

Board of
Directors

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Kent McWaters, Vice Chair
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A regional coalition of TAMPA BAY

March 21, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Bike/Walk Tampa Bay strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority segment for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County and will eventually reach the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,


Jane Castor, Chair


Kent McWaters, Vice Chair



October 16, 2013

Sarasota Board of County Commissioners
1660 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34236

City of Sarasota Commissioners
1565 1st Street
Sarasota, FL 34236

Commissioners:

The Bike / Walk Venice project team fully supports the extension of the Legacy Trail north and west from its current northern terminus into Payne Park and downtown Sarasota.

Bike / Walk Venice (BWV) is a team of volunteers who successfully applied for Bicycle Friendly Community status on behalf of the City of Venice from the League of American Bicyclists in 2012. Venice was awarded the designation at the silver level. This designation must be renewed in 2016.

Perhaps the biggest improvement in 2012 for the Venice area and for bicycling was the completion of the overpass that effectively linked the Venetian Waterway Park and the Legacy Trail. This provided the area with a "backbone" of connectivity that few cities can claim. BWV also identified improvements in education and encouragement as well as many other areas. But, no one can doubt that the Legacy Trail connectivity was the major improvement to bicycling in this area.

If the Legacy Trail can be completed, it will provide a walkable or easy bike ride between downtown Sarasota and downtown Venice. The completed trail plus connected links will become a dream come true.

Please take the first step in completing the Legacy Trail by providing all the support the Feasibility Study (that you have already approved) will need. Then, take all the future steps necessary to complete the Legacy Trail itself.

Best regards,

Monty Andrews
Chairman, Bike / Walk Venice



February 22, 2016

Ray Chiaramonte
Executive Director ,
Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)
4350 West Cypress Street
Suite 700
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Mr. Chiaramonte,

BikeWalkLee is an award-winning volunteer community coalition with 70 supporter organizations raising public awareness and advocating for complete streets in Lee County. Since our inception in 2009, we have been strong supporters of the vision of a connected and integrated statewide trail system throughout Florida.

We were an early supporter of the River of Grass Greenway, which both Lee and Collier MPO Boards have made a funding priority over the past 5 years. We also urged our Lee Legislative Delegation to support the 275 mile Coast-to-Coast Trail from St. Petersburg to Cape Canaveral National Seashore. Our annual letter to the Lee Legislative Delegation for the past four years has made bike tourism and the statewide network of bike/ped paths, now called SunTrail, one of our top priorities. (See links below to our annual letters.)

In the Fall of 2014, the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation CEO, Dale Allen, made a well-received presentation to a joint Lee/Collier MPO Board meeting about the vision of a statewide trail system. This vision **energized** the MPO staff and advocates in both counties to form a joint working group in early 2015 that developed the best route for a regional trail in Southwest Florida, called the Southwest Coast Connector (N2N). In early 2016 the Lee MPO submitted grant applications for SunTrail funds to undertake two projects on the Southwest Coast Connector--the Kismet Parkway shared use path in Cape Coral, which would be part of the Charlotte Lee Hendry Trail; and funds for the PD & E study for the last segment of the popular John Yarborough Linear Park Trail in Fort Myers. Other segments of the trail going through Lee County are either planned, programmed, or existing.

We see bike tourism as a winning economic development strategy for Florida. This lucrative niche market is especially attractive for international travelers and a younger demographic. With Florida's temperate winters and flat terrain, the potential for destination bike tourism has an enormous potential for high returns on our investment in Florida.

The \$10 million federal TIGER grant awarded in 2013 to the Lee MPO for its Complete Streets Initiative Project will be completed by the end of 2016, setting the stage for enhanced economic benefits from

bike tourism, which would be greatly enhanced by a trail system that linked Lee County to Collier County to the South and all the way to Tampa to the North.

Bike tourism is already gaining traction in Lee County with the recent completion of Cape Coral's 90-mile bicycle routes system. By the end of this year, there were be 14.3 miles of additional shared use paths as result of the TIGER grant, increasing the current connected shared use path system in the area (Lee County's Tour de Parks Loop) to a total of almost 50 miles. In addition, last year FDOT programmed funds to conduct a PD & E study for a shared use path that will connect the Cape Coral system to Pine Island, which already has a shared use path the length of the island on Stringfellow Rd. This new 2.3 mile connection will connect the 90 mile system in Cape Coral to the 5.6 mile path on Pine Island, creating almost 98 miles of a connected path system.

Commitment to improving our bike/ped facilities network and the safety of its users is a high priority by both the elected bodies and communities in Lee County, as evidenced by our growing number of communities designated as Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC)--in 2014 Sanibel was elevated to Silver status, and in 2015 Cape Coral was designated as a Bronze BFC. In the larger SWFL, there are two other BFC's--Punta Gorda, joined by Naples in 2015. SWFL has worked hard over the past seven years to develop comprehensive bike/ped programs, including expanding and improving the bike/ped network. SWFL is ready to take on the next big challenge-- the Southwest Coast Connector Trail.

In summary, BikeWalkLee strongly supports the Southwest Coast Connector, and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our region as the next portion of the statewide system to work on. We look forward to working with all the governmental and advocate partners in this regional initiative.

Darla Letourneau
On behalf of the Steering Committee
BikeWalkLee

Links:

BWL 2015 Letter to Lee Legislative Delegation:

http://www.bikewalklee.org/BWL_PDFs/Legislature/BWL%20LegDeleg2016Letter150920FINAL.pdf

BWL 2014 Letter to Lee Legislative Delegation:

http://www.bikewalklee.org/BWL_PDFs/Legislature/121914_LegisDelLtrBWL.pdf

BWL 2013 Letter to Lee Legislative Delegation:

http://www.bikewalklee.org/BWL_PDFs/Legislature/111213_BWL2013LegDelegationLetter.pdf

BWL 2012 Letter to Lee Legislative Delegation:

http://bikewalklee.com/BWL_PDFs/BWL_PR/121012BWLtextingStLegLetter.pdf

cc: Dave Hutchinson, Anthony Matonti, Don Scott, Anne McLaughlin, Bob Harrington, Brian Smith, Samantha Browne, Dale Allen, Ron Gogoi, Christine Small



March 17, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Sarasota/Manatee MPO's Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trails Advisory Committee(MPOBPTAC) strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select Southwest Florida as the next major priority corridor portion for the Sun Trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide both tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg, incorporating numerous trails that already exist along the route. It will then join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of connected trails.

The MPOBPTAC welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Thomas C Denslow

Thomas Denslow
Chair, Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trails Advisory Committee
Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization



March 8, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Cape Coral is Florida's second largest city by land mass offering a very special bicycling experience with more than 90 miles of 8 interconnected bike routes bordering nature preserves, scenic canals, marinas, golf courses and the expansive Caloosahatchee River.

