

3.6 Wildlife Drive at Alligator Bend

Wildlife Drive Approaching “Alligator Bend”

This site is the section of Wildlife Drive approaching “alligator bend”. The section of Wildlife Road between Calusa Shell Mound Trail Parking and “alligator bend”, see Figure 32, is very narrow, approximately 12 feet wide at its narrowest. It is recommended that this roadway section be widened to a minimum of 14 feet, but preferably 16 feet since extra space is needed for the tram and buses.⁴

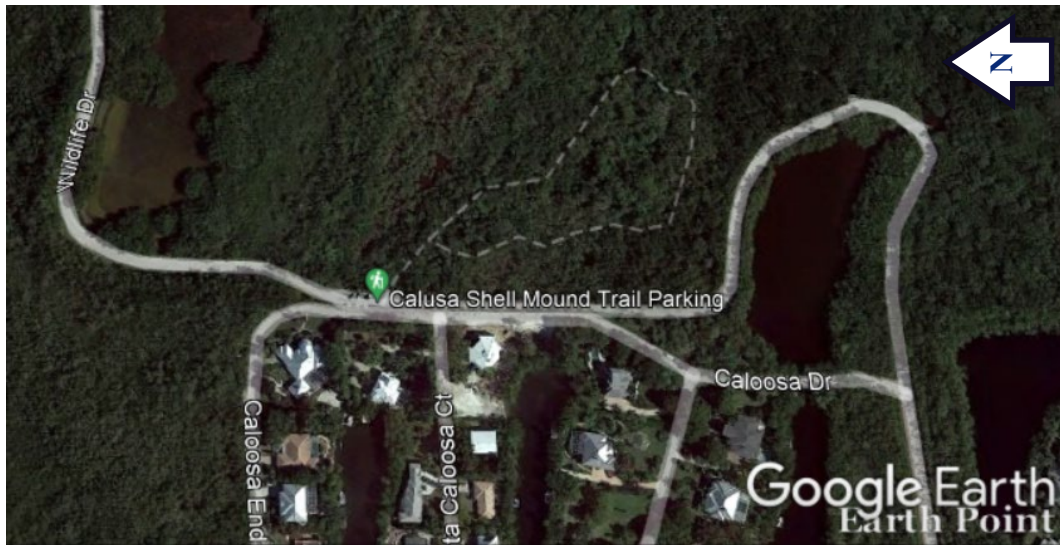


Figure 33. Wildlife Drive at Alligator Bend

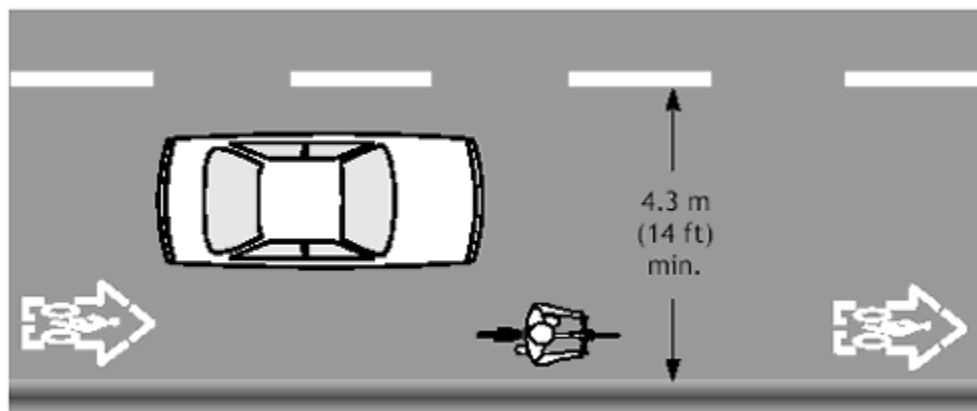


Figure 34. Typical Application of Shared-Use Lane⁴

Wildlife Drive Section between “Alligator Bend” and Sanibel-Captiva Road

At the section of Wildlife Drive between the Refuge’s exit and Sanibel Captiva Road, the roadway turns from one way to two way. Currently there are many incidents of cyclists going against traffic on this section of roadway, resulting in near misses between vehicles and bikes. It is recommended that the shared-use path be extended from Sanibel Captiva Road to the Refuge exit and it be placed on the south side of the road to avoid the utility poles. Adding this path would require wetlands in field delineation. A preliminary desktop assessment estimates approximately 350 feet of the proposed shared-use path passes

through wetlands (see memo in Appendix B). Similar to the path for the Tarpon Bay Road site, it is recommended that the portion of multi-use path within wetlands be constructed as a boardwalk. It is also recommended to refresh centerline pavement markings. To address speeding along this segment, it is recommended that speed humps be installed on both sides ahead of the horizontal curve. Lastly, tree trimming to minimize the tree canopy over the road which creates shadows on the vehicles and cyclists.



Figure 35. Shared-Use Path Connectivity Alternative for Wildlife Drive Map and Cross Section

Source: GoogleEarth (top) Streetmix (bottom)