Old Dixie Trail Project Development and Environment Study

Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Technical Memorandum

August 2024

Project Limits:

Auburndale Trailhead on the Auburndale TECO Trail and Haines City Trailhead on the Haines City Trail Polk County, Florida

Financial Project ID: 435391-1-22-01

Prepared for:



Florida Department of Transportation District One 801 N. Broadway Avenue Bartow, Florida 33830

Prepared by:

HNTB Corporation 201 N. Franklin Street Suite 1200 Tampa, FL 33602

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER ENDORSEMENT

I hereby certify that I am a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Florida and practicing with HNTB Corporation. HNTB Corporation is authorized via Certificate Number EB-0006500 to operate as an Engineering Business by the Florida State Board of Professional Engineers, State of Florida Department of Professional Regulation. I have prepared or supervised the preparation of the evaluation, findings, conclusions, recommendations, or professional opinions/advice contained in this document. My endorsement constitutes my approval of these items.

PROJECT:	Old Dixie Trail Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Technical
	Memorandum
	FPN: 435391-1-22-01
LOCATION:	Auburndale Trailhead on the Auburndale TECO Trail and
	Haines City Trailhead on the Haines City Trail
	Polk County, Florida
CLIENT:	Florida Department of Transportation
	District One

The results contained in this report were developed using procedures and references standard to the transportation engineering practice. These references and procedures were applied using professional judgment and experience.

Name:	<u>Benjamin S. Rodgers, PE</u>	
P.E. No.:	80350	AMIN S. ROOG
Date:	August 2024	No 80350
Signature:		B: STATE OF

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

As part of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) commitment to providing multimodal facilities and connectivity throughout the state, they have embarked on a two-phase process to determine feasibility for a multi-use trail from Auburndale to Haines City. Phase 1 of the project is a Feasibility Study in which existing conditions data were collected and analyzed for the project study area in an effort to identify end-to-end trail alternatives that best meet the project's goals and objectives of providing regional connectivity, contributing to safe multimodal access to community and recreational destinations, enhancing quality of life, and fostering economic development in the area. Phase 2 of the project is the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study in which the trail alignments identified in Phase 1 will be further analyzed to select a preferred alternative for the multi-use trail connecting the Auburndale TECO trailhead in Auburndale to the Haines City trailhead in Haines City.

1.1 Project Description

The purpose of this technical memorandum is to serve as an abbreviated safety study to determine if improvements can be made to reduce the quantity and severity of bicycle/pedestrian collisions occurring along the road within the limits of the planned Old Dixie Trail in Polk County, Florida. The trail is proposed to be 12 feet wide, but will narrow to 8' or 10' in some areas. The path of the trail is shown below in **Figure 1**.





2.0 QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT

2.1 Crash Data

Bicycle/pedestrian only crash data was taken from both CAR on-line and SignalFour Analytics during a 5year period from 2015 to 2019. For locations where the trail will run along the state highway system (SHS), data was pulled from both CAR on-line and SignalFour Analytics. For locations where the trail will not run along the SHS, data was only pulled from SignalFour Analytics. The collision diagrams and summaries are found in **Appendix A, Crash Data**.

2.2 Crash Analysis

A total of 18 bicycle and pedestrian collisions were reported along the entire trail. Six (33%) of the collisions were involving a bicycle and 12 (67%) of the collisions were involving a pedestrian. The severity of the collisions was as follows: 1 (5.6%) fatal collision, 16 (88.8%) injury collisions, and 1 (5.6%) property damage collision. Of the total collisions, 11 (61%) were during nighttime and 2 (11%) was during wet weather.

The following observations were reached based on a desktop-level evaluation of the crash history and existing conditions.

