



**Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory
Committee Meeting**
URS Corporation, 7650 W. Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL
Friday, May 17, 10:00 am

Attending:

Bill Jonson, Chair, City of Clearwater
Holly East, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
Ron Gregory, URS
Tony Mantegna, Tampa International Airport
Lori Marable, Florida Department of Transportation District 7
Mike Palozzi, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.
Karla Price, City of Tampa
C.J. Reynolds, University of South Florida
Debbie Young, City of Tampa
Suzanne Cooper, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Agenda:

● **Greetings and introductions**

Chairman Jonson called the meeting to order. Everyone introduced themselves. (Ms. Cooper volunteered to take the notes.)

● **Old Business:**

1. Mr. Jonson asked for corrections to the April 19 meeting summary. It was clarified that Lori Marable's name was correct and that the letter to Commissioner Beckner was to be a draft. The motion was made by Mr., seconded by Ms. East, and passed by all to approve the summary with the clarifications.

2. It was requested that previous action concerning the water line to serve the Trail be reconsidered. Ms. Price had asked City of Tampa about the feasibility of providing water and was told that a line serving the Trail would have stale water or need a flushing pump. It would cost about \$500,000 to supply good water for the length of the Trail, and include four fountains. The City of Tampa's water line currently ends about 0.25 miles west of Ben T. Davis Beach. The City of Clearwater has water and sewer lines to the Welcome Station.

It was suggested that perhaps a water bottle fill station could be installed at the current end of Tampa's water line with a notice that it's the only source of water for the Trail.

Ms. East asked for a change to the Hillsborough County budget request - to broaden the scope of the letter and include specific amounts and purposes. Mr. Gregory made the motion to reconsider the motion passed at the last meeting on this matter. Ms. Price seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. East said that the project could be presented at either the June 5 or June 19 Hillsborough County BOCC budget meeting. Due to several members' conflicting schedules, it was determined that the June 19 meeting would be best.

Regarding the opening ceremony - Ms. East stated that Commissioner Beckner has said there will be no rest stations or landscaping when the trail opens. Ms. Marable said that FDOT cannot plan or install landscaping until the construction is completely finished. Ms. Reynolds thought a January opening was planned in order to ensure construction would be complete and to take advantage of County/City/sponsor funding.

Concerning the BOCC presentation, Ms. Price offered that she or her superior could provide a slide showing the City of Tampa's contribution. Mr. Jonson said that he can be present and that he or Ms. Leonard could share information about the City of Clearwater's contributions - both past and planned. Ms. Marable said that she would secure a FDOT person or a slide showing FDOT dollars provided and committed to the project. Mr. Jonson asked Mr. Gregory if the Westshore Alliance would participate at the presentation, and if Mr. Rotella might speak. Mr. Gregory said that Mr. Rotella considers the Trail a part of the Westshore transportation system. Mr. Jonson suggested that Ms. Saul-Sena might be the best to make the presentation, but that she might not be available due to travel.

As for the amount of funding to request from Hillsborough County, Ms. Price listed benches, shade shelters, and trash receptacles as needed items. Beautification can come later. She said the City of Tampa may or may not fund amenities. Sponsorships will be needed. It was recommended that \$150,000 be requested. Mr. Gregory recommended asking for the amount needed. Ms. Price stated that the trailheads are an important component as far as amenities. The City wants to resurface parking areas and provide a water fill station; and maintenance is expected to cost \$62,000 per year. The maintenance agreement is in draft form now.

Ms. Price said she wasn't sure if Trail funding is moving to the TIP or the MPO plan. The Trail is a park, not a transportation facility. She recommended adding 20% to the raw costs, for contingencies. Mr. Gregory responded that there is already a 25% contingency buffer.

It appeared that \$250,000 to \$300,000 will be the amount requested, which doesn't include landscaping. The consensus was to ask for the same amount as is being requested from the City of Tampa. Ms. Price said she will confirm the amount and develop a list of items.

