ITEM XX:

Consider whether a 1.55-acre public underground utility easement under Withlacoochee State Trail (Trail) is consistent with the Board of Trustees' Linear Facilities Policy.

LOCATION:

Citrus County - Section 26, Township 18 South, Range 18 East

Parcel Identification Number: 1618991

APPLICANT:

Citrus County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (Applicant)

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

The Applicant is requesting a 1.55-acre underground utility easement for installation of an underground two-inch water service connection and an underground two-inch wastewater line connection. The proposed easement is located within conservation land currently managed by the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), under Uplands Lease Number 3876. The property was purchased in 1995 from Citrus County, Florida, under the Rails to Trails Program utilizing State Infrastructure Funds.

DRP consented to the easement in a letter dated November 12, 2019 and, in a letter, dated August 12, 2020 the Division of Historical Resources stated that the proposed undertaking is unlikely to affect historic properties.

Avoidance:

There are no other practical alternatives to connect to the underground water and wastewater lines. There are no known imperiled or other wildlife species that occupy the requested area.

Minimizing Impacts:

The lines will be installed via horizontal directional drill in order to minimize impacts. Access to the Trail will not be affected by this easement. The Trail will remain open to the public at all times. The Applicant will ensure that the site is clean from debris and be responsible for any damages to the Trail as the result of this easement.

Compensation:

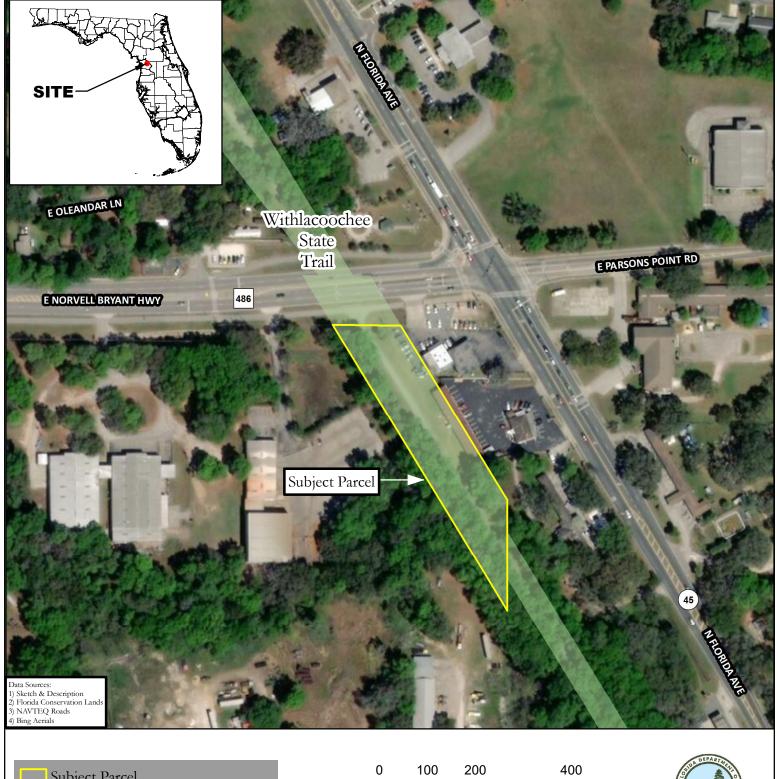
The easement fee will be based on market value and per the BOT's linear facilities policy, additional compensation, in the form of replacement land or goods and services, will be provided to the land manager at 1.5 times the appraised value of the easement.

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

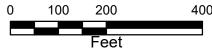
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ARC RECOMMENDATION:	
() APPROVE	
() APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS: _	
() DEFER	
() WITHDRAW	
() NOT APPROVE	
() OTHER:	

THIS PAGE AND ANY FOLLOWING PAGES ARE ATTACHED ONLY FOR STATE OF FLORIDA TRACKING PURPOSES AND FORM NO PART OF THE INSTRUMENT AND ARE NOT TO BE RELIED ON BY ANY PARTY.