- The crash reports for ten (56%) of the collisions stated that the bicyclist/pedestrian was riding/walking on the paved or unpaved shoulder. The construction of the Old Dixie Trail will allow bicyclists/pedestrians a safe space to ride/walk after completion.
- A bicycle collision occurred on the south side of the unsignalized intersection of Pilaklakaha Avenue at McKean Street in 2019 (post-construction of Pilaklakaha Avenue road diet and trail). Consider exchanging the existing pedestrian warning sign (W11-2) with a bicycle/pedestrian warning sign (W11-15) and supplemental trail x-ing plaque (W11-15P) to warn motorists that there are both bicyclists and pedestrians crossing and there is a trail with more than typical bicycle/pedestrian traffic crossing at this location. Consider an evaluation to tighten the radii of the curbs at this intersection to slow motorists when making right turns.
- A pedestrian collision occurred on the north side of the unsignalized intersection of Stadium Road at Hampton Street. The construction of the Old Dixie Trail would mitigate similar crashes because the new trail is proposed to be closer to the intersection, there will be crossing pavement markings, and proper curb ramps.
- A student pedestrian was struck crossing Stadium Road, east of Bennett Street, not using the existing marked crosswalk. The collision occurred at 6:40 am, with the bell schedule starting at 7:00 am. The existing school zone signs are spaced for the criteria distance upstream of the existing crosswalk. Consider relocating the existing westbound S5-1 sign approximately 150' further upstream to alert motorists in advance of where this student crossed the road. Relocate the existing westbound S1-1 sign as well to be 100' in advance of the new location of the S5-1 sign. The existing midblock crosswalk markings are a standard crosswalk style. Consider special emphasis markings at the existing marked midblock crosswalk per the FDOT TEM, Figure 5.2-

13. The existing school zone does not have SCHOOL pavement messages in either direction. Consider adding SCHOOL pavement messages to the school zone per the FDOT Speed Zoning Manual, Section 15.5.

- A pedestrian was struck on the southern crosswalk at the intersection of US 17/Shinn Boulevard at East Pomelo Street, which will be part of the proposed path of the trail. **Consider a leading** pedestrian interval when the southern crosswalk pushbuttons are activated to give pedestrians an opportunity to get into the crosswalk and be visible to motorists making an eastbound approach right turn. Consider a "turning vehicles stop for peds" (R10-15a) blank-out sign on the eastbound mast arm when the pedestrian signal is activated for the southern crosswalk to alert motorists of pedestrians. The mast will need a structural evaluation for the addition of this blank-out sign. The blank-out sign should be ground mounted if the mast arm cannot support the added loading. Consider special emphasis markings throughout the entire intersection to increase crosswalk visibility.
- A bicyclist collision occurred within the eastern crosswalk of US 17/East Hinson Avenue at North 6th Street. The crash report stated that the bicyclist was at fault from crossing during a red light. Consider programming the signal timing parameters to give pedestrians priority when the pushbutton is activated and decrease crossing wait times. Consider replacing the pedestrian push buttons with two-tone audible and visual confirmation buttons to let pedestrians know that the actuation has been made. Separate the pedestrian signals by having separate standalone poles for all curb ramps at the intersection and replace with new pedestrian countdown signals. Consider special emphasis markings throughout the entire intersection to increase crosswalk visibility. Consider a leading pedestrian interval when the eastern crosswalk and be visible to motorists in anticipation of the trail.

2.3 Best Practices

In addition to the safety recommendations, correctible engineering best practice items and general observations from existing conditions with no crash history were identified. The following is a list of these items.

Berkley Road at Deen Blvd: If a pedestrian bridge is not being proposed at this location, a signal warrant should be considered at this intersection to give trail users an opportunity to safely cross within this intersection. If a signal is not warranted, a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) should be studied for implementation. The closest traffic count data available on the major approach, Berkey Road, was collected approximately 1300' south of the intersection located just north of Old Dixie Highway. The count showed an afternoon peak volume of 1428 vehicles/hour in 2019. Twenty or more trail users per hour would warrant a PHB per MUTCD, Figure 4F-2. Per TEM 5.2.5.1, crosswalks threshold at midblock or unsignalized intersection connecting a shared-use path may apply a 50 percent reduction to the recommended pedestrian threshold. A rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) would not meet criteria per TEM 5.2.5.2 since Berkley Road is above 45 mph.

