**MINUTES**

MARTIN HIGHWAY SCENIC HIGHWAY PROJECT

CORRIDOR ADVOCACY GROUP (CAG) MEETING

July 8, 2010

Dunklin Memorial Camp 6:30 – 8:00 PM

**CAG Committee Members in Attendance CAG Committee Members Absent**

Mary Dawson, Robert Dawson, Lee Rogers, Nancy Oliver

Brian Powers, Mona Schwall

1) Welcome and Introduction by Mary Dawson

2) Announcement of Nick Reynolds’ resignation from CAG due to his acceptance of new position.

* Letter of Thanks to Nick Reynolds from the CAG given to Lee Rogers to sign accepting resignation.
* Brian Powers offers to serve on the CAG to replace Nick Reynolds and is accepted by unanimous vote of CAG Committee members.

3) Martin County Commissioner District V Ed Ciampi has agreed to serve on the CAG and promote project as much as possible.

4) David Knight is retiring from Martin County as a Planner. Mary Dawson asked him to serve on the CAG in whatever capacity he is able.

5) Robert Dawson does PowerPoint presentation of Background & Status of the Martin Grade Scenic Highway Application process.

6) Questions: Regional 20 - 30 plan, road widening plans for roads surrounding the Grade, 4-lane plans for some roads within next 20 years.

7) Brian Powers raised questions as to whether Scenic Highway Designation provides protection from road-widening. David Knight gave example from his experience at the County, where County officials say they have final say as to the future of that roadway (The Martin Grade) if they chose to widen it anytime in the future.

8) Corridor Impressions Survey - Ideas to improve ease of completion and thereby increase submission by community members:

* Get mile marker posts or paint markings put in at each mile segment along 12-mile corridor on the Grade.
* Harley Davidson Fundraiser to get people to come to the Grade and fill out CIS forms.
* Brian suggested asking Seminole Inn to do a CIS promotion – offering an incentive for guests to take a tour of the Grade and fill out the form in return for a free dessert or something like that.
* Antique cars event.

**MINUTES of July 8th, 2010 CAG Meeting Continued…**

9) Robert Dawson reviewed next steps in Eligibility Phase of Scenic Highway Application:

* Submit Eligibility Application to SHAC by August 13th.
* Revise and Correct Application according to SHAC instructions.
* Final Application submission due October 13th.

10) General conversation about getting County Commission support for the MGSH project. Discussion about the need to get Commission Doug Smith on board, Commissioner Patrick Hayes has made some indication he will be of assistance, as has Commissioner Susan Valiere.

11) Funding is required for removal of invasive plants along the Grade and for planting new trees along denuded areas along the Grade. Discussion of whether planting new trees would get County approval.

12) Brian Powers asked: How wide is the County’s ROW on the Road? Answer given was: 100’ on each side of the center line.

13) Question raised: How many other tree-canopied scenic highways are there in Florida and how can we gain insight from their application experiences?

14) Question raised: What is the record length for a continuous tree-canopied roadway?

15) Fear of the community forgetting about the Martin Grade is an ongoing concern.

16) General conversation and explanation of the CIS survey.

* All CIS surveys need to be submitted to us by August 7th to be included in Eligibility application.
* Attendees volunteered to bring CIS forms to their co-workers and friends to fill out.
* Brian and Lee agree to pursue getting County approval to mark segments along the Martin Grade in order to make it easier for people to fill out the CIS survey.

17) Fundraiser is scheduled for July 27th at Wahoo’s Restaurant between 6 – 8 PM with a $10 donation. Robert Dawson encouraged all to attend and bring friends and family.

18) Meeting adjourned.