

Ruscher, Brian

From: Alice Haldeman <alicebea@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 11:39 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Trail prioritizing

To: brian.ruscher@dep.state.fl.us

The St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop trail is an important and essential one for Volusia and Flagler Counties. I see this as a way to increase and improve nature-based tourism in our region, providing visitors with the opportunity to see Florida as the way it was and is meant to be instead of simply a theme park destination. It is being shown in studies that bike trails are an important economic boost for our State. Especially important is the segment along U.S. Highway 17 between State Road 40 and Putnam County.

I hope to see our trail project at the top of your list at your upcoming prioritization session.

Thanks -

Alice Haldeman

Ruscher, Brian

From: Andy Stout <andystout@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 9:54 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Trail

Dear Mr. Ruscher,

As an avid cyclist, husband and father I am requesting your help in making the River-to-Sea Loop Trail a reality. The value of a well-planned and fully completed multi-use trail system is crucial to our community. Many communities are becoming aware of the importance and benefits of multi-use trail networks.

Living in Florida provides us with a unique year round experience for enjoying and utilizing our trails. My wife and I love to ride our bicycles with our three young children. Multi-use trails help to ensure our experience is safe and enjoyable.

I ask for your assistance in helping to make the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop trail a successful and funded trail.

Thank you,

Andrew Stout

2307 Saxon Drive
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169

Ruscher, Brian

From: Anita A Rimler <anitaarimler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:37 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Urging completion

Of bike path Sea to River both my children and their families would come to fl More if there were more bike paths. All 8 of them travel to Areas with good bike paths As well as their friends big With younger generation

Anita A Rimler



- Ron Cunningham
- Executive Director
- Bike Florida
- P.O. Box 1425
- High Springs, Fl. 32655
- ron@bikeflorida.org
- 352-262-5798



To: Brian Ruscher

Florida Greenways and Trails Council

March 21, 2016

Subject: Support for the completion of the St. Johns River To The Sea Loop Trail System.

Dear Brian:

Bike Florida's week-long St. Johns River to Sea Loop Tour is one of our most popular and successful recurring tours. Riders come from all over the United States, and from around the world, to participate in this tour. This year we expect to double the number of annual St. Johns Tour offerings.

When we launched this tour several years ago, the five counties that encompassed this loop, Brevard, St. Johns, Putnam, Volusia and Flagler, signed an agreement pledging to complete a connected, off-road recreational trail system that would allow riders to transit the entire St. Johns River to Sea Loop without having to ride on surface roads that are also used by motorists. To date, only relatively small and fragmented sections of that trail system have been completed. As popular as Bike Florida's current St. Johns Tour is, we believe we could successfully offer even more tours and attract even more riders (customers) from around the nation and around the world if the long promised interconnected trail system were to become a reality. Therefore we would like you to know that Bike Florida wholeheartedly endorses and supports the use of SUN TRAIL system funding to complete the St. Johns River to Sea Loop off-road trail system. Completing this trail system would provide a wonderful economic asset to these five counties and open up bicycle touring opportunities to countless people who would like to engage in multi-day tours but who are reluctant to share the road with motorists.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ron Cunningham
Executive Director
Bike Florida

Ruscher, Brian

From: Bob Storke <rstorke@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 12:58 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Regional Trails prioritization

Dear Mr. Ruscher,

I would like to add my name to those advocating the listing of the "River-to Sea Loop Trail" as a priority trail in the SUN trail network for state funding. The five counties the trail runs through have been working to complete this trail for many years. This trail is a key part of five trails on the list as well as the East Coast Greenway. The funding of this trail will also contribute to the completion of the other trails.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert Storke

Ruscher, Brian

From: Bonnie Smith <bonnism29@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Bike/Recreational Trails

Hi Brian,

I writing in regards to the St. John's river to Sea Loop trail. I'm in support of this endeavor whole heartedly. We have nothing in this area where we can go out and bike or walk or run. I don't even have a paved road where I live. I have to drive 10 miles to get to a county park where I can walk/run. The obesity problem will never end if we don't give people a place to go and enjoy the outdoors. These paths bring people together and get us out of the house and able to enjoy other areas of town.

Biking, walking, etc. along route 1 is very dangerous. There is barley any shoulder in some areas and the way people drive veering across the white/yellow line makes me never willing to ride along the road anymore. Please know that my support for this trail is tremendous and it is only a win win situation for the community of people that live along it and all around. If we want to cut back on crime and improve our neighborhoods, this can only be a step in the right direction. It is a big benefit for all. I sure hope it can be accomplished because if not it would very very disappointing for our community. We need to move forward.

Bonnie Smith
5465 Harrsion Rd.
Mims, Fl. 32754



March 29, 2016

PP 2016-02

Mr. Brian Smith, Chairman
 Florida Greenways and Trails Council
 Office of Greenways and Trails
 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Support for the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail

Dear Chairman Smith,

The St. Johns River to Sea Loop spans roughly 260 miles and involves the collaboration of five counties and numerous other supporting agencies along the east coast of Florida. The planning area of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (R2CTPO) is home to approximately 150 miles of the Loop project and we wish to express our support for the project in your ranking process for SunTrail funding.

The concept of the loop trail was conceived more than a decade ago and was formalized in 2008 through a Memorandum of Understanding executed between Volusia, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler and Brevard Counties. Over the years, interested stakeholders have continued to work together in the planning and development of this regional trail. To that end, the River to Sea TPO organized the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail Summit held at Marineland in May 2013 and we continue to support and facilitate efforts to complete the Loop.

The River to Sea TPO and members of our planning area have worked in earnest to complete portions of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop, funding and programming funds for approximately 109 miles of trail. In addition, we completed a Regional Trails Corridor Assessment (RTCA) in 2015 to ensure we were strategically pursuing the establishment of regional trail alignments. While much progress has been made, there is still more to do and the RTCA has provided us with a clear understanding of how to move forward. Prioritization and funding support from the Office of Greenways and Trails through the SUN Trail program would help supplement the existing activities and advance the completion of trail segments. Please see the following brief overview of how this project addresses the criteria being considered by the Council.

Beverly Beach	DeBary	Flagler Beach	New Smyrna Beach	Palm Coast	South Daytona
Bunnell	DeLand	Flagler County	Oak Hill	Pierson	Volusia County
Daytona Beach	Deltona	Holly Hill	Orange City	Ponce Inlet	
Daytona Beach Shores	Edgewater	Lake Helen	Ormond Beach	Port Orange	

1. **There is documentation of a regional alliance that demonstrates broad and persistent community support for the regional trail system;** the executed MOU, ongoing coordination and regional summits reflect solid support for this regional trail network. The project also has commitment from the River to Sea TPO and many of the municipalities within our planning area. Segments of this trail are also included on the Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Alliance (CFMPOA) regional trails priority list for funding.
2. **The trail system encompasses multiple counties within the FGTS priority system;** the St. Johns River to Sea Loop spans five counties including Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, and Volusia. The alignments for all five counties are designated as Priority Land Trails of the FGTS Plan.
3. **The trail system serves as a destination and serves destinations;** Origins and destinations served by this trail system are numerous. There are environmental assets including U.S. and state parks, fresh water springs and the beautiful Atlantic Ocean; cultural assets including the Atlantic Center for the Arts; historical sites such as the Castillo De San Marcos fort in St. Augustine and the Casements (winter home of John D. Rockefeller) and a multitude of recreational opportunities such as the birthplace of speed (NASCAR racing) and the Kennedy Space Center. A more complete listing is available.
4. **The trail system supports economic development and tourism;** the St. Johns River to Sea Loop serves many tourism destinations including nature based activities as well as historic and manmade attractions. These attractions are all well supported with hotel and restaurant venues to serve trail users. This welcoming environment has been evidenced over the years by the successful Bike Florida riding events that have travelled through this area.
5. **It is demonstrated that the trail system is an off-highway facility enhancing safety for non-motorized uses by the public;** each of the partner counties are committed to providing off-highway trails as a part of the development of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop. In the River to Sea TPO planning area, the Regional Trails Corridor Assessment (RTCA) was completed to ensure there is a clear path for developing and supporting these efforts.
6. **It is demonstrated that there is prior and/or future public/private investment or commitment for the trail system;** both Volusia and Flagler Counties have shown a strong commitment to building and maintaining quality trail projects. Utilizing local funds, state funds, Transportation Management Area (TMA) funds, Transportation Alternative Program funds and developer agreements, local governments have shown a consistent financial commitment towards constructing and maintaining multi-use trails.
7. **There are committed operations and maintenance entities;** as described in the previous response, both Volusia and Flagler Counties have shown a strong commitment to building and maintaining quality trail projects.

8. **The trail system connects to and facilitates use of multimodal transportation opportunities;** the St. Johns River to Sea Loop provides connections to a number of multi-modal options including local transit service, airports and SunRail (the Central Florida passenger rail service). This provides opportunities for trail riders to access the loop from throughout the Central Florida area and provides mobility options after a long day of riding.
9. **The readiness status of the trail system is available with definable trail segments and project phasing;** as mentioned, the RTCA has provided a comprehensive assessment of the existing trail segments as well as the gaps throughout the R2CTPO planning area. The RTCA documents trails currently under development and is intended to ensure a strategic approach towards completing the entire SunTrail network within our planning area.
10. **The trail system is able to be substantially complete or fully programmed within 5 years.** 75 miles of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop have already been constructed and 34 additional miles are currently programmed for construction. With the assurance of additional financial resources, local governments within our planning area would be ready to advance the projects needed to complete this regional trail network.

I appreciate the efforts of the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation in advancing high quality trails throughout the State of Florida. I look forward to working as partners in this effort.

