

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 27, 2006

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

FROM: Mariano Berrios, Program Administrator, Florida Scenic Highways Program

CC: Garry Balogh, Bob Crim, Shannon Foor, Laura Haddock, Joanne Hurley, Andy Nicol, Lynne Marie Whately

SUBJECT: Scenic Highways Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2006
Designation Application Review:

- Suncoast Scenic Parkway

Eligibility Application Review:

- Big Bend (Franklin) Scenic Byway
- Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway
- Ormond Beach Scenic Loop

A Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC) meeting was held on Thursday, July 20, 2006 from 2:00pm – 5:30pm at the Burns Building, Room 470, in Tallahassee, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to review and provide a recommendation regarding the Suncoast Scenic Parkway Designation application, the Big Bend (Franklin County) Scenic Byway Eligibility application, the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway Eligibility application, and the Ormond Beach Scenic Loop Eligibility application.

INTRODUCTION

The meeting opened with the Scenic Highway Advisory Committee (SHAC) introducing themselves. SHAC attendees included Pat Evans, DEP; Robert Jones, DOS; Cheryl Malin, FHWA; and Diane Quigley, DCA. Participating via teleconference were Joanne Hurley, Turnpike; Glen Burns, Burns Consulting; and Kristee Booth, EMS Consulting. Others in attendance were Garry Balogh, D5; Mariano Berrios, EMO; Shannon Foor, D3; Laura Haddock, D3; Andy Nicol, Carter & Burgess; Vicki Renna, A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway; Jon Sewell, Kimley-Horn; and Oxo Slayer, Kimley-Horn.

Mr. Mariano Berrios gave an overview of the meeting agenda and introduced Vicki Renna as the guest speaker.

GUEST SPEAKER: VICKI RENNA, A1A SCENIC & HISTORIC COASTAL BYWAY

Ms. Vicki Renna addressed the SHAC about the history of the A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway and gave them an overview of the operations of the counties and individual scenic corridors that compose the A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway (A1A S&H CB). Ms. Renna expressed her concern over the SHAC's comments on the previous National Scenic Byway grants regarding a lack of collaboration among the three (3) Scenic Highways that make up the A1A S&H CB. Ms. Renna wanted the SHAC to be aware that the National Scenic Byways Program provided her with guidance and direction in the past that the individual Scenic Highways can apply for grants as long as they show that the other two (2) Scenic Highways are aware of the application. Ms. Renna felt that the previous grants conveyed this message; however, she wants the SHAC to hear it first hand to aid in the review of future grant applications.

The SHAC had no questions for Ms. Renna and appreciated her attending and speaking at the SHAC meeting.

DISCUSSION OF THE SUNCOAST SCENIC PARKWAY DESIGNATION APPLICATION

The proposed Suncoast Scenic Parkway is a 42-mile toll road (Toll Road 589) that is part of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise's statewide system of limited access tolled highways and Florida's Intrastate Highway System. The four-lane roadway extends from the Veterans Expressway at Van Dyke Road in Hillsborough County (Milepost 14) northward completely through Pasco County and through a majority of Hernando County, terminating at US 98 near the Hernando/Citrus County line.

The SHAC stressed the value of this corridor and expressed their interest in this corridor as a Florida Scenic Highway. The following comments/recommendations were provided by the SHAC for consideration and incorporation into the Corridor Management Plan (CMP) Update:

1. The surrounding communities need to be tied into the corridor and the CMP better.
2. There appears to be a lack of partnering. The CMP Update should include a discussion about community partnering and provide more detail about future partnering efforts.
3. The Vision of the Suncoast Scenic Parkway seems to be lacking the vision of the Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP). The CMP Update should try and refine the Vision to better fit the goals of the overall FSHP.
4. The CMP Update needs to do a better job of highlighting and drawing in the intrinsic resources found within the corridor. Currently, there appears to be a disconnect amount the resources.
5. There is concern over the development throughout the corridor. The CMP Update should address in detail how the Suncoast Scenic Parkway would like to preserve and protect the resources. It appears that this corridor would lend to development, and the CMP Update should address how the goal of this Scenic Parkway and its Corridor Management Entity is to preserve the resources and find an environmentally efficient balance between growth and development that meets the goals of the FSHP community.

The SHAC completed their Evaluation of Applicant Corridor forms and voted 5-2 (including Joanne Hurley's vote) in favor of this candidate Scenic Highway for Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

DISCUSSION OF THE BIG BEND (FRANKLIN COUNTY) SCENIC BYWAY ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION

The Franklin County portion of the Big Bend Scenic Highway encompasses an 85-mile linear route consisting of three major geographical corridors. The first major corridor travels east/west along the County's coastline. The second corridor follows the Apalachicola River to the North and the third includes St. George Island. Included in these areas, the Byway traverses along or near major physical features such as St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, the Apalachicola River, Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area, Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park, Tate's Hell State Forest, Apalachicola National Forest, Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve, Bald Point State Park, Ochlockonee River and Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico. (See the description of the corridor in the table below)

