

City of
Isle of Palms
South Carolina

MOBILITY STUDY



Isle of Palms City Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Purpose & Process

- Provide the City with the guidance and resources needed to inform future decision-making related to improving safety, accessibility, and connectivity.
- Three (3) main steps taken:
 - Data Collection & Analysis
 - Public Engagement
 - Field Survey
 - Needs Assessment
 - Project Recommendations

PROJECT TIMELINE

- **APRIL 2025**
 - ✓ *Project Kick Off*
- **JUNE–JULY 2025**
 - ✓ *Field Survey*
- **SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2025**
 - ✓ *Online Public Survey*
 - ✓ *In-Person Public Open House*
- **NOVEMBER 2025–FEBRUARY 2026**
 - ✓ *Existing Condition Analysis*
- **MARCH–MAY 2026**
 - ✓ *Needs Assessment*
 - ✓ *Project Identification*
- **JUNE–JULY 2026**
 - ✓ *Project Scoring*
 - ✓ *Selection of Recommended Projects*
 - ✓ *Cost Estimates of Recommended Projects*
- **AUGUST 2026**
 - ✓ *Final Consideration*

Public Engagement

Online Public Survey

- Online Public Survey was live from September 16th to October 31st
- Consisted of 15 questions related to mobility, safety, connectivity, and accessibility
- 463 total participants providing about 13,700 total responses

In-Person Open House

- Fall Open House held on October 20th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the IOP Rec. Center
- Included several interactive stations to allow for public feedback
- Approx. 20 people attended the event

Public Survey Map Results

SURVEY MAP Q1: UNSAFE STREETS

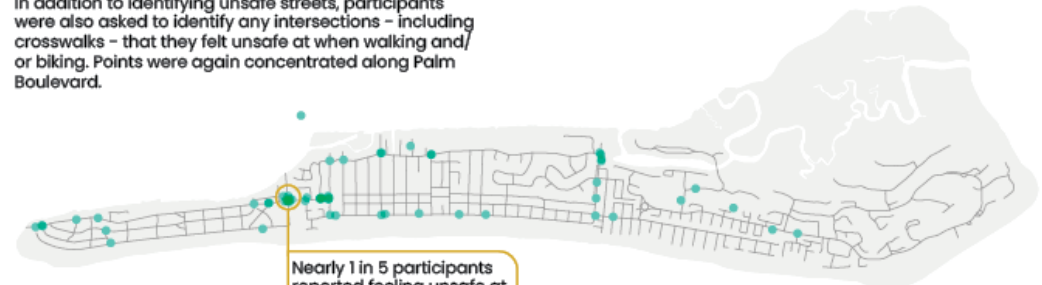
Participants were asked to identify any specific walking and/or biking routes/streets that they felt unsafe on. Palm and Waterway Boulevards received the majority of comments.



● Point Placed (58 Total)
— Line Drawn

SURVEY MAP Q2: UNSAFE INTERSECTIONS

In addition to identifying unsafe streets, participants were also asked to identify any intersections – including crosswalks – that they felt unsafe at when walking and/or biking. Points were again concentrated along Palm Boulevard.



● Point Placed (62 Total)

Nearly 1 in 5 participants reported feeling unsafe at the IOP Connector-Palm Boulevard intersection.

SURVEY MAP Q3: NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE

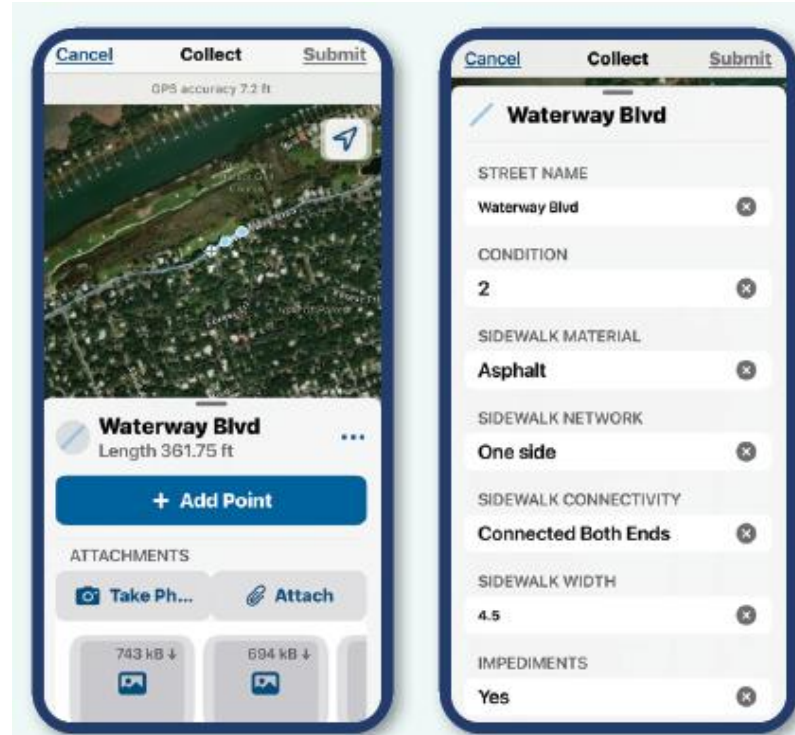
When asked where respondents think improvements are needed, most of the points identified were concentrated along streets with existing sidewalk and/or bike infrastructure.