Sincerely,



Pat Patterson, Volusia County Council Member
Chairman, River to Sea TPO

cc: W. Dale Allen, Executive Director, Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation
Brian Ruscher, Regional Land Trails Coordinator, Office of Greenways and Trails
Lois Bollenback, Executive Director, River to Sea TPO
Tim Baylie, Director, Volusia County Parks, Recreation & Culture
Gerald Brinton, County Engineer, Volusia County Engineering & Construction
Gene Ferguson, TPO Liaison, FDOT, District 5

CITY of DeBARY

www.debary.org

· THE RIVER CITY ·

March 23, 2016

Brian Ruscher, Government Operations Consultant
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Ruscher:

By way of introduction, I am Lita Handy-Peters, Vice-Mayor for the City of DeBary. In addition, I sit on the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) that serves Volusia and Flagler Counties. While the City of DeBary, Volusia County and Flagler County have many transportation needs, the "River to Sea Loop" is a critical element for our region's cultural, recreation, economic development and alternative transportation efforts.

The City of DeBary recently completed a Master Plan for developing the area around the northern most terminus of the Central Florida SunRail. This Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Area is also adjacent to the terminus of the "River to Sea Loop." Needless to say, the City of DeBary is the epicenter of both the trail and the Central Florida Rail System. Based on the incredible usage of the current trail, we are excited by the prospects of continuing this trail along the pristine St. Johns River corridor into Flagler and Putnam Counties.

I look forward to working with you, the River to Sea TPO and other stakeholders to bring this critically important trail segment to fruition. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lita Handy-Peters
Vice-Mayor



March 21, 2016

Brian Ruscher, Government Operations Consultant
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Ruscher,

We are writing in support of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop. As you know, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop is a 5-county loop that encompasses Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties. This Loop has been a work in progress for almost 10 years and the 5-county region is committed to completing it. While much progress has been made, there is still more to do. If we are to fill in the missing links and make this Loop the economic engine it can be for our area of the State, this Loop must be identified as a priority by the State.

The Loop meets all of the following SUNTrails' major criteria for funding:

1. Documentation of a regional alliance that demonstrates broad and persistent community support for the trail system;
2. The system encompasses multiple counties within the Florida Greenways and Trails System priority system;
3. The trail serves as a destination and serves the destinations;
4. The trail system supports economic development and tourism;
5. The trail is an off-highway facility that enhances the safety for non-motorized public uses;
6. There has been prior and/or future public/private investments or commitments for the system;
7. There are committed operations and maintenance entities in place;
8. The system connects to and facilitates the use of multi-modal transportation opportunities;
9. There are available and definable segments and project phasing; and,
10. The system is able to be fully programmed or substantially completed) within the next 5 years.



We fully support the St. Johns River to Sea Loop as it not only enhances the area's economic development and tourism, but is vital to the local communities as well. The DeBary SunRail Station is located within 1/4 mile of a major Trailhead connecting the River to Sea and Spring to Spring Trails. We urge the State to keep the St. Johns River to Sea Loop a State priority for funding approval.

Sincerely,


Mike Brady
Council Member





City of DeLand

“The Athens of Florida”

www.deland.org

120 South Florida Avenue
DeLand, Florida 32720-5481
Telephone: (386) 626-7000
Fax: (386) 626-7140

March 17, 2016

Mr. Brian Ruscher
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

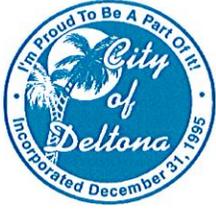
Dear Brian:

The City of DeLand supports the completion of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop and we believe that the project merits designation as a state priority for the SUN Trail System. The River to Sea Loop runs through DeLand and it also connects to the Spring to Spring Trail and the Rail Trail. DeLand has benefited from the eco-tourism related to the use of the trail. For example, many of the local hotels have had overnight stays and our area restaurants and downtown shops have been frequented from trail users. According to Renee Tallevast, Executive Director of Visit West Volusia Advertising Authority, “eco-tourism related activities are the most popular requested information when people call or stop in our visitor center.”

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Apgar
Mayor-Commissioner



City of Deltona

John Masiarczyk
Mayor

Chris Nabicht
Vice Mayor
District 6

Commissioners:

Mitch Honaker
District 1

Diane Smith
District 2

Heidi Herzberg
District 3

Nancy Schleicher
District 4

Brian Soukup
District 5

City Manager
Jane K. Shang

March 16, 2016

Mr. Brian Ruscher
Government Operations Consultant II
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection,
Division of Recreation and Parks
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Re: The St. Johns River to the Sea Loop Trail

Dear Mr. Ruscher:

The City of Deltona has been an active member in the Central Florida community to provide for all forms of transportation. As a large community with over 87,000 residents and 33,000 homes, our goal is to provide for as many pedestrian-oriented forms of transportation as possible. We have been a long-time supporter of the Central Florida Loop and applaud Volusia County for investing in the East Central Regional Rail Trail and the Spring to Spring Trail, the FDEP for the Coast to Coast Connector, and the River to Sea TPO for assisting us in the Lakeshore Loop Trail that further links this trail network. That said, the City of Deltona encourages the FDEP and the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to prioritize the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop Trail for SUN Trail funding that continues to support the expansion of an extensive multi-use trail network in Central Florida.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chris Bowley, the Deltona Planning Director, at (386) 878-8602 or cbowley@deltonafl.gov.

Best regards,

John C. Masiarczyk, Sr.
Mayor



March 23, 2016

Building
386-775-5423

City Clerk
386-775-5403

City Manager
386-775-5408

Finance
386-775-5430

Fire
386-775-5460

Human Resources
386-775-5457

Parks & Recreation
386-775-5454

Planning
386-775-5415

Police
386-775-9999

Public Works
386-775-5447

Utilities
386-775-5444

Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Greenways and Trails
Brian Ruscher, Government Operations Consultant
(850)245-2078
Brian.ruscher@dep.state.fl.us

RE: Orange City support of St. Johns River to Sea Loop as state priority.

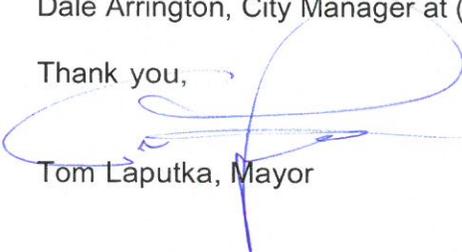
Mr. Ruscher,

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Orange City, Florida, please accept this written letter of support for identifying the St. Johns River to Sea Loop trail as part of the SUN Trail network, as a priority for state funding. We are committed as a region in supporting the completion of the Loop as an economic engine in our corner of the state.

Locally, the City has committed general revenue fund match for a \$3.0 million multi-use trail and pedestrian bridge, which connects Blue Springs State Park, the Loop and our City. Design and engineering are expected to begin within the next few months. The City does so, because of the eco-tourism opportunities that the trail network provides.

Please forward this letter of support to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council that is scheduled to meet on March 31, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Dale Arrington, City Manager at (386)775-5408

Thank you,


Tom Laputka, Mayor

Ruscher, Brian

From: obtokens@cfl.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 10:39 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: R2C Loop

Greenways and Trails Council and Interested Parties.

Florida residents in Volusia and neighboring counties are very interested in the completion of the R2C Loop. We also desire that it become a part of the Sun Trail System. The R2C encourages economic development as well as tourism and benefits all. Hopefully the Council will see the importance of connecting the R2C System and the SUN Trail System in the very near future. Your support will be appreciated by all current and future Floridians.

Clark Rohmer

JOHN L. MICA
7TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

www.Mica.House.Gov
www.Facebook.Com/JohnMica

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC ASSETS
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0907

March 17, 2016

Mr. Brian Ruscher
Government Operations Consultant
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
c/o Florida Greenways & Trails Council
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard M.S. 795
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Mr. Ruscher:

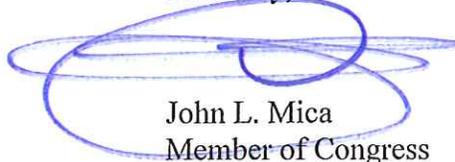
I am writing in support of the St. John's River to Sea Loop. With the funding that the State of Florida has set aside to build the SUN Trail Network, I believe that the St. John's River to Sea Loop should be identified as one of its priorities. The five counties -- Volusia, Brevard, Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns -- that signed a memorandum of understanding agreed to build this off-road recreation trail and are committed to completing the Loop.

It is my understanding that the Loop meets a majority of the criteria that has been designated by SUN Trail, including encompassing multiple counties, supporting economic development and tourism, connecting to and facilitating the use of multimodal transportation opportunities, serving as a destination as well as serving destinations and being able to be substantially complete or fully programmed within five years.

Again, I am pleased to express my support for St. John's River to Sea Loop and encourage you to give every possible consideration to their request for this application.

With warm regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,



John L. Mica
Member of Congress



City of Crescent City

3 NORTH SUMMIT STREET
CRESCENT CITY, FLORIDA 32112-2599

City Hall: (386) 698-2525
Police: (386) 698-1211
Fire: (386) 698-1212
Gas Dept: (386) 698-1486
Water Dept: (386) 698-2525
FAX: (386) 698-3467

March 28, 2016

Via US Mail and Email (brian.ruscher@dep.state.fl.us)

Brian Ruscher, North Florida Region Coordinator
Florida Office of Greenways and Trails
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

To the Florida Greenways and Trails Council:

Crescent City strongly supports the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop as a six-county Shared-Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail, within Putnam, Volusia, Brevard, Flagler and St. Johns Counties. This trail system has been underway for a number of years, with completed, designed, and planned sections – and has been fully supported via memorandum of understanding by all six counties. In fact, the River-to-Sea Loop received formal support from our City Commission as part of the justification for an enhancement grant application submitted to FDOT in 2011 for the design and construction of the trail segment through Crescent City adjacent to the SR15/US17 corridor. In partnership with FDOT and Putnam County as the LAP, we have already completed 90% of the design for the River-to-Sea Loop segment that runs through our small city.

