

## Community Participation Program 2011

### 10) Discuss the effectiveness of the Community Participation Program to date.

Community participation and education is the heart of our CME's activities. Our members represented the CME at the Ormond Beach Riverfest, at Arbor Day, at the Ormond Beach Seafood Festival, and periodically at the Ormond Beach Farmer's Market. We held a forum at the Casements in April, 2011, featuring presentations by Dylan Gavagni of Tomoka State Park on "Managing Natural Habitats with Fire" and by Barbara Roberts of North Peninsula State Park on "Salt Marsh Restoration." We estimated attendance at about 80 people. The Mayor of Ormond Beach Ed Kelly and Volusia County Councilman Carl Persis both addressed the group. We have established a Facebook page for the byway. An anchor of our community outreach remains our guided trail walks along the Loop. In November, 2010, John Kunzer, Tomoka State Park biologist, and Don Spence, PhD candidate in biology at the University of Florida, guided our best-attended and most informative trail walk yet. As in past years our brochures are available at a number of locations including the Ormond Beach Historical Society offices at the MacDonald House and the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce. Partners make our brochures available at events they participate in, e.g. at the Tomoka State Park booth at the Florida RV show at the Ocean Center, Daytona Beach. As in the past we continue to be covered by the local press, the Daytona Beach News-Journal and Hometown News newspapers, and even the Orlando Sentinel. The CME's endorsement is sought by partner organizations in the community. Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail wrote a letter in support of Snell Legal's application for a Florida Preservation Trust Award for their restoration of The Old Ormond Beach Firehouse at 160 East Granada. The site is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

### 11) Provide a synopsis of major issues discussed at public meetings held in the past year and elaborate on any critical issues that have arisen during these forums and how they were addressed.

We devoted substantial time and resources in our regular public meetings and in special public meetings to working through the process for the CME's Wayfinding grant with consultants TranSystems and AECOM. We also discussed designs for a new CME logo produced by consultant Costa Devault with FDOT funding. The CME selected what we believe will be an excellent emblem. Perhaps the issue requiring the most extensive discussion and behind-the-scenes work and preparation was the FDOT District 5 "Achieving Excellence" Accreditation Program application and application revisions for Level I accreditation. We also discussed issues raised at a Florida Scenic Highway state-wide workshop in St Augustine in June, 2011. CME sustainability and the support of FDOT and consultants for CMEs after their designation were reviewed. We continue to see our post-designation success tied to specific projects that are within the scope of our CME's volunteer and partnering resources.