

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

**THROUGH:** Roland DeBlois, AICP  
Community Development Director

**FROM:** Bill Schutt, AICP  
Chief, Long-Range Planning

**DATE:** November 18, 2019

**RE:** Consideration of the Gifford Neighborhood Plan Annual Report Card for 2019

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It is requested that the following information be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of December 3, 2019.

**DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS**

From May 2013 through July 2014, the county performed an update of the 2002 Gifford Neighborhood Plan. The updated plan was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on July 15, 2014. That plan was the culmination of a grass roots effort by the Progressive Civic League of Gifford, Gifford residents, and Indian River County to improve the quality of life and economic conditions for Gifford residents. Through considerable interaction with residents of Gifford at community meetings, county staff prepared the neighborhood plan which presents a strategy and a series of actions to address issues, concerns, and opportunities identified by Gifford residents. Approval of the plan committed the Board (as well as other responsible parties) to undertake specific actions identified in the “action plan” section of the overall neighborhood plan.

Action 1.5 of the plan states the following:

“Each year, through 2020, the County Planning Division will provide a Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014 action plan/implementation plan “report card” to the Progressive Civic League of Gifford and will present the report card to the Board of County Commissioners at a Board of County Commissioners meeting”.

This report and the attached implementation matrix “report card” constitute the fifth annual report card for the Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014, and has been provided to the Progressive Civic League of Gifford. The Board is now to review the attached Gifford Neighborhood Plan annual report card for 2019.

## **ANALYSIS**

The Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014 is a 108 page plan that contains an introduction and description of the planning process, data (existing conditions), analysis, action plan, implementation and funding sections, and appendices containing reference information including a history of Gifford. Following its July 15, 2014 approval, the plan has been implemented as specified in the plan's action plan and implementation sections.

- **Action Plan**

The action plan section (strategies, objectives, and actions) is “the heart” of the neighborhood plan (attachment # 2). As structured, the action plan contains 15 objectives that relate to major issues and topics identified during community meetings. Following is the list of the neighborhood plan objectives in the order presented in the plan:

1. Communication/Coordination
2. Housing Rehabilitation/Property Maintenance
3. Demolition/Repair of Dilapidated and Unsafe Structures
4. Housing Ownership
5. Economic Development/Employment/Technical Training
6. Illegal Uses, Non-conformities, and Land Use Compatibility
7. Sidewalk Improvements
8. Street Maintenance
9. 45th Street/ MLK Blvd “Main Street” Beautification and Improvements
10. Traffic/Safety Improvements
11. Drainage Improvements
12. Street Lighting
13. Park Improvements
14. Funding
15. Crime Prevention/ Law Enforcement.

Under each objective, there is a set of specific actions that contribute to meeting the objective. Each action item identifies a specific action, a responsible party or parties, and either a completion date (year) or an indication that the action is to be implemented on an on-going basis. Responsible parties identified in the action plan include: the Planning Division, the Public Works Department, the Parks Division, Code Enforcement, the Progressive Civic League of Gifford, the School Board, Indian River State College, Road and Bridge, Traffic Engineering, Indian River Farms Water Control District, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Health Department, the Sheriff's Office, the County Attorney's Office, and the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce. Overall, the plan contains 82 specific actions.

Community Development Department staff has coordinated with all responsible departments, entities, and the Progressive Civic League of Gifford to ensure implementation of the plan's actions. As shown on the attached “report card” matrix (attachment # 1), of the 82 actions in the plan, 33 had 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, or 2019 due dates and all of those actions, except one, were completed or are in progress.

There are three actions with either 2018 or 2019 due dates that are in progress; one element of one of those actions (Action 7.3) is on hold and is re-stated below.