Cape Coral Bike Ped is an advocacy group, begun in late 2012, working in partnership with The City of Cape Coral. In a very short period of time, we designed 90-miles of interconnected bike routes www.CapeCoral.net/Bicycling with distinctive Adopt-A-Route sponsored signage; raised the funds for these routes in 6 months and marked these routes in only one year--2014. In addition, City Council adopted the Complete Streets Resolution in 2015 and the City of Cape Coral received the prestigious distinction from The League of American Bicyclists as a Bicycle Friendly Community in 2015. We've come a long way in a very short period of time through this strong public-private partnership.

We strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding. This is an important component of our overall commitment to linking Lee Counties and, in our case, Cape Coral's 90-miles of bicycle routes to the larger regional network.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations. When completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

As I am sure you are aware, bike tourism contributes \$133 billion to the U.S. economy, see <https://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/us-bicycle-route-system/benefits-and-building-support/economic-impact/> . Linking the various bike

routes and trail will help us promote Cape Coral and Southwest Florida as a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community and region. It makes good economic sense.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn E. Conant". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Carolyn E. Conant
Head, Cape Coral Bike Ped
2616 SW 51st Street
Cape Coral, FL. 33914
ceconant1024@gmail.com
239-851-9737



March 8, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Chamber of Commerce of Cape Coral and its Board of Directors strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations. When completed, it would be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Donna Schuman Germain', is written over a white background.

Donna Schuman Germain
President/CEO



City of North Port

City Commission

4970 City Hall Boulevard
North Port, Florida 34286

Jacqueline Moore, Mayor
Rhonda Y. DiFranco, Vice-Mayor
Cheryl Cook, Commissioner
Tom Jones, Commissioner
Linda Yates, Commissioner

Tel: (941) 429-7000
Fax: (941) 429-7008
www.cityofnorthport.com

March 24, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Florida Greenways and Trails Letter of Support

Dear Council Members,

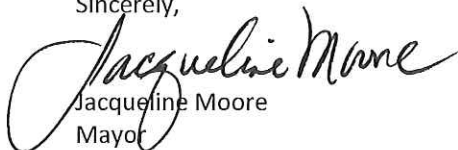
The City of North Port strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for multi-modal opportunities. As a high-ranking priority for Sarasota County Commissioners, substantial investments have been made in community outreach, master planning, and trail designs that offer interconnected trail segments countywide. Capital projects currently underway include implementation of the Myakkahatchee Creek Master Plan from US 41 to the North Port Connector Bridge which is a collaboration between the City of North Port and Sarasota County to connect North Port to the Sarasota County trail system and is part of the comprehensive trail planning system and future trail networks.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando Counties, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails. The Legacy Trail as it is today has over 120,000 users per year and strong advocacy groups that support the expansion of the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail.

The City of North Port welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and overall sustainability.

Sincerely,


Jacqueline Moore
Mayor

cc: City Commission
Jonathan Lewis, City Manager
Daniel Schult, Assistant City Manager
Ruth Buchanan, Economic Development Program Manager
Mark Moriarty, City Attorney
Helen Raimbeau, City Clerk



March 8, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The City of Sarasota strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Respectfully,

Willie Charles Shaw
Mayor, City of Sarasota



"City on the Gulf"

CITY OF VENICE

401 W. Venice Avenue
(941) 486-2626

Venice, FL. 34285-2006
Fax (941) 480-3031

Office of the Mayor

March 22, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee Florida 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The City of Venice strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,

John Holic
Mayor, City of Venice



Protecting Southwest Florida's unique natural environment and quality of life ... now and forever

March 11, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL. 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida, on behalf of our 6,000 supporting families, is dedicated to protecting the region's unique natural environment and quality of life. Since 1964, our organization has been an active participant in issues such as transportation planning. We recognize the need in Southwest Florida for a regional trail and pathway system which would allow the public to enjoy our natural resources in an environmentally compatible manner. A regional shared-use non-motorized trail system, such as the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail, would increase safety for bike/ped users, provide alternative mobility choices, offer recreational opportunities, and increase lands in conservation. When completed, it would be a part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Wildlife viewing is a billion dollar industry in Florida¹. In Southwest Florida, wildlife viewing is particularly integral to our economy since our region is home to a variety of unique native species and diverse ecosystems found no where else on earth. However, because our region is among the top ten fastest growing regions² in the country, development threatens much of our remaining greenspace. Not only would the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail provide safe non-motorized transportation alternatives for our growing community, but the trail system would protect numerous acres from development. The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail system would connect existing urban and rural preserves from Pinellas Trail in Pinellas County to Rookery Bay in southern Collier County and any purchase of additional lands to address gaps in the trail system will only place more land in conservation. This green network of connecting trails will facilitate the thriving of habitats for numerous native species and will provide additional opportunities for wildlife viewing.

Therefore, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida offers our support for the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail. We strongly urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to include our region within the statewide trail system.

Sincerely,

April Olson
Growth Management Specialist

¹ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Economics of Fish & Wildlife Recreation in Florida, 2011 data; webpage <http://myfwc.com/about/overview/economics/>

² U.S. Census, *Seeking the Sunshine: Six of the 20 Fastest Growing Metro Areas by Percent Change from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014 are in Florida*; https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/releases/2015/cb15-56_graphic.pdf



Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

I regularly ride the Legacy Trail both for club rides and with visitors from out of the area. It offers a unique experience for a great variety of users of all ages and capabilities in a safe and accessible setting, devoid of motor vehicles.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

This is an exciting time to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,

Dan Gulliford.

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

This is an exciting time to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,

David B Clarke

Sgt. (ret.) NYSP

Parrish, FL

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Interim State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

March 24, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Department of Health in Lee County strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations. When completed, it would be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Angela M. Swartzman".

Angela M. Swartzman, B.S., M.H.A.
Administrator, Department of Health in Lee County

Florida Department of Health Lee County

Main Office

3920 Michigan Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33916

PHONE: 239/332-9501

www.lee.floridahealth.gov

TWITTER: HealthyFLA

FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth

YOUTUBE: fldoh

FLICKR: HealthyFla

PINTEREST: HealthyFla

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Interim State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

March 18, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

As administrator for the Florida Department of Health in Manatee County (DOH-Manatee), I strongly support the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) application for funding to develop the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail. I urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our region as the next priority for multi-use trail funding.

The Florida Department of Health in Manatee County works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts. It is in line with this mission that DOH-Manatee supports MPO's proposal to create the largest network of locally connected trails through the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail. The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and residents a safe, travel network for leisure and transportation. According to recent data, 43 percent of Manatee County adults do not meet the recommended guidelines of participating in 150 minutes of aerobic physical activity a week. The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide the necessary infrastructure to support physical activity, such as walking and biking.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's overall health, bicycle and pedestrian safety, eco-tourism, economic development, and sustainability.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Bencie".