Description of the Big Bend (Franklin County) Route

Route	Local Route Name	From	To
Coastal Highway Segment (west to east)			
BEGIN - Market Street (Apalachicola)	Market Street	Scipio Creek	US 98/SR 30/Avenue E (Apalachicola)
US 98/SR 30	Coastal Highway	US 98/SR 30/Avenue E (Apalachicola)	US 98/US 319/SR 30 (John Gorrie Memorial Bridge)
US 98/US 319/SR 30	Coastal Highway	US 98/US 319/SR 30 (John Gorrie Memorial Bridge)	CR 65
CR 65	South Bayshore Drive	US 98/US 319/SR 30	SR 300
SR 300	Island Drive	CR 65	Patton Drive
US 98/US 319/SR 30	Coastal Highway	Patton Drive	CR 30-A (Carrabelle)
CR 30-A (Carrabelle)	Gulf Avenue	US 98/US 319/SR 30	US 98/US 319/SR 30
US 98/US 319/SR 30	Coastal Highway	CR 30-A	US 319/SR 377
US 98/SR 30	Coastal Highway	US 319/SR 377	END - Wakulla County Line (Ochlockonee Bay)
US 319/SR 377	Sopchoppy Highway	US 98/SR 30	END - Wakulla County Line (Ochlockonee River)
Apalachicola River Segment (south to north)			
BEGIN - SR 65	James Gadsen Highway	US 98/US 319/SR 30	Liberty County Line
St. George Island Segment (north to south)			
BEGIN - SR 300	Island Drive	CR 65	CR 300
CR 300 (west to east)	East Gorrie Drive	SR 300	Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park west boundary
SR 300	East Gorrie Drive	Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park west boundary	END - Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park east boundary

The SHAC commended the CAG for how hard they have worked and for all of their efforts in bringing this corridor through to the Eligibility stage. The following comments/recommendations were provided by the SHAC for consideration and incorporation into the Designation Application/Corridor Management Plan (CMP):

1. The CAG did an excellent job depicting the resources in the application.
2. The SHAC stressed that the CMP addresses in detail, protection of resources, as well as resource buffers and other techniques. This region has tremendous growth planned for the future, and achieving a careful balance should be a goal of the CMP.

3. The SHAC recommended that the CMP address wayfinding to help tourist navigate the long and winding corridor.

The SHAC voted 7-0 (including Shannon Foor's vote) in favor of the Big Bend (Franklin County) Scenic Byway becoming a candidate Florida Scenic Highway.

DISCUSSION OF THE FLORIDA BLACK BEAR SCENIC BYWAY ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION

The Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway is approximately 60 miles along State Road 40 (SR 40), beginning in Silver Springs, Marion County and ending at Interstate 95 (I-95) in Volusia County.

Mr. Garry Balogh gave a brief description of the corridor's location, amenities and intrinsic resources. A DVD video highlighting the Scenic Highway's resources was presented to the SHAC. The SHAC commented on the professional quality and usefulness of the DVD.

The SHAC completed their Evaluation of Candidate Corridor forms and requested that the following comments be addressed when the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway Designation application is drafted:

1. There appears to be some lack of support from some counties and some Chambers of Commerce. The Designation application should address these concerns and how they will be overcome by the CAG/CME.
2. The corridor is under-going a PD&E project and the Designation application should discuss this project and ways that the CAG/CME will work in coordination with this project.
3. The Designation application needs to be sure and include specific references to inclusion in local comprehensive plans.
4. There should be more discussion about the historical nature of the corridor. For example, were there any CCC camps in the area? Are there any historical forestry sites?
5. Juniper Springs should be highlighted on the corridor map.
6. The Designation application should have some discussion pertaining to the interpretation of local history along the corridor. How and where will this be done?
7. The Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway has many spur roads. The Designation application needs to address whether or not these spur roads are considered part of the actual Scenic Byway's mileage and corridor, or are they going to be considered resources? This should be clearly documented in the Designation application in figures, maps, and text.

The SHAC voted 7-0 (including Garry Balogh's vote) in favor of the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway becoming a candidate Florida Scenic Highway.

DISCUSSION OF THE ORMOND BEACH SCENIC LOOP ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION

The proposed Ormond Beach Scenic Loop is a 17.6-mile loop road that traverses through some of the most beautiful and diverse natural scenery in all of northeast Florida. Since it is a circle, the beginning is arbitrary, but if we start at the intersection of Granada Boulevard and North Beach Street, the Loop runs north on Old Dixie Highway to Walter Boardman Lane where it turns east. From Walter Boardman Lane, the corridor continues to High Bridge Road across the Halifax River to John Anderson Drive. It continues south to the intersection with Granada Boulevard and then west across the bridge to the intersection at North Beach Street.

Mr. Garry Balogh gave a brief description of the corridor's location, amenities and intrinsic resources. A DVD video highlighting the Scenic Highway's resources was presented to the SHAC. The SHAC commented on the professional quality and usefulness of the DVD.

The SHAC completed their Evaluation of Candidate Corridor forms and requested that the following comments be addressed when the Ormond Beach Scenic Loop Designation application is drafted:

1. The Designation application should have some discussion regarding the interpretation of resources within the State Park.
2. The archeological sites are a valuable resources and worth focusing on a bit more in the Designation application.
3. The CAG/CME should ensure that the local comprehensive plans include preservation and protections for the Scenic Loop and its historic resources, as these are under development pressures.
4. The Eligibility application seemed to neglect cultural resources a bit. Maybe these could be focused on a little more in the Designation application.
5. The road has some safety concerns, and any way that the group can address these concerns would be valuable to the Designation application.
6. The SHAC felt that this was a great corridor and commended the efforts of the CAG.

The SHAC voted 7-0 (including Garry Balogh's vote) in favor of the Ormond Beach Scenic Loop becoming a candidate Florida Scenic Highway.

NEXT SHAC MEETING

The next SHAC meeting will be held on October 12, 2006 at 2:00pm at the Burns Building in Tallahassee, Florida.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Berrios thanked everyone for coming and for his/her efforts with the Florida Scenic Highways Program. The meeting concluded at 5:30pm.