A motion to pursue the strategy just discussed was recommended. Ms. Cooper moved the motion and Mr. Gregory seconded. It passed unanimously.

Ms. East said that a formal letter will be needed from the committee/Mr. Jonson. She will help draft the letter.

3. Ms. Marable provided a schematic of the Trail sign and its proposed location. The sign will be 6' wide at the base, 8' wide at the top, and 7' tall. Ms. Price helped identify appropriate locations. The sign is part of the American Bridge Company's contract so it must be within their contract area. Option 1 is at the county line - the most visible location. Palm trees there would have to be moved. Option 2 is a site west of the bridge; and Option 3 is east of the bridge. It was hoped that a smaller version could be placed on each end of the Trail at a later time - perhaps as a public art project. Mr. Gregory made the motion, seconded by Ms. Reynolds, to select Option 1 as the committee's preference. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Ms. Reynolds spoke about the USF Students' project and website. She said that the students provided great ideas for marketing to sponsors and improving public awareness. The video that they produced cannot be used just yet - not all of the needed releases are in hand. She has the written report. Ms. Cooper asked for a copy of the report. Ms. Reynolds said that the students recommended publishing teasers to build interest for the Trail: It's coming - What can you do now along the Causeway.

Regarding the amenities survey that was conducted by the USF students included parking and emergency services. Ms. Reynolds does not want to release the report, but work with private and government entities on the parking challenges. Mr. Gregory added that there are already serious conflicts with Hogan's Best Western - the valet service is using the URS garage and interfering with workplace traffic. There will be a need to work out parking based on needs and timing. Ms. Reynolds said that Professor Webber is presenting the students' work to the Westshore Alliance. She encouraged caution since the students were quite zealous in their investigations and did not consider constraints - such as funding or legal concerns - in their recommendations.

It was suggested that Visit Florida and the Florida Scenic Trails web sites be checked for links to the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway and Trail.

5. Regarding plans for the Trail's opening celebration, Mr. Jonson said that planning is in process.

6. Ms. Saul-Sena was not present to give an update on the animated digital sign at Hogan's Beach. A story aired on Fox 13 News on May 23 about the City's citing of Hogan's Beach for non-compliance with City Code by the flashing digital sign. The deadline to comply is June 14. Also, Fox News had a segment on May 15th - John Wilson's My View/Outrage - on the scenic trail. The title was very negative but the information provided was better. The gist was that it is too expensive and will serve too few people.

New Business:

- The June meeting date was discussed. It was decided that since the presentation to the Hillsborough County BOCC will be on June 19 and Mr. Jonson won't be available to meet on June 21, the committee won't meet in June. The next meeting will be Friday, July 19.

- Ms. Marable reported that the Scenic Highway Annual Report is due to Tallahassee on October 1. It must be formally submitted to her by September 1. An updated Comprehensive Master Plan is not needed this year. She will provide last year's annual report for review and updates. The committee's July 19 meeting will include an initial look at the draft annual report. The final review will occur at the August meeting.

Ms. Cooper will send out last year's report, ask for input and draft this year's Annual Report for review at the July meeting.

Any Other Business:

- Mr. Palozzi recommended that a letter be sent to the USF to congratulate the students on their work, and that the committee suggest that other Scenic Highway programs engage students in a similar way.

- Ms. Price advised that the previous weekend cars were parked down the trail all the way to the bridge for an event at Hogan's Beach. Ms. East said that she will check and perhaps the City will intervene. Ms. Marable said that there are plans for some additional informal parking associated with the Trail - shell-paved pull-offs with wheel stops from the access road. Repaving of the north-side service road is also planned - not associated with the Trail.

Additional discussion about parking for Trail users - possibly on Tampa International Airport property, at Skyway Park, on George Road. A bicycle path possibly from airport property down O'Brien Road to Cypress?

Public Comments:

There were no members of the public present.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Friday, July 19th at URS Corporation, 7650 W. Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa. On the agenda for the next meeting: Parking plans and the Annual Report.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.