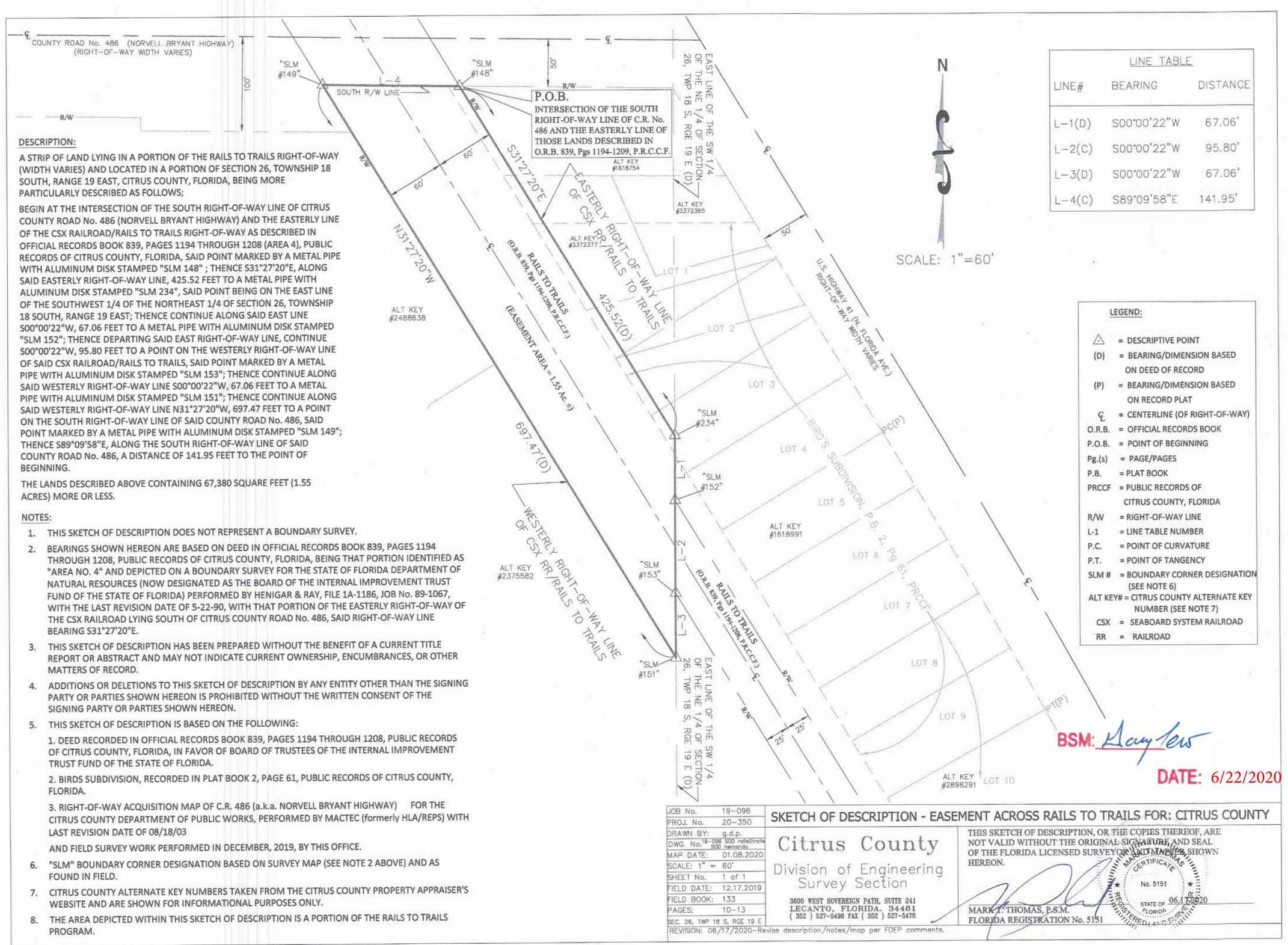






Easement No. 33354

Citrus County, Florida



O:\Survey\2019 drawings\19-096 HERNANDO MOTEL WATER LINE\19-096 SOD rails2trails SOD hernando.dwg, 06/17/2020 2:02:05 PM



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399 Ron DeSantis Governor

Jeanette Nuñez Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein Secretary

November 19, 2019

Citrus County Water Resources Utilities Division Attn: Gary S. Loggins, Operations Division Director 3600 W. Sovereign Path Lecanto, Florida 34461

Re: Withlacoochee State Trail - Utility Easement

Dear Mr. Loggins:

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), leaseholder of the Withlacoochee State Trail (Trail), has reviewed Citrus County's request for an easement and has determined that this use is not inconsistent with the goals of the Trail's approved management plan. Additionally, DRP has no objection to an easement for the sole purpose of installing an underground two-inch water service connection and an underground two-inch wastewater line connection in the area as indicated on the attached Exhibit A.

In an effort to minimize additional potential impacts to the Trail, Citrus County has agreed to install conduit sleeves for both water and wastewater piping in those areas where the lines traverse under the paved Trail. No trees will be removed during construction.

Should the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) recommend approval of the proposed easement, followed by final approval by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, DRP requests that the following Special Conditions (attached Exhibit B) be included in the easement instrument. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 850-245-2080.

Sincerely,

Diane Martin, Planning Manager Office of Park Planning

Diene Martin

DM/dp attachments

cc: Steven Cutshaw, Chief Clif Maxwell, Bureau of Parks, District 2, Chief Chris Raby, Park Manager

EXHIBIT "A"

