

Florida Scenic Highways Program

SHAC Meeting Minutes



When: 1:30pm – 3:00pm (est)
April 17th, 2013

Where: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Marathon Building
2574 Seagate Drive, Room 252
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

A Scenic Highways Advisory Committee (SHAC) meeting was held on Wednesday April 17th, 2013 from 1:30pm – 3:00 pm at the Marathon Building in Tallahassee, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to provide program updates to current SHAC members and review the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Designation Application.

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting opened with meeting attendee introductions:

- Robin Birdsong, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Jeannette Hallock-Solomon, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
- Robert Jones, Department of State
- Anne Glick, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Keith Bettcher, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Jeff Caster, State Scenic Highways Coordinator
- J. Travis Johnson, TranSystems
- Paul D. Remis, Commissioner, City of Webster

On Phone:

- Mike Palozzi, CBI
- Garry Balogh, District 5 DSHC
- Bob Fink, Atkins
- Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway CAG
- Wanda Maloney, Corridor Solutions



SHAC Members not in Attendance:

- Brian Telfair, Federal Highway Administration (comments on Scenic Sumter's designation application were provided)
- David Dodd, VISIT FLORIDA

General Program Updates

- **Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP) Work Plan and FSHP ROI update**

Provided status report on the Return on Investment Study (ROI) and FSHP Work Plan.

- **Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Meeting Review**

The SHAC discussed the recent meeting with FWC and ongoing partnering efforts. Jeff Caster discussed the agreement to share information regarding birding trail sites and byway locations.

- **FSHP Website Update**

Discussion: Discussion on changes to the FDOT Website Policy and its impact on the FSHP website.

Action Item: FSHP will seek to receive an exception to continue to run an external FSHP website.

- **Greenways and Trails Foundation**

Discussion: Discussed recent meeting with Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, Inc. During this conversation there was a discussion about the benefits of working with the Greenways and Trails Foundation. There was a discussion on adding a representative from the Greenways and Trails Foundation as a nonvoting member of the SHAC.

Action Item: A member of the Greenways and Trails Foundation will be invited to join the SHAC as a non-voting member. The FSHP Manual will be updated to reflect this change.



Action Item: The SHAC and Greenways and Trails Foundation will get to know one another and find ways to support one another..

Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway Designation Application

I. Introduction of Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway from Dan McCormic and Commissioner Paul Remis

II. Review of Scenic Sumter Corridor Management Plan (CMP)

Note: The SHAC's review of the CMP was performed by document section. Key comments noted below. SHAC member grading sheets are attached to these minutes.

a. Corridor Vision Comments:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Anne Glick:** suggests that the vision statement should use stronger language.
- **Jeff Caster:** Likes that "economic development" is emphasized.

b. Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Robin Birdsong:** Noted that a component of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), is the Florida Outdoor Recreation Inventory (FORI). The FORI includes facilities provided by federal, state, regional, county and municipal governments, commercial enterprises, non-profit organizations and clubs. This plan may be helpful as the Byway works to catalogue existing land/recreational resources along the Byway (Goal 1, Obj. 1).

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/outdoor/scorp.htm>

Regarding Goal 2 – let me know if the Office of Greenways and Trails may be able to assist or direct the CME to existing resources.

www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com



- **Anne Glick:** The CME should consider using the *S.M.A.R.T. Objectives* process that includes outcomes and measures within the objectives. Would help as the CME moves forward with the Action Plan.
- **Jeff Caster:** Encouraged a partnership philosophy where the byway looks for ways to help their partners be more successful as a result of receiving a scenic highway designation.

c. Community Participation Program (CPP):

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Robin Birdsong:** Questioned why the Department of Environmental Protection was not listed as a byway stakeholder since Division of Recreation and Parks, (e.g. Dade Battlefield Historic State Park) is adjacent to the Byway. As they are mentioned in other sections, it may be appropriate to include them as a stakeholder in this section too. Bruce Whiting, the Park Manager, may be able to recommend someone as a point of contact.
- **Anne Glick:** Questioned whether there a specific Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) representative working with the CME?
- **Jeff Caster:** Encouraged the CME to emphasize helping others along the byway to succeed.

d. Local Support for the Corridor:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Anne Glick:** Found this section consistent with manual requirements but questioned how "deep" supporter commitment actually is for the Byway.
- **Jeff Caster:** Commented that there needs to be more business leaders on CME. The CME needs to work for the community, not be one more entity seeking support from the community.

e. Partnerships and Agreements:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Robin Birdsong:** The CME Partnerships & Agreements section lists more entities than are included in executed agreements (Appendix G). Will Appendix G be updated?



- **Anne Glick:** Found this section consistent with manual requirements but commented on the need to increase the number of partnership agreements beyond the current (four) executed agreements.
- **Jeff Caster:** The CME needs to increase the number of established partnerships. Of the four currently listed on page 3-9, none can provide much support to the CME. Where are the businesses?

f. Corridor Management Entity (CME):

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Robin Birdsong:** Typically the CME provides an endorsed agreement. Does one exist? In terms of a quorum, it may be beneficial to have a % of total Board members as opposed to no less than five Board members. This could become a factor if the CME only elects 7 of the eleven Board members.
- **Anne Glick:** Although the CMP contains operating procedures and an organization structure is there an end user agreement? Perhaps this still needs to be determined.

g. Background Conditions Analysis:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Robin Birdsong:** The description of Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation project (page 1-14) relates to Figure 6 but doesn't include the reference. As presented, Figure 6 is from the Heart of Florida Loop Corridor. The southern portion of the Heart of Florida Loop is known as the Coast-to-Coast Connector. Please let me know if you would like additional information. Both projects are part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan, which expands and promotes the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) pursuant to the Florida Greenways and Trails Act, Chapter 260, Florida Statutes. For additional information about the FGTS Plan visit www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com.
- **Robert Jones:** No bike lanes but CMP encourages recreational use.
- **Anne Glick:** Very well outlined.

h. Designation Criteria:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.



