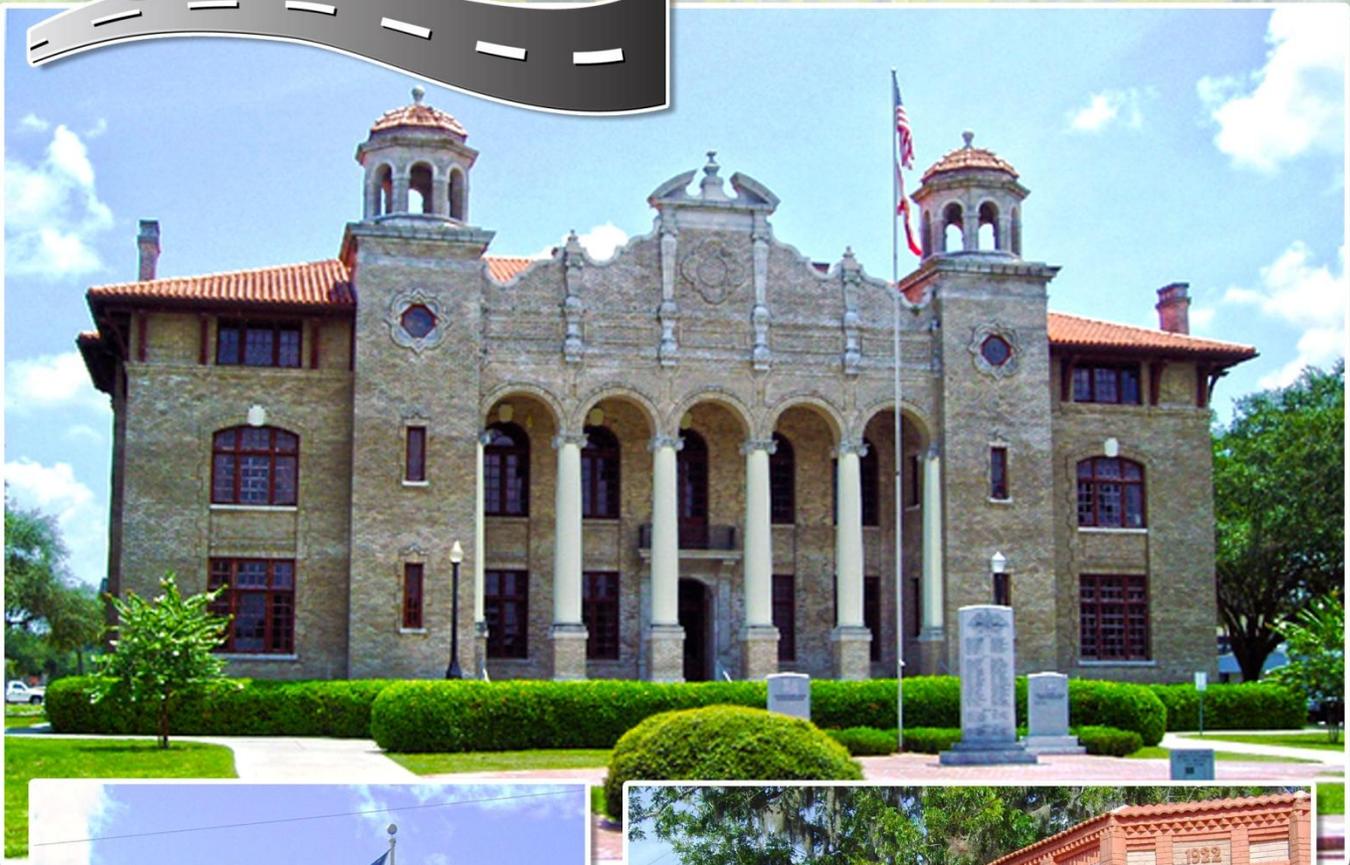


# Scenic Sumter

HERITAGE BYWAY



## Designation Application & Corridor Management Plan

April 2013

*Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
Corridor Management Plan  
Spring 2013*

*As Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the signature below indicates the approval and endorsement of this Corridor Management Plan (CMP) and this corridor for designation as a Florida Scenic Highway. FDOT approval of this management plan represents our agreement to serve in a partnership with the Corridor Management Entity (CME) to preserve, enhance and maintain the designated scenic highway corridor. We recognize the grass roots initiative and strong local support for this corridor demonstrated by the communities involved in the preparation of this management plan. This corridor management plan acknowledges that the designated corridor will be subject to the requirements of the Section 1046(c) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) which added a new subsection(s) to 23 United States Code (USC) 131 precluding outdoor advertising on designated scenic highways, and the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Act. This corridor management plan acknowledges that the designated corridor will also be subject to the requirements of the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which reauthorized ISTEA and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) which reauthorized TEA-21. I hereby designate this corridor as a Florida Scenic Highway.*

---

*Secretary of Transportation*

---

*Date*



## Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.  
SECRETARY

May 2, 2013

Dan McCormic, Chairperson  
Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
4923 County Road 306A  
Lake Panasoffkee, Florida 33538

**Subject: Designation of Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway**

Dear Mr. McCormic:

After careful consideration of the recommendation of the Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC), I concur the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway has met the requirements necessary for *designation* as a Florida Scenic Highway. The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway limits have been established as the 62 miles of roads in Sumter County depicted in the attached map.

The complete Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Designation Application demonstrates the corridor meets the requirements under the Scenic Corridor classification. Scenic Corridors are designated Scenic Highways based on their natural, recreational, and/or scenic value to the State of Florida.

Attached is a list of recommendations from the Scenic Highway Advisory Committee's review of the Designation Application. Please address these recommendations in the next Corridor Management Plan update, not due until April 2018.

I offer my personal congratulations to you and the membership of the Corridor Management Entity, for your diligence and quality of work in obtaining designation for the corridor. Thank you for caring about Florida's precious resources and working so hard to ensure their enjoyment for years to come.

Sincerely,

Ananth Prasad, P.E.  
Secretary

Attachments:

Map  
SHAC Recommendations  
Signature Page

cc:

Noranne Downs  
Jeff Caster  
Garry Balogh



STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**DESIGNATION APPLICATION**  
**Florida Scenic Highways Program**

FORM 650-050-05  
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
 OGC - 08/96

Applicant seeking National Designation?  
 Yes     No

Submission of this **Designation Application** form and its accompanying **Corridor Management Plan** verifies that designation as a Florida Scenic Highway is being sought for the corridor identified below. Please prepare and submit this application to the District Scenic Highways Coordinator according to the guidance provided in *Section 3.2 Designation Application and CMP Format*.

**Roadway/Route Number and Name** - Provide the state and US road number (if applicable) and the local or any regionally recognized name for the roadway.

SR50, CR478A, SR471/Market Street, CR48, CR747/Shoe Factory Road, CR478, CR673, CR476B, US301/Main Street, CR470 and SR44

**Scenic Highway Name** - Provide the scenic highway name to be used in any promotional activities.

Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

**Date of Eligibility** - Provide the date of the Letter of Eligibility.

August 3, 2012

**Corridor Advocacy Group** - Provide the following information regarding the CAG chairperson.

Dan McCormic

CAG Chairperson

dan34785@hotmail.com

(352) 418-3760

Address

Phone Number

**Corridor Management Entity**

Dan McCormic

CME Chairperson or Equivalent

dan34785@hotmail.com

(352) 418-3760

Address

Phone Number

*We verify that all information stated on this form and/or included in the Corridor Management Plan are, to the best of our knowledge, true representations of the corridor and the resources for which designation as a Florida Scenic Highway is being sought.*

X *Dan McCormic* Date 2/20/2013  
 Corridor Advocacy Group Chairperson

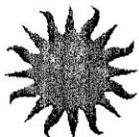
X *Dan McCormic* Date 2/20/2013  
 Corridor Management Entity Chairperson

X *[Signature]* Date 2/25/2013  
 Local General Purpose Government Representative

X *[Signature]* Date 2/25/2013  
 Local General Purpose Government Representative

**Additional Information** - On an attached sheet, provide updated names, titles, addresses and phone numbers for the following:  
 1) CAG Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, other officers/committee heads and remaining membership and 2) additional local general purpose government representatives with signature.





STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**DESIGNATION APPLICATION**  
**Florida Scenic Highways Program**

FORM 650-050-05  
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
 OGIU - 08/96

Applicant seeking National Designation?  
 Yes       No

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 CR673, CR476B, US301/Main Street, CR470 and SR44

**Scenic Highway Name** - Provide the scenic highway name to be used in any promotional activities.

Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

**Date of Eligibility** - Provide the date of the Letter of Eligibility.

August 3, 2012

**Corridor Advocacy Group** - Provide the following information regarding the CAG chairperson.

Dan McCormic

CAG Chairperson

dan34785@hotmail.com

(352) 418-3760

Address

Phone Number

**Corridor Management Entity**

Dan McCormic

CME Chairperson or Equivalent

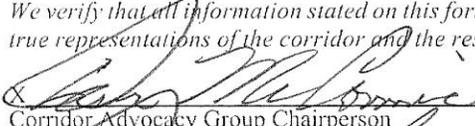
dan34785@hotmail.com

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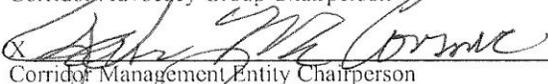
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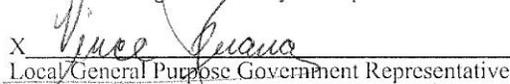
*We verify that all information stated on this form and/or included in the Corridor Management Plan are, to the best of our knowledge, true representations of the corridor and the resources for which designation as a Florida Scenic Highway is being sought.*

X   
 Corridor Advocacy Group Chairperson

Date \_\_\_\_\_

X   
 Corridor Management Entity Chairperson

Date \_\_\_\_\_

X   
 Local/General Purpose Government Representative

Date \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local General Purpose Government Representative

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information** - On an attached sheet, provide updated names, titles, addresses and phone numbers for the following:  
 1) CAG Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, other officers/committee heads and remaining membership and 2) additional local general purpose government representatives with signature.





STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**DESIGNATION APPLICATION**  
**Florida Scenic Highways Program**

FORM 650-050-05  
 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
 OGC - 08 90

Applicant seeking National Designation?  
 Yes     No

Submission of this **Designation Application** form and its accompanying **Corridor Management Plan** verifies that designation as a Florida Scenic Highway is being sought for the corridor identified below. Please prepare and submit this application to the District Scenic Highways Coordinator according to the guidance provided in *Section 3.2 Designation Application and CMP Format*.

**Roadway/Route Number and Name** - Provide the state and US road number (if applicable) and the local or any regionally recognized name for the roadway.

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Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

**Date of Eligibility** - Provide the date of the Letter of Eligibility.

August 3, 2012

**Corridor Advocacy Group** - Provide the following information regarding the CAG chairperson.

Dan McCormic  
 CAG Chairperson  
 dan34785@hotmail.com (352) 418-3760  
 Address Phone Number

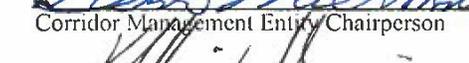
**Corridor Management Entity**

Dan McCormic  
 CME Chairperson or Equivalent  
 dan34785@hotmail.com (352) 418-3760  
 Address Phone Number

*We verify that all information stated on this form and/or included in the Corridor Management Plan are, to the best of our knowledge, true representations of the corridor and the resources for which designation as a Florida Scenic Highway is being sought.*

X  Date 3/20/2013  
 Corridor Advocacy Group Chairperson

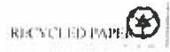
X  Date 3/20/2013  
 Corridor Management Entity Chairperson

X  MAYOR, CITY OF WEBSTER Date 3/20/2013  
 Local General Purpose Government Representative

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local General Purpose Government Representative

**Additional Information** - On an attached sheet, provide updated names, titles, addresses and phone numbers for the following:

1) CAG Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, other officers/committee heads and remaining membership and 2) additional local general purpose government representatives with signature.



## **Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Contact Information**

For additional information regarding this project contact the following persons:

**Dan McCormic, Chairperson**

Phone: (352) 418-3760

E-mail: [dan34785@hotmail.com](mailto:dan34785@hotmail.com)

**Joyce Hanson, Vice Chairperson**

Phone: (352) 346-1564

E-mail: [joyshanson@gmail.com](mailto:joyshanson@gmail.com)

**Dawn Cary, Secretary/Treasurer**

Phone: (352) 267-8801

E-mail: [dawn@greatlakescarpet.com](mailto:dawn@greatlakescarpet.com)

**Garry Balogh, Scenic Highways Coordinator**

FDOT, District Five

719 South Woodland Boulevard

Deland, Florida 32720

Phone: (386) 943-5393

E-mail: [Garry.Balogh@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Garry.Balogh@dot.state.fl.us)



## Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.  
SECRETARY

August 3, 2012

Mr. Dan McCormic  
CAG Chairperson  
Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
4923 County Road 306A  
Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538

Subject: Eligibility of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway

Dear Mr. McCormic:

After careful consideration and the recommendation of the Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP) Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC), I concur that the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway has met the *eligibility* requirements of the Florida Scenic Highways Program necessary for possible designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The proposed Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway limits have been established as the 62 miles of roads in Sumter County depicted in the attached map. Your eligibility application demonstrates that the corridor contains the intrinsic resources that are of great value to the State of Florida.

You will be receiving a list of recommendations/comments on your eligibility application from the Scenic Highway Advisory Committee (SHAC) through the Florida Department of Transportation's District 5 office. Please address these recommendations/comments in the Designation Application/Corridor Management Plan and continue to work closely with the District Office in your efforts. The Florida Scenic Highways Program staff is looking forward to assisting you during the designation application phase of the program.

I offer my personal congratulations to you and the membership of the Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG), for your diligence and work quality in the completing the *eligibility application phase*. Thank you for caring about Florida's precious resources and working so hard to ensure their enjoyment for years to come.

Sincerely,

Ananth Prasad, P.E.  
Secretary

AP/jc

CC: Noranne Downs  
Garry Balogh  
Jeff Caster

Attachment: Sumter Heritage Byway map

[www.dot.state.fl.us](http://www.dot.state.fl.us)

# Executive Summary of the Action Plan

The Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP) was established to showcase outstanding cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic resources that can be found along Florida's highway system. The program is intended to promote the awareness of Florida's unique resources that are valued by the residents of Florida and the millions of tourists who visit the state each year. The program focuses on community-based support and resource protection while seeking to promote regional economic benefits that may result from a corridor's designation.

To receive a Florida Scenic Highway designation, a Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) must show that the resources along the nominated byway are significant, exceptional and distinctive and touch upon the entire series of required characteristics (natural, recreational, scenic, cultural, historic and archaeological). The CAG must also be able to demonstrate that the resources are continuous along the proposed route.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group was established in 2009 to seek the Scenic classification for a 62-mile corridor located in the heartland of Sumter County. The corridor passes through the cities of Bushnell and Webster and the communities of Linden, Tarrytown, St. Catherine, Lake Panasoffkee, Sumterville and Rutland. Their Eligibility Application was approved by the Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC) in the summer of 2012.

As required by the FSHP, this Corridor Management Plan (CMP) has been prepared to complete the final step in the designation process. As part of this multi-phase effort, the CAG has worked to identify, research and catalog the Byway's intrinsic resources. The results of their efforts were documented in great detail initially in their eligibility application and are now once again provided in summary as part of this CMP.

Based on the mission and vision developed during the Eligibility phase, the CAG has now established a series of Goals & Objectives along with an implementation plan (Action Plan). The six goals established reflect the five categories required by the FSHP along with a sustainability goal designed to ensure the long term success of the soon to be established Corridor Management Entity (CME). The CAG's focus is to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential, and heritage resources of the Byway along with preserving the special customs and traditions of the region.

The CAG's short term priorities identified in the action plan focus on building the organization's membership base, enhancing its visibility in the community and promoting advocacy for the region's intrinsic resources including scenic, recreational and natural. It is hoped that these preliminary steps will help ensure the long term sustainability of the CME. Additionally, the action plan highlights the need to embrace the regions intrinsic resources as an economic driver for the community. From a more long term perspective, the CAG's action plan includes strengthened advocacy for the Byway's resources through the education of residents, elected officials and visitors. Marketing through the creation of printed materials and the development of a speaker's bureau as well as the successful accomplishment of projects that protect and enhance the Byway's intrinsic resources are other aspects of the CAG's long term implementation plan.

The CAG is committed to a balanced program that highlights the region's scenic characteristics while respecting the importance of its heritage resources. It showcases the region's dynamic personality and encourages strengthened partnerships to ensure the CAG's mission is accomplished for the long term good of the community.

## **Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Response regarding SHAC Review of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Eligibility Application (June 2012)**

The following responses from the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group are documented in this Corridor Management Plan as required in Chapter 3 of the Florida Scenic Highways Program manual. The Scenic Highways Advisory Committee met on July 11, 2012 to recommend Eligibility for the corridor upon review of the Eligibility Application (dated June 2012), and issued a series of comments and/or suggestions for the CAG to consider during development of their CMP. The SHAC comments from each of the seven members and subsequent CAG responses regarding how these comments have been addressed are included below.

### **Robin Birdsong, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

#### Resource Specific Criteria

##### **Comment and/or Suggestion: Recreational**

- Pages 5, 6, 201, 203 and 259 of the pdf lists General James Van Fleet Trail State Park, it should be changed to General James A. Van Fleet State Trail (name is correct on pages 35-36 of the pdf). In addition to being officially designated as part of Florida's Statewide System of Greenways and Trails, the Trail is also designated by the Department of the Interior as a National Recreation Trail (<http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/>). The Byway encompasses significant recreational resources.

**Response:** *Acknowledged. The use of the General James A. Van Fleet State Trail name as noted is consistent throughout the CMP.*

#### Universal Criteria

##### **Comment and/or Suggestion: UC #4**

- Those that completed the Impression Surveys seem rather divided about the vividness and unity of the Corridor. How is this being addressed?

**Response:** *Because the intended purpose of the Corridor Impression Survey is to gain public input from a variety of individuals who may not already be familiar with the Byway, and the fact that there are large stretches of forest, farmlands, and cattle ranches along many segments of the Byway that may or may not seem vivid to each individual, the division of opinions is somewhat expected. It is also welcomed because these opinions have been helpful during the development of targeted Goals, Objectives and Strategies. Furthermore, the CAG believes the implementation of the Community Participation Program (CPP) included as Appendix D of the Eligibility Application (and updated in the CMP) will ensure that Byway stakeholders are regularly updated about programs, projects and accomplishments as they occur in order to further educate members of each community about the assets to be found along the Byway. It will also bring them together to protect and promote the natural beauty, recreational potential and historical resources of the region.*

### **Comment and/or Suggestion: UC #5**

- The Byway provides access to the Resources. It would be helpful to illustrate access to goods/services on a map, similar to the Scenic Resources map, which shows the beds/breakfasts and flea markets but not restaurants/gas stations. For example, there is a photograph of the Speckled Butterbean but it's unclear whether it is a restaurant, store or other resource and it's unclear where it located.

**Response:** *With the understanding that the process for a corridor to attain designation as a Florida Scenic Highway is typically lengthy, sometimes taking 2-4 years to complete, the CAG has been hesitant to include the names and locations of certain commercial interests because of the high turnover of businesses associated with the current economic climate. The focus has been directed towards more stable public/community resources with the expectation that their names, location and functions would remain consistent for the foreseeable future. Additionally, proposed plans for the creation of marketing materials highlighting Byway businesses have been discussed by the CAG and will be developed once designation is received.*

### **Comment and/or Suggestion: UC #6**

- In terms of Universal Criteria 2, it seems most of the contributing resources achieve Heritage classification. Why did the CAG decide to pursue Scenic designation? The CMP should highlight scenic resources.

**Response:** *The CAG is proud of all of its corridor intrinsic resources as presented in the Eligibility Application, but chooses the corridor's scenic resources as a primary focus because of its belief that the scenic qualities are more appealing to most visitors. As longtime residents of Sumter County, most of the CAG members recognize the importance of Sumter County's Heritage to the community and feel that these historic resources should not be overlooked because they can be considered scenic to locals and visitors also. Examples of this dual classification theory are the County's Agri-tourism industry, the Florida National Cemetery and the Sumter County Courthouse as described in the Scenic portion of Universal Criteria 2 as part of Section 2.1.5 Universal Criteria Review. The CAG concentrated on highlighting scenic resources as part of the CMP as suggested, and the Goals, Objectives and Strategies developed during the Designation Phase reflect this focus as well.*

---

**Jeanette Hallock-Solomon, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)**

### **Comment and/or Suggestion: Comments and Recommendations**

- This area of Florida does have significant, exceptional, and distinctive scenic, recreational and natural features. However, this is in an area of Florida that is being studied for major road corridors including Interstate 75, US 27 and an east-west corridor and there is heavy development pressure in Wildwood and on CR 470, the CAG will have to be very diligent about protecting the area around the scenic highway to keep the highway scenic. I would recommend contacting the Florida Department of Transportation regarding the vision plan efforts so the group can stay informed.

**Response:** *Acknowledged. The CAG is aware of the impacts that development may have on the Byway's intrinsic resources and will benefit greatly from the partnership with Sumter County regarding visioning processes and future development along the Byway corridor. In fact, the county vision (completed in 2009 and called Sumter 2030) would maintain the rural and agricultural nature of*

*the southern portion of the county. Additionally, the CAG has focused on the importance of maintaining strong ties with the regional planning process to ensure the intrinsic resources are protected while developing targeted Goals, Objectives and Strategies during the Designation Phase for the Byway.*

---

## **David Dodd, Visit Florida**

### Universal Criteria

#### **Comment and/or Suggestion: UC #9**

- The Villages can be a strong support advocate for the program. Can bring income support for the program.

***Response:*** *Acknowledged. The CAG intends to utilize an aggressive marketing campaign directed towards residents within The Villages and propose potential involvement and partnership with their many special use clubs.*

---

## **Bob Jones, Florida Department of State, Bureau of Historic Preservation**

#### **Comment and/or Suggestion: Comments and Recommendations**

- Promotion and interpretation of the cultural, historical, natural and recreational intrinsic resources are affordable enhancements that will encourage tourism.

***Response:*** *The CAG agrees wholeheartedly with Mr. Jones comment and believes this is the basic theory and driving force that started this grassroots effort in Sumter County.*

---

## **Anne Glick, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

### Resource Specific Criteria

#### **Comment and/or Suggestion: Natural**

- Recommendation is to increase the link to the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail (GFBWT). Marsh Bend "Outlook Park", Bass Conservation Center, Upper Withlacoochee River + Lake Panasoffkee WMA are all sites.

***Response:*** *Recommendation acknowledged. The CAG has worked diligently on the development of targeted Goals, Objectives and Strategies during the Designation Phase in order to implement their vision in manageable pieces. As included in the CMP, Goal 2 is consistent with the reviewer's recommendation by advocating for access to the corridor's resources in order to promote their use. Additionally, Objectives 1 and 4 under Goal 2, promote the CAG's support of links to Byway resources and partnership with user groups for enhancement and maintenance of existing trails on public land.*

**Comment and/or Suggestion: Comments and Recommendations**

- Increase link with the GFBWT and its role in increasing eco-tourism (nature based recreation).  
Become involved in land planning process to protect/conservate natural resources.

***Response:** Acknowledged. As mentioned above, portions of the Goals, Objectives and Strategies developed during the Designation Phase are consistent with the reviewer’s comment by encouraging investment that enhances the regions resources and promotes recreational tourism in the county as stated in Goal 5, Objective 2. Additionally, Goal 1, Objective 1 pledges the protection and maintenance of the corridor’s resources by supporting efforts to promote the use of public land and recreational resources along the Byway by participating in the development of strategies for enhancement.*

---

**Keith Bettcher, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

Universal Criteria

**Comment and/or Suggestion: UC #2**

- CAG is requesting scenic classification for the corridor but the Story is emphasizes cultural and historic features and significance.

***Response:** Acknowledged. The CAG recognizes the importance of Sumter County’s Heritage to the community and feels that many of the highlighted resources can be considered scenic while preserving cultural and historic backgrounds. Examples of scenic resources with strong cultural and historic backgrounds are the County’s Agri-tourism industry, the Florida National Cemetery and the Sumter County Courthouse. The FSH manual requires that an applicant not only address its primary focus (scenic) but also look at each of the six required intrinsic resources (cultural, historic archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic).*

**Comment and/or Suggestion: UC #3**

- BASED ON CRASH DATA THERE WAS ONE ACCIDENT PER 2.65 DAYS OVER A 4 YEAR PERIOD THE PROPOSED CORRIDOR.

***Response:** Acknowledged. The CAG recognizes the importance of safety along the Byway for visitors and residents alike and therefore pledged to advocate for safe access to the corridor’s intrinsic resources as stated in Goal 2 of the Goals, Objectives and Strategies developed during the Designation Phase . More specifically, Objectiv3 of Goal 2 directs the CAG to support the FDOT and MPO in their safety improvement efforts.*

**Comment and/or Suggestion: UC #4**

- THE MOST VALUABLE FEATURES APPEAR TO BE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL. I RECOMMEND THE CORRIDOR BE SHORTENED TO FOCUS ON THESE FEATURES. THE CAG CAN APPLY TO EPAND THE CORRIDOR IN THE FUTURE IF NEEDED.

**Response:** *Comment Acknowledged. With all due respect given to the reviewer's opinion, the CAG believes that there are many "valuable" resources located along the entire length of the proposed Byway corridor that may be classified as scenic, natural and recreational as well as cultural and historic. This belief is documented and depicted on the Resources Map (Figure 9) included in Section 2.1.5 of the Eligibility Application developed to show that the resources along the corridor are continuous and significant. The CAG's intention is to highlight the diversity of intrinsic resources located throughout that part of the county. Shortening the corridor would prove detrimental to this intent and not provide the complete picture of the Byway.*

**Comment and/or Suggestion:** UC #6

- I RECOMMEND THE CAG REVISE THE PLAN TO RE-SUBMIT WITH A SHORTENED CORRIDOR AND SEEK THE HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION. I WOULD HAVE NO RESERVATIONS APPROVING IT IF THEY DO THIS.

**Response:** *Acknowledged. As stated above, shortening the proposed corridor length would preclude many significant resources that are located throughout the county and lessen the value of the scenic highway designation to the local communities, as well as the Byway traveler's experience. Additionally, the CAG chose the corridor's scenic resources as a primary focus because of its belief that the scenic qualities are more appealing to most visitors. CAG members recognize the importance of Sumter County's Heritage to the community and feel that these historic resources should not be overlooked.*

**Comment and/or Suggestion:** UC #10

- THERE IS NO ENDORSEMENT FROM THE COMMITTEES OF CARLSON, RUTLAND OR LAKE PANASOFFKEE. THESE COMMUNITIES WERE MENTIONED AS BENEFITTING FROM THE DESIGNATION.

**Response:** *The communities of Carlson, Rutland and Lake Panasoffkee will certainly benefit from the designation of this Byway because of their proximity to the corridor but did not provide an official endorsement because they do not have an organized government structure such as the larger neighboring cities of Webster and Bushnell.*

**Comment and/or Suggestion:** Comments and Recommendations

- 1) IS THE CORRIDOR 40 OR 62 MILES? BOTH FIGURES ARE GIVEN IN THE APPLICATION.
- 2) THERE ARE MANY CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SITES MENTIONED BUT THEY ARE NOT IDENTIFIED AS KEY COMPONENTS.
- 3) I RECOMMEND THE CAG SHORTEN THE CORRIDOR. THIS WILL CONDENSE THE FEATURES AS WELL AS PROVIDE A SAFER AND ENHANCED EXPERIENCE.
- 4) I RECOMMEND THE CAG SEEK THE HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION RATHER THAN THE SCENIC.
- 5) THE SURVEYS FOR THE PROPOSED CORRIDOR ROUTE RECEIVED AN AVERAGE RATING.

**Response:** *1) The current Byway corridor as proposed is 62 miles and is stated as such in the first paragraph on the first page of Chapter 1- Background Assessment, as well as other locations within the body of the document. The reviewer's confusion regarding the corridor length may have been caused by the statement of the proposed Byway length of approximately 40 miles included in the Letter of Intent (LOI) addressed to Garry Balogh, (FDOT District 5 Scenic Highways Coordinator) on September 1, 2010. This letter is included at the beginning of the Eligibility Application as required in*

*the FSHP manual. In 2010 when the LOI was submitted to Mr. Balogh, the proposed Byway length was approximately 40 miles but has since been extended to include 22 miles of additional roadway.*

*2) The CAG has dedicated eleven pages of text to Cultural and Historic sites located along the Byway in Section 2.1.5 of the Eligibility Application, as well as another ten pages to scenic, recreational, natural and archeological sites within the same section. There was no intent to show any of these sites as “key components” but rather to show that the resources along the corridor are continuous and significant.*

*3) The CAG’s intention is to highlight the many different intrinsic resources located throughout the entire county with this scenic highway designation and shortening the corridor would prove detrimental to this intent. Additionally, shortening the proposed corridor length would preclude many significant resources that are located throughout the entire county and lessen the value of the scenic highway designation to the local communities, as well as the Byway traveler’s experience.*

*4) The CAG prefers the scenic classification and originally chose the classification as a primary focus because of its belief that the scenic qualities are more appealing to most visitors. The FSHP Manual requires the CAG to select one category to “hang their hat on”. Although the CAG selected the scenic classification, the goals created during the designation phase reference both the scenic and historic features of the Byway.*

*5) Acknowledged. The intended purpose of the Corridor Impression Survey is to gain public input from a variety of individuals who may not already be familiar with the Byway. Since there are large stretches of forest, farmlands, and cattle ranches along many segments of the Byway that may or may not seem vivid to each individual, the average rating is somewhat expected. It is also welcomed because these opinions have been helpful during the development of targeted Goals, Objectives and Strategies.*

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# 1. Background Conditions Analysis

## 1.1. Introduction

A background conditions analysis is used as an indicator of potential opportunities and constraints within a corridor. This analysis can identify conditions consistent with the vision of the Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) and also indicate potential issues that should be addressed during corridor planning. During the preparation of its Eligibility Application document, the CAG spent a significant amount of time cataloguing the existing condition of the corridor. The CAG performed field reviews, interviewed local officials and sought comment from individuals familiar with each segment of the corridor. As part of the development of this Corridor Management Plan (CMP) in the Designation phase, the CAG reviewed the findings presented in the Eligibility document, toured the Byway to reconfirm current conditions and informally interviewed individuals familiar with the corridor. The CAG's goal was to document any recent changes that may have altered people's perception of the Byway since the original assessment was completed. This updated research is discussed later in this section. Equally important, this background analysis helps the CAG identify potential conflicts and opportunities that need to be addressed in the development of their Goals & Objectives and Action Plan (Section 3) for the corridor.

## 1.2. Summary of Findings

The Florida Scenic Highways Manual requires the CAG to prepare a "Summary of Findings" as part of this initial section of the CMP. The CAG has taken key components of these findings and incorporated them into the Byway's Goals and Objectives (Section 3).

### Key Findings

Roadway/Right-of-Way Description (Section 1.3.1):

- Much of this Byway (approximately 70%) is located on local (county) roads. It will be imperative for the CAG, and ultimately the Corridor Management Entity (CME), to maintain close ties with county staff as they identify and prioritize needed improvements to these roads as part of the transportation planning process. Similarly, the CAG will need to be an active participant in the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) planning process to ensure Byway needs are understood and addressed. The CAG is fortunate to have strong representation from Sumter County Government staff, the Lake/Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (LSMPO) and FDOT as members/advisory support to the CAG. Goal 2 addresses the need for a coordinated effort at the state, regional and local level as well as the CAG's need to be an active participant in the identification/prioritization of projects that are consistent with their Mission and Vision.

Multimodal Opportunities (Section 1.3.2)

- The multi-modal opportunities currently available in Sumter County and along the Byway are reflective of a rural community with desires to ensure connectivity to a regional transportation network. Sumter County Transit is the public transportation agency that serves the County and their "Dial-a-Ride" program is at the center of the agency's mission to provide local access and regional connectivity. Bus routes also exist in the vicinity of the corridor but are limited to weekday routes through the southern portion of the County between Sumterville and Center Hill. This route makes stops along the Byway in Bushnell, and Webster. The Villages Shuttle is the second fixed transit route in the county. This system provides weekday rider loops through this retirement community in the upper reaches of the County. While looking towards the future, the LSMPO has established a vision and goals for a regional transportation network that attempts to balance the community's desire to preserve its rural character

while still meeting the future needs of a fast growing population. Goal 2 addresses the need for the CAG (future CME) to encourage elected officials to develop multimodal concepts that strike a balance between the Byway's rural character, corridor safety and the region's transportation needs.

- The LSMPO produced a region-wide Bicycling Routes Map that identifies "Most Popular" and "Common" cycling routes throughout the county. Several segments of the Byway appear on this map.

#### Pedestrian Amenities (Section 1.3.3)

- The CAG noted as part of its Background Conditions analysis that pedestrian amenities such as sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and bicycle lanes are present only sporadically along this rural Byway. These amenities are common in Bushnell and Webster but rarely elsewhere along the Byway. As discussed in the Multimodal finding above, Goal 2 addresses the need for the CAG to support pedestrian amenities that strike a balance between the Byway's rural character, corridor safety and pedestrian need. In the summer of 2012 the FDOT initiated a project to remove the highway overpass at the southern terminus of the Byway (SR 50@Van Fleet Trail). This project is currently underway.

#### Local Agency Program (LAP) (Section 1.3.4)

- The federal government recently approved the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21). This act includes programs that offer local governments the opportunity to seek federal funding for qualified transportation projects. With restrictive operating budgets slowing project implementation, local agencies continue to seek out alternative funding sources to help complete needed improvements. The LAP program allows local governments to more easily accept federal transportation funds to implement key local priority projects. The CAG notes that Sumter County, the City of Bushnell and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) are certified LAP agencies. The importance of this certification is recognized by the CAG as a possible funding mechanism to complete Byway improvement projects in partnership with a certified agency. The CAG commits in Goal 2 to work with these LAP agencies to identify and support transportation initiatives that are consistent with the CAG's mission and support the identification of funding scenarios that advance transportation improvements.

#### Existing/Future Land Use and Zoning (Section 1.3.6)

- The stated purpose of community zoning regulations is to "encourage orderly development, promote economic and environmental advantages and promote public health, safety, and the general welfare of its citizens." For Sumter County and its local municipalities this is a consistent theme in their community planning documents. As with every scenic highway there is a need to monitor land use/zoning designations and requests for changes. This role is particularly important for a "high growth demand" community where scenic/heritage resources are many times lost in the name of "regional growth. The CAG will need to work closely with the local planning agencies to ensure that Byway integrity is not compromised. This is addressed in Goal 3.
- The CAG has also identified the need for heritage resource protection. Sumter County does not currently have a "historic preservation" ordinance nor a certified local historic resources program. As part of resource protection the CAG has identified the need to support enhanced protection of its heritage resources. Goal 1 was developed in part to support the protection of these valuable resources.
- As the region's economy begins to recover from the current economic downturn, development/redevelopment pressure will increase. Section 1.3.6 identifies several recent major public/private planning efforts along the corridor. The CAG identifies resource preservation in Goal 1 as a priority. This Goal commits the CAG to take an active role in supporting efforts to ensure the Byway's resources are accounted for (with an emphasis on protection and enhancement).

#### Signage (Section 1.3.7)

- Sumter County regulates highway signage within their Land Development Code (LDC). The CAG supports an enhanced corridor viewshed. This can be accomplished in part, through the implementation

of sign ordinances that are fair and consistent and do not detract from the essence of a scenic highway designation.

- Wayfinding is defined by transportation planners as the organized movement of pedestrians and vehicles through a complex environment. The CAG recognizes (Goal 2, Objective 1) the value of a county-wide wayfinding program. A wayfinding system is currently under development by Sumter County. The CAG has been an active participant in the planning of this system.
- Because of the county-wide wayfinding initiative that is currently underway, the CME will meet with the FDOT upon designation to assess the need to implement a Byway sign plan.

#### Safety Issues (Section 1.3.8)

- FDOT's statutory mission is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures mobility, and enhances economic prosperity. The CAG acknowledges that an unsafe corridor will have a negative impact on the visitor experience. The CAG has established several safety Objectives as part of Goal 2 that reference the issue. Goal 2 introduces the CAG as an advocate for enhanced safety measures along the Byway. Additionally, this same Goal addresses the need for supporting the development of consistent wayfinding information for the Byway and county.

#### Roadway Improvements (Section 1.3.12)

- A scenic highway designation is not intended to prohibit roadway improvements. The scenic highways program does encourage joint planning efforts to ensure an enhanced transportation network that embraces the scenic highway vision. Upon designation as a Florida Scenic Highway, the CME is looked upon as the advocate for the corridor. Goal 1 and Goal 2 both address the CAG being an active participant in transportation planning as it involves the Byway.

#### Tourism and User Facilities (Section 1.3.14)

- Economic development is the underlying mission of the Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP). Goals 1, 3 and 4 address preservation, protection and educating the community on the corridor's intrinsic resources. Ongoing partnerships between the state's scenic highways program and Visit Florida are based in part on a designated corridor's contribution to a region's economic health. The future CME's broad range of partners including local governments, the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, local interest groups and individual citizens all acknowledge the importance of enhanced economic vitality for the region. Goal 5 emphasizes the importance that the CAG places on economic development including the creation of a Byway website, marketing materials and the establishment of regional partnerships. Goal 2 looks at tourism from a slightly different perspective acknowledging the importance of providing a safe experience for Byway visitors.
- The use of a scenic highway designation as an economic development tool is emphasized in the recently drafted Florida Scenic Highways Work Plan (FDOT Central Office document). Scenic highways across the state have been shown to serve as a magnet for tourist dollars bringing visitors to areas that they might never have considered without a designation. A scenic highway designation serves as another "tool" in a region's economic development tool box. Goal 5 identifies the importance of the CAG working with the regional tourist development agency and other entities charged with attracting tourists to the region.
- The region's heritage, scenic, recreation and natural stories need to be told. Goals 3, 4 and 5 address the CAG's commitment to tell the story through educational tools like brochures, a Byway web site and educational tours (bus tours, cell phone tours, corridor applications, etc.).

## 1.3. Updated Background Assessment

As noted earlier the CAG revisited the Background Assessment section of their previously approved Eligibility Application to ensure that any recent changes/updates to the corridor were documented. The discussion below presents this updated information with significant updates presented in **italicized** text.

