



Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Committee

MEETING AGENDA

April 16, 2021 – 10:00am

Zoom Meeting

Join online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81380610869?pwd=RHRDdnkvMHdYbUUrامل2ajVOU3INdz09>

Meeting ID: 813 8061 0869

Passcode: 1234

Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of January 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes
4. Old Business
 - a. 2020 Annual Report completed and submitted
 - b. Status update on disruptive behavior near Ben T. Davis Beach¹
 - i. Letter drafted (see below); Final committee approval requested
 - ii. Scheduled to present at May TBRPC meeting
 - c. Update to scope verbiage of “scenic” character of water uses along causeway
 - i. Update from Wade Reynolds
 - d. Update to Clearwater amenities status (trail enhancements)
5. New Business
 - a. Fishing pier
 - b. Update from Westshore Alliance
 - i. New construction

¹ **Oct 16, 2020 Motion on disruptive behavior:** Be it moved that the Courtney Campbell Causeway Scenic Highway Advisory Committee draft a letter to be sent to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council that the Committee has been advised by residents of Dana Shores in the City of Tampa, of unruly and possibly illegal activity taking place along the shore of Tampa Bay in the vicinity of Ben T. Davis Beach.



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- ii. Sidewalks and pedestrian amenities
 - c. Update from FDOT (Alex Henry)
 - i. Florida Scenic Highway's senior management staffing changes
 - ii. 2021 Garry Balogh Award (See below)
6. Organization Updates – as appropriate/if any
- a. Clearwater
 - b. Tampa
 - c. Pinellas County
 - d. Hillsborough County
 - e. Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
 - f. Westshore Alliance
 - g. Dana Shores
 - h. TBRPC
 - i. FDOT
7. Other Business

Next meeting dates: August 20, 2021; October 15, 2021



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Draft letter on disruptive behavior:

May 10, 2021

Chair Jack Mariano
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

RE: Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway (CCSH) Trail Disruptive Unsafe Behavior

Dear Chair Mariano and Council Members,

The Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Committee (CCSHCAC) has voted to advise the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) about unsafe behavior taking place along portions of the Causeway.

The TBRPC, the Corridor Management Entity for the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway, has delegated the programmatic initiatives for the causeway to the CCSHCAC, which convenes quarterly with representatives from nearby communities and all local government and planning agencies that touch the highway. During the last few years, residents of the Dana Shores community have shared information about disruptive and unsafe activities occurring along the Causeway that pose public safety risks and diminish public use of the multi-use trail. The main problem area exists along the multi-use trail on the south side of the causeway between Ben T. Davis Beach and the Courtney Campbell Boat Ramp.

Actual management of the Causeway was and is retained by FDOT, FHP, and the cities of Clearwater and Tampa. Stakeholder representatives of FDOT and the Tampa Parks Department have reported actions taken to mitigate this behavior. FDOT has installed access gates that are now closed at night by Tampa staff, which has resolved many of the nighttime activities. The disruptive behavior, however, continues during the day and especially on weekends. The following problems continue:



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1. Crowds, approaching a thousand people or more, gather to party along the south side of the highway, using the drainage swale on the southside of the Causeway (between the guardrail and pedestrian path) as a makeshift overflow parking area.
2. With the crowds come excessive trash, unpermitted uses, blocking of the multi-use trail, and damage to the drainage infrastructure.
3. People driving along the access road are encouraged by crowds lined up in the pedestrian trail and on the other side of the frontage roadway to “burn out their tires,” posing a high risk to these crowds and trail users.
4. To navigate the trail, families, pedestrians, and bicyclists end up breathing in clouds of burnt rubber, secondhand marijuana smoke, or both.
5. Numerous vehicles show up with large speaker systems, and the crowds play music so loud it causes passersby’s ears to ring (violating Tampa City ordinance Sec. 14-155 – *Unreasonably excessive noise from a vehicle prohibited.*)

For over 85 years, the Courtney Campbell Causeway has served as a vital link between Tampa and Clearwater for residents and visitors across the Tampa Bay Region. Each day thousands of cars traverse the scenic highway and walkers, bicyclists, and runners enjoy the recreational opportunities afforded by its paved trail. These disorderly activities do not pair well with the intended use of the recreational trail – which supports a healthy lifestyle and recreation for athletes, individuals, and families. Weekend recreational trail users find it dangerous to themselves, children, and others to navigate amongst large groups of people blocking the pedestrian and bicycle paths.

