

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 2007

TO: Pat Evans, Shawn Hartzler, Robert Jones, Kerri Post, Diane Quigley, Brian Telfair

FROM: Mariano Berrios, Florida Scenic Highways Program, State Coordinator

CC: Bob Crim, Shannon Foor, Laura Haddock, Manon Lavoie, Andy Nicol, Oxo Slayer, Lynne Marie Whately

SUBJECT: Scenic Highways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2007
Designation Application Review:

- Big Bend Scenic Byway – Leon County Extension

Eligibility Application Reviews:

- Lemon Bay - Myakka River Scenic Highway
- Scenic 30A

A Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC) meeting was held on Thursday, February 13, 2007 from 1:30pm – 4:30pm at the Burns Building – Room 479 in Tallahassee, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to review and provide a recommendation regarding the **Big Bend Scenic Byway – Leon County Extension Designation** application, **Lemon Bay – Myakka River Scenic Highway Eligibility** application, and the **Scenic 30A Eligibility** application.

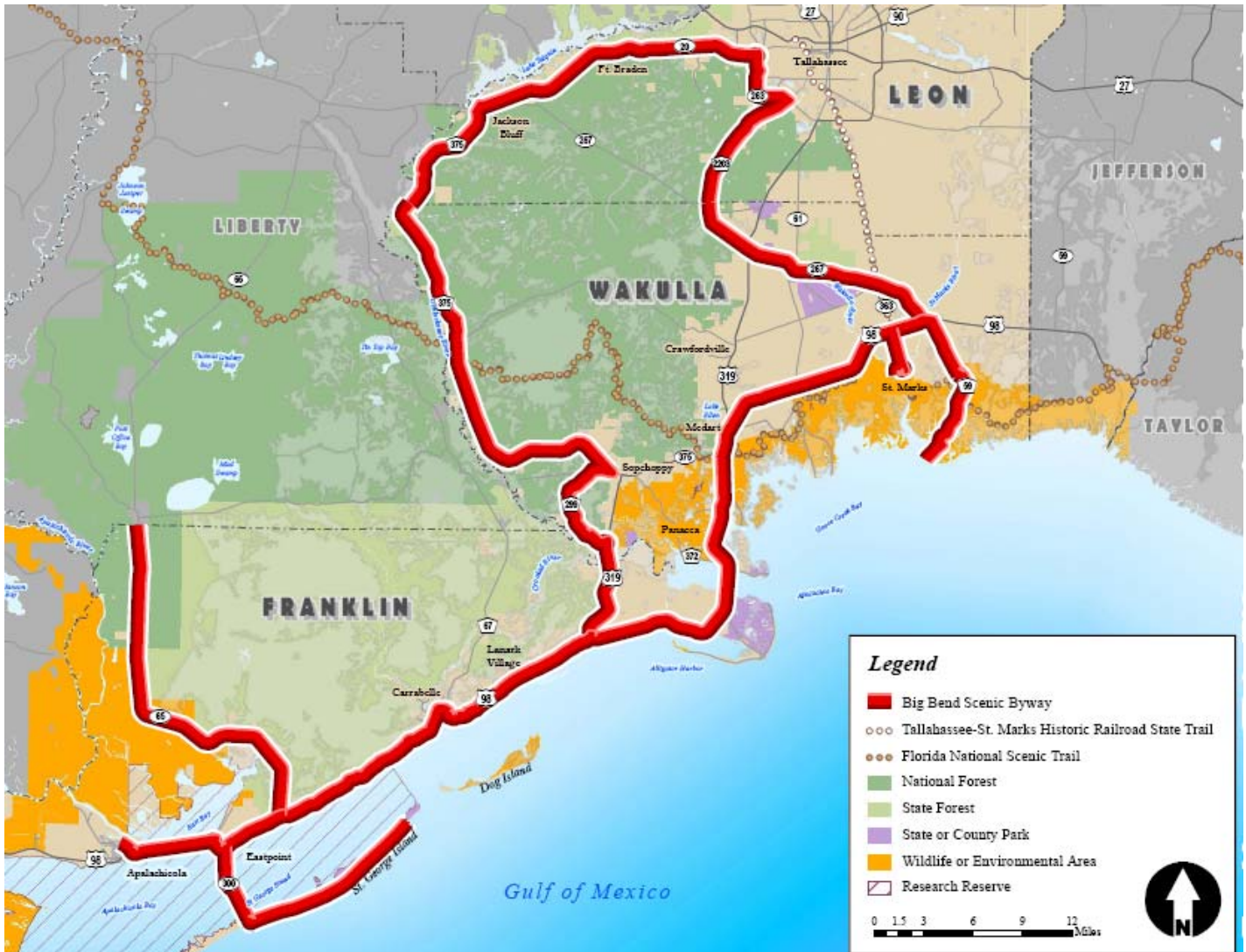
INTRODUCTION

The meeting opened with the Scenic Highway Advisory Committee (SHAC) introducing themselves. SHAC attendees included Pat Evans, DEP; Shawn Hartzler, Department of Agriculture-Forestry; Robert Jones, DOS; and Brian Telfair, FHWA. The District 1 Scenic Highways Coordinator, Manon Lavoie, was in attendance. Others in attendance were members of the Big Bend Scenic Byway Corridor Management Entity (CME); the Scenic 30A Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG); Mariano Berrios, State Scenic Highways Coordinator; Andy Nicol, Carter & Burgess; and Oxo Slayer, Kimley-Horn.

