



Titusville Community Redevelopment Agency Recent Successes

The City of Titusville has experienced a renaissance since the negative impacts of the Great Recession of 2008 and the end of the NASA Space Shuttle Program at the Kennedy Space Center took place. The renaissance of the downtown can be attributed to the successful projects and programs of the City's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), as well as the privatization of the space industry. With the convergence of three (3) major trails in the City, the Coast-to-Coast Trail, the Eastern Greenway Trail, and the St. Johns to Sea Loop Trail, Downtown Titusville is embracing trail tourism and is positioning itself to become a "Trail Town" with a series of downtown improvements aimed at trail users and visitors. A list and short description of the recent CRA successes follows.

Coast-to-Coast Downtown Connector Trail:

The CRA and City Council appropriated CRA funds, impact fee funds and other project funds to construct the Coast-to-Coast Downtown Connector Trail in Downtown Titusville years ahead of the Florida Department of Transportation's schedule.



Downtown Welcome Center - Restroom Facilities:



Constructed in 2016 and officially opened in January 2017, the Downtown Welcome Center promotes the City's trails, businesses and attractions while also providing much needed public restroom space for downtown visitors

and events. The City collaborated with the Titusville Chamber of Commerce to operate and manage the Center and the Coast-to-Coast Bicycle Company to operate a bicycle shop concessionaire at the Center.

Julia Street Parking Lot and Lighting:



Improvements to the Julia Street Parking Lot were completed in 2013 with enhanced lighting completed in October 2015. The reconfigured parking lot and lighting provides much needed convenient and safe parking in the Historic Downtown Commercial District of the downtown.

Pedestrian Safety Crossing (Rapid Flashing Pedestrian Warning System):

With the removal of on-street parking in the Historic Commercial Downtown District an increase of vehicles speeding on S. Washington Avenue is a concern to pedestrians crossing S. Washington Avenue from the Julia Street Parking Lot in the downtown. The CRA and City lobbied the Florida Department of Transportation for the installation of a Hybrid Rapid Flashing Warning Signal at the intersection of Julia Street and S. Washington Avenue.



Downtown Wayfinding Signage for Trail Users:

Wayfinding signs for trail users and visitors to the downtown were designed, planned and constructed in 2017. The signs help direct trail users to points of interest in the downtown such as parks, museums, the Welcome Center, etc.





Five (5) sets of benches, trashcans and bicycle racks were purchased and installed along and near the Downtown Connector trail on Main Street and Indian River Avenue in the Downtown by the CRA.



BMX Bicycle Track at Marina Park:

The construction of a BMX Bicycle Facility at Marina Park was funded by the CRA and completed in July 2016. The facility adds to Titusville's bicycle friendly culture, as well as providing additional recreational activities for the City's youth.

Downtown Business Directory Kiosks:

Downtown Business Directory Kiosk signs were placed at Julia Court Yard and at the southeast corner of Main Street and S. Hopkins Avenue. The directory provides a map and index of businesses from South Street to Garden Street in the CRA. The map – index information is updated quarterly to help visitors locate businesses and places of interest in the downtown.



Concrete Street Repairs in the Residential Historic District:

The CRA annually budgets for the repair of concrete streets in the Residential Historic District in the CRA. The concrete streets are part of the historic fabric of this area of the city. Due to their age, many portions of the concrete streets in this area are cracking and buckling and are in need of replacement. Based on public meetings the majority of residents are in favor of maintaining the concrete roads. The repairs are based on a prioritized list by the City's Public Works Department.



Commercial Interior Renovation Incentive Grant Program:

In 2016 the CRA created a Commercial Interior Renovation Grant Program the purpose of which was to provide an incentive for the build-out of vacant commercial and mixed-use space; to assist existing businesses to renovate and to relocate in the CRA rather than in outlying green space; and to upgrade existing historic building stock within the CRA. The renovation of older and historic buildings many times is deterred by the expense to bring older buildings up to today's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Florida Fire Protection Code, and the Florida Building Code. To help offset this cost, the grant program pays 50 percent of interior improvements up to a maximum of \$50,000 for the mentioned interior improvements to bring a building up to code. In little over one (1) year, six (6) grants have been awarded providing \$115,255.38 in incentives, which has leveraged \$983,770 in qualified interior improvements in the CRA, which is a return on investment of 8.5 to 1.

As can be seen from the shown recent successes, the Titusville CRA has been instrumental in helping to transform the City from the devastation of the NASA Shuttle Program shut down and the Great Recession of 2008 and in diversifying the City into a Trail Town by embracing Trail Tourism.