Village of Cuba Pedestrian Network Assessment

Andrew Gingerich, MCRP

Fall 2012
Introduction

During the summer and fall of 2012 a brief assessment was conducted which examined the pedestrian network of the Village of Cuba, NM, and surrounding area. This assessment was undertaken in order to assist the efforts of Dr. Richard Kozoll and Step into Cuba, a community program that promotes healthy physical activity in a variety of ways in the Village of Cuba and surrounding area (for more about Step into Cuba visit http://www.stepintocuba.org). This assessment was funded by the University of New Mexico’s Prevention Research Center.

The basic goal of the assessment was to provide a comprehensive view of the Village’s pedestrian network—sidewalks, roads, and walking/hiking/multi-use trails—and to look for ways the network might be bolstered so that residents of Cuba might have a safer and better connected walking environment within the Village as well as easier access to walking/hiking trails in the nearby area.

The assessment was conducted first by evaluating the existing conditions of the Village’s pedestrian network and researching the current status of identified enhancement projects. Second, the existing conditions of the pedestrian network were mapped, as were changes to the network conditions should the identified enhancements be implemented. Finally, the maps of existing conditions and identified enhancements were used to identify areas where further enhancements would improve the connectivity of the pedestrian network. The document is organized by the following sections: Existing Conditions, Enhancements in Process, and Recommended Enhancements.

Existing Conditions

The evaluation of the existing conditions of the Village’s pedestrian network took place in the summer of 2012. The following categories were used in the evaluation: Sidewalk, Good Condition; Sidewalk, Poor Condition; Paved Road, Wide Shoulder; Paved Road, Narrow Shoulder; Paved Road, No Shoulder; Dirt Road. Here ‘Good Condition’ indicates a sidewalk with no obstructions between intersections that would force a person in a wheelchair off of the sidewalk. ‘Paved Road’ and ‘Dirt Road’ categories indicate that there are no sidewalks. Due to limited time and resources the existing conditions could only be assessed from an automobile.

After categories were assigned, a map was produced which displays the existing conditions of roads and sidewalks along with existing hiking and walking trails [see Map 1]. The maps were created with ArcGIS 10.1 software (ESRI). Data for the maps were obtained from the Sandoval County GIS department (http://www.sandovalcounty.com/?q=node/87) and from Kerry Shakarjian of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (http://www.continentaldividetrail.org).

‘Map 1’ shows that there are several walking/hiking trails in or nearby Cuba but these trails are not tied together by a safe pedestrian network that extends throughout the village. There are few routes for getting from one side of the village to the other, and most of these routes are not easily traversed by
pedestrians. There only are few parts of the village that have sidewalks, and many of the existing sidewalks are in ‘poor condition.’ Of the roads that do not have sidewalks, many do not have shoulders.

Enhancements in Process

Though the existing conditions of Cuba’s pedestrian environment do not provide easy access to many of the trails, there are several pedestrian enhancement projects that have been identified by the Mid-Region Rural Transportation Planning Organization (MRRTPO). Some of these project have received funding and have been included in the New Mexico Department of Transportation’s State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) [see Table A]. ‘Map 2’ shows the location of the identified projects, as well as their current status.

Table A: Pedestrian Enhancement Projects in Process in Cuba, NM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sidewalk improvements along US 550</td>
<td>Project identified by MRRTPO and included in STIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian Facilities along HWY 197</td>
<td>Project identified by MRRTPO and included in STIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian Facilities Along HWY 126 &amp; CR 13</td>
<td>Project identified by MRRTPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian Facilities Along Miera Rd</td>
<td>Project identified by MRRTPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crosswalks along US 550</td>
<td>Project identified by MRRTPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-use trail along CR 11</td>
<td>Project identified by MRRTPO, disqualified for being sponsored by Village of Cuba instead of Sandoval County—Project Improvement Form (PIF) must be resubmitted sponsored by Sandoval County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Map 3’ shows how the pedestrian network in Cuba would be improved if all of the identified pedestrian enhancement projects were implemented. The sidewalk and crosswalk improvements along US 550 as well as the creation of pedestrian facilities along Miera Road, and HWY 197, HWY 126 and CR 13 (connecting US 550 to the grounds of Cuba Public Schools via the St. Francis of Assisi Park Trail), would create safe routes for pedestrians to move throughout the central and northeast parts of the village. These enhancements would also link the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) north connection, the St. Francis of Assisi Park Trail, the Cuba School Trails, and the Library Trail. If the Multi-use trail along CR 11 was to be implemented, the fairgrounds would also be linked to the pedestrian network. However this enhancement was disqualified because the Project Identification Form (PIF) was sponsored by the Village of Cuba instead of Sandoval County. In order to be reconsidered, a new PIF must be submitted sponsored by Sandoval County.
**Recommended Future Enhancements**

