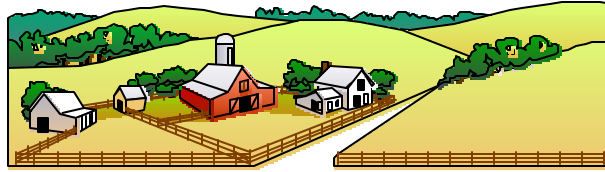


Scenic 441 Corridor Advocacy Group

C/O P.O. BOX 117629

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, 326011-7629



A PROJECT OF SUSTAINABLE ALACHUA COUNTY, THE NORTHWEST MARION LAND TRUST AND THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CONSERVATION CLINIC

Ms. Kristee Booth
Scenic Highway Coordinator
District II, Florida Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 1089
Attn: Mail Station 2007
Lake City, Florida 32056-1089

Re: Submission of Signed Eligibility Application and Final Eligibility Documentation for the *Old Florida Heritage Highway*

Dear Ms. Booth,

On behalf of the Scenic 441 Corridor Advocacy Group, and the elected representatives of the Town of Micanopy and Alachua County, enclosed please find a copy of the signed eligibility application and Final Eligibility Documentation Report for designation of a portion of US 441 as the "*The Old Florida Heritage Highway*." This documentation seeks a determination of eligibility for a the 12 mile stretch of US 441 in Alachua County from State/County Road 331, also known as Williston Road, to the Alachua County line. The corridor crosses Paynes Prairie State Preserve, passes through rolling agricultural land and into the historic town of Micanopy and concludes at the county line just north of McIntosh, Florida. As we describe in this report, this portion of US 441 offers access to an unusually well-preserved section of Florida's natural and cultural heritage. Moreover, it complements a variety of resource protection and contextually appropriate economic development programs and initiatives currently being fostered by the citizens of Micanopy and Alachua County. As a result, we believe that the *Old Florida Heritage Highway* meets all of the criteria for designation set forth by FDOT.

In developing this documentation, we formed the Scenic 441 Corridor Advocacy Group. The Scenic 441 CAG is an informal entity based on a philosophy of open enrollment and chaired by institutional representation from the Northwest Marion Land Trust and Sustainable Alachua County, grass roots citizens organizations with a special interest in resource protection along the scenic corridor. In developing this documentation, the CAG sponsored public meetings in Micanopy, McIntosh, Gainesville and Ocala. In addition to advertising in public media, notices were posted at public locations along the right of way and property owners were notified by direct mail. Thereafter, this report was presented to the Alachua County Commission and the Town of Micanopy and it was endorsed unanimously by both elected bodies. The elected representatives to the Town of McIntosh voted to reject the proposal and the

Marion County Commission voted to refer the application to a workshop for further discussion. This process resulted in our decision to revise the corridor limits to include only that portion of the corridor in Alachua County and Micanopy. At the same time an express goal of the CAG is to continue to work with citizens in McIntosh and Marion County to extend the designation in the future. In addition, considerable interest has been expressed in including local loop roads within this application. The CAG has considered this and believes that these roads should also be considered in a subsequent phase or through local scenic road designation processes. The CAG believes that the natural, cultural and scenic resources offered by these local roads can be incorporated through interpretation of the “*Old Florida Heritage Highway*” as a broader heritage corridor.

Support for this project was provided by Alachua County through an agreement with the University of Florida Conservation Clinic, which has served as the staff to the Scenic 441 Corridor Advocacy Group since August of 1999. Additional support was provided by a graduate studio in the Department of Landscape Architecture, working with the Clinic. In addition to their participation on the CAG, planning and legal staff from Alachua County and planning staff from the St. Johns River Water Management District have also generously provided in-kind resources. The preliminary draft eligibility documentation report was also provided to your office for review and comment. We have sought to incorporate those comments in this final report. Finally, members of the CAG accompanied the FDOT Scenic Highway Advisory Committee on a tour of the corridor.

Thank you for your support and encouragement during the development of this eligibility documentation. We look forward to your decision and for the opportunity to move on to the designation phase and the development of a corridor management plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Linda Duever, Chair
Scenic 441 Corridor Advocacy Group
and Interim President
Northwest Marion Land Trust

David Carr, Vice Chair
Scenic 441 Corridor Advocacy Group
and Boardmember,
Sustainable Alachua County

Thomas T. Ankersen, Director,
University of Florida Conservation Clinic
Center for Governmental Responsibility
University of Florida College of Law

Cc: Members of the Alachua County Commission
Members of the Town Council of Micanopy
David Schwartz, Assistant County Attorney, Alachua County
Henry Dean, Executive Director, St. Johns River Water Management District
Members of the Scenic 441 Corridor Advocacy Group
Les Linscott, Department of Landscape Architecture

