Franklin Park School Walking Audit

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Participants

- Jasmin Riley
- Tiffany Cason
- Sherry Stallworth
- Wilma Shields
- Letha Abrams
- Bethany Quisenberry
- Tamara Hunter
- Tyroncia Powell
- Michael Nevarez
- Mercedes Catillo
- Ann Pierce
Walking Audit Program with Context Sensitive Solutions

• Opportunities for active transportation have been identified as a top public health concern

• Creating safe, comfortable and convenient environments for walking, bicycling and transit use is a national and statewide priority

• The benefits of this mode shift can include community and economic revitalization, less public spending, reduced household expenses, less congestion, better air quality, improved access to open space and other community destinations (libraries, schools, etc.), as well as a healthier population
Route: Franklin Park School to Edison Ave and east to Henderson Ave, north to Lincoln St. West on Lincoln St to Ford St and south on Ford to return to Franklin Park School
Looking west along Edison Avenue in front of Franklin Park Elementary School
Looking East along Edison Avenue towards intersection of Ford Street
• Bicycle and pedestrian access to the school is insufficiently safe
• Many individuals, particularly children, regularly walk and ride in the greater school and STARS area
• The entire length of Edison from Henderson to Evans does not have a posted speed limit sign
• Both Edison and Ford are used as throughways
• Cars traveling through the area do not observe a speed limit of 25mph

Recommend:
• Employ full suite of traffic calming measures to create a highly visible, several block long “Go SLOW Zone” from Palm Street, west of the STARS complex, through the Henderson Avenue intersection
• Include Ford Street from MLK to South Street
Entrance to Franklin Park School has no sidewalk or bike lanes, yet has four vehicular travel lanes. Staff must regularly escort students through a long parking lot out to a sidewalk on Edison Avenue.
**Recommend**: Widen sidewalk on Edison Avenue inward to increase child safety, tighten curb radii and continue along the outside entry lanes to connect at building. Add bike lane outside of new sidewalk.

Franklin Park Elementary School with four lane entry – **No** sidewalks and **No** bike lanes.
Entrance on Edison Avenue

Access to sidewalk on Edison Avenue at the school’s entrance is narrow, poorly kempt and inadequate.

1. Install ADA compliance curb ramp
2. Widen walk significantly at this entry point
3. Work with School System to create a continuous new sidewalk & bike path directly to the school building
Edison Avenue

Young children walking in groups are right on edge of the roadway with NO buffer between them and traffic

Increase width of sidewalk inward to allow children to walk a safe distance from moving traffic. Even better – create at least a landscape buffer between walk and roadway and also meet need for shade
Transit stops on this major route have no shelters, sidewalk access or ADA compliance

City of Fort Myers should develop a unified and comprehensive advocacy approach for better transit services
Intersection was “improved” and curb was cut back to increase turning radius. Radius is now too wide to adequately slow right-turning vehicles which can endanger pedestrians and cyclists.
Wide angle curbs are designed to maximally serve automobile convenience and speed at expense of pedestrian safety.

A Complete Streets “Context-Sensitive” approach would have tighter curb radii in and near residential areas to slow autos at turns and particularly next to multiple transit stops or elementary school.
Recommendations:

• Long-term, create bulb-outs or other techniques to tighten all radii at intersections to slow traffic and reduce speed of right turning vehicles

• Short-term, cue drivers to slow and come to complete stop before turning right by painting “SLOW” or “STOP AHEAD” on pavement

• Consider use of warning sign to alert drivers to presence of pedestrians or cyclists
Reduced turning radii slow turning traffic and increase pedestrian and cyclist safety. Recommend corner radii throughout of no more than 20’.
Intersection of Edison & Henderson Avenues

Intersection closest to Franklin Park School on east side. No ADA compliant curb ramps, No crosswalks, No bike lanes

Recommend installation of all of the above
Intersection of Edison & Henderson Avenues

- All intersection areas are very poorly lit with only a single light pole.
- Design & placement are incorrect to provide adequate light to sidewalk or roadside for pedestrians and cyclist or to enable drivers to see them in time.

