

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.