Crescent City is concerned and engaged in advancing safe, efficient, and affordable transportation and recreational opportunities that support health, employment, and tourism. The River-to-Sea Loop will help address all of these concerns on a local and a regional basis. It will also connect St. Johns County, Volusia County, Flagler County, and Brevard County with Putnam County's trail hubs in East Palatka and Palatka, which fulfills the broader vision to have trails radiating outward from the Loop. These connections include the St. Johns River Blueway, the Bartram Trail and Blueway, the Florida National Scenic Trail, the Cross Florida Greenway and even the non-motorized Black Creek Trail in Clay County.

Crescent City is committed to supporting this critical investment in our greenways and trails network and will provide lead management for the portion of the River-to-Sea Loop that will extend through our city.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information to help advance the nomination of this unique and broadly-supported project. You may contact me at City Hall at (386) 698-2525.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
City Manager

Ruscher, Brian

From: Cyndy <cyndy.barrow@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 4:00 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: River to sea loop

Please support the river to sea loop I have used the trails and know many families that do. It is an asset to our county. Thank you. Cyndy barrow. 1375 conifer ct. Deland. Fl

Sent from my iPhone

Ruscher, Brian

From: Dale A. Edwards <edwardsdone@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 1:55 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Promotion of the R2C Loop

It is important to many, many Floridians and guests to Florida, for continued support of local trail systems. In particular, the R2C Loop as part of the SUN Trail Network. My mother-in-law was Meg Johnson, a huge supporter of the DeLeon Springs Park; we are amazed at the many visitors to that park. I'm sure the planned 260 mile off road trail system will also be a very busy and profitable addition to the recreation in our area. Thank you..

Dale A. Edwards

Ruscher, Brian

From: Dave Castagnacci <dave@daytonachamber.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 3:03 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Please help support Northeast Florida trails funding

March 28, 2016

To Whom It May Concern within the Florida Greenways and Trails Council:

Please help civic, recreational and government leaders of Northeast Florida in continuing construction of the St. Johns River-to-Sea (R2C) Loop, a 260-mile off-road trail that eventually will travel through the counties of Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties.

This trail is one of the most important resources to our communities' quality of life – economically, culturally and of course from a recreational perspective. It travels through numerous Florida ecosystems, historic and cultural landmarks, beaches and hammocks, tourist-related attractions and Florida communities. And the leaders of the impacted counties have demonstrated a strong commitment to the fulfillment of this regional network – already completing 100 miles of the trail.

The entire State of Florida stands to gain from the benefits and continued funding of this R2C Loop and I strongly encourage it to be included in funding as part of the SUNTrail System.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this most important initiative.

David Castagnacci
671 Wellington Station Blvd. #24
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
(dave@daytonachamber.com)

Ruscher, Brian

From: David Taurasi <dtaurasi@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2016 7:52 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Titusville Bike Trails

I would like to express my support for completion of the North Brevard/Titusville region bike trails. Specifically, **completing the St John's River to Sea Loop** is needed for the continued recovery of our region following the end of the Shuttle Program.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Dave Taurasi
3530 Travis Place
Titusville, FL 32780

Ruscher, Brian

From: Denise Toland <dtoland1@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 8:27 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: R2C Loop

Dear Brian,

I wanted to throw in my support of the R2C Loop. As a 39 year Volusia county resident I often run and bike on our beautiful trails. Completing this 260 mile loop will continue to help our 5 counties keep our "old Florida " alive!

Sincerely,

Denise Toland

Sent from my iPhone



East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Resolution #01 -2016

St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Working Group

WHEREAS, the ECFRPC is a Florida Regional Planning Council mandated by FS 186.504 and in existence since 1962; and

WHEREAS, the ECFRPC serves the East Central Florida Region and its seven counties of Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia; and

WHEREAS, a series of trails and trails-in-the-making make up the 260-mile, five-county St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop that encompasses portions of the 3,000-mile Maine-Florida East Coast Greenway, Florida's Coast-to-Coast Connector, and the Northeast Coast Connector; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop connects the St. Augustine to the Kennedy Space Center; major economic and tourist destinations in Florida; and

WHEREAS, counties, together with numerous agencies and nonprofits, have invested millions of dollars in the St. John River-to-Sea Loop; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, St. Johns, Brevard, Flagler, Volusia and Putnam Counties signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding committed to the Loop; and

WHEREAS, the SunRail/St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Working Group includes the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, MetroPlan Orlando, the Volusia County TPO, the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce, the Southwest Volusia Ecotourism Working Group, Florida Bicycle Association, the East Coast Greenway Alliance, Orange Cycle of Orlando, and Bike Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group and County Memorandum of Understanding are evidence of local and region alliances and support of the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop; and

WHEREAS, bicycling is widely recognized as a form of active transportation and eco-tourism; and

WHEREAS, the SunRail/St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Working Group acknowledges the link and positive impact SunRail linked with the Loop will have on the trail tourism sector in the region; and

WHEREAS, the ECFRPC, for many years, has been committed to the regional trails system, especially the St. Johns River-to-Sea Trail; and

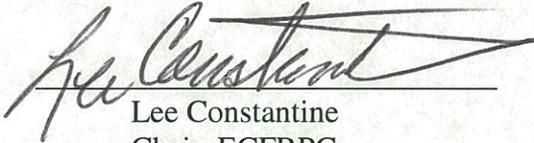
WHEREAS, the counties and the ECFRPC recognize that the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Trail provides ecotourism opportunities and improves the quality of life for residents of northeast and central Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council supports the priority ranking of the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council for Sun Trail Funding.

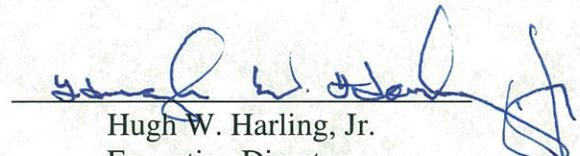
Adopted by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council at a regular meeting, assembled in Altamonte Springs, on the sixteenth day of March, 2016.

Attest:

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL:



Lee Constantine
Chair, ECFRPC



Hugh W. Harling, Jr.
Executive Director

Ruscher, Brian

From: Gerry Williams <gerswilliams@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 12:06 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: R2C Loop

For all the reasons you are familiar please add our family to the list of those who support the R2C Loop.

Dr. & Mrs. G.S. Williams Family

Ruscher, Brian

From: Harry Miller <handgmiller2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 5:52 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Bike Trails

Dear Mr. Ruscher,

My wife and I are casual bikers who enjoy rides both for pleasure and exercise. We are also “fans” of Pat Northey and appreciate all that she has done to add to the multiuse trails in Volusia County. In spite of her efforts, there are still trails to “nowhere” (dead ends). Anything you can do to complete and/or extend trails in Volusia County and/or the River-to-Sea Loop will be greatly appreciated (hopefully before we are too old to ride any more).

Many Thanks

Harry & Gloria Miller

Ruscher, Brian

From: Jack Salisbury <salisbury1@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: River-to-Sea Loop Trail

Hi Brian,

I hope that you will do whatever you can to facilitate funding for the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Trail. I had a rather unsuccessful knee replacement, so I will never use it, but I know it will be a terrific tourist draw and a real and lasting asset for Florida. The last few segments need to be funded to complete the loop.

Have a nice day!

John W. (Jack) Salisbury
5 Roma Ct.
Palm Coast, FL 32137

Ruscher, Brian

From: jeansimoes <jeansimoes@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2016 1:31 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: St John's River to Sea Loop Bike / Recreation Trail

I appeal to you as the Government Operations Consultant in charge of funding for FL. The St John's River to Sea Loop Bike / Recreation Trail would be a great tourist attraction, and a wonderful opportunity for residents also, to exercise with family and friends while outside enjoying our beautiful countryside. Please make our trail a priority. Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Jean
jeansimoes@aol.com

Ruscher, Brian

From: Jim Kotas <kotasgofish@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:16 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: River-to-Sea Loop trail is important

Hi Brian,

I wanted to ask that you keep the St. Johns River-to-Sea trail as a high priority for funding. This trail will be an important expansion of the eco-tourism and local community trail system in this part of Florida (Volusia, Flagler, Putnam and etc). By building these types of trails and systems for our own citizens and visitors we expand on the sustainable use and environmental protection of our beautiful area.

Thanks for your support.

Jim Kotas
Daytona Beach, FL
386 316-6060

Ruscher, Brian

From: jjmmusante@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2016 2:06 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: River to Sea loop

Brian, Just wanted to voice my approval for the River to Sea Loop (and any other bike trails, paths or routes). Having biked across country on the Southern Tier route AND having just finished Rt. 66 from Santa Monica to Chicago I can not stress enough on how much the individual bike routes add to a local economy. The traffic in and around the cities and towns increases dramatically when you are on these routes. From a local point of view to a tourists point of view they are the safer way to commute. Locally try riding the West Orange Trail or Seminole/ Wekiva trails before or after the school hours. They are jam packed in areas in and around the schools. Personally I take advantage of ALL planned routes when I travel by bike. I go between my house in New Smyrna Beach to Tampa fairly often and utilize the new Edgewater bike path, Osteen to Lake Monroe (Green Springs), Wekiva/Seminole, West Orange, Van Fleet, Withlahoochee, and the Sun Trails consistently. The beauty of being on these trails is almost immeasurable from a scenic and safety standpoint. The River to Sea will also be crown jewel for our neighboring counties and I am excited about having it completed soon.

