with the City of Sarasota. While a short portion of the trail lies within Manatee County and the airport itself, and while such an extension will benefit residents of the County of Sarasota, it is anticipated that the City of Sarasota will need to shoulder the bulk of the coordination and funding.

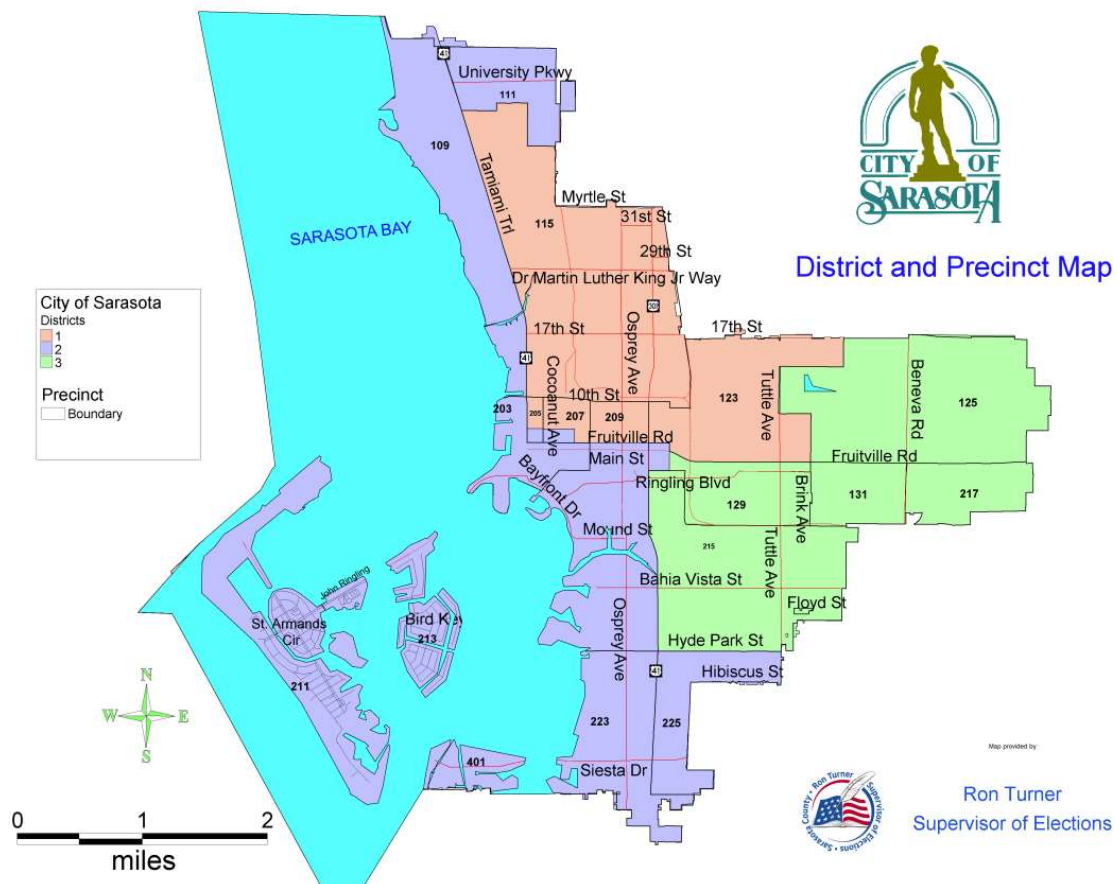
Therefore, if you would like to see the extension built – and built to the same rails-to-trail standard as the rest of the Legacy Trail – then write to the Sarasota City commissioners.

Single E-mail Address to reach all simultaneously:

Commissioners@SarasotaFl.gov

If you do nothing else, then send an e-mail to the above single e-mail address to express your support for “railroad alignment through Newtown of the Legacy Trail”.

If you live in the City of Sarasota, it would be beneficial to also personally address the commissioner for your district. The district map is below.



Physical address and phone number for all Sarasota City commissioners:

1565 1st Street, Room 101
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 263-6412

❖ **Sarasota City Commissioner District 3 (also serves as Mayor)**

Erik Arroyo

Erik.Arroyo@sarasotafl.gov

❖ **Sarasota City Commissioner District 1 (also serves as Vice Mayor)**

Kyle Battie

Kyle.Battie@sarasotafl.gov

❖ **Sarasota City Commissioner District 2**

Liz Alpert

Liz.Alpert@sarasotafl.gov

❖ **Sarasota City At-Large Commissioner**

Jen Ahearn-Koch

Jen.Ahearn-Koch@sarasotafl.gov

❖ **Sarasota City At-Large Commissioner**

Hagen Brody

Hagen.Brody@sarasotafl.gov

Sarasota Planning Commission

In charge of updating the Comprehensive Plan, the Sarasota Planning Commission advises the City Commission. Encourage the board members to recommend the railroad right-of-way alignment for the northward extension of the Legacy Trail.

Another decision the Planning Commission is involved in is the redevelopment of the old Sarasota Kennel Club site, discussed several pages below. Encourage the Planning Commission to allow apartment buildings to be built on the 23-acre site, which is directly adjacent to the railroad right-of-way that SRQLegacy.org advocates for the Legacy Trail extension.