**“Action 7.3 and 7.4 – By 2018, the County Public Works Department will repair, connect, and construct the sidewalk along 45<sup>th</sup> Street, from 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to U.S. #1 and by 2021 along 45<sup>th</sup> from 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where necessary right-of-way is available (has been acquired). The County will seek to install segments of a 45<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk between 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue prior to 2021.”**

As reported at a 2017 PCLG meeting, and as reported to the Board that same year, the 45<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk connection to U.S. 1 in the vicinity of the railroad is not possible at this time due to the timing of All Aboard Florida/Brightline proposed improvements that preclude sidewalk construction at this time. To be re-considered as All Aboard Florida/Brightline improvements move forward. **This action is currently on hold.**

With respect to items 7.3 and 7.4 of the Gifford Neighborhood Plan, Public Works continues to pursue the three intersection improvement of 41<sup>st</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> Street and Old Dixie and US-1. The County recently met with Virgin Trains regarding the railroad crossing and the design proposed by Virgin Trains. We have provided the plans to Virgin Trains Engineering Team and they are evaluating the plans for incorporation into the Virgin Trains Crossing Plans.

A sidewalk between 43<sup>rd</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue does not exist. Design of this segment of 45<sup>th</sup> Street roadway and sidewalk was awarded on February 6, 2018. This item may be completed ahead of the 2021 date.

The two “in progress” actions are Action 10.2 and Action 11.8. Both are re-stated and discussed below.

**“Action 10.2 – By 2019, the County will signalize and/or improve the 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue/45<sup>th</sup> Street and 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue 49<sup>th</sup> Street intersections, if adequate right-of-way has been obtained. The Progressive Civic League of Gifford will assist the County during the right-of-way acquisition process.”**

The completion date for this project should be changed to 2020 as the project will be completed by a developer in that year.

**“Action 11.8 – By 2018, the County’s Public Works Department will coordinate with the Indian River Farms Water Control District (IRFWCD), identify any appropriate safety barriers along canals in Gifford that are warranted by accident data and that the District will allow, and report its findings to the Board of County Commissioners and the Progressive Civic League of Gifford. Findings shall include an evaluation of culverting improvements associated with Action 9.3.”**

The completion date of action 11.8 was changed last year to 2019. This action is currently in progress. Public Works is currently working to identify appropriate safety barriers along canals.

There are 43 ongoing actions in the plan that require periodic implementation. All 43 ongoing actions have been completed and continue to be implemented (100%), including on-going communication between staff, community leaders, and community residents.

Larger projects called for in the action plan, such as the 45<sup>th</sup> Street beautification project, were completed ahead of schedule. With that project, staff from several departments “stepped up” to obtain funding, design the project, obtain easements, adjust or expand project scope, and implement construction of improvements. Since 2014, a limited number of action items were delayed for specific reasons as approved by the Board. For each of the few items delayed, new deadlines are in place. Some actions were completed ahead of schedule and some items were expanded in scope during implementation. Finally, some significant improvements have been made in the Gifford area since 2014 that are not referenced in the Action Plan. Such improvements include projects at the Victor Hart Sr. Complex.

Following is a summary of the implementation of the Gifford Neighborhood Plan actions.

Action Timeframe	# of Actions	Actions Implemented	Actions in Progress or on hold	Actions Not Due Yet
Ongoing	43	43	----	----
Completion date between 2014-2019	33	30	3	----
Completion date after 2019	6	6	----	6
Total	82	79	3	6

**FUNDING**

Implementation of the Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2014 will continue to require use of various current and future funding sources. Funding sources include the General Fund, gas taxes, sales taxes, the MSTU, grants, and other appropriate funding sources. Beginning in 2014, larger projects in Gifford were incorporated into the County’s Capital Improvements Element (CIE) and that practice continued in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and is included in the draft 2019 CIE update. The Board will consider the full CIE update on December 3, 2019. An updated copy of the draft Gifford Neighborhood Plan Schedule of Capital Improvements 2019 is attached (attachment #3).

**CONCLUSION**

The neighborhood plan’s “action plan” section contains a total of 82 actions; each action is related to an objective and is structured to identify a specific task, a responsible party or parties, and a completion date or indication that implementation is on-going. For the 2019 “report card” period, all actions with a 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, or 2019 due date and all ongoing actions have been completed or are in progress. Where appropriate, updated completion dates have been added to certain “in-progress” items as described in this report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners review and accept the Gifford Neighborhood Plan 2019 implementation report card.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Implementation Matrix “2019 Report Card”

2. GNP Action Plan (strategies, objectives, and actions)
3. Draft 2019 CIE Gifford Neighborhood Plan Items

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