### 1.3.1. Roadway/Right of Way Description

The proposed Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway (Byway) corridor is located in central Sumter County and extends through the cities of Bushnell and Webster and the communities of Linden, Tarrytown, St. Catherine, Lake Panasoffkee, Sumterville and Rutland. The corridor is approximately 62 miles (mi) in length. Like many of the designated scenic highway corridors around the state, this Byway is comprised of a network of state and local roadways that connect the communities it passes through. The roadways and associated communities are depicted on **Figure 1**, the **Corridor Map**. The following roads are included in the Byway corridor:

#### State Highways

- SR 50 from the General James A. Van Fleet Trail State Park to CR 478A
- SR 471/South Market Boulevard from CR 478A to CR 48 (east side of Webster Loop)
- US 301 from CR 478 to CR 673
- US 301/South & North Main Street from CR 476 to CR 470
- SR 44 from CR 470 to the Withlacoochee River (Sumter/Citrus County line)

#### County Roads

- CR 478A from SR 50 to SR 471/South Market Street
- CR 478 from SR 471/South Market Street to US 301
- CR 673 from US 301 to CR 476B
- CR 476B from CR 673 to CR 476
- CR 476 from CR 476B to US 301/South Main Street
- CR 470 from US 301 to SR 44
- CR 48 from SR 471 to CR 747/Shoe Factory Road (north side of Webster Loop)
- CR 747/Shoe Factory Road from CR 48 to CR 478 (west side of Webster Loop)

***As part of the Designation phase the CAG discussed possible adjustments to the originally established Byway limits. The CAG has decided to maintain the previously approved Byway segments. The CAG did agree that post-designation corridor extensions could be considered at a later date.***

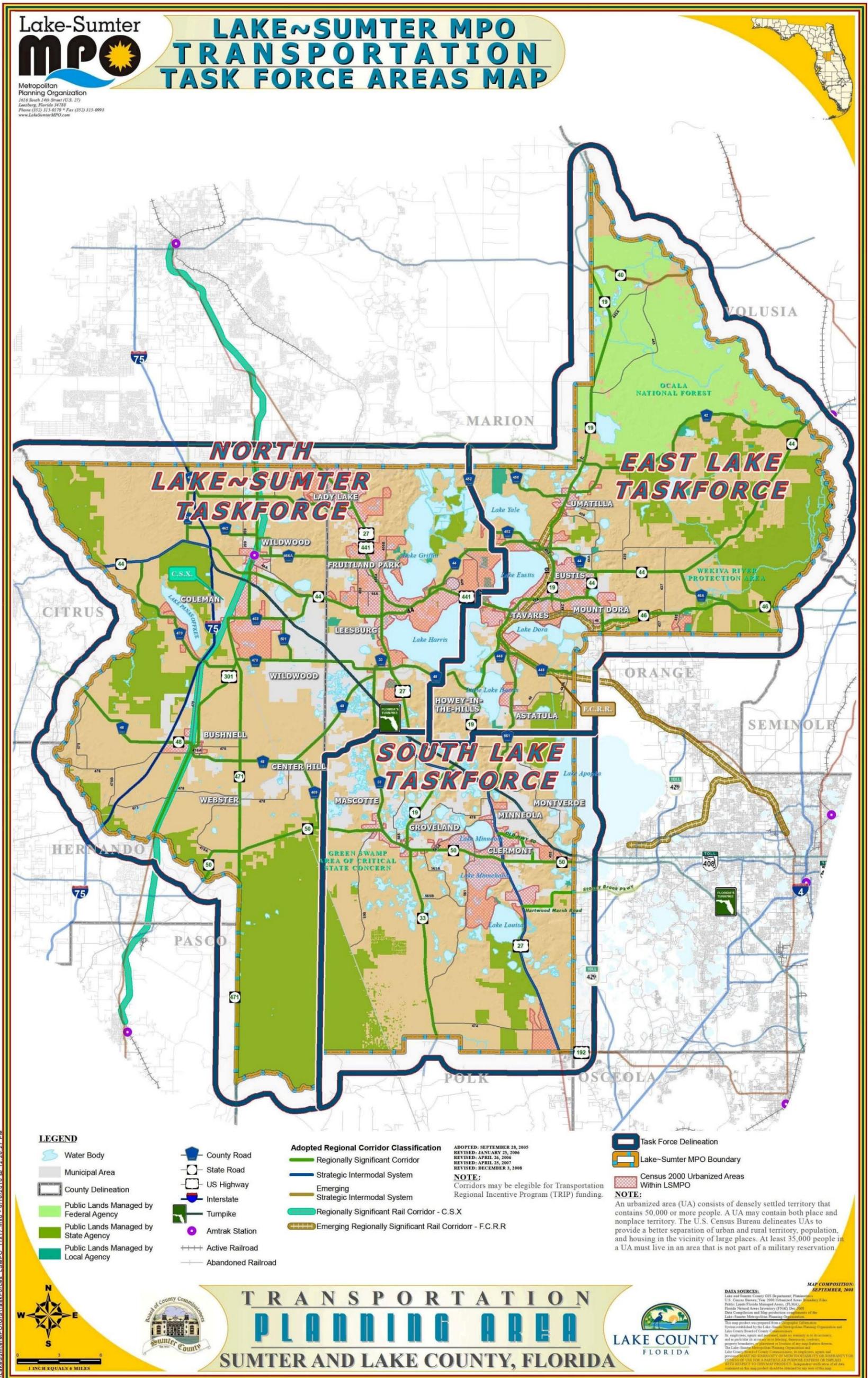
***Sumter County covers approximately 580 square miles (sq mi) and offers a diversity of resources that are highly valued by the community, significant to the region, and continuous along the network of roads that make up the Byway. These resources embrace a multi-dimensional designation that highlights the natural, recreational and scenic resources that make up the Byway. Although the CAG seeks the scenic classification of designation, the region is also rich in history, having proud regional traditions that only reinforce the appropriateness of designation as a member of the FSHP and the name “Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway”.***

According to the LSMPO, the Byway passes through the urbanized areas of Bushnell and Lake Panasoffkee (shown as *Census 2000 Urbanized Areas within LSMPO* on **Figure 2, LSMPO Transportation Task Force Areas Map**). An Urbanized Area (UA) consists of densely settled territory that contains 50,000 or more people and may contain both place and non-place territory. The US Census Bureau delineates UAs to provide a better separation of urban and rural territory, population, and housing in the vicinity of large places.

Figure 1 - Corridor Map



Figure 2 - LSMPO Transportation Task Force Areas Map



The Byway includes roadway segments with the following functional classifications as established by the FDOT and the LSMPO: Rural Major Collector, Rural Minor Arterial and Rural Principal Arterial (shown on **Figure 3, 2000-2010 Federal Functional Classification and Urban Boundary Map, LSMPO**). Additionally, **Table 1** provides roadway jurisdictional information along with functional classification.

**Table 1. Jurisdictional and Functional Classification of Byway Roadway Segments**

Road Name	Limits	Functional Classification	Jurisdiction
SR 50	General James A. Van Fleet State Trail to CR 478A	Rural Principal Arterial	FDOT
CR 478A	SR 50 to SR 471	Rural Major Collector	County
SR 471	CR 478A to CR 48	Rural Minor Arterial	FDOT
CR 48	SR 471 to CR 747	Rural Major Collector	County
CR 747	CR 48 to CR 478	Rural Major Collector	County
CR 478	SR 471 to US 301/SR 35	Rural Major Collector	County
US 301/SR 35	CR 478 to CR 673	Rural Principal Arterial	FDOT
CR 673	US 301/SR 35 to CR 476B	Rural Major Collector	County
CR 476B	CR 673 to CR 476	Rural Major Collector	County
CR 476	CR 476B to US 301/SR 35	Rural Major Collector	County
US 301/SR 35	CR 476 to CR 470	Rural Principal Arterial	FDOT
CR 470	US 301/SR 35 to SR 44	Rural Minor Arterial	County
SR 44	CR 470 to Withlacoochee River	Rural Principal Arterial	FDOT

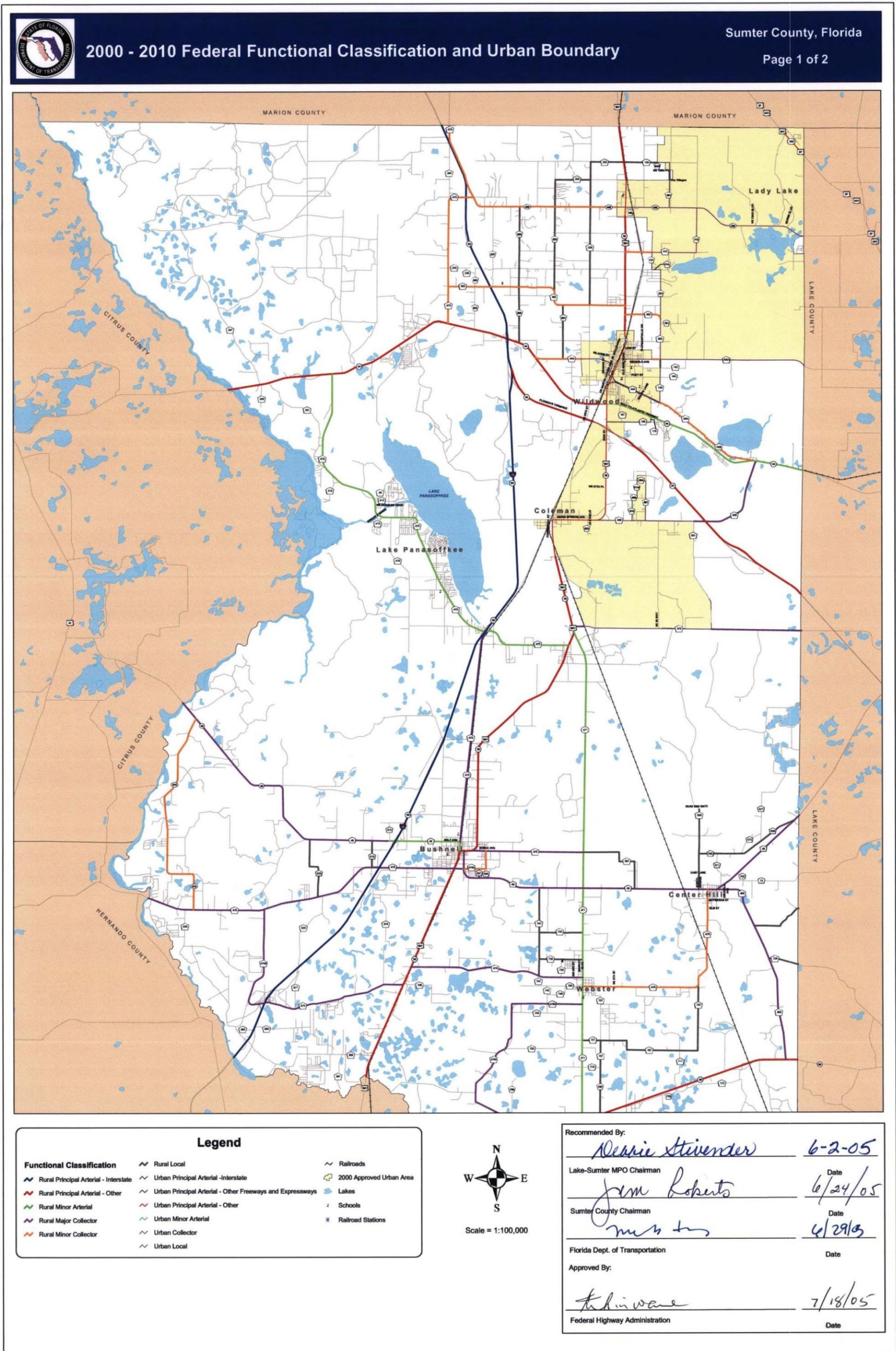
SR 44 at the northern limits of the Byway is designated part of the FDOT Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) as one of the key components to their regional transportation system. The Byway (62 mi) represents approximately 15 percent of the total centerline mileage within Sumter County and all segments of the corridor are passable with motorized vehicles as required by the FSHP.

The County has a population of approximately 100,000 residents (2010 – Sumter County Government statistics). During the last 10 years, Sumter County has experienced its most significant growth in its unincorporated areas with a large percentage of this growth attributed to The Villages, a master-planned retirement community located north and east of the City of Wildwood. The total county population has doubled since the year 2000 and it is projected that the County will have 230,000 residents by year 2035 (LSMPO Transportation 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan).

There is some considerable variation to the existing roadway cross sections found for each of the segments proposed for the Byway. State roads that are part of the Byway include US 301/SR 35, SR 471, SR 44 and SR 50.

- US 301/SR 35: Road width is 24 feet (ft) with a 4- to 5-ft paved shoulder in most locations except where turn lanes have been installed. The right-of-way (ROW) varies in width throughout.
- SR 471: Road width is 24 ft with a 4- to 5-ft paved shoulder except on the curb and gutter section within the City of Webster. Within the Webster city limits, the road has a 24-ft travel way with paved parking areas on each side. ROW on SR 471 varies from 100 ft to 150 ft. Within the City of Webster, there is approximately 80 ft of ROW present in the curb and gutter sections.

Figure 3 - 2000-2010 Federal Functional Classification and Urban Boundary Map, LSMPO



- SR 44: This major east/west corridor is a four-lane, divided highway with 12-ft lanes and a 5-ft paved shoulder in each direction. ROW width varies from 200 to 250 ft along the segment of SR 44 that is part of the Byway.
- SR 50: Road width is 24 ft with a 4- to 5-ft paved shoulder in most locations, except where turn lanes have been installed. The ROW varies in width throughout.

The county roads that are part of the Byway are typically rural, two-lane highways with existing ROW widths that vary from a minimum of 40 ft to over 150 ft. Road widths also vary from 18 to 24 ft depending on the road and specific location while most have 2-ft paved shoulders. Sidewalks are sporadic and located mainly within the cities of Bushnell and Webster. A new 1-mi segment of sidewalk was recently completed along US 301 in Bushnell. There is also an approximate 2-mi stretch of sidewalk along CR 470 in the Lake Panasoffkee area.



**New Bushnell Sidewalk**

Designated bicycling amenities are also limited along the Byway because of its rural constraints, but many of the highway segments have been identified as either *Very Good* or *Good* for bicycling (based on a 2006 LSMPO sponsored bicycling suitability survey). The LSMPO has developed a Bicycling Routes Map (**Figure 4**) that offers “Street Ratings” for bicycling throughout Lake and Sumter Counties. This map identifies routes rated for bicycle travel and the designation of a route on this map implies that the road or path is a “bicycle friendly” route capable of carrying the rider to a variety of desired destinations. Some of the highway segments that make up the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway (including portions of CR 478, CR 673 and SR 44) are identified on this route map as a *COMMON ROUTE* for bicycling.

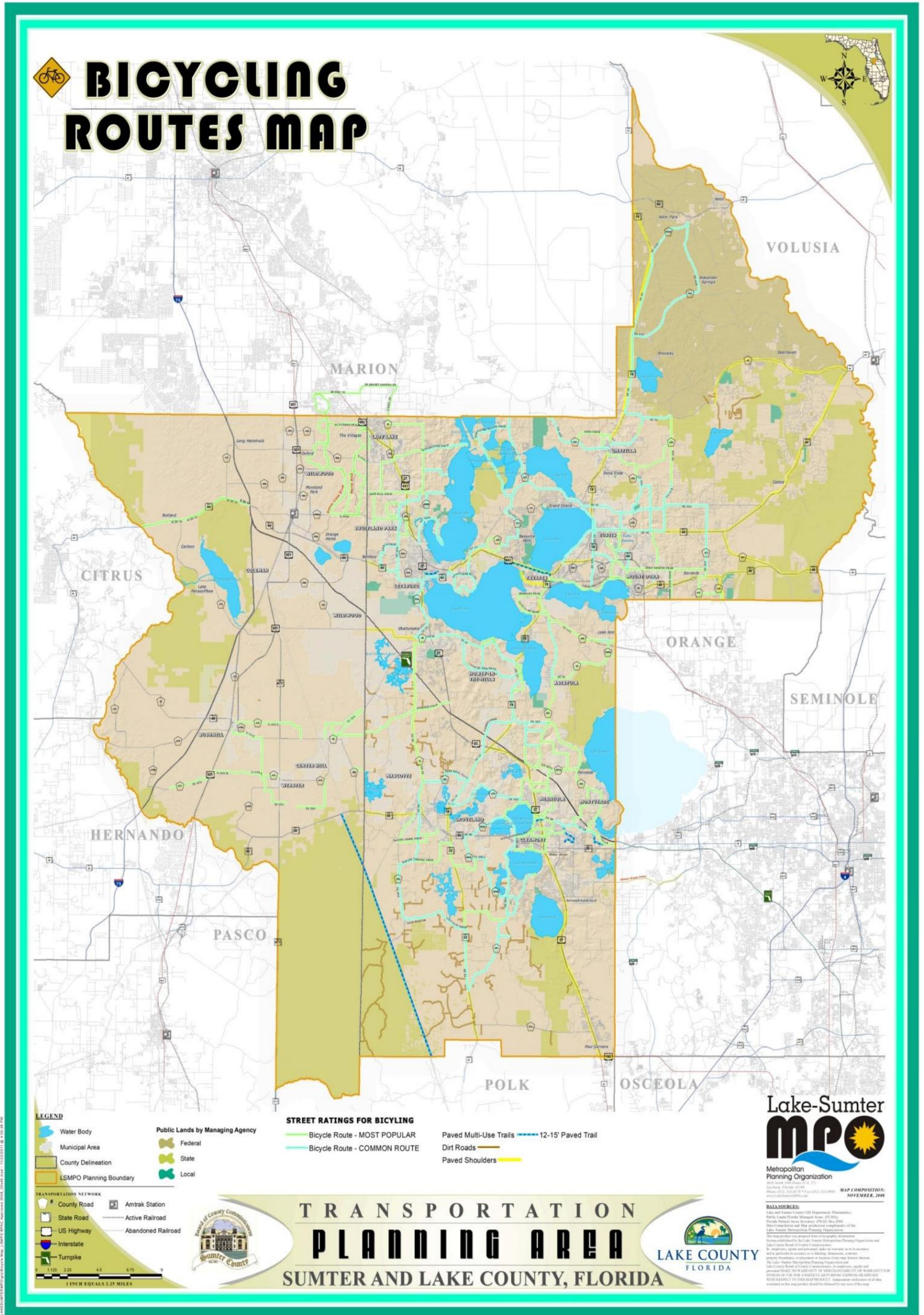
There are several bridges that are part of the corridor:

- SR 50 overpass at the General James A. Van Fleet State Trail. (This structure is currently being removed)
- CR 478A at Gant Lake Canal (bridge #84055)
- US 301 at Jumper Creek Canal (bridge #180072)
- CR 470 at the Lake Panasoffkee Outlet (bridge #184054)
- SR 44 at the Withlacoochee River (bridge #180067)
- CR 673 over I-75 (bridge #180029)
- CR 476 over I-75 (bridge #180017)

All bridges located on the state system (including US 301 and SR 44) are maintained by the FDOT while the remainder are maintained by Sumter County.

FDOT is responsible for maintaining US 301/ SR 35, SR 471, SR 50 and SR 44 (all state roads), while the County is responsible for maintenance of all other roads on the Byway. The County has executed maintenance agreements with FDOT for roadside areas and median strips associated with the four I-75 interchanges within Sumter County, including those that are part of the Byway (at CR 673 and CR 470). Additionally, the County has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in place with FDOT that allows the state to maintain traffic signals throughout the County. These MOA’s will be discussed in more detail later in this document. Telephone, cable, and water lines are buried along many of the Byway segments and are typically maintained by the utility company that owns them.

Figure 4 - Bicycling Routes Map, LSMPO



Upon designation, FDOT will install and maintain FSHP signs along Byway segments that are part of the state system if requested by the CAG. The FDOT will also provide signs to the County for their installation and maintenance on non-state segments of the Byway.

### 1.3.2. Multimodal Opportunities



Currently, the multi-modal options available in Sumter County and along the Byway are reflective of a rural community with desires to ensure connectivity to a regional transportation network. Sumter County Transit is the public transportation agency that serves the County. Their “Dial-a-Ride” program is at the center of the agency’s mission to provide local access and limited regional connectivity.

Two fixed transit routes also exist in the vicinity of the corridor. The first makes two loops each weekday through the southern portion of the County between Sumterville and Center Hill (the Orange line). This route makes stops along the Byway in Bushnell,



and Webster. The Villages Shuttle is the second providing weekday loops through this retirement community in the upper reaches of the County.

Based on the recognition that some corridors should not be prioritized for capacity improvements, the LSMPO adopted a constrained roadways policy. This Corridor Constraint Policy seeks to accomplish the following;

- Preserve rural character
- Limit the extent to which corridors will be widened
- Enhance the regional transportation network
- Promote multi-modal improvements
- Monitor “cost benefit” of lane addition projects

With the adoption of this policy, the LSMPO is able to constrain regionally-significant corridors to a maximum number of travel lanes with the intent of uniting community planning principles with regional transportation goals. There are a number of segments of the Byway that have been identified as constrained from further widening. This “constrained” designation in many ways helps to protect byway resources.

*The LSMPO has established a vision and a series of goals for a future transportation network that attempts to balance the community’s desire to preserve the region’s rural character while meeting the future needs of a fast growing population. The “Transportation 2035” plan was finalized in 2010 and serves as one of the region’s primary transportation planning tools.*



This strategic transportation planning document provides policy guidance, goals, objectives and strategies for jurisdictions within the LSMPO planning area to work cooperatively to provide a well-maintained, integrated, accessible and multi-modal transportation system for the citizens of the region. This plan focuses in part on the implementation of a multi-modal transportation system to safely move people and goods around the region. Underlying themes include:

- Mobility
- Sustainable development
- Environmental stewardship
- Economic development
- Safety & security
- Integrated planning and community involvement

The LSMPO has developed a conceptual transit network for the region that identifies a number of innovative concepts that support anticipated future transportation needs for the region. These concepts include the use of existing rail corridors, light rail, bus rapid transit (BRT) and trolley's. Within Sumter County this plan proposes BRT as the preferred alternative transportation mode with a circulator line running between Lake and Sumter Counties and ultimately connecting regional services in the Greater Orlando area. Although never touching the Byway this proposed BRT line would serve the Byway with a commuter station in Sumterville and ultimately provide enhanced regional connectivity. Only one segment of the corridor (US 301 from Bushnell to Sumterville) appears in LSMPO's 2035 Transit and Intermodal Needs Plan.

### 1.3.3. Pedestrian Amenities

As noted earlier, there are few pedestrian amenities including sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and bicycle lanes available outside of the larger cities along the Byway. Much of the Byway passes through rural areas with limited demand for these amenities. Within the City of Webster, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and traffic control systems are in place along large portions of SR 471/Market Street. There are also sidewalks in the vicinity of the Webster Elementary School and the Flea Market district along SR 471/ Market Street. The City of Bushnell (including portions of US 301 and CR 48 as noted earlier) has existing pedestrian amenities and a new segment of sidewalk has been recently constructed along US 301 near CR 476E. Additionally, a sidewalk is located on the south side of the road along CR 470 through the Lake Panasoffkee area. These are shown in **Figure 5, Pedestrian Amenities Map**. *According to Sumter County Public Works staff there are no additional sidewalk improvement projects currently scheduled for construction in the next two years along the Byway.*



**Webster Sidewalk**

Figure 5 - Pedestrian Amenities Map



The Byway connects/provides direct access to several designated regional trails including:

**General James A. Van Fleet State Trail:** This 29.2 mile trail is part of Florida’s state-wide system of Greenways and Trails. It passes through the Green Swamp and was once a railroad corridor that has been converted to recreational use. The trail extends from Polk City through Bay Lake to Mabel (SR 50) at the southern terminus of the Byway. *The FDOT recently initiated a project to remove the SR 50 overpass at the northern limits of this trail near the Mabel trailhead.*



**General James A. Van Fleet Trailhead at Mabel**

**Half Moon-Gum Slough Trail:** This Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) property is located along the eastern boundary of Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) property adjacent to the Withlacoochee River and SR 44 near Rutland. Combined, these properties represent over 9,480 acres of public land known as the Half Moon Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This WMA is located at the northern terminus of the Byway and includes over 24 mi of multi-use trail that is directly accessible from the Byway along SR 44.



**Half Moon Wildlife Management Area**

*Recently, information on a proposed regional trail system has been brought to the CAG by the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, Inc. This foundation is Florida’s chief advocacy organization for non-motorized trails and has been working with local and state officials to try to connect the region’s existing trail network to create a 250-mile loop through central Florida. As part of the Foundation’s “Close the Gap” initiative, portions of the Heart of Florida Loop trail would pass through Sumter County (Figure 6). Long term partnerships with organizations like this Foundation could be mutually advantageous to both organizations (Goals 4 and 5).*

Figure 6 - Heart of Florida Loop Trail Map



### 1.3.4. Local Agency Program (LAP)

The LAP program allows the FDOT to contract with certified local governments for the use of federal funds administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Historically, the FDOT has contracted with local governmental agencies to develop, design, and construct transportation facilities and to reimburse these agencies for services provided. Through this program local governments are able to more efficiently implement local priority projects. Both Sumter County and the City of Bushnell are LAP certified agencies. The CAG will want to ensure it maintains partnering relationships with these local governments so the group can effectively pursue federal funds to undertake corridor projects. **Sumter County and the City of Bushnell remain LAP certified. Additionally, the FDEP is also LAP certified.**

### 1.3.5. Acquisition of Property Rights

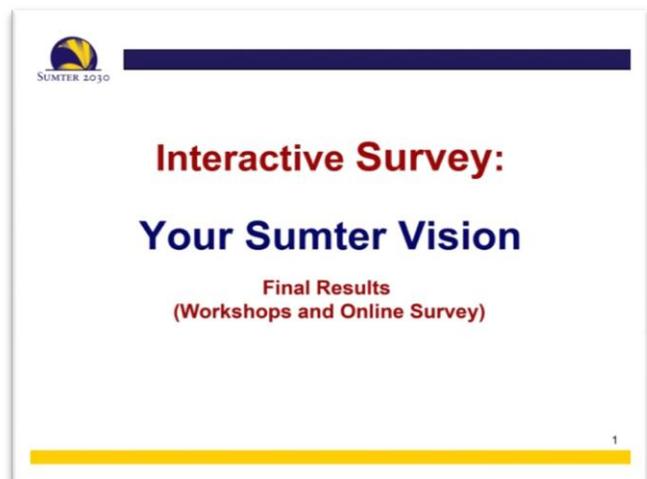
Although the CAG has no current plans to acquire property, they are aware that all acquisitions which are part of the implementation of this designation involving the use of federal financial assistance, must comply with the Federal Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policy Act of 1970 (Title 49, Part 24). If a future need arises, the CAG will closely coordinate these activities with the FDOT Right of Way office.

### 1.3.6. Existing / Future Land Use and Zoning

In 2008/2009 the County completed a visioning process entitled Sumter 2030. Its purpose was to obtain input from citizens and other stakeholders to identify important issues related to the county's future. This plan also helped set the tone for the development and implementation of the community's comprehensive plan and land development regulations. Community comments received from this visioning process highlighted the importance of quality of life, maintaining a vibrant economy, smart growth and environmental sustainability.

The principal local governing boards for areas within the proposed Byway corridor include:

- Sumter Board of County Commissioners
- City of Bushnell City Council
- City of Webster City Council



Based on a review of community planning documentation, the proposed Byway is located adjacent to a variety of land uses including agriculture, residential, commercial, recreational, industrial, institutional and conservation (**Figures 7 and 8, Sumter County Existing and Future Land Use Maps**). A large portion of the land located in the unincorporated areas of Sumter County is classified as Agricultural. Most of the corridor, particularly the southern two thirds of the Byway, outside the cities of Bushnell and Webster, is adjacent to land classified as such.

The SR 50 segment borders a number of publically managed lands (predominately the Green Swamp and Withlacoochee State Forest) and as a result there are large areas of land classified as Conservation. Agriculture and Conservation land use classifications are predominant in the Lake Panasoffkee region including the land along CR 470 and SR 44 north and west of the Lake. The Institutional classification appears only along CR 476B

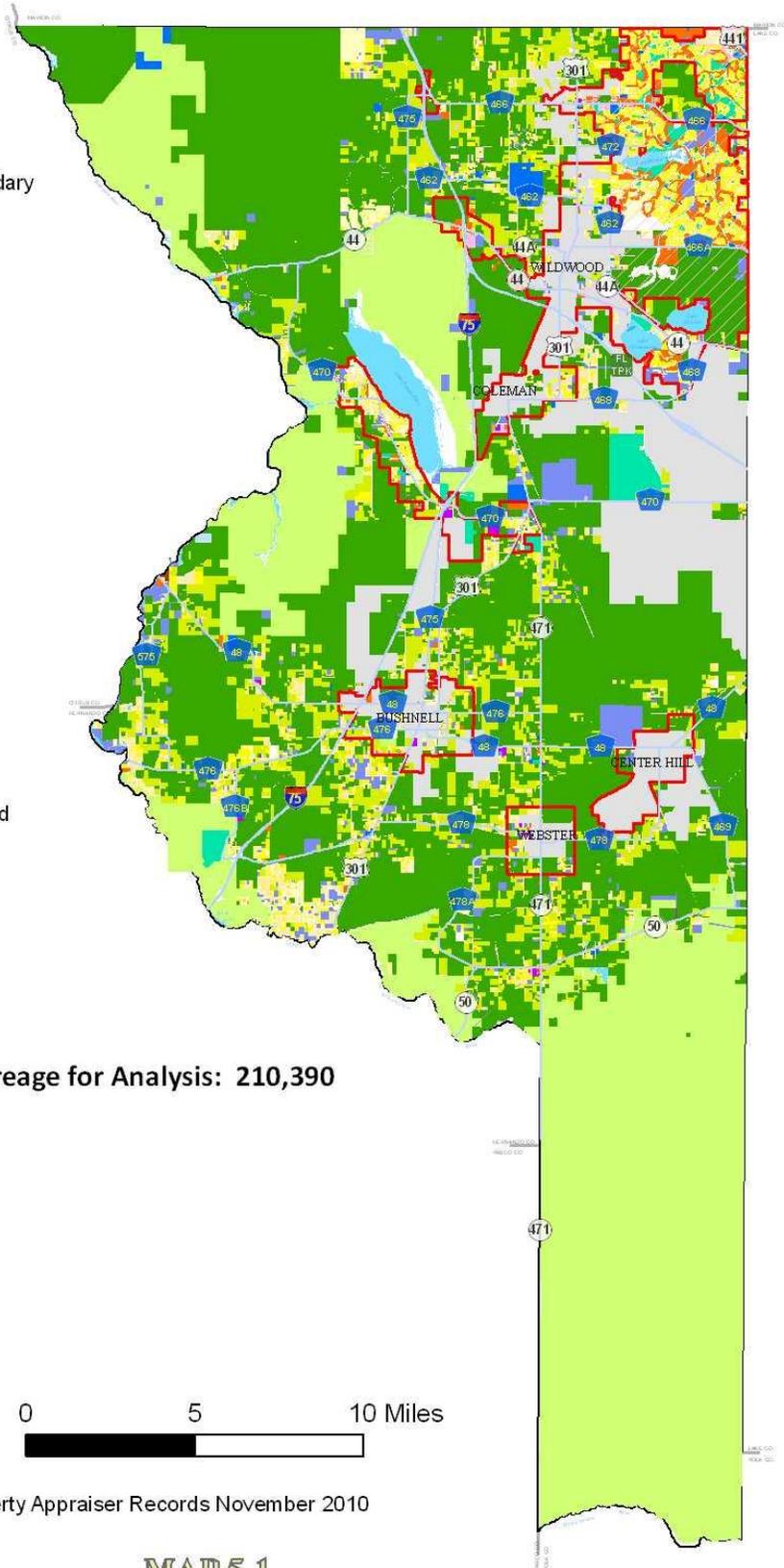
Figure 7 - Sumter County Existing Land Use Map

**Legend**

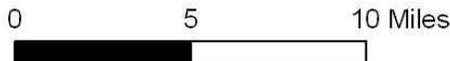
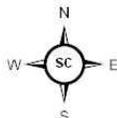
-  Urban Development Boundary
-  The Villages DRI
-  State Lands
-  City Boundaries
-  Lakes/Waterways

**Existing Land Use**

- Not Classified
-  Vacant Residential
-  Single-Family Residential
-  Mobile Home
-  Multi-Family
-  Miscellaneous Residential
-  Vacant Commercial
-  Commercial/Office
-  Vacant Industrial
-  Industrial
-  Agriculture with Homestead
-  Agriculture
-  Vacant Institutional
-  Public/Institutional
-  Government
-  Utilities/Mining/Other



**Unincorporated Areas Acreage for Analysis: 210,390**

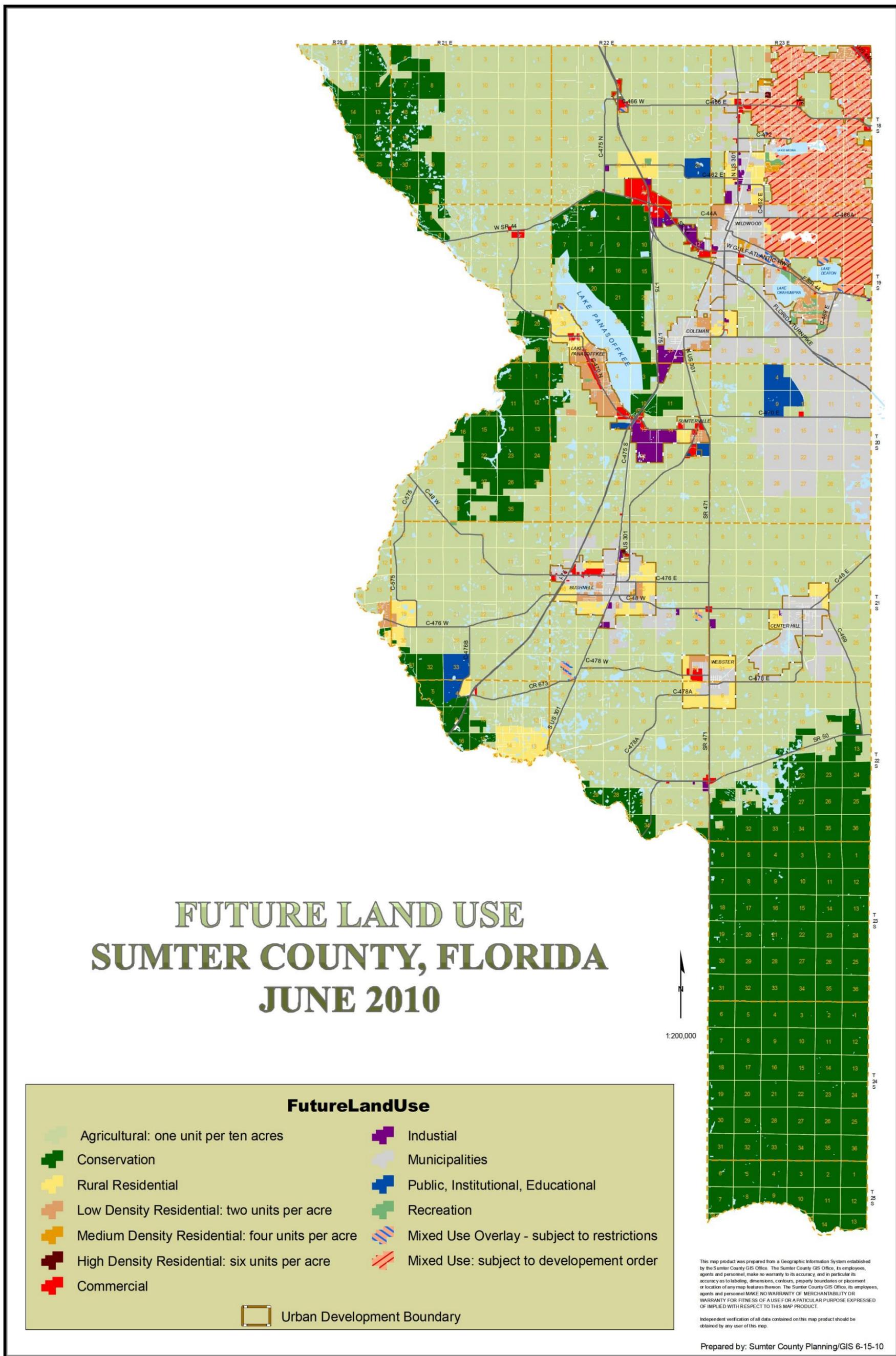


Date Prepared: November 15, 2010

Source: Sumter County Property Appraiser Records November 2010

**MAP 5-1  
UNINCORPORATED AREAS FOR ANALYSIS - EXISTING LAND USES  
SUMTER COUNTY EVALUATION & APPRAISAL REPORT**

Figure 8 - Sumter County Future Land Use Map



and is mainly associated with the Sumter Correctional Institution located there. Small areas of the Commercial land use classification appear sporadically (in the unincorporated areas) at several major highway intersections including; SR 50 at SR 471, US 301 in Sumterville, CR 470 at I-75, and CR 470 at SR 44. Most of the Residential land use classification is found along CR 470 between Sumterville and Lake Panasoffkee. There are also areas with an Industrial classification including a small area west of Sumterville on CR 470 and on SR 50 near SR 471. Additionally, there is a single Mixed Use Overlay land use classification located on US 301 near CR 673 that is associated with the Southern Villa Motor Coach Resort which is being developed as a 385-unit, 50 year old and over, RV park.

As would be expected for both the City of Bushnell and Webster, the Rural and Low Density Residential land use classifications are most prevalent on the outskirts of their urban development boundaries. Both communities also have a commercial component mainly associated with their historic downtown areas.

The stated purpose of community zoning regulations is to “encourage orderly development, promote economic and environmental advantages, and promote public health, safety, and the general welfare of citizens”. For the County and local municipalities in the region, this is a consistent theme through all of their planning policies. Current zoning along the corridor is consistent with the rural nature of the county. The majority of roads outside incorporated communities show a mix of residential and agricultural zoning designations. These designations appear to vary by lot size in some places (1 acre to 10 acres in places). As one would expect, there is some limited Commercial zoning at major intersections including areas where the Byway crosses the interstate. As the Byway passes through both Webster and Bushnell, the designations found are consistently Residential zoning with pockets of Commercial as the Byway approaches each community’s downtown core.

### **Status of Recent Major Planning Efforts**

A development of regional impact (DRI) is defined as any development which, because of its character, magnitude, or location would have a substantial effect upon the health, safety or welfare of citizens from more than one county. Coordination with the Sumter County Planning Department identified three new DRIs in the general area of the corridor. None are directly on the Byway but all will eventually have some impact on the region. All three are in the City of Wildwood (north of the Byway), and County Planning staff have reported that none have advanced to the permitting phase yet.

- Landstone LLC, located 2 mi east of Sumterville, is the closest to the corridor. This development is approved for 3,475 dwelling units and 175,000 square feet (SF) of retail. The main entrance to this development will be off of CR 470.
- Wildwood Springs is located north of the corridor near Coleman. The development is approved for 3,000 dwelling units and 215,000 SF of retail. The main entrance will be to the east of Coleman on CR 468 (approximately 5 mi from the Byway).
- Southern Oaks (application pending) is currently progressing through the negotiation process. Phase I is very small, with just enough activity necessary to establish and vest the project. The developer is requesting 2,685,000 SF of office and 470,000 SF of retail space as part of the overall development. This project is being planned in conjunction with a proposed interchange on Florida’s Turnpike.

***Based on discussions with the Sumter County Planning Department and a review of the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (WRPC) website there are no new major planning efforts in the vicinity of the Byway that have been submitted for review since approval of the Eligibility application.***

### 1.3.7. Signage

#### Government Regulations

In 1991, Section 104(c) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) added a new subsection to 23 USC 131 that limits outdoor advertising on portions of designated scenic highways/byways that are part of the National Highway System, the Federal Aid Primary System and the State Highway System. FDOT issues permits for billboards and other signs in accordance with Florida Statutes (F.S.) Chapter 479 relating to Outdoor Advertising. Once a corridor has been designated a Florida Scenic Highway (FSH), the FDOT Outdoor Advertising Office is restricted from issuing new permits for certain types of outdoor advertising signs within the control zone for roadway segments that are part of the National or State Highway System along the corridor. Although a majority of the roadway segments located along the Byway will not qualify for the applicability of this regulation, it will be important for the CAG to meet with the FDOT Outdoor Advertising office to clearly understand the details for effective communication to stakeholders when needed.

Sumter County and the local municipalities address the issue of signage within their Land Development Code. Sumter County references signs in Article 1 (General Provisions), Section 13-11(7), where it states that uncontrolled and unlimited signs may degrade the aesthetic attractiveness of the natural and manmade attributes of the community and thereby undermine the economic value of tourism, visitation and permanent economic growth. Section 13-12(8) requires the creation of a comprehensive and balanced system of sign control that governs the type, placement, physical dimensions and use within the different land-use zones. Finally, in Element 7, Future Land-Use of the County's Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan), the regulation of signage is again referenced (policy 7.1.1).

The City of Bushnell references outdoor advertising and signage in their Code of Ordinances. The Advertising Code discusses the posting of materials in Article I, Section 3-1. This section states that it is unlawful for any person to post any bills or other advertising matter upon any permanent or temporary structure, building, pole or tree located on any street, or other public way or place within the corporate limits of the City. Signs are regulated by City code also. Section 22 regulates the size, density and placement of signs intended to be seen from a public ROW in the interest of highway safety, preservation of property values, and protection of the character of the community and general welfare (Ordinance No. 90-03.s I(I), 5-7-90).

The City of Webster is currently discussing the need for a local sign ordinance.

Historic enforcement of signage regulations has been irregular at times and therefore some signs do exist that do not conform to local codes. It is hoped that increased education and vigilance will follow corridor designation, and that this designation will result in upgraded monitoring to facilitate protection of the scenic aspect of the Byway. This effort would be consistent with the CAG's goals (Goal 1 and 4) as discussed in greater detail in Chapter 3.

#### Additional Protection

Public land holdings along the corridor provide additional protection because they limit the placement of signs along those portions of the roadways; and areas that are primarily residential act to protect the corridor from placement of signs related to commercial advertising.

The Byway does have a number of regulatory, directional and informational signs that provide necessary instructions for the public. These signs are usually small and relatively inconspicuous. Wayfinding/wayshowing for recreational activities, scenic highway, and event-related directional signs are good examples of this type of signage.

