

## Corridor Conditions 2011

- 1 Discuss the condition of the intrinsic resources and any changes in the corridor since designation. If necessary, provide photographs or other graphical representation of the resources.

The intrinsic resources of the Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail (OSLT) have improved since designation and remained stable or improved over the last reporting period. Positive feedback from Loop visitors continues to reach the CME at public events. So far this storm season the beach along SR A1A has sustained minimal erosion. Perhaps the most dramatic change of intrinsic scenic resources is the progress on the Salt Marsh restoration project at North Peninsula State Park. This program is part of the Northeast Florida Coastal Restoration Initiative funded by the National Recovery Act and executed with the collaboration of NOAA, the St Johns River Water Management District, the Florida Park Service, and the Floridian Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. There are three parcels in this project that lie directly along the Loop south of High Bridge Road and west of John Anderson Drive. The northern-most parcel (7.6 acres) has been restored and there is a pull-off for one or two cars permitting a leisurely view of the restored area as it slopes gradually toward the Intracoastal Waterway. Regular visitors will appreciate the regrowth of the salt marsh ecosystem over the years to come. Work continues on two larger parcels to the south, one of 16.2 acres and a third of 14.8 acres. The Sunset Park Bridge refurbishment on Old Dixie Highway just north of Tomoka State Park, planned last year, was completed in January 2011.

- 2 What, if any, intrinsic resources have been degraded or altered?

Once again this year the depressed housing market has kept work on a number of existing projects at a halt, e.g. Toscana on Old Dixie Highway. The upside to this is that the corridor hasn't yet sustained the traffic load and view shed impact these developments would have if the projects were built out. The down side is that there are access roads to nowhere, cleared housing sites that are overgrown, and some homes built on spec that are unkempt. It's safe to say the private sector has been put to shame by the public sector as regards the protection and enhancement of corridor resources. Scheduled work on the southern portion of John Anderson Drive is soon to come, entailing resurfacing, storm water management, and possibly lane widening and curb installation. The addition of a sidewalk was under discussion but will not take place because of the objection of residents.

The weak economy has continued to stall residential and other development projects along the byway. Other than the chronic slow processes at work, for example bank erosion in some locations and the spread of invasive plants, the byway's intrinsic resources have remained secure or been enhanced. Two proposals considered by the City of Ormond Beach that might have had substantial impact on the byway, changing the most historic part of John Anderson Drive from two-way to one-way traffic and adding a restaurant and expanded parking to Bailey Riverbridge Gardens Park at the northwest corner of Granada Boulevard and North Beach Street, were abandoned after negative public input.

3 Identify and discuss enhancement projects that have been initiated or completed.

The most prominent enhancement is the restoration of salt marsh along John Anderson Drive south of High Bridge Road, described above in item 1. The anticipated road work on John Anderson Drive at its southern end, between SR 40 (Granada Blvd) and the intersection of North Halifax Drive and John Anderson will be noticed especially during rain events where runoff management should improve. Since the last reporting period Volusia County created two dog parks at Bicentennial Park, one on either side of the existing trail. The parks extend eastward from the pavilion parking lot but not all the way to the beachside parking lot. They seem to preserve the dune contours and retain islands of palmetto scrub. Several CME projects completed or under way complemented the large-scale enhancements of government entities. The CME collaborated again this year in planting a tree at Fortunato Park at the northeast corner of Granada Boulevard and John Anderson Drive. A grant from the Ormond Beach Garden Club together with the coordination of Barbara Roberts, manager of North Peninsula State Park, provided for a wildflower demonstration project at High Bridge Park and Smith Creek Landing Park. In progress and awaiting word on whether Volusia County resources will be available is a plan for two informational signs at Bicentennial Park pointing out the unique features of that ocean-to-river park.

4 Describe plans for future development in the corridor and how this issue will be addressed.

We expect no significant private development along the corridor in this economic climate. We maintain a long-term goal of establishing an overlay zoning district to assist businesses in enhancing the scenic corridor when they build or remodel.

We continue to keep close observation of published notices of proposed development in local newspapers; our contacts with the City of Ormond Beach and Volusia County have improved so that the CME is advised directly of maintenance and other activities they will conduct along the corridor. We do not anticipate significant future commercial development on the byway but on portions of A1A there is significant small business activity. A long range goal we hope to develop an overlay zoning district to help businesses on the byway grow or change in a manner consistent with the aspects of our Vision the city and county have incorporated into their comp plans.