● Bike Lane (51 Total)
● New Sidewalk (43 Total)
● Crosswalk (29 Total)
● Sidewalk Widening (15 Total)
● Benches, Bike Rack, Shade Trees (10 Total)
● Lighting (7 Total)

Field Survey & Mobile App

- Field survey conducted during Summer 2025
- Involved several in-person site visits and walkthroughs, providing firsthand observations of sidewalk conditions
- Developed an online mobile field survey application to evaluate and catalog sidewalk conditions in real time using a smartphone or tablet
- Summary of the city's sidewalk inventory is included as Appendix A



Existing Conditions Inventory

- Roadways
 - Parking Facilities
- Transit Routes
- Active Transportation
 - **Sidewalk Infrastructure**
 - Bike Facilities
- Network Usage
- Safety Conditions

8

Miles of Sidewalks
along 7.5 Miles of Streets

63% were Concrete Pavement Material

37% were Asphalt Pavement Material

12% Exceed the Standard Width
Most of which are in the Front Beach Area

86% Standard 4-5 Ft Width

2% Under the Standard Width

5%

were
identified
as in Poor
condition

62%

were
identified
as in Ok
condition

33%

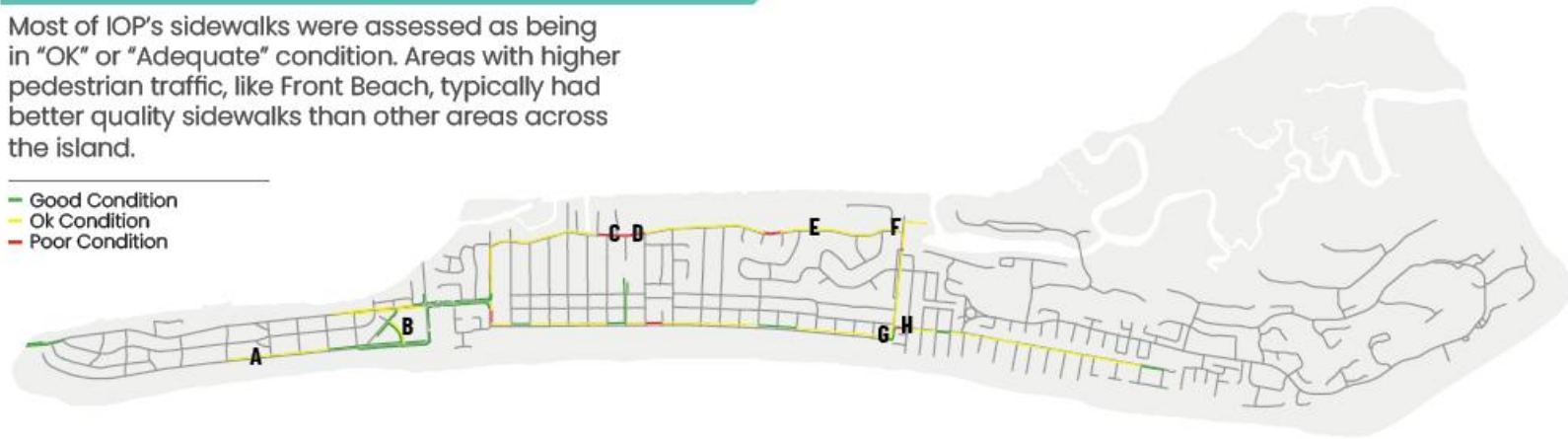
were
identified
as in Good
condition

Sidewalk Conditions

SIDEWALK CONDITIONS & IMPEDIMENTS

Most of IOP's sidewalks were assessed as being in "OK" or "Adequate" condition. Areas with higher pedestrian traffic, like Front Beach, typically had better quality sidewalks than other areas across the island.