- Old Dixie Highway at Lake Ariana Boulevard: The northern leg crossing is approximately 60 feet. A roundabout is planned at this intersection, which will improve the safety of this crossing shortening it.
- Ramsgate Road at Pearl Street: There is a white painted gore on the north side of this intersection. The gore should be yellow since the two lanes are opposing directions of traffic. Additionally, the trail is planned to cross Pilaklakha Avenue on the east side of this intersection. Consider moving the trail crossing of Pilaklakha Avenue to the existing RRFB midblock crossing east of Alberta Avenue/Hawthorne Road because of the eastbound curvature of the road and intersection geometry at Pearl Street. The existing RRFB will be upgraded to include back-to-back signs on both sides of the road per MUTCD. Consider a stop line with the STOP HERE FOR PEDESTRIANS signs to further enhance safety.
- Stadium Road at Old Lake Alfred Road: Consider moving this crossing west across Old Lake Alfred Road and add an RRFB with special emphasis markings within the crosswalk.
- West Pierce Street, west of Lake Cummings Boulevard: Consider an RRFB at this midblock crossing
 with special emphasis markings within the crosswalk. Consider locating this crossing a safe
 distance from the roadway curve. If it's not feasible to place the proposed midblock crossing far
 from the curve, then consider installing additional advanced warning signs (with flashing beacon)
 before to the midblock crossing.
- Lake Shore Way at E Polmelo St: Consider special emphasis markings throughout the entire intersection. Consider "turning vehicles stop for peds" (R10-15a) signs for the northbound and westbound approaches. Consider a leading pedestrian interval for the eastern crosswalk.
- US 17 at US 27 on/off ramps: Consider crosswalks with RRFBs at all ramp crossings. Install signs and pavement markings per FDOT FDM Exhibits 230-17a.
- Proposed midblock crossings with PHB or RRFB on the state roads need to follow the TEM 5.2 criteria and obtain DTOE's approval.
- Pedestrian lighting will be provided/evaluated at new midblock crossings to ensure proper crosswalk illumination.
- Per TEM 5.2.7.3, an audible warning message that states "WAIT FOR TRAFFIC TO STOP THEN CROSS WITH CAUTION" when activated for all RRFB installations.

3.0 CONCLUSION

A construction cost estimate was calculated as part of this technical memorandum using the twelvemonth FDOT Statewide Moving Averages. Overall, the cost estimate for the proposed improvements totaled to \$125,320.77 or \$14,805.64 annually. A net present value analysis and benefit-cost analysis were also calculated. The results from the analyses of the overall improvements are as follows.

- Number of crashes potentially reduced: total 4
- Monetary Value of Benefits: \$403,561.44
- Monetary Value of Cost: \$ 150,562.39
- Benefit-cost ratio: 2.43
- Net present Value: \$252,999.05

Based on the benefit-cost ratio and net present value, these improvements are expected to have a beneficial impact along this corridor. The **Construction Cost Estimate, Benefit-Cost Analysis, and Net Present Value Analysis** are found in **Appendices B through D**.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Crash Data

COLLISION SUMMARY

Sectio	n:	1				State Ro	oute:								
Locati	on:	Ramsgate Ro	d from Dento	n Ave to L	JS 92	M.P.:	-		Engineer: HNTB						
Study	Period:	1/1/2015 to	12/31/2019			County:	P	olk							
No. of	Years:	5				-									
								Prop.	Day/	Wet/		Crash Report			
No.	I	Date	Day	Time	Туре	Fatal	Injury	Damage	Night	Dry	Contributing Cause	Number			
1	11/:	26/2015	Thu.	18:18	Pedestrian		Х		Day	Dry	FTYRW	<u>85620241</u>			
2	2/1	6/2019	Sat.	17:05	Bicycle			х	Day	Dry	FTYRW	<u>85895281</u>			
3	9/1	1/2019	Wed.	0:11	Bicycle		х		Night	Dry	Other	85895623			

