

**Volusia County  
MPO**

**March 2008**



# **Elementary School "Y"**

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Review Study**



## **Introduction**

Elementary School "Y" is currently under construction and will open in August 2008. Capacity is planned for 735 students. The school is located north of Pine Ridge High School and to the east of Howland Boulevard. Heritage Middle School is also nearby; located west of Howland Boulevard. The walk zone for this school is planned for the area east of Howland Boulevard.

Howland Boulevard north of Courtland Boulevard is currently being widened. Widening of Howland Boulevard south of Courtland Boulevard is also planned. This construction activity is expected to result in courtesy bus transportation for all students shortly after school opening.

Providing initial bus transportation for potential walkers and bicycle riders may result in fewer students willing to walk or ride bicycles once road construction is complete. However, the road expansion will include the needed sidewalk along the east side of Howland Boulevard and will ultimately increase safety for students.



**Figure 3.5.1**

## Elementary School "Y" – Summary Sheet

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**School Address:** 1100 Learning Lane  
Deltona, FL

**City Representative:** Becky Mendez, Planning Manager  
Phone: 386-878-8610  
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**School District Representative:**  
Saralee Morrissey, AICP  
Phone: 386-947-8786, ext. 50772  
Email: smorriss@volusia.k12.fl.us

**Estimated Opening Date:** August 2008

**Planned Student Capacity:** 735

**Site Plan:** Provided

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**School Status:** Under construction with opening planned for August 2008.

**Estimated Number of Students in Walk Zone:** The walk zone for this school has not been finalized by school district staff at this time, but is expected to include the area east of Howland Boulevard. In 2007, an approximately 549 students lived in the estimated future walk zone.

**Number of Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Events within the estimated potential Walk Zone (2004-2006):** Not applicable, school not open

**Votran Route in Walk Zone:** Yes

**Percentage of Title One Students:** Unknown, new school

**Planned Crossing Guard Location:** None at this time.

**Planned Road, Sidewalk or other Improvements:** Portions of Howland Boulevard are under construction or planned for construction within the estimated walk zone. Sidewalks will be included on both sides of Howland Boulevard.

**Planned Development:** No known projects.

**Hazardous and Unique Conditions (Source: School District Data February 2008):** Not applicable at concept level.

**Summary of Recommendations:**

- Construct a wider segment of sidewalk along Howland Boulevard from Commerwood Drive to the school entrance road (Learning Lane).

**Proposed Priority Project (For BPAC consideration):** None

## Findings and Recommendations

**Finding:** Students walking or riding bicycles to Elementary School “Y” will need to walk along Howland Boulevard and along a long access roadway to reach the school building. Students from the north will most likely use the internal street system within their neighborhood until they reach Commerwood Drive where they will walk along the east side of Howland Boulevard to the school access road. A five foot wide sidewalk is planned with the expansion of Howland Boulevard.

**Recommendation:** An eight to 10 foot wide sidewalk along the east side of Howland Boulevard from Commerwood Drive to Learning Lane is recommended to serve walkers and bicycle riders simultaneously. Many of the students living in the estimated future walk zone may ride bicycles to and from school because of the long distance to the school from the majority of the homes. The County is currently reviewing this request and will widen this section of sidewalk if possible.

**Finding:** There is potential for residential development to the rear of the school property, however rezoning was denied in 2007. If this area is developed, Learning Lane may be used as an access. This may create increased vehicular conflict for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling to and from the school.

**Recommendation:** If this area is developed, School District staff may need to review access routes for walkers/bicycle riders to reduce the number of conflict points with vehicles.



*The school access road, Learning Lane, may provide access to future housing behind the school*

**Finding:** The sidewalks under construction are located around the perimeter of the bus loop, creating a longer route for students who walk or ride their bicycles. The students, especially those who walk, will most likely cross the parking area and walk between the buses to reach the school.

**Recommendation:** Encourage the use of the sidewalk on the north side of Learning Lane for the following reasons:

- Crossing on the north side of Learning Lane will eliminate the added traffic from the student drop-off/pick-up area.
- The use of the north side sidewalk will increase the likelihood of students crossing at one place and will allow the exiting motorist increased visibility of the crosswalk.
- Potential residential development to the rear of the school property may result in a shared access road and may increase vehicular conflict for students walking or riding their bicycles to school. Using the sidewalk on the north side of Learning Lane will reduce conflict with motorists using the roadway to access the development.



*Learning Lane will have five foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway when complete*

The School District may wish to post teachers near the west side of the parking lot to encourage students to take the sidewalk to the building and not cut through the parking area and bus loop.

**Finding:** Construction along Howland Boulevard is expected to create the need for courtesy bus transportation for students living within the future estimated walk zone. The construction will include sidewalks along the east side of Howland Boulevard. Providing school bus transportation at the time of school opening may make it more difficult to reverse this trend once construction is complete.



*Road expansion, including sidewalks, is ongoing along Howland Boulevard*

**Recommendation:** Provide incentives for students to walk or ride their bicycles to school when construction is complete. Consider working with the PTA or local parents to start a "walking school bus" or bicycle riding groups. It may also be helpful to allow walkers and bicycle riders to leave a few minutes before the rest of the students. This has the added benefit of encouraging students to walk or ride their bicycle



**Finding:** There is a section of sidewalk missing along the west side of Howland Boulevard from the existing trail along Wal-Mart to the sidewalk that ends at Tabb Drive.

**Recommendation:** Provide a wide sidewalk or trail connection to complete the missing section. This section is less than 500 linear. Right of way availability needs to be verified.



*There is a section of missing sidewalk/trail along the west side of Howland Boulevard between Wal-Mart and Tabb Drive*

## Master Plan

The following Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan specifies a network of sidewalks and trails that, if implemented, will greatly increase the convenience and safety of travel for pedestrians and bicyclists. A 24"x36" fold-out map is included as a deliverable with this Study.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan includes the following information:

### Existing Conditions:

- Existing Trails from County GIS and field review (solid green line)
- Existing Wide Sidewalk 6-8' from field review (solid blue line)
- Existing Sidewalks 3-5' from field review (solid red line)
- Existing Voltran Routes from Volusia County MPO (yellow lines along roadway centerline).

### Planned Conditions:

- Estimated Future Walk Zone from discussions with Volusia County School District staff (light tan)
- Planned State of Florida sidewalk and roadway improvements from FDOT website, State or County GIS (medium blue roadway centerline)
- Planned Volusia County sidewalk and roadway improvements from County GIS data (medium green roadway line)
- Planned trail (long dashed dark green line)
- Planned wide sidewalk (long dashed blue line)
- Planned sidewalk (long dashed red line)

### Recommendations of this Study:

- Proposed Trails (dashed dark green line)
- Proposed Sidewalks 6-8' wide (dashed blue line)
- Proposed Sidewalks 5' (dashed red line)

This Master Plan and supplemental information supplied within the Implementation Report are meant as a guideline for sidewalk and trail planning. The Master Plan is not an engineering document.