- Good Condition
- Ok Condition
- Poor Condition



Some of the impediments or obstructions observed included:



The most common impediment found across the island was sand and/or dirt covering the sidewalk. While small amounts are expected, there were several instances where the sand was fairly deep, creating an obstacle particularly for those with wheels, such as bikes, scooters, strollers, wagons, etc.

Network Usage

12,300 Total Daily Trip Takers

- 3,600 were IOP residents
- 9,700 were residents of the BCD Region *

37,000 Total Daily Trips

- 12,300 were taken by IOP residents
- 27,600 were taken by residents of the BCD Region *

* Includes IOP Residents

TOTAL TRIPS BY STREET SEGMENTS

The IOP Connector experiences the highest daily trip volume likely due to it being the primary ingress and egress route onto the island. Palm Boulevard also experiences high daily trip volumes as it is the main corridor for beach goers.



— < 500 Trips
— 501 - 1000 Trips
— 1001 - 2500 Trips
— 2501 - 5000 Trips
— 5000 - 10000 Trips
— > 10000 Trips

Data Source: Replica Network Link Volumes, Fall 2025

WALK COUNTS

Some of the highest walk counts outside of the Wild Dunes area were along Palm and Ocean Boulevards - likely a result of people parking along the streets and walking to the beach.



— < 500
— 501 - 1000
— 1001 - 2000
— 2000 - 3000
— > 3000

Data Source: Strava 2024 Annual Walk Counts

BIKE COUNTS

Palm Boulevard between Breach Inlet and the IOP Connector had among the highest bike counts. Most other streets with comparable counts, such as Ocean and Waterway Boulevards, were part of either the ECG or B2B.

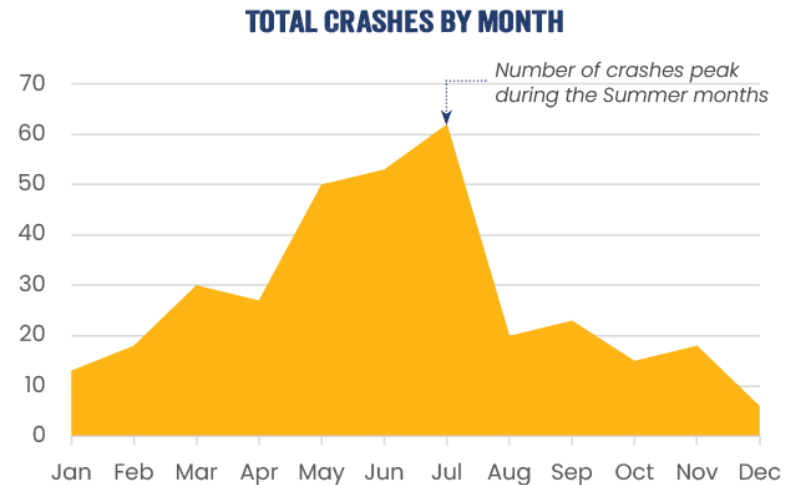
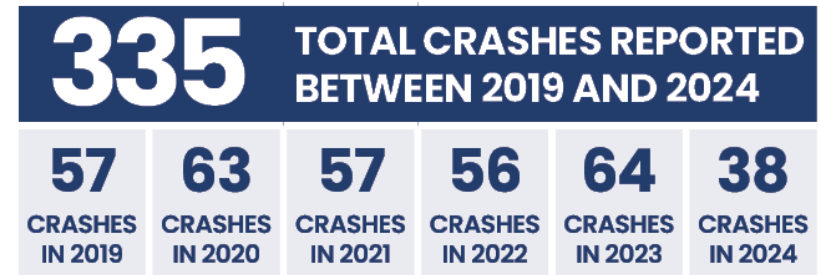


— < 1000
— 1001 - 2500
— 2501 - 5000
— 5001 - 10000
— > 10000

Data Source: Strava 2024 Annual Bike Counts

Safety Conditions

- Sidewalk Safety Improvements
- Crosswalks & Intersections
- Recent Crash History
 - 10 reported crashes involving a non-motorist
 - **4 Bicyclists**
 - **6 Pedestrians**



Sidewalk Safety Improvements

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Most sidewalks on the island have some form of safety improvement. Although safety improvements are needed island wide, a particular focus should be on areas with high foot traffic volume, such as Front Beach and sections of Palm Boulevard.

