

Galveston, TX

Pedestrian & Bicycle Conceptual Plan

Nelson\Nygaard, on a team led by Lockheed, Andrews & Newnam, completed a Pedestrian and Bicycle Conceptual Plan in 2006 for the City of Galveston, Texas through the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the local Metropolitan Planning Organization. NN planned a bicycle route network for the city, evaluated high-priority walking corridors, forecasted the increased demand that these improved facilities would generate, and recommending changes to Galveston's transit and parking system. In addition, NN produced a best practices of bicycle facility design.

An island town with extensive beach and harbor districts, Galveston is already quite bikeable and walkable. In laying out a bicycle network, the team sought to connect key trip generators along comfortable routes. The network establishes a recognizable grid system that will collect cyclists and lead them efficiently across the island. In effect, wayfinding was as important a goal as facility design. Bicycle potential was projected through use of a demand estimator published by the National Highway Cooperative Research Program.

The team identified key pedestrian generators - schools, senior centers, government centers, transit lines, the beach, downtown - and evaluated priority corridors in each. The immediate goal was to direct pending investment, especially in terms of barrier-free design. Pedestrian potential was projected through use of the Pedestrian Potential Index and the Pedestrian Deficiency Index.

Finally, the transit and parking systems were evaluated vis-à-vis increased non-motorized transport. This type of cross-specialty analysis is necessary because transportation systems work in concert with each other - demand for one affects supply for the other.

In 2007 the project earned a Transportation Achievement Award for Bicycles from the Institute of Transportation Engineers. ITE recognized the project for making Galveston Island a regional model for creating an environment for non-motorized transportation



Project Duration:
2006

Total Budget:
\$100,000

Nelson \ Nygaard Budget:
\$15,000

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