Thanking-you in advance for any and all input you can provide.

Sincerely, Jim Musante

Ruscher, Brian

From: JoAn <jgoss31@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 7:37 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Greenway Trails

I am emailing to support the funding for the Volusia & Flagler County Greenways and Trails for bicycling. Please prioritize the River-to-Sea Trails.

Thank you, Joan Goss
Volusia County bicyclist

Ruscher, Brian

From: John Boyle <jboyle@altavistasports.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 3:51 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: River to Sea Lop

Mr Ruscher

Myself an active cyclist having a close relationship with thousands of like minded Floridians, I encourage you to be certain to make the River to Sea loop as part of the Sun Trail Network. The section from Rt 40 into Putnam.

For years 17 was listed on national maps as a bike route---bad idea.

Trails are essential for the well being of the aging population that Florida boasts

Best wishes

John Boyle
386 736 0002
jboyle@altavistasports.com

Ruscher, Brian

From: John Upchurch <John@odysseytravel.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 9:51 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: St. Johns River to Sea Loop

Hello Brian,

I would like to voice my support for the St. Johns River to Sea Loop. As a person in the travel business I know how important it is to have activities for tourists at your location to enjoy. Here in Volusia County we have so many great outdoor activities and the bike trail will enhance all the outdoor activities already available.

I personally am looking forward to using the bike trail with my son and wife.

Thank you,

John Upchurch, Owner/Advisor
Odyssey Travel
146 South Atlantic Avenue
Ormond Beach, FL 32176
(386) 672-8113



VIRTUOSO MEMBER.
SPECIALISTS IN THE ART OF TRAVEL

Ruscher, Brian

From: Joy Mottel <joymottel@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 10:31 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Support for the local trail system in Flagler County

I am writing to let you know how important your support for the the completion of the loop to connect the SUN Trail system in Flagler county is to our community.

I have lived in Flagler county for 15 years and I am an avid cyclist. I have been riding with a group of cyclists regularly (15-20)--our group consists of riders ranging in age from mid 50's to mid 80's. We ride the Lehigh Trail several times a week as well as riding the roads in Flagler county. With the increasing population we have found the trails to be safer and easier to ride. Since the trail opened the number of riders and walkers has increased significantly and will only continue to increase as more people move here.

Please, please, please support the continued development of trails for walking and bike riding! The trails are a wonderful amenity for residents, tourists and future residents.

Joy Mottel
18 Lakeview Lane
Palm Coast, FL
32137

386-445-3666

Ruscher, Brian

From: June Doll <juneidoll@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 11:19 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: R2C Loop Trail

Dear Mr. Ruscher,

I am writing to let you know how important the SUN trail network is to our state, our community, and me. I am a senior citizen and biking and walking the trail is part of my life. It is great exercise and a social outlet for me and fellow senior citizens. I live in Volusia county and the trail is not complete here. It will support our economy when completed. It will attract many visitors who will stay the night, eat meals, buy gasoline and more. Please make our section of the trail a priority for completion!

Thank you,

June Doll
333 Tropical Lane
Ormond Beach, Florida

Ruscher, Brian

From: Kathy MacMahon <kathy@kmclawfirm.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 8:24 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Support for the St. John's River to Sea Loop trail

Good morning, Mr. Ruscher-

I write to express my support of the funding to construct the St. John's River to Sea Loop trail in Titusville. I personally think that the trail system is fantastic. I use it and I know that thousands of others in my area, as well as our visitors, would take advantage of the loop and the fabulous Cape Canaveral National Seashore. Furthermore, I urge you to advise the council on March 31st to make it a top priority to fund this loop through the SUN Trail System.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic bike ride in the near future!!

Best regards,
Kathy MacMahon
1114 Indian River Ave.
Titusville, FL 32780



From: [Kim Urdininea](#)
To: [Ruscher, Brian](#)
Subject: The St. John's to Sea Loop is a priority
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 10:03:12 PM

Good Evening Brian,

The St. John's to Sea Loop is important to Central Florida, its residents and its tourism.

You wouldn't dispute that it meets specific criteria for priority funding. Not two, but five neighboring counties have partnered for years through planning and implementation. Florida has been widely criticized in regard to pedestrian and cyclist safety while the beauty and abundance of our natural land begs for such exploration. The Sun Rail has provided public and non-auto travel options supporting locals and drawing others to Orange, Seminole and Volusia counties. The trail will do the same and encourage visitation from additional neighboring counties that is safe, entertaining and educational for families, friends and partners of all ages. Please put your support behind the St. John's to Sea Loop.

Thank you for your time,

Kim Urdininea
407-310-5849

7128 Betty St
Winter Park, FL 32792

Ruscher, Brian

From: Bryan Nipe <bnipe@lakemaryfl.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 11:48 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Cc: Jerry Mayes (jmayes@deltonafl.gov); Tom Tomerlin
Subject: Support for St. Johns River to Sea Loop

Mr. Ruscher,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Lake Mary and the value we place on recreational trails. Trails are incredibly popular in Lake Mary and our surrounding interconnected communities. The City is proud to have a section of trail, the Rinehart Trail and Trailhead, that connects the Seminole Wekiva and Cross Seminole Trails through the heart of Lake Mary. As you may know, Seminole County is working on filling in gaps on the Cross Seminole Trail to eventually connect to The 17-92 bridge over the St. John's River. Having the River to Sea Loop connecting to the north of our City will be an added amenity to the region and would provide our citizens opportunities to explore new trails across the river and I support this effort.

Thank you for your work on this important project.

Bryan R. Nipe

Director

City of Lake Mary

Parks and Recreation Department

260 N. Country Club Road

Lake Mary, FL 32746

407-585-1494

www.lakemaryfl.com



PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from officials regarding City business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may be subject to public disclosure.

**Lassiter Transportation Group, Inc.**
Engineering and Planning

Via Email: (brian.ruscher@dep.state.fl.us)

Ref: Florida Greenways and Trails

March 24, 2016

Brian Ruscher
Government Operations Consultant
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop

Dear Mr. Ruscher:

Lassiter Transportation Group, Inc. (LTG) is fully in support of completing this five-county loop. We have had the distinct pleasure of working directly with a major landowner in both Volusia and Brevard counties to further the planning and development of this loop. While it will be of significant recreational benefit to existing Florida residents, we are planning future access and amenities associated with this trail for future developments and residents for years to come. As a transportation professional also associated with new residential developments, I can confirm that the availability of access to such a major trail system has replaced the traditional golf course as an amenity sought by today's residential buyers.

We are equally pleased to report that the Brevard portion of the rail trail connection is well under design connecting the community of North Brevard County to Volusia County. Completing this system is really a manifest destiny of which the State, and particularly the Department of Environmental Protection, will always be lauded for their forward thinking in completing this key recreational linkage that will provide access to so much of the natural environs of Florida.

I understand that the application for funding has met the criteria for prioritization. Through the efforts of the several volunteer organizations of which I am an officer, past chair or member (Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation, Volusia/Flagler County Association for Responsible Development, The ISB Corridor Coalition, and the Central Florida Transportation Task Force), I can assure you that this project represents opportunities to improve safety for recreational users, provide enhance life-style through exposure to the outdoors through healthy exercise, provide educational opportunities for all who will use the trail, and serve as an amenity to visitors as well as existing and future residents, alike.

We appreciate your efforts and call on you to recognize the importance to our region and the State of expediting the completion of this infrastructure asset that can be enjoyed by everyone. Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

LASSITER TRANSPORTATION GROUP, INC.


R. Sans Lassiter PE
President

Ruscher, Brian

From: LindaLou <lindalou@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 5:09 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Request to prioritize our segment of the bike/recreational trails

We live in north Brevard county and are excited by the new bike trails that are being built.

Please prioritize this segment so that the St John's River to Sea Loop receives enough funding to finish this part of the project.

Thank you!

Linda Townsend
1790 Ponderosa Ln.
Titusville, FL 32796-1136

Ruscher, Brian

From: Loretta Jones <lorijns@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 9:12 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Priority for SUN trail

I understand that there is a meeting of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council later this month to prioritize funding and that the SUN trail system is part of that discussion. I would like to encourage you to consider voting to prioritize the SUN trail system for expansion and completion. This trail system would be very supportive of the growth of the Titusville community & downtown area. As an avid bicyclist, I find it sometimes difficult to negotiate public roads that have become extremely dangerous for bicyclists. Every week I hear of an bicycle/automobile incident and they are never good for the cyclist. This trail system would allow myself and others to explore other regions on the trail system. We often stay in hotels and support restaurants & other businesses as a result of our travel. I am excited by the rapid progress being made here in Titusville on this trail, as evidenced by the northward expansion of the trail as well as an overhead bridge to cross a very busy road. Thank you for supporting this project.

Sincerely,

Lori Jones

lorijns@gmail.com

989-941-8252

Ruscher, Brian

From: Shorti,Lulu,Louise <redaunt39@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 2:10 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Greenways and Trails

I would like known my support for the completion of St John's River to Sea Loop. I understand your next meeting is March 31st, 2016. L Stone, Titusville, FL.

Ruscher, Brian

From: Marguerite Chalmers <mtchalmers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 1:00 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: St. John's River to Sea Loop
Attachments: IMG_7833.JPG; IMG_7834.JPG; IMG_7482.JPG; IMG_7417.JPG

Dear Mr. Ruscher

My name is Marguerite Chalmers

My family has lived in the Titusville/Mims
Community since the early 90's.