Mr. Mariano Berrios thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting and gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

DISCUSSION OF THE BIG BEND SCENIC BYWAY – LEON COUNTY EXTENSION APPLICATION

The Franklin/Wakulla County segments of the Big Bend Scenic Byway were formally designated as a State Scenic Highway on November 14th, 2006. This Extension Application has been prepared to meet Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) requirements for an *Application for Additional Corridor* and is referred to as the *Leon County Extension Application*. State Scenic Highway designation is being sought for the remaining 49 miles of the Big Bend Scenic Byway in Leon County. When approved, the Leon County extension will provide the final connection for the three-county 220-mile Big Bend Scenic Byway route.



The SHAC acknowledged all of the hard work that the Big Bend Scenic Byway group has done in the past few years. The SHAC stressed the great value of this corridor addition. The following comments/recommendations were provided by the SHAC for consideration and incorporation into the Big Bend Scenic Byway Five-Year Corridor Management Plan (CMP) Update:

1. The Vision was confusing and should be rewritten to create a unified and coordinated Vision among the three (3) county corridor.
2. The Local Support section should be expanded to include more tourism and citizen components.
3. The CME seems to be relying heavily on the Wakulla and Franklin County CMEs. The Big Bend Scenic Byway CME should include more support from Leon County.
4. The CMPs relationship to local comprehensive plans is weak and should be stronger. The CME should get language added into local comprehensive plans that address the goals and action plan of the Big Bend Scenic Byway, specifically the Leon County portion.
5. Protection and interpretation are the top priorities for this corridor.
6. There needs to be more discussion about what the CME would like the corridor to be in 10 to 20 years. The Vision is not thorough and lacks milestones.
7. The issue of billboard removal is not addressed and should be discussed.

The SHAC completed their Evaluation of Applicant Corridor forms and voted 3-3 to designate the Leon County Extension as part of the Big Bend Scenic Byway. To break the tie, Mariano Berrios voted in favor of the Leon County Extension. As a result, in a 4-3 vote, the Leon County Extension was designated as part of the Big Bend Scenic Byway.

DISCUSSION OF THE LEMON BAY – MYAKKA RIVER SCENIC HIGHWAY ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION

The proposed Lemon Bay – Myakka River Scenic Highway limits have been set as the entire length of SR 776 from its intersection with US 41 in Charlotte County to its intersection with US 41 in Sarasota County. The different stretches of the roadway are known locally as McCall Road, South McCall Road, Indiana Avenue, and Englewood Road. The roadway passes through Charlotte and Sarasota Counties, but does not pass through any incorporated cities. Two loop roads have been included in the Lemon Bay/Myakka Trail. The 16.8-mile Cape Haze Loop is in Charlotte County and includes Gasparilla Road from SR 776 to Placida Road and Placida Road from Gasparilla Road to SR 776. The 5.6-mile Old Englewood Loop is in Sarasota County and includes West Dearborn Street from SR 776 to Old Englewood Road and Old Englewood Road from West Dearborn Street to SR 776.

The following comments/recommendations were provided by the SHAC for consideration and incorporation into the Lemon Bay – Myakka River Scenic Highway Designation Application:

1. This corridor has a very diverse amount of resources that are presented very well. In the Designation Application the diversity should be addressed and presented as a major asset of this corridor.
2. Only two (2) of the archeological resources are near or easily accessible to the Scenic Highway (Coral Creek Fishing Pier and the Indian Mound Park Boat Ramp). All others should be removed from the Designation Application.
3. This corridor appears to have very little scenic value. The Heritage classification must be presented strongly in the Designation Application.
4. The CAG seem small and not very diverse. There needs to be more public involvement presented in the Designation Application.
5. This area is very developed and future efforts to steer development in the right direction should be addressed.
6. The relationship to local comprehensive plans should be addressed more thoroughly. This is an integral component of Designation.
7. There appear to be limited cultural and historical resources along the corridor.

8. The application does not present a strong case that the resources are “exceptional and continuous” along the corridor. Please do a better job presenting this in the Designation Application.
9. The corridor length should be reconsidered. There are many loop roads that are included in this corridor that only serve accessibility to a limited number of resources. These should be considered for removal from the corridor.

The SHAC completed their Evaluation of Applicant Corridor forms and voted 5-1 in favor of this corridor as a Candidate Florida Scenic Highway.

DISCUSSION OF THE SCENIC 30A ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION

The candidate Scenic 30A Highway is a series of scenic corridors in South Walton County in Florida’s Panhandle. The candidate highway includes all of CR 30-A, from where it intersects with US 98 near Topsail Hill Preserve State Park to where it reconnects with US 98 near Inlet Beach, east of Rosemary Beach. It also includes all of CR 83 and CR 395, as well as part of CR 283. CR 30-A follows the Gulf Coast, while the other three roads run north/south, intersect with 30-A, and connect with the shore.

The following comments/recommendations were provided by the SHAC for consideration and incorporation into the Scenic 30A Designation Application:

1. The Local Support section could include more towns and communities along the corridor. It appears that Rosemary Beach is the only town in support of the corridor in the Eligibility Application.
2. The Corridor Story should be revised to include more discussion about the future of the corridor and not only the current resources and residents.
3. The archeological resources should be described in more detail.
4. Some resources (Gulf Place and Watersound) should be reconsidered as resources.
5. There needs to be more support from residents and communities.
6. The CMPs relationship to local comprehensive plans is weak and should be stronger. The CME should get language added into local comprehensive plans that address the goals and action plan of the Scenic 30A CMP.

The SHAC completed their Evaluation of Applicant Corridor forms and voted 6-0 in favor of this corridor as a Candidate Florida Scenic Highway.

NEXT SHAC MEETING

The next SHAC meeting will be held in June 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Berrios thanked everyone for coming and for his/her efforts with the Florida Scenic Highways Program. The meeting concluded at 4:30pm.