## Billboard Inventory

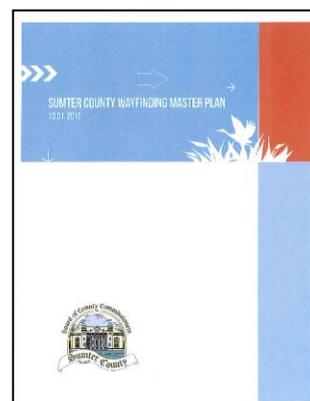
The CAG conducted a sign survey of the Byway for its eligibility application. This survey identified several billboards of note (**Table 2**). Although not included in Table 2, the survey also noted a number of regulatory, informational and directional signs along the corridor. ***This database was updated as part of the CMP. Although actual advertisers displayed may have changed in some cases, the number of actual billboards has not changed since approval of the Eligibility application.***

**Table 2. Billboard Inventory**

Roadway	Address	Comments
CR 470	2247 CR 470	Kia Auto Dealership
CR 470	2076 CR 470	Logan
CR 470	CR 470 @ US 301	www.SECOEnergy.com
CR 470	CR 470 @ CR533	Owner is Clear Channel
CR 470	CR 470 @ @ NW 21 <sup>st</sup> St	Attorney Advertisement
SR 471	125 South Market St (Webster)	Sumter County Fairgrounds Gun Show (NB)/The Solar Power State (SB)
CR 478	2546 CR 478 (2 signs on Flea Market property S. Side)	Flea Market and Pow Wow
CR 478	2396 East CR 478 (S. Side)	Car & Cycle Swaps (EB view)/Howards Flea Market (WB view)
SR 50	13801 SR 50 (S. side) (FI sign permit #661 & 662)	Crimeline.org
US 301	US 301 @ Belt Ave.	Ace Hardware/Physical Therapy (Owner is Oxford)
US 301	US 301 @ CR 470	Sumter Electric
CR 470	CR 470 @ US 301	Owner is Clear Channel
US 301	US 301 @ CR 673	Empty

## Wayfinding

***Wayfinding is defined by transportation planners as the organized movement of pedestrians and vehicles through a complex environment. The CAG has discussed two levels of wayfinding for the Byway. The first is based on the Florida Scenic Highways Program Manual guidance that commits the FDOT to develop a byway signing plan, and install (or provide signs to the locals) as approved along the corridor. Upon designation the CAG hopes to work with FDOT and county staff to assess the need for this corridor signing plan. Secondly, the CAG is currently involved with Sumter County’s ongoing efforts to establish a countywide wayfinding system. Preliminary coordination efforts between the CAG and the project team to ensure Byway limits and key intrinsic resources are documented is currently underway.***



***Goal 2 supports this coordination effort. It will be important for the future CME to ensure that these two efforts are consistent with its mission and complement each other.***

### **1.3.8. Safety Issues**

The Byway meets the eligibility requirements of the FSHP requiring the Byway to safely accommodate two-wheel drive motor vehicles. The cross-section for most of the Byway is rural with fairly narrow shoulders. As noted earlier, the majority of roads on the Byway have limited existing bicycle/pedestrian amenities. Additionally,

there are no designated bike lanes on the Byway currently although several streets (mainly in Bushnell and Webster) have sidewalks that can serve as bike/pedestrian facilities. Bicyclists who use the Byway now ride primarily early in the morning to avoid vehicular traffic. The LSMPO has produced a bicycle suitability report that identifies roadway segments throughout the County and rates them based on roadway type, cycling suitability and availability of paved shoulders. Several segments of the corridor are noted in this report and most are rated *good* or *very good* for cycling.

The CAG seeks to encourage increased recreational use of the Byway and will advocate for increased safety for all users. This effort is consistent with Goal 2.

The LSMPO tracks crashes at key locations throughout Sumter County. Based on this information, the CAG analyzed the most recent three-year crash data available (years 2008-2010) for the 40 most frequent accident locations along the Byway. A total of 431 crashes were documented during the three year reporting period at these 40 locations, and all locations with more than 10 accidents are shown in **Table 3** below. **Table 3** provides additional details on these six locations, while **Figure 9** identifies these locations pictorially on the next page;

**Table 3. Three-Year Crash Data (2008-2010)**

Rank	Segment	Crashes	Fatalities	Pedestrian	Bike
1	*I-75 @ CR 470	103	1	0	0
2	*I-75 @ CR 673	54	0	0	0
3	SR 471 @ SR 50	46	3	0	0
4	US 301 @ CR 470	27	0	0	0
5	SR 44 @ CR 470	20	2	1	0
6	*I-75 @ CR 476	16	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Locations associated with I-75

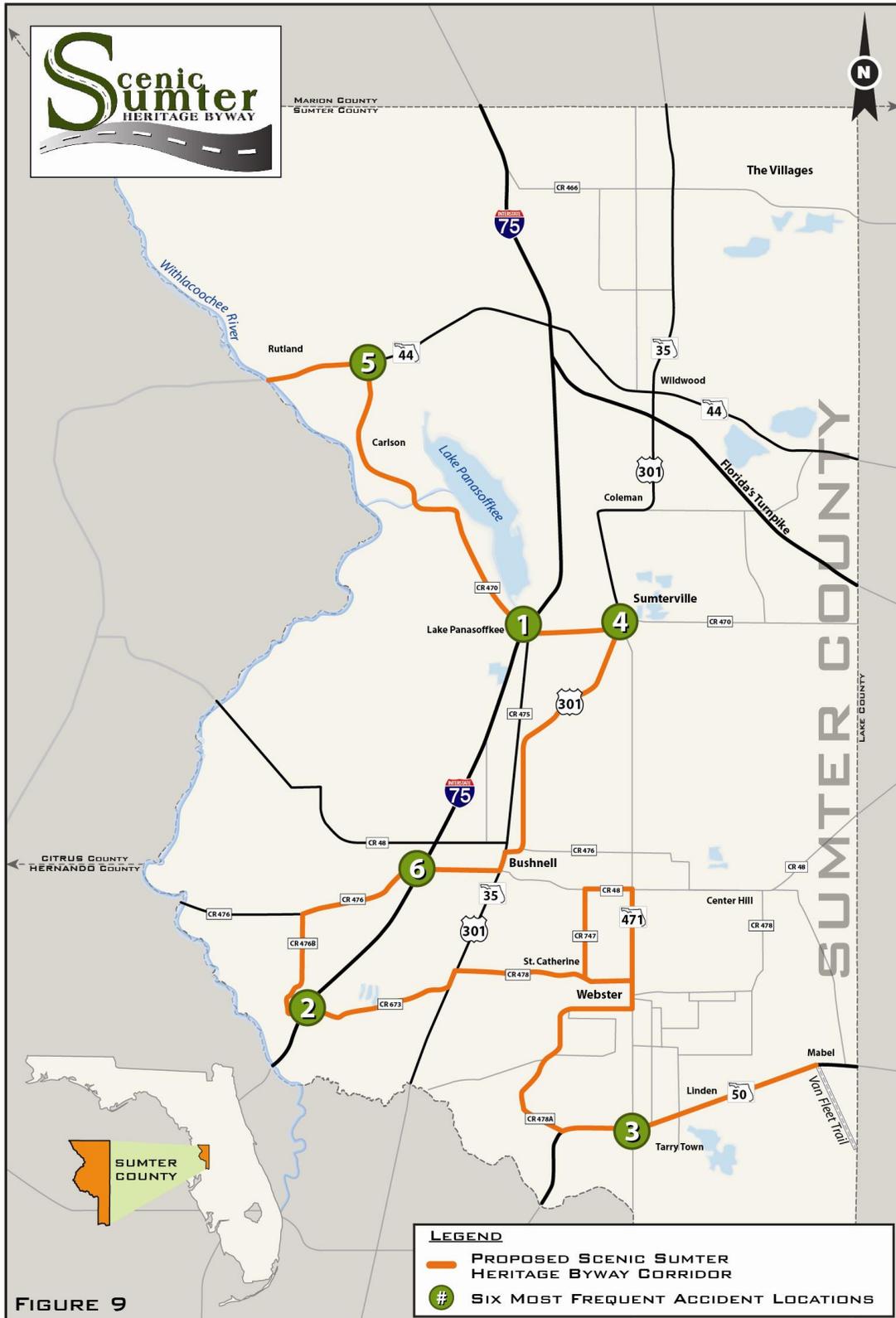
The totals for this reporting period and these particular sites show that there were six fatalities as a result of the reported crashes. The LSMPO database shows that only one of the crashes listed included pedestrians or bicyclists. Additionally, it should be noted that three of the six locations with more than 10 accidents are associated with Interstate 75. These locations account for more than 40% of all accidents occurring at the 40 most frequent accident locations along the entire Byway. It can be assumed that a large portion of these accidents involved vehicles traveling on the interstate and not necessarily Byway travelers.

***Byway traveler/visitor safety is the highest priority for the CAG. As a result, significant time has been expended by the CAG in the development of meaningful goals and objectives (Goal 2) that address their role in the Byway traveler’s safety.***

### 1.3.9. Traffic Volumes/User Types

Sumter County, LSMPO and FDOT have provided traffic counts from selected locations along the Byway. The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes were reviewed and have been summarized in **Table 4**. For the corridor as a whole, existing traffic volumes ranged from a low of 809 vehicles (CR 478A from SR 50 to SR 471) to a high of 12,976 vehicles (CR 470E from I-75 to CR 475). Higher use roadway segments appear to be associated with roads having a direct connection to I-75 and the downtown areas of Webster and Bushnell.

Figure - 9 Most Frequent Accidents Location Map



**SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE BYWAY**  
**MOST FREQUENT ACCIDENT LOCATIONS MAP**



**Table 4. Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) Analysis**

Roadway Segment	Year 2011		Year 2015	
	AADT	LOS	AADT	LOS
C-470 E from SR 93/I-75 to C-475	12,976	D	17,524	F
C-470 E from C-475 to US 301/SR 35	12,506	D	16,889	F
C-470 N from SR 44 to CR 412	4,622	C	6,242	C
C-470 N from CR 412 to CR 416 N	5,352	C	7,228	C
CR 470 N from CR 416 N to SR 93/I-75	12,343	D	16,669	F
C-476 W from C-476B to CR 625	6,147	C	8,302	C
C-476 W from CR 625 to CR 616	6,147	C	8,302	C
C-476 W from CR 616 to SR 93/I-75	6,818	C	9,208	D
C-476 W from SR 93/I-75 to US 301/SR 35	7,488	C	10,113	D
C-476B from SR 93/I-75 to US 301/SR 35	3,067	C	4,142	C
C-478 E from US 301/SR 35 to CR 747	6,086	C	8,219	C
C-478 E from CR 747 to SR 471	4,688	C	6,331	C
C-478 A from SR 50 to SR 471	809	C	1,093	C
CR 673 from SR 93/I-75 to US 301/SR 35	2,865	C	3,869	C
SR 44 from Citrus CL to C-470 N	8,700	B	11,597	B
SR 471 from C-478 A to C-478 E (S)	5,000	B	6,425	B
SR 471 from C-478 E (S) to C-478 E (N)	5,000	B	6,425	B
SR 50 from C-478 A to SR 471	6,200	B	7,967	C
SR 50 from SR 471 to CR 727	6,200	B	7,967	C
SR 50 from CR 727 to C-469	9,300	C	11,951	C
SR 50 from C-469 to Lake CL	7,700	B	9,895	C
US 301/SR 35 from CR 673 to C-478	4,600	B	5,911	B
US 301/SR 35 from C-476 W to Main St	9,300	B	11,951	B
US 301/SR 35 from Main St to C-48	9,300	C	11,951	C
US 301/SR 35 from C-48 to C-476	4,700	B	6,040	B
US 301/SR 35 from C-476 to ¼ mile S/O 470 E	4,100	B	5,269	B
US 301/SR 35 from ¼ mile S/O 470 E to C-470 E (S)	6,900	B	8,867	B

Current bicycle and pedestrian traffic level data is not available; however, some of the roadways within the corridor are quite attractive to bicycle and pedestrian uses. Currently there are few sidewalks, pedestrian crossings or bicycle lanes available. This is based on its rural character and limited demand for these types of amenities. Nevertheless, recent improvements within the cities of Webster, Bushnell and in the Lake Panasoffkee area have provided enhanced bicycle and pedestrian friendly facilities.

### 1.3.10. Level of Service

Level of Service (LOS) is a term used in the transportation planning industry to describe or categorize the performance of a road in terms of several categories including speed and travel times, maneuverability, traffic interruptions, comfort, convenience, and safety. Ratings of A through F are used to provide a qualitative measure of traffic conditions, ranging from very favorable to least favorable. LOS for a given roadway is also obtained by comparing traffic volume to roadway capacity. Table 4 above includes the current LOS for selected segments of the corridor and a 2015 projection. Current LOS is relatively acceptable for all segments of the

Byway with most in the B and C categories. Lower rated segments are typically associated with I-75 interchanges and in downtown Bushnell and Webster. The projections for the year 2015 predict a small decline in LOS, with three segments (all in the vicinity of the I-75 interchanges) predicted to fall to a LOS F rating.

### 1.3.11. Transportation Planning

From a state-wide perspective, the mission of the FDOT is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic property, and preserves the quality of the state's communities and environment.



At the regional level, the LSMPO seeks to improve transportation in both counties (Sumter and Lake) for all modes of travel (including transit, pedestrian, bicycling, rail, air and autos).

As referenced earlier, Sumter County recently completed its 2030 visioning process that asked participants to identify potential strategic focus areas. The result of this process was a broad base of concepts including:

- Quality of life
- Vibrant economy
- Smart growth
- Effective governance
- Sustainable environment

From a scenic highway planning perspective, each of these broad areas conveys the community's desire for their local government to establish fiscally responsible, energy efficient, and environmentally compatible programs that support economic development allowing for the effective movement of people, goods, and services necessary to maintain and enhance their quality of life.

***The CAG supports this broad regional philosophy to provide a safe and efficient transportation system that recognizes the importance of quality of life, and liveability (Goals 1, 2 and 3).***

### 1.3.12. Roadway Improvements

The Sumter County Comp Plan stresses the need to develop a comprehensive transportation plan (Transportation Element) that accomplishes three goals:

1. Safe and efficient travel for residents and visitors.
2. Effective roadway network with capacity to meet the demand.
3. Integrated system that includes landscape and sign regulations, bicycle and pedestrian ways, and mass transit service.

***The County, LSMPO and FDOT, with input from the local municipalities, are responsible for improving the roadways within the region as necessary. As a component of the transportation planning process, FDOT and its partnering agencies are required to develop a listing of projects forecasted for future improvement. This includes existing roadways, new roadways, transit, trails, bicycle, and pedestrian amenities. These projects are published in the LSMPO Priority Projects List. A review of this document (Fiscal Years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014) and discussions with the Sumter County Public Works Department concludes that although there are no major transportation construction projects planned along the Byway through 2014, the County's Pavement Management Improvement Program can be considered an ongoing project. This program maintains a prioritized five-year plan for managing all of the County's paved roads to extend life expectancy and enhance safety. Additionally, the County has created pavement condition indexes on all paved roads that are updated every four years.***

### 1.3.13. Social and Economic Conditions

The US Census Bureau estimates that the year 2011 population for Sumter County was approximately 98,000 people which is nearly double the County's population count from the year 2001. Of this current population, approximately 40,000 people live in the general vicinity of the proposed Byway corridor.



While Sumter County has consistently outperformed the overall population growth rate in the U.S. and Florida (4.6% compared to 1.4% from 2010 to 2011), it has lagged behind state levels in wages, educational attainment and personal income (it also has a higher percentage of persons living below established poverty levels).

The unemployment rate in the county is currently at 11.2 percent with the annual average wage at \$29,040, which is \$5,000 below the national average. As a result, 74 percent of school age children qualify for free and reduced lunch and 26 percent of these children (under 18) are living below poverty level.

The median age of the population is 47 years and 46 percent of the population is male while 53 percent are female. Median household income is \$45,000 and median house value is \$110,000 according to the 2000 Census. These figures are consistent with many other similar rural/transitioning counties in this part of the state.

According to the U.S. Census, the top five employment generators for the county are: agriculture, service, education, health and social services. Agriculture is a typical industry for the more rural portions of Florida and reflects Sumter's heritage roots. The remaining top industries reflect, in part, Sumter's present and future and the County's significant population growth over the last 10 years.

It has been estimated that close to 87 percent of the region's population resides in unincorporated areas of the County. The northern reaches of the County have developed more quickly than South County. The influx of retirement aged residents has begun to transform the region's economic base from agriculture, fishing and forestry, to retail, trade and services, dependent upon residents with a "fixed" income. Of particular note is "The Villages" community north of the Byway near Wildwood. It is development like this (taking place in the unincorporated areas of the County) that results in population density variations between the county and its cities. This contributes to the somewhat fragmented nature of the County's public, private and civic sectors and at times can serve as a deterrent to the development of new broad based relationships in the region.

In many ways Sumter County still has a rural personality. The County lacks a "hometown" radio station or daily newspaper, and other sorts of community services typically found in more urban communities. This tends to contribute to community fragmentation and lack of a united public voice but is typical of rural communities.

The region has an abundance of natural resources and with proper management this "community wealth" can be protected from the consequences of advancing urbanization. Of particular economic value are the region's surface waters and their related habitats: rivers, springs, lakes, wetlands and marshes. These natural communities continue to attract visitors interested in boating, fishing, birding and other eco-tourist interests. Heritage-tourism is another contributor to the County's economic health. Dade Battlefield Historic State Park and the Florida National Cemetery promote the County's significant heritage resources and contribute to the economy.

Documentation and preservation of these recreational and regional heritage resources is necessary to protect a special story that could easily slip through the regions collective fingers and be lost forever resulting in a negative impact to the region's economic health and its heritage foundation.

***This scenic highway designation should attract visitors with similar interests, including those with a passion for the regions natural and recreational resources along with others that enjoy the region's***

*heritage resources. This should work to develop a unique “cottage industry”, helping to provide additional economic stability to the community (Goal 5).*

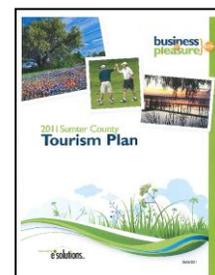
Lake/Sumter Community College serves as the regions place of higher learning. The college has several campuses around the area (Leesburg, Sumterville and Clermont) and has a student population of approximately 7,500.

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Services (UF/IFAS) Sumter County Extension office is located along the Byway corridor. UF/IFAS is a federal-state-county partnership dedicated to advancing the community’s knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences. UF/IFAS staff supports the Sumter Scenic Byway CAG in a technical advisory capacity.



### 1.3.14. Tourism and User Facilities

*The County economic development team has developed a tourism and marketing plan to promote the region’s attractions including its community events, local crafts and environmental, heritage and agricultural tourism opportunities.* This plan includes identifying ways to enhance attendance at attractions such as the Dade Battlefield Historic State Park (where reenactments of the Seminole War are performed), Lake Panasoffkee (which features some of the best fishing in the State), Richloam Wildlife Management Area, General James A. Van Fleet State Trail and the County’s historical communities. With successful marketing and increased visitation at these locations, increased economic vitality for the entire region will result. *The Tourist Development Council (TDC) is committed to the implementation of this plan. At the August 2012 Sumter Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting the first 11 projects were approved for funding.*



Currently there are a number of service businesses along the Byway including gas stations, convenience stores and several restaurants. There are also a number of fish camps for lodging, several beautiful parks, and many places to fish, canoe or bird-watch along Lake Panasoffkee. All of which should experience increased interest with designation.

An additional component of the tourism and marketing plan is the goal to promote environmental quality, by protecting and preserving our environmental resources and optimizing their educational, recreational, scenic and historical attributes. *The CAG will be an advocate for the protection of land and water resources along the Byway (Goal 1). The CAG supports local government and the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce (a founding member) in their goal to develop an eco-tourism industry, instilling the importance and appreciation for the environment and our wildlife, bird-watching, cycling, hiking, fishing and canoeing (Goal 1). The CAG also believes that this designation can enhance the current heritage tourism business built around the National Cemetery, Dade Battlefield and the Byway’s unique communities.*

### 1.3.15. Other Programs

The CAG was originally formed by a small group of community leaders interested in preserving the scenic beauty and heritage of Sumter County. In the last 18 months the momentum of this group has increased. Other advocacy groups with similar missions have quickly begun to lend support and express interest in establishing partnerships. The current CAG includes representatives from each community along the Byway, bicycling/motorcycling groups, historic preservation organizations and others. Below is a list of some of the

public and private resource-based programs or entities with which the CAG, and future CME, will continue to maintain/pursue partnerships:

- County Economic Development (**Sumter County BOCC support**)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Department of Community Affairs
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Parks and Recreation) (**Current CAG member**)
- Florida Native Plant Society
- Florida Public Archaeological Network (Central Region)
- National Recreational Trails Program
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) (**Partnership agreement established and appended to this document**) and other similar community based organizations
- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- Sumter County Adopt-A-Highway Program (**Noted in Goal 3**)
- Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (**Current CAG Member**)
- Sumter County Public Work Division (**Sumter County BOCC support**)
- Sumter County Parks Department (**Sumter County BOCC support**)
- Local historical societies (**Partnership agreement established and appended to this document**)
- Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) (**Current CAG member**)
- Florida Bed and Breakfast Inns Association (FBI)

Many of these organizations have on-going programs that can be accessed to benefit the community. The CAG believes that through this designation it can become the consistent presence that promotes partnerships between multiple entities to provide unique educational opportunities as well as enhancing the pure enjoyment of the regions natural beauty and rich heritage.

## 2. Intrinsic Resource Assessment and Designation Criteria

### 2.1. Resource Assessment

*During the Eligibility phase the CAG worked to establish Byway limits. As part of that effort a number of parameters (roadway segments, coverage of resources, viewshed, community support, etc.) needed to be assessed and agreed upon before the corridor could be finalized. In developing the current document, the CAG reassessed their original conclusions to ensure that they still met the needs of the organization, are supported by the community and are consistent with the Florida Scenic Highways Program Manual. Several of the parameters reassessed are updated below while others are addressed elsewhere in this CMP.*

#### 2.1.1. Corridor Limits

As defined in the Eligibility application, the proposed Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is actually a series of roads that passes through the heartland of Sumter County. The Byway includes roads with both state and local designations and ties together the richness of Sumter County's natural beauty and heritage resources. ***The CAG has determined that the Byway limits, as approved in the Eligibility application remain consistent with the CAG's desires. Byway limits are listed in Section 1.3.1 and presented graphically in Figure 1.***

#### 2.1.2. Corridor Width

As described in the FSHP Manual, the width of a corridor can be defined by its viewshed or the "the area of landscape that can be seen from any given point along the road". For this corridor the viewshed can range from pristine pasturelands and riverside communities to the glistening waters of Lake Panasoffkee and the wealth of recreational facilities, regional parks and preserves. It is a viewshed that includes historic structures, cultural resources and the stateliness and solitude of a national military cemetery. Many of these supporting intrinsic resources are adjacent to the road while others can be appreciated through more distant views across areas such as parks, long stretches of tree-lined roads, the Withlacoochee River and acres of traditional pastureland. As a result, the most reasonable approach that could be taken by the CAG was to define the corridor's viewshed using the analogy "as far as the eye can see" from a designated roadway segment accessible by vehicle. Because of this broad definition of viewshed, the CAG acknowledges that preserving, protecting and enhancing resources that may be some distance from the road may cross private property boundaries as a result. It will be imperative that a partnership be established between the CAG and private land owners as needed to ensure that unique resources are documented without infringing on the rights of these adjacent property owners. This partnership is one that the CAG is currently developing with a number of interests along the corridor. ***The CAG has reconfirmed its original determination that the corridor's viewshed should be defined by using the analogy "as far as the eye can see" as long as the resource is accessible, by vehicle, from a designated roadway segment.***

#### 2.1.3. Universal Criteria Review

***The FSHP Manual outlines ten criteria that are considered the basic elements of a Florida Scenic Highway designation. These elements either relate directly to the Byway and its resources or to the actions or plans necessary to ensure its implementation and long term success. As part of the Eligibility application the CAG developed responses to nine of the 10 Universal Criteria (UC), with UC #10 requiring the preparation of this CMP and the establishment of a CME. At that time the CAG weighed the expectations/requirements of each UC carefully before crafting their response. As part of the Summary***

of Findings required for this CMP, the CAG has returned to their original UC responses to ensure they are complete and remain consistent with the CAG's mission.

### Summary of Findings

**Universal Criteria 1: Resources must be visible from the roadway.**

**Finding:** As documented in the Eligibility application and as further noted in this CMP there are an abundance of resources visible from the roadway. Previously it was stated that the CAG had established their viewshed to be "as far as the eye can see" as long as the resource is accessible by vehicle from a designated Byway segment. All resources presented in the Eligibility application plus those updated as part of this CMP are visible and accessible from the Byway.

**Universal Criteria 2: The corridor must "tell a story" that relates to its intrinsic resources.**

**Finding:** The story of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is like a book whose last chapter has not yet been written. The story starts with the Native Americans and their conflicts with early European explorers, the federal government and American settlers. The conflicts between these interests became much of the region's early history and the foundation for a county that is rich in agriculture, farming and small rural communities. Today the story continues with efforts to preserve the region's scenic and natural beauty in the face of challenging economic times and regional developmental pressure. But the story continues to evolve. For a glimpse of the future the reader need only refer to the CAG's mission and vision to understand a potential story for the region that has yet to be written outlining the need to balance regional growth, preserve scenic resources and establish a renewed community respect for the heritage of those that have passed this way and left their imprint on the region.

**Universal Criteria 3: The roadway must be a public road that safely accommodates two-wheel drive motor vehicles.**

**Finding:** The network of roads that comprises the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is composed of public roads that accommodate two-wheel drive vehicles. However, this corridor is much more than asphalt that vehicles drive on. This corridor includes tree-lined streets, deal makers at its local open air markets, broad expanses of agricultural lands, alligators drifting lazily in the river and bass jumping in search of an early morning meal. It is truly a one of a kind corridor.

**Universal Criteria 4: The corridor must exhibit significant, exceptional and distinctive features of the region it traverses.**

**Finding:** The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is marked by a collection of scenic, natural and heritage resources that are unique to this part of Florida. Combined, the resources paint a picture of some of nature's most spectacular accomplishments and man's most timeless treasures. **Significant** resources include the Withlacoochee River basin that is the perfect picture of the "South" with moss covered oak trees overhanging a broad meandering river populated with largemouth bass, slow moving alligators and hungry herons along its banks. Sumter County's deep agricultural roots are also significant for the contribution they make to the state and country. **Exceptional** resources include the Green Swamp that is the head waters for all of West Florida's grand rivers including the Hillsborough, Withlacoochee, Little Withlacoochee, Ocklawaha and Peace Rivers. For a slightly skewed twist on the definition of exceptional resources, the region's local markets have been voted as some of the best in the state by those that "live for the deal". One visit to Florida's National Cemetery tells it all. The sights and sounds of **distinction** including stark silence, rows of white head stones that speak to pride, respect and honor is beyond words. It is a distinction no other corridor can match. Mixed with the history of **the Dade Battlefield, the heritage of this corridor speaks to this regions place in history and the**

*strength of this country. This corridor is distinctive for the American flag waving over the cemetery, farming traditions and the inner strength of its communities to honor and respect its place in history.*

**Universal Criteria 5: The roadway generally should be more than one mile in length and if appropriate, provide access to the resources.**

**Finding:** *This Byway is approximately 62 miles long. Every resource presented is accessible from the Byway.*

**Universal Criteria 6: A majority of the corridor must exhibit scenic or heritage qualifying resources. These resources should be as continuous as possible throughout the corridor.**

**Finding:** *The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is seeking the Scenic classification of Designation. The corridor resource map presented later in this section highlights the qualifying resources forming the foundation of the designation. The reviewer can see that the proposed corridor includes qualifying resources (scenic, recreational and natural) along with supporting cultural, historic and archaeological resources. The map shows these resources to be continuous for the length of the corridor.*

**Universal Criteria 7: A Corridor Advocacy Group must be organized to support the scenic highway designation.**

**Finding:** *A core group of individuals from the community came together in 2009 to seek a scenic highway designation for Sumter County through the FDOT Scenic Highways Program. This founding group was lead by the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce and supported by Sumter County government, the cities of Bushnell and Webster and the VFW. The CAG was supported by local interests including the local historical societies, local business owners and a number of state/regional agencies. The momentum of these early meetings has continued to grow through the eligibility and designation phases. The dedication of those involved has grown deeper with each member giving of their own personal time to ensure that the designation is obtained and the Byway story is told.*

**Universal Criteria 8: A Community Participation Plan must be developed and implemented.**

**Finding:** *The CAG understands the need to ensure both frequent and informed communication with the community regarding the designation effort and the CAG's mission. Goal 4 was established to ensure that the activities of the CAG are well coordinated with the community. As the designation process proceeds, it is envisioned that a formal community meeting will be conducted to seek public comment. Additionally, the CAG is committed to elected officials briefings that educate, respond to questions and address concerns. Equally important will be the need to develop partnerships with other community advocates to help ensure long-term success. A Community Participation Plan (CPP) was drafted during the Eligibility phase. This CPP has now been updated as part of this CMP. The CAG has already implemented many portions of the CPP to jump start their current efforts. It is expected that this plan will continue to mature through designation and into the implementation phase.*

**Universal Criteria 9: Strong local support must be demonstrated**

**Finding:** *The Sumter County community has offered strong support during this designation effort. The number of support letters collected attest to the high level of regional commitment. Attendance at CAG meetings has steadily increased with participants representing all parts of the community. The CAG has met with each local government along the Byway. All have shown a favorable response to corridor designation and all have identified staff to participate in monthly*

*CAG meetings. The CAG has entered into Partnership Agreements with several support/advocacy organizations along the Byway including the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, Sumter County Historical Society and the local VFW group to ensure joint support of similar efforts. As required, all local agencies have signed the application form at the front of this CMP to document their commitment. Economic development organizations like the Sumter TDC and the Sumter Chamber of Commerce have been strong supporters of this designation. All participants see this designation as an important component to a comprehensive economic development strategy for the county.*

*The CAG conducted a community informational meeting as part of this designation phase. Those that attended appeared to be in support of this designation. Petitions of support and other materials from this meeting are included in Appendix A.*

**Universal Criteria 10: A Corridor Management Plan must be developed with the endorsement of local government(s) and a Corridor Management Entity (CME) created.**

***Finding:** As required, the CAG is pleased to submit this Corridor Management Plan to the Scenic Highway Advisory Committee (SHAC) for their approval. This CMP has received unanimous endorsement by all local governments along the Byway*

***Finding:** The CAG has voted to take on the role of CME with the transition date based on FDOT Secretary approval of corridor designation.*

## **2.2. Updated Universal Criteria Analysis**

As discussed earlier the CAG has reviewed each UC to ensure it is updated and complete. Findings are discussed above while updated information (bold text) is included below.

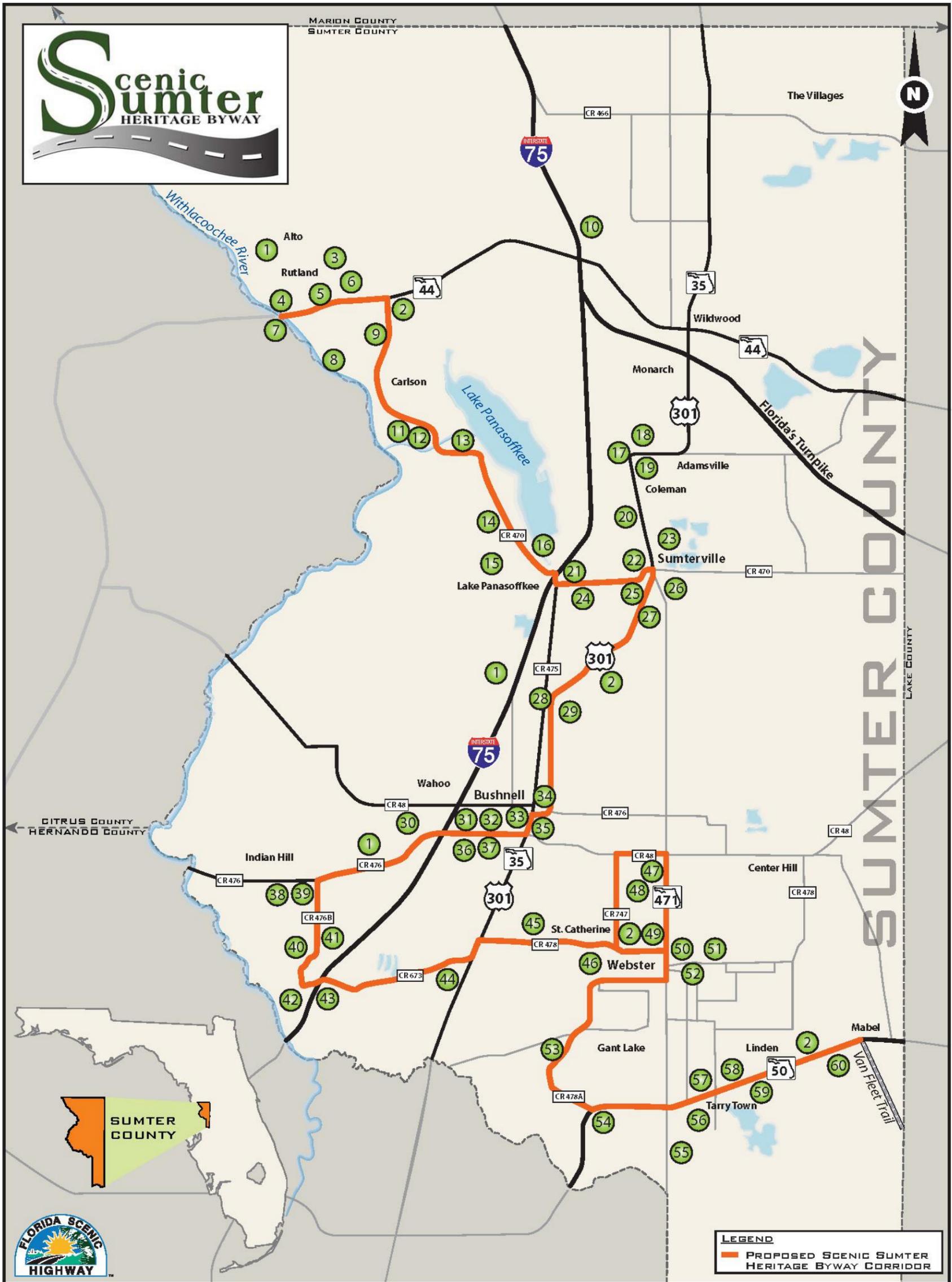
**Universal Criteria 1: Resources must be visible from the roadway.**

All of the significant resources along the corridor are visible from the roadway by proximity, access or signage. The CAG has established a viewshed of “as far as the eye can see” to ensure that significant contributing resources are made part of the designation. As part of the resource assessment process, the Resources Map (**Figure 10**) was developed to highlight the locations of many of the corridor’s intrinsic resources and to show they are both continuous and significant. This map shows the incredible depth and variety of contributing resources located along the Byway and confirms its value for consideration as a designated scenic highway.

**The remainder of this section highlights some of the Byways’ most significant intrinsic resources by category. The previously approved Eligibility application went into great depth in presenting qualifying resources associated with the Byway. For this document, the CAG has included the resources map (Figure 10) that identifies all intrinsic resources located along the corridor but has decided to only provide specific discussion on representative resources present in each of the five intrinsic resource categories (cultural, historic, archaeological, scenic, recreation, natural) to avoid significant duplication with previously produced documents. The reader is encouraged to refer back to the Eligibility application for any additional resource detail needed.**

This 62 mile corridor passes through a number of unique communities and contains a broad range of resources including old growth oak forests, broad pasture lands, eclectic towns with tree lined streets, and the rich flood plain of one of Florida’s most beautiful rivers. These scenic resources are backed by heritage resources including civil war era cemeteries, historic communities, battlefields that helped shape Florida, and the honorary resting place for hundreds of patriotic warriors who defended the cause of liberty. Each resource has a very special story to tell. Hundreds of stories, each building on the next, document the region’s beauty, opportunity and history. Intertwined and combined, they make up the story of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway.

Figure - 10 Resources Map



1. Cattle Industry & Ranching	16. Lake Panasoffkee	31. Bilby House	46. City of Webster
2. Agri-Tourism	17. Bobby's Antiques	32. Thomas R. Pierce House	47. Beville's Corner Flea Market
3. Half Moon Wildlife Management Area	18. Fort Lonesome Cemetery	33. City of Bushnell	48. Webster Loop
4. Rutland Park	19. Adamsville Historic Marker	34. The Veranda House Bed & Breakfast	49. Webster Flea Market
5. Rutland Cemetery	20. Gough Cemetery	35. Sumter County Court House	50. Wilber Fussell House
6. Alto Cemetery	21. Shady Brook Greenway Park	36. Dade Battlefield	51. Kellam Family Cemetery
7. Wild Bills Airboat Tours	22. Shady Brook (Rainforest)	37. Fort Armstrong Historic Marker	52. Garden of Memories Cemetery
8. Withlacoochee River	23. Sumterville	38. Our Fathers Haven Bed & Breakfast	53. Roy "Bug" Story Park
9. Carlson Cemetery	24. Panasoffkee Cemetery	39. The William L. Lovett VFW Post 10137	54. Withlacoochee State Park
10. Royal Park Historic Marker	25. Mr. D's Nue Beginnings	40. Veterans Memorial Highway	55. Florida Bass Conservation Center
11. Marsh Bend Historic Marker	26. Sumterville Cemetery	41. Cypress House Ranch Bed & Breakfast	56. Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve
12. Marsh Bend "Outlet" Park	27. Sumterville Historic Marker	42. National Cemetery	57. Dinky Donkeys
13. Pana Vista Lodge	28. Tema Cemetery	43. Wild Cow Prairie Cemetery	58. Linden United Methodist Church
14. Lake Panasoffkee Recreation Park	29. Fort King Road	44. St. Catherine United Methodist Church	59. Linden Cemetery
15. Jumper Creek Wildlife Management Area	30. Sumter Equestrian Center	45. Matchett Cemetery	60. Van Fleet Trail State Park

**SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE BYWAY RESOURCES**

FIGURE 10

To ensure the resources of this corridor's viewshed are accurately documented, and the story each tells is accurately developed, the corridor is best discussed one resource type at a time. Individually, each of these resource types makes a significant contribution to the Byway story. When combined, as proposed for this designation, they offer a glimpse of hundreds of years of beauty and tradition. Truly the three "scenic" resource types along with the supporting "heritage" resources highlight the richness and beauty of this rural area in west central Florida. The personality of each resource type is unique in what it offers but the contribution each makes to the overall Byway turns a **special corridor** into a **significant statewide resource**. Each plays a key role and is integral to the Byway's overall bounty. A sampling of these resources and their stories are presented as follows.

## Scenic

*Scenic resources may include a combination of natural and manmade features that give remarkable character to the visual landscape. These resources are striking in appearance and provide a pleasing and memorable experience for the viewers.*

## Agri-tourism

A visit to Sumter County takes you back to a simpler time, where you could savor the beauty and wonder of nature, while experiencing a lifestyle rich in the sights, sounds and smells of an agricultural community lifestyle. The county is blessed with great natural beauty, an abundance of wildlife, and rich agricultural experiences.



Although it is said that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" it is hard to believe that any visitor to the area would not be awe struck by the image of green pasture lands that seemingly stretch forever with horses and cattle grazing quietly on the green grass. Farm after farm borders many of the segments of the Byway, and offers a view

that's very different from the coastal cities and beach life that Florida has come to be known for. Locals believe deep-down, that Sumter County is truly the "Heartland of Florida". There are several equestrian farms and stables that dot the corridor, but traditionally, Sumter County is cattle country.

It is known far and wide that Sumter County has been helping to supply the country with its evening meal for a very long time. *Beef, it's what's for dinner*, a well known slogan for America's beef industry, is a well respected mantra along the corridor. Cattle ranches with open pasture land, long fence rows and rolled bales of hay stockpiled in a pasture are a common occurrence along the 62 miles of Byway that pass through the "Heartland of Florida".



## Webster Loop

A drive along the Webster loop on the outskirts of the City of Webster is like a drive back in time. Imagine a simpler lifestyle when the streets were narrow and you'd be just as likely to pass a horse drawn wagon as you would a family station wagon. Most that drive this loop are headed to other places, but just slow down for a minute and you'll notice cattle staring back at you along every fence line as they probably wonder "what's the rush?"



If you're lucky you'll encounter deer or wild turkeys on a foggy morning that are more interested in breakfast than they are in you. For those who like tree lined streets, Shoe Factory Road is the place to be on the corridor. Long portions of this loop are lined with oak trees that according to the old-timers are hundreds of years old. These sentinels for the ages stand shoulder to shoulder and offer the traveler a shady mid-day respite from the norm. Oaks with fern covered branches, a whisper of a breeze, and cicadas in the distance make for a special experience along this leg of the Byway that is truly off the beaten path.

## National Cemetery

As a monument to our nation's fallen heroes, the Florida National Cemetery is located within, and embraced by the Withlacoochee State Forest. The rolling lawns and stark marble headstones of this special place serve as a timeless monument to the men and woman who have protected our country through the ages. These heroes are nestled among the stately moss covered oaks, multi-colored ornamentals and green grass to create a tranquil, respectful and purely "southern setting".



The Florida National Cemetery was established on June 1, 1988 as the fourth national cemetery in the state. Situated on 517 acres, the cemetery serves over 1.9 million Veterans in Florida and features a Memorial Pathway that is lined with a variety of memorials that honor America's Veterans of 20<sup>th</sup>-century conflicts. Over 7,000 burials are conducted each year and military honors are provided by the Department of Defense. Thousands of people visit the Florida National Cemetery each year to attend committal services, visit gravesites

of loved ones or to just enjoy the peaceful setting in respectful observance of our nations' heroes. It is truly a treasured resource along this Byway corridor.



### Webster: The Flea Market Town

The term flea market signifies an outdoor market where antiques, used household goods and other various items are sold “for the deal of your life”. Webster’s flea market traditions started with the Farmers Market in 1938. Today the City offers a “scenic experience of another kind”. The Webster West Side Flea Market is one of the largest of its kind in the nation and has been operational for over 50 years. Thousands of visitors frequent this festival of opportunity each year to experience the sights, sounds and aromas of an event that is truly a piece of Americana.