Total No.	Fatal	Injury	Property Damage	Angle	Left Turn	Head On	Ran Into Ditch	Rear End	Side Swipe	Collision w/ Sign	Overturned	Collision w/ Pole	Hit Animal	Run Off Road	Other
3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0	67	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
One	Ped/					Careless		Improper		Improper	Disregarded	Failed to	Improper	No Improper	
Vehicle	Bike	Day	Night	Dry	Wet	Driving	FTYRW	Turn	DUI	Lane Change	Traffic Signal	Maintain Vehicle	Load	Driving	Other
0	3	2	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	100	67	33	100	0	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33

Comments

Notice:

Please be aware that the records you requested contain information compiled and collected for the purpose of obtaining Federal-aid funding for safety improvement projects. Under Federal law (23 U.S.C. § 409), these records are not subject to discovery or admissible into evidence in any court proceeding and may not be considered for other purposes in any action for damages arising from any occurrence at a location mentioned or addressed in the records.



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PILAKLA	KAHA AVE	NELSON ST
		SHEET 3
H SUMMAR	Y	I
URY	FATAL	TOTAL
	0	2
	0	1
)	0	3

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COLLISION SUMMARY

Section: Location:				akaha Ave to	CR 555	State R M.P.:			-	Engineer	HNTB	_				
Study Peri No. of Yea		5 to 12/31/ 5	/2019			County:	<u></u> Р	olk	-							
No.	Date	Da	ay	Time	Туре	Fatal	Injury	Prop. Damage	Day/ Night	Wet/ Dry		buting use	Crash Report Number		Comments	
1	2/28/2017	Tu	le.	6:20	Pedestrian		x		Night	Dry	FTY	′RW	<u>85621093</u>			
2	3/13/2017	Mo	on.	9:02	Bicycle		x		Day	Dry	No Improp	per Driving	<u>85621123</u>			
3	2/13/2018	Τu	le.	6:40	Pedestrian		Х		Night	Dry	No Improp	per Driving	<u>85621697</u>			
Total				Property		Left	Head	Ran Into	Rear	Side	Collision w/		Collision w/	Hit	Run Off	
No.	Fata	l Inju	ury	Damage		Turn	On	Ditch	End	Swipe	Sign	Overturned	Pole	Animal	Road	Other
3	0		3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	0	10	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
One	Ped	/					Careless		Improper		Improper	Disregarded	Failed to	Improper	No Improper	
Vehicl	e Bike	Da	ay	Night	Dry	Wet	Driving	FTYRW	Turn	DUI	Lane Change	-		Load	Driving	Other
0	3	1	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
0	100	3	3	67	100	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	0

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COLLISION SUMMARY

Section:	9	State Route:	
Location:	US 17/92 from Pierce St to Lily Ave	M.P.:	-
Study Period:	1/1/2015 to 12/31/2019	County:	Polk
No. of Years:	5		

Wet/ Crash Report Prop. Day/ Date Time Type Fatal **Contributing Cause** Number No. Day Injury Damage Night Dry Comments 4/3/2015 Pedestrian 84065506 1 Fri. 21:21 Night Dry **FTYRW** х 2 10/2/2015 21:05 Bicycle Night Wet FTYRW 84065986 Fri. х 7/25/2016 FTYRW Mon. 8:46 Bicycle Dry 85833939 3 Х Day 4 7/4/2017 Tue. 23:15 Pedestrian х Night Dry Other 86939140 5 9/26/2017 Tue. 5:03 Pedestrian Night Dry Other 85834158 х 6 2/8/2018 Thu. 22:49 Pedestrian х Night Dry Other 87666449 FTYRW 7 12/22/2018 Sat. 2:10 Pedestrian Х Night Dry 88752930 1/12/2019 FTYRW 87869181 8 Sat. 16:50 Bicycle х Day Dry Careless Driving 9 3/2/2019 Sat. Day Dry 85834411 8:17 Pedestrian х 11/29/2019 10 Fri. 17:56 Pedestrian Day Dry Improper Lane Change 89372323 Х 11 12/16/2019 Mon. 19:00 Pedestrian Night Dry Improper Backing 89372347 х 12/28/2019 FTYRW 89094192 12 Sat. 19:31 Pedestrian Night Wet х