- Good Condition
- Ok Condition
- Poor Condition



The different types of safety infrastructure around the island included:



Activity Generators & Hubs

Places that consistently attract people for a specific reason or purpose, such as to work, shop, dine, learn, exercise, worship, or gather.

97 Activity Generators were identified across the island, including:

Dozens of Businesses	IOP Recreation Center & Park
40+ Beach Access Points	IOP County Park
Places of Worship	IOP Marina
Beach Reach Shuttle Stop	City Hall
Dewees Island Ferry Terminal	City Public Safety Building

Needs Assessment

- Over 60 projects identified based on the needs collected from the public engagement, field survey, and discussed with City Staff
- Consolidated into 56 projects and categorized into 6 Project Types based on the type of improvement:

10	BIKE FACILITIES	9	NEW SIDEWALKS
19	CROSSWALKS & INTERSECTIONS	3	PLANNING
8	SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS	7	OTHER PROJECTS

Project Scoring Criteria

Key Factors	Max Score
Accessibility	5
Safety	15
Connectivity	16
Universal Design/Conditions	15
Project Feasibility	8
Other Considerations	9
Priorities	10
Total Max Score	78

Note: Not all projects were assigned a score for each metric.

Priority Project Areas

- Five (5) recommended priority project areas were identified with Planning Commission
- Each priority area includes a list of *Quick Build Improvements* and *Enhanced Improvements* along with cost estimates to help inform and guide future decision-making



Project Area A

Palm Boulevard Improvements

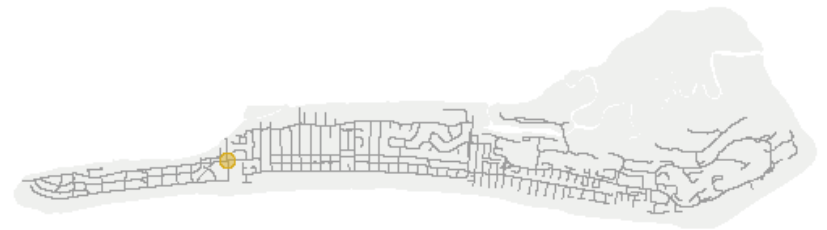
(Breach Inlet to IOP Connector)

A1

Restripe existing bike facilities along Palm Blvd

D1

Extend sidewalk along Palm Blvd



Project Area B

IOP Connector & Intersection

(with Palm Blvd)

A5

Extend bike lanes along both sides of IOP Connector to connect with existing facilities/infrastructure

B6

Improve crosswalks and overall accessibility at IOP Connector intersection

D4

Extend sidewalk along IOP Connector to Palm Blvd



Project Area C

Intersection Improvements at Palm Boulevard “S-Curve”

B7

Improve crosswalk safety by adding signage/signals at Palm Blvd & 20th Ave

B8

Improve crosswalk safety and visibility at Palm Blvd & 21st Ave intersection



Project Area D

Palm Boulevard Improvements *(IOP Connector to 41st Ave)*

A6

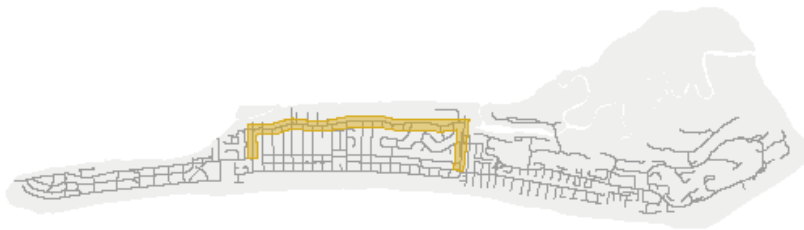
Add bike facility along Palm blvd heading east

C4

Widen sidewalk (or make into a multi-use path) along Palm Blvd

D6

Connect crosswalks to existing sidewalks along Palm Blvd



Project Area E

Waterway Boulevard Connectivity Improvements

- | | |
|------------|--|
| A7 | Add bike facility along 21 st Ave |
| A9 | Add bike facility along Waterway Blvd |
| A10 | Add bike facility along 41 st Ave |
| B11 | New crosswalk across Waterway Blvd at 28 th Ave |
| B15 | Improve crosswalks at Waterway Blvd & 41 st Ave |
| D7 | New sidewalk along 28 th Ave from Waterway Blvd to the IOP Rec Center |



Final Questions?