We are avid cyclist. In fact before children

my husband and I spent 3 1/2 years cycling around world. I am currently a school nurse for THS and my
husband is an Adaptive PE teacher at Oak Park Elementary school. We are very excited and pleased about the
current construction going on for bike trails in our town. It would be fantastic for our community if the state
would make the commitment to completing the St. John's River to Sea Loop. I believe, not only is it a priority,
but it will allow more of our local business to thrive.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Marguerite Chalmers RN BSN

Attached our a few pictures of our WBT

As well as a rails to trail my husband and I went on a few weeks ago

Ruscher, Brian

From: mpbclancy <mpbclancy@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:05 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Support River to Sea Loop

I just wanted to voice my support for the river to Sea Loop bicycle trails in Florida I fully support them and hope you will too. Thank you!

Maria Clancy
3149 Red Berry CT.
Deltona, FL. 32725

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Ruscher, Brian

From: Mev Waskiewicz <mev0910@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 3:35 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: SUN Trail Network

State Greenways and Trails Council:

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my support to identify the R2C Loop as part of the SUN Trail Network.

My friends and I are avid users of the current bike trails and loops in our area. I live in New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County. I enjoy using the new bile trail system recently opened in Edgewater as well as the trail in New Smyrna Beach near 44 and I 95. I have to go back and forth a few times to complete a fair number of miles. I anxiously await more connecting trails in our county. I often drive to West Volusia to complete the connecting trails and can do about 30 miles miles round trip. Its a wonderful oppportunity. I would much rather ride on trails than road ways. I have driven to Flagler County to ride trails in Palm Coast and a few months ago I drove to Jacksonville to ride the Baldwin Trail.....we shopped and went out to eat while in Duval County. I have also driven to Gainesville to ride the Hawthorne trail, my friends and I have stayed over in a hotel, shopped, and ate out. I am a member of the National Rails to Trails Conservancy and am seriously considering doing a Rails to Trail out of state as a vacation. Road Scholar offers many weeklong or shorter biking trips across the US, just think of the opportunities! By the way, I am a soon to be 65 year old female. I also just read in today's paper that New Smyrna Beach was recently named one of Volusia's healthiest cities along with Ormond Beach and Ponce Inlet.

I know we have broad support among elected officials in 5 counties in NE Florida to identify and develop the St Johns River to Sea Loop, a 260 mile off road trail. I appreciate the progress that has been made, but we still have more work to do. Biking and this R2C loop is part of an important "natural" recreation activity to locals and visitors alike. This area has a lot of natural beauty that people enjoy, such as fishing, boating, and biking. This nature based recreation industry offers a positive economic benefit to local economies.

In terms of economic development and tourism....it's a no brainer!! Just ride the Sun Rail and you will see people coming and going with bikes. People from Orange and Seminole counties and around the state visit our area for biking. I just returned from Pinellas County (St Petersburg) to ride the Pinellas Trail. The number of bicyclists and walkers was amazing. This kind of recreational oppportunity makes a great weekend or vacation destination.

I look forward to the R2C loop connecting to the SUN Trail system.

Thanks for your support.

Mev Waskiewicz, PhD
4220 Gull Cove
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169
386-478-9043

Ruscher, Brian

From: Mike and Lynne Kelley <mdltkelley@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 9:28 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: R2C Loop

Mr. Ruscher, my wife and I ride bicycles nearly 4,000 miles each year, mostly on existing trails. We support the R2C loop as part of the SUN Trail network and would like to see the funding made available to complete the trail. We frequently have to drive to Osteen, FL to connect with the trail there. We ride to Lake Monroe and back east to where the trail stops. We would like to have the trail connected to the Edgewater end and extended up to the springs north of Lake Monroe. The existing trails are wonderful. It is difficult to enjoy your ride with vehicles traveling 50+ miles per hour brushing up to you.

Any support you can give to these projects is greatly appreciated.

Michael Kelley
Lynne Kelley

Ruscher, Brian

From: Mike Grebosz <Greboszm@deland.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 3:51 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: St. Johns River to Sea Loop Support Letter
Attachments: River to Sea Support Letter DeLand.pdf

Brian,

Attached is the City of DeLand's letter of support for the St. Johns River to Sea Loop to be considered as a one of the primary projects for state SUN Trail funding. If you have any questions please feel free to let me know.

Thank you,
Michael Grebosz
Assistant City Manager
City of DeLand
Email: greboszm@deland.org
Phone: 386-626-7110
Fax: 386-626-7140

Ruscher, Brian

From: Nancy Katkin <veitch@ak.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2016 1:17 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Cc: Cathy Musselman
Subject: St. John's RIver to Sea Loop Bike Trail Funding Request

Dear Mr. Ruscher,

Please support funding for the St. John's River to Sea Loop Bike Trails.

Bike trails are a vital part of our community. They provide:

- Community cohesion
- Economic growth and development
- An important avenue for battling juvenile and adult obesity

I understand that the State of Florida has set aside funds through the SUN Trails program for this purpose. Please help us develop and connect the greenways and trail systems of north Brevard.

Thanks so much for your consideration.

Best regards,

Nancy

Nancy Katkin
3677 Oakhill Drive
Titusville, FL 32780
(305) 409-3609

Ruscher, Brian

From: Nick Pantloni <nickpantloni@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 2:19 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: St John River to Sea Loop

Dear, Brian, please help us to bring more bicycle trails to North Brevard County. As a 10 year resident of Titusville Florida, I would love for this city to grow enough for my son to grow up and WANT to stay in Brevard. I really believe that with the addition of such trails and the ability to bring fellow cyclists through our beautiful area, we can share our local beauty with others and invite more opportunities for economic growth.

We have such great natural resources that are barely tapped in Brevard. I am starting to see restaurants open their doors, and new businesses in the downtown area where I am meeting many cyclists from out of town who are already strolling through to visit.

Lets support our community by engaging in a beautiful, healthy way to tour Brevard County. Lets support our neighbors, businesses, and families and open up our community an adventuring community.

Sincerely,

Nick Pantloni

Patricia Northey

2310 Carson Lane
Deltona, FL 32738
386-717-0505

3/15/2016

Dear Members of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council,

I write to you today with some urgency. As a former elected County Council Member for Volusia County I worked with my elected colleagues in Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties in the Northeast region of the state to identify and develop the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop off road trail that travels through our five counties.

Our collaboration resulted in a MOU signing ceremony, held at the old fort in St. Augustine and attended by U.S. Congressman John Mica and representatives of all 5 counties that ensured that the counties would work together in building this important off road recreation trail. We have kept our word, meeting annually to discuss our progress and share our success stories. And slowly, but surely, through the dark days of the recession, each of the committed counties has moved dirt and built trails.

The St. Johns River to Sea Loop has been a work in progress for about a decade. While much progress has been made, there is still more to do. While there are many parts of the LOOP that have asphalt on the ground or planning documents awaiting funding, if we are to take those plans and fill in the missing links and make this LOOP a reality for our corner of the state, it is important that we have the support of the Office of Greenways and Trails for funding through the SUN Trail program.

A review of the 10 criteria that you will use to prioritize the regional systems for funding will show that the River to Sea meets all of them.

There is documentation of a regional alliance that demonstrates broad and persistent community support for the regional trail system; a signed MOU and annual meetings reflect the partners' agreement of the support for this 5 County Trails system.

The trail system encompasses multiple counties within the FGTS priority system; we are a 5 county system consisting of Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties. Many of us have additional commitments from the cities that are in our counties to participate in the system. Finally, when completed our LOOP will connect to many of the other regional trails systems such as Heart of Florida and Coast to Coast Connector.

The trail system serves as a destination and serves destinations; From the old fort in St. Augustine, through the county of Flagler, with its beautiful beach coast and on to Daytona Beach, the birthplace of NASCAR to Brevard County rocket launches and onto the beautiful springs that flow into the river on the west side of Volusia, finally traveling north to the great fishing in Putnam county and its historic cities, our area is rich in destinations, both natural and manmade.

The trail system supports economic development and tourism; Our LOOP serves a variety of tourism specialties. We offer the natural and the manmade. From conquistadors to astronauts; from race cars to river runs we have it all. Tourism is an economic engine for our region. And we are well supported with hotel and restaurant venues to serve the destination traveling public.

It is demonstrated that the trail system is an off-highway facility enhancing safety for non-motorized uses by the public; each of our partner counties has miles of off-highway trails with more coming out of the ground every year. As an example: In Volusia you can ride the Sunrail Train to DeBary and hop on to the Spring to Spring Trail, a 12 ft. wide off road path providing safe passage through the urban centers of SW Volusia County with just one road crossing from the SunRail station to the recreation trail.

It is demonstrated that there is prior and/or future public/private investment or commitment for the trail system; each of the counties has a funding plan to advance the trails system. In Volusia County we have a \$1,000,000.00 annual set aside from our voter supported ECHO Fund. This is used for match funding and/or for building missing links. In addition many of the member counties have agreements with the private sector to support trails development through their resources.

There are committed operations and maintenance entities; Please check us out! We have signed agreements with FDOT to operate and maintain.

The trail system connects to and facilitates use of multimodal transportation opportunities; I would invite you to participate in the next SunRail to Rail Trail 5 County LOOP Tour. Or do it on your own; the Q sheets are located on the ECRPC website; a safe fun seven days that uses multimodal elements to move through the region, including, in addition to the train, a ferry boat ride across Ponce Inlet. Bikes, Trains, Boats! In one LOOP experience. Our inaugural tour included the sponsorship of *Florida Hospital*, a multi facilities hospital group, committed to wellness. The links between the private sector and public sector along our Loop are strong and the tie in to wellness is important.

