Creating a World-Class Trail and Greenway System For Florida

Close the Gaps
2016 Congress of New Urbanism Florida Summit
February 19, 2016
The mission of the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation is to advocate for, and create a state-wide system of trails, blueways, and greenways.
Greenways — the land corridors that allow safe, non-motorized passage of people and wildlife

Trails — the actual footpath or paved surface through the greenway
Florida is very fortunate. We not only have a unique greenway and trail master plan, we also have Blueways, the Florida National Scenic Trail, and Scenic highways.
1. Growing popularity around the world of paved trails for both residents and visitors.

2. Well documented economic benefits and health impacts of connected trails.

3. Opportunity for Florida to become a world leader in trails by connecting our communities to State Parks and conservation lands.
200 miles of the proposed 250 miles Coast-to-Coast (C2C) Connector are already in place.

Work is now underway to close all of the seven gaps on the C2C. Most of the trail will be completed by 2020.

Over $75 million is being invested to complete Florida's FIRST long-distance trail.

The initial Return On Investment (ROI) for the C2C is estimated to be at least 3-1 in urban areas. Could be much higher depending on tourist appeal.

Imagine the tourism and economic benefits to cities and counties if we can someday connect this emerging priority trail system to Florida’s Gold Medal award-winning State Parks and unique conservation lands!
Great Alleghany Passage — 400 mile trail connecting downtown Pittsburgh with Washington D.C.
Confederation Trail (Canada) — 275 km trail connecting Prince Edward Island entirely from tip to tip.
Silver Comet Trail — 94 mile trail connecting Smyrna Georgia to Anniston Alabama.
Coeur d’Alene Trail — 71 mile trail following the Union Pacific RR connecting Mullan to Plummer Idaho.
The High Line — 1.45 mile trail utilizing the disused West Side Line elevated railroad trestle in New York City.
Connected Trails Around the World

Canada

- P'TIT TRAIN DU NORD
- LA ROUTE VERTE
- VALLEY TRAIL
- PEACE BRIDGE
- TRANS CANADA TRAIL
Netherlands

**Connected Trails Around the World**

- **Hovernrin Floating Roundabout**
- **Van Gogh-Roosegaarde Cycle Path**
- **Melkwegbridge**
- **Van Gogh-Roosegaarde Cycle Path**
Connected Trails Around the World

Copenhagen

CYKELSLANGEN, OR CYCLE SNAKE

“SUPERKILLEN” BIKE LANE

CYKELSLANGEN, OR CYCLE SNAKE
Trails along the Coast to Coast Regional Connector

PINELLAS TRAIL

WITHLACOOCHEE STATE TRAIL

SEMINOLE-WEKIVA TRAIL

WEST ORANGE TRAIL

SUNCOAST TRAIL
The Priority Trails Map encompasses the most important corridors and connections within the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) and other trails. Following completion of this map in late 2012, the gaps were identified and prioritized in 2013. The Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) corridor included on this Priority Trails Map reflects the route currently proposed for designation by the US Forest Service. Whether the FNST route results from the current designation process will be included on the Priority Trails Map.
Tampa Bay Regional Trails
Tropical Terminus & Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

Legend

Connectors
- Purple: Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail
- Green: River of Grass Regional Connector
- Red: Southwest Coast Regional Connector
- Orange: East Coast Greenway/Tropical Terminus

Trail Status
- Green: Existing
- Blue: Programmed/Funded
- Gray: Gap - Not Requiring Acquisition
- Red: Gap - Requiring Acquisition
- Green: Conservation Lands

3/14/2016
SECTION 28. Land Acquisition Trust Fund. -- a) Effective on July 1 of the year following passage of this amendment by the voters, and for a period of 20 years after that effective date, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall receive no less than 33 percent of net revenues derived from the existing excise tax on documents, as defined in the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, as amended from time to time, or any successor or replacement tax, after the Department of Revenue first deducts a service charge to pay the costs of the collection and enforcement of the excise tax on documents. b) Funds in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall be expended only for the following purposes: 1) As provided by law, to finance or refinance: the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests, including conservation easements, and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat; wildlife management areas; lands that protect water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems; lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Article II, Section 7(b); beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic or geologic sites; together with management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands. 2) To pay the debt service on bonds issued pursuant to Article VII, Section 11(e). c) The moneys deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, as defined by the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, shall not be or become commingled with the General Revenue Fund of the state.
SUN Trails is a $25 million annual program managed by FDOT to connect local trails into a regional system.

If one half of Amendment One monies were made available to local governments through the Florida Communities Trust program, potentially $300 million, would be available on a competitive basis to cities and counties wishing to connect their communities to State Parks and conservation lands to the SUN Trails system.

These two funding opportunities could transform Florida from “the number one most dangerous state for bicyclists” into a world tourism destination and number one bicycle friendly state.
Tampa Bay Trails Connecting to the Coast to Coast Regional Connector

FLORIDA KEYS OVERSEAS HERITAGE TRAIL

THE UNDERLINE TRAIL

COURTNEY CAMPBELL TRAIL

TAMPA RIVERWALK TRAIL
SUN Trails is a trail vision, not a trail plan.

We need regional corridor feasibility studies to make this vision a reality.

The trails will be built by the FDOT. But who will manage them?

Once the regional trails are built, how do we connect these long-distance trails to our regional, state, and national parks and unique conservation areas, as well as downtowns?

How do we market these trails to realize their full economic potential? We must create a new PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP to guide the future investments in these trails. To be fully successful, this effort demands the leadership of major philanthropic institutions. We must bring them to this work.
Trails must be Safe.

Trail must be scenic. In Florida this means that they must have water views and panoramas, and they must have SHADE. We must turn our trails into real greenways.

Trails should take you to special places. We are calling these exceptional areas "Sun-sational" places. Truly Florida destinations.

If we get the three S’s right, we will be the envy of the world.
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