Jennifer Bencie, M.D., M.S.A.
Administrator/County Health Officer

**Florida Department of Health in
Manatee County**

Jennifer Bencie, MD, MSA, Administrator
410 6th Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34208
PHONE: 941-748-0747 ext. 1202 • FAX 941-747-7347

<http://floridahealth.gov/>
<http://manatee.floridahealth.gov/>

TWITTER: HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh
FLICKR: HealthyFla
PINTEREST: HealthyFla

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Interim State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

March 18, 2016

*Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000*

Dear Council Members:

The Florida Department of Health in Sarasota (DOH-Sarasota), strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

DOH-Sarasota has a long history of collaboration on projects that create opportunities to improve the health of our region. We look forward to working alongside governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Henry, MPA
Administrator

March 21, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Doctors Hospital of Sarasota strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Meade
CEO
Doctors Hospital of Sarasota

ECKALL DEVELOPMENT

200 2nd Ave S. #202
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

March 18, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Our company strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our region as the highest priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our state needs to keep pushing non-automotive transportation alternatives and we are thrilled with this effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,



Lee Allen



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Dana Young

District 60

District Office
Suite 202
2909 W. Bay to Bay Blvd
Tampa, FL 33629
(813) 835-2270

Tallahassee Office
322 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee FL, 32399
(850) 717-5060

March 17, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Please accept this letter as my show of support for the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail. I would appreciate the Florida Greenways and Trails Council's consideration to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando Counties, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If I may provide anything more, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Young".

Dana Young
Majority Leader
State Representative, District 60

Leadership and Committees
Majority Leader
Appropriations Committee



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Janet Cruz

District 62

March 24, 2016

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2221 North Himes Avenue
Suite B
Tampa, FL 33607
Phone: (813) 673-4673
Fax: (813) 673-4675

CAPITOL OFFICE:
1003 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5062

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Committee
Ranking Democrat

Health & Human Services
Committee

Healthcare Appropriations
Subcommittee

Select Committee on
Affordable Healthcare
Access

Joint Legislative Budget
Commission

STAFF:

Erika Flores
Legislative Aide

Christian Schultze
District Secretary

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members :

I am writing you today in favor of the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail. Stretching from Naples to St. Petersburg and then connecting with the Coast-to-Coast Connector, the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will be an integral part to creating the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

This not only provides our region an excellent opportunity to expand its eco-tourism industry and the corresponding economic development, but also will provide tourists and residents a safe, alternative transportation network, as well as a resource for leisure and exercise.

If I ever may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet Cruz", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Janet Cruz
State Representative

jc/cs

Florida House of Representatives
Representative Chris Latvala
District 67

District Office:

Waters Edge Office Center, Suite 206
2963 Gulf to Bay Boulevard
Clearwater, FL 33759
Tel: (727) 724-3000 Fax: (727) 724-3002

Email: Chris.Latvala@myfloridahouse.gov

Tallahassee Office:

1101 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5067

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

March 22, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I sincerely support the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and I urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails. I have seen the tremendous use of the Pinellas Trail and what it brings to our community, and I feel as though the addition of this connector will be of great benefit to a large majority of our region and will increase activity of our constituency and beyond.

If you have any questions regarding my support, please feel free to contact me. Thank you again for your time and consideration.



Chris Latvala
State Representative, District 67

Education Committee
Justice Appropriation Subcommittee
Criminal Justice Subcommittee
Business & Professional Subcommittee
Highway & Waterway Safety Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

Representative Ray Pilon

District 72

District Office:

1660 Ringling Boulevard, #310
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 955-8077
(941) 373-7452 (fax)

Tallahassee Office:

412 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5072

Email: ray.pilon@myfloridahouse.gov

March 17, 2016

Brian Smith, Chairman
Florida Greenways and Trails Council, Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

I support the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding. The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents with a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail is envisioned to stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

I welcome the opportunity to work alongside the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,



Representative Ray Pilon

Cc: Samantha Browne, OGT Chief (Samantha.Browne@dep.state.fl.us)

Committees: Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, *Vice Chair*;
Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee
Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee



Florida House of Representatives

Dan Raulerson

State Representative, District 58

District Office:

110 West Reynolds Street
Suite 204
Plant City, FL 33563
(813) 757-9110 • Fax (813) 757-9109

Tallahassee Office:

300 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5058

March 17, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members:

I am writing this letter in full support of the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail, and ask that you select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and residents with a safe alternative transportation network that will serve as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will stretch from Naples to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail through Pasco and Hernando Counties, reaching the east coast of Florida. Upon completion of all segments, the trail will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Thank you for your careful consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Raulerson".

Dan Raulerson
State Representative, District 58

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee (Chair)
Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee (Vice Chair)
Education Committee
Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee
K-12 Subcommittee

Dan.Raulerson@myfloridahouse.gov

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Appropriations Committee

Justice Appropriations
Subcommittee

Business & Professional
Regulation Subcommittee

Regulatory Affairs Committee



DISTRICT OFFICES

535 Central Avenue, Suite 312
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 552-3201

302 Manatee Avenue East,
Suite 304
Bradenton, FL 34208
(941) 708-8570

TALLAHASSEE OFFICE

212 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5070

**Florida House of Representatives
Representative Darryl E. Rouson**

Darryl.Rouson@myfloridahouse.gov

March 15, 2016

Brian Smith, Chairman
Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Smith,

I strongly support the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

I welcome the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darryl Rouson".

Representative Darryl Rouson
Florida House District 70

Cc: Samantha Browne, OGT Chief (Samantha.Browne@dep.state.fl.us)



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Commerce and Tourism, *Chair*
Education Pre-K - 12, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Banking and Insurance
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

SENATOR NANCY C. DETERT

28th District

March 24, 2016

Brian Smith, Chairman
Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Chairman Smith,

It has come to my attention that the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail is under consideration to be selected as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C).

I welcome the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Detert".

Senator Nancy Detert

Cc: Samantha Browne, OGT Chief (Samantha.Browne@dep.state.fl.us)

REPLY TO:

- 417 Commercial Court, Suite D, Venice, Florida 34292 (941) 480-3547 FAX: (941) 480-3549
- 416 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5028

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

ANDY GARDINER
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and
Civil Justice, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations
Health Policy
Higher Education
Judiciary
Rules

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Budget Commission

SENATOR ARTHENIA L. JOYNER

Democratic Leader
19th District

March 25, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members:

This letter is to express my support for the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail to be selected as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding. I believe the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will offer tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network for leisure and exercise, as well as providing alternative access for commuter and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C) to reach the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

This regional project will enhance Florida's efforts to encourage eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and environmental sustainability. It is without hesitation that I add my strong support to this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthenia L. Joyner".

