

City of Longwood

Smart Growth America 12-Month Status Report

1. Focus on the Heritage Village

- The City established a City Hall Relocation committee to consider consolidating the existing City Hall facility onto one site within the Heritage Village. The relocation of City Hall will allow Longwood to open additional property within the Historic District to help inspire further development in the Heritage Village.
 - The City Hall relocation committee voted to focus on the police station site as the home of a future City Hall.
 - **The City Hall relocation committee selected GAI Consultants to assist the City in preparing for the relocation of City Hall. GAI has started on two primary tasks: a residual land value analysis of city properties related to the sale and consolidation effort, and a space needs analysis for the eventual City Hall facility.**
- The City received approval from Seminole County to construct the Ronald Reagan Blvd. context-sensitive improvement project, which will reduce an impediment to pedestrian travel within the Heritage Village and help create a cohesive district between the SunRail area and the Historic District, while also providing bike lanes and on-street parking to help support the area.
 - As part of this agreement, the City received the ability to make improvements to County-owned properties to improve the aesthetics of the Heritage Village area. The City has also expressed to the County a desire to potentially use these parcels with valuable frontage for development, and redirect the existing stormwater to a new regional facility.
 - **The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has agreed to construct the Ronald Reagan Blvd. project, and it is scheduled to begin construction in mid-2018. Plans are in the final design phase.**
- **The City has budgeted for the construction of the Highline Extension, which will provide a connection from the City's industrial core to the Heritage Village via a new signalized intersection at SR 434. This project will draw travelers into the Heritage Village as well as providing another connection to the City's industrial core and activating new property for development.**
- The City has purchased additional property within the Heritage Village to support a regional stormwater system.

2. Develop a Strategic Plan

- The City is exploring how to best leverage some of the other planning efforts undertaken, including the Heritage Village Redevelopment Strategy, to enact a citywide strategic plan.

3. Develop a Formal Capital Improvement Planning Process

- During the SmartGrowth America workshops, staff began to select capital projects with the Smart Growth principles in mind. Projects that supported the Heritage Village and walkability were prioritized as part of the planning process.
- Staff will continue to work to formalize the Capital Improvement Planning process and incorporate these elements.
- The City hired an in-house City Engineer for the first time in many years. The City Engineer position, based in part on advice from SmartGrowth America, is housed in the Community Development Department and has overseen capital improvements projects and planning.
- **The City is implementing its Complete Streets Policy, which is an integral part of the selection of Capital Improvement Projects.**

4. Start With What You Can Control

- The newly-established City Hall Relocation Committee meets monthly to determine the best site for the relocation of consolidation of the existing City Hall administration buildings. This discussion has focused on utilizing City-owned property to house a new City Hall building, and open up other City-owned property to support redevelopment in the Heritage Village.
- Reiter Park, located in the City's historic downtown, has become a center of a number of improvement efforts.
 - **Reiter Park, which will include an amphitheater, splash pads, walking paths, basketball and tennis courts, and more, is currently under construction and will be completed in 2018.**
 - The Church Ave. Complete Streets project was expanded to include improvements to Reiter Park including an expanded and improved parking area and on-street parking to help support City events.
 - **The Lewis House, a historic building relocated by the City, will be moved to the park and utilized as a community amenity.**

5. Employ Walkability as an Economic Development Strategy

- The City has worked to promote economic development by walkability through a number of construction projects anticipated in the 2017 fiscal year, including the Church Ave. Complete Street project which creates new pedestrian connections and bicycle connections in the Historic District, the Ronald Reagan Blvd. context sensitive project, new sidewalks that will connect the SunRail area, as well as the approval of a Complete Streets policy and associated Development Code changes to support these walkability efforts.
 - **The Church Ave. Complete Street project which includes new pedestrian and bicycle connectivity is currently underway and has already dramatically**

improved the area around Reiter Park and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

- **The Ronald Reagan Blvd. Complete Street project is scheduled to begin construction in mid-2018 and will provide a safer pedestrian environment in the Heritage Village, including addressing the critically important Ronald Reagan Blvd. and Church Ave. intersection.**
- **The Florida Central Parkway Complete Street project has been designed and is out to bid, with construction beginning in mid-2017. The project will activate the City's industrial core for multi-modal transportation and transit options.**
- **New sidewalks were installed around the SunRail station to support walkability in that area.**