### Sumter County Court House



Sumter County's first courthouse stood in Sumterville until 1909 when it was destroyed in a fire. A vote was conducted in 1912 between the towns of Wildwood and Bushnell to determine the location of the new structure with the Bushnell location being selected by the slimmest of margins. The completion of the Sumter County Courthouse was a much anticipated event as local residents watched with great excitement as each brick was laid. The Courthouse with its red barrel tile roof and stately pillars looks out over the City of Bushnell as one of the most beautiful structures in the entire County. Visitors to the City can't help but be drawn to its architectural style as it stands resolutely for what the people of Sumter County

believe in – hard work, family, friends and fellowship. **The CAG, in partnership with Sumter County is investigating the requirements necessary to nominate this structure for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP).**

## Natural

*Natural resources occur naturally in the environment. Examples include wetlands, marshes, geological features, forests, landforms or topography, as well as bodies of water and vegetation that are indigenous and characteristic of Florida and its differing regions. These resources should show minimal evidence of exotic vegetation and adverse human disruption.*

In many ways the natural resources of this corridor are its scenic resources. The Scenic Sumter Byway is blessed with an abundance of natural communities that boast a dramatic scenic component.

### Withlacoochee River

Serving as the western border of Sumter County, the Withlacoochee River offers miles of riverfront beauty and recreational opportunities. The long, lazy Withlacoochee winds through the northern reaches of the corridor as a paradise for fisherman and wetland home for a dozen species of birds and mammals considered rare elsewhere in America.

Surrounded by lush cypress, gum and maple trees, the river twists and turns through gorgeous swampland and breathtaking scenery leaving the Byway visitor with a profound appreciation for nature and all it has to offer. You can look out from one of the boat docks along the river and think of the generations before that have seen the same timeless scenery offered by this grand old river.



## Jumper Creek Wildlife Management Area

Jumper Creek WMA contains more than 10,000 acres along the east side of the Withlacoochee River within the Withlacoochee State Forest. Managed by the FWC and the Florida Forest Service, most of this area consists of floodplain forest and oak-cabbage palm hammock. Jumper Creek is considered a blackwater creek that flows north into the Withlacoochee River, through the center of the County and subsequently the Byway. Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, primitive camping, biking, hiking and excellent paddling opportunities.



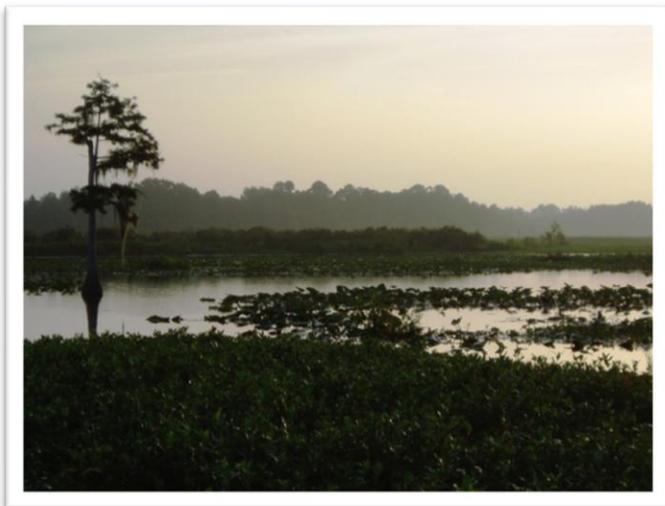
## Lake Panasoffkee



**Pana Vista Lodge Cabins**

Sumter County is home to over 50 lakes, the largest of which is Lake Panasoffkee. Commonly known as a world-class freshwater fishing destination, Lake Panasoffkee also offers pristine beauty and unmatched scenery to satisfy every outdoor enthusiast. With many fish camps and lodging facilities surrounding the lake, the Byway traveler will be made to feel right at home while chasing “the big one”.

There’s nothing better than standing on the boat dock of the Werda-Hecamiat Fishing Lodge in the morning as the sun rises through the moss covered oak trees. As the light of day begins to show, the anticipation of a great day out on the lake is enhanced by the sight of the local “birds in the know” who hang around the fish cleaning table waiting for breakfast. With all the lodges, boat ramps, bait shops and local guides available around Lake Panasoffkee all year long, it is truly a destination that should not be missed by any serious outdoor enthusiast.



## Recreational

Recreational resources provide either active or passive outdoor recreational activities directly dependent upon the natural elements of the landscape. These activities may include boating, fishing, hiking, canoeing, camping (RV/trailer and tent), biking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, driving, hunting, and picnicking.

### Withlacoochee State Forest

The Withlacoochee State Forest is the third largest state forest in Florida. Its size and diversity offers visitors a variety of natural communities, wildlife and recreational activities to choose from. Declared as one of the “10 Coolest Places You’ve Never Been in North America” by the World Wildlife Fund, the forest is a haven for the outdoor enthusiast. Activities include miles of trails for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and canoeing. Seasonal hunting is also available. Campgrounds and off-road facilities for motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles criss-cross the forest. The Forest is a part of the Florida Trail Trotters program that encourages horse riders to take a grand tour of Florida’s state forests on horseback.



The Withlacoochee State Forest is part of the Trail Walker Hiking Program that encourages participants to improve their level of physical fitness and be exposed to some of Florida’s most pristine recreational resources at the same time. Additionally, the Forest is also part of the Florida Scenic Trail and the Great Florida Birding Trail that highlight the best of the best in passive recreational opportunity.

### Sumter County Parks Department

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is an “Outdoorsman’s Paradise” that provides access to recreational opportunities through dozens of facilities along its 62 miles. Many of these access points are made available through the Sumter County Parks Department. In part, the County Park Department’s mission is to “provide high quality facilities that preserve the County’s natural environment for the community”. Specific county resources located along the Byway corridor include:

- **Marsh Bend “Outlet” Park (CR 413/CR470):** Located on the Outlet River between Lake Panasoffkee and the Withlacoochee River, this County Park offers boating access to these water resources from two concrete boat ramps. Other amenities include covered pavilions, picnic tables with grills, a fishing pier, pet station and restrooms. This facility also has a sand volleyball court and access to local hiking trails.



- **Lake Panasoffkee Recreation Park (CR 459 west of CR 470):** This Park offers a broad array of recreational opportunities including baseball and multi-purpose fields, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, picnic tables with grills, and the parks permanent pavilions that attract users year-round. Restrooms are also available.
- **Rutland Park (SR 44):** Located at the northern end of the Byway, two boat ramps located in this park offer direct access to the Withlacoochee River. Lined with cypress trees this park allows visitors to enjoy all that is natural about the River and experience a special community that has existed unspoiled since the region’s pioneers first saw it in the 1800s. Two picnic tables and a grill are available in a shady spot directly adjacent to the river.
- **Roy “Bug” Story Park (C-478A):** Located in Webster and named after a noted community advocate, Roy Bug Story Park provides a boat ramp for access to Gant Lake and a fishing pier. Other amenities include picnic tables with grills and a covered pavilion.
- **Shady Brook Greenway Park (CR 470):** Newly constructed, this County facility is nestled between I-75 and the CSX railroad tracks. Featuring a boat ramp with access dock for canoes and kayaks, and a picnic shelter with tables and a grill, it is the perfect place to test that new fishing lure.



### Florida Bass Conservation Center

The Florida Bass Conservation Center is located south of Webster on the site of the old Richloam Fish Hatchery. This state-of-the-art freshwater fish hatchery and research facility, managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is dedicated to conservation of the Florida largemouth bass and other freshwater sportfish. The facility includes an impressive display aquarium and interpretive center that overlooks the hatchery so visitors can get a firsthand look at fish production efforts. A stocked pond is also open for public fishing on the site. This modern research facility and interpretive center (funded by fishing license dollars and the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Act) will surely provide an educational and entertaining experience for visitors to the Byway.

### Lake Panasoffkee

This special resource features some of the best fishing in the state. The Lake Panasoffkee preserve encompasses close to 10,000 acres of lush floodplain, fresh water marshes and cypress swamp. The lake offers numerous access points for fisherman and boaters and supports a fish camp community reminiscent of 1950/1960s Florida. What was once destined to be a great city of the late 1800s, now attracts visitors seeking to land a record-setting bass or just a day of floating on the water and enjoying the scenery.



### Bed & Breakfasts

Recreation doesn’t have to be fast paced or actually require any movement at all. The Byway corridor is home to several traditional bed and breakfast resorts that offer southern style hospitality, good food and lots of quiet. The *Cypress House Ranch Bed & Breakfast* located in Bushnell is a large, rambling log home built in a welcoming old Florida style set in the midst of acres of wooded ranch land. Visitors to this bed & breakfast enjoy wooden rocking chairs on the wide wrap-around porch over-looking moss hung oak trees and horse stables. The *Veranda House B&B* also located in Bushnell, and *Our Fathers Haven B&B* near the Withlacoochee State Forest offer peace, solitude and an oasis of southern comfort and style.

## General James A. Van Fleet Trail State Park



This trail is officially designated as part of Florida's statewide system of greenways and trails. It stretches for 29.2 miles from Polk City to the community of Mabel, near the southern terminus of the Byway. Named after a distinguished American combat commander who fought in three wars, the trail passes through the Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve containing a variety of habitat types including sandhills, flatwoods, oak hammocks, river swamp and cypress ponds. The trail is an excellent place for bird watching and wildlife observation ranging from mammals, amphibians, reptiles and butterfly species. This incredibly straight trail has only one curve in its entire length and because it's paved, it is very popular for inline skating, bicycling, jogging and hiking.

## Historic

*Historic resources embody the distinctive physical elements in the landscape, either natural or manmade, that reflect human actions in relation to past events, sites or structures. These historic resources symbolize an important era in Florida history and serve to educate viewers while providing an appreciation of the past.*

## Dade Battlefield

Sumter County's rich, 150-plus year history began even before it was established as Florida's 29<sup>th</sup> County in 1853. Not surprisingly, Native Americans were the earliest settlers in Florida including what would eventually become Sumter County. The Dade Battlefield marks the site of one of the most important events in the early history of the region. The Seminole resistance to removal to a reservation by the US Government brought about the Second Seminole War. The war started in December 1835 when a column of 107 U.S. soldiers led by Major Francis L. Dade were attacked by Seminole warriors at what became known as the Dade Battle. Today this battle is memorialized with a State Park and visitor center that describes the events and implications of this significant battle on the history of Sumter County, Native Americans and the State of Florida.



## City of Bushnell



People began moving into what would eventually become the City of Bushnell in the 1870s. Named after John Bushnell, a surveyor for the Florida Railway and Navigation Company, the community became a magnet for settlers looking for a sense of place and became an official Florida City in October 1885 with the creation of a U.S. Post Office on Main Street. Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian congregations were quickly established and a new bank, hotel and the community's first physician helped shape the city.

Today, the City's historic downtown core has several of its original structures remaining. As mentioned earlier, the Sumter County Courthouse, built in 1914, looks out over the City as a sentinel to the community's proud history.

## City of Webster

First settled in the 1850s, Webster was originally called "Orange Home". The U.S Postal Service rejected the name because it was already in use and the Postmaster gave the City a new name; "Webster", after the Webster's Dictionary that sat on his desk at the time of his decision. By 1882, the fledgling town had a saw mill, cotton gin, grist mill, school and wood and iron shops.

During its early years, the City's success revolved around agri-business and was commonly referred to as the "Cucumber Capital of the World". It is also the home of the Parson Brown Orange named after a pastor from Webster (N.L. Brown) and recognized as one of the sweetest orange varieties ever discovered.



Because of several very cold winters accompanied by freezing temperatures experienced in the late 1800s, the citrus industry declined and was replaced by cattle ranching as a primary component to the City's economic base. Today the City is known worldwide for its farmers market and numerous flea markets. The Sumter County Farmers' Market organized in 1938, was the result of a group of area farmers organizing a co-op in which they could sell their farm products including a variety of local vegetables. Eventually a "flea market" was introduced as part of this market and is now one of the largest in Florida.

## Sumterville

Sumter County was created by an act of the Florida Legislature in 1853, and Adamsville was selected as the first county seat in 1858. The county seat was then moved to Sumterville, where it remained until 1868 when the legislature directed that it be moved to Leesburg. In 1879 the Legislature directed that an election be held to determine a permanent county seat. Sumterville was selected but legal questions were soon raised concerning the validity of the election.

Finally, in 1883 the legislature recognized the election and designated Sumterville the permanent county seat. In 1909 the courthouse in Sumterville burned, and once again there arose a movement to relocate the county seat to another part of the county. Finally, after several elections Bushnell was declared the county seat in 1912. Today Sumterville looks the part of the cozy rural village where time moves at a slower pace than the rest of the world and the historic Sumterville Community Center erected by the National Youth Administration in 1939 can be found just east of US 301 (now a County park)



## Fort King Road

The Fort King Road was the first road to be cut through the central Florida wilderness. Completed in early 1826, the twenty-foot wide dirt path passed through dense forests, numerous swamps and bridged several rivers. The road was originally developed to serve as a military trail and stretched for 100 miles from Fort Brooke in Tampa to Fort King in Ocala. A large portion of its route followed historic Indian paths and game trails. During the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), the road became the focus of fierce fighting as Native Americans and U.S. soldiers battled for control of the region. The road passes through the heart of Sumter County and is most noted for the historic 1835 battle between the Seminoles and U.S. federal soldiers that marked the beginning of the war.



## Cultural

*Cultural resources are portions of the human environment that express aesthetics, traditions, values and customs. Traditions are usually associated with distinct groups of people and passed on from one generation to the next. Cultural resources may include crafts, music, arts, dance or drama, rituals, tribal or ethnic customs, festivals, languages, museums, food special events, architecture, physical or recognized legacies, non-resource based recreational activities and customs practiced by people, in the past or present.*

### Bushnell Fall Festival

The Bushnell Fall Festival celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. This day-long, family-oriented celebration includes a parade, street dance and food for everyone. The special event of the day is the greased pig contest that is held in the evening. This festival and parade takes place right on the Byway in downtown Bushnell.

### Sumter County Fair Association

The Association is the sponsor organization for a number of events that take place throughout the year along the Byway. These events have included the Sumter County Fair, Beef & Boogie, Car Wars and others.

Co-sponsored by the Sumter County Cattlemen's Association and the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, the Beef & Boogie is a celebration of Sumter's beef industry held annually on the Byway at the Sumter County farmers market in Webster. The two-day event includes BBQ beef, burger and chili cook-off competitions, a celebration of cowboy heritage, live music, a beauty pageant, educational displays, craft and food vendors. Along with good music and great food, the CAG has participated in this event for two years offering Byway information to the participants and visitors. The Sumter County Chamber of Commerce estimated that approximately 3,500 people visited the festival this past year.



### Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Located along CR 476B, the William L. Lovett VFW Post 10137 is a founding member of the CAG and recently signed a CME partnership agreement to establish a mutually beneficial relationship for the coordination and implementation of the Corridor Management Plan upon Byway designation. The VFW organization and this VFW post in particular, stand as a testament to the importance that the community places on the individuals that fought for the continuous freedom that this nation's citizens enjoy. The very first CAG meetings were held at the VFW and initial strategy sessions for the renaming of CR 476B to the Veteran's Memorial Highway were also hosted by this organization.

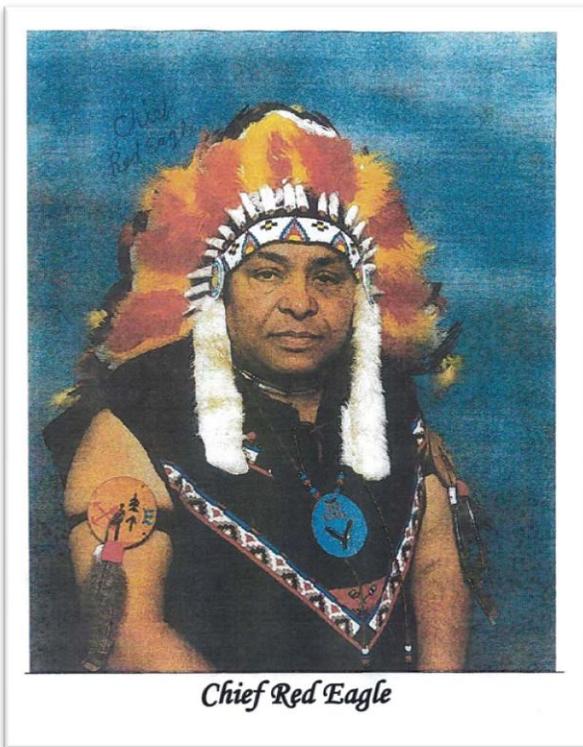


## Florida National Cemetery



As a monument to our nation's fallen heroes, the Florida National Cemetery is located within and embraced by the Withlacoochee State Forest. The rolling lawns and stark marble headstones of this special place serve as a sentinel to the men and woman who have protected our country through the ages. These heroes are nestled among stately moss covered oaks, green lawns and in a tranquil, respectful and purely "southern" setting.

## Native American Culture



Of any scenic highway corridor in the state, the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is most closely tied to the Native American people and their culture. The heritage of the Native American people in the U.S is in many ways closely tied to the European and U.S. settler's heritage. Native Americans, escaped slaves from southern states, and U.S. settlers moving into Central Florida were all part of a growing conflict in the early 1800s. The differences between the young United States and the local Native American population (who were determined to preserve their way of life and their homeland) ultimately resulted in a series of conflicts in Florida. These conflicts culminated in the Dade Battle in the middle 1800s that ultimately brought unwanted attention to the region.

Today the Native American people still have a significant presence in the community and local festivals celebrate their traditions and culture. The Native American people from the *Sumter Native American Family Tribe* (of which Chief Red Eagle is their leader) are represented on the CAG and have provided a presentation to the CAG members on the current status of the Tribe and their activities.

The following list identifies all of the Native American Tribes that are members of the *Sumter Native American Family Tribe*:

1. Cherokee (largest percentage of members), Apache, Navajo, Blackfoot, Mohawk, Creek, Shawnee, Kickapoo, Melungeon, Choctaw, Astee, Lumbee, Otow, Chickasaw, Sioux, Penobscot and Seneca.

## Leesburg Bikefest



Off the Byway slightly, and just up the road a bit, is the City of Leesburg, home to the Leesburg Bikefest. As an event that is second to none starting in 1997, the annual Bikefest has since become an annual spring tradition, with upwards of 250,000 people visiting from all over the U.S. to Leesburg and its surrounding communities. The three day event features bike shows, live music, merchandise, food vendors and organized rides and is a perfect example of an annual economic development engine for the region.

The CAG has already formed a strong bond with the Leesburg Bikefest organizers. Members of the CAG have participated annually in the event with volunteers manning a byway booth, handing out maps of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway and answering questions about the FSHP and their Byway.

Most of the visitors to the booth are usually very interested in the potential designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway in Sumter County and are given *Ride Sumter* tour guides so they can experience it for themselves before heading back to their hometowns. The *Ride Sumter* tour guide was printed on 4 x 6 inch cards with a map of the Byway on one side and brief descriptions of intrinsic resources and interesting places to stop on the other. A larger version of the *Ride Sumter* map (with more detail) is posted at the booth for on-site discussion purposes.



## Archaeological

*Archaeological resources embody the physical evidence or remains of known historic or prehistoric human life, activity or culture in Florida. For example, significant ruins, artifacts, inscriptions, structural or human remains may all be considered archaeological resources. These resources differ from historical resources in that they may have existed before written records were kept in an area.*

According to the Florida Master Site File, there are eight identified archaeological sites located in the general vicinity of the Byway. Nearly all of them are located near the Withlacoochee River with two being located at the Byway's northern terminus near the Citrus County line. Because of the sensitive nature of archaeological sites and the desire to protect their integrity, their exact locations are not readily available and none are open to the public.

Archaeology is typically viewed as "seeking insight on prehistoric times", but Sumter County offers a different twist on this interesting resource. Both the Withlacoochee River and Lake Panasoffkee are the resting place for a number of old shipwrecks. Most are old steamers that transported passengers around the lake and along the river in the late 1800s. Others were vital to the citrus and cypress lumber industries that shipped fruit and timber from docks in Lake Panasoffkee and then headed up the river to awaiting vendors and lumber mills. Old timers tell stories that have been passed down through the generations of local children using partially sunken steamers as a diving platform during low water periods to jump into the lake.

"Sinker cypress logs" is a term used for logs felled more than 100 years ago that somehow didn't make it to the saw mill. On their way they were lost to the Withlacoochee River where they've spent many decades sitting on the river bottom like time capsules waiting to be collected. Some would believe that an extended time in the dark waters of the Withlacoochee would encourage rot but just the opposite has happened. These logs have grown more valuable over time and mining efforts are underway to recover these old growth logs and finally make use of their exceptional heritage.

### **Universal Criteria 2: The corridor must "tell a story" that relates to its intrinsic resources.**

***Although the following corridor story was previously presented in the Eligibility application it is well worth restating here in the CMP because it serves as the foundation for this designation and the reason for this CAG's existence.***

As with any story, it is best to start at the beginning. For the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, the beginning is not necessarily one that dates back to prehistoric Florida, but one that starts with the arrival of the Europeans and their eventual interactions with the local Native Americans as they began to settle in Florida in increasing numbers. These early-on interactions resulted in an historical conflict that helped place the area that eventually become Sumter County in the history books of Florida.

Animosity began to increase between the Seminoles and U.S. settlers in the early 1800s as the Seminoles resisted giving up their land and the U.S. government pushed to open the Florida territory. As a result, small skirmishes between the Seminoles and the U.S. military forces broke out all over Florida. Military leaders believed that relocation of the Seminoles was the best solution to reduce attacks and allow safe settlement of Florida. The Seminole's resistance to this plan eventually brought about the Second Seminole War.



The war started on December 28, 1835 when a column of 107 U.S. soldiers under the command of Major Francis L. Dade were attacked by Seminole warriors at

what was to become Sumter County. This attack on the U.S. military, now known as the Dade Battle, carried Sumter County to the forefront of Florida history for that period.

With the conclusion of the Second Seminole War in 1842, and the Third Seminole War several years later, the future of Sumter County was set. With their safety relatively assured, many settlers began to move into the region. The County's population, most being farmers, doubled in size through the 1860s and 1870s. Much of this growth could be attributed to the increased demand for citrus and the resulting industry that was spawned by this demand. Through the 1880s citrus grew to become the largest industry in Sumter County. The reign of the citrus industry lasted until the mid-1880s when freezes killed the trees and ultimately destroyed much of the industry.



These difficult winter seasons had less effect on the County's two other main industries, cattle and vegetables. The cattle industry continued to grow, and with the decline in citrus it became the most important industry in the County. The cattle industry was closely rivaled by the region's agricultural industry. The December 1925 edition of *Travelon Magazine* offered a revealing look at Sumter County by placing an advertisement for the county in their magazine that stated it was the "storehouse of Florida" and a "place where good living could be made on ten acres of land". During this time period various communities within the County were given the titles of "lettuce" and "cucumber" capitals of the world because the tremendous production of these and other vegetables for shipment to the rest of the country.

Parts of this early sales pitch by *Travelon Magazine* still holds true to this day for Sumter County and the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway. Much of the scenic nature of the corridor is built on the belief in "good living". Farms interspersed between natural areas offer a "balance to the senses". Horse and cattle country balanced with agriculture and the natural beauty of the land provides a "scenic symphony to the senses" for those who travel the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway. This feeling of oneness when riding a byway that looks out at the beauty of the region is again balanced by the history of man's efforts to develop a family and homestead. Furthermore, a community that includes schools, churches and a town meeting hall help infuse a strong heritage component into the overall feel of this scenic Byway.



This part of Florida has continued to promote its unique small town lifestyle even as the world has changed and development has annexed large areas of the County. Attempts at preserving the heritage of "old Florida" is a novelty in many areas of a state that has been forever changed by development and growth. Much of Florida's history began in this part of the state and the early families who established those first communities along old game trails, the banks of the Withlacoochee River or on the shores of Lake Panasoffkee have contributed dedication, tradition and a vision as they passed on. Those traditions remain today. For future generations of Floridians and visitors alike, this Byway corridor provides an opportunity to have an experience that balances both the scenic and heritage components of the Florida Scenic Highways Program unlike any other in the State.

**Universal Criteria 3: The roadway must be a public road that safely accommodates two-wheel-drive motor vehicles.**

The roadway network comprising the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway consists of only public roads that will accommodate two-wheel drive vehicles (Section 1.3.1).



**Universal Criteria 4: The corridor must exhibit significant, exceptional and distinctive features of the region it traverses.**

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is marked by a collection of scenic, natural and man-created resources that are unique to this part of Florida. Combined, the resources paint a picture of some of nature’s most spectacular accomplishments including a natural river that is the perfect picture of the “South”, forested areas and recreational facilities that are second to none. There are man-made resources that serve to honor our ancestors and communities that trace their history back to before the Civil War and stand as testament to the incredibly strong and purposeful people who built the region.

The CAG believes that this combination of resources complies with the three tiered grading requirements expected for any scenic highway;

**Significant:** The intrinsic resources of this Byway are significant. The communities touched by this corridor have acknowledged that their scenic and heritage resources are valuable, need to be protected, and necessary for a well balanced community. Legal protection for these resources is founded in each community’s comprehensive plan. These plans task the local government to identify, document and acknowledge the “best of the best” within their boundaries. The larger communities have established specific protection language that supports their comprehensive plan. Additionally, other resources have been protected through incorporation into state and regional parks while still others have been commemorated through the use of historical designations and local historic markers. Significant resources along the corridor include:

- **Dade Battlefield Historic State Park:** In 1921, the Florida Legislature appropriated funds to preserve the battle site as a memorial. It was the second unit of what is now the Florida State Park system. Dade Battlefield is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



- **Fort Armstrong:** The Sumter County Historical Society has recognized the significance of this historical site. Fort Armstrong was established in response to the Dade Massacre to improve security along the Fort Brooke (Tampa) to Fort King (Ocala) road.

- **Sumterville, Historic County Seat:** During the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries Sumter County's county seat relocated several times. Sumterville was the second and fourth location (In order: Adamsville, Sumterville, Leesburg, Sumterville, Bushnell). When the courthouse burned down in 1908, the County seat moved to its present location, Bushnell. A historic marker has been erected by the community to commemorate the historic significance of Sumterville.



- **Florida National Cemetery:** The Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell has been commemorated and recognized in many ways for its significance in the community. The cemetery features a Memorial Pathway that is lined with a variety of memorials honoring America's veterans of 20<sup>th</sup> century conflicts.

- **Veterans Memorial Highway:** CR 673, from US 301 to CR 476 (in front of the Florida National Cemetery and VFW Post # 10137), was dedicated by the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners in 1998 as the Veterans Memorial Highway (Resolution was recorded in Book 30/Page 183). The roadway was dedicated in a public ceremony and commemorative signs were installed.

- **Shady Brook Greenway Park:** Located at a historic dock-railroad depot that served the Lake Panasoffkee community (just east of I-75 on CR 470) known as Panasoffkee Landing, Shady Brook Greenway Park has a great history. It was the eastern terminus of the Floral City-Lake Panasoffkee steamboat route. The railroad ran right up next to the dock allowing easy transfer of passengers and freight. In 1884, the Florida Orange Canal and Transit Company opened the Florida Orange Canal, a short waterway that connected Floral City to the Withlacoochee River. This allowed steamboats to travel from Floral City,



up the Withlacoochee River, through the Outlet Canal to Lake Panasoffkee, and up Shady Brook to Panasoffkee Landing. The steamboats provided a fast way to move agricultural goods to markets in the East. This crucial transportation route opened the area up for agriculture. In 1893, part of the Henry B. Plant Railroad was extended to Floral City, ending the steamboat era along the Withlacoochee River.



- Marsh Bend Outlet Park and Historic Marker:** The western stretch of the proposed Byway passes through a mosaic of conservation areas (public and private). These conservation areas have a wide variety of habitats and serve to protect the water and wildlife resources along the Withlacoochee River. Marsh Bend Outlet Park is a prime access point for passive and resource-based recreation. The park honors two of the founding fathers of the Lake Panasoffkee community (James J. Marsh and Dr. Henry Marsh) who were part of a prominent family in the area during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. An historic marker commemorating their service to the community has been erected in the park.



- General James A. Van Fleet State Trail Park:** The State recognized the value and importance of this former railway by designating it as part of Florida's State wide system of Greenways and Trails. The nearly 30 mile trail passes through the Green Swamp and an information kiosk is located at the Mabel (north) trailhead at SR 50 telling the trail's story.

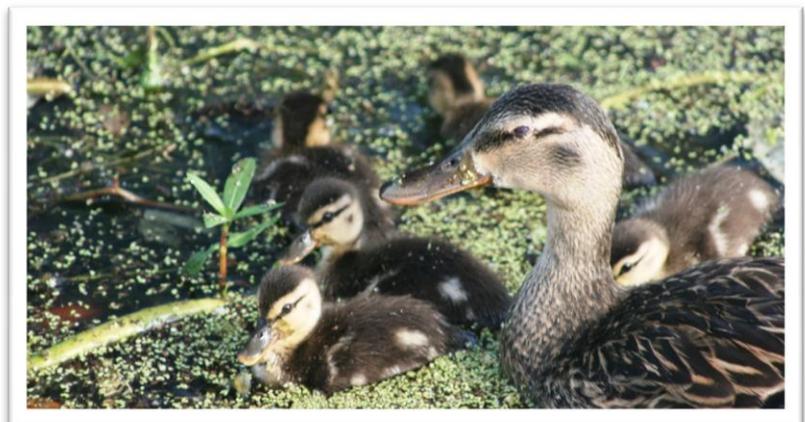


- **Half Moon Wildlife Management Area:** This 9,000 plus acre conservation area was acquired by the State due to its importance in protecting the Withlacoochee River, an Outstanding Florida Waterway.
- The **Withlacoochee River** (or Crooked River) originates in central Florida's Green Swamp and is one of Florida's premier rivers. The Withlacoochee flows from the Green Swamp to King's Bay on the Gulf of Mexico. Photogenic even on its worst day, it is one of only two rivers in Florida that flow towards the north (the other is the St. John's). Its significance can be measured by its designation as an Outstanding Florida Water.



**Exceptional:** The photography included throughout this eligibility application clearly demonstrates the exceptional character and diversity of resources along the Byway corridor. Of particular note are the following;

- **Green Swamp:** The Green Swamp and the regional river systems that support it is the most significant hydrologic and environmental feature in Central Florida. Green Swamp is not only massive (it covers portions of five counties), but it makes up the headwater of several rivers (Hillsborough, Withlacoochee, Little Withlacoochee, Ocklawaha, and Peace), and is indirectly the



source of most of Central Florida's drinking water. The green swamp is also well known for its wide variety of native wildlife. Visitors and residents alike utilize this exceptional resource for a variety of recreational activities including fishing, hunting, hiking, biking, canoeing, bird watching and many others.

- **Florida National Cemetery:** Tradition, honor and solitude. This cemetery serves the history of our country and is clearly a significant cultural resource.



- **Dade Battlefield.** Dade Battlefield Historic State Park hosts Seminole War and World War II reenactments. This historical resource was established as a historical site in 1921 and became one of the founding units of the State Park system.



Photo courtesy <http://myfloridahistory.blogspot.com>

- **Tema Cemetery:** The Byway is dotted with many exceptional cemeteries such as the Tema Cemetery. Many 19<sup>th</sup> century communities have faded into the past leaving little more than a name on the map and peaceful cemeteries. The Tema cemetery is located just north of Bushnell on US 301. Its raised gravesites epitomize the old community cemeteries of a long gone era.



**Distinctive:** The beauty of the Byway and the closely intertwined history of the forefathers of this region are well documented in this application. There are an abundance of scenic, recreational and natural resources, all supported by the region’s rich heritage that includes people and their possessions, along with their stories of struggle and success that have become the soul and personality of the community.

This Byway is distinctive because of the Withlacoochee River and Lake Panasoffkee and their expansive forests and swamplands. The Byway is distinctive for its farms and horse stables, its cattle ranches and flea markets, its people and communities, and that “country way of living”.

But most importantly, it is distinctive because of the stories that have been passed down from one generation to the next that respect and build on the region’s resources. These stories and traditions support the community’s legacy for future generations to discover and treasure. This designation effort attempts to capture and preserve not only the resources, but the essence of this legacy for the future.

- **Cattle Industry & Ranching:** Sumter County has deep agricultural roots. In many areas of the State these large ranches are being swallowed up by urban development and the community mourns their loss. The Byway highlights and celebrates the wide open country of cattle ranches that are part of the Sumter way of life. Sumter County and the cities within are being proactive in preserving their agricultural resources and maintaining the rural landscape.



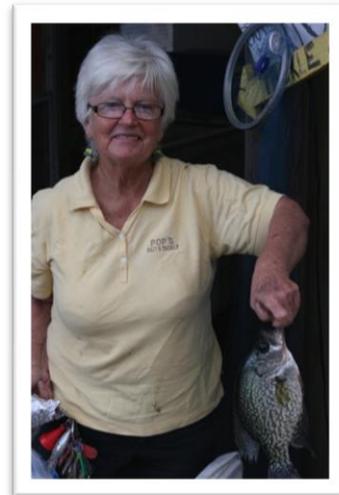
- **Webster Flea Market, Sumter County Farmers Market, and Webster Cattle Market:** Webster evolved as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural areas. The flea markets and cattle market are distinctive resources that exemplify the mercantile nature of small rural towns throughout the region.



- **Florida Bass Conservation Center:** Located in the Green Swamp, FWC's state-of-the-art fish hatchery and research facility produces more than six million fish each year for education, research and habitat restoration. Its specialty, the Florida largemouth bass is the state freshwater fish. This resource supports the recreational fishing industry, a cornerstone of ecotourism within the region.



- **Lake Panasoffkee Fish Camps:** The Byway passes through the heart of Lake Panasoffkee, an old Florida style fishing community nestled on the west shore of its namesake lake. This fishing town is the gateway to the waterways of western Sumter County and many fisherman from all over the world travel to this area to stay at the many fish camps and lodges located here while enjoying the fantastic fishing and friendly local people the area has to offer.



- **Sumter County Historic Courthouse:** Located in the heart of the historic City of Bushnell, the courthouse is the centerpiece of this traditional town. Like many rural towns in the region, Bushnell owes its early success to the railroad. When an earlier courthouse in Sumterville burned, two railroad towns, Wildwood and Bushnell vied for the honor of county Seat. After several elections, Bushnell became the new county seat in 1909. Designed by William A. Edwards, the courthouse construction was completed in 1914. Although Bushnell's commerce is no longer based on the railroad, the tracks through town are still very active and a constant reminder of the city's origin.



Photo courtesy of Jared Anton Collection

**Universal Criteria 5: The roadway generally should be more than one mile in length and if appropriate, provide access to the resources.**

The overall corridor length is approximately 62 miles including state and county roads that pass through a number of unique communities. All resources are easily accessible from the proposed network of roadways.

**Universal Criteria 6: A majority of the corridor must exhibit scenic or heritage qualifying resources. For a Scenic classification, a majority of the corridor must exhibit natural, recreational or scenic qualities. For Heritage classification, a majority of the corridor must exhibit historic, archaeological, or cultural qualities. These resources should be as continuous as possible throughout the corridor.**

The CAG has decided to pursue the Scenic classification of designation and developed the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Resources Map (**Figure 10**) that highlights the qualifying resources that will form the foundation for this designation. The reviewer can see that each segment of the proposed Byway includes qualifying resources (scenic, recreational and natural) along with supporting historic, cultural and archaeological resources that are significant to the community and continuous along the proposed route.

**Universal Criteria 7: A Corridor Advocacy Group must be organized to support the scenic highway designation.**

A core group of individuals from the community came together in 2009 to discuss a possible scenic highway designation through the FDOT Scenic Highways Program. Their common interests included pride in their community, preservation of the region's scenic and heritage resources and a desire to help build a strong local economy based on the values that are important to the community.

**Universal Criteria 8: A Community Participation Program must be developed and implemented.**

The CAG understands the need to ensure both frequent and quality communication with the community. The current composition of the CAG includes a large number of community interests including local government, agriculture, historical and natural resource advocates, the University Of Florida Institution Of Food and Agricultural Sciences and others. Every community along the Byway has active representation on the CAG and has provided letters of support. *As part of the designation process a community information meeting was held to seek out public input on the designation. A summary of this meeting can be found in Appendix A. Additionally, the CAG has provided elected official briefings to educate, answer questions and address possible designation concerns. Equally important has been the establishment of community partnerships with local organizations through resolutions, partnership agreements and a promise to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of the region for residents, visitors and future generations.*

*A preliminary Community Participation Program has been developed as part of this CMP (Appendix B). This plan outlines community involvement tools to be used by the CAG to ensure that the public is informed as needed, along with several efforts that the group has already undertaken to "get the word out". It is expected that this plan will continue to mature in order to effectively respond to new issues and take advantage of newly identified tools. The CAG has already implemented several community involvement ideas including the posting of meeting notices, distributing meeting minutes, issuing Byway press releases, creation of corridor fact sheets and participation in community events and presentations.*

**Universal Criteria 9: Strong local support must be demonstrated.**

The CAG has met with representatives from all of the local governments located along the proposed Byway corridor. All have provided a favorable response to corridor designation and many send representatives to the CAG meetings on a regular basis. This support is demonstrated through elected official involvement, staff commitment, private business participation and letters of support from the many communities that this Byway

embraces. *As noted earlier, the CAG conducted a community information meeting to present the scenic highways program, corridor research efforts, goals, objectives and an action plan for implementation. A summary of this meeting can be found in Appendix A.*

*Equally important is the ongoing effort to establish partnerships with the community once designation is obtained to help ensure long-term success. An example of a partnership agreement is included in Appendix C.*

**Universal Criteria 10:** A Corridor Management Plan must be developed with the endorsement of local government(s) and a Corridor Management Entity (CME) created.

*The current document is intended to serve as the CAG's Corridor Management Plan. Section 3 discusses the establishment of a CME to carry forward implementation of the approved Goals and Objectives.*

# 3. Organizational Development

*As development in Sumter County has continued to spread, a number of citizens, agencies and local officials have undertaken efforts to preserve certain scenic and historic aspects of their county for future generations. As part of this effort the County has been very successful in developing a number of parks that provide scenic and recreational opportunities. At the same time, state and regional authorities have spent considerable energy to preserve many of the most significant natural areas in the County while local historians have worked to preserve its heritage resources. These efforts are significant for a vision that balances natural beauty and charm with a healthy respect for the region's heritage. The creation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway will allow for linear connections between sites and areas of scenic and historic interest, as well as raise the awareness of residents and visitors regarding the value of the intrinsic resources that characterize the region. Accomplishing this requires an organization that has established a "pathway to success".*

## 3.1. Vision and Mission Statements

The CAG understands the importance of establishing a pathway for success as an advocate for the series of highways that compose this Byway. Furthermore, they realize that their efforts will have successes and challenges as they evolve as an organization. The CAG also accepts that without a clear vision of the future for the Byway corridor, and without a dynamic mission, this path will never be clear nor will it meet with the long term success that this region's natural beauty and heritage deserves.

***As part of the Designation phase the CAG reviewed their previously approved Vision and Mission statements to ensure they still reflect the CAG's needs and values. The CAG then assessed current political, social, environmental, regulatory and other potential conditions along the Byway that may necessitate modifications to either of these statements.***

***This review concluded that the CAG's Vision and Mission statements remain in balance with the communities values and consistent with the CAG's needs and therefore do not require any modifications at this time. Each statement remains as approved on November 2, 2010 as part of the Eligibility phase.***

### 3.1.1. Vision Statement

*It is our vision that the synergy developed through strong partnerships, education and resource advocacy creates a nationally recognized byway that showcases the natural, scenic, recreational and heritage resources of Sumter County, and that community decisions are based in part on these special values.*

### 3.1.2. Mission Statement

*It is our mission to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway for residents, visitors and future generations.*

## 3.2. Goals & Objectives

The intent of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG is to recognize the natural beauty of the region's landscape, its rich history, and the unique personalities of each community along the Byway. **During the Eligibility phase the CAG developed five initial goals to help preserve this special place and highlight its uniqueness. These were based in part on Florida Scenic Highways Program requirements and in part on the findings of Corridor Impression Surveys (CIS) that were completed by CAG membership. As part of the Designation phase the CAG has expanded on these original goals by developing a series of**

implementing objectives and strategies that clearly outline the CAG’s mission to attain their vision. Discussed later in this section is the CAG’s action plan for implementing the following goals;

## Goal 1: Protect, preserve, maintain, and enhance the scenic, recreational and natural resources of the corridor.

**Objective 1:** Support efforts to promote public awareness and use of **Public Land / Recreational Resources** along the Byway.

- Catalogue existing public land/recreational resources along the Byway
- Ensure subject resources are made part of all pertinent Byway publications
- Conduct Byway functions at these facilities whenever possible
- Participate in functions that are held at these facilities whenever possible
- Advocate for government support of these resources and participate in development of strategies for resource enhancement

**Objective 2:** Identify and document **Historic Resources** along the Byway in order to enhance community appreciation of Sumter County’s heritage. Foster partnerships with like minded advocacy groups.