Arthenia L. Joyner
Senate Minority Leader
State Senator, District 19

REPLY TO:

- 508 W. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Suite C, Tampa, Florida 33603-3415 (813) 233-4277
- 200 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5019 FAX: (813) 233-4280

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

ANDY GARDINER
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Interim State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

March 24, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Florida Department of Health - Hillsborough strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in improving Florida's public health outcomes while supporting eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Holt, MD, FACP
Director,
Florida Department of Health - Hillsborough

Florida Department of Health - Hillsborough County
Office of the Director
P.O. Box 5135
Tampa, FL 33675-5135
PHONE: (813) 307-8000 • FAX: (813) 272-6984

www.FloridaHealth.gov
TWITTER: HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh
FLICKR: HealthyFla
PINTEREST: HealthyFla



March 3, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau strongly supports the South West Coast Regional Trail, and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our region as the next portion of the statewide system to develop. We look forward to working with all the governmental and advocate partners in this regional initiative.

We see bike tourism as a winning economic development strategy for Florida. Visitors contributed almost three billion dollars in direct spending to the Lee County economy last year. This enjoyable niche market is especially attractive for international travelers and a younger demographic. With Florida's temperate winters and flat terrain, the potential for destination bike tourism has an enormous potential for high returns on our investment in Florida.

One of Lee County's biggest industries is tourism. Having a safe and connected bike/ped network will allow us to develop an eco-tourism focus, bringing much needed revenues to small businesses and the tourism industry. This regional initiative would be perfect for promoting tourism, especially for families.

Florida is the most dangerous state in the country for both pedestrians and cyclists and Lee County's safety record is below the state average. Connecting our bike/ped network will make it safer for walkers and cyclists. Improving safety will also encourage more people to bike and walk.

Our organization always welcomes the opportunity to publicize all the projects the area has to offer for our destination's 5 million annual visitors.

Sincerely,

Tamara Pigott, CDME
Executive Director



March 24, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Legacy Trail (FLT) to express our enthusiastic support for selecting the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail (SCRT) as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail, located in Sarasota County, and its associated trail gaps are part of the SCRT. The existing 10.6 mile paved, non-motorized, multi-use trail links the suburban/rural communities of Venice, Nokomis, Laurel, and Osprey in mid Sarasota County. The trail has in eight years become extremely popular to local residents and visitors - it is rated #8 of the 122 most popular things to do in Sarasota by TripAdvisor.com, a world-wide travel website with 375 million monthly visitors. No surprise given that digital trail counters, after adjustments for round-trip riders, show there are well over 120,000 users per year.

Sarasota County purchased the former rail corridor from CSX in 2004 and converted it into the multi-use Legacy Trail, which opened in 2008. There have since been continuous improvements to the trail, including installing new trestles over Dona and Roberts Bay, sheltered rest stops, parking areas, water fountains, and restrooms. Three new parks - Culverhouse Nature Park, Osprey Junction Trailhead, and Legacy Park - have opened along the trail, joining five other preexisting parks. A bridge designed to echo local architectural themes carries trail users over the heavily travelled Rt 41/Tamiami Trail in Venice. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is finishing the design for another trail overpass at Laurel Road for construction next winter. The Legacy Trail also connects to the existing 10 mile paved Venetian Waterway Park trail which spans both sides of the Intercostal Waterway in the city of Venice and provides access to Caspersen Beach. Venice is one of 19 bicycle friendly communities in Florida recognized by the League of American Bicyclists. Sarasota County has been exemplary in maintaining the existing trail infrastructure and amenities along both the Legacy Trail and the Venetian Waterway Park.

The FLT has championed extending the trail 8.5 miles north to downtown Sarasota along the same unused rail corridor, still owned by CSX. This segment is included as a “gap” in the SCRT, entering the more urban areas. Along with the usual trail benefits, it would support the Safe Routes to School National Partnership; there are 21 schools located within one mile and 45 schools within two miles of the proposed extension. There are many opportunities to link to other trails along the extension.

The FLT asked, and the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners agreed in 2013 to initiate a Feasibility Study, provided that FLT commit to raise half of the estimated \$150,000 cost of the study. FLT successfully raised its share of the funds through individual and corporate donations and fund-raising events. The study, completed in March 2015, concluded that there were no major concerns to extending the trail as proposed. The County Commissioners unanimously endorsed the study on April 1, 2015, and directed the County Administrator to promptly begin discussions with CSX to acquire the rail corridor. Those efforts ceased shortly afterwards when FDOT announced it was considering buying 100 miles of rail corridor across the state from CSX, including The Legacy Trail extension. FDOT recently dropped their interest, and the Trust for Public Lands, on behalf of Sarasota County, has now written to CSX asking them to confirm their continued interest in selling this segment.

In the meantime, FLT has continued to promote the benefits of the existing trail and to consolidate community support for the extension. To date, we have collected over 6,200 signatures on our petition to extend the Legacy Trail. I am attaching endorsements from Visit Sarasota County, the local YMCA, the Sarasota County School Board, the Amish community of Pinecraft, the Downtown Sarasota Alliance, Doctors Hospital, and we continue to pursue others. We have received financial support for the extension from hundreds of individual and corporate donors, including the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota, the Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the Sarasota-Manatee Bicycle Club, The Sarasota Storm Triathlon Club, major home builders Taylor Morrison and Pulte Home Builders, and many local businesses.

While we have advocated and focused attention on expanding the trail, we have remained faithful to our mission “to support, promote, enhance, and protect the Legacy Trail” as it is today. We work in close coordination with Sarasota County on many trail programs. For example, about 30 FLT volunteers serve as Ambassador Patrols along the trail, helping trail users or reporting issues to authorities. Other FLT volunteers pedal a six passenger four-wheeled surrey that allows those with mobility challenges to experience the joy of a one-hour ride along some of the most scenic portions of the trail. We sponsor child bicycle helmet fitting events, with trained FLT volunteers custom fitting free helmets provided by the FDOT. Last year we partnered with the Laurel Nokomis elementary school for a Summer Bike Ride Challenge to promote bike safety and family bike riding along the trail. We recently installed eight sheltered information kiosks featuring weather resistant maps along key entry points to the trail. We are working with Sarasota County to consider converting an abandoned home on a county park along the trail into a visitor center.

Begun by a handful of trail enthusiasts, FLT was born in 2006 as a chapter of the Friends of Sarasota County Parks, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It has since blossomed into a dynamic, all-volunteer group of over 725 members, with a ten-member Board of Directors overseeing Committees on Volunteers, Membership, Marketing and Promotion, Events, and the Trail Extension. We staff information tables along the trail and other venues each weekend. Our Speakers Bureau offers a highly praised Powerpoint presentation on the history, current amenities, and opportunities to extend the trail to groups and organizations. The most common question from Homeowner Associations near the trail is: "How can we connect our community to the trail?" Our most recent presentation was to the Pinecraft Community in Sarasota, where several thousand Amish and Mennonites travel from Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania for a winter vacation. Their primary means of local travel is by bicycle and large tricycles, which they must now negotiate through busy streets and intersections. Access to the trail extension, which runs adjacent to their community, would substantially increase their safety and mobility.