The readiness status of the trail system is available with definable trail segments and project phasing; the member counties of the LOOP have identified segments, alignments and phasing. As an example, Brevard and Volusia are working on the segment that connects our two counties through the Farmton development that has land in both of our counties. Farmton is a large tree farm (50,000 acres) held by the Deering Company out of Miami with

long range development plans that will increase populations in our two counties by thousands). As a private developer they see value in the trails system, the importance of the connectivity and are prepared to make land available for trail heads and trail segments. They were instrumental in paving the way for the original acquisition of the 50+ mile abandoned rail envelop that was the impetus for the LOOP!

The trail system is able to be substantially complete or fully programmed within 5 years. Many segments along our LOOP are already in place. Other segments are outlined in trails programs. In my county we have a 5 year plan, just like we do for roads. The southern leg of the LOOP is scheduled to be build out and completed by 2017.

Thank you for the work you do for the Council. Our State is enriched by the support for outdoor recreation provided by you and others. As an elected official I would often tell people that the trails projects that I worked on were not about my generation... they were about the future to come... the families and children who would use them for exercise, wellness and to just enjoy the great outdoors in this beautiful state of Florida. It has been my honor to work on this important regional project.

Sincerely,

Patricia Northey

Patricia Northey

Ruscher, Brian

From: Paula Wehr <paulawehr@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:31 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Support for the St. Johns River to Sea Loop

I am writing today to urge you to support completion of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop, a 5 county loop that encompasses Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties. We need your help in officially identifying this project as a State priority in order to be granted consideration for funding by the SUN Trail system.

The St. Johns River to Sea Loop, a regional paved multi-use trail systems meets the following criteria:

- broad and persistent community support for the regional trail system
- the trail system encompasses multiple counties within the FGTS priority system
- the trail system serves as a destination and serves destinations
- the trail system supports economic development and tourism
- the trail system is an off-highway facility enhancing safety for non-motorized uses by the public
- there is prior and/or future public/private investment or commitment for the trail system
- there are committed operations and maintenance entities
- the trail system connects to and facilitates use of multimodal transportation opportunities
- the readiness status of the trail system is available with definable trail segments and project phasing
- the trail system is able to be substantially complete or fully programmed within 5 years

Please support the St. Johns River to Sea Loop when you vote to set priorities at the March 31 meeting. Thank you for considering my comments.

Paula Wehr
1229 Londonderry Cir
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Ruscher, Brian

From: peggyay@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 7:31 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: R2C Loop

Greenway and Trails Council

Please identify the R2C Loop as part of the SUNTrail Network so that the loop can be completed. This is a wonderful way to support economic development and tourism. Most importantly it provides a wonderful resource for the many Floridians who strive to be physically fit and enjoy exercising outdoors.

Peggy Aycock
Ponce Inlet, FL

Sent from my iPad

Ruscher, Brian

From: Peggy <mathiesonpeggy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 7:55 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Bike trail

Good Morning, Sir - yesterday my daughter, 2 granddaughters, my husband and I went for a bike ride on one of the county trails. At the end of our ride, we had a picnic lunch. Our 6-year-old granddaughter announced "This was a great day!" They rode a total of 7 miles and thoroughly enjoyed every moment.....birds, turtles, canals, budding trees, and laughter. They can't wait to do it again. I ride at least once a week using county trails because our roads are so unsafe with drivers texting, emailing, calling, and aggressive driving. And my daughter enjoyed it so much that she wants to join me on my Saturday morning rides. What more could I possibly say to encourage you to continue the completion of the bike trails in Volusia and Flagler Counties?! Let's do this for our county residents and visitors. Thank you. Peggy Mathieson

Sent from my iPad



Putnam Blueways & Trails, CSO
P.O. Box 181, FL 32178
386-546-1668

putnambuewaysandtrails@gmail.com

www.Putnambuewaysandtrails.org

Tim Bailey

tbailey@volusia.org

Tim -

I am writing on behalf of Putnam Blueways & Trails, CSO (PB&T). We are a Citizen Support Organization founded in 2012 with a mission of protecting and promoting the blueways and trails in Putnam County. We currently have 170 active members as well as 1000 Facebook followers and 875 individuals on our email list for our weekly TrailMail newsletter. We were recognized by the Florida Wildlife Federation as their Environmental Organization of the year for 2015.

We, as an organization, are in strong support of the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop as a five-county Shared-Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail authorized by 2014 Trail Legislation: 335.065(4), FS. The region includes Putnam, Volusia, Brevard, Flagler and St. Johns counties.

PB&T is highly engaged in advancing safe, efficient, affordable and socially equitable transportation for health, job, recreation and visitor benefits. We host several events each month utilizing the current trails in the county and look forward with great anticipation to using the trails to come. Viewing Putnam County as a hub of several trail networks, we view the loop as an important portion of the East Coast Greenway.

PB&T is committed to supporting this critical investment in our greenways and trails network.

Please advise if we can provide any additional information to help advance the nomination of this unique and broadly-supported project.

Sincerely,
Kevin Sharbaugh
Chair of the Board
Putnam Blueways & Trails, CSO



Brian Ruscher, North Florida Region Coordinator
Florida Office of Greenways and Trails, Div of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Email: brian.ruscher@dep.state.fl.us

To the Florida Greenways and Trails Council:

Please accept this letter of support of the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop as a six-county Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail, within Putnam, Volusia, Brevard, Flagler and St. Johns counties. This trail system has been underway for a number of years, with completed, designed, and planned sections – and has been fully supported via memorandum of understanding by all six counties.

Tourism is one of the main focus areas of our Chamber, second only to economic development. A huge component of our nature-based tourism efforts is trails development. We have worked tirelessly for over many years to develop a master trails plan for Putnam County. For many years, we have seen ourselves and promoted Putnam County as a hub of trails in Florida.

This designation has helped trails within Putnam County (St. Augustine to Lake City Rail Trail, St. Augustine to Palatka and Palatka to Lake Butler trail sections, and the River-to-Sea Loop) to be ranked as components of the state priority trail system – some of which are fully completed and actively used and some that are fully designed awaiting construction funding. All are supported by the Putnam County Trail Master Plan, 2008.

The River-to-Sea Loop will connect St. Johns County, its beach communities, and the balance of the loop's communities of Volusia, Flagler, and Brevard with our hub in the center of Palatka on the St. Johns River. The hub supports a vision to have trails radiating outward and include: St. Johns River Blueway, Bartram Trail and Blueway, Florida National Scenic Trail, rail trail link to the Atlantic Coast, rail trail link to the heart lands toward Lake City, rail trail link to Gainesville, a link to the Cross Florida Greenway to the Gulf of Mexico, and finally a link to existing nonmotorized trail system in Clay County – Black Creek Trail.

The Putnam County Chamber and Tourist Development Council supports the advancement of the nomination of this unique and broadly-supported project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dana Jones
President



PUTNAM COUNTY

2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 200
PALATKA, FLORIDA 32177
(386) 329-0205

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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District 1

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District 3

LARRY HARVEY
District 4

E. WALTON PELLICER II
District 5

March 28, 2016

Brian Ruscher, North Florida Region Coordinator
Florida Office of Greenways and Trails
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Email: brian.ruscher@dep.state.fl.us

To the Florida Greenways and Trails Council:

Putnam County strongly supports the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop as a six-county Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail, within Putnam, Volusia, Brevard, Flagler and St. Johns counties. This trail system has been underway for a number of years, with completed, designed, and planned sections – and has been fully supported via memorandum of understanding by all six counties.

Putnam County is concerned and engaged in advancing safe, efficient, and affordable transportation and recreational opportunities that support health, employment, and tourism. For many years, we have seen ourselves and promoted Putnam County as a hub of trails in Florida. This has helped trails, within Putnam County, such as the St. Augustine to Lake City Rail Trail (St. Augustine to Palatka and Palatka to Lake Butler trail sections) and the River-to-Sea Loop be ranked as components of the state priority trail system – some of which are fully completed and actively used and some that are fully designed awaiting construction funding. All are supported by the Putnam County Trail Master Plan, 2008.

The River-to-Sea Loop will connect St. Johns County, its beach communities, and the balance of the loop's communities of Volusia, Flagler, and Brevard with our hub in the center of Palatka on the St. Johns River, as well as Crescent City. The hub supports a vision to have trails radiating outward and include: St. Johns River Blueway, Bartram Trail and Blueway, Florida National Scenic Trail, rail trail link to the Atlantic Coast, rail trail link to the heart lands toward Lake City, rail trail link to Gainesville, a link to the Cross Florida Greenway to the Gulf of Mexico, and finally a link to existing nonmotorized trail system in Clay County – Black Creek Trail. The historic downtown's of Palatka and Crescent City provide unique cultural and recreational facilities, provide excellent connection to disadvantaged districts, and a unique multi-modal connection with Amtrak at the historic Palatka Trail Station. This station is immediately adjacent to a completed section of the rail trail and approximately one mile from the Memorial Bridge over the St. Johns River – with its fully accessible multipurpose trail along the north span.

Putnam County is committed to supporting this critical investment in our greenways and trails network and will make it a priority to provide lead management for portions of the River-to-Sea Loop extending south of E. Palatka (the sections east of Palatka are under full management by FDEP, Ravine State Gardens). The County is currently assessing improvements to its trail management efforts.

Please advise if I can provide any additional information to help advance the nomination of this unique and broadly-supported project. I may be reached mobile at (386) 972-1324, and our community's knowledgeable trail leader, Kraig McLane, may be reached mobile at (386) 937-0522.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Laibl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "L".