- Identify and establish partnerships with other heritage advocacy organizations to identify and collect previous cultural resources assessment documentation available for the Byway
- Identify areas of the Byway where no historical resource information is readily available
- Identify funding to conduct a Cultural Resources Assessment Report for the Byway (portions not previously assessed)
- Establish a prioritization process to identify high priority resources
- Work with other heritage advocates to identify viable preservation techniques available to the community
- Support efforts to preserve heritage resources
- Ensure subject resources are made part of all pertinent Byway publications

**Objective 3:** Develop/maintain a “**Stories from the Road**” archive of materials & information that tells the story of the Byway’s heritage (see Goal 4/Objective 5).

- Establish a working committee to identify pertinent items in need of preservation
- For “stories” to be collected, develop a series of targeted questions for interviewing “story tellers”
- Identify “story tellers”
- Develop a “call for stories” request to be run in local papers
- Identify a depository for materials (hard copy/electronic) collected
- Develop a database of materials collected
- Advocate for long term funding to maintain the established “heritage collection”

**Objective 4:** Identify **Scenic Vistas** along the Byway and advocate the protection of these vistas through public awareness and appreciation of the corridor envelope.

- Document existing special vistas (areas of extraordinary scenic view)
- Identify potential issues associated with documented vistas (ownership, land use etc.)
- Work with local government and other partners to identify, categorize and prioritize a list of additional “potential scenic vistas” available along the Byway
- Establish acceptable protection techniques available for preservation of these vistas
- Advocate for funding to preserve current/new vistas
- Identify vistas on Byway marketing materials
- Recommend enhancements (e.g. informational kiosks) that educate visitors on what they can expect to see at selected vistas.
- Ensure subject vistas are made part of all pertinent Byway publications

**Objective 5:** Accentuate the **Agricultural Heritage** of Sumter County by supporting and promoting the scenic beauty existing along the Byway as a result of ranching/farming/crop production efforts.

- Establish a CME partnership agreement with Cattleman’s Association that includes partnering on mutually advantageous promotional opportunities (calendar with stamps/brands)
- Identify Candidate project materials
- Obtain owner approvals
- Establish a sales/promotional plan

- Identify a photographer/printer
- Project production
- Final product advertisement

**Objective 6:** Support or advocate for a Byway sponsored **Litter Control / Roadway Beautification Program** along the Byway corridor.

- Identify a committee to plan and implement the program
- Collect/review current program options and requirements (state, county, local)
- Identify target segments of the Byway for adoption
- Make application to a program sponsor
- Identify volunteers to participate in the program

## **Goal 2: Advocate for safe access to the corridor’s intrinsic resources so as to promote their use while preserving them for future generations.**

**Objective 1:** Support the County’s **Wayfinding Plan** and potential links to the Byway’s resources.

- Participate in the wayfinding planning process including participation during community input opportunities
- Schedule periodic updates on the wayfinding program requirements and progress
- Identify/recommend Byway resources for inclusion in the wayfinding system
- Support efforts to fund future phases to accomplish full program implementation.

**Objective 2:** Partner with and support the MPO **Safe Routes to School Plan** for those schools on or near the Byway.

- Request MPO briefing on the Safe Routes to Schools program to understand program opportunities and options
- Advocate for safe access to County schools consistent with program requirements
- Support BOCC/MPO prioritization of projects and funding requests

**Objective 3:** Support FDOT and MPO **Safety Improvement** efforts related to the Byway.

- Partner with other corridor users to identify safety needs
- Support BOCC efforts to establish a needs list of projects
- Advocate for BOCC project prioritization of key projects
- Support local efforts to seek funding necessary to accomplish priority projects

**Objective 4:** Partner with and provide support to user groups (hikers, bikers, birders, kayakers, etc...) for the enhancement, creation and maintenance of existing and proposed **Trails and Blueways** on public land.

- Identify advocacy groups with similar interests
- Perform a strengths/weakness analysis of current trails/blueways system
- Assist in the development of a user survey
- Prioritize needs
- Work with partners to advocate for enhanced program funding
- Support “get the word out” efforts to advertise the current system and needed improvements

## **Goal 3: Partner with local governments, individuals, and community advocacy organizations to promote responsible commercial and residential development that enhances the value of the corridor’s resources.**

**Objective 1:** Promote and develop enhanced **Participation with the Byway** through community volunteers, the local business community and civic groups.

- Maintain a Community Participation Plan that identifies promotional tools and potential partners
- Develop informational materials regarding the corridor and the Florida Scenic Highways program (see Goal 4)

- Establish dialogue with partners that shares information. Attend partner meetings (“Information sharing”)
- Establish a Speakers Bureau (see Goal 4) to disseminate Byway information

**Objective 2:** Support the county’s efforts to re-energize the **Adopt-A-Highway Program** with links to the Byway (see Goal 1/Objective 6 for additional information).

- Identify a committee to implement the program
- Collect/review current program options and requirements
- Identify target segments of the Byway for adoption
- Make an application for partnership to the program sponsor
- Identify volunteers to participate

**Objective 3:** Identify and support Byway **User Groups** that promote the Byway’s mission – i.e.; bicyclists, birders, motorcyclists, runners, fishermen, boaters (groups within The Villages)

- Based on the Community Participation plan, identify potential partnering organizations
- Establish contact with potential partners.
- Establish Partnering Agreements as necessary
- Establish a process to share partner organization information
- Support active participation in each other’s organization
- Support common causes

**Objective 4: Provide decision makers** with a clear understanding of the Byway’s resources and the mission of the CME

- Ensure that decision makers are on the CME contact list. Review the list annually to ensure it is current
- Establish an annual “Tour of the Byway” for newly elected officials with decision making authority over the resources
- Develop briefing materials (i.e. fact sheets, informational pamphlets, photo logs etc.) to be provided to decision makers so they better understand the corridor resources and the Byway’s value to the community
- Develop a “Fast-Facts” informational piece for distribution to elected officials on the program and the Byway.

## **Goal 4: Increase awareness of the region’s rich natural and heritage resources through the development and presentation of the corridor story to residents and visitors alike.**

**Objective 1:** Develop and implement a focused **Awareness Plan** that educates the community about the Byway utilizing available media sources. (Facebook, newspaper, newsletters, Villages TV, local radio, Visit Florida, etc...)

- Establish an Awareness Committee with a defined mission
- Establish partnerships with the local news industry
- Identify tools available through Visit Florida that can be of value to the long term success of the CME’s mission
- Establish a speakers bureau and support with digital and print materials for distribution
- Establish/maintain social networking connections (Facebook, Twitter etc.)
- Develop a CME planning calendar that targets community events of which the CME intends to participate. Develop an event participation strategy as part of this effort.

**Objective 2:** Develop **Educational Materials** to be used by locals and visitors alike (brochures, mobile apps, kiosks, etc... describing the history of Lake Panasoffkee Landing, cemeteries, Spanish explorer routes, Native American history, transportation history, etc...).

- Establish prioritized needs for educational materials
- Seek funding sources for the development of these materials
- Develop a prioritized distribution plan for the materials produced
- Identify target issues to be addressed in these materials

**Objective 3:** Create a **Website** and/or partner with another organization for website content/hosting, etc...

- Establish a digital media committee to establish needs and investigate opportunities to create and maintain a Byway website
- Identify funding options to design and maintain
- Establish an operating policy
- Maintain digital connectivity between the website, Byway social media tools and regional and state-wide partners

**Objective 4:** Develop a strategy for the **Documentation of Historic Information** to be archived and passed on to younger generations

- Work with heritage partners to identify resources/topics for preservation
- Establish/identify methods or preservation techniques (copies, photos, tape recordings etc.)
- Establish a “home” for materials collected/documented

**Objective 5:** Develop a digital **“Stories from the Road”** oral histories series

- Establish what stories need to be told
- Identify narrator for story
- Establish a series of topical questions to facilitate the interview
- Identify methods to store and share completed stories

**Objective 6:** Continue the partnership with the **Chamber of Commerce** for exposure to the Sumter County business community and participation with local events.

- Establish an events calendar with targeted community events of which the CME intends to participate (see Goal 4/Objective 1)
- Establish a committee to ensure CME involvement is accomplished (brochures, membership information, registration fees, volunteers, set-up/break-down)
- Designate a consistent photographer to record CME participation
- Develop informational materials needed for distribution at events (i.e. brochures, give-aways, display boards, banners, video, maps, etc.).

**Objective 8:** Recognize Sumter County **community founders**

- Identify the founding individuals and families that shaped Sumter county's heritage
- Investigate recognition methods
- Collect family stories for preservation

**Objective 9:** Develop **community educational programs**

- Develop a series of educational tours of the corridor that offers narrated tours of the Byway, corridor maps/brochures and a snack and/or lunch along the Byway

## **Goal 5: Encourage investment that enhances the regions resources and improves the corridor’s special sense of place.**

**Objective 1:** Support the county’s **Economic Development Program** and partner with advocacy groups who also promote economic development in Sumter County (examples include the TDC, Chamber of Commerce, Historic Preservation Society, native plant group/garden clubs, etc...)

- Support economic development tools that boost interest and involvement in Byway priorities
- Advocate for tools that help measure the economic contribution that the Byway makes to the community.
- Maintain involvement in organizations that have similar missions
- Partner on opportunities to highlight Sumter County and Byway resources

**Objective 2:** Promote **Recreational Tourism** in the County (fishing, county parks, antiques, birding, blueways/trails, etc...) through outreach activities such as presentations, guest speakers, and guided tours.

- Highlight recreational tourism in Byway marketing materials and community involvement efforts
- Advocate for enhanced focus on recreational tourism with regional and state tourism marketing organizations (e.g. Visit Florida, Sumter Tourist Development Council)

**Objective 3:** Promote and support the FDOT's **wildflower program and the use of native plants** in Sumter County as it pertains to the Byway.

**Objective 4:** Identify and support **Local Events/Festivals** that bring attention/awareness to the region and the Byway (annual events include the Beef & Boogie, Dade Battlefield State Park re-enactments and the Linden picnic).

- Establish a 12 month "Look-ahead" CME calendar to be used to identify and track local events (see Goal 4/Objective 1)
- Partner with the Sumter Chamber and other event planner/sponsors to populate the calendar with events of which the CME intends to participate
- Identify volunteers to represent the CME at planned events
- Maintain marketing/event involvement materials for use at each event (brochures, sign-up sheets, display tables, banners etc.)
- Seek new membership/donations

**Objective 5: Partner with local businesses** to promote the Byway.

- Encourage "Byway welcome stops" with appropriate local tourist-related businesses willing to display interpretative information and offer corridor informational materials
- Develop promotional materials (e.g. restaurant placemats, fans, do-not disturb hangers) that appropriate local tourist related businesses can use to encourage Byway usage
- Develop informational materials (e.g. targeted brochures) that focus on special resources (boating, fishing, country cooking, heritage)
- Solicit special interest magazines to publish Byway related tourism articles

## **Goal 6: Maintain the administrative functions of the organization to ensure long term sustainability.**

**Objective 1: Maintain an organization structure** that assures the long term success of the CME

- Develop/maintain an organization chart including board members and committees.
- Establish working committees that address organizational needs. Ensure each committee is provided a working mission and responsibilities to establish their duties
- Establish "Core Values" for the CME

**Objective 2: Maintain CME Documentation**

- Develop a records management policy
- Identify a depository for all CME documentation
- Establish a photo log of CME events

**Objective 3: Ensure the successful completion/submittal of organizational documents** (such as FSHP reports, Florida Department of State Incorporation documents and IRS filings as required)

- Develop a tracking spreadsheet of all required documents and update/submittal schedules to ensure accurate and timely organizational filings

**Objective 4: Maintain active participation in the FDOT Accreditation program**

- Obtain Accreditation training
- Establish a committee to assess program requirements, and CME responses based on the program's implementation schedule

**Objective 5: CME Sustainability**

- Establish a membership committee whose responsibility includes member services and recruitment
- Establish a fundraising program that seeks donations for CME efforts

### **3.3. Corridor Management Entity (CME)**

According to the Florida Scenic Highways Program Manual, the CME will serve as the caretaker of the scenic corridor by ensuring that the Action Plan is executed and all corridor activities are monitored and implemented

according to the CMP. To do this the CME should be comprised of the individuals, organizations and governmental agency representatives whose expertise is appropriately matched to the strategies of the Corridor Management Plan.

***To establish a CME for the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway the CAG first worked to finalize their Goals and Objectives. Once approved, the CAG identified possible membership for its CME that would be reflective of the Goals/Objectives they had developed. They concluded that CME membership should include local government, partnering volunteer organizations (i.e. local historical societies), economic development authorities, private interests and others interested in the significance of the region's intrinsic resources. Potential partners were approached and commitments obtained. A series of Operating Procedures was then developed by the CAG that reflects the focus (Mission/Vision) of the future CME. This Resolution for Establishing Operating Procedures (Appendix D) was then adopted as the CME's preliminary management plan. As part of this plan it was agreed by the membership that the CME should take effect on the date of the FDOT Secretary's Letter of Approval as a Florida Scenic Highway. This CMP references the current CAG with the understanding that the CME will assume all corridor oversight responsibility upon designation.***

### **3.4. Organizational Structure**

***The CAG has established a preliminary organizational structure to assist in advancing the initial efforts of the CME once designation is received. This organization consists of an Executive Committee (officers), general CME membership, issue specific committees, other community participants and advisors. This organization chart is presented in Appendix E. Of particular note are the three preliminary committees that have been established initially to allow for a smooth transition from CAG to CME and ensure technical issues that arise during the transition are reviewed, analyzed and recommendations reported back to the Executive Committee in an efficient manner. These committees are Membership, Governance and Finance. Each of which has specific duties to accomplish as the CAG transitions to a CME. The mission and some of the more pertinent responsibilities of these committees are included in Appendix F. Once designation is received the CME will reassess this organizational structure to ensure it is compatible with their long term strategies.***

### **3.5. Community Participation Program (CPP)**

A CPP is an outreach program that helps ensure that the CAG is regularly updating Byway stakeholders about programs, projects and accomplishments. Byway stakeholders include residents, business owners, local government officials and agencies, tourism agencies, and other non-profit organizations. It is a systematic way to educate the general community about the benefits of the designation and the CAG's (future CME's) Mission/Vision for the Byway. It is important that there be a clear understanding of the CME's mission in the community.

Implementation of the CPP is important for several reasons. First it builds support for the Byway and the CAG. Secondly, implementation of the CPP is one of the best ways to recruit members and volunteers. The CAG's presence in the community will help identify individuals and groups who support the CAG's mission and are willing to help attain its vision. Thirdly, a consistently implemented CPP will build trust for the CAG in the community. The CPP is likely the first in a series of opportunities for new individuals to become involved with the Byway. When implemented consistently and with timely follow-up, the CPP will help identify supporters in the community who may eventually become volunteers or donors.

**The creation and implementation of a CPP is consistent with Goal 3 calling for open communication with the public and acting with the support of the community. The CPP is also consistent with Goal 4 which calls for educating the public on the corridor's story.**

*As part of the Eligibility application the CAG drafted a basic CPP. This document has now been updated to be more encompassing of the issues and needs of a functioning organization (Appendix B). In developing this document the CAG reviewed the requirements of the Florida Scenic Highways Program Manual and also incorporated community involvement techniques that are part of the FDOT District V's Byway Accreditation Program (Section 3.11).*

### **3.5.1. Corridor Advocacy/Corridor Management Entity Meetings**

Currently the CAG meets on a monthly basis. A meeting agenda is developed, distributed and posted prior to each meeting and meeting minutes are developed and distributed to the membership for review and approval afterwards. At this time it is the CAG's intent to continue a monthly meeting schedule once designation is received. The CPP (Appendix B) includes a sample meeting agenda and meeting minutes.



### **3.5.2. Community Involvement Meeting**

The CAG conducts monthly general membership meetings. Additionally, committee meetings are held throughout the month on an as-needed basis dependent upon the tasks needed at the time. All meetings are open to the public. Additionally the CAG holds its general meetings at various locations around the corridor to encourage community involvement.

As required by the Florida Scenic Highways Program Manual, a community involvement meeting was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 to formally introduce the proposed Byway to the community. This meeting was noticed in the local paper and held in conjunction with a Chamber of Commerce community event in order to receive more exposure to the public. A number of CAG members participated and more than 100 members of the general public attended and were introduced to the Florida Scenic Highways Program, the Sumter designation, view the corridor video and get questions answered. Appendix A includes a summary of this event including a designation support signature sheet and photos.

### **3.5.3. Involvement with Regional Partners**

**The CAG has developed an extensive list of community partnering efforts that have been accomplished to date. A partial list of these efforts is listed below. As required by the Florida Scenic Highways Program Manual a brief summary of many of these partnering efforts is included in Appendix G and listed below;**

- **Participation in “Sumter County’s Beef & Boogie”**
- **Leadership Sumter Program**
- **First annual Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Poker Run**
- **Leesburg Bike Fest**
- **Day in the Park - Hot Dog Roast**
- **VFW Partnership**
- **Local agency presentations**



**First Annual Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Picnic**

### 3.5.4. Future Community Involvement Efforts

The CAG understands that its purpose, in part, is to work with the community to develop a scenic corridor that best showcases and preserves the features and character of the surrounding area. Byway Goal 6 commits the organization to ensuring that its mission and vision are clearly understood and supported by the community. As a result, the CAG expects to maintain a future meeting schedule consistent with efforts that are underway. All meetings and events will be advertised in conformance with its CPP. Additional community involvement techniques will be based on specific needs but may include newsletters, digital media tools, press releases, community meetings, targeted invitations and participation at other community events.

### 3.6. Local Support

The CAG has actively sought out local assistance to help implement their mission. This support has come in multiple forms. Sumter County and the Cities of Webster and Bushnell have all been involved with this designation effort and each has provided in-kind technical support and a letter of support or resolution as necessary. Support letters have also been received from regional agencies like the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council and Lake/Sumter MPO along with local community groups including the VFW Post 10137, Sumter County Cattleman’s Association, University of Florida/Institute for Food and Agriculture Sciences and the Sumter County Historical Society. Additionally, many signatures from citizens have been collected on petitions supporting designation of this Byway from local community events the CAG has attended and participated. These resolutions, letters of support and petitions can be found in Appendix H.

To more formally establish long term relationships with key partners, the CAG has developed a “Partnership Agreement” that will document the roles and responsibilities of the CME and its key partners. Partnership Agreements have been established between the CAG and the following organizations;

- William L. Lovett VFW Post 10137
- Sumter County Historical Society
- Wildwood Historical Society
- Sumter County Chamber of Commerce

Other forms of local support include regular attendees at CAG meetings representing most of the local governments along the corridor to provide technical support as needed. Additionally, the Sumter County Historical Society, Dan McCormic (CAG Chairman), Gayle Teerman (SCORE), Jimmy Veal (owner of Pana Vista Lodge), Ellen Didion (Sumter Foundation) and others have provided many hours of corridor research support to help tell the region’s heritage story.



Although these support efforts have been successful, the CAG understands that the broader the support base that can be established the greater the chance of accomplishing its mission within the timeframe established. Several of the CAG’s Goals address the need to establish and maintain partnerships for long term Byway/CME success.

## 3.7. Protection Techniques

Protection and preservation of the Byway's intrinsic resources are critical to both the designation and long term viability of the corridor. During the Eligibility phase the CAG prepared an extensive review of available or proposed protection measures that can be applied to help protect the Byway. As part of this CMP, the CAG reviewed and updated its previous efforts as summarized below;

### 3.7.1. Local Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Regulations

The Comp Plans and Land Development Regulations (LDRs) of Sumter County and the local governments located along the Byway provide the primary tools for preserving the corridor's character and intrinsic resources. Through the application of their respective goals, objectives, and policies, land uses within the corridor are guided with respect to private property rights as well as resource preservation. These Comp Plans and LDRs hold great weight in planning and guiding the growth and development of the region, as they are based on electorate mandate. These planning tools can provide targeted guidance such as; protection of trees, the establishment of landscape requirements for new developments, providing for the preservation of heritage resources, establishing buffering requirements between varied uses and prescribing the size, quantity and installation of signage.

These regulations are designed to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the community that the Comp Plan serves. As discussed later in the section, local government protection techniques will serve as a foundation for the development and implementation of a Byway CMP as required by the FSHP. Successful implementation of adopted Comp Plans and adherence to LDRs will ensure preservation of the intrinsic resources as well as maintaining the character of the corridor.

**Unfortunately, Florida's comprehensive development plan philosophy has recently come under increased scrutiny at the state level, but for the immediate future it serves as a key protection tool for scenic highway corridors around the state.**

**Over the last year the Sumter County Planning Department has worked to draft a Unified Comp Plan (UCP) that addresses both unincorporated portions of the County and incorporated areas like the Cities of Webster and Bushnell. Ultimately this plan will offer consistent guidance and a framework to establish the protective measures necessary to help preserve the region's resources for future generations. This UCP is being finalized by the Sumter County Planning Department.**

### 3.7.2. Preservation of Natural Resources

Neither the County nor the communities along the Byway have specific ordinances in place for the protection of natural resources. Sumter County does have a Tree Ordinance in Section 13-647 of the LDC. It provides standards for the protection of "Trees of Concern" (trees at least 30 inches diameter). Medium and major developments (over 10,000 sq. ft. of impervious) are encouraged to take reasonable measures to design and locate improvements to minimize impact on trees of concern. The City of Webster has a Tree Preservation Ordinance (Article 11, Section 1-10) that focuses on the preservation of historic and specimen trees as designated by City Council. Additionally, the City's landscaping and buffering standards (LDC Article 4, Sections 4.1-4.12) encourage preservation of native vegetation and its inclusion into required buffers.

These local agencies rely heavily on State and Federal environmental regulations to ensure the long term protection of the region's natural resources.

### 3.7.3. Historic Preservation

The preservation of local history is an effort that seeks to preserve the ability of older (i.e. historic) resources to communicate an intended meaning to future generations. This meaning has its foundation in cultural and social processes that establish how the historical resource should be expressed or shared with the public. Recently historic preservation has even included issues of healthy living and sustainability.

Sumter County has a brief reference to historic preservation in their LDC's (Section 13-648). This policy requires major developments to obtain a letter of clearance from the Division of Historic Resources prior to development. Discussions with the City of Webster indicate that they have an historic preservation ordinance currently under development.

**The review of local historic preservation regulations appears to indicate that the measures currently in place along the corridor do not offer the same amount of protection of its heritage resources as other communities with more formalized preservation regulations. Many communities around the state have established certified historic preservation programs including an adopted preservation policy to help protect remaining resources. Goal 1 addresses the importance of efficient management of these heritage resources.**

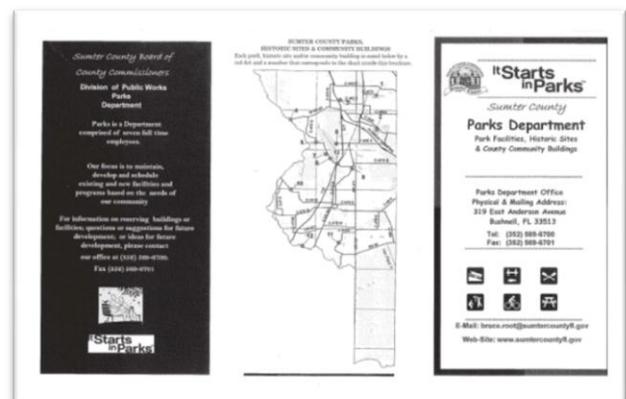
**Even with the current limited regulatory policy in the region, there remains a strong tradition of historic preservation through the County's Historical Preservation Society and several community based groups along the Byway. These societies have taken on the role of community education and resource preservation.**

### 3.7.4. Public Lands Management

**State/Regional Programs:** The FDEP and SWFWMD are active partners in the management of regional public resources in Sumter County. Examples include the Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, General James A. Van Fleet State Trail and Withlacoochee State Forest. Each of these resources has an established management plan that balances the needs of varying interests with long term preservation and resource protection.

**Local Community Programs:** The mission of the Sumter County Parks Department is to "provide a quality parks system while preserving the County's natural environment for the enjoyment of current and future citizens." As a result there are dozens of parks, recreational facilities and locally managed properties along the Byway corridor. The Byway resource map (included as Figure 10 in Section 2.2) provides a comprehensive list of these resources. Key examples include;

- Rutland Park
- Marsh Bend "Outlet" Park
- Coleman Landing
- Roy "Bug" Story Park
- Lake Panasoffkee Recreation Park
- Croom-a-Coochee Park



### 3.7.5. Outdoor Advertising

As discussed in Section 1.3, billboards along state roads are typically regulated by the FDOT. FDOT permits billboards and other signs in accordance with Florida Statutes (FS) Chapter 479 relating to Outdoor Advertising. Sumter County and the larger local municipalities each regulate signage within their LDRs.

### 3.7.6. Other Protective Measures

The protection and preservation of the Byway's resources is critical to the long term viability of the Byway. As part of the Eligibility application the CAG investigated a number of techniques that could help protect resources along the Byway. The CAG has now fine-tuned that analysis to further focus on the following specific measures for scenic and heritage resource protection;

- **Zoning:** "Local District" designation is a type of zoning that applies to entire neighborhoods that include multiple historic properties. The zoning can control the appearance of existing and proposed buildings. Local district zoning can help to improve property values by stabilizing and enhancing the neighborhood's character and benefits the property owners by protecting them from inappropriate changes that might destroy the special qualities of the neighborhood. Local district designations can play an important role as a protective measure along the Byway. There are several districts currently in place along the Byway. Many were discussed in the Eligibility application.
- **Local Government Agreements:** Local governments establish agreements with other governmental entities to assist in the operation and maintenance of public facilities. An example is the agreements that FDOT enters into with Sumter County to assist in the maintenance and upkeep of the state highway system within the County. These agreements help insure that roadways receive the attention they need in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- **Corridor Management Plan:** The primary mission of the FSHP is to preserve, protect, enhance and maintain intrinsic resources located within a designated corridor. An integral support element to this mission is a CMP. A CMP is a written plan developed by the communities along a scenic highway that outlines strategies for the protection and enhancement of the Byways intrinsic qualities and character that defines the corridor. CMPs outline goals, strategies and responsibilities needed for preserving and promoting the scenic highway. This current CMP outlines a series of goals and objectives and an implementation plan that will be used to accomplish the CME's mission.
- **Federal/State Historic Designations:** The NRHP is a federal program administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with state governments. The Register was created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1996 to recognize and protect properties of historic and cultural significance that warrant consideration in federal undertakings such as highway construction and urban renewal projects and to provide incentives for local and private preservation initiatives. In Florida the program is administered by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) who is responsible for conducting the state-wide survey of historic properties, coordinating nominations of eligible properties to the National Register and conducting review of federal and state projects that may affect properties listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP. The CAG has identified the need to support these designation efforts in its Goals (Goals 1, 4 and 5). **Based on this research the CAG is currently investigating the possible nomination of two heritage resources along the corridor. Both the Pana Vista Lodge on the shores of Lake Panasoffkee and the Sumter Courthouse in Bushnell appear to fit the program's requirements for designation.**

## 3.8. Funding and Promotion

### 3.8.1. Funding

In drafting a funding strategy for this CMP the CAG had to first ask itself "what would funds be needed for?" They looked at their Mission and Goals/Objectives closely to identify possible needs. The CAG then looked at their Action Plan to assess ongoing, short term and long term priorities. This analysis identified potential funding needs in three general categories; 1) community education; 2) corridor improvements; and 3.) CME operations. More specifically, short term funding needs are anticipated for the following:

- **Design and implementation of a social network and/or web site**

- Development of corridor informational materials
- State incorporation and IRS designation as a 501c(3) organization
- Establishment of a permanent mailing address
- Development of a corridor wayfinding plan
- Support of local NRHP nominations

Based upon their immediate priorities the CAG then investigated available funding options. As a result of these discussions the CAG will focus their preliminary funding efforts in two areas; 1.) Grant opportunities and 2.) Increasing membership as ways to build the organization and accomplish their goals.

### Grants

There are a number of local, state, federal and private funding sources available to implement the actions and strategies that will be developed as part of the CMP. In preparation for corridor designation, the CAG has begun to investigate funding and partnering opportunities that are consistent with the vision and goals of the CAG. Some of the sources that are being considered for funding support are:

- **Transportation Alternatives Program: MAP-21**, the recently approved federal highway act creates a funding mechanism to address transportation needs including projects that address safety, infrastructure conditions, traffic congestion, and protection of the environment. This program is funded by the Federal government and managed at the State level by FDOT. Many of the funding categories included in this program fit well with the goals and objectives developed by the CAG. These funds are managed through the FDOT's LAP which requires a certified local agency as a project sponsor. Several local governments along the corridor (including Sumter County and the City of Bushnell) are LAP certified.
- **Preserve America** is a federal initiative through the NPS that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and protect America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the program include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities. Preserve America recognizes and designates communities (including municipalities, counties and neighborhoods in large cities) that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. One benefit of designation under this program includes eligibility to apply for Preserve America Grants and national recognition.
- **Tourist Development:** Another potential funding source is the TDC. This group can help identify educational and ecotourism opportunities that would benefit by including the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway in the production of their organization's literature and marketing materials. The local restaurants and hotels would also be considered under the tourist umbrella for potential funding partnerships.
- **Florida Humanities Council (FHC):** The FHC awards grants that provide financial support for the planning and implementation of public humanities projects. These grants are typically for small projects such as single events, lectures or panel discussions, reading and discussion groups, film series, and/or small exhibits. These grants can also support the development of print and/or on-line resources which may include interpretive brochures, audio/video recordings of scholar presentations, and classroom resources.
- **Additional sources for partnerships, funding and in-kind resources** can be found in a variety of organizations and other state resources including;
  - **Businesses and residents**
  - **LSMPO**
  - **Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council**

- FDOT Beautification grants
- Florida Cooperative Extension Service
- Florida Department of Agriculture
- Florida Department of State
- Florida Public Archaeology Network
- Trust for Public Lands
- SWFWMD
- VISIT FLORIDA

### **Membership**

Increasing membership is the second component of the CAG’s preliminary Byway funding plan. Enhanced membership is the goal of every grass roots organization. Increasing membership helps in many ways including being able to share responsibilities, encourage an enhanced diversity of perspective and collecting revenue from donations and membership fees. Upon designation it will be the Membership Committee’s mission to develop a plan to build membership and establish donor levels. In anticipation of designation, the CAG has begun to discuss the details of tasks involved with the development of this plan. These details include;

- Identification of gaps in skills, geography, age and representation with current CAG membership
- Participation at partner events
- Development of a list of prospective members
- Identification of businesses along the corridor
- Identification of the benefits of FSHP designation
- Documentation of CAG Accomplishments
- Application for obtaining non-profit organization designation
- Identification of member categories and donor levels

Increased contributions will help the CAG fund short term operational needs like legal filings, grant matches, post office box rental and incidentals along with possible project funding needs. Once designated, the Finance Committee will be tasked to recommend a financial structure that helps support CME efforts.

### **3.8.2. Promotion**

Experience shows that promotion is necessary to receive economic benefit. Increased recognition and economic benefits can result from a well-managed promotional program designed to educate, increase local interest and attract tourists. The key however is to balance the desire for additional tourism with the preservation of the Byway. In its discussions on the development of a promotional plan the CAG debated the answer to two key questions;

- 1) “WHAT” marketable features does the Byway offer?
- 2) “WHO” will be interested in enjoying or using them?

The CAG will be able to draw on the expertise of their Finance and Membership Committees to take on the task of developing a promotional plan for the Byway once designated. In anticipation of this effort the CAG has begun to develop answers to these two key questions. The CAG believes that its most marketable features (consistent with its mission and goals) include the following:

- Natural beauty
- Agricultural heritage

- Abundance of natural resources
- Corridor story

With the “*WHAT*” identified it becomes relatively easy to identify the “*WHO*”. In this case the *WHO* are specific groups of people that would be interested in exploring the varied resources the Byway offers. Including at a minimum;

- Ecotourists
- Families
- Cycling interests
- Outdoor recreational enthusiasts (i.e. birders, fisherman, campers, paddlers, etc..)
- History buffs

Although the development of specific detail will need to wait for designation, the CAG has already developed some of the tools necessary for a quality promotional program including a corridor video, a corridor fact sheet, comprehensive corridor history and strong partnerships capable of supporting the efforts necessary for success (many of which are documented in the Appendices of this CMP).

**A promotional video was produced by the CAG as part of their Eligibility application. This video provides the viewer with a unique glimpse of the Byway’s resources and character and will be a key component of the CAG’s Community Participation Program. This Byway’s corridor video has been provided to the Sumter Chamber of Commerce, local media outlets and CAG members to be used as part of a Byway speaker’s bureau. Additionally, the video will be made available on the Byway social network site/website (see below) once designation is received.**

Promotion has an alternative side to it also. Self-promotion of the CAG is equally important to promotion of the Byway’s resources for long term success and sustainability. In an effort to promote the organization, the CAG has met with community leaders and advocacy groups. One recent example has been the CAG’s involvement with Leadership Sumter, a Chamber of Commerce sponsored program intended to introduce future county leaders to their community. A CAG representative recently spoke to the 2012 class on the attempts underway to obtain a scenic highway designation for the county. Discussions are underway to formalize this relationship and include a more detailed scenic highway presentation during the 2013 program. There are also discussions underway to possibly select a class project that helps the CAG obtain its 501c3 designation.

As stated earlier, the CAG has varied the location of their monthly meetings along the Byway corridor in an effort to seek out a diversity of community members along the entire length of the corridor. Finally, the CAG has attempted to stimulate interest in the designation through local press releases and a corridor fact sheet (included as Attachment D of the Community Participation Program located in Appendix B). Recently a local interest writer for the Florida Magazine participated in CAG meetings. It is hoped that this positive relationship with the local press will grow as the Byway transitions into the implementation phase.

This part of Florida also has many festivals and events that provide year-round opportunity to promote the Corridor including: the Leesburg Bikefest, Sumter County Chamber of Commerce’s Beef & Boogie, a Native American Intertribal Pow-Wow, Hog Rally and several community Festivals. These varied venues will give the CAG an opportunity to introduce the Byway to different groups and sectors of the population that attend these events.

The CAG continues to work closely with the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce to draw upon its significant resources, contacts and network of members.

The CAG currently operates a Facebook social networking site that offers meeting information, corridor specifics, designation status and connections to other community advocacy groups. Ultimately, it is anticipated that this site or a similar web site will offer wayfinding materials including maps, travel itineraries and a calendar of events. Promotional materials including brochures and information booth/kiosks are anticipated to be developed upon designation.

### **3.9. Relationship with other Designated Corridors**

There are currently seven designated scenic highways within FDOT District Five. Although none are in the immediate vicinity of this Byway, the CAG has close interaction with several of the corridors. A staff member of the LSMPO is active with several corridors in Central Florida including the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway and currently serves as Chair of the Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway. Additionally, members of the CAG participated in the Florida Scenic Highways Workshop held in St. Augustine (June 2011) and in the District Five Accreditation Program training event held in Deland (February 2011). These opportunities have allowed the CAG leadership to interact, learn and gain valuable experience in the implementation of the scenic highway corridor.

### **3.10. Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan**

As discussed earlier in this section and in significant depth in the Eligibility application, the Byway passes through two cities and large portions of unincorporated Sumter County, each having local development regulations, policies and rules. Sections of the regulations for each of these communities address protection and preservation of their intrinsic resources. An analysis of the details (Section 3.7.1) and specific references for pertinent regulatory language was briefly discussed earlier in this document and in greater detail in the Eligibility application.

According to the Florida Scenic Highways Program Manual, elements of the CMP must be incorporated in the local government's comprehensive plan. Incorporation of the corridor map, vision statement and pertinent Goals/Objectives into these local plans helps ensure a commitment by each local government and Byway partners to implement the actions outlined. The CAG is currently discussing the Comp plan amendment process with each local government along the corridor to assess processing requirements, processing schedule and required coordination efforts necessary to accomplish this effort. Because of processing requirements and update schedules, and the fact that the local municipalities will not start the comp plan revision process until the corridor is officially designated, the CAG does not expect to have completed this effort in time for SHAC review of this CMP but will actively pursue this requirement once designation is received.

### **3.11. Partnerships and Agreements**

Partnering is a term used to describe the cooperative efforts of two or more parties to reach a common goal. The intent of the partnering effort is to collectively produce a better product or outcome than could be accomplished by working separately. The CAG is truly a grass roots organization that is composed of many organizations, opinions and perspectives on the intrinsic resources of the Byway. As a result, a number of partnerships are already in place and these relationships have resulted in a vision, mission, corridor limits, Goals/Objectives and an action plan. Participants in these existing partnerships (formal and informal) are seated around the table each month at the CAG meeting. These include:

- Sumter County Government
- City of Webster
- City of Bushnell
- Sumter County Historical Society
- Wildwood Historical Society

- Sumter County Chamber of Commerce
- Sumter Native American Family Tribe
- FDOT
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection/Parks and Recreation
- LSMPO
- Veterans Administration (National Cemetery)
- VFW Post 10137
- FWC

Partnerships and agreements are discussed in other sections of this CMP including Community Participation (3.5), Local Support (3.6) and throughout the CAG's Goals and Objectives. Copies of executed agreements can be found in Appendix G.

### **3.12. Action Plan**

An action plan is a prioritized list of activities and tasks to be accomplished by the CME upon designation. To develop this plan the CAG reviewed it's Goals & Objectives (Section 3.2) to determine which actions and tasks were necessary for implementation during an identified time period. The CAG focused on three time periods to accomplish its goals and objectives; ongoing, short term (12 to 18 months) and long term (2 - 5 years). For selected short term efforts, the CAG has established generalized implementation schedules to assist in delegating available resources. The overall CME Action Plan is presented in Appendix I.

### **3.13. Corridor Accreditation**

FDOT District V has recently initiated a voluntary Scenic Highways Corridor Accreditation Program as a way to ensure long-term sustainability for each of the District's designated corridors. The "Achieving Excellence" Program is based on implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that have been developed and tailored specifically for the CMEs in District V. They are based on challenges to sustainability that have been identified during evaluation and observation of the CMEs over time.

The program includes 24 BMPs that must be implemented in order for a CME to receive the highest level of Accreditation (Level III). However, building a sustainable byway organization takes time, and it could be years in many cases for a CME to reach the highest level of Accreditation. Therefore, the program has three levels of accreditation in order to recognize significant progress toward sustainability.

Although a corridor is not required to begin work on Level I (initial level of Accreditation) until after corridor designation, the CAG participated in the Accreditation Program training as offered by FDOT and has looked closely at the required BMPs to ensure their Goals and Objectives are consistent with program guidelines.

# **Appendix A. Community Information Meeting Summary**

# Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

## Community Information Meeting Summary

March 23, 2013

As part of its ongoing community participation program the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway conducted a community information meeting on March 23, 2013. The intent of this meeting was to introduce the proposed Byway to the general community and collect support for the ongoing designation effort. This effort was planned to be in conjunction with the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce's Cowboy Crawl Mud Run event (held on the Byway at Providence Ranch on SR 44 in Lake Panasoffkee) in order to reach as many people as possible. Members of the CAG volunteered to work a Byway table/informational booth from 9am until approximately 3pm. The overall Mud Run had approximately 1,000 participants and the CAG volunteers at the Byway booth discussed the designation effort with approximately 120 attendees during the day's events.

CAG participants included;

- Dawn Carey
- Andy Cripps
- Dan McCormic
- Kelly Williams
- Joyce Hanson



Kelly and Joyce are very enthusiastic about this event!

In preparation for this event, the CAG posted a **Public Notice** for the informational presentation portion of the meeting at several public offices along the Byway. They also developed a **Press Release** for distribution to local radio stations along with a **News Release** designed for distribution to local news agencies. These materials were distributed to several radio stations and news outlets approximately 10 days in advance of the workshop. Copies of the notice and releases are attached to this summary.

Informational materials available for distribution at the meeting included a copy of the draft Corridor Management Plan, corridor location map, Byway fact sheet, byway designation brochure and information on the Florida Scenic Highways Program. Several of these informational materials are attached to this summary also.



# Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

## Community Information Meeting Summary

### March 23, 2013

Noted questions from booth visitors during the day included the following;

- How is this designation paid for?
- Are local grants available to the Byway after designation?
- How will the Byway be signed?
- How come my road was not included?
- How can I help with implementation of the designation?
- When will the County hear if the designation is approved?

All visitors to the meeting were asked to sign the Byway designation support petition that was available during the day and a total of 70 signatures in support of Byway designation were collected. There were no visitors to the booth that opposed the designation and each signatory's contact information will be included on the Byway distribution list for potential involvement with future Byway community events.

Several photos of the day's events are included below.



A beautiful day along the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway





# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) Designation Phase Informational Presentation

To be held in conjunction with the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce at the



Providence Ranch, 5682 W. State Road 44 (between Wildwood and Inverness) in Lake Panasoffkee, Florida

## Saturday, March 23, 2013

As a result of the Eligibility Document having been approved in August 2012, and in support of the preparation of the Corridor Management Plan as the final requirement to becoming a designated scenic highway corridor in the **Florida Scenic Highways Program**, the CAG has planned to conduct an informational presentation as part of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce's Mud Run. The purpose will be to present informational materials and the CAG Mission to the public in order to gather additional support and interest for the Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway. CAG members will be available to answer questions and provide details regarding the **Florida Scenic Highways Program** and pursuit of designation for this new Byway throughout Sumter County.



# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

For further information contact:  
Dan McCormic  
352.418.3760

### **Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway seeks designation as a Florida Scenic Highway**

Sumter County - Community leaders, business owners and interested citizens have joined together to promote 62 miles of highways in Sumter County for their natural beauty and a history that's reflective of the region's long traditions and heritage. The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG), a local grass roots organization, is working with representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation's Scenic Highways Program to designate this roadway network as an official Florida Scenic Highway. The program is intended to promote an awareness of Florida's unique resources that are valued by the residents of the state and millions of tourists who visit Florida each year. The program focuses on community-based efforts to promote the regional economic benefits that result from a scenic highway designation.

As required by the Florida Scenic Highways Program, a Corridor Management Plan has been prepared to complete the final step in the designation process. As part of the Corridor Management Plan the CAG has developed a Mission, Vision, Goals & Objectives and an Action Plan that is consistent with the overall mission of the Florida Scenic Highways program and includes safety, regional partnerships, economic development, education and community participation.

**The CAG is currently seeking the community's support for this designation effort and will conduct an informational presentation as part of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce's Cowboy Crawl - Mud Run on March 23, 2013 (specifics below). The purpose of this presentation will be to provide informational materials on the Florida Scenic Highways Program and the Corridor Management Plan to the public in order to gather additional support and interest for the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway. Representatives will be available to answer questions and provide details regarding the Florida Scenic Highways Program and pursuit of designation for this new Byway through Sumter County.**

**Cowboy Crawl - Mud Run  
Saturday, March 23, 2013**

**Providence Ranch, 5682 W. State Road 44 (between Wildwood and Inverness) in Lake Panasoffkee,**



# NEWS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

For Further Information Contact:  
Dan McCormic  
352.418.3760

## **Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway seeks designation as a Florida Scenic Highway**

Sumter County - Community leaders, business owners and interested citizens have joined together to promote 62 miles of roads in Sumter County for their natural beauty and a history that's reflective of the region's long traditions and heritage. The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) began as a local grass roots organization working with representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation's Scenic Highways Program to designate this highway network as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Florida Scenic Highways Program was established to showcase outstanding cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic resources that can be found along Florida's highway system. The program is intended to promote an awareness of Florida's unique resources that are valued by the residents of the state and millions of tourists who visit Florida each year. The program focuses on community-based support to promote regional economic benefits that will result from an official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The CAG was established in 2009 to seek the scenic classification of designation for a series of roads located in the heartland of Sumter County including those that pass through the City's of Bushnell and Webster and the communities of Lake Panasoffkee, Linden, Rutland, St Catherine, Sumterville and Tarrytown.

To receive this coveted designation, the CAG must show that the resources along the nominated Byway are significant, exceptional and distinctive and touch upon an entire series of required characteristics.

As required by the Florida Scenic Highways Program, a Corridor Management Plan has been prepared to complete the final step in the designation process. As part of the Corridor Management Plan, the CAG has developed a Mission, Vision, Goals & Objectives and an Action Plan. The goals established are consistent with the overall mission of the Florida Scenic Highways program and include safety, regional partnerships, economic development, education and community participation.

The CAG's action plan focuses in the short term, on enhancing its visibility in the community and serving as an advocate for the region's natural and heritage resources. The action plan highlights the need to embrace the regions resources as an economic driver for the community. From a more long term perspective, the CAG's action plan includes strengthened advocacy for the Byway's resources through education, marketing and the successful accomplishment of projects that protect and enhance the Byway.

The CAG is committed to a balanced program that highlights the importance of the region's scenic characteristics while respecting its heritage resources. It respects the County's dynamic personality and encourages strengthened partnerships to ensure the CAG's mission is accomplished for the long term good of the region.

The CAG is currently seeking the community's support for this designation effort and will conduct an informational presentation as part of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce's Cowboy Crawl - Mud Run on March 23, 2013 (specifics below). The purpose will be to present informational materials on the Florida Scenic Highways Program and the Corridor Management Plan to the public in order to gather additional support and interest for the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway. CAG members will be available to answer questions and provide details regarding the Florida Scenic Highways Program and pursuit of designation for this new Byway through Sumter County.

**Cowboy Crawl - Mud Run  
Saturday, March 23, 2013**

**Sponsored by the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce  
Providence Ranch, 5682 W. State Road 44 (between Wildwood and Inverness) in Lake Panasoffkee,**

For more details on the CAG please visit the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Facebook site

***Note: See Byway map on next page***



**LEGEND**  
 PROPOSED SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE BYWAY CORRIDOR



# Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Fact Sheet

## Mission Statement

It is our mission to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway for residents, visitors and future generations.

## Byway Vision

It is our vision that the synergy developed through strong partnerships, education and resource advocacy creates a nationally recognized byway that showcases the natural, scenic, recreational and heritage resources of Sumter County, and that community decisions are based in part on these special values.

## Organization History

The organization began as a Community Action Group in March 2009 in partnership with the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce with the express purpose of improving the southern entrance to Sumter County, therefore enhancing the visitor experience to the National Cemetery. The Veteran's Memorial Highway was designated soon afterwards, and pursuit of a Florida Scenic Highway designation began. A Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) began meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) District Five Scenic Highways Coordinator in order to pursue the "Scenic" classification for a series of roads within Sumter County that encompass the communities of Webster, Bushnell, Sumterville, Lake Panasoffkee, Carlson, Rutland and the surrounding unincorporated areas.

## Byway Accomplishments

- A Letter of Intent form and information package document was submitted to the Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC) of the Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP) on September 3, 2010.
- A decision was made by the SHAC to allow the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway to continue to move toward Designation on October 13, 2010.
- An Eligibility Application document was created and submitted to the SHAC as a requirement of the FSHP in June of 2012.
- A letter of Eligibility was received from the Secretary of the FDOT on August 3, 2012 recognizing the corridor's ability to meet FSHP criteria and allowing initiation of the Designation Phase of the program.
- Work began on creating a Designation Application and Corridor Management Plan Document as a final requirement for Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway (submittal scheduled for Spring 2013).

## Our Byway Partners

- Sumter County Chamber of Commerce
- Sumter County Public Works
- Lake-Sumter MPO
- Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Sumter County Historical Society
- VFW Post 10137
- Sumter Correctional Institution (FDC)

## Corridor Story

The roads that comprise our Byway include a cross section of the natural beauty that Sumter County is blessed with. From south to north the Byway traverses pastoral farmlands, cattle ranches and horse farms with lush open fields. The corridor then passes through several of the most interesting small country towns in the region and finally travels through the lush hardwood hammock and floodplain parklands that are part of the Withlacoochee River watershed. This Corridor highlights the scenic view sheds and rich heritage of Sumter County through byway travel.

Attractions include:

- General James Van Fleet Trail State Park
- Richloam Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
- Florida National Cemetery
- Lake Panasoffkee

## Contact

Dan McCormic, Chair  
Phone: (352) 418-3760  
Email: [dan34785@hotmail.com](mailto:dan34785@hotmail.com)

Come visit the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway page on <http://www.facebook.com/>





## What We Do

The mission of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CME is to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway for residents, visitors and future generations.

We are asking the Florida Department of Transportation to include a series of roadways in Sumter County in the Florida Scenic Highways Program. Upon designation, the Scenic Sumter Byway would become one of only 24 that have been distinguished for their uniqueness and charm.

We propose to work as an independent interest group who partners with other community organizations having a similar passion to advocate for protection of the intrinsic resources of our community, enhance their value, and promote the importance of the Byway as an economic driver for the region.

It is our vision that the synergy developed through strong partnerships, education and resource advocacy creates a nationally recognized byway that showcases the natural, scenic, recreational and heritage resources of Sumter County, and that community decisions are based in part on these special values.



## Florida Scenic Highways Program

The Florida Scenic Highways Program was developed to preserve, maintain, protect and enhance Florida's outstanding cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic resources. This Florida Department of Transportation program serves as an ongoing economic development tool for the communities that these designated corridors pass through. The success of the program and the individual corridors depends greatly on strong community support and partnerships.

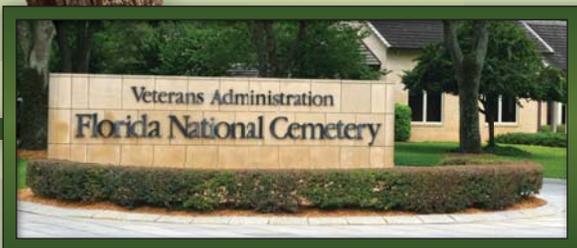
To receive more information about the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Entity or the Florida Scenic Highways Program, please contact the individuals listed below:

**Dan McCormic**  
Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CME Chairman  
(352) 418-3760  
dan34785@hotmail.com

**Garry Balogh**  
Florida Department of Transportation  
District 5 Scenic Highways Coordinator  
(386) 943-5393  
Garry.Balogh@dot.state.fl.us



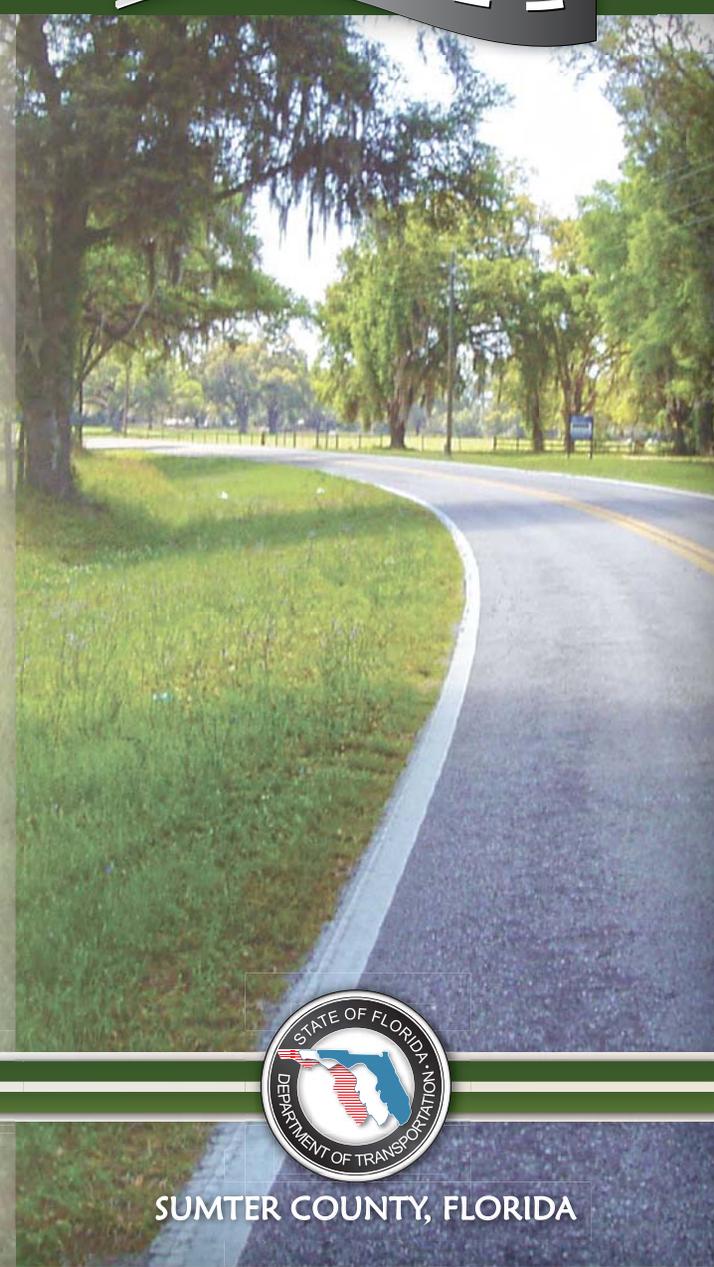
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[www.floridascenichighways.com](http://www.floridascenichighways.com)



SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA



# Scenic Sumter

HERITAGE BYWAY

## Who We Are

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Entity (CME) is a partnership of elected officials, private citizens, business representatives and technical advisors who recognize the importance and value of the cultural, historic, recreational, natural and scenic resources located along the Byway.



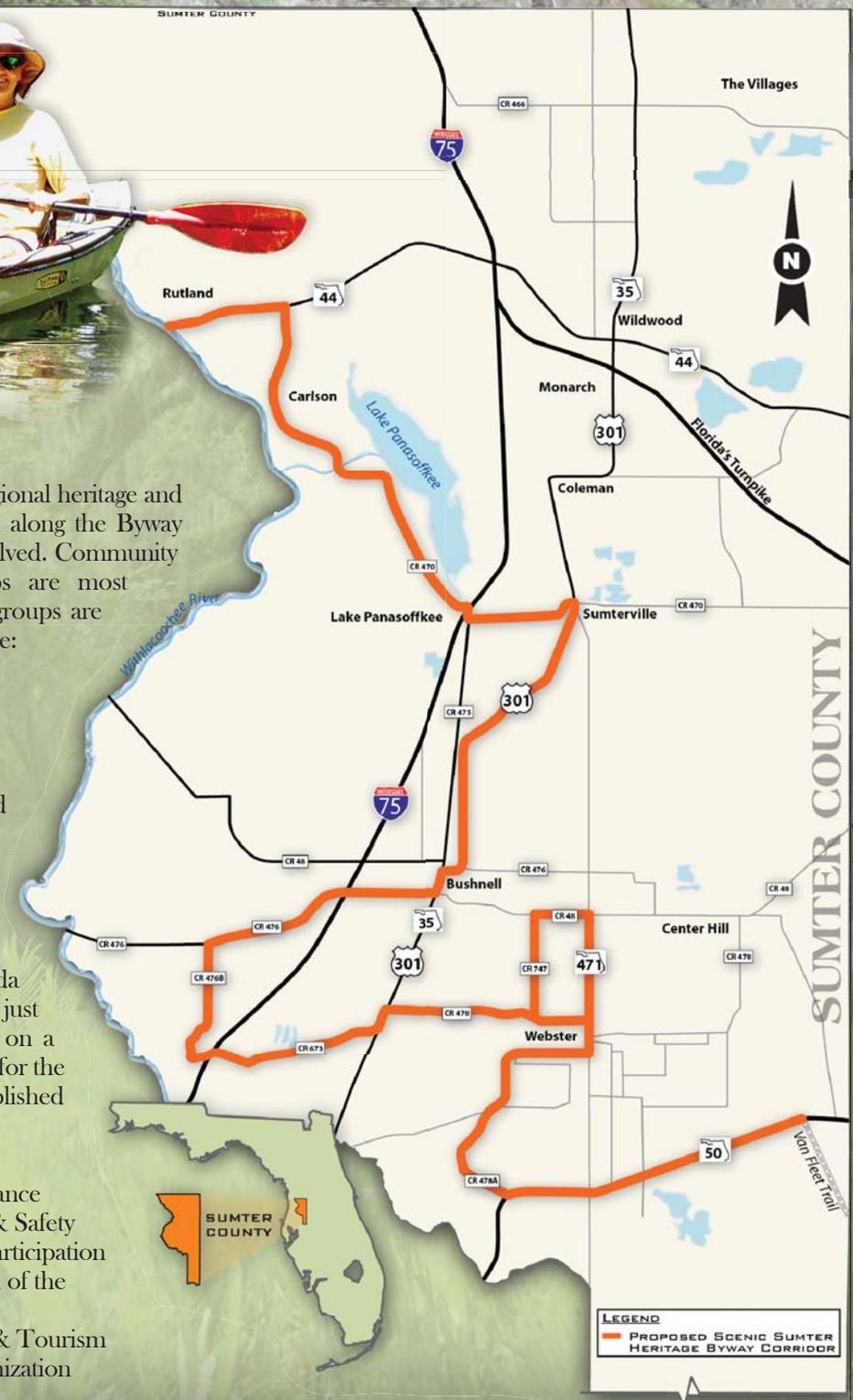
## Who can participate?

Anyone who has an interest in regional heritage and the exceptional resources located along the Byway corridor is encouraged to get involved. Community support and strong partnerships are most successful when diverse interest groups are combined. Participants can include:

- Residents
- Businesses
- Civic groups
- Public agencies

There are no dues to pay, and participation requires only a minimal commitment of time. We seek volunteers with a passion for their community and all it has to offer. Recognition and civic pride gained from Florida Scenic Highway designation are just the beginning. The CME meets on a monthly basis to discuss strategies for the implementation of our six established goals:

- Resource Preservation, Enhancement & Maintenance
- Transportation Planning & Safety
- Community Support & Participation
- Increased communication of the Corridor's Story
- Economic Development & Tourism
- Sustainability of the Organization





# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



We support the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) in their efforts to attain designation in the Florida Scenic Highways Program for 62 miles of roadways throughout Sumter County. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development and enhance the traveler's experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1 Juan Jessimer	5200 532 B Bwhnell	<i>Juan Jessimer</i>	joanic33073@gmail.com
2 Phillip Jessimer	n	<i>Phillip Jessimer</i>	
3 Jonathan M. Freeman	8325 LE MESA ST. Ocala	<i>Jonathan M. Freeman</i>	joelma23@yahoo.com
4 Allison Bransford	251 Herbert Winter Garden	<i>Allison Bransford</i>	
5 ACIE FUCHER	2605 NE 42nd Pl Ocala	<i>Acie Fucher</i>	a.fucher@aol.com
6 Katherine Anderson	2330 SW Wiliston Rd. Citric FL	<i>Katherine Anderson</i>	calypso baby 11@yahoo.com
7 CHAZ COLLINS	28538 SOARING HAWK LN BROWNSVILLE	<i>Chaz Collins</i>	UNDERWATER8@GMAIL.COM
8 HAJIE ELLIOTT	2440 N. Sheriff Dr Dorothy Hills	<i>Hajie Elliott</i>	ecw1011966@yahoo.com
9 AL Izquierdo	799 CR 535 Sumterville	<i>Al Izquierdo</i>	
10 Anley Cooper	2101 El Rancho Dr Leesburg FL	<i>Anley Cooper</i>	nicquz-x3@yahoo.com
11 Cassie Belling	1970 Bismarck Hwy Homestead FL 34442	<i>Cassie Belling</i>	dot11g10@yahoo.com
12 Jennifer M. Fernandez	8916 ASW 176 Terr. Palmetto Bay FL	<i>Jennifer M. Fernandez</i>	moreoriginal@aol.com
13 Mari Cole	1367 Priority Circle Winter Garden FL	<i>Mari Cole</i>	maricole@me.com
14 Keely Kilduff	2701 NW 23rd Blvd Apt 153 Ocala FL	<i>Keely Kilduff</i>	ekilduff5490@gmail.com
15 Daylene Campbell	3114 S. Oleander Ter. Inverness FL 34450	<i>Daylene Campbell</i>	Campbelldeydon.com
16 Merry Skinner	33829 Sabal Way Leesburg FL 34788	<i>Merry Skinner</i>	merryrrempe@hotmail.com
17 Melissa Palmer	5140 Banana Point Dr. Oklawaha FL 34762	<i>Melissa Palmer</i>	mpalmer1121@yahoo.com
18 David Holcomb	400 Bidwell St. Ap. FL	<i>David Holcomb</i>	LOWE
19 Monika Swank	7739 E. Pocomo Dr. FL	<i>Monika Swank</i>	swankymonik@yahoo.com
20 Sabreena Swank	7739 E. Pocomo Dr. FL	<i>Sabreena Swank</i>	yagithreens@yahoo.com
21 Denise Enoch	15760 SE 316 Ave	<i>Denise Enoch</i>	
22 Diamond Enocha	15760 SE 316th Ave Sumter FL 34499	<i>Diamond Enocha</i>	
23 Anderea Curran	8914 SW 542 Ct Ocala	<i>Anderea Curran</i>	
24			
25			

Date 3/23/13



# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



We support the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) in their efforts to attain designation in the Florida Scenic Highways Program for 62 miles of roadways throughout Sumter County. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development and enhance the traveler's experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1 Brandell Campbell	3114 Oleander	<i>Brandell Campbell</i>	Brandell.Campbell@Cemex.com
2 Pete Kuch	5830 Baltimore Ave Coxon FL 39917	<i>Pete Kuch</i>	UCF8TE7@aol.com
3 Tanisha Lynch	same	<i>Tanisha Lynch</i>	Tanishalynch31@bellsouth.com
4 Shyla Nicholson	35808 meridian circle g lantaisland	<i>Shyla Nicholson</i>	Shyla.nicholson@centurylink.com
5 Sherry Simons	1116 CR 457	<i>Sherry Simons</i>	sherry.simons@gmail.com
6 Charlie Simons	1119 CR 457 LK PAN	<i>Charlie Simons</i>	DISCANT5162@AOL.com
7 Jim Simons	2439 CR 453 LK PAN	<i>Jim Simons</i>	
8 Patsy Simons	11 11 11 11	<i>Patsy Simons</i>	
9 Rachel Ross	911 Hawk Landings	<i>Rachel Ross</i>	Rachel.Ross1165@aol.com
10 Debbie Rothwell	500 SW 12th St	<i>Debbie Rothwell</i>	deborahrothwell@earthlink.net
11 Susan Foster	849 Hawk Landings	<i>Susan Foster</i>	SFoster849a@earthlink.net
12 Luisa Gomez	15700 NE 36th St	<i>Luisa Gomez</i>	
13 Cathy Johnson	14878 US Hwy 331 W DFS	<i>Cathy Johnson</i>	Cathy.johnson166@yahoo.com
14 Marcus Johnson	165 SE 75th Pl Royal FL 33513	<i>Marcus Johnson</i>	Marcus.Johnson26@earthlink.net
15 Marty Reed	4135 Fallwood Cir Oklawaha FL 32972	<i>Marty Reed</i>	Marty.Reed@Comcast.com
16 Sandy Bradford	A 51 Harbor Ct Winter Garden FL 32787	<i>Sandy Bradford</i>	Sbradford@verizon.com
17 Cory Sanchez	16535 VINELAND RD oklawaha	<i>Cory Sanchez</i>	csanchez49@yahoo.com
18 Meghan Hanerty	Tubefrayhill pl	<i>Meghan Hanerty</i>	
19 Hailey Lusseau	3654 E Limestone Ln	<i>Hailey Lusseau</i>	
20 Maryellen Spencer	8916 SW 192 Dr. Miami FL	<i>Maryellen Spencer</i>	Maryellen.kenned@ymail.com
21 MAZATA KIPP	920 Rourke Dr Clearwater FL 33517	<i>Mazata Kipp</i>	
22 William Spink	7789 E Ponce de Leon Ave FL	<i>William Spink</i>	
23 Franke	Kirkman Shilohs Trl	<i>Franke</i>	
24 Tracy Stuffle		<i>Tracy Stuffle</i>	
25 Margarita Posada	6870 SW 129th Lane Ocala	<i>Margarita Posada</i>	margarita@hotmail.com

Date 3/23/13



# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



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Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1 Ruben Garcia	P.O. Box 1172 / Lealprimm FL 33521	<i>Ruben Garcia</i>	
2 Carl Bidden	5715 SW 17th St / Dunwoody	<i>Carl Bidden</i>	
3 Prostasia Elkins	8519 Stoes Island Dr / Leesburg FL	<i>Prostasia Elkins</i>	
4 Fiara Zimmerman	206 S CR 6544 / Bushnell, FL	<i>Fiara Zimmerman</i>	<i>Fiara Zimmerman@yahoo.com</i>
5 Sherman D. Benjamin	206 S CR 6544 / Bushnell, FL	<i>Sherman D. Benjamin</i>	
6 Martha Mandy	918 CR 482 B / Lake Park FL	<i>Martha Mandy</i>	<i>tsmoney@gmail.com</i>
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8 Cheryl Kozak	3825 Pepper Tree Ln / Apt 4201 / IA	<i>Cheryl Kozak</i>	<i>tree@ayecreative.com</i>
9 Joe Hamula	1216 Everglades Ave / Newmarket 33764	<i>Joe Hamula</i>	<i>garciafin8159@gmail.com</i>
10 Geoff Griffin	10241 Doby Dr. / Oxford, FL	<i>Geoff Griffin</i>	<i>bbaker352@yahoo.com</i>
11 Doreen Baker	13876 NW 13th St / Oxford, FL	<i>Doreen Baker</i>	
12 Justin Coleman	39813 Grove heights	<i>Justin Coleman</i>	
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Date 3/23/13



# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



We support the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) in their efforts to attain designation in the Florida Scenic Highways Program for 62 miles of roadways throughout Sumter County. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development and enhance the traveler's experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

	Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1	Bobby Remington	17550 S Hwy 775	[Signature]	
2	Larry Bayce	3538 City Rd 525 Sumterville	[Signature]	
3	Amy Gardner	PO Box 1172 LC Lamoo Hill FL	[Signature]	
4	Umar Youngblood	PO Box 68 center Hill FL	[Signature]	
5	Judy Skroch	126 Burnetts Rd Leesburg, FL 34788	[Signature]	
6	Emil Skroch	" " "	[Signature]	
7	Don May	P.O. Box 713 Oklawaha	[Signature]	
8				
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Date 3/23/13

# **Appendix B. Community Participation Program**

# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
Spring 2013



# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

## Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

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# 1. Introduction

The purpose of a Community Participation Program (CPP) is to organize an approach to consistently provide information to the community (as well as acquire public input) regarding a byway during the designation and implementation phases of the Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP). A well developed CPP is an important tool that can help ensure that a Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) or Corridor Management Entity (CME) is regularly updating byway stakeholders about programs, projects and accomplishments. byway stakeholders can include residents, business owners, local government officials and agencies, tourism agencies and other advocacy groups. It is only through community education and interaction that consensus can be built to ensure the long-term success of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway (Byway).

## 2. Project Overview

### 2.1. Project Description

The Byway is a 62 mile (mi) corridor that runs through the heartland of Sumter County. It passes through the towns of Bushnell and Webster and the communities of Linden, Tarrytown, St. Catherine, Lake Panasoffkee, Sumterville, and Rutland. Like many of the designated scenic highway corridors around the state, this byway is comprised of a network of state and local roads that serve as the link between these communities. The byway is depicted in **Figure 1 (Corridor Map)** and includes the following roads:

#### **State Highways:**

*SR 50 from the General James A. Van Fleet Trail State Park to CR 478A*

*SR 471/South Market Boulevard from CR 478A to CR 48 (east side of Webster Loop)*

*US 301 from CR 478 to CR 673*

*US 301/South and North Main Street from CR 476 to CR 470*

*SR 44 from CR 470 to the Withlacoochee River (Sumter/Citrus County line)*

#### **County Roads:**

*CR 478A from SR 50 to SR 471/South Market Street*

*CR 478 from SR 471/South Market Street to US 301*

*CR 673 from US 301 to CR 476B*

*CR 476B from CR 673 to CR 476*

*CR 476 from CR 476B to US 301/South Main Street*

*CR 470 from US 301 to SR 44*

*CR 48 from SR 471 to CR 747/Shoe Factory Road (north side of Webster Loop)*

*CR 747/Shoe Factory Road from CR 48 to CR 478 (west side of Webster Loop)*



**SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE BYWAY**

CORRIDOR MAP

FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAY

FIGURE 1

## 2.2. Designation History

In the summer of 2009 a group of citizens representing varied interests of the region met to discuss the formation of a CAG and to draft a proposed roadway corridor that would proudly highlight the intrinsic resources that are so important to the people of this region. The CAG received approval of their Letter of Intent (LOI) from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in October 2010. They received their Eligibility approval letter from the FDOT on August 3, 2012.

## 3. Public Outreach

Development and implementation of a CPP is important for several reasons. First, it builds support for the Byway and the CAG. Individuals who live and work on a proposed scenic highway are in many cases unaware of the CAG and their efforts to designate their road as part of a scenic highway. This CPP is a systematic way to educate the community on the program, the benefits of the designation and the CAG's mission.

Secondly, implementation of the CPP is one of the best ways to recruit new CAG members and volunteers. The CAG's involvement in the community will help recruit individuals and groups who support its mission and who are willing to be active participants in attaining its vision. Additionally, making connections with other advocacy groups having similar missions can help develop opportunities for partnerships.

Third, a consistently implemented CPP helps build the community's trust in the CAG. If the community clearly understands the group's mission, there is less likely to be opposition to projects and programs proposed.

Lastly, a well thought-out and strategic CPP is consistent with the CAG's Goals (Goal 3 & 4) to educate the community on the special resources of the Byway.

This CPP includes a series of tools that can be used to educate the community and to encourage individuals to become involved in the CAG. When implemented consistently and with proper follow-up, the CPP will help identify supporters who may eventually become volunteers, members or donors.

### 3.1. Identification of Stakeholders

The first step in implementing a successful CPP is to identify others that might be interested in the CAG's efforts. The CAG currently maintains a mailing list (**Attachment A**) of all stakeholders who have expressed interest in the designation process and the long term success of the CAG. Those on the list currently receive meeting announcements, meeting minutes, and special notifications as appropriate. They are also notified of CAG events in hopes that they will get involved.

Secondly, an effective CPP can be used to identify other groups and individuals that may have a stake in the corridor's designation. These groups and individuals fall into two general categories: 1) those adjacent to the corridor and 2) those with a special interest in the corridor who may not be located directly adjacent to the corridor.

The Sumter County Property Appraisers office can provide the CAG with a list of adjacent property owners on an as needed basis. This list will show who pays property's taxes for each individual property along the Byway, not necessarily who lives on the property.

Attachment A also includes a preliminary listing of other parties that the CAG has not yet reached out to that could have a special interest in the corridor. This list will continue to grow as others learn about the byway designation.

## 4. Public Outreach Tools

Two of the CAG's overall goals (Goal 3 & 4) speak to engaging the community to the maximum extent possible and acting with the support of the community. This CPP provides basic tools and guidance for implementing and conducting community awareness and encouraging participation. The CAG has identified the following public outreach tools to be used as needed to help keep the community informed. The appropriate outreach tool used is based on the particular need.

### 4.1. CAG Meetings

CAG meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. Meeting locations vary around the Byway to encourage a broader representation and to allow members to experience first-hand the depth and diversity of resources touched by the Byway. These meetings are open to the public and legally noticed. Locations selected meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. All interested parties that are listed on the current mailing list receive an invitation to the monthly CAG meetings and other CAG events throughout the year. All meetings have an agenda, and meeting minutes are prepared and maintained. A sample of a typical meeting package can be found in **Attachment B**. It is planned that minutes and agendas from each meeting, and the upcoming meeting agenda be made available for review on the CAG's (future CME) website. The primary focus of these meetings has been to increase interest in the Byway and complete the designation process. As a result, CAG meeting agenda items can include discussion on membership, introduction of guests, timely corridor topics and introductory presentations by guest speakers. The CAG also discusses upcoming community events that the CAG will participate in. A basic yearly events calendar has been established in part to track upcoming CAG events and other ongoing activities targeted by the CAG. This calendar is included in **Attachment C**.

### 4.2. Committee Meetings

The CAG has established three working committees. These committees each have an assigned mission and responsibilities. These committees meet on a regular basis and are tasked with addressing key operational issues of importance to the CAG.

### 4.3. Community Presentations

The CAG has been active in meeting with local business leadership and elected officials. The CAG has developed a 10 minute video on the corridor (part of the Eligibility Application document) and a Power Point presentation for use at community meetings.

Recent presentations have included the following:

*Sumter Chamber of Commerce*  
*Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)*  
*Sumter Board of County Commissioners*  
*City of Bushnell*  
*City of Webster*  
*Leadership Sumter County*

Additional target audiences could include;

*Business owners*  
*Churches/Religious Groups*  
*Civic/Fraternal Organizations*  
*Clubs and other special Interest Groups*  
*Economic Development Agency*  
*Elected Officials*  
*Environmental groups & conservation organizations*  
*Historical societies*  
*Land Developers*  
*Lake/Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization*  
*Regional Planning Councils*  
*Schools/Local School Boards*

## **4.4. Public Meetings**

Formal public meetings should be scheduled, as necessary to receive input on the goals of the group, inform the public of designation status, and receive public input to obtain community consensus and support. These meetings are separate from regularly scheduled CAG meetings. Public meetings can be costly and therefore require significant planning and preparation. Detailed guidance on preparing for formal public meetings is available on the FDOT website. The CAG conducted a public meeting to update the community on their efforts as part of the Designation/Corridor Management Plan (CMP) phase.

## **4.5. Information Exchange**

The CAG has recently developed several corridor marketing materials for use in informing the community of the efforts currently underway, including a corridor fact sheet and the newly developed visitors itinerary (**Attachment D and E** respectively). Additionally, the CAG has worked to develop partnerships with several local organizations to help defray printing costs for these materials. The *Ride Sumter*, *Discover Sumter* and *Spend a Day in Sumter County* maps/tour guides have been widely distributed. The *Ride Sumter* map and tour guide is included on the following page as **Figure 2**. This *Ride Sumter* card was designed as a two-sided, post card sized tour guide to be distributed to cycling enthusiasts (bicycles and motorcycles) for successful route planning along the Byway.

Recently the CAG received community involvement support from the FDOT's sponsorship of the Florida Hog Rally held in Howey-in-the-Hills (Fall 2012). Marketing materials including information on how to travel to and along the Byway were included in event give-aways.

## Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Ride Information

Escape to the backroads of rural Central Florida. The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of open roads that represent a cross section of the natural beauty that Sumter County is blessed with. From county line to county line, the Byway traverses farmlands, cattle ranches and horse farms with lush open fields. The Byway also passes through several of the most interesting small country towns in the region and the lush hardwood hammock and floodplain parklands that are part of the Withlacoochee River watershed.

Our Corridor Advocacy Group is a grassroots organization consisting of local residents, business owners and agency personnel who are working together to preserve the natural beauty of Sumter County through the Florida Scenic Highways Program. It is the mission of the Corridor Advocacy Group to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway for residents, visitors and future generations.

If you would like to become a member and/or attend a monthly meeting, please contact our Chairperson, Dan McCormick to receive more information.

### Contact

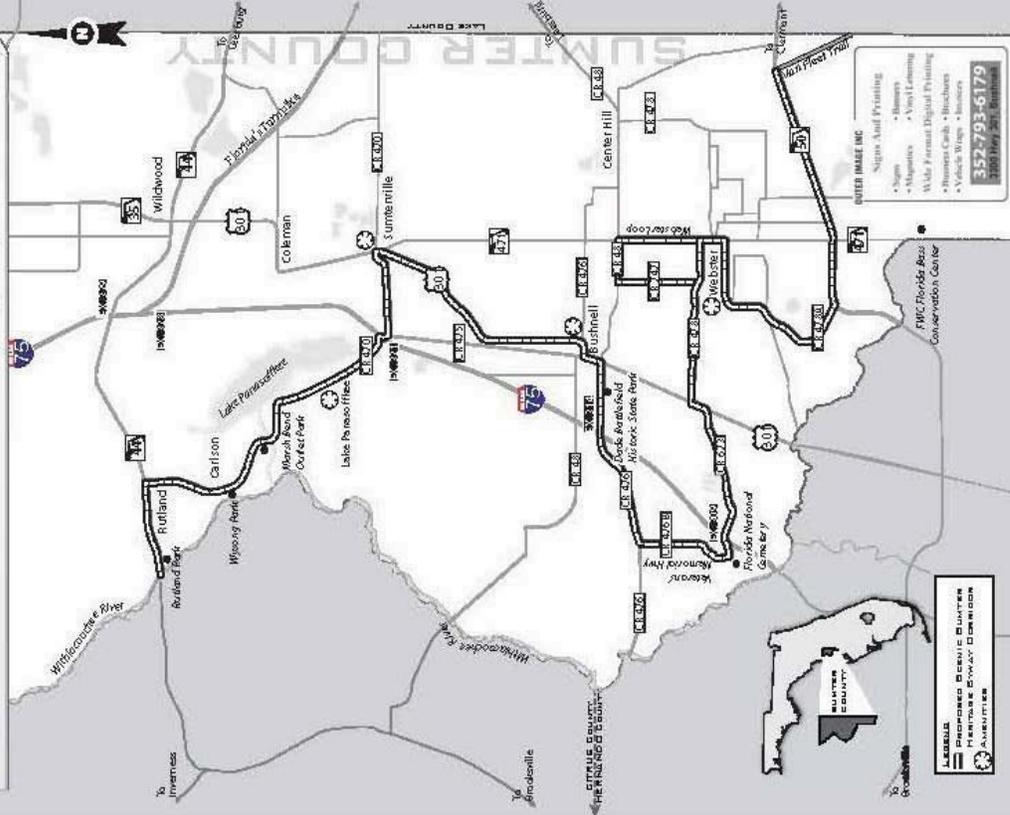
Dan McCormick, Chair  
Phone: (352) 418-3760  
Email: [dan34785@hotmail.com](mailto:dan34785@hotmail.com)

Visit us on Facebook!



# Ride Sumter

## Travel the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Route



## 4.6. Speakers Bureau

CAG Officers are encouraged to make themselves available to provide information at public meetings and community gatherings. Arrangements and approval for speaking engagements should be coordinated and approved beforehand through the CAG Chair. These gatherings are intended to be used to educate the community on the organization's mission and to recruit membership. Informational materials and volunteer sign-up sheets are expected to be part of every presentation.

## 4.7. Social Networking

The CAG has developed a Byway Facebook site to announce upcoming meetings and events in which the CAG may be participating. It will also provide information to volunteers and others who may be interested in the CAG's efforts and allow an easy networking/communication tool among members. Upon designation the CAG will link their electronic networking system to the state-wide scenic highways website to provide enhanced networking capability. The Facebook logo is included on all corridor informational materials.

## 4.8. Sponsorships/Participation in Community Events

The CAG will continue to participate and attend local events that highlight the corridor and ancillary topics. Past events have included the Leesburg Bikefest (Spring 2011/2012) and the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce's Beef & Boogie (Fall 2011/2012).

Additionally, the CAG hosted two events in 2012 in an attempt to interact with the community, provide information to interested citizens about the upcoming Byway designation, and attract visitors to the area for support of local businesses. These events included the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway 2012 Kickoff CAG picnic in January, and the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway's inaugural Poker Run held in March. Both events were well attended and enjoyed by all.



**SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE  
BY-WAY 2012 KICKOFF PICNIC**

**Time:**  
1:00–4:00pm

**Date:**  
Saturday, January  
21, 2012

**Come Have Fun!**  
Join the CAG for this fun-filled picnic... Food and Drinks will be provided. Bring the whole family and your friends and anyone who may want to join the CAG.

If you have a favorite outdoor game, bring it along. Volleyball, Corn Hole will also be available to play. Bring your boat or fish off the dock!

Contact person: Diane Boorum at the Chamber Office—352.793.3099

**MARSH BEND OUTLET  
OFF CR 470 IN  
LAKE PANASOFFKEE**



**RIDE SUMTER**

**Scenic Sumter**  
BYWAY

**Poker Run**

**Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>**  
9am–12pm sign-up  
**Historic Downtown Webster**  
CR 471 (S. Market) & E. Central Ave.

- \$10.00 per hand
- 4 Mystery Card Stops (Free Extra Cards)
- Lunch Included w/ participation
- Door Prizes (Attendance Required)
- Meet Local Businesses and Organizations
- Trailer Parking provided in Webster

**Ride OR Drive All WELCOME**  
Kick Stands Up at 10am ... **Activities start at 1pm**  
Last Stop @ **Marsh Bend Outlet Park (3100 CR 413 Lake Panasoffkee)**

**Winning Hand announced at 4 pm (Attendance Not Required)**

For any questions call or email Diane Boorum at [scenic@sumterchamber.org](mailto:scenic@sumterchamber.org) at the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 100 | Starbuck, FL 33514  
© 2012 by Sumter County Chamber of Commerce | [www.sumterchamber.org](http://www.sumterchamber.org)

The CAG is eager to establish partnerships with other groups having similar missions in an effort to provide a heightened awareness of regional advocacy/tourism opportunities. The CAG is committed to building on the successes and experiences of other designated scenic highway corridor CMEs to enhance advocacy, share experiences, and network on similar issues of importance.

## 4.9. Media Coverage

Because of its regional nature, there is the opportunity for media access and exposure through several regional news providers. The CAG has developed and distributed several press releases during the designation process to local newspapers, two of which are located in **Attachment F**. The CAG intends to seek coverage to enhance the corridor's visibility in the community. Potential media partners may include:

### Print:

**Sumter County Times**  
204 East McCollum  
Bushnell, FL 33513  
[www.Sumtercountytimes.com](http://www.Sumtercountytimes.com)

**The Villages Daily Sun**  
1100 Main St.  
The Villages, FL 3219  
352-753-1119  
[www.thevillagesdailysun.com](http://www.thevillagesdailysun.com)

**Sumter Express Newspaper**  
453 N CR 470  
Lake Panasoffkee 33538  
352-793-1671  
[www.sumterexpress.net](http://www.sumterexpress.net)

**The Daily Commercial**  
212 E. Main Street  
Leesburg 34748  
352-365-8200  
[www.dailycommercial.com](http://www.dailycommercial.com)

### Television:

**NBC – WESH**  
1021 N. Wymore Rd  
Winter Park 32789  
407-645-2222

**ABC – WFTV**  
490 E. South St  
Orlando 32801  
407-841-9000

**CBS – WKMG**  
4466 N John Young Pkwy  
Orlando 32801  
407-291-6000

### Radio:

**WLBE – 790 AM**  
Leesburg-Eustis  
352-787-7900

**WQBQ – 1410 AM**  
Leesburg  
352-365-1410

**WVVG-LP – 640 AM**  
The Villages  
352-750-WVVG

The CAG will continue to coordinate accomplishments, activities and events with these news outlets and others.

