



THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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Workshops on reconnecting the Castillo & the bayfront

This one got away from us, but merits special notice.

Most of us visit St. Augustine's bayfront, as residents or visitors, by car or on foot. And most of us have been frustrated at one time or another, by traffic or by pedestrians . . .

A study funded by the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks grant program hopes to make some positive adjustments, tweaking crosswalk locations, the Castillo de San Marcos parking lot, roadway cross-sections, and Orange Street alternatives, among others.

Halback Design Group will have two public meetings, Thursday at 6 p.m. and Friday at 2 p.m., City Hall to get our input for improving the connection between the Castillo and city.

The location is a new conference room on the third floor of City Hall, accessed from Elevator D on the Granada Street side of the building.

The one-hour sessions will include a 30-minute presentation and opportunity to review concepts so far, ask questions, and make comments.

They're the last two scheduled public sessions before the holidays - the next sessions include a City Commission report January 10, workshop February 24, and City Commission March 28, 2011.



Ideas in the hopper

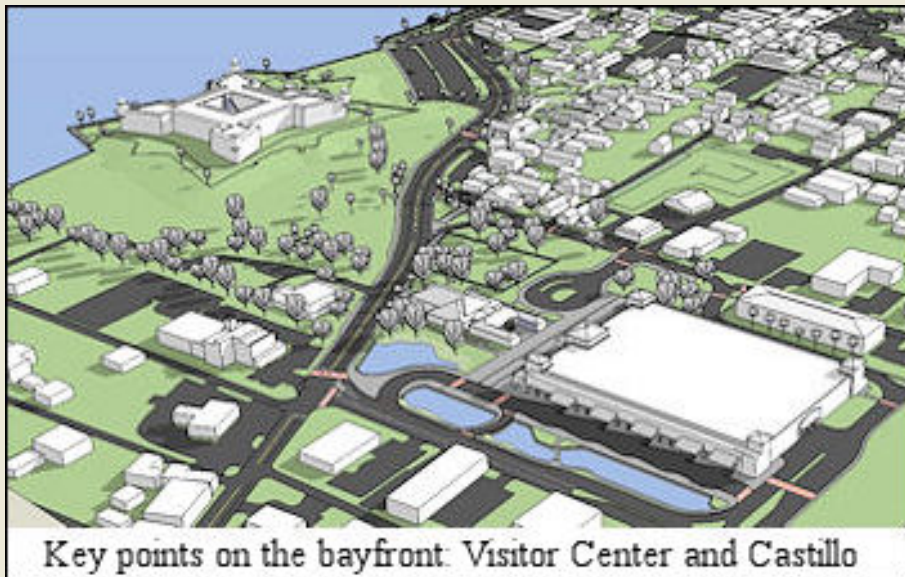
It's not the first time improvements have been planned or suggested for this key roadway.

The long term management plan for the Castillo includes reducing its current parking area, the University of Florida's [St. Augustine Historic Area Strategic Plan](#) suggests improved crosswalks and connections to the bayfront, and a study a decade back included the concept of reducing a section of the roadway from four to three lanes, creating a dedicated lane for sightseeing vehicles and pedestrians.

Project manager Jeremy Marquis comments, "While we are looking at improving 'moving people' in general, traditional traffic efficiency and movement will be a critical component."

Halback's designers have developed a variety of preliminary concepts, and they want us to be part of their team.

A Halback [website](#) will keep us up to date on public sessions and the design process. It will also include a survey form for continuing public input.



Key points on the bayfront. Visitor Center and Castillo

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The St. Augustine Report is published by the Department of Public Affairs of the City of St. Augustine each Tuesday and on Fridays previewing City Commission meetings. The Report is written and distributed by George Gardner, former St. Augustine Mayor (2002-2006) and Commissioner (2006-2008) and a longtime newspaper reporter and editor. Contact The Report at gardner@aug.com

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