

Construction is underway along Highway 55A near Old Town Elementary School as 5 feet wide concrete sidewalks and 4 feet wide bicycle lanes are being installed. Drivers may experience lane closures this week due to the construction but this project should be completed in Old Town within the two months. Ramps and tactile domes will be installed in the locations where the sidewalks will tie into existing sidewalks at Old Town Elementary. The location of stop bars and stop signs will be adjusted to accommodate the crosswalks being installed. All existing school warning signs and flashing signs will be brought up to current standards. New warning signs, crossing signs, and markings will be constructed to meet current DOT standards.

As soon as the Old Town project is completed, construction will begin in Cross City to add new sidewalks for Anderson Elementary and Ruth Rains Middle School. The plans call for installing a 5 feet sidewalk along the west side of CR 351 from Southeast 56th Avenue to Southeast 39th Avenue and for a 5 feet sidewalk along the east side of CR 351 from CR 351A to the Southeast 55th Avenue and then transitioning to connect to the existing sidewalk already at Anderson Elementary. In Cross City crosswalks across the east and west legs of the intersection of SE55th Avenue and SE 56th Avenue will connect to the sidewalks. There will also be crosswalks installed at the intersection of CR 351 and SE 49th Avenue near Ruth Rains Middle School. Several other crosswalks will be added or re-striped to make getting to school easier and safer. Installation of new flashing signals that meet current DOT standards will also be installed.

This construction is a coordinated effort between Semper Fi Services from Palmetto, Florida and local contractor Anderson Columbia. This is a federal project funded as part of the Safe Routes to Schools program. Dixie County is the second of six counties to receive these funds.

Mr. Mark Rains, Superintendent of Schools for Dixie District began working on the project when he was responsible for Facilities. “Our school system is excited about this project because it provides a safe route to school for our children without being an expense to our school district,” Charlotte Lord, Director of Safety, Facilities and Special Projects for Dixie School Districts, said. She also said that updating the new flashing lights and installing solar lighted flashers will be a cost savings for our district.



Supt. Rains and Charlotte Lord, Director of Facilities view new sidewalk in front of Old Town Elementary School.