

Fowler Project To Include Sidewalks

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TAMPA - This time of year, thousands of people attend the Renaissance Festival at the Museum of Science & Industry, and many of them must trudge a "cow path" along Fowler Avenue because there are no sidewalks for nearly 20 blocks.

That problem will be corrected next year when the Florida Department of Transportation begins work on a \$7 million repaving project on Fowler Avenue. The project extends for 3.4 miles, from 30th Street/Bruce B. Downs Boulevard to Riverhills Drive in Temple Terrace.

Project manager Steve Carroll said any time the FDOT resurfaces a state road, it brings the road into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The six-lane road must be accessible to pedestrians, so the department will add sidewalks on the south side of Fowler between 30th Street and Bull Run Drive. Sidewalks will be added on the north side between 50th and 52nd streets.

"We're going to play connect-the-dots with the sidewalks," Carroll said.

The department also plans to replace several pedestrian crosswalk signals with newer countdown signals. "They're the same ones we're installing on Kennedy Boulevard," he said. "There's less confusion when people are crossing."

Carroll said the design should be completed by December. Construction is scheduled for summer 2007.