We have yet to see a consistent presence, education, and enforcement policy applied to keep the area safe for the recreational areas’ intended use. Therefore, the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Committee would respectfully advise the TBRPC and its member governments that additional creative solutions are needed to resolve these issues while not discouraging people from using the Courtney Campbell amenities and trail.

Sincerely,

Bill Jonson,
Chair, Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Committee

Enclosure: Map of activity location (highlighted) along the Courtney Campbell Trail

Corridor Management Entity – Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
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www.courtneycampbell.org



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2021 Garry Balogh Award:

The Florida Scenic Highways is a grass roots-based program with a passionate community of supporters. This award provides an opportunity to recognize an individual, or organization that has made a significant and lasting impact on the scenic highways program.

The schedule for selecting the 2021 recipient is as follows:

March 1st	Open Nomination Cycle
April 30th	Close Nomination Cycle
May 15th	Complete Evaluation of Nominations
May 21st	2021 Recipient Selected
June 15th	Announcement of Award Recipient

The nomination letter should describe the nature and length of the nominee's involvement with the Florida Scenic Highways Program, and actions demonstrating leadership, innovations, and inspiration. Letters must be on byway letterhead and emailed to Claudia.Calzaretta@dot.state.fl.us prior to the close of the nomination cycle.



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MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2021 – 10:00am

Zoom Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of October 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes
4. New Business
 - a. 2020 Annual Report
 - i. Cleanup Events
 1. Joan Rice asking about
 - ii. Coopers Point Water Quality Improvements – Funding & Permitting
 1. Sarah Kessler from City of Clearwater should provide update – not present in meeting
 - iii. Security for southside Recreation Area
 1. Brian Roberts to provide description
 2. Security gate added, but enforcement of behavior is still needed
 3. Alex Henry will find the start and completion date
 4. Verify who opens and closes the gate – Karla Price
 - iv. Disruptive behavior and public safety along the causeway was discussed.
 - v. Removal of invasive Australian pines on the west bound side to the North before you get to the tidal gate
 1. The pines are invasive and an eyesore; they need to be removed as they may be a threat in the event of a storm.
 2. Alex Henry from FDOT will take a look
 3. FWC is another organization that may be interested in getting
 - vi. Funding – talk to Sarah Kessler from Chamber
 1. Outstanding funding – information center and Coopers Point
 2. Alana to compile list of needs and Mark will reach out to Sarah
 - vii. Tourism trends – Clearwater and Tampa needs to provide

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1. Tourism development funding
 2. Christina Alspaw
 - viii. Current BMP – Alex is checking status
 - ix. Installation of rumble strips – enough needed to make people slow down (prevent racing) – This is a continued issue
 1. Both sides of Bayport Dr. (exit ramp to Hyatt)
 2. Alex Henry will be looking into this issue
 - x. On north and south side there is no guard rail – safety issue
 1. Alex Henry will be looking into this issue
5. Old Business
- a. Status update on disruptive behavior near Ben T. Davis Beach
 - i. Motion adopted last meeting²
 - ii. Allison and Brian will help Bill and Alana to draft this letter to TBRPC; Will set up a meeting to draft the letter
 - b. Update to scope verbiage of “scenic” character of water uses along causeway
 - c. Clearwater amenities status (trail enhancements)
 - d. We need to contact agencies involved in the amenities funding.
 - e. new bike/ped overhead crossing at Bayshore Drive/CCC – FDOT Funding for construction still estimated for 2024
6. Organization Updates – as appropriate/if any
- a. Clearwater
 - b. Tampa
 - c. Pinellas County
 - d. Hillsborough County
 - e. Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
 - f. Westshore Alliance
 - g. Dana Shores
 - h. TBRPC
 - i. FDOT

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7. Other Business
8. Adjourned: 11:43

Next meeting date: April 16, 2021

In Attendance: Ron Gregory – AECOM and vice president, Alex Henry – District 7 Scenic Highway Coordinator, Mark Bunker – Clearwater City Council, Brian Roberts – Dana Shores Civic Association, Joan Rice – Pinellas County Public Works, Allison Roberts – Dana Shores Civic Association, Bill Jonson – President; Alana Todd – TBRPC; Michael Maurino – Westshore Alliance