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**“Dade City’s Bringing Biking Back”**

Project Overview:

 Over the next few months, Dade City Officials, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be overseeing the construction of a new multi-use bike trail on U.S. Hwy 301. This bike trail will connect to Hardy Trail, a readily pre-established bike trail in the heart of Dade City.

The planned trail will extend from Kossik Road north to Dade City Avenue. The total resurfacing projects limits cover approximately six miles and extend from Kossik road to Bougainvillea Avenue in Dade City. The end of the trail will connect to an existing sidewalk in Dade City.

The pre-existing trails do not connect, and upon completion, this one large bike trail will connect from east coast and west coast. The trail extension is estimated to be 6 miles long and 10-feet-wide. This extension is only part of a number of Florida Trail projects under discussion.

Later in the year, Dade City Officials, FDOT, and Pasco County MPO will also be working on the high priority project of extending Hardy Trail from Church Avenue to Lock Street in Dade City. Along with that, they will be looking into extending the U.S. 301 connection south into Zephyrhills.

Entangle Media owner, Mark Pinson, and students from Saint Leo University will be handling the marketing and media coverage updates as this project comes to completion for the spring 2016. In conjunction, the Pasco County MPO is the designated organization in charge of countywide transportation planning. U.S. 301 consists of several undermined areas that do not have a bike trail. This connection trail will further develop the means of transport in Dade City and spread the biking community.

A coast-to-coast connection such as this sets Florida apart from others. The completion of the new bike trail will ensure the entire completion for a safer route all the way from eastern to western Florida. Finishing up these last remaining trails will allow for a bigger connection of 14 already existing trails. Theoretically bicyclists will be able to travel from from St. Petersburg to Titusville smoothly on this safe trail. The trails will enhance all of the communities in connection making them more attractive and accessible to residents, increasing tourism appeal and adding value.

This project will provide an influx of bicyclists to stop in downtown Dade City, and therefore supporting local shops and restaurants. By capitalizing on the growing bicyclist community in the area it is an ideal time to bring the trail through Pasco county. We are invested in the project due to the community building it fosters and because it is a not-for-profit initiative.