Engineer: HNTB

Total			Property		Left	Head	Ran Into	Rear	Side	Collision w/		Collision w/	Hit	Run Off	
No.	Fatal	Injury	Damage	Angle	Turn	On	Ditch	End	Swipe	Sign	Overturned	Pole	Animal	Road	Other
12	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
%	8	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
One	Ped/					Careless		Improper		Improper	Disregarded	Failed to	Improper	No Improper	
Vehicle	Bike	Day	Night	Dry	Wet	Driving	FTYRW	Backing	DUI	Lane Change	Traffic Signal	Maintain Vehicle	Load	Driving	Other
0	12	4	8	10	2	1	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
0	100	33	67	83	17	8	50	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	25

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Appendix B: Construction Cost Estimate

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE Old Dixie Trail Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Improvements Polk County, FL

	Polk County, FL				
ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	COST
0110 1 1	CLEARING & GRUBBING	AC	0.02	\$68,454.21	\$1,369.08
0110 4 10	REMOVAL OF EXISTING CONCRETE	SY	8	\$30.78	\$246.24
0120 1	REGULAR EXCAVATION	СҮ	8	\$14.96	\$119.68
0120 6	EMBANKMENT	СҮ	26	\$26.01	\$676.26
0520 1 10	CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER, TYPE F	LF	200	\$51.71	\$10,342.00
0522 1	CONCRETE SIDEWALK AND DRIVEWAY, 4" THICK	SY	8	\$57.53	\$460.24
0570 1 2	PERFORMANCE TURF, SOD	SY	700	\$4.53	\$3,171.00
0630 2 11	CONDUIT, FURNISH & INSTALL, OPEN TRENCH	LF	120	\$15.41	\$1,849.20
0632 7 2	SIGNAL CABLE- REPAIR/REPLACE/OTHER, FURNISH & INSTALL	LF	120	\$8.10	\$972.00
0646 1 11	ALUMINUM SIGNALS POLE, PEDESTAL	EA	8	\$1,936.29	\$15,490.32
0646 1 40	ALUMINUM SIGNALS POLE, RELOCATE	EA	1	\$1,509.12	\$1,509.12
0653 1 11	PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL, FURNISH & INSTALL LED COUNTDOWN, 1 W	AS	8	\$826.32	\$6,610.56
0665 1 12	PEDESTRIAN DETECTOR, FURNISH & INSTALL, ACCESSIBLE	EA	8	\$2,393.04	\$19,144.32
0671 2 40	TRAFFIC CONTROLLER, MODIFY	ΕA	2	\$3,203.40	\$6,406.80
0700 1 12	SINGLE POST SIGN, F&I GROUND MOUNT, 12-20 SF	AS	1	\$1,526.08	\$1,526.08
0700 1 50	SINGLE POST SIGN, RELOCATE	AS	1	\$283.38	\$283.38
0700 1 60	SINGLE POST SIGN, REMOVE	AS	1	\$44.36	\$44.36
0700 3502	SIGN PANEL, RELOCATE, 12-20 SF	EA	1	\$484.25	\$484.25
0700 11391	ELECTRONIC DISPLAY SIGN, FURNISH & INSTALL OVERHEAD MOU	EA	1	\$6,072.80	\$6,072.80
0711 11123	THERMOPLASTIC, STANDARD, WHITE, SOLID, 12" FOR CROSSWAL	LF	860	\$3.19	\$2,743.40
0711 11125	THERMOPLASTIC, STANDARD, WHITE, SOLID, 24" FOR STOP LINE	LF	100	\$5.68	\$568.00
0711 11160	THERMOPLASTIC, STANDARD, WHITE, MESSAGE OR SYMBOL	EA	2	\$162.96	\$325.92
0711 14125	THERMOPLASTIC, PREFORMED, WHITE, SOLID, 24"	LF	720	\$16.31	\$11,743.20
0711 17 1	THERMOPLASTIC, REMOVE EXISTING THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMEN	SF	860	\$1.58	\$1,358.80
	COMPONENT SUB-TOTAL				\$93,517.01
	PROJECT UNKNOWNS (15%)				\$14,027.55
	SUB-TOTAL				\$107,544.57
	MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC (10%)				\$10,754.46
	SUB-TOTAL				\$118,299.02
	MOBILIZATION (10%)				\$10,754.46
	SUB-TOTAL				\$129,053.48
	DESIGN (20%)				\$21,508.91
	SUB-TOTAL				\$150,562.39
	PROJECT GRAND TOTAL				\$150,562.39