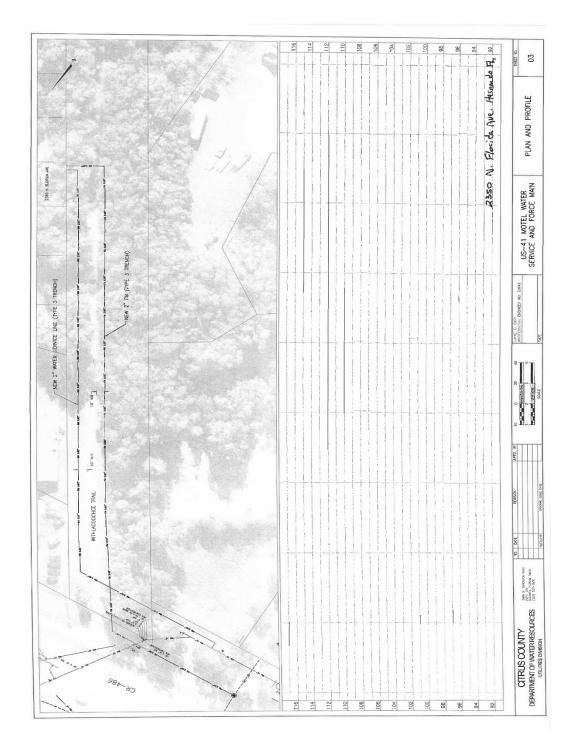


EXHIBIT 'B"

- A. GRANTEE shall, coordinate all construction activities (7) seven days in advance with the manager of the Withlacoochee State Trail (Trail Manager) or designee (acting in their capacity as Trail Manager) 352-726-0315.
- B. By issuance of this easement, GRANTOR acknowledges that GRANTEE has fully satisfied GRANTEE's "Net Positive Benefit" obligation to provide in-kind goods for the Withlacoochee State Trail (Trail) in the amount of \$______, in accordance with the GRANTOR's Policy for Incompatible Use of Natural Resource Lands (August 9, 1988).
- C. GRANTEE will contact the Florida Division of Historical Resources (DHR) to determine if a certified archaeological monitor is required to be on-site for all ground-disturbing activities. Further, GRANTEE shall provide written confirmation to the Trail Manager that the aforementioned determination from DHR has been obtained. Should an on-site monitor be required, GRANTEE shall provide one at GRANTEE's sole cost and expense. DHR may be contacted directly at (850) 245-6333.
- D. GRANTEE acknowledges that the Trail Manager has the authority to temporarily halt GRANTEE's activities if Trail Manager observes conditions that are unsafe for Trail users or could potentially damage natural resources or recreational facilities.
- E. GRANTEE shall work with the Trail Manager to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that Trail users are able to safely bypass the construction and maintenance area via an alternate open passage. The open passage shall safely accommodate all types of allowable trail-user groups on the Trail, including (but not limited to) pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrian riders. GRANTEE shall make every reasonable effort to minimize those time periods when the Trail must be closed to public use.
- F. GRANTEE shall not remove or destroy any trees, shrubs, or other vegetation where the project will take place, unless agreed upon in advance by the Trail Manager.
- G. GRANTEE, shall post and maintain signs on each side of the project site, notifying public visitors and users of the construction and installation work. Signs shall include contact information for GRANTEE's project manager, duration of the project, and warnings of any potential safety hazards. Signs shall be posted prior to the commencement of construction and shall remain posted, visible, and legible throughout the entirety of said activities.
- H. GRANTEE shall not use the Trail or Trail corridor as a parking or staging area for equipment, supplies, fuel, or vehicles during construction.
- I. GRANTEE shall ensure that all stationary and mechanized equipment to be used on the Trail has been thoroughly cleaned to help prevent exotic or invasive species from entering the Trail. The Trail Manager reserves the right to inspect and deny Trail access to equipment that has not been sufficiently cleaned.
- J. GRANTEE, at their sole cost and expense, shall restore or replace any and all natural vegetation (including groundcover vegetation) damaged or destroyed during construction to substantially the same condition as existed on the date of construction commencement, unless prohibited within the pipeline's alignment by regulatory requirements. GRANTEE's restoration or replacement of any damaged and destroyed vegetation (i.e., shrubs, trees, grasses) shall not be counted towards GRANTEE's fulfillment of their obligation to provide Additional Compensation (Net Positive Benefit). GRANTEE shall coordinate all restoration or replacement activities with the Trail Manager.
- K. GRANTEE shall install conduit sleeves in those areas where the water and wastewater piping will cross under the paved trail.



RON DESANTIS

Governor

LAUREL M. LEE Secretary of State

August 12, 2020

Ms. Angel Granger Bureau of Public Land Administration, MS 130 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

RE:

DHR Project File No.: 2020-4703 / Citrus County BOCC Project: AID 42136-Easement 33354-Request Citrus County

Installation of Underground and Wastewater Collection Utilities for Existing Development West of Intersection of CR 486 and US 41, Withlacoochee State Trail, Citrus County

Dear Ms. Granger:

In accordance with this agency's responsibilities under Section 267.061, *Florida Statutes*, we reviewed the referenced easement request.

The Withlacoochee State Trail is recorded as 8CI00335 and has been evaluated as not eligible for the *National Register of Historic Places*. In addition, the proposed project will have no permanent impact to use of the trail. It is the opinion of this office that the proposed undertaking is unlikely to affect historic properties, provided that the applicant makes contingency plans in the case of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities within the easement area:

• If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the easement area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850) 245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Robin Jackson, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at robin.jackson@dos.myflorida.com, or at 850.245.6496, or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D.

Director, Division of Historical Resources and

State Historic Preservation Officer