Recommend very bright ‘human scale’ LED lighting on all four corners.
Along Henderson & Lincoln Avenues - Sidewalks crumbling in numerous locations throughout

Recommend entire area sidewalk repair and replacement
Sidewalks at every intersection entering Henderson Avenue are substandard

Henderson & Armstrong

Recommend new safe and complete sidewalk system
Henderson & Bassie Crt
Sidewalks broken; do not extend around corner, drainage grate at higher elevation than walk
Discontinuous walks force all users into the roadway at intersections even at school crossing.
No sidewalk on block closest to school crossing. Hours for School Zone sign are incorrect

Recommend adding this block-long section to complete sidewalk along east side of Henderson. Correct listed times and consider need for flashing light
Sidewalks overgrown with shrubs....
Recommend Code Enforcement and City maintenance where appropriate
Abandoned and derelict house

Structures such as this invite crime and present uncomfortable and even dangerous conditions for passing pedestrians.
Drainage system throughout entire area is nearly dysfunctional

Recommend City redo entire drainage system in Franklin Park neighborhood. In the meantime, apply much better maintenance
At school crossing the first 5’-6’ of sidewalk would be underwater in a rain, including the ‘imaginary’ sidewalk portion in the roadway. Drop drain is so full of silt that it grows its own weeds. A portion of walk is also lost to overgrown weeds.
Drop drains higher than surrounding pedestrian areas.

Puddle area in wet weather.
Lincoln & Cuba, not actually a sidewalk, is sunken and covered with many inches of silt. This is a huge puddle area in wet weather. There is an extremely hazardous grade change at this intersection of about 10 inches.
Access

Only one intersection in area is partially ADA compliant, many barely accessible to even the able bodied. Three corners at major intersection of Edison & Ford have correct ADA curb treatments, but entirely missing on the fourth
Edison Avenue & Ford Street

- Major neighborhood and greater community intersection with only three crosswalks
- Missing ADA ramp and crosswalk are on the same side as the popular STARS Complex, only a half block away

**RECOMMEND:**
1. Install ADA compliant, crosswalk & ramp on Ford Street from SW corner to SE corner
Sidewalk ingress/egress not safely accessible for anyone
Access to sidewalks uneven, broken, sunken (underwater) or obstructed
Sidewalk access is broken, uneven, dangerously non-existent or...
No sidewalk at all...

at Henderson & Thomas or entire north side of Lincoln Blvd
Henderson Ave & Thomas St

- The on-road STOP bar is 15’ – 20’ beyond the STOP sign
- No sidewalk near either corner
- What serves as pedestrian area is sunken and holding water

RECOMMEND:
1. Fix misalignment between STOP sign and on-road STOP bar
2. Fill and repair grade at corner to allow safe passage other than walking in the roadway
Intersection of Ford St & Lincoln Blvd
Major neighborhood intersection with a store on one corner, small restaurant just off of another and just between Franklin Park Elementary School and Clemente Park
Ford Street & Lincoln Blvd

- Lincoln Blvd, a community through road, has no sidewalk on either side
- Large ditch with no sidewalk is on east side of Ford St between the school and access to Clemente Park
- Because it requires two road crossings to walk to park students from Franklin Park School are bused
If you can’t walk there safely, it is NOT accessible

Children must be bused 2 blocks or less than 1/3 mile from Franklin Park Elementary School to Clemente Park as a large open ditch and inadequate sidewalks on Ford Street, a major City thoroughfare, prevent safe walking.
Ford Street & Lincoln Blvd

- Only two of four roadways have any sidewalks at all
- One of those with severely cracked and sunken access ramp
- No bike lanes on the three heaviest traveled roadways, despite small store attracting many from the neighborhood on foot and bike
- No crosswalks
- Entire intersection poorly lit with only one light pole

This intersection **does not** fit the surrounding land use context and poorly serves the residents of this neighborhood.
Ford Street

- Heavily traveled road with speeds too fast for the area
- No visible speed limit signs
- On-road painted “School Zone” markings have worn off
- Very poorly lit, few light poles along entire, especially the east side of roadway
- Barren, hot, unpleasant for walking
- West sidewalk is deeply sunken at several of the side roads intersections
- Sidewalks not maintained, have heavy weed overgrowth
Ford Street

Recommend:
1. Need “School Zone” signs to include flashing lights as drivers are not slowing
2. Need shade trees planted in the very adequate available space
3. Consider speed tables/raised intersection along roadway at one or more locations from MLK and Edison to slow traffic
4. Need properly placed and sized “human scale lighting” along entire roadway and through the intersections
5. Raise and repair portions of west sidewalk that are too low
6. Maintain walks to remove encroaching weeds
7. Pipe ditch and add sidewalk on east side along block closest to MLK - this can be done - FDOT does NOT preclude such an application, even for SRTS monies