



# Agenda MEMORANDUM

*Streets & Stormwater Department*

*Natural Resources • Stormwater • Streets & Traffic*

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Gregg R. Strakaluse, Director  
**Date:** April 1, 2021  
**Workshop Meeting Date:** April 19, 2021

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## **SUBJECT:**

Presentation and discussion of the Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan update.  
~Bill DeSantis, VHB Project Manager, will lead the presentation.

## **BACKGROUND:**

- October 2007: City adopts the first Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan by Resolutions 07-11791 and 07-11792.
- June 12, 2013: City adopts the 2013 Update to the City of Naples Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan by Resolution 2013-13305.
- December 2, 2020, City Council approved an Agreement with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) to provide professional services to update the City's 2013 Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan.

The goals in designing the 2021 Update to the Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan includes increasing safety and accessibility throughout the community, while not compromising the area's small town feel and quality of life. Members of the community have been encouraged to provide their input on what they believe works (or does not work) for the City of Naples. The previous Plan had a substantial number of projects that were completed, while others were not. In some cases, residents were opposed at the time of design or construction and those projects did not move forward. The first public involvement meeting hosted by the City and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), was held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 from 4-7 PM at River Park Community Center. A virtual room was also available to the public from February 4<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the first meeting. The first meeting was intended to provide residents and local business owners the opportunity to learn about the scope and schedule, background, and existing conditions of the project. The meeting and virtual room provided information on crash data, boundary maps and learning tools for the community. Based on public feedback, a number of issues with the survey format and virtual tools was identified and shared with the consultant, VHB. A more robust public outreach program with user friendly survey formats was requested and delivered. After receiving feedback and low survey responses, the initial schedule was shifted to assure ample input was obtained.

The Streets & Stormwater Department, City Manager's office and VHB continued to work together to extend the public outreach program, website and survey format. With the increase in public outreach, as March 30, 2020 the consultant had received a total of 1600 Survey

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responses with at least 82% from the two zip codes entirely within the City for a City-resident response total of at least 1300 residents. This number does not include responses from the other three zip codes that would be within "City" limits or the 200+ paper survey responses.

The second public involvement meeting was moved to April 15, 2021 at River Park Community Center. This meeting will be geared toward incorporating received survey responses into the exhibits and continuing to obtain more public feedback.

These experiences, along with the Naples Vision Goals and Comprehensive Plan, provide the Department with a clear path for future master planning that includes a vigorous community involvement program. The updated Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan will continue to address projects such as safe pathways for pedestrians and bicyclist, improvements that make intersections safer for all modes of transportation, public education that creates awareness for multimodal transportation and reminds people about transportation rules within the rights-of-way, and policies that work towards transportation safety while considering water quality, aesthetics and community greenspace. The updated plan will gather and compile data and share conclusions drawn from data that support plan recommendations. Such information would include crash statistics, bicycle and pedestrian use data, public surveys, etc.

The team is still working to deliver a Final Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan prior to City Council's summer recess; however, City Council may consider that more time was needed to capture a representative pool of public input by which to shape the plan and more time may be needed to receive additional public input on the Draft Plan. A return to City Council in late Fall would allow the team to continue to work on the plan over the summer and schedule a third public meeting in early Fall.