Chip Laibl, Chairman

Putnam County Board of Commissioners

Ruscher, Brian

From: RANDY THOMAS <randytone@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 8:30 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Support for the River-to-Sea-Loop

Dear Mr Ruscher,

I'm writing to voice my support for the River to Sea Loop and trail system. My wife and I are recreational cyclists and use the West Volusia trails extensively from DeLeon Springs to the St Johns in Osteen and have enjoyed them so much. It's wonderful to have that much beautiful, safe access to nature and exercise. WE are also both physical therapists and have treated several patients that have been hit by cars riding on the streets. We've cycled all over the country and on many occasions I've commented that our trails are as beautiful in their own way as any trails we've seen. I fully support the funding and construction of the remaining segments of the River-to-Sea-Loop and think that they're great for our community and thank you for your efforts in this issue.

Respectfully,

Randy Thomas



Florida House of Representatives

Representative David Santiago

District 27

March 16, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: River to Sea Loop

To Whom It May Concern,

The 5 county partnership that makes up the River to Sea Loop has demonstrated their desire to continue to work together on this project through a signed MOU and annual meetings. Commitment to building and maintaining the trail is evidenced by the use of set aside funding to build the bones.

The R2C is multimodal. The Sunrail, trails and Ferry across Ponce Inlet makes us very unique. The Loop supports economic development and is considered by many a destination point. Furthermore, the Trailsystem will connect to other important regional systems, such as the Heart of Florida and the Coast to Coast.

Should you have any further questions on my support for this project and its continued funding, please feel free to contact me at 386-216-9969.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Santiago", followed by a long horizontal line.

David Santiago
State Representative, Florida House District 27

Ruscher, Brian

From: legrants@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 12:44 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: R2C Loop of Sun Trail network - Example of Economic Impact in Deltona

Below I describe the economic impact that the Volusia County 5.7 mile bike/hiking trail has had on two condo complexes where I own 8 units.

I have owned my 8 condo units since 2006 in Lakeside Condo Apts and Edgewater Condo Apts in the Enterprise section of Deltona. Both condo communities are located at the base of Providence Blvd in Deltona on Lake Monroe. I am the Vice President of the Lakeside Condo Apts Association. Lakeside and Edgewater were seriously impacted by the real estate crash that occurred in 2007-8. Both had a significant number of units go into foreclosure causing serious loss of maintenance fee income. In addition unit sales prices dropped from a high of \$130,000 per unit in 2005 to a low of \$20,000 in 2009. Unit owners, like me, who were renting their units also suffered from a significant drop in rents from the high \$800 per month to as low of \$525 per month.

Since 2009 sale and rental amounts have begun to slowly increase. The most significant growth in sale and rental amounts has been caused by the construction by Volusia County of its 5.7 mile bike and hiking trail which runs along the border of both condo complexes. As a result of the bike/hiking trail, rents have quickly increased to pre-crash levels. Sales prices are also going up and are now in the \$55-65,000 range and growing. Also, I have been using one of my condo units since 2006 as a vacation rental. The unit is rented on a weekly and monthly basis and is advertised on vacationrentals.com and vacationhomerentals.com. I have always been able to fully rent the months of January-March but in the off season I usually filled only one or two weeks per month. Since I added narrative and photos of the bike/hiking trail to my advertisements my off season vacancy rate has dropped significantly. Last year my vacation rental had a \$5,000 increase over the year before. This year's bookings so far are exceeding last years. I am also finding it far easier to rent my other units faster and at the precrash levels. All this I attribute to the construction of the bike/hiking trail.

I encourage the State of Florida to complete the Sun Trail Network working with cooperating local governments. Florida is a tourist destination. This bike/hiking trail system builds on the tourist attraction to our State.

Richard J. Condon
187 Crystal Oak Drive
DeLand, Florida 32720
386 848 3468
legrants@aol.com

Ruscher, Brian

From: Fisher, Robin <Robin.Fisher@brevardcounty.us>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:27 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Cc: Newell, Marcia
Subject: St. Johns River to Sea Loop Support

Mr. Ruscher,

I am the Commissioner for District 1, North Brevard County. The St. Johns River to Sea Loop (SJRTSL) Trail, a 5 county loop that encompasses Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties, has been a work in progress for ten years. Because this trail system encompasses multiple counties, serves as a destination, supports economic development, tourism, enhances safety for non-motorized vehicles, connects and facilitates use of multimodal transportation opportunities, we see this trail as being vital to the continued economic development of Titusville and North Brevard County.

FDOT has begun construction of the portion of the trail from the Titusville city limit to the Volusia County line, which when completed will be maintained by Brevard County. The section from the city limit south to just north of downtown Titusville where it will enter the Merritt Island National Wildlife refuge is now under construction. This section of trail also includes a bicycle-pedestrian bridge over Garden Street (SR-406). It will pass directly by a new storm water park that is under construction and when finished will serve as a major trail head of the Loop Trail as well as the Coast-to-Coast Connector Trail.

We are fortunate that the section of the SJRTSL Trail from Titusville into Volusia County corresponds to the Coast-to-Coast Connector. Brevard County has been transitioning its brand from Space to include ecotourism; therefore we see we see this trail as a major enhancement to the quality of life in Titusville and North Brevard County. Brevard County, Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization and City of Titusville are all committed to this project and look forward to seeing it come to fruition. I urge you to recognize the St. Johns River to Sea Loop trail as a state priority and use whatever SUN Trail system funds are available to assist in its completion.

Robin Fisher

"Under Florida Law, email addresses are Public Records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to public record requests, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing."



Be a gift to the world
DeBary-Deltona-Orange City Rotary Club
Engage Rotary Change Lives

3/15/2016

Dear Members of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council,

On behalf of the DeBary, Deltona, Orange City Rotary Club we encourage you to favorably rank the St. Johns River to Sea Loop for funding through the SUN Trail system. We have reviewed the criteria and believe this 5 county trail system meets each one of them.

It is of historical record that the 5 counties involved in the Loop have worked together for years on a regional basis. Members of our Club have attended the annual gathering of the Counties to discuss the Loop.

The trails systems here and around the Loop are economic engines for their counties. Here in Volusia we just completed our Annual 5K River Run, using the Spring to Spring Segment of the Loop for our runners. We hosted runners from across the country. The runners stayed in our hotels and dined in our restaurants. These are folks who would not have come to our community but for this race and these trails.

This scenario is played out all along the 5 county Loop. And as the system missing links close we expect to see increased visitors to our region.

Please vote to favorably recommend the St. Johns River to Sea Loop as a priority trail eligible for system funding through SUN Trail.

We have a saying in Rotary, "Service Above Self"! Thank you for serving. If you are not already Rotarians, you would be good ones.

Sincerely,
Patricia Northey
President Elect
DeBary, Deltona, Orange City Rotary Club.

Ruscher, Brian

From: Russell <RStubbs100@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 1:19 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: St. John's to Sea trail

Please support this trail at this time.

We find that the milleniels generation are bicyclists and if we want to grow and get better we need bike trails in our Titusville area.

Thanks you for considering my request.

Russell Stubbs
772 Plantation
Titusville, Fl

80 years old and still biking!

Sent from my iPhone

Ruscher, Brian

From: Sally Jones <Sally.Jones@BEYEL.COM>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 11:49 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Support for Completing St. John's River to Sea Loop

Good morning,

As a resident of Titusville in Brevard County, I am writing to show my support for completing the St. John's River to Sea Loop for the bike/recreational trails.

I understand that the Florida Greenways and Trails Council is scheduled to meet at the end of March and I wanted to make sure to show my support before any decisions are made on priority listings.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sally Jones

ExchangeDefender Message Security: [Check Authenticity](#)

Ruscher, Brian

From: LegalSandy@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: St. Johns River to Sea Loop

Dear Mr. Ruscher:

I am writing to ask that the St. Johns River to Sea Loop be identified as a priority for funding.

I am writing not just on behalf of myself as a cyclist, but for my community and my region. I also have in mind, my neighbors in this area who were not involved in bicycling until the Central FL Regional Rail Trail was constructed close by. Within days after the trail was opened, people who had not biked for years were using the trail and wondering when the next segments would be opened!

I have lived in West Volusia County for 15 years and it seems nearly that long, that local activists and far-sighted people such as Pat Northey and Herb Hiller have been spearheading the River to Sea Loop. My husband and I rode on the inaugural ride a few years back with people from all over the region. There we met elected officials from Brevard County and WOW--there were some happy people on that ride -- happy to see what was coming with this five-county loop in place.

We also attended the ceremony when the MOU was signed; again, we met officials from St. Johns County as well as others, all of them looking ahead to the benefits this trail would bring to our area.

My husband and I have been cyclists for 20 years and we know first-hand, what a difference this will make to our area. We ride with a bike club and we know many people who travel to ride trails, including ourselves. But we need to fill in the missing links, and soon!!

Please do all you can to see that River to Sea Loop becomes the destination we know it will be, for locals and tourists alike.

Sandra Walters
480 Warrior Trail
Enterprise, FL 32725

Ruscher, Brian

From: Sarah Thomas <sarahthomaspt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 5:21 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: River-to-Sea-Loop

Dear Mr Ruscher,

I am excited about the opportunity to let you know how much we value our recreational trail system and fully support the funding and construction of the remaining segments of the River-to-Sea-Loop. My husband and I ride the trail in West Volusia County every weekend that we are in town. Being avid bicyclist since our college days in the 1970's we appreciate the access to safe paved trails (with no cars), with decent milage (25-35 miles) and in beautiful areas of nature. We enthusiastically await any new segments that are available.

Thank you for you consideration and assistance to making this a reality!