Appendix C: Benefit-Cost Analysis

Benefit-Cost Analysis

District:		One	County:	16 - Pol	k		Date Prepared:	09/29/22
Location.	Old	Divie Trail	Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety I	mnrovements				
Location.	Olu	Dixit IIan	Dicycle/1 cuesti ian Sarety 1	mprovements				
Section :		N/A	Beg. Milepost :	N/A	En	d Milepost :		
Rdway T	ype:	ALL CRAS	SH RATE CATEGORIES					
	Cont	rol Element:	Other (describe in b	ox below)				
			rail warning sign, special emp L and pedestrian signal impr		s, school	zone adjustments	/improvements,	

ANNUAL COST OF IMPROVEMENTS

		Service	Capital Recovery	
Туре	Cost	Life	Factor	Total
ROW		100	0.0408	\$ -
P.E.C.E.I.	\$ 21,508.91	15	0.0899	\$ 1,933.65
Structure		75	0.0425	\$ -
Roadway	\$ 22,610.62	20	0.0736	\$ 1,664.14
Drainage		20	0.0736	\$ -
Signal	\$ 71,735.60	10	0.1233	\$ 8,845.00
Other	\$ 34,707.26	5	0.2246	\$ 7,795.25
Sub-Total	\$ 150,562.39			\$ 20,238.04
		An	nual Cost =	\$ 20,238.04

Total number of crashes =	18	Primary crash reduction factor (%):	19
# of correctable crashes, PC =	4	implement a leading pedestrian interval	
# of years of crash data, YD =	5		
PC/YD =	0.80	Additional crash reduction factor:	18
Crash reduction factor, CRF =	39.42%	Install High-Visibility Crosswalk	
CRF x (PC/YD) =	0.32		
Cost per crash, CPC =	\$155,695.00	Additional crash reduction factor:	3.8
Benefit =	\$49,106	Pedestrain Countdown Signal	

BENEFIT/COST RATIO

Benefit	_	\$49,106.15		2.43
Cost	—	\$20,238.04	• —	2.43

Comments: Crash reduction factors are provided from the CMF Clearinghouse.

Roadway Design Florida's Transportation Engineers

Rev. 02/2014

Appendix D: Net Present Value Analysis

Net Present Value Evaluation (Old Dixie Trail Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Improvements)

Year	CRF x (PC/YD)	Cost per Crash	(P/A,I,y) Factor	Present Value
1	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.96	\$47 <i>,</i> 829.50
2	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.92	\$45,836.61
3	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.89	\$44,341.94
4	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.85	\$42,349.04
5	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.82	\$40,854.37
6	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.79	\$39,359.70
7	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.76	\$37,865.02
8	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.73	\$36,370.35
9	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.70	\$34,875.68
10	0.32	\$155,695.00	0.68	\$33,879.23

Total Present Value

Benefit Cost

03,561.44
50,562.39

Net Present Value \$252,999.05