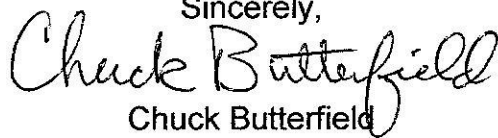
Our outstanding web site www.friendsofthelegacytrail.org features timely, engaging and informative articles, pictures, and video on all the latest trail news. It attracts about 100 unique visitors and 409 page views per day. Our colorful monthly newsletter reaches over 1,700 recipients. It is opened by 60 percent of the recipients, about three times the average opening rate for newsletters from nonprofits. We have also established Facebook and Twitter accounts. We just completed our major annual fund raising event - the Tour de Parks bicycle ride - to record attendance. This year we partnered with the Sarasota Manatee bicycle club to manage the ride.

We were pleased to learn that the Florida Greenway and Trails Council adopted our proposal that a candidate project demonstrate "broad and persistent community support" as one of the selection criteria for SUN Trail funding. We believe that this region would score very well on the remaining nine criteria.

We are also very proud to learn that the Florida Bicycle Association has recently awarded FLT its 2015 Trails Promoter of the Year. It is surely a reflection of the dedication, skill, and effort by our volunteers and supporters.

In closing, the Sarasota County community has demonstrated its commitment to developing, using, maintaining, and enhancing multi-use trails. We are thrilled by the prospect of the SCRT extending along the west coast of Florida from Naples to Tampa, then east to Titusville along the Coast to Coast Connector. We are doing our part locally to make that vision a reality. We ask that the Office of Greenway Trails choose the SCRT as the next priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Butterfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chuck Butterfield

President, Friends of The Legacy Trail



March 22, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations. When completed, it would be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,
Colleen DePasquale
Executive Director



March 24, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce would like to express our support for the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail, and urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select the Tampa Bay region as the next priority for multi-use trail funding. Our 1,300 members have made advocating for investments in transportation infrastructure a priority for our organization. For this reason, we support the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail, and believe it will benefit the region's businesses and families.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would link existing trails in Hillsborough County to the rest of the region, creating an alternative transportation network that will serve residents, tourists, and commuters. It would be one of the largest systems of locally connected trails in the nation.

In Hillsborough County, we have seen the value of trails. In downtown Tampa, the Riverwalk is packed with families, businesspeople, and tourists enjoying a perspective that was only made available by the Riverwalk. The Selmon Greenway connecting the Riverwalk to Ybor City, will soon also connect to new developments in the Channelside neighborhood. The Upper Tampa Bay Trail, Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail, and historic Bayshore Boulevard provide access to nature and spectacular views that can only be made possible by investments in trails.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would connect those facilities to places like Brooksville, Dunedin, and Sarasota, further enforcing our regional collaboration. Florida has made tremendous strides in building a network of trails that provide safe alternative transportation options, and promote recreational opportunities. This project would advance this important effort.

As a business organization, we advocate for all forms of transportation, each with their own economic development and quality of life impacts. The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will benefit small businesses near trailheads, become attractions for our residents, and appeal to businesses looking at communities that value quality of life features. We support Tampa Bay and the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the Florida Greenways and Trails Council next funding priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Rohrlack". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Rohrlack, CCE
President and CEO

www.tampachamber.com



HealthyLee

Chairman, Robbie Roepstorff

March 20, 2016

Executive Committee Members:

Greg Adkins, PhD
Ann Arnall
Mitchell Cordova, PhD
Gray Davis
Pastor William Glover
Teri Hansen
Ed Houck, PhD
Kevin Lewis
Jim Nathan
Kevin Newingham
Annette Pounders
Jorge Quinonez, MD
William Schroeder
Ben Siegel
Cliff Smith
Angela Swartzman

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

To Whom It May Concern,

Healthy Lee, the community collaboration to improve the health of our community, supports the "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" system and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our region for the next segment of this important statewide trail system.

Southwest Florida has some of the highest injury and fatality rates in the state and routinely ranks in the top 10 for bike/pedestrian injuries and deaths in the nation. Healthy Lee is aware of these dangerous conditions as we collaborate with community partners to encourage health and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists in the region. It is with this clear vision of the issue that Healthy Lee strongly supports the "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" project and recommends that the Florida Greenways and Trails Council select our region to fund the next section of the statewide system.

The proposed "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" system would be a vital regional resource for improving both the physical and mental health of the community. Healthy Lee believes improving opportunities and accessibility to safe physical activity in natural areas (especially within an urban context) and is an important resource for improved mental as well as physical health. The strength of the "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" system proposal lies in the partnership, experience, diversity and extensive, well-established communications network of trail builders, managers, policy makers and users that will be consulted to make the project a success. Healthy Lee is confident in the region's ability to implement this project and to the region's commitment to improving the health and safety of its residents and visitors.

Healthy Lee encourages residents to pursue a culture of healthy lifestyles to prevent and delay the onset of chronic disease. Recommendations to achieve this goal include reducing obesity in adults and children by increasing physical activity levels, advocate for public policy that support healthy lifestyle choices, reduce mortality from unintentional injury and advocate for a built environment that supports healthy lifestyle choices. This initiative will increase opportunities for and remove barriers to routine physical activity. In addition, recent evidence suggests that the setting in which physical activity occurs also influences mental health. Beneficial brain changes were recorded among those physically active in natural settings and not in urban settings.

Healthy Lee is an ardent supporter of the "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" system and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our region for the next segment of this important statewide trail system.

Sincerely,

Robbie Roepstorff
Chair, Healthy Lee
President, Edison National Bank

Steering Committee Members:

Jeff Allbritten, PhD
Michael Biel
Samira Beckwith
John Patrick Boland
Marshall Bower
Jessica Carter-Peer
Joe Catti
Veronica Culbertson
Peter Dys
Don Eslick
Leonardo Garcia
Todd Gates
Gary Griffin
Dennie Hamilton
Al Hanser
Sandie Horvath, RN
Gary Hudson
Scott Kashman
Saeed Kazemi
David Lucas
Gail Markham
Joe Mazurkiewicz, PhD
Frank Mazzeo, Jr. DDS
Dan Miles
Marliese Mooney
Abdul "Haq" Muhammed
Andrew Oakes Lottridge
Sarah Owen
Kimberly Presanzano
Steve Riggs
Christine Ross
Steven Sarkozy
Carl Schwing
David Shellenbarger
Sara Stensrud
Don Stilwell
Sandy Stilwell
J. Nathan Stout
Rev. Israel Suarez
Judge Andrew Swett
John Szerlag
Elmer Tabor
Gary Trippe
Judie Zimomra



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

20 NORTH MAIN STREET ♦ ROOM 263 ♦ BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34601
P 352.754.4002 ♦ F 352.754.4477 ♦ W www.HernandoCounty.us

March 22, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James E. Adkins".

James E. Adkins
Chairman
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

/jma

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

This is an exciting time to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,

Jack Feldstein

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500-plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle Club, I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

Since moving to Sarasota last year I have been impressed with the number of students who bike to school. The option of safely biking to school on a trail is a wonderful thing for their health.