## 5. Guiding Principals

*Florida's Sunshine Law: All public participation activities and events will follow Florida's Sunshine Law (Section 286.011, FS). This law requires that meetings must be open to the public, reasonable advanced notice of the meeting must be given, and that meeting and/or other public involvement activities will be documented. Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law flyer is included as **Attachment G**. The Attorney General for the state of Florida offers a series of informational videos on the subject. This information can be located at [www.myflsunshine.com](http://www.myflsunshine.com).*

*Plain Language: All forms of notification to the public should comply with the Governor's Plain Language Initiative (Executive Order 07-01). The Executive Order requires clear language containing only necessary information presented in a logical sequence. The reader should be able to understand what the purpose and need of the project is. It also calls for short sentences written in the active voice that makes it clear who is responsible for what.*

*Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance: The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that all facilities and programs provide for accessibility to persons with disabilities. The ADA stipulates that any place of business, regardless of size or number of employees, both public and private, must provide equal access and "reasonable accommodations" for both the general and disabled public.*

*Florida Scenic Highways Program: Follow all FSHP and other applicable FDOT instructions for advertising and conducting public meetings.*

## 6. Project Contact Information

For additional information regarding this project contact the following persons:

**Dan McCormic, Chair**

Phone: (352) 418-3760

Email: [dan34785@hotmail.com](mailto:dan34785@hotmail.com)

**Garry Balogh, Scenic Highways Coordinator**

FDOT, District Five

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**ATTACHMENT A**  
**CURRENT LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS**

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Ellen Didion	Sumter Sunshine Foundation		352-409-5761		ellen@sumterfoundation.org
Joseph Quinn	SWFWMD	2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604	352-796-7211 x 4421	800-423-1476	joe.quinn@watermatters.org
Don Hahnfeldt	The Villages Homeowners Association		352-751-6373		dvhahnfeldt@cs.com
Nathan Overstreet	Thomas Langley Medical Center	1425 S US Hwy 301, Sumterville, FL 33585	352-793-5900		noverstreet@telmedical.com
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Vivian Hall	US Postmaster - Lake Panasoffkee				vivhall3@aol.com
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Joe Strickland					powercom3@cfl.rr.com
Joyce Pennington					joycewatson3@yahoo.com
Kay McCoy	CenterState Bank				kmccoy9498@yahoo.com
Kelly Rice	Century 21 Prime Resources				kelly.rice@century21.com
Kevin Mims					mimswk@gmail.com

Marilyn Connell	ACMS			mconnell@sumtersolidwaste.com
Pat and Johnny Galvin	Catfish Johnnys			catfishjfg@aol.com
Randall Thornton	Randall Thornton Attorney at Law			rthornton@embarqmail.com
Randy Mask	SCBOCC			randyandcristie@yahoo.com
Reggie Caruthers	Oxford Land			Reggie@oxfordland.com
Rose Davis	Sumter Express			ssumtereditor@aol.com
Shirley Parker				shirleyparker01@gmail.com
Steve Lind	Tracy's Point			thelinds@tracyspoint.com
Susan Kelly UF IFAS Ext.	UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension			sakelly@ifas.ufl.edu
Terry Crenshaw	Oxford Land			terry@oxfordland.com
Tom Swain	Tax Collector			tomswain@sumtertaxcollector.com
Warren Maddox				wmaddox6@cfl.rr.com
Vince Ruano	City of Bushnell			vruano@cityofbushnellfl.com
Martin Vince				mvince@riverbanks.org
Bill Spaude	Mayor of Bushnell		352-303-0747	bilsbus@gmail.com
Marilyn & Malcolm Thompson			352-750-3382	pottorthompson@juno.com
Brad Cornelius	Sumter County Planning	7375 Powell Road, Ste. 115, Wildwood, FL 34785	352-689-4463	<a href="mailto:brad.cornelius@sumtercountyfl.gov">brad.cornelius@sumtercountyfl.gov</a>

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
Potential Stakeholders  
Fall 2012**

Richard Hoffman	Sumter District 1 Commissioner	<a href="mailto:Dick.Hoffman@sumtercountyfl.gov">Dick.Hoffman@sumtercountyfl.gov</a>	7375 Powell Road, Wildwood, Fl 34785
Doug Gilpin	Sumter District 2 Commissioner	<a href="mailto:Doug.Gilpin@sumtercountyfl.gov">Doug.Gilpin@sumtercountyfl.gov</a>	7375 Powell Road, Wildwood, Fl 34785
Don Burgess	Sumter District 3 Commissioner	<a href="mailto:Don.Burgess@sumtercountyfl.gov">Don.Burgess@sumtercountyfl.gov</a>	7375 Powell Road, Wildwood, Fl 34785
Garry Breeden	Sumter District 4 Commissioner	<a href="mailto:Garry.Breeden@sumtercountyfl.gov">Garry.Breeden@sumtercountyfl.gov</a>	7375 Powell Road, Wildwood, Fl 34785
Randy Mask	Sumter District 5 Commissioner	<a href="mailto:Randy.Mask@sumtercountyfl.gov">Randy.Mask@sumtercountyfl.gov</a>	7375 Powell Road, Wildwood, Fl 34785
Senator Allan Hays	State Senate/Dist 20	<a href="mailto:hays.alan.web@flsenate.gov">hays.alan.web@flsenate.gov</a>	1104 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159
Senator Paula Dockery	State Senate/Dist 15	<a href="mailto:dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov">dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov</a>	P.O. Box 2395, Lakeland, FL 33806
Representative Marlene O'Toole	District 42	<a href="mailto:marlene.otoole@myfloridahouse.gov">marlene.otoole@myfloridahouse.gov</a>	916 Avenida Central, The Villages, FL 32159
Representative Robert Schenck	District 44	<a href="mailto:robert.schenck@myfloridahouse.gov">robert.schenck@myfloridahouse.gov</a>	12503 Springhill Drive, Spring Hill, FL 34609
Lake-Sunter Community Colege			1405 CR 415A, Sumterville, FL 33585
Werda-Hecamiat Fishing Resort		<a href="http://mtfichlodge.com">mtfichlodge.com</a>	965 CR 439, Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538
Idlewild Lodge & RV Park			4110 NW 42nd Place, Lake Panosffkee, FL 33538
Our Father's Haven B&B			7920 SW 90th Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513
Chuck's Odd "Cup"less Café			117 W. Belt Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513
Herb & Peg's Bakery & Deli			138 Bushnell Plaza, Bushnell, FL 33513
Microtel Inn & Suites			2612 West C-48, Bushnell, FL 33513
Evans Ace Hardware			124 Bushnell Plaza, Bushnell, FL 33513
Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council		<a href="mailto:moehlman@wrpc.cc">moehlman@wrpc.cc</a>	1241 SW 10th St, Ocala, FL 34471
Bright House Networks		<a href="http://brighthouse.com">brighthouse.com</a>	1475 S. Nova Rd, Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Jeff Caster/FDOT Scenic Highways Coordinator		<a href="mailto:jeff.caster@dot.state.fl.us">jeff.caster@dot.state.fl.us</a>	FDOT - Tallahassee
Cypress House Ranch B&B		<a href="http://B&amp;Bonline.com">B&amp;Bonline.com</a>	5175 C.R. 631C, Bushnell, Florida 33513
Webster Flea Market			6373 S. Suncoast Blvd, Homasassa, FL 34446
Hayseed Café			599 N. Market Blvd, Webster, FL 33597
America's Best Value Inn			273 SR 44, Wildwood, FL 34785
American Cement Company, LLC			4750 E. CR 470, Sunterville, FL 33585
American Legion Post 101			P.O. Box 1036, Bushnell, FL 33513
BB&T Wildwood			837 S. Mainstreet, Wildwood, FL 34785
Beef O'Brady's Bushnell			2586 W CR 48, Bushnell, FL 33513
Blue Monster Promotions			2581 Berrington Loop, The Villages, FL 32162
Blueberry Hill RV Resort			6233 Lowery St, Bushnell, FL 33513
Boy Scouts of America			13228 N Central Ave, Tampa Fl 33612
Central Beef Ind, LLC			571 W Kings Hwy, Center Hill, FL 33514
City of Center Hill			94 S Virginia Ave, Center Hill, FL 33514

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
Potential Stakeholders  
Fall 2012**

City of Coleman			PO Box 456, Coleman, FL 33521
Cruise Right Cruises & Tours			The Villages, FL 32162
Dade Battlefield Society, Inc			7200 CR 603, Bushnell, FL 33513
Hollywood Café			105 N. Main St, Wildwood, FL 34785
Kickin' Country Radio			1124 SW 6th Ave Bushnell, FL 33513
Lake Panasoffkee KOA			190 CR 488, Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538
Motel USA			227 CR 491, Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538
Panasoffkee Hardware			2057 N, C470, Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538
Progress Energy			4359 SE Maricamp Rd, Ocala, FL 34471
Sonny's BBQ			2684 W. CR 48, Bushnell, FL 33513
Sumter Co Farm Bureau			7610 SR 471, Bushnell, FL 33513
Sumter County Farmers Market, Inc			PO Box 62, Webster, FL 33597
Sumter County Historical Society			PO Box 1621, Webster, FL 33597
Sumter County Times			204 E. McCollum, Bushnell, FL 33513
Sumter Fair Assoc., Inc			PO Box 647, Webster, FL 33597
Sumter Native American Family Tribe			PO Box 1536, Webster, FL 33513
SunTrust Banks of Bushnell			107 Bushnell Plaza, Bushnell, FL 33513
Tangent Media!			Lady Lake, FL 32159
The Villages Daily Sun			1100 Main St, The Villages, FL 32159
Wallmart - Bushnell			2163 W. CR 48, Bushnell, FL 33513
Wildwood Womans Club			PO Box 488, Oxford, FL 34484
Withlacoochie Regional Planning Council			1241 SW 10th St, Ocala, FL 34471

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**SAMPLE MEETING PACKAGE**



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) Meeting

To be held at the

**The Villages Sumter Service Center  
7375 Powell Road  
Wildwood, FL 34785**

**WEDNESDAY, August 15, 2012 at 10:30am**

Important Agenda items will include:

*Designation Committee Update  
Marketing Update*



**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway**  
**Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) Meeting Agenda**  
The Villages Sumter Service Center - 7375 Powell Road, Wildwood, Florida  
August 15, 2012 @ 10:30 a.m.

- I. Call to Order; Introduction of Guests**
- II. Review of July 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes**
  - Volunteer for creation of Monthly Meeting Minutes
- III. Eligibility Application Committee Report**
  - a) FDOT Secretary's letter of Eligibility Phase requirement approval and Designation Phase continuance received August 6 (see back of agenda).
  - b) SHAC comments/recommendations received July 23. Responses will be included as part of Designation Application/CMP.
- IV. Marketing Committee/ Event Planning Subcommittee Report**
  - a) Poker Run Sponsor Acknowledgement/Thank You card delivery progress
  - b) Chamber Lunch Exchange (September event)
    - Table volunteers / Designation Support petition / Handouts
  - c) Leadership Sumter Scenic Byway session
  - d) Tour of the Byway planning progress (bus tour for B&B)
- V. Designation Committee Report**
  - a) Goals / Objectives / Strategies finalization
    - Review / Comment on Strategies for implementation of Objectives
  - b) Corridor Management Entity
    - Endorsed Partnership Agreement target list / categorization
      - Pursuit assignments
    - Resolutions
      - Schedule / info needed / assignments
    - Draft Bylaws
      - Review / Comment discussion
  - c) Action Plan long term priority identification
- VI. Designated State Historic Site / NRHP**
  - Details from NRHP contact discussion
- VII. District Scenic Highways Coordinator Report**
- VIII. Public Comment / Round Table Discussion**

The next regular meeting of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group will be held on Wednesday September 19, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Please note that individual commissioners of the Sumter County Commission and/or the City of Bushnell and other appointed or elected officers of municipalities and Sumter County may attend these meetings. This is not an official meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County or of any other municipality. This notice is being provided to meet the spirit of the Sunshine Law to inform the public that commissioners may be present at these discussions.



## Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.  
SECRETARY

August 3, 2012

Mr. Dan McCormic  
CAG Chairperson  
Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
4923 County Road 306A  
Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538

Subject: Eligibility of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway

Dear Mr. McCormic:

After careful consideration and the recommendation of the Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP) Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC), I concur that the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway has met the *eligibility* requirements of the Florida Scenic Highways Program necessary for possible designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The proposed Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway limits have been established as the 62 miles of roads in Sumter County depicted in the attached map. Your eligibility application demonstrates that the corridor contains the intrinsic resources that are of great value to the State of Florida.

You will be receiving a list of recommendations/comments on your eligibility application from the Scenic Highway Advisory Committee (SHAC) through the Florida Department of Transportation's District 5 office. Please address these recommendations/comments in the Designation Application/Corridor Management Plan and continue to work closely with the District Office in your efforts. The Florida Scenic Highways Program staff is looking forward to assisting you during the designation application phase of the program.

I offer my personal congratulations to you and the membership of the Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG), for your diligence and work quality in the completing the *eligibility application phase*. Thank you for caring about Florida's precious resources and working so hard to ensure their enjoyment for years to come.

Sincerely,

Ananth Prasad, P.E.  
Secretary

AP/jc

CC: Noranne Downs  
Garry Balogh  
Jeff Caster

Attachment: Sumter Heritage Byway map



**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG)  
Minutes from July 18, 2012 meeting  
FWC Richloam Fish Hatchery  
3771 CR 788  
Webster, Florida**

- I. Call to Order and introduction of guests** – Meeting was called to order by Chair Dan McCormic. Those in attendance included Diane Boorum (Sumter County Chamber of Commerce); Garry Balogh (FDOT); Bob Finck (Akins), Mike Palozzi (Shaw E&I); Deb Barsell (SCBOCC/CSD); Joyce Hanson (VFW#10137 ); Gayle Teerman (Native Americans); Donna Lester (UF/IFAS); Jim Veal, Sr. (PanaVista Lodge); Paul Remis (Dade Battlefield/City of Webster/Historical Society/Boy Scouts of America)  
**Guests:** Kevin Mims (Freelance Writer); Millie Rivera (SCBOCC/CSD); Kelly Williams
- II. Minutes** – Gayle Teerman made a motion to accept June minutes. Seconded by Jim Veal, Sr. Motion approved.
- III. Eligibility Application Committee Report** – SHAC Eligibility Application review and recommendations (July 11) / Comments and responses – Garry reported that the SHAC met and all but one member (Department of Agriculture) favored designation. Garry will be sending the minutes from the meeting to review. We will be receiving a letter telling us to move forward with the designation. Should receive within a month. Mike Palozzi stated that although we had not gotten the go ahead, we have moved forward and started the designation process. Garry stated there are 7 agencies that consist of the SHAC and they offer their opinion to the secretary of the FDOT and he will issue the letter. We have already done the designation training that is required. We will get the comments in writing and we will have the opportunity to respond to those comments. This response will be part of our designation document. Mike stated that this process is a major step and we are now on the downside of the designation.
- IV. Marketing Committee/Event Planning Subcommittee Report**
- a) **Poker Run Sponsor Acknowledgement/Thank You Card** – Bob reported that we have created the Thank you cards to give to those that donated or sponsored the poker run. Diane will provide a listing of those companies/people who helped with this event. Bob and Mike both stated that it is important to acknowledge those sponsors to make sure they are appreciated.
- b) **Chamber Lunch Exchange Member Midway (Blueberry Hill RV Resort)** – Chamber has offered the CAG a table at the Lunch Exchange. Joyce Hanson will man the table at the August Lunch. Will have the map and flyers and also have a petition to support the byway.
- c) **Leadership Sumter Scenic Byway session** – Brooke was going to find out information regarding the Leadership program and it's support of the byway, however she was not available during this meeting. Also, Donna stated that Brooke put a call into the Florida Wild Flower Commission and has not received a call back at this point.
- Dan reported that the Wildflower Commission has sent a letter to Susan at UF/IFAS stating that they have selected an alternative location for their headquarters.
- V. Designation Committee Report** –
- a) **Goals/Objectives/Strategies finalization** – Mike discussed the process of designation and the Corridor Management Plan (CMP). Committee has met and worked on the goals that are required and also worked on the objectives and strategies. He asks that the CAG look at the objectives to be certain that they are all in line with our mission. The next step is to take the objectives and put some implementation strategies together. Once these are put together we then move on to an Action Plan for short term (18 months or

less and long term priorities (5 years). At this point there are three items that the committee thinks are most important are Membership; Awareness of the Byway and Establishing Communications. Dan stated that under Goal 1, bullet point 4, it should state cattle ranch rather than farming.

- b) **Corridor Management Entity** – Mike Palozzi stated that the most important part of this designation document is the Goals and action plan, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> is establishing partnerships to show there is strong support for this designation to bring it back to the SHAC as they will be reviewing the designation document. Several ways to show partnership support are signatures on the applications from the various Cities, letters of support from those that already provided these letters for the eligibility document and other organizations such as the Cattlemen’s Association or Farm Bureau and Petitions/Sign In Sheets that show support from the community and to also increased membership. Partnership agreements are a more formalized relationship between the CAG and an advocacy group that has a similar vision. This agreement will show what we want the advocacy to help us with and what can we do to help the advocacy group for their cause. For example, the Historic Society, the VFW, the Farm Bureau and the Chamber and also the Dade Battlefield Society. There are many categories for organizations to support the Byway. Resolutions are generally encouraged by government agencies because it is a board vote and they generally get through the process easier than not having a resolution. They are a perfect way to formally say that the government agency supports the Byway. Although we are a ways away from completing this designation document, it is advised that we start the process of getting these documents because they typically take the longest to obtain. If everyone in the CME gets a letter of support or Partnership Agreement and then maybe one other it would be many documents to show the SHAC. Deb Barsell will work on the resolution for the BOCC and the TDC.

- a. **By-laws** – Mike reported that as the CAG we put together some very basic by-laws and as we go from the Eligibility to the CMP (Corridor Management Plan) it is required to put more depth into the by-laws and then once we are designated we could put more into them to procure our 501(c)3. As part of this process we will be changing our name from CAG (Corridor Advocacy Group) to CME (Corridor Management Entity) and there is a long process to do that, however the most important part of that is to produce some operating procedures, which a copy is attached. CAG will review and then finalize the document and have the chair sign it in the next couple of months as part of our CMP process.

**VI. Designated State Historic Site – Pana Vista Lodge** – Last month Dan inquired about what is needed to do this. This is just a follow up. Also, Sumter County Court House should be a Historic Site. The Department of Historic Research (DHR) is interested in pursuing this and we should contact them to find out the process as to how to proceed. Deb Barsell will contact the person at the DHR to get the info.

Dan discussed the possibility of the County hiring someone to handle special events such as a birding festival. Kevin Mims stated the 97% of the visitors that come to Florida say that Wildlife outing is important to their visit. Mike stated that this would be a good opportunity for the CME and to make sure that this is part of our Goals, Objective and Strategies. Discussion about producing a bus tour of the byway. Deb Barsell stated that she would be happy to work with the transit department to provide a bus for the tour.

**VII. Meeting Location** – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012 at 11:00am – the place to be determined at a later date.

Respectfully submitted by: Diane Boorum, Co-Chairman

**ATTACHMENT C  
YEARLY EVENTS CALENDAR**



# January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b> Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Dade's Battle Reenactment
<b>6</b> Dade's Battle Reenactment	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> ML King Day	<b>22</b> Leadership Sumter Kickoff	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Agritunity – Sumter Fairgrounds	<b>26</b> Agritunity – Sumter Fairgrounds
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		



# February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18	19	20 Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	21	22 Nature Coast Civil war Reenactment - Webster	23 Nature Coast Civil war Reenactment - Webster
24 Nature Coast Civil war Reenactment - Webster	25	26	27	28		



# March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	7	8 Sumter County Fair	9 Sumter County Fair
10 Sumter County Fair	11 Sumter County Fair	12 Sumter County Fair	13 Sumter County Fair	14 Sumter County Fair	15 Sumter County Fair	16 Sumter County Fair
17 St. Patrick's Day Sumter County Fair	18	19	20 Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	21	22	23 Sumter Co. Chamber – Cowboy Crawl and Scenic Sumter HB public meeting.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Easter Sunday						



# April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> April Fool's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> SHAC meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Leesburg Bikefest	<b>27</b> Leesburg Bikefest
<b>28</b> Leesburg Bikefest	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				



# May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Mother's Day	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Memorial Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



# June 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Royal Homecoming – Royal Community Center Park	15 Royal Homecoming – Royal Community Center Park
16 Royal Homecoming – Royal Community Center Park  Father's Day	17	18	19 Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	20	21	22 Cattle Baron's Ball of Lake & Sumter Counties
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



# July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 SHAC meeting	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



# August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 WWII Day - Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
4 WWII Day - Dade Battlefield Historic State Park	5	6	7 Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



# September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day	3 Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Taste of Simply Sumter  Inter-Tribal Native American Pow-Wow	28  Inter-Tribal Native American Pow-Wow
29  Inter-Tribal Native American Pow-Wow	30					



# October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> FSHP Annual Report due	<b>2</b> Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Columbus Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bushnell Fall Festival
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> SHAC meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Hog Rally	<b>26</b> Haunted Hayrides – Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
<b>27</b> Haunted Hayrides – Dade Battlefield Historic State Park	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Halloween		



# November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Sumter County Beef and Boogie Festival	<b>2</b> Sumter County Beef and Boogie Festival
<b>3</b> Sumter County Beef and Boogie Festival	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Election Day	<b>6</b> Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



# December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Chamber Ambassadors 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG Meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 New years Eve				

**ATTACHMENT D  
FACT SHEET**



# Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Fact Sheet

## Mission Statement

It is our mission to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway for residents, visitors and future generations.

## Byway Vision

It is our vision that the synergy developed through strong partnerships, education and resource advocacy creates a nationally recognized byway that showcases the natural, scenic, recreational and heritage resources of Sumter County, and that community decisions are based in part on these special values.

## Organization History

The organization began as a Community Action Group in March 2009 in partnership with the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce with the express purpose of improving the southern entrance to Sumter County, therefore enhancing the visitor experience to the National Cemetery. The Veteran's Memorial Highway was designated soon afterwards, and pursuit of a Florida Scenic Highway designation began. A Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) began meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) District Five Scenic Highways Coordinator in order to pursue the "Scenic" classification for a series of roads within Sumter County that encompass the communities of Webster, Bushnell, Sumterville, Lake Panasoffkee, Carlson, Rutland and the surrounding unincorporated areas.

## Byway Accomplishments

- A Letter of Intent form and information package document was submitted to the Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC) of the Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP) on September 3, 2010.
- A decision was made by the SHAC to allow the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway to continue to move toward Designation on October 13, 2010.
- An Eligibility Application document was created and submitted to the SHAC as a requirement of the FSHP in June of 2012.
- A letter of Eligibility was received from the Secretary of the FDOT on August 3, 2012 recognizing the corridor's ability to meet FSHP criteria and allowing initiation of the Designation Phase of the program.
- Work began on creating a Designation Application and Corridor Management Plan Document as a final requirement for Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway (submittal scheduled for Spring 2013).

## Our Byway Partners

- Sumter County Chamber of Commerce
- Sumter County Public Works
- Lake-Sumter MPO
- Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Sumter County Historical Society
- VFW Post 10137
- Sumter Correctional Institution (FDC)

## Corridor Story

The roads that comprise our Byway include a cross section of the natural beauty that Sumter County is blessed with. From south to north the Byway traverses pastoral farmlands, cattle ranches and horse farms with lush open fields. The corridor then passes through several of the most interesting small country towns in the region and finally travels through the lush hardwood hammock and floodplain parklands that are part of the Withlacoochee River watershed. This Corridor highlights the scenic view sheds and rich heritage of Sumter County through byway travel.

Attractions include:

- General James Van Fleet Trail State Park
- Richloam Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
- Florida National Cemetery
- Lake Panasoffkee

## Contact

Dan McCormic, Chair  
Phone: (352) 418-3760  
Email: [dan34785@hotmail.com](mailto:dan34785@hotmail.com)

Come visit the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway page on <http://www.facebook.com/>



**ATTACHMENT E  
VISITORS ITINERARY**



# *Spend a day in Sumter County!*

## **SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE BYWAY**



It is the mission of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway for residents, visitors and future generations. Please help us accomplish this mission by visiting Sumter County's most treasured intrinsic resources found along our Byway.

### **1. Rutland Park**

*(6805 W SR 44 - Lake Panasoffkee)*

A paved boat ramp allowing access to the Withlacoochee River, picnic tables (with a grill) located along the river under large shade trees, and clean restrooms are available for public use at this County Park in Northwest Sumter County.

### **2. Marsh Bend Outlet Park**

*(3100 CR 413 - Lake Panasoffkee)*

Located on the Outlet River between Lake Panasoffkee and the Withlacoochee River, this County Park is a prime access point for many types of recreational activities. With many picnic tables and grills, covered pavilions, a paved boat ramp with fishing pier, a hiking trail, a sand volleyball court and clean restrooms, this is the perfect place for a family outing.

### **3. Pana Vista Lodge**

*(3417 CR 421 - Lake Panasoffkee)*

As a full service fish camp, the Pana Vista Lodge offers boat sales and rentals, a ramp and a tackle shop with licenses, bait, ice and everything you may need for a day of fishing out on the lake. For those who enjoy both boating and camping, the Lodge has cabins, RV hook-ups and primitive camping areas available. Owned and operated by Jim and Eloise Veal, the Lodge has been in the Veal family since the early 20th century. Please call (352) 793-2061 for additional information or visit <http://www.panavistalodge.com/>.

### **4. Shady Brook Greenway Park**

*(230 CR 470 N - Lake Panasoffkee)*

This County Park facilitates boating access to the SE portion of Lake Panasoffkee and is perfect for small boats, canoes and kayaks because of the sheltered creek where it is located. Amenities include a boat ramp with aluminum access dock, a covered picnic table and grill.

### **5. Bushnell Historic Courthouse**

*(209 N Florida Street – Bushnell)*

Located in the heart of historic Bushnell, the courthouse is the centerpiece of this traditional town. When an earlier courthouse in Sumterville burned in 1909, Bushnell became the new county seat. The existing courthouse was designed by famed architect William A. Edwards who designed campus buildings for Florida State University and the University of Florida. Construction was completed in 1914.

### **6. Dade Battlefield Historic State Park**

*(7200 CR 603 – Bushnell)*

Commemorating the battle that started the Second Seminole War in 1835, this 80-acre State Park protects the historic battlefield, and also the natural communities as they existed during the war. The Park's visitor center provides information and displays about the historic battle, as well as a 12 minute video history titled *This Land, These Men*. Other amenities include restroom facilities, a recreation hall, a playground, a hiking/nature trail and picnic pavilions with covered shelters, electricity and grills. For hours of operation and additional information, please call (352) 793-4781 or visit <http://floridastateparks.org/dadebattlefield/default.cfm>.

### **7. Florida National Cemetery**

*(6502 SW 102nd Avenue – Bushnell)*

Within the Withlacoochee State Forest, this beautiful cemetery features a Memorial Pathway that is lined with a variety of memorials that honor America's Veterans as commemoration of their service to our nation. With more than 97,000 interments since the cemetery's opening in 1988, this is the fourth such location in Florida established by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and is open daily from sunrise to sunset. For additional information, please call (352) 793-7740 or visit <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/florida.asp>.

### **8. Sumter County Farmers Market**

*(524 N Market Boulevard – Webster)*

As the oldest and largest market in the state, this eclectic composite of markets covers 40 acres, contains 2,000 stalls and accommodates over 1,200 dealers while attracting thousands of visitors each week. The city of Webster has evolved as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural areas, and the flea markets and cattle sale are a distinctive resource that exemplifies the mercantile nature of small rural towns throughout the region.

### **9. Richloam Wildlife Management Area (WMA)**

*(South of SR 50 in SE Sumter County)*

As one of seven large tracts of land that make up the Withlacoochee State Forest, the Richloam WMA consists of more than 58,000 acres of pine flatwoods, scattered oak hammocks, bottomland hardwoods, and cypress swamp. Hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing (part of Great Florida Birding Trail), camping, horseback riding, hiking and biking are popular recreational activities here. There are eight miles of shared trails for horseback riding, bicycling, and hiking, and three loop hiking trails ranging in length from nine to fourteen miles. For additional information please visit <http://myfwc.com/viewing/recreation/wmas/cooperative/richloam>.

### **10. Florida Bass Conservation Center**

*(3583 CR 788 – Webster)*

Located five miles south of SR 50 off SR 471, this state-of-the-art freshwater fish hatchery and research facility is dedicated to conservation of the Florida Largemouth bass, where an aquarium and visitor center allow visitors a close look at modern research practices. True anglers and fish enthusiasts will enjoy the overlook for watching hatchery activities and self-guided tours. For hours of operation and additional information, please call (352) 732-1225 or visit <http://myfwc.com/conservation/freshwater/fbcc/>.

### **11. General James Van Fleet Trail State Park**

*(South of SR 50 in SE Sumter County – Mabel Trailhead)*

Officially designated as part of Florida's Statewide System of Greenways and Trails, this old railroad corridor has been converted for recreational use. As one of Florida's most rural, the trail runs for 29 miles through the Green Swamp from Mabel to Polk City in Polk County. With excellent wildlife viewing opportunities, the Van Fleet Trail is a safe and pleasant place for bicyclists, hikers, joggers, and horseback riders to enjoy. For additional information, please visit <http://www.traillink.com/trail/general-james-a-van-fleet-state-trail.aspx>.

MARION COUNTY  
SUMTER COUNTY



*Spend a day in scenic  
Sumter County!*



SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE HIGHWAY



**LEGEND**  
— PROPOSED SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE BYWAY CORRIDOR

For more information regarding the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway organization please find us on Facebook or call/ visit  
The Sumter County Chamber of Commerce ♦ <http://www.sumterchamber.org/> ♦ (352) 793-3099

**ATTACHMENT F  
PRESS RELEASES**

PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Needs You!

Would you like to promote and protect the natural beauty, recreational potential and outstanding historical resources and traditions of Sumter County? If so, get involved with the “Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group”.

Community leaders, business owners, concerned citizens and local veterans have joined together to promote and protect a 62 mile stretch of open road in Sumter County for residents, visitors and future generations.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway began as a grass roots organization of concerned citizens, the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, Sumter County Public Works, and UF/IFAS Extension. The vision of this group was to recognize, beautify, and therefore enhance the visitor’s experience of County Road 476B which leads to the Florida National Cemetery. This route was officially dedicated as the Veteran’s Memorial Highway soon after the founding of this group in 2009. Pursuit of the Florida Department of Transportation’s “Scenic” designation through the Florida Scenic Highways Program quickly followed. This active and inspired group of citizens and community organizations continues to grow and develop new ideas to recognize the natural and historical resources of a number of interconnected roads within Sumter County.

The roads that now comprise our proposed Byway include a cross section of the natural beauty that Sumter County offers. From south to north the Byway traverses pastoral farmlands, cattle ranches and horse farms with lush open fields. The corridor then passes through several of the most interesting small country towns in the region and finally travels through the lush hardwood hammock and floodplain parklands that are part of the Withlacoochee River watershed. This Corridor highlights the scenic views and rich heritage of Sumter County through byway travel.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group meets monthly at varying locations throughout Sumter County. Our next meeting date is scheduled for 11:00 am – 12:30 pm on May 18 at Webster City Hall. For more information please contact Brooke Moffis with UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension at [burnb48@ufl.edu](mailto:burnb48@ufl.edu) or visit our Facebook site.

**PRESS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release

**Contact**  
Diane Boorum, Vice-Chairman  
Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group  
(352) 793-3099  
assistant@sumterchamber.org

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Inaugural Poker Run Event A Big Success**

Sumter County, Florida – March 24, 2012 – The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group debuted their first Poker Run Event on the second to last Saturday in March this year. The event started in historic downtown Webster, traveled along the proposed byway route for almost 50 miles, and ended at Marsh Bend Outlet Park in Lake Panasoffkee later that afternoon. Organized to generate public exposure for the proposed scenic byway corridor and local business community, the event was well attended by participants from various locations and was considered a big success.

Thanks to the many generous donations from the Sumter County government, business community and local residents, the Poker Run winner awards and raffle prizes were shared by quite a few participants. Special acknowledgement goes to the Panavista Lodge, Pop's Bait and Tackle Shop, Wal-Mart, Wildwood Marketplace Shopping Plaza, Atkins North America, AMC Movie Theater, Sumter Sunshine Community Foundation, UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension Office – Master Gardeners, Evan's Ace Hardware, Webster Farm Supply, Beef O' Brady's, Hayseed Café, Dottie's Salon Central, Tips 2 Toes Beauty Salon, Gator Harley Davidson, Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, Donna Lester, Joyce Hanson, Judie Mueller, Vivian Hall, Gayle Teerman, The City of Webster, and the Sumter County BOCC and Sheriff's Department for their generosity is greatly appreciated by the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group and certainly ensured the success of this inaugural event.

Various locations along the route were used as places to stop and collect cards, such as the VFW Post 10137, the Sumter Historical Society, the Sumterville Eagles Club, Lake Panasoffkee Moose Club, the UF/IFAS Extension, the Florida National Cemetery, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park and Werda-Hecamiat. After visiting these places, the group met at Marsh Bend Outlet Park for the awards ceremony and a cookout.

The grand prize winner of the day was A.P. Ward Pond with an Aces full of Queens full house!



Mr. Pond, who lives along the Byway, was awarded a weekend at the Pana Vista Lodge on Lake Panasoffkee for collecting this great poker hand.

The runner up was Charles Griffin, who won a fishing tour on Lake Panasoffkee out of the Werda-Hecamiat lodge donated by Pop's Bait and Tackle Shop. Many other raffle prizes were awarded and everyone enjoyed the event.



The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group is the volunteer organization seeking official designation as a Scenic Corridor in the Florida Department of Transportation's Florida Scenic Highways Program. Consisting of more than 30 members currently, this organization expects to receive designation within the next two years. The group meets monthly at various locations throughout Sumter County. For more information please contact Diane Boorum at the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce at (352) 793-3099, [assistant@sumterchamber.org](mailto:assistant@sumterchamber.org), or visit the Facebook site

###

**ATTACHMENT G**  
**SUNSHINE LAW FLYER**

## Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law

The **Sunshine Law** allows the general public to attend governmental meetings and proceedings of elected and appointed boards at both the state and local levels. The basic requirements, as covered under Florida Statute 286.011 are:

- Meetings of public boards or commissions must be open to the public.
- Reasonable notice of such meetings must be given.
- Meeting minutes must be taken and made available for public inspection.

### *The Sunshine Law and Florida Scenic Highways Program*

A **Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG)** or a **Corridor Management Entity (CME)** is subject to the Florida Sunshine Law. These entities are created to preserve, protect, promote and enhance a designated scenic highway established by the Florida Scenic Highways program.

*What Florida Scenic Highways Program meetings are subject to the Sunshine Law?*

- Any gathering, in person, by telephone or by computer (e-mail), whether formal or informal, of two or more members of a CAG or CME to make decisions about a Florida Scenic Highway corridor.

*What does a CAG/CME have to do to abide by the Sunshine Law?*

- The CAG/CME must be sure to provide reasonable notice to the general public of all meetings.

#### **The following activities are suggested:**

- This notice should contain time and place of meeting and, if available, a CAG/CME agenda or subject matter summation.
- Notice should be prominently displayed in appropriate areas used by the CAG/CME set aside for their purpose or meetings.
- Special meetings should have at least 24 hours notice.
- Use of press releases or advertising in the local newspapers of general circulation.

*What constitutes a public record that must be made available for public inspection?*

- Public records are considered materials made or received by an agency in connection with official business which are used to perpetuate, communicate or formalize knowledge.
- Public records include all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, e-mail, electronic data or other material regardless of their physical form.

# **Appendix C. Example of CME Partnership Agreement**

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY (CME) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT** is entered into between the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY hereinafter referred to as “CME” and the **Sumter County Historical Society** hereinafter referred to as “**Society**” to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between the CME and **Society** for the coordination and implementation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

A. **Society** agrees to:

1. Provide technical advice in areas of corridor planning, historical perspective on local resources and program educational support, as may be appropriate by the participating entity
2. Participate in CME activities, meetings and events, where appropriate
3. Comply with the CME bylaws and formal actions
4. Support implementation of CME Goals as appropriate
5. Serve in a support role for heritage designation efforts undertaken for qualified Byway resources

B. CME agrees to:

1. Maintain active participation in **Society** efforts
2. Support efforts consistent with Byway Goals/Objectives
3. Partner with **Society** on mutually beneficial events

C. Termination of Partnerships: This agreement can be terminated by giving (30) days written notice by either party.

**THIS AGREEMENT** is executed by and between the officials of each organization as duly authorized.

CME Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sumter County Historical Society**: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix D. Resolution Establishing  
Operating Procedures for  
the Scenic Sumter Heritage  
Byway CME**

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING OPERATING PROCEDURES  
FOR THE SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE BYWAY CORRIDOR  
MANAGEMENT ENTITY (CME)**

**WHEREAS**, the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) has agreed to act as the Corridor Management Entity (CME) for the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway (Byway); and

**WHEREAS**, the current CAG for the Byway will be designated as the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CME charged with being the advocate for the Byway, and responsible for executing the Action Plan and ensuring all corridor activities are monitored and implemented according to the Corridor Management Plan (CMP); and

**WHEREAS**, the CME will adhere to the following “operating procedures”, to ensure appropriate management of the Byway;

1. All Byway records will be maintained by the CME Secretary and made available for public inspection upon reasonable written notification.
2. Consistent compliance with Florida Sunshine regulations will be maintained at all times.
3. “General Membership” of the CME will consist of all individuals who have attended a minimum of three (3) CME events (that may include monthly meetings and or CME sponsored events) within the last twelve (12) months. Attendance/participation records shall be maintained by the CME Secretary.
4. The CME Board shall consist of between 7 and 11 members. One position will be reserved for a representative from Sumter County government. The remaining positions shall be elected from the General Membership.
5. The CME’s voting membership will consist solely of the 7-11 elected board members. The Chair may at his discretion request discussion and vote from the general membership on any issue. This input will be considered advisory to the Board.
6. Voting will be accomplished by a show of hands for those eligible to vote on an issue, with 51% or more (for or against) considered the majority vote.
7. For voting purposes, a quorum is equal to no less than five (5) Board members present at a CME meeting where a vote will occur. Absent a quorum, discussions may be conducted but no vote can be taken.
8. The CAG and current officers will be dissolved when the official Letter of Designation is signed by the FDOT Secretary.
9. Upon dissolution of the CAG, a determination of available board positions and nomination for election of the CME board members will take place within ten (10) days.
10. Bi-annually, the general membership of the CME shall elect the membership of the Board (except for the position held for Sumter County Government). The Board will then select a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer within 10 days. Board members elected to the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will serve for a two year period. Each board member (including those serving in the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and

Treasurer) may serve indefinitely, but must be reelected bi-annually. Nominations for Board positions will be accepted from the General Membership and subsequently presented to the CME at least thirty (30) days prior to the election/vote.

11. Position descriptions, roles and responsibilities for each elected position established will be developed/approved within six (6) months of the date of approval of this agreement.
12. At the option of the Chair, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be filled by the same person.
13. The Chair shall preside over the meetings, and if absent the Vice Chair will assume this function.
14. All meetings are open to the public and reasonable notice will be provided.
15. At the beginning of each fiscal year the Chair will provide a list of scheduled meeting dates and meeting locations. The Chair must provide reasonable notice for any deviation from this schedule.
16. The Chair, or designee, will ensure that meeting notices are displayed in a public place (s) and announce the date and time of the next regular meeting no less than seven (7) days before the meeting date.
17. The Chair, or designee, will prepare an agenda for each regular meeting. A copy of the agenda will be included as part of the meeting notice.
18. CME members wishing to place items on the agenda will contact the Chair no less than ten (10) days before the meeting date.
19. Members will make reasonable, good faith efforts to attend regular meetings.
20. Each member will be responsible for registering his/her attendance by signing the dated meeting attendance sheet, maintained by the Secretary.
21. The Chair has the authority to create special work groups (e.g. committees) as needed to accomplish CME business.
22. Minutes will be prepared by the Secretary for all CME meetings. These notes will reflect the substance of the discussion, resolution of issues or voting results, and proposals for future action. These minutes will be posted and made available for review. In the absence of the Secretary, the Chair will designate a member to take meeting notes.
23. All meeting attendees may participate in CME discussions.

These CME Operating Procedures may be revised with a proper vote of the voting membership upon notification and discussion at a CME meeting at least thirty (30) days prior.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Entity (CME) accepts these Operating Procedures as the guiding organizational framework for the Byway.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution will be included in the Corridor Management Plan and transmitted to the Florida Department of Transportation.

Unanimously approved by the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group on December 5, 2012.

