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Great expectations

When building roads, build them beautifully

A TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT EDITORIAL

For years, possibly for generations, Tallahassee newcomers have asked where all the sidewalks are. Where, they wonder, in a youthful town of relatively mild climate, are the bike paths that would provide some easy recreation and transportation options?

With the implementation of Blueprint 2000 projects, those holistic transportation and environmental infrastructure projects voters approved through an additional 1-percent sales tax, we'll begin making progress on sidewalks and bikepaths.

This week the design guidelines for widening Capital Circle Southeast to six lanes from Centerview Drive to Tram Road show a mix of traditional and meandering sidewalks as well as hammocks of vegetation and intersections that are friendly and safe for walkers and cyclists.

Each segment should be voted on, so if there are areas where such amenities would be unused and a waste of money, they can be deleted.

"A community asset, not just an ugly road," is the way Blueprint 2000 Director Jim Davis describes the \$35 million project that is set to be completed by 2007. "We have great expectations that our corridors are efficient, maintainable and beautiful."

This is exactly what the voters of Blueprint 2000 indicated they wanted, too.