Almost daily I read in the paper about a vehicle vs. bicycle accident on our busy roads. The Trail is the one safe place to ride here. Connecting it from Venice to downtown Sarasota would be a huge asset and promote safe biking.

Please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely, Jeanne Alexander

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

This is an exciting time to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

I purchased my house in 2014 based on its location to the Legacy Trail, please allow this trail to be available to more citizens.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffman

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year, including myself and my neighbors, and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

My family and I have relocated to Florida in large part for the quality of life afforded by our new home state. Large and integrated trail networks are a tremendous economic and cultural generator as evidenced by the experiences of the region where I relocated from. The opportunity to add to the attractiveness and livability of our region by filling the gaps to our valuable but fragmented trail system, such as the Legacy Trail, should be a priority.

This is an exciting time to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,
Jerry Swink

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

I am a member of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle. I want to express my support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

I bike on the Legacy Trail and want to bike on an extended Legacy Trail in Sarasota. The Legacy Trail has over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

I am pleased to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails. I see the expansion of these trails to be very dearing to me. Please choose the Southwest Coastal Regional Trai as the priority for SUN Trail funding. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Hoseth
jahoseth@gmail.com
Sarasota, FL 34238



**Board of County
Commissioners**

Kevin Beckner
Victor D. Crist
Ken Hagan
Al Higginbotham
Lesley "Les" Miller Jr.
Sandra L. Murman
Stacy R. White

County Administrator
Michael S. Merrill

**County Administrator
Executive Team**
Lucia E. Garsys
Carl S. Harness
Gregory S. Horwedel
Ramin Kouzehkanani
Liana Lopez
Bonnie M. Wise

County Internal Auditor
Michelle Leonhardt

County Attorney
Chip Fletcher

**Conservation &
Environmental Lands
Management**

Conservation & Environmental Lands Management

March 28, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding. We are willing to work with FDOT to provide programs along segments of the trail that run through Hillsborough County including the South Coast Greenway.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Forest Turbiville
Director of Conservation and Environmental Lands Management

March 21, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

To Whom It May Concern,

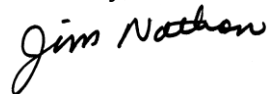
Lee Memorial Health System, made up of four acute-care hospitals and two specialty hospitals, as well as outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care physician offices, and the only Level II trauma center between Tampa and Miami, supports the "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" system and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our region for the next segment of this important statewide trail system.

Southwest Florida has some of the highest injury and fatality rates in the state and routinely ranks in the top 10 for bike/pedestrian injuries and deaths in the nation. Lee Memorial Health System is acutely aware of these dangerous conditions as we act in an advisory capacity to the Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST), Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and Bike/Pedestrian Coordinating Committee, encouraging health and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists in the region. It is with this clear vision of the issue that Lee Memorial Health System strongly supports the "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" project and recommends that the Florida Greenways and Trails Council select our region to fund the next section of the statewide system.

The proposed "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" system would be a vital regional resource for improving both the physical and mental health of the community. Lee Memorial Health System believes improving opportunities and accessibility to safe physical activity in natural areas (especially within an urban context) and is an important resource for improved mental as well as physical health. The strength of the "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" system proposal lies in the partnership, experience, diversity and extensive, well-established communications network of trail builders, managers, policy makers and users that will be consulted to make the project a success. Lee Memorial Health System is confident in the region's ability to implement this project and to the region's commitment to improving health and safety of its residents and visitors.

Lee Memorial Health System is an ardent supporter of the "Southwest Coastal Regional Trail" system and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our region for the next segment of this important statewide trail system.

Sincerely,



Jim Nathan
President/CEO
Lee Memorial Health System

LEE MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT ONE
Stephen R. Brown, M.D.
Therese Everly, RRT

DISTRICT TWO
Donna Clarke
Nancy M. McGovern, RN, MSM

DISTRICT THREE
Sanford N. Cohen, M.D.
David F. Collins

DISTRICT FOUR
Diane Champion
Chris Hansen

DISTRICT FIVE
Jessica Carter
Stephanie L. Meyer, BSN, RN

March 29, 2016



Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Manatee Chamber of Commerce with over 2,100 members representing 76,000 employees in our area strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and we encourage the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail (SCRT) is the portion of the statewide SUN Trail network that runs from the end of the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg, Pinellas County through Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee counties to Naples in Collier County. If selected, the SCRT will connect with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C), creating the nation's largest system of connected trails and serving as a healthy resource for visitors and residents.

The regional importance of these trail corridors has led to the development of an agreement between the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization, Collier MPO, Hernando/Citrus MPO, Hillsborough MPO, Lee County MPO, Pasco County MPO, Pinellas County MPO, Polk Transportation Planning Organization and Sarasota/Manatee MPO. Our region has already adopted planning documents for existing and future trail alignments at the local and regional level.

We would like for our region to continue to be classified as one of the healthiest places to live and number one place nationwide in well-being. Projects such as this will continue our effort to offer a healthy lifestyle to residents and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Gallen, Esq.
Vice President
Public Policy & Small Business



County Administrator's Office
1112 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205
Phone: (941) 745-3717
www.mymanatee.org

March 21, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members:

Manatee County Government strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations. This trail complements Manatee County trail planning efforts with a particular emphasis on the County's Willow-Ellenton regional trail priority. The Southwest Trail is an excellent opportunity to continue development of trails for both recreation and mobility in Manatee County.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Hunzeker".

Ed Hunzeker
Manatee County Administrator

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

This is an exciting time to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,

Mark Williamson

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

I have friends from around the country who visit SW Florida because I am here. They fall in love with The Legacy Trail. One, from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, spent one week in Nokomis and ended up buying a house within riding distance of the Legacy. This is her retirement dream.

This is an exciting time to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,

Marsha Lee Wikle

Bradenton



Hillsborough MPO
Metropolitan Planning
for Transportation



Polk Transportation
Planning Organization

This document shall serve as a letter of support for the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and Coast-to-Coast Connector Trail among the areas regional organizations and agencies.

The regional importance of two significant trail corridors, the Coast-to-Coast (C2C) and Southwest Coastal Regional Trail, has led to an agreement between the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA), Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Collier MPO, Hernando/Citrus MPO, Hillsborough MPO, Lee County MPO, Pasco County MPO, Pinellas County MPO, Polk Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), and Sarasota/Manatee MPO, to work collaboratively and complete the successful implementation of what will become the nation’s largest system of locally connected trails. Both the C2C and Southwest Coastal Connectors will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also serving commuter and consumer destinations.

Existing and future trail alignments have been adopted in planning documents at the municipal, county, and regional level. Jurisdictions throughout the aforementioned counties build, maintain, and operate existing trail networks. In addition, they have a long history of agreements with local utilities and private companies for infrastructure, right-of-way, capital costs, and maintenance. These include Tampa Electric, Duke Energy, Florida Power and Light, Seminole Gulf Railway, CSX, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, among others.

The full cooperation and support between the Florida Department of Transportation, TBARTA, eight contiguous MPOs, and one TPO for these projects is indicated by the signatures below.