Respectfully,

Sarah Thomas

Ruscher, Brian

From: Sandra Gray <seagem@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2016 11:41 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Cc: cjohnson@debary.org; lhandypeters@debary.org; ccarson@debary.org;
rdwyer@debary.org; MBrady@DeBary.org; Stephen Kintner
Subject: Florida Trails System

Dear Mr. Ruser:

The trail system is very important to all of our citizens, both residents and tourists.

The River to Sea Loop as a part of the SUN Trail will hopefully be a priority for the state to complete. Our attractions of bike paths, walking paths and parks enrich the life of residents and attract tourists to see "the real Florida" a place of beautiful treasures.

I hope you will encourage the completion of this important project.

Thank you,

Sandra H. Gray
President, Blue Springs Alliance

Ruscher, Brian

From: Pamela Meharg <pgmeharg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 9:09 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Seminole Audubon Society comments for consideration at Greenways and Trails meeting

Dear Mr. Ruscher,

We understand that the Office of Greenways and Trails is meeting to consider the prioritization of funding for the SUN trail system.

Seminole Audubon Society has many members who reside in the southern section of Volusia County and use the sections of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop that are currently completed. We strongly support the completion of this trail as it meets the following criteria:

--the trail system serves multiple counties within the FGTS priority system --the system serves as a destination and serves destinations --there is documentation that demonstrates strong community support for the system --both economic development and tourism are supported by the system --the trail is an off-highway facility enhancing safety for the public --there are committed operations and maintenance entities --the trail system connects to and facilitates use of multimodal transportation opportunities --the readiness status of the trail system is available with definable trail segments and project phasing --the trail system is able to be substantially complete or fully programmed within 5 years

The ability of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop to meet the listed criteria should qualify it for priority funding. The portions of the trail that are complete are an absolute delight to travel and are well utilized, and we strongly support the completion of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Pam Meharg
Conservation Chair
Seminole Audubon Society

Ruscher, Brian

From: STEVE DOLL <techno333@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 12:15 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: R2C loop

Hello, Mr. Ruscher - A recent editorial in the Daytona Beach News-Journal by former Volusia County Council member Pat Northey points out the desirability of continuing to develop the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop that embraces five counties in Northeast Florida. While she very convincingly points out the estimated economic benefits, as a lifelong resident of the Daytona Beach area and hiker and biking enthusiast, I endorse this project for considerations beyond the pecuniary aspects. As development continues to impinge on natural areas it is increasingly more important to preserve and enhance venues that offer present and future generations wholesome and healthful opportunities for outdoor activities.

I therefore urge you to place high priority on moving forward with this project. Thank you.

Stephen L. Doll
333 Tropical Lane
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Ruscher, Brian

From: Suzanne Grill <suzgrill@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 11:44 AM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: trails system

Mr. Ruscher:

I am emailing to let you know how important the trails network is here in Florida. Eco-adventures and environmentally friendly activities are crucial, and so readily available here in the sunshine state, supporting economic development and tourism. The R2C Loop as part of the Sun trail network is up for approval and we are committed to completing the Loop, a very special place in Central Florida. Please support all ongoing efforts. It's contribution to mental health as well as physical, is undeniable.

Thank you,
Suzanne Grill
Holly Hill, FL

Go Green! Please do not print this e-mail unless it is completely necessary.

Ruscher, Brian

From: FREDERICK & SUZE PEACE <4sfpeace@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 6:56 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Please see that the St. Johns River-to-Sea Trail is completed

Dear Mr. Ruscher,

I read that you are a Government Operations Consultant with the state. We in Volusia County are counting on you and DEP to FINISH what we have so mightily begun, our St. John's River-to-Sea Trail project. This will increase our tourist-based economy, delight generations to come, and provide a real natural connection for our area.

My family and I have spent countless hours biking all the trails in the area. The safety of a designated trail cannot be underestimated!

Thank you,

Suze Peace
1571 Alanson Dr.
Deland, FL 32724
386-837-5469

Ruscher, Brian

From: sylvia camille <obgal@cfl.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 5:09 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: R2C Loop

Greenways and Trails Council and interested parties,

We in Volusia and surrounding counties are dedicated to completing the R2C Loop and having it become an integral part of the SUN Trail System. The R2C supports economic development and tourism and benefits local citizens as well as those visiting our area. We hope the Council will recognize the importance of linking the R2C system to the SUN Trail System in a timely manner. Your support will be appreciated by us and those who come after us, making our state a more welcoming place for all who enjoy nature in the great State of Florida.

Sylvia Rohmer



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Canaveral National Seashore
212 South Washington Ave.
Titusville, Florida 32796

March 15, 2016

Dear Office of Greenways and Trails of the State of Florida:

Canaveral National Seashore is encouraged with the St. Johns River to Sea Loop trail and looks forward to fruition of this five county loop that encompasses Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia Counties. We understand the trail complies with the following criteria:

- There is documentation of a regional alliance that demonstrates broad and persistent community support for the regional trail system;
- The trail system encompasses multiple counties within the FGTS priority system;
- The trail system serves as a destination and serves destinations;
- The trail system supports economic development and tourism;
- It is demonstrated that the trail system is an off-highway facility enhancing safety for non-motorized uses by the public;
- It is demonstrated that there is prior and/or future public/private investment or commitment for the trail system;
- There are committed operations and maintenance entities;
- The trail system connects to and facilitates use of multimodal transportation opportunities;
- The readiness status of the trail system is available with definable trail segments and project phasing;
- The trail system is able to be substantially complete or fully programmed within 5 years.

We encourage the State of Florida to prioritize the trail to be completed as part of the SUN Trail network. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to be a part of this important project.

Sincerely,

Myrna I. Palfrey
Superintendent



Our Partners: March 24, 2016



Brian Ruscher, North Florida Region Coordinator
Florida Office of Greenways and Trails
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Email: brian.ruscher@dep.state.fl.us



NEVILLE BREIDENSTEIN WAINIO CPAs

To the Florida Greenways and Trails Council:



This letter is written in strong support of the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop as a five-county Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail authorized by 2014 Trail Legislation: 335.065(4), FS. The region includes Putnam, Volusia, Brevard, Flagler and St. Johns counties.



VeloFest Community Initiative represents a large and active community supported advocacy organization in St. Johns County with reach into all neighboring counties. With programs varying from education to economic development, we have seen exponential growth of cycling and the positive impact it has had on our community in the form of both recreation and transportation for residents and visitors to various destinations including city centers, trail networks and natural amenities such as rivers and beaches. Our partnerships with both corporations and local community governments and law enforcement agencies has created opportunities to develop large scale supported projects for the purpose of creating safer roads and additional infrastructure for cycling of all types.



In a recent study executed by the National Research Center for the City of St. Augustine, 85% of 1,020 respondents across all age groups cited support for Bicycle and Pedestrian facilities and expenses related to them. This was above all other service option including additional vehicle parking. The local community is in support of this type of improvement and the daily use growth is increasing. Additionally with St. Johns County having the largest growth of residents 65 or better nationwide, access to active and passive use parks and trail networks increases liveability and viability of these types of expenditures not only justifying the cost but creating real returns on investment.



As a major destination along the River to Sea Loop, the City of St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beaches and beautiful rural communities of Hastings, Elkton, Armstrong and Spuds have taken tremendous strides in creating safe and inviting communities. Eco tourism, bicycle trail facilities, large cycling events and more will embrace and



support the completion of the loop through our county and communities. We know there will be an immediate, visible and quantifiable success when this loop is completed linking the ocean to the river.

VeloFest Community Initiative strongly supports the work of the Office of Greenway and Trails and is committed to supporting the relevance of park and trail facilities as they relate not only to recreation but create safe interconnected access to residents and visitors and offer economic benefit to all. We are encouraged by this opportunity for our state and are confident in the support from our region.

For more information regarding the "City of St. Augustine Citizen Review" please visit www.StAugustinegoverment.com

See you on the road.

Sincerely,

HN

Heather Neville
President & Founder
VeloFest Community Initiative
www.velofest.org
Director@velofest.org
(904) 509 6895

Ruscher, Brian

From: Renee Tallevast <rtallevast@visitwestvolusia.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2016 2:48 PM
To: Ruscher, Brian
Subject: Florida Greenways and Trails Council

Good afternoon Brian,

Please forward my email to the council members. Thank you.

March 18, 2016

Dear Members of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council,

For many years now the West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority (WVTAA) has supported the development of trail systems throughout our region. We are fortunate that the County of Volusia recognized the many benefits of trails for residents and visitors alike and made trail development a priority. Every day our visitor center personnel are asked for information on local trails for bicycling, hiking and nature viewing. In fact, we have a wall dedicated to trails information in our visitor center.

This October, the WVTAA is hosting the 50th anniversary of the Florida Trails Association in DeLand. The Association chose our area based on our trail systems. This decision by the Association is a huge compliment to everyone that has been dedicated to the development of our regional trail system.

We worked with, and supported U.S. Congressman John Mica, and government representatives from Volusia, Brevard, Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties who came together and signed a MOU for the development of the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop trail. The Tourism Authority, along with Florida Hospital and VISIT FLORIDA, financially backed two bicycling couples who blogged about their ride along the Loop trail several years ago to further enhance our marketing efforts. The St. Johns River to Sea Loop has been a work in progress for almost 10 years. There has been a lot of progress made on the trails development but there is much more to accomplish.

The WVTAA has seen the successful economic impact for our region by the trails development. Knowing first hand that visitors ask specifically about trails and seeing the usage every single day on our trails, we are asking you to identify the St. Johns River to Sea Loop as a state priority as part of the SUN Trail network.

If you require additional information or have questions as to our involvement and support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Renee Tallevast, Executive Director
West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority

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