The pedestrian enhancements that are currently in process would greatly improve the pedestrian environment in Cuba were they to be implemented. However, even with these improvements, some of nearby trails would remain without safe pedestrian access. Therefore this assessment proposes the two additional enhancement projects be explored that would link the Fisher/Rito San Jose Trail and the CDT south connection to Cuba’s pedestrian network.

1. A multi-use trail along Cubita Road that connects the Fisher Trail and the Rito San Jose Trail to HWY 197.
2. A multi-use trail along CR 11 that extends from the fairgrounds to a potential southern connection to the CDT (pending the establishment of the CDT connection)

These projects are identified in ‘Map 4’ and their integration with the larger pedestrian network is seen in ‘Map 5.’

**Conclusion**

Cuba has many trails that facilitate healthy physical activity. However the existing pedestrian environment of the village does not provide many safe options for pedestrians to access these valuable community assets. The pedestrian enhancement projects that have been identified would help to provide improved pedestrian access to the trails. Pursuing these enhancements, along with recommended future enhancements, would result in a safer and better-integrated pedestrian network that connects the village to the surrounding landscape, greatly increasing opportunities for residents to engage in healthy physical activity.

**Contacts**

Andrew Gingerich, MCRP  
[a.g.gingerich@gmail.com](mailto:a.g.gingerich@gmail.com)  
505.280.8711
Village of Cuba, NM
Pedestrian Network:
Existing Conditions*

* conditions evaluated from automobile

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**Map 1**

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LEGEND

- Walking/Hiking Trails
- Existing Conditions
  - Sidewalk/Multi-Use Path, Good Condition**
  - Sidewalk, Poor Condition**
  - Paved Road, Wide Shoulder
  - Paved Road, Narrow Shoulder
  - Paved Road, No Shoulder
  - Dirt Road

Cuba Village Limits

** 'Good condition' indicates that there are no obstructions between intersections that would force a person in a wheelchair off the sidewalk

Map by Andrew Gingerich, MCP ~ 505.360.8711 ~ a.g.gingerich@gmail.com

Date Sources: Sandoval County GIS Dept., Continental Divide Trail Coalition

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Village of Cuba, NM
Pedestrian Network:
Conditions Including
Pedestrian Enhancement
Projects in Process*

* conditions evaluated from automobile

LEGEND
- Walking/Hiking Trails
- Conditions with Projects in Process
  - Crosswalks
  - Sidewalk/Multi-Use Path, Good Condition**
- Paved Road, Wide Shoulder
- Paved Road, Narrow Shoulder
- Paved Road, No Shoulder
- Dirt Road

Cuba Village Limits

** ’Good condition’ indicates that there are no obstructions between intersections that would force a person in a wheelchair off the sidewalk

Map by Andrew Gingerich, MORP • 505.380.8711 • a.g.gingerich@gmail.com
Data Sources: Sandoval County GIS Dept, Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Village of Cuba, NM Pedestrian Network: Recommended Future Pedestrian Enhancement Projects

LEGEND

Recommended Future Projects

Recommended Projects

Cuba Village Limits

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Village of Cuba, NM
Pedestrian Network:
Conditions Including
Projects in Process and
Recommended Projects*

* conditions evaluated from automobile