Physical mailing address:

1660 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34236

Donna Carter

Donna.Carter@sarasotaadvisory.net

Kevin Cooper

Kevin.Cooper@sarasotaadvisory.net

Jordan Keller

Jordan.Keller@sarasotaadvisory.net

Teresa Mast

Teresa.Mast@sarasotaadvisory.net

Colin Pember

Colin.Pember@sarasotaadvisory.net

Martha Pike

Martha.Pike@sarasotaadvisory.net

Neil Rainford

Neil.Rainford@sarasotaadvisory.net

Michelle (Micki) Ryan (school board rep., non-voting)

Micki.ryan@sarasotaadvisory.net

T. Andrew Stultz

Andrew.Stultz@sarasotaadvisory.net

Justin Taylor

Justin.Taylor@sarasotaadvisory.net

Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization

The MPO is in the midst of obtaining public input on trail alignment for the Legacy Trail northward extension between Fruitville Rd. and University Blvd. Sign up for updates on when and where you can participate at <https://publicinput.com/E1443> .

Physical address:

8100 15th St. East
Sarasota, FL 34243
MPO@mympo.org
(941) 359-5772

❖ Planning Manager

Ryan Brown
ryan@mympo.org

❖ Multi Modal Planner

Wenonah "Nina" Venter
wenonah@mympo.org

Trust for Public Land

Charles Hines is one of the most visible and active supporters of the Legacy Trail, and in March 2022 was appointed Florida Gulf Coast Trail Program Director by the Trust for Public Land.

❖ Program Director of the Florida Gulf Coast Trail

Charles D. Hines

322 Yacht Harbor Dr.

Osprey, FL 34229

(941) 223-1870

chines@charleshineslaw.com

Florida Greenways and Trails Council

The council was instrumental in funding the Legacy Trail extension into downtown Sarasota.

❖ Chief

Samantha Browne

Office of Greenways and Trails

Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Environmental Protection

3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795

Tallahassee, FL 32399

❖ Staff to Council

Katie Bernier

Office of Greenways and Trails

(863) 314-8439

katherine.bernier@floridadep.gov

❖ Shared Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail Manager

Robin Birdsong

605 Suwannee Street, MS 19

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 414-4922

Robin.Birdsong@dot.state.fl.us

Newtown Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board

The Newtown CRA Board meets monthly and has an advisory capacity to the Sarasota City Commission. For any issue concerning Newtown, the City Commission listens to the Newtown CRA Board.

❖ Chair

Erin Silk

erin.silk@sarasotafl.gov

❖ Other Board Members

Davian D. Spires

Individual involved in Finance and Banking
2827 Pershing Ave.
Sarasota, FL 34234
davian.spires@sarasotafl.gov

Richard Harris

Citizen at large who is a resident of the City
4125 Old Bradenton Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34234
(804) 938-0241
richard.harris@sarasotafl.gov

Jesse J. Hubbard Jr.

Owner of land in the Newtown CRA redevelopment area
1296 Highland St.
Sarasota, FL 34234
(941) 993-6645
jesse.hubbardjr@sarasotafl.gov

Alexandra Chau

Citizen at large who is a resident of the City
1650 Hudson Pointe Dr.
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 812-8781
alexandra.chau@sarasotafl.gov

Rachel Shelley

Retailer or merchant in the Newtown CRA redevelopment area
318 63rd Drive East
Bradenton, FL 34203
(941) 758-1638
rshelley367@gmail.com

Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority Board

The north end of the trail extension is proposed to be on airport property – immediately adjacent to the terminal, in fact. As the airport undergoes expansion, we need to encourage them to set aside land.

The physical mailing address for the board is:

6000 Airport Cir.
Sarasota, FL 34243

❖ **Chairman (also serves as Manatee County Seat 2)**

Carlos M. Beruff

carlos.beruff@srq-airport.com

❖ **Vice-Chairman (also serves as Sarasota County Seat 2)**

Jeff Jackson

jeffrey.jackson@srq-airport.com

❖ **Secretary (also serves as Sarasota County Seat 3)**

Jesse Biter

jesse.biter@srq-airport.com

❖ **Manatee County Seat 1**

Kristin Incrocci

kristin.incrocci@srq-airport.com

❖ **Manatee County Seat 3**

Robert Spencer

robert.spencer@srq-airport.com

❖ **Sarasota County Seat 3**

Doug Holder

doug.holder@srq-airport.com

Manatee County Commissioners

Because the airport lies within Manatee County, commissioners will have an influence. An extension from downtown Sarasota to the airport would make it easier to extend it in the future to points even farther north into Manatee County. If you live in Manatee County and would like to see access to the Legacy Trail, let your commissioners know.

The physical mailing address for all commissioners is:

P.O. Box 1000
Bradenton, FL 34206

❖ District 3 (also serves as Chairman)

Kevin Van Ostenbridge

(941) 745-3705

kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org

❖ District 1 (also serves as First Vice Chair)

James Satcher

(941) 745-3701

james.satcher@mymanatee.org

❖ At-Large (also serves as Second Vice Chair)

George Kruse

(941) 745-3714

george.kruse@mymanatee.org

❖ At-Large (also serves as Third Vice Chair)

Carol Whitmore

(941) 745-3704

carol.whitmore@mymanatee.org

❖ District 2

Reggie Bellamy

(941) 745-3702

reggie.bellamy@mymanatee.org

❖ District 4

Misty Servia

(941) 745-3713

misty.servia@mymanatee.org

❖ District 5

Vanessa Baugh

(941) 745-3703

vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org

Sarasota County Commissioners

Although the SRQLegacy extension would not travel through Sarasota County at all, Sarasota County residents would be able to make use of it to, for example, travel to the airport or cultural events around Newtown.

The physical mailing address for all commissioners is:

1660 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 861-5000

❖ District 4 (also serves as Chairman)

Alan Maio

amaio@scgov.net

❖ District 5 (also serves as Vice-Chairman)

Ron Cutsinger

rcutsinger@scgov.net

❖ District 1

Michael A. Moran

mmoran@scgov.net

❖ District 2

Christian Ziegler

cziegler@scgov.net

❖ District 3

Nancy C. Detert

ncdetert@scgov.net