# Appendix E. Organization Chart



# Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

## CME Organization

Spring 2013

### Executive Committee

Dan McCormic - Chair  
Joyce Hanson - Vice Chair  
Dawn Cary - Secretary/Treasurer

### Technical Advisors

Garry Balogh - FDOT

### Finance Committee

Members TBD

### Membership Committee

Members TBD

### Governance Committee

Members TBD

### General Membership

Includes: Sumter County residents and representatives from Sumter County Government, City of Webster, City of Bushnell, and the Lake-Sumter MPO

# **Appendix F. Committee Missions and Responsibilities**

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
Corridor Management Plan  
Technical Committee Missions and Responsibilities  
Spring 2013**

**Finance Committee:** It is the mission of the Finance Committee to identify and obtain funding necessary to accomplish the goals of the organization and ensure the long term sustainability of the Corridor Management Entity (CME).

General responsibilities include:

- Seeking grant opportunities
- Developing and Implementing a Byway marketing/donor plan
- Maintaining a donor database
- Planning and implementing fund raising efforts
- Maintaining a Byway accomplishments list
- Developing year-end financial reports

**Governance Committee:** It is the mission of the Governance Committee to ensure that an organizational structure is maintained so as to preserve the long term viability of the organization.

General responsibilities include:

- Compliance with the Florida Scenic Highways Program
- Tracking the implementation of Goals/Objectives
- Monitoring implementation schedules
- Applying for non-profit organization status
- Maintaining State Corporation compliances and fees
- Maintaining Sunshine Law compliance consistently
- Monitoring activities to ensure compliance with Bylaws
- Reviewing organizational policies on a periodic basis
- Maintaining participation in the FDOT D5 Accreditation Program

**Membership Committee:** It is the mission of the Membership Committee to increase participation and volunteerism through recruitment and education.

General responsibilities include:

- Establishing a general membership program
- Tracking membership renewals
- Developing Byway informational materials
- Establishing potential targets for membership
- Coordinating involvement with local events
- Establishing a Byway volunteers program
- Maintaining electronic media status and updates
- Coordinating the consistent production of a Byway newsletter



# **Appendix G. Regional Partnering Effort Summary**

## **Summary of Selected Byway Coordination and Regional Partnering**

### **Efforts for the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway**

**Monthly CAG Meeting:** The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG holds monthly meetings. These meetings have been held at various locations around the corridor in an effort to attract additional interest. The meetings are noticed in accordance with state requirements and meeting minutes are posted.

**Leesburg Bike Fest (April 2011/2012):** The CAG has participated in this annual three-day event that draws 200,000 to 300,000 bike enthusiasts to neighboring Leesburg. CAG volunteers shared a scenic highway booth with the Black Bear Scenic Highway group and handed out “Ride Sumter” brochures that included scenic highway information and a Byway map.

**Sumter County Beef & Boogie (November 2011/2012):** This annual two-day event is sponsored by the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce. The CAG distributed Byway information and talked with those interested in the designation.

**Leadership Sumter County (September 2012):** Leadership Sumter County trains community leaders for the challenges of tomorrow. The CAG was invited to provide a presentation to the 2012 class on their efforts to bring a scenic highway designation to the county and the potential economic advantages of this designation for the region. The CAG was able to distribute corridor information to all participants. Recent discussions with the 2013 class have included the possibility of raising needed funds to pay for the IRS/501c3 application process for the Byway.

**Scenic Sumter Poker Run (March 24, 2012):** The CAG sponsored a motorcycle poker run for the Byway. Participants were provided a route map and Byway information. Local business partners donated food and drink for the participants. Approximately 25 cyclists participated in this event.

**Scenic Sumter Annual Picnic (Winter 2012):** The CAG sponsored what they hope will be an annual event to introduce the community to the Byway. Food and drink was donated by local businesses. The CAG provided informational materials on the scenic highways program and the Byway to all participants.

**Dogs in the Park (June 20, 2012):** In an effort to help build membership, the CAG sponsored a hot dog roast in Marsh Bend Park to attract new membership. Local businesses donated food. The CAG conducted a general business meeting before the food was served.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Partnership Event (September 2012):** Although a founding member of the CAG, VFW membership and the CAG had a brief ceremony to celebrate the signing of a Partnership Agreement with the VFW to support its long term involvement with the CAG.

**Florida State HOG Rally (October 2012):** Several thousand bikers gathered at Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-in-the-Hills, for the Florida State HOG Rally. Although members of the CAG were unable to attend, a self guided tour of their byway was prominently displayed in event brochures.

## **CME Partnership Agreements (attached)**

- **Sumter County Chamber of Commerce (signed September 2012)**
- **William L. Lovett VFW Post # 10137 (signed September 2012)**
- **Sumter County Historical Society (signed February 2013)**
- **Wildwood Historical Society (signed March 2013)**

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY (CME) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT** is entered into between the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY hereinafter referred to as "CME" and the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce hereinafter referred to as "SCCOC" to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between the CME and SCCOC for the coordination and implementation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

A. SCCOC agrees to:

1. Provide a representative CME member to serve as a liaison of the SCCOC in order to maintain consistency with mutual efforts regarding the Sumter County business community and SCCOC members as may be appropriate.
2. Participate in CME activities, meetings and events, where appropriate
3. Comply with the CME bylaws and formal actions
4. Support implementation of CME Goals as appropriate
5. Serve in a support role for heritage designation efforts undertaken for qualified Byway resources

B. CME agrees to:

1. Maintain active participation in SCCOC efforts
2. Support efforts consistent with Byway Goals/Objectives
3. Partner with SCCOC on mutually beneficial events

C. Termination of Partnerships: This agreement can be terminated by giving (30) days written notice by either party.

**THIS AGREEMENT** is executed by and between the officials of each organization as duly authorized.

CME Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sumter County Chamber of Commerce: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY (CME) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT** is entered into between the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY hereinafter referred to as "CME" and the William L Lovett VFW Post # 10137 hereinafter referred to as "VFW" to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between the CME and VFW for the coordination and implementation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

**A. VFW agrees to:**

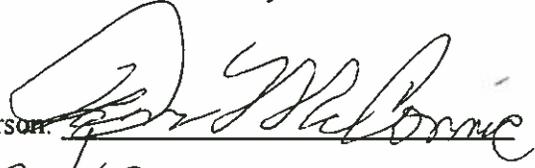
1. Provide technical advice in areas of corridor planning, historical perspective on local resources and program educational support, as may be appropriate by the participating entity
2. Participate in CME activities, meetings and events, where appropriate
3. Comply with the CME bylaws and formal actions
4. Support implementation of CME Goals as appropriate
5. Serve in a support role for heritage designation efforts undertaken for qualified Byway resources

**B. CME agrees to:**

1. Maintain active participation in VFW efforts
2. Support efforts consistent with Byway Goals/Objectives
3. Partner with VFW on mutually beneficial events

**C. Termination of Partnerships:** This agreement can be terminated by giving (30) days written notice by either party.

**THIS AGREEMENT** is executed by and between the officials of each organization as duly authorized.

CME Chairperson: 

Date: 9/19/12

Commander VFW Post # 10137 

Date: 9-19-12

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY (CME) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT** is entered into between the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY hereinafter referred to as "CME" and the Wildwood Historical Society hereinafter referred to as "Society" to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between the CME and Society for the coordination and implementation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

A. Society agrees to:

1. Provide technical advice in areas of corridor planning, historical perspective on local resources and program educational support, as may be appropriate by the participating entity
2. Participate in CME activities, meetings and events, where appropriate
3. Comply with the CME bylaws and formal actions
4. Support implementation of CME Goals as appropriate
5. Serve in a support role for heritage designation efforts undertaken for qualified Byway resources

B. CME agrees to:

1. Maintain active participation in Society efforts
2. Support efforts consistent with Byway Goals/Objectives
3. Partner with Society on mutually beneficial events

C. Termination of Partnerships: This agreement can be terminated by giving (30) days written notice by either party.

**THIS AGREEMENT** is executed by and between the officials of each organization as duly authorized.

CME Chairperson:



Date:

3/20/2013

Wildwood Historical Society:

 President

Date:

3/18/2013

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY (CME) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT** is entered into between the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ENTITY hereinafter referred to as "CME" and the Sumter County Historical Society hereinafter referred to as "Society" to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between the CME and Society for the coordination and implementation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

A. Society agrees to:

1. Provide technical advice in areas of corridor planning, historical perspective on local resources and program educational support, as may be appropriate by the participating entity
2. Participate in CME activities, meetings and events, where appropriate
3. Comply with the CME bylaws and formal actions
4. Support implementation of CME Goals as appropriate
5. Serve in a support role for heritage designation efforts undertaken for qualified Byway resources

B. CME agrees to:

1. Maintain active participation in Society efforts
2. Support efforts consistent with Byway Goals/Objectives
3. Partner with Society on mutually beneficial events

C. Termination of Partnerships: This agreement can be terminated by giving (30) days written notice by either party.

**THIS AGREEMENT** is executed by and between the officials of each organization as duly authorized.

CME Chairperson:

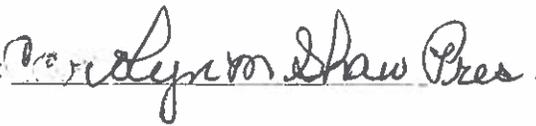
Date:

Sumter County Historical Society:

Date:



2/28/13



2/28/13

# Appendix H. Local Support Documentation

**SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**SUBJECT:** A Resolution Supporting the Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway, Supporting the Corridor Management Plan (CMP) and Setting Forth an Effective Date (Staff Recommends Approval).

**REQUESTED ACTION:** **BOCC approval of resolution**

Work Session (Report Only)    **DATE OF MEETING:** 11/13/12  
 Regular Meeting                       Special Meeting

**CONTRACT:**  N/A    Vendor/Entity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_                                      Termination Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Managing Division / Dept:                      Community Services

**BUDGET IMPACT:** NA  
 Annual                      **FUNDING SOURCE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Capital                      **EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 N/A

**HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:**

Sumter County joined the Scenic Byway process in September 2010, when the Public Works Division submitted a Letter of Intent that officially initiated the eligibility phase. The BOCC agreed to sign the completed Eligibility Application on April 24, 2012, at a regular meeting. The Eligibility Application was submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation and on August 3, 2012, formal notice was posted the application "met the eligibility requirements of the Florida Scenic Highways Program necessary for possible designation as a Florida Scenic Highway."

The next step of the project is the Designation Phase, which includes development of the CMP. The formal support by the BOCC for the designation of Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway and the associated CMP is the purpose of the proposed resolution.

The County Planner has been consulted relative to the language of the attached resolution who indicated the amendment to the Economic Development Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan would be minimal and could be incorporated into routine workload. Planning, Community Services, and Public Works staff have been involved in the development of the CMP that is currently under development. Once completed and ready for submission, the BOCC will be asked to sign the CMP.

**APPROVED**

**November 13, 2012**

RESOLUTION NO. 2012- 63

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE SCENIC SUMTER HERITAGE BYWAY AS A FLORIDA  
SCENIC HIGHWAY; SUPPORTING THE CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN (CMP) AND SETTING  
FORTH AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, a corridor management entity (CME), known as the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CME has been formed for the purpose of advocating for designation and implementation of the proposed Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, as provided for in Section 335.093, Florida Statutes and 23 U.S.C. Section 162, as a Florida Scenic Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway's project limits traverse a 62 mile corridor that follows the following route: Beginning on SR 50 at the Van Fleet Trail and proceeding west to CR 478A and then northward along CR 478A to SR 471 to the City of Webster. North of Webster the byway forms a loop that includes SR 471 to CR 48 and then westward to CR 747 then southward on CR 747 to CR 478 where the byway then proceeds westward to US 301 and then southward along US 301 to CR 673. The byway proceeds westward along CR 673 to CR 476B and then northward to CR 476. The byway proceeds eastward along CR 476 to US 301, northward along US 301 to CR 470 where it proceeds westward to SR 44 and then to the Sumter/Citrus County Line; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the scenic highway designation is to protect, enhance, preserve and maintain the intrinsic resources of the designated corridor, while utilizing the resources for appropriate economic development, recreation and tourism interests; and

**WHEREAS**, it is believed that significant benefits of additional economic development, recreational enjoyment, resource conservation, aesthetic enhancement and public education can result from the scenic highway designation, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners agrees to include required Corridor Management Plan elements that are relevant to the unincorporated sections of the byway, which will delineate the implementation of the goals, objectives and strategies for the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, into the Comprehensive Plan, and;

**WHEREAS**, the designation as a Florida Scenic Highway does not impose regulatory authority, state or federal restrictions on land use along the byway by virtue of the designation; now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SUMTER COUNTY COMMISSION THAT;**

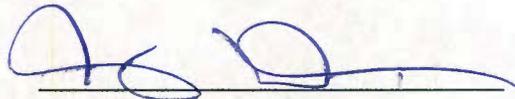
**SECTION ONE:** The Sumter County Board of County Commissions supports the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway with recognition that said designation will serve a useful purpose to advance our historic, natural, recreational and scenic appreciation of these highways and educate our public as to the continuing importance of these roadways.

**SECTION TWO:** A certified copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Florida Department of Transportation.

**SECTION THREE:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

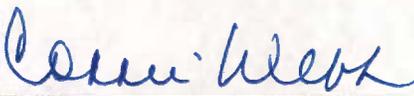
**DONE AND RESOLVED** this 13th day of November, 2012.

Board of County Commissioners  
Sumter County, Florida



Garry Breeden, Chairman

Gloria Hayward  
Clerk of Circuit Court



Connie Webb, Deputy Clerk

# CITY OF WEBSTER

POST OFFICE BOX 28 • WEBSTER, FLORIDA 33597  
City Hall - (352) 793-2073 • Fax - (352) 793-8006 • Police - (352) 793-2072

September 29, 2011

Received

OCT 24 2011

FDOT  
Environmental Management

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highway Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation, District 5  
719 S Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 31720

Dear Mr. Balogh:

On behalf of the City of Webster, we are writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the nomination of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development, and enhance the travel experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

The City of Webster fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,



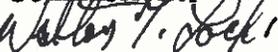
Stephen P. Croft

Mayor



Patricia M. Ward

Commissioner



Walton T. Locke

Commissioner



Michael J. Harris

Commissioner



Paul D. Remis

Commissioner

MICHAEL R. MOEHLMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1241 S.W. 10th Street  
OCALA, FLORIDA 34471-0323

Telephone 352-732-1315  
FAX 352-732-1319  
email: mailbox@wrpc.cc  
http://www.wrpc.cc



OFFICERS

JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, III  
CHAIR

DENNIS DAMATO  
VICE - CHAIR

MARTHA HANSON  
SECRETARY

**Received**

NOV 21 2011

FDOT  
Environmental Management

November 14, 2011

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

**Re: Support Letter for Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County**

Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council, I am writing this letter of support for the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Heritage Highway. The 62 mile scenic corridor is well supported by the policies adopted within the Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Withlacoochee Region of which Sumter County is a part. The following polices are most relative and supportive:

- Policy 2.9.1 Assist in a coordinated, regional program of natural resource-based tourist related activities and facilities (campgrounds, nature and bike paths, interpretive trails, docks, parks, etc.) in appropriate areas in a manner consistent with environmental protection.
- Policy 2.9.2 Build upon a multi-disciplinary approach to eco-tourism that allows for the enjoyment of the environment (e.g., rivers, springs, lakes, forests, etc.), historical/archeological resources (e.g. historical sites, museums, exhibits, historical districts, etc.) and cultural programs (e.g. performing arts centers, concerts, self-enrichment activities, etc.), where appropriate.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway will showcase the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County is blessed with. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development, and enhance the travel experience. This designation is expected to benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Bruce Day, Planning Director

Cc: Sue Farnsworth, Sumter County Planning



Lake County  
Sumter County  
Town of Astatula  
City of Bushnell  
City of Center Hill  
City of Clermont  
City of Coleman  
City of Eustis  
City of Fruitland Park  
City of Groveland  
Town of Howey-in-the-Hills  
Town of Lady Lake  
City of Leesburg  
City of Mascotte  
City of Minneola  
Town of Montverde  
City of Mount Dora  
City of Tavares  
City of Umatilla  
City of Webster  
City of Wildwood  
Florida Central Railroad  
Lake County Schools  
Sumter County Schools

December 7, 2011

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation, District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

**Re: Support Letter for Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County**

Dear Mr. Balogh:

On behalf of Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization, I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the nomination of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development, and enhance the travel experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

The Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

  
Jennifer Hill  
MPO Chairman  
Chairman, Lake County Board of County Commissioners

*"Promoting Regional Transportation Partnerships"*  
[www.LakeSumterMPO.com](http://www.LakeSumterMPO.com)

1616 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Leesburg, Florida 34748  
Phone (352) 315-0170 – Fax (352) 315-0993



**Sumter Recycling & Solid Waste, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 949**  
**Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538**  
**Phone 352-568-0999**  
**Fax 352-568-0110**

October 31, 2012

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

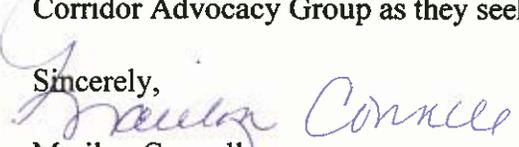
Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of A.C.M.S. Inc., I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

ACMS, Inc. fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

  
Marilyn Connell  
General Manager



**Good Fella's Roll-Offs & Waste Disposal, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 949 453 CR 489  
Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538  
Phone 352-568-0999 Toll Free 1-866-669-2783  
Fax 352-568-0110  
[info@sumtersolidwaste.com](mailto:info@sumtersolidwaste.com)

October 31, 2012

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

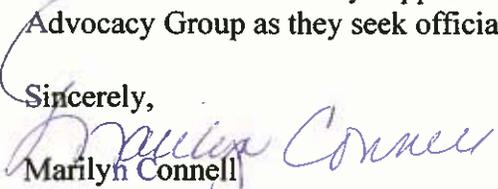
Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of Good Fella's Roll Off & Waste Disposal, Inc, I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Good Fella's fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

  
Marilyn Connell  
General Manager



**Received**  
NOV 06 2012  
FDOT  
Environmental Management

**Sumter Recycling & Solid Waste, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 949**  
**Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538**  
**Phone 352-568-0999**  
**Fax 352-568-0110**

October 31, 2012

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

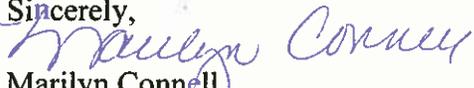
Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of Sumter Recycling & Solid Waste, Inc., I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Sumter Recycling fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

  
Marilyn Connell  
General Manager



# Sumter County Chamber Of Commerce

102 N. Highway 470, Lake Panasoffkee, Florida 33538

PO Box 100, Sumterville, Florida 33585

Phone: (352) 793-3099

## Officers:

President

• **Bob E. Hunt**

Wildwood Country Resort

Vice President

• **Bobby Caruthers**

Sumter County Sheriff's Office

Secretary

• **Brandell Campbell**

CEMEX

Treasurer

• **Brooke Hibbard**

CenterState Bank

Past President

• **Dawn Cary**

Window Fashion Galleria

## Directors:

• **Marilyn Connell**

ACMC. Inc

• **Erika Corley**

Wildwood Rotary

• **Diana Couillard**

DiBarco Building Corporation

• **Stuart Force**

Banks-Page Theus Funeral Home

• **Brett Hage**

T&D Distribution

• **Brian Hudson**

McLin Burnsed, Attorneys at Law

• **Connie Mahan**

Connie Mahan Real Estate Group

• **Randy Mask**

Sumter Electric Cooperative Inc.

• **Nathan Overstreet**

Thomas E. Langley Medical Center

• **Danny Smith**

Smith & Smith Realty

## Ex-Officio Directors:

• **Bill Ed Cannon**

City of Wildwood

• **Vince Ruano**

City of Bushnell

## Executive Director

• **Andrew Cripps**

## Websites:

[www.sumterchamber.org](http://www.sumterchamber.org)

[www.visitsumter.com](http://www.visitsumter.com)

## Mobile Site:

[www.visitsumter.net](http://www.visitsumter.net)

November 14, 2012

Mr. Garry Balogh

Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator

Florida Department of Transportation District 5

719 S. Woodland Blvd.

Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway,  
Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of the Leadership Sumter County Advisory Board, a program of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

The Leadership Sumter County Advisory Board fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cripps

Executive Director, Sumter County Chamber of Commerce

117 E. Joe P. Strickland, Jr. Ave  
Post Office Box 115  
Bushnell, FL 33513-0115



Administration Offices  
Phone: (352) 793-2591  
Fax: (352) 793-2711  
www.cityofbushnellfl.com

## CITY OF BUSHNELL, FLORIDA

*"Committed to the Quality of Life"*

Received

November 21, 2012

DEC 10 2012

FDOT  
Environmental Management

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh:

On behalf of the City of Bushnell, I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

The City of Bushnell fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

Bil Spaude, Mayor  
City of Bushnell



Lake Sumter  
State College

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**Received**

DEC 11 2012

**FDOT  
Environmental Management**

December 11, 2012

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of Lake-Sumter State College, I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Lake-Sumter State College fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Mojock, Ed.D.  
President

L E E S B U R G • S U M T E R • S O U T H L A K E

9501 U.S. HIGHWAY 441 • LEESBURG, FLORIDA • 34788-8751 • P: 352.365.3523 • W: LSSC.EDU

Date 12-11-12

Mr. Garry Balogh

Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator

Florida Department of Transportation District 5

719 S. Woodland Blvd.

Deland, Fl 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of James E. Wade III, I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

James E. Wade III fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,



wadelaw

JAMES E. WADE, III, P.A.

JAMES E. WADE, III  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

JAMESWADEATTORNEY@EMBARQMAIL.COM  
116 BUSHNELL PLAZA, BUSHNELL, FL 33513  
(352) 568-2500 • FAX: (352) 568-2501  
WWW.WADELAW.US

12/12/12

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, Fl 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension, I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Kelly  
County Extension Director

Sumter County Cattleman's Assn.  
6899 E. CR 468  
Wildwood Fl., 34785

Date: December 13, 2012

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

**Received**  
DEC 18 2012  
FDOT  
Environmental Management

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

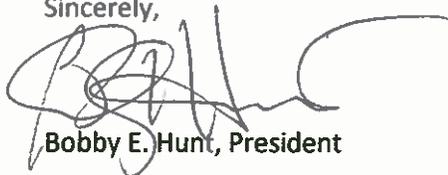
Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of The Sumter County Cattleman's Assn., I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

The Sumter County Cattleman's Assn. fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,



Bobby E. Hunt, President

Date 1/13/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

I fully support the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bridget Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Bridget Smith".

Date 1/13/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, Fl 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

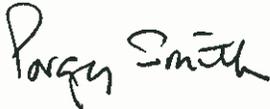
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The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

I fully support the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Porgy Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Date 1/13/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, Fl 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

I fully support the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom P. Nielson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Date 1/13/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, Fl 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

I fully support the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger D Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a distinct "D" in the middle.

Date 1/13/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, Fl 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

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I fully support the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Frederick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Carol Frederick".

Date 1/13/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

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I fully support the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Hanaway". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Date 1/13/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

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I fully support the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Schroeder".

Date 1/13/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, Fl 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

I fully support the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

*Clarence Maurer*

Date 1/13/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

I fully support the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Peterson".

# PANA VISTA LODGE



"ON THE OUTLET"

## A FULL SERVICE FISH CAMP

Cottages • RV Park w/ full hook-up • Boat & Pontoon Rentals

1/12/2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, Fl. 32720

RECEIVED

JAN 16 2013

Re: Support Letter for Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

Environmental  
Management Office

Dear Mr. Balogh,

As a lifelong resident and business owner on the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, I would like to show my support of this project. Having traveled other Scenic Highways in the past, I feel the designation of this highway would be a perfect fit for the personality of Sumter County.

The impacts this project would have on Sumter County are all positive. It will enhance our historical and natural resources of Sumter County as well as have an economic benefit and improve the type of tourism we need.

I would also like to thank the Scenic Sumter Advisory Group for all of their efforts on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Veal, Jr.". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent part.

James W. Veal, Jr.  
Pana Vista Lodge Inc.

# CATFISH JOHNNY'S

*"The Home of Fine Seafood & OLE AMOS"  
One of the worlds largest alligators*



Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support letter for Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway

Dear Mr. Balogh,

As a long time business owner in Lake Panasoffkee, I am writing in support of this project. I feel this effort will enhance and help all the local businesses along this Scenic Byway. I believe this project shows our beautiful county and all it has to offer. I believe it will help our local economy and enhance everyone's experience here in our county.

I sincerely support and thank the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Advisory Group as they seek official designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John F. Galvin Sr." The signature is stylized and cursive.

John F. Galvin Sr.  
Catfish Johnny's

**RECEIVED**

**JAN 28 2013**

**Environmental  
Management Office**



Florida Fish  
and Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission

Commissioners

**Kenneth W. Wright**  
Chairman  
Winter Park

**Kathy Barco**  
Vice Chairman  
Jacksonville

**Ronald M. Bergeron**  
Fort Lauderdale

**Richard A. Corbett**  
Tampa

**Aliese P. "Liesa" Priddy**  
Immokalee

**Charles W. Roberts III**  
Tallahassee

**Brian S. Yablonski**  
Tallahassee

Executive Staff

**Nick Wiley**  
Executive Director

**Greg Holder**  
Assistant Executive Director

**Karen Ventimiglia**  
Chief of Staff

Office of the  
Executive Director

**Nick Wiley**  
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Hearing/speech-impaired:  
(800) 955-8771 (T)  
(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

February 20, 2013

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter  
County

Dear Mr. Balogh:

It is with pleasure that we support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage  
Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the  
natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This Corridor  
highlights the rich heritage of Sumter County. From county line to county line, the  
Byway traverses farmlands, cattle ranches and horse farms with lush open fields showing  
Sumter County's natural beauty.

The Sumter County Tourism Development Council fully supports the efforts of  
the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official  
designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

Marty Hale  
Regional Fisheries Administrator



---

*January 5, 2013*

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Shaw E&I fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

Michael Palozzi, Project Manager

Client Program Manager

Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure

[Michael.Palozzi@shawgrp.com](mailto:Michael.Palozzi@shawgrp.com)

**February 2, 2012**

Mr. Garry Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720

Re: Support Letter for Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Balogh,

On behalf of *Sumter Sunshine Community Foundation*, I am writing this letter with great pride and pleasure to support the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway is 62 miles of roadway that showcases the natural beauty and historical resources that Sumter County has to offer. This effort will encourage economic development by offering new opportunities for local businesses and enhancing the travel experience throughout the entire county. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

*Sumter Sunshine Community Foundation*, fully supports the efforts of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group as they seek official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

Ellen Didion  
Executive Director  
SSCF



## DADE BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY

7200 CR 603 Bushnell, Florida 33513 Telephone: (352) 793-4781 www.dadebattlefield.com

February 14, 2013

Mr. Gary Balogh  
Environmental Scientist/Scenic Highways Coordinator  
Florida Department of Transportation District 5  
719 South Woodland Boulevard  
Deland, FL 32720

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 19 2013**

**Environmental  
Management Office**

Dear Mr. Balogh,

In 1826, the Fort King Military Road between present-day Tampa and Ocala was completed. Due to an 1835 Indian ambush on 108 soldiers under the command of Major Francis Dade, a portion of the road in what would later become Sumter County achieved national notoriety and has remained a tourist attraction ever since that time. The membership of the Dade Battlefield Society therefore feels well-grounded in its support of the designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Whereas history is our foundation, Society members also recognize and appreciate the natural beauty exhibited all along the 62-mile length of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway. The combination of such attributes enhances a spirit of optimism for the county's future that in turn will lead easily to long-term positive economic growth. It is, therefore, with pride that the Dade Battlefield Society wholeheartedly endorses the work of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Highway Corridor Advocacy Group in its quest for official designation as a Florida Scenic Highway.

Sincerely,

Steven F. Rinck  
President



# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



We Support the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) in their efforts to attain designation in the Florida Scenic Highways Program for 62 miles of roadways throughout Sumter County. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development and enhance the traveler's experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1 <i>Pam Hankins</i>	12777 SW 49TH TER	<i>[Signature]</i>	DOUBLE H @ CENTURY LINKS, NET
2 Joyce Hanson	6633 CR 575 Bushnell FL 33513	<i>Joyce A. Hanson</i>	joyshanson@gmail.com
3 Mike Torres	8391 E. main, Nolia <sup>FLORIDA</sup> CITY	<i>[Signature]</i>	torresmike@yahoo.com
4 DORINE CARR	9605 CR 622 BUSHNELL	<i>[Signature]</i>	NONE
5 Nellie Beverwyk	506 W. Noble AVE. Bushnell FL	<i>Nellie Beverwyk</i>	NONE
6 <i>Jack Beverwyk</i>	506 W. <del>Hobbs</del> Noble Bushnell FL	<i>Jack Beverwyk</i>	NONE
7 Judy Chenuith	5760 SW. terr. lot 32	<i>Judy Chenuith</i>	JudyChenuith@aol.com
8 DAN KANAR	506 W. NOBLE # 183 Bushnell	<i>[Signature]</i>	N/A
9 Lisa Morrison	7524 SW 81st Terrace Bushnell	<i>Lisa A. Morrison</i>	N/A
10 JOHN J. REPKA	8677 CR 639 Bushnell, FL	<i>[Signature]</i>	CSAMFX@Embargmail.com
11 Ronda Eichelberger	7181 CR 625 Bushnell 33513	<i>Ronda Eichelberger</i>	eichelberger@doctor.co
12 Patricia Whitman	6984 SW 35th Ave, Bushnell 33513	<i>Patricia Whitman</i>	heydear-2002@yahoo.com
13 <i>Kenn &amp; MARSHA MARTZ</i>	4529 CR 317B Bushnell, FL 33513	<i>Kenn &amp; Marsha Martz</i>	none
14 <i>Bert C. Parke</i>	506 W. noble Ave. lot 84 Bushnell FL	<i>Bert C. Parke</i>	berparke@embargmail.com
15 <i>Walt Miller</i>	8840 CR 622A	<i>Walt Miller</i>	NONE
16 Annabelle Miller	8840-CR. 622-A Bushnell, FL	<i>Annabelle Miller</i>	NONE
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Date 9-4-2012



# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



We support the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) in their efforts to attain designation in the Florida Scenic Highways Program for 62 miles of roadways throughout Sumter County. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development and enhance the traveler's experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1 DUANE BOOTH	18228 LAKE GIBSON LN. UMATILLA FL	<i>[Signature]</i>	duanebooth@besandh.com
2 MIKE STRAUGHAN	44131 PARKWAY LANE ALTOONA FL.	<i>[Signature]</i>	MSTRAUGHAN@BESANDH.COM
3 RICHARD HIRSHARD	9016 S. WATERVIEW DR. FLORAL CITY FL	<i>[Signature]</i>	ADAMSHOMEBUILDERS@EARTHLINK.NET
4 <i>[Signature]</i>	2409 Anita Way, TV, FL	<i>[Signature]</i>	
5 Kathy Haviland	00B 284 Fruitland PK	<i>[Signature]</i>	
6 Brendell Campbell	3919 CR 673 Birkmoor	<i>[Signature]</i>	Brcampbell@comcast.com
7 TONY KAMUS	114 W. HOBLE AVE BUSHNELL	<i>[Signature]</i>	TKAMUS@201.COM
8 Ricky Bushing	308 Shipping Center Dr	<i>[Signature]</i>	
9 Stuart Fance	410 Vesta Fer St, Willwood	<i>[Signature]</i>	stuartfance@msm.com
10 RED CLARK	218 Tomkins St, Willwood, FL 34450	<i>[Signature]</i>	redclark@yaho.com
11 Kyan Meyers	102915 SE 15th Sumnerfield, FL	<i>[Signature]</i>	Kyan.meyers@secoenergy.com
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Date 9-12-12



# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



We support the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) in their efforts to attain designation in the Florida Scenic Highways Program for 62 miles of roadways throughout Sumter County. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development and enhance the traveler's experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1 GEORGE BOYDSTON	13525 E SHAWNEE TR	<i>George Boydston</i>	gboydston@gmail.com
2 DARLINEA DUTEAU	6185 CR 631A	<i>Darlinea Duteau</i>	
3 JAMES L. CONNELL	8400 CR 614A BUSHNELL FL	<i>James L. Connell</i>	CAPTAINCONNELL@gmail.com
4 MARY E. WOLFERT	6075 CR 575 BUSHNELL FL	<i>Mary E. Wolfert</i>	
5 CHUCK BOYD	6341 GLANCHESTER DRIVE FREDERICK	<i>Chuck Boyd</i>	
6 DAVID BIRCHMORE SR	9160 CR 128C WILDWOOD FL	<i>David Birchmore Sr</i>	
7 DAVID LAMB	500 NEWELL MILL RD #113C	<i>David Lamb</i>	
8 JOHN FORBES	7000x 1122 Bushnell	<i>John Forbes</i>	JFORBES01@CFE.RR.COM
9 ELAINE MILLS	4108 SEYBOLD AVE ORL FL 32808	<i>Elaine Mills</i>	
10 WILLIAM FORBES	806 Grandview Ave AHSOS FL	<i>William Forbes</i>	
11 TOR MILLER	448 Forest Farm RR GA	<i>Tor Miller</i>	
12 DEBBIE SMITH	2 Empress LA. Palm Coast FL 32164	<i>Debbie Smith</i>	
13 STEVE BRANER	719 Bistline Ave Longwood FL 32750	<i>Steve Braner</i>	
14 LEANNE BERARD	801 Conalle on A19 Spcs 32714	<i>Leanne Berard</i>	conhonso@aol.com
15 CLIFF CURRANT	7613 CR 659 Bushnell FL 33513	<i>Cliff Curren</i>	
16 JOHN BRINSON	2031 CR 546 BUSHNELL, FL	<i>John Brinson</i>	
17 SHANDA BARNES	320 Woodland Trl, Lady Lake, FL 32159	<i>Shanda Barnes</i>	
18 SHELBY VERNON	7537 CR 133 WILDWOOD	<i>Shelby Vernon</i>	INFG@SHAWNEE+REALTY.COM
19 BRANDY MATZKE	3808 E CR 462 WILDWOOD	<i>Brandy Matzke</i>	
20 ANIQUE KIBBLER	6115 CR 681 Webster	<i>Anique Kibbler</i>	
21 CHELSEA NETZER	11895 SW 36 ter Webster	<i>Chelsea Netzer</i>	
22 CONNOR MAHAN	10672 South Zeppelin Terr Floral City FL 34436	<i>Connor Mahan</i>	magir141@aol.com
23 KEN CLARK	6222 SE 20th Street Bushnell	<i>Ken Clark</i>	
24 TED CRAFTON	214 Tompkins St. Inverness FL 34450	<i>Ted Crafton</i>	
25	1003 N. West St Bushnell	<i>Ted Crafton</i>	

Date 11-23-2012



# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



We support the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) in their efforts to attain designation in the Florida Scenic Highways Program for 62 miles of roadways throughout Sumter County. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development and enhance the traveler's experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1 Cole Carter	1579 CR 543a Sumter	<i>[Signature]</i>	ccarter@kop.gov
2 MARY MOESSINGER	8235 CR 620 Bushnell	<i>[Signature]</i>	marymar@centurylink.net
3 PAT CONWELL	8400 CR 614A Bushnell FL	<i>[Signature]</i>	PAT.CONWELL8400@gmail.com
4 KATHY SIMMONS	4282 CR 317 B Bushnell	<i>[Signature]</i>	
5 TOMMIE DEANER	P.O. Box 222 Center Hill	<i>[Signature]</i>	
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Date 11-3-2012



# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



We support the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) in their efforts to attain designation in the Florida Scenic Highways Program for 62 miles of roadways throughout Sumter County. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development and enhance the traveler's experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

	Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1	James E Wade, III	2787 SW 70th Drive, Bushnell, FL	<i>James E Wade</i>	Jameswade@wadelaw.US
2	Susan Davis	7210 Hogs Road, Honey, FL 34737	<i>Susan Davis</i>	Sueclawis@wadelaw.US
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Date 11-30-2012



# Petition to Support Designation of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway



We support the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) in their efforts to attain designation in the Florida Scenic Highways Program for 62 miles of roadways throughout Sumter County. This effort will offer new opportunities for local businesses, encourage economic development and enhance the traveler's experience. We believe this designation will benefit the local tourism industry and enhance the region for generations to come.

Name	Address / City and State of Residence	Signature	E-mail Address
1 Deborah Spinoso	6092 WC 476 Bushnell FL	<i>Deborah Spinoso</i>	spinosusbreeders@aol.com
2 Amy S Price	9864 S Bucksrein Av FL City	<i>Amy S Price</i>	HuyBARUSTORP@Gmail
3 Barbara Mackenzie	7550 SW 90th Ave Bushnell FL 33532	<i>Barbara Mackenzie</i>	forestedae@farm@aol.com
4 Nancy Ruzyczki	5536 CA 317 Bushnell FL	<i>Nancy Ruzyczki</i>	nruzyczki@aol.com
5 William MARX	9366 CR 649 Bushnell FL 33513	<i>William Marx</i>	
6 DORIS HONG	6139 CR 618 Bushnell	<i>Doris Hong</i>	DHONG6868@gmail.com
7 Ashley Herby	4128 WC 476 Bushnell, FL	<i>Ashley Herby</i>	aetherby@gmail.com
8 Robert PERK	5131 SE. 11th Dr Bushnell FL	<i>Robert Perk</i>	
9 Howard Julowski	1781 SW 70th Place, Bushnell FL	<i>Howard Julowski</i>	
10 Robert Demore	2549 EC 476 Bushnell FL	<i>Robert Demore</i>	
11 TRACY RADERMAYER	2454 SW 102ND Rd BUSHNELL FL	<i>Tracy Radermayer</i>	
12 HANNAH NEWCOMB	7586 SW 90TH AVE. BUSHNELL, FL	<i>Hannah Newcomb</i>	hannah_bluegrass@Gmail
13 Leslie NEESE	6272 W CR 48 Bushnell	<i>Leslie Neese</i>	
14 Nicole van de Valt	8555 SW 63rd Ave Bushnell	<i>Nicole van de Valt</i>	vanderValk76@live.com
15 Nancy Ramirez	8165 CR 635 Bushnell	<i>Nancy Ramirez</i>	hndc7exer@aol.com
16 JUDITH MORAN	5755 CR 631 C Bushnell	<i>Judith Moran</i>	
17 Gabrielle Stephens	15381 Day Road Brooksville FL	<i>Gabrielle Stephens</i>	bellagabby883@gmail.com
18 Josh Spinoso	6080 - WC 476 Bushnell FL	<i>Josh Spinoso</i>	
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Date 12-10-12

# Appendix I. Action Plan

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
Corridor Action Plan  
Spring 2013**

<b>Corridor Improvement &amp; Enhancement</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Short Term (1-3 years)</b>	<b>Long Term (3-5+ years)</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
<b>Public Awareness:</b> Support awareness efforts for the purchase and increased use of public lands	1	1.1	Local, regional, state, County, CME	X			No funding needed at this time
<b>Historic Resources Preservation:</b> Develop and implement strategies to preserve heritage resources	1, 4	1.2, 1.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7	Local historical societies, CME, SHPO			X	
<b>Scenic Vistas:</b> Identify and advocate for the protection of outstanding Byway vistas	1	1.4	CME, local partners, County, regional authorities			X	Local, regional, donation
<b>Highway Beautification:</b> Support Byway litter control and "Adopt-a-Highway" programs	1, 3	1.6, 3.2	County, CME, local partners		X		County, FDOT
<b>Wayfinding:</b> Support community "Wayfinding" programs	2	2.1	FDOT, County, CME	X			State, local
<b>Byway Safety:</b> Support efforts to identify, prioritize and fund safety improvements on the Byway	2	2.2, 2.3	County, LSMPO, FDOT, CME	X	X		Local, state & federal
<b>Multimodal Transportation:</b> Support user groups that advocate for alternative transportation modes	2	2.4	Local partners, CME			X	Federal, state, private

**Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway  
Corridor Action Plan  
Spring 2013**

Promotion & Community Participation	Goals	Objectives	Responsible Parties	Ongoing	Short Term (1-3 years)	Long Term (3-5+ years)	Funding Source
<b>Agricultural Heritage:</b> Encourage the preservation of agricultural traditions	1	1.5	Local partners, CME			X	Donations, grants
<b>Community Involvement:</b> Byway promotion through participation, education and partnerships	3	3.1	CME	X			Donations, grants
<b>Community Partnerships:</b> Identify & support advocacy groups with similar missions	3, 4, 5	3.3, 4.6, 5.1	CME, Local partners	X	X		No funding needed at this time
<b>Government Officials:</b> Communicate the Byway's Mission to decision makers	3	3.4	CME	X			Donations, grants
<b>Community Awareness:</b> Implement a Byway awareness program	3, 4	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.8	CME	X	X		Donations, grants
<b>Corridor Promotion:</b> Encourage promotion of Byway resources	5	5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5	CME, local partners	X	X		No funding needed at this time

Administrative & Program Coordination	Goals	Objectives	Responsible Parties	Ongoing	Short Term (1-3 years)	Long Term (3-5+ years)	Funding Source
<b>Organizational Structure:</b> Implement organizational strategies for long term success	6	6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5	CME	X			Donations
<b>Records Management:</b> Maintain CME files and other Byway documentation	6	6.1	CME	X			Donations