R Chiamonte

Ramond Chiamonte, Executive Director, TBARTA

Beth Alden

Beth Alden, Executive Director, Hillsborough MPO

David Hutchinson

Dave Hutchinson, Executive Director, Sarasota/Manatee MPO

Whit Blanton

Whit Blanton, Executive Director, Pinellas County MPO

James Edwards

James Edwards, Executive Director, Pasco County MPO

Dennis Dix

Dennis Dix, Executive Director, Hernando/Citrus MPO

Tom Deardorff

Tom Deardorff, Executive Director, Polk TPO

Don Scott

Don Scott, Executive Director, Lee County MPO

Anne McLaughlin

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director, Collier MPO

Bob Herrington

Bob Herrington, Executive Director, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

This is an exciting time to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sent from my iPad – Mr. Norris Elswick

March 25, 2016



Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Pedal Power Promoters, LLC, creator of Tampa Bay's Bicycle Friendly Business^(sm) Programs, strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,
Christine Acosta
Founder, Principal

Pedal Power Promoters, LLC
Woman-Owned Social Enterprise

(sm) Bicycle Friendly Business is a certified Service Mark of the League of American Bicyclists
bikeleague.org

I am member of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle and am offering my enthusiastic support for the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail.

This should be a high priority for funding by the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

Peter Cottrell

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

Dave Eggers

Pat Gerard

Charlie Justice

Janet C. Long

John Morrioni

Karen Williams Seel

Kenneth T. Welch



Mark S. Woodard
County Administrator

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

March 23, 2016

Dear Council Members:

The Pinellas County strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark S. Woodard".

Mark S. Woodard

Pinellas County Administrator

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Pinellas County Administration
315 Court St. • Room 601
Clearwater, FL 33756
Main Office: (727) 464-3485
FAX: (727) 464-4384
V/TDD: (727) 464-4062

www.pinellascounty.org

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

Dave Eggers
Pat Gerard
Charlie Justice
Janet C. Long
John Morrone
Karen Williams Seel
Kenneth T. Welch



March 25, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members:

Pinellas County enthusiastically supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will extend from Naples to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg, where it joins with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando Counties, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Pinellas County recognizes the tremendous transportation, public health, community-building and economic benefits of the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail. Many Pinellas County residents and employees use the Pinellas Trail daily for transportation, exercise and recreation. I recently hired new staff that credited the Pinellas Trail as a significant contributing factor in their decision to relocate to the area.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will be exponentially beneficial for the County, region and the State, providing tourists and residents a safe, alternative transportation network that offers new leisure and economic opportunities.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all of our partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Gordon Beardslee
Pinellas County Planning Director

Pinellas County Planning
310 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
Main Office: (727) 464-8200
FAX: (727) 464-8201
V/TDD: (727) 464-4062

www.pinellascounty.org





March 22, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members:

The Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) received a presentation at its last meeting about the SUNTrail program and the regional trails that are being considered for funding. The MPO strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and destinations.

The Pinellas County segment (e.g., the Pinellas Trail Loop) provides connections to transit, employment hubs and schools and will improve access for many minority and low-income workers to these destinations. When combined with the rest of the Pinellas Trail network, the Trail Loop will provide better access to healthy food choices and medical facilities. Increased access to vital services will enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors to Pinellas County and the region. Completing the Trail Loop is a long-standing priority of the MPO.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida, to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando Counties, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally-connected trails.

Our MPO welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Whit Blanton, FAICP, Executive Director
Pinellas County
Metropolitan Planning Organization

WB:ck



District Office
2109 E. Palm Ave.
Suite 201
Tampa, FL 33605
(813) 241-8024
(813) 241- 8027 (fax)

***The Florida House of
Representatives
Edwin Narain
District 61***

Tallahassee Office
1402 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5061

edwin.narain@myfloridahouse.gov

March 23, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

I strongly support the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

I welcome the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,


State Representative, Edwin Narain

Committee Membership:

Economic Affairs Committee, Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee, Transportation and Ports Subcommittee, Health Quality Subcommittee, Government Operations Subcommittee

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle Club I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network

I have been regularly riding the Legacy Trail in Sarasota County since 2010 when I became an avid biker in Sarasota. In addition, as an active member of the Sarasota County Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trails Advisory Committee I know that the Legacy Trail sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. I fully support the proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) as it will provide safe biking to school routes for 45 schools within a two-mile radius of the trail and will be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota for both work and pleasure.

As one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon I am very excited for our community and the positive lifestyle gains this expansion will provide. Please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,

Richard Stammer

2737 Harvest Drive

Sarasota, Florida 34240

941-371-2004



SARASOTA COUNTY
"Dedicated to Quality Service"

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236
phone: 941-861-5344 fax: 941-861-5987

March 22, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Re: Florida Greenways and Trails Letter of Support

Dear Council Members:

Sarasota County strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority area for multi-use trail funding.

In 2016, the Sarasota County Commissioners recognized the expansion of The Legacy Trail as a top five priority project. The Commission has also invested significant resources to advance the Legacy Trail north to Payne Park in the City of Sarasota: in conceptual trail design, preliminary cost estimates and community outreach through the adoption of the county's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (October 2013) and The Legacy Trail Feasibility Study (April 2015). Sarasota County continues to strengthen its intergovernmental partnerships by supporting secondary trail projects that will extend the reach of The Legacy Trail into the county's comprehensive trail network. In conjunction with the South County Extension, Sarasota County is working in partnership with the City of North Port to construct a \$570,000 multi-use bridge that will act as a gateway into the city, and is actively supporting the City of Venice to finalize a critical gap piece through the construction of a multi-use trail along Edmonson Road. Sarasota County is in a strong position to act quickly on our local segments and have partnered with the Trust for Public Land to initiate correspondence with CSX to discuss potential next steps.

With over 120,000 users per year along the existing portion of The Legacy Trail, there is overwhelming support from our local residents, advisory boards and advocacy groups that support the selection of the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority area. Expansion of this network will enhance the quality life of our residents and visitors by providing expanded multi-modal options, additional recreational choices and economic growth opportunities for local business owners. The establishment of the Southwest Coastal network will act as spine trail for Sarasota County's future planned local trail network and will provide direct access between three of our local municipalities (City of Sarasota, City of Venice and City of North Port) and neighboring inland counties to the east (DeSoto County).

Sarasota County welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability. The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would establish a continuous connection of the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C) which is currently under construction and nearing completion.

Sincerely,



Alan Maio
Chairman

c: Sarasota County Commission
Thomas A. Harmer, ICMA – CM, County Administrator

Shannon H. Staub
2064 Oakridge Circle
Venice, FL 34293
941-497-6643
shannonstaub@gmail.com

March 21, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

As a former Sarasota County Commissioner for 14 years, and having been a part of approving the Legacy Trail, I am in strong support of the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

I am sure you are receiving many letters in support and have all the background and facts. So I will only add that it has surprised many in our area, how fast the use of the trail (by cyclists, walkers, joggers etc) has grown. It took so long to get a deal with the railroad, then finding the public resources for funding and finally construction--but everyone agrees that it was worth the wait.