- **Robin Birdsong:** Universal Criteria 4 – As noted during the Eligibility phase, the General James A. Van Fleet State Trail is also designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Recreation Trail (NRT). This is an important distinction of exemplary trails of local and regional significance. NRT designation should be promoted, currently only 39 trails in the state of Florida have this important designation.
<http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/about.htm>.

Should you need it, the Withlacoochee Paddling Trail guide is available at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/guide/designated_paddle/WithSouth_guide.pdf.

- **Jeff Caster:** UC # 4 – Although American Indian names of places are discussed they are not part of story, resources, etc. UC #7 - Business owners need to be emphasized more? UC #9 - All parties listed will become competitors of the CME for limited funding. Need business owners & leaders on the CME.

i. Corridor's Story:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Robin Birdsong:** All elements of the story are present but the overall story appears to emphasize historic rather than scenic. This may be because the "potential story" the CME is conveying is a bit unclear and focuses on heritage aspects.
- **Jeannette Hallock-Solomon:** Liked that the story talked about the history of Florida during the time when Europeans and the Seminoles interacted. It also tells the story of a small town lifestyle in Florida.
- **Robert Jones:** Much of the story was covered in the previous application (Eligibility).
- **Anne Glick:** Text has a historic focus.

j. Protection Techniques:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Robin Birdsong:** There is a narrative description of the existing protection techniques in the document but it is unclear what protection techniques



will be pursued. Is there graphical support documentation (existing documents) of the techniques?

- **Robert Jones:** Comp Plan currently being updated at County level. Local ordinance could fill gaps when large development review requirements do not kick in.
- **Anne Glick:** There does not appear to be a direct link to protection language in the comp plan. Focused on the natural resource protection. Would like to see an objective dedicated to this goal (could fall within goal 1 – linked to goal 3 objective 4). Suggest adding an objective regarding sustainable nature based recreation. Reviewer encourages a focus on responsible growth.
- **Jeff Caster:** Recognized the high growth projections for Sumter County. Encouraged better enforcement of existing sign laws.

k. Funding and Promotion:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements

- **Anne Glick:** Direct National Scenic Byway (NSB) funding to byways has been eliminated. Need to seek/identify ideas for future funding opportunities.
- **Jeff Caster:** CME needs to help local businesses be sustainable. There is only one business entity (bed & breakfast) referenced.

I. Comprehensive Plan Relationship:

Reviewers were split on approving this section

- **Robin Birdsong:** Yes. The CME should continue to work with the Sumter County Planning Department through their developed draft of the Unified Comp Plan. The CME should also work to encourage preservation of the heritage resources along the Byway.
- **Jeannette Hallock-Solomon:** No. The CME has not amend the local comprehensive plan as required by the FSHP manual (map displaying the scenic corridor, a corridor vision statement and byway goals, objectives and strategies). While the Sumter County Unified Comprehensive Plan, adopted October 2012, does include policies that express general support of the Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway (including: Recreation and Open Space Element Objective 5.3 and Policy 5.3.2, page 4 and Transportation Element, Policy 2.2.4, page6), the comprehensive plan does not incorporate the goals, objectives and strategies of the Byway. I



strongly recommend that CAG work with Sumter County to amend the Sumter County Unified Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the FSHP manual. This amendment could be combined with other amendments the county does to the unified Comprehensive Plan. With the Byway incorporated into the comprehensive plan, future planning in the county must then consider the Byway.

- **Robert Jones:** Maybe. It appears that the CME is working towards compliance with this FSHP requirement.
- **Anne Glick:** Maybe. Reviewer would like to see stronger link with comp plans. CME should continue to work with their local governments to strengthen this planning process.

m. Action Plan:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Anne Glick:** This action plan needs to be expanded as the CME moves forward.

n. Comments and Recommendations:

All reviewers found this section consistent with the FSHP manual requirements.

- **Robin Birdsong:** It is still unclear why the CAG is seeking Scenic rather than Heritage classification of designation. As noted during the Eligibility phase, there are inconsistencies in references to the General James A. Van Fleet State Trail. This has not been corrected on pdf-pages: 21 (Section 1.3.1), 57 (2.13), Section 2.2, Section 2.5-Figure 10, 68 (2.23), 100 (Fact Sheet), 110 (CPP), and 146 (Attachment E). Please update. Instead of referencing the Trail Link website, the best web link for the General James A. Van Fleet State Trail is the trail manager's website:
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/vanfleet/default.cfm>.

The Dade Battlefield Historic State Park is part of the "Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage," which could also be promoted.

<http://trailoffloridasindianheritage.org/>.

- **Keith Bettcher:** Small Communities can benefit the greatest from these types of programs (FSHP). The challenge is to maintain the energy throughout the life of the designation. Work to become an entity that others seek out, not reliant on others.



- **Jeff Caster:** Federal classification map key is not legible. Bicycling routes map is not readable. List of stakeholders light on business. Example: there is only one banking organization.

o. Merits Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway:

- **Robin Birdsong:** Yes, Merits Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway
- **Jeannette Hallock-Solomon:** Yes, Merits Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway
- **Robert Jones:** Yes, Merits Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway
- **Anne Glick:** Yes, Merits Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway
- **Keith Bettcher:** Yes, Merits Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway
- **Brian Telfair:** Yes, Merits Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway
- **Jeff Caster:** Yes, Merits Designation as a Florida Scenic Highway

Closing Discussions / Next SHAC Meeting July 24th