Now we have the opportunity to link our region so that future generations will have an even better opportunity for experiencing Florida in a unique way. Thank you for your consideration of the request from so many Southwest Florida residents and tourists.

With appreciation of all you do for our great State,



Shannon H. Staub

March 18, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

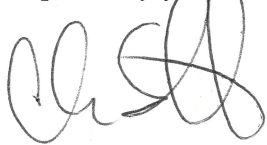
The St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations. The connection of the two trails will increase mobility and recreational alternatives for non-motorized travelers. St. Petersburg's premier downtown waterfront will serve as destination for anyone planning their visit on the SUNTrail Network, which would have a significant eco-tourism benefit to our local economy.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Respectfully yours,



Chris Steinocher
President/CEO, St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce

Cc: TBARTA, City of St. Petersburg



Tampa
Innovation
Alliance™

March 22, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Tampa Innovation Alliance strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida.

3702 Spectrum Blvd.
Suite 135A
Tampa, FL 33612-9445
813-974-9212



Tampa
Innovation
Alliance™

Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Mark Sharpe
Executive Director
Tampa Innovation Alliance

3702 Spectrum Blvd.
Suite 135A
Tampa, FL 33612-9445
813-974-9212 •



TAMPA BIKE VALET

Tampa, Florida
Small Business ~ Woman Owned Social Enterprise
813.263.4785
Tampabikevalet.com

March 25, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Tampa Bike Valet, which provides secure bike parking, free to cyclists, at Tampa events, strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Christine Acosta

Tampa Bike Valet

Woman-Owned Social Enterprise



March 25, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The Tampa Downtown Partnership strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations. Our state desperately needs more of these kinds of transportation projects.

Although the trail won't specifically travel to Tampa's downtown, we will work diligently to ensure our local trails provide safe and convenient connections to the larger, statewide network. It will be amazing to be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Kress".

Karen Kress, AICP, LCI
Director of Transportation and Planning

Dear Ms. Small,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and I ride it often. I not only see bikes on the trail but often see many people walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure. It will nicely link the communities of Venice and Nokomis with downtown Sarasota and give people a safe way to interconnect.

I truly enjoy this multi-use trail and I really hope the expansion of these trails will be a high priority for funding. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,

Tom Roberts
Navywings647@gmail.com
612-281-3265



306 N. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL
32301
t: 850.222.7911
f: 850.222.8909

tpl.org

March 16, 2016

Brian Smith, Chairman
Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Smith,

The Trust for Public Land strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select the greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

I welcome the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Hattaway".

Doug Hattaway, AICP

xc: Samantha Browne, OGT Chief (Samantha.Browne@dep.state.fl.us)

VERN BUCHANAN
DISTRICT 16, FLORIDA

FLORIDA DELEGATION
CO-CHAIR

CAUCUS ON INNOVATION &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
CO-CHAIR



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TAX-WRITING COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HUMAN RESOURCES
CHAIR

HEALTH
SOCIAL SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0916

March 16, 2016

Brian Smith, Chairman
Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am writing in support of the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urge the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida through Florida's 16th District, which I represent in Congress, to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

I welcome the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Cc: Samantha Browne, OGT Chief (Samantha.Browne@dep.state.fl.us)

2104 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5015
Fax: (202) 226-0828

111 South Orange Avenue
Suite 202W
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 951-6643
Fax: (941) 951-2972

1051 Manatee Avenue West
Suite 305
Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 747-9081
Fax: (941) 748-1564

KATHY CASTOR
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
205 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3376

DISTRICT OFFICE:
4144 NORTH ARMENIA AVENUE
SUITE 300
TAMPA, FL 33607
(813) 871-2817

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COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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ENERGY AND POWER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
REGIONAL WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0914

March 25, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

For the above reasons, I respectfully offer my support for Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and I hope it will be given every consideration by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Castor".

Kathy Castor
United States Representative
Florida, District 14



March 17, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Visit Sarasota County, the tourism marketing corporation for the area, strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

The destination marketing organizations of Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Collier Counties already work together on numerous marketing initiatives together. We know that our visitors value cycling opportunities and this would be a fantastic asset for our region's tourism market.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virginia J. Haley".

Virginia J. Haley, CDME
President



March 21, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

Visit Tampa Bay strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Santiago C. Corrada
President & CEO
Visit Tampa Bay

401 East Jackson Street
Suite 2100
Tampa, FL 33602

o 813.223.1111
f 813.229.6616
VisitTampaBay.com



March 25, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000



Dear Council Members,

The Walk Bike Tampa, a membership-based citizen education and advocacy non-profit, strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eha", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth Corwin
Walk Bike Tampa Board Member

Dear Florida Greenways and Trails Council member,

As one of the 500 plus members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle I want to express my enthusiastic support for making the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail as the next priority multi-use trail to be funded under the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network.

The Legacy Trail in Sarasota County sees over 120,000 users a year and is an asset to all who use it whether for biking, walking or rollerblading. The proposed extension of the Legacy Trail (part of SCAT) will provide for safe bike to school routes for 45 schools within a two mile radius of the trail and be a safe route for adults to commute to downtown Sarasota both for work and pleasure.

This is an exciting time to be a Floridian and especially one who enjoys multi-use trails and who sees the expansion of these trails to be on the immediate horizon. Once again, please choose SCAT as THE priority for SUN Trail funding.

Sincerely,

Walter L Gaer



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

October 25, 2013

Friends Of The Legacy Trail
Mr. Michael Gippert, President

Dear Mike,

Please use this letter as support of your efforts to extend the Legacy Trail to Payne Park in Sarasota. The trail in south county has proved to enhance the wellness opportunities for so many in our community. The setting is absolutely wonderful and the way your group was creative in designing the trail through so many different habitats is amazing. The trail is used by so many of our residents and visitors not only for exercise but also socialization.

From the YMCA perspective it has been a great resource for many of our fitness related special events. The YMCA and Friends Of The Legacy Trail has developed a strong relationship through collaborating in organizing these events. As you know we have held numerous 5K and 8K Runs on the trail and our annual triathlon is in this area as well. We always receive so many positive comments from our participants relating to the race courses.

Mike, thank you for leading the effort on this initiative that will be so beneficial to our community and bring another outstanding outdoor recreation resource to Sarasota County.

Sincerely,

Pat Ryan
Chief Operating Officer
South County Family YMCA

South County Family YMCA
www.southcountyfamilyymca.org

MICHAEL & GEORGIA MILLER VENICE BRANCH
701 Center Rd., Venice, FL 34285
P 941 492 9622 F 941 493 9659

WARREN LORANGER ENGLEWOOD BRANCH
701 Medical Blvd., Englewood, FL 34223
P 941 475 1234 F 941 474 2866