



WELCOME TO THE
TREASURE COAST SCENIC
HIGHWAY QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER.

We're thrilled to have you along for the ride as we explore the natural beauty, vibrant communities, and hidden gems that make the Treasure Coast a place like no other. Each Season, we'll bring you the latest updates, upcoming events, local spotlights, and ways you can get involved in preserving and celebrating this stunning stretch of Florida's coastline. Long-time residents, new neighbors, or visitors just passing through, there's always something new to discover along the Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway.



HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 4

July 2026

Florida Scenic Highway Program hosts 2026 Annual Meeting at Captian Hiram's Resort



L to R: Mike Palozzi, Dean Stoddart (FDOT Central Office), Stephanie Torres (TCSHC), Morgan Phelps (TCSHC), Kaylee Kildare (FDOT D4)

Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee representatives Morgan Phelps, SLC Planning and Stephanie Torres, St. Lucie TPO proudly attended the Florida Scenic Highways Program 2026 Annual Meeting on March 25th at Captain Hiram's Resort. This year's theme, "A Celebration of Heritage and Highways: America 250 and 30 Years of the FSHP", set the tone for a full day of reflection, inspiration, and forward-thinking conversations. The day kicked off with a warm welcome from Dean Stoddart, FDOT Central Office, FSHP Program Coordinator, followed by a program update highlighting the evolution of Florida's Scenic Highways over the past 30 years and their role in the upcoming America 250 commemoration.

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Dean Stoddart, FDOT Central Office, FSHP Coordinator

FSHP hosts Annual Meeting at Captian Hiram's (cont'd)

Scenic Highway Coordinators, byway organizations, and volunteers from across the state then heard from Visit Florida on partnership opportunities to further promote scenic byways, setting the stage for collaboration and increased visibility for corridors like the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway. A particularly engaging segment focused on our partner byway to the North, Nick Sanzone from the Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway was joined by City of Sebastian Mayor, Fred Jones who offered local success stories that resonated strongly with the Treasure Coast and the Indian River Lagoon and the National Estuary. Throughout the afternoon, sessions explored practical and relatable topics for byway organizations. A panel on preventing byway burnout provided candid insights and strategies for sustaining volunteer engagement, while another session focused on long-term organizational success.

The meeting concluded with a byway leaders roundtable, celebrating past accomplishments while looking ahead to future opportunities. Overall, the event was both informative and energizing, reinforcing the importance of collaboration, storytelling, and community involvement.



Florida Scenic Highways Program 2026 Annual Meeting at Captian Hiram's Resort in Sebastian Florida

Experience the Scenic Highway: What's Happening with Our Partners

The Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee is proud to support and spotlight events hosted by our dedicated partner organizations. These upcoming activities offer unique opportunities to engage with the treasures found along the scenic highway corridor. Be sure to mark your calendar and take part in the events that help make the Treasure Coast a vibrant and scenic destination!



Manatee Center

480 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

www.manateecenter.org

The Manatee Center is OPEN during the roadway construction on Indian River Drive.

Manatee
Center

LEARN AT THE LAGOON



Free Community Day - Last Wednesday Each Month 10:00am - 4:00pm

As a way of making coastal discovery accessible for everyone the Manatee Center is opening its doors and waiving admission for the day! Free Community Day takes place the last Wednesday of each month.

ManaTales Storytime Program - Ongoing Weekly - 9:30 and 11:00am

Join us in the outdoor classroom for a morning full of fun, learning, and connection! Each session includes a themed story, a hands-on activity, music and movement time. Guests also receive free passes to the Manatee Center and a Gift Store Discount! Call [772-429-6266](tel:772-429-6266) x3337 to RSVP.

Space fills quickly so reserve your spot today!

St. Lucie County Regional History Museum

414 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34950

<https://stluciehistoricalsociety.net>



Overlooking the magnificent Indian River in Museum Point Park, the Regional History Center offers a glimpse at the foundation of St. Lucie County and the Treasure Coast. From our earliest known residents, the Ais Indians, to the Creek and later the Seminoles, you can see their lifestyle in the artifacts and displays. Trace the rise of the fishing industry and the failed efforts at making us the "Pineapple Capital of the World." Go shopping in Cobb's General Store or walk down Main Street, past the doctor's office and the printing press. Step back into the 1900s with a tour of the fully furnished Gardner House. The Regional History Museum is open thanks to the St. Lucie Historical Society and staffed by volunteers. The museum is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10am - 4pm and closed on Sunday and Monday.

<https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/parks-recreation-department/st-lucie-county-regional-history-center>

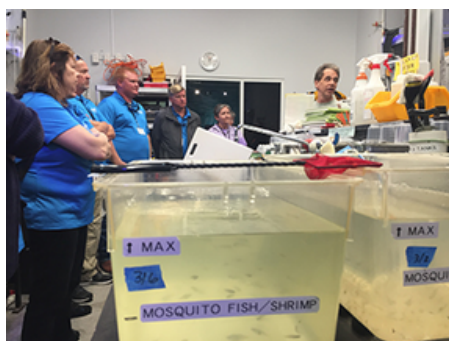
Experience the Scenic Highway: More from Our Partners

Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit

420 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, FL

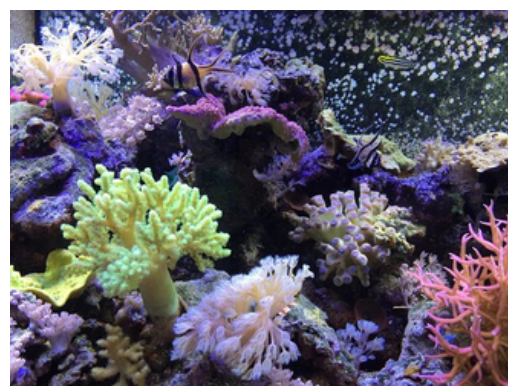
The Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit at the St. Lucie County Aquarium is dedicated to educating the general public and school groups about the critical need to preserve the diversity and complexity of Florida's marine environments.

At the Aquarium, visitors can explore living models of six different Florida marine and estuarine ecosystems while learning about the importance and intricacy of these ecosystems. The largest display is a spectacular living model of a Caribbean coral reef ecosystem. Other displays include seagrass, mangrove, lagoon hardbottom, and nearshore reef habitats, as well as a deepwater Oculina coral reef. There are several smaller aquarium displays and



microscope displays where visitors can get a glimpse of the microscopic world. A touch tank also allows visitors an up-close encounter with local marine life. Created and managed through a partnership between the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners and the Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce, this 5,000-square-foot facility features more than 5,000 gallons of marine life. The Aquarium's six aquarium displays and touch tank accurately reflect the habitats typically found in the Indian River Lagoon and surrounding coastal waters.

The St. Lucie County Aquarium, featuring the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit, opened in November of 2001, after the center's main 3,000-gallon coral reef exhibit was being retired from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Smithsonian scientists were the first to put a living model of an Atlantic coral reef ecosystem on display for the public.





New S.R. A1A North Causeway Bridge opened May 15, 2026. This new high-level fixed bridge replaces the existing drawbridge, providing a more reliable connection between S.R. A1A and U.S. 1/S.R. 5.



The project represents a major investment in improving safety, enhancing infrastructure resiliency, and strengthening connectivity for residents, visitors, and marine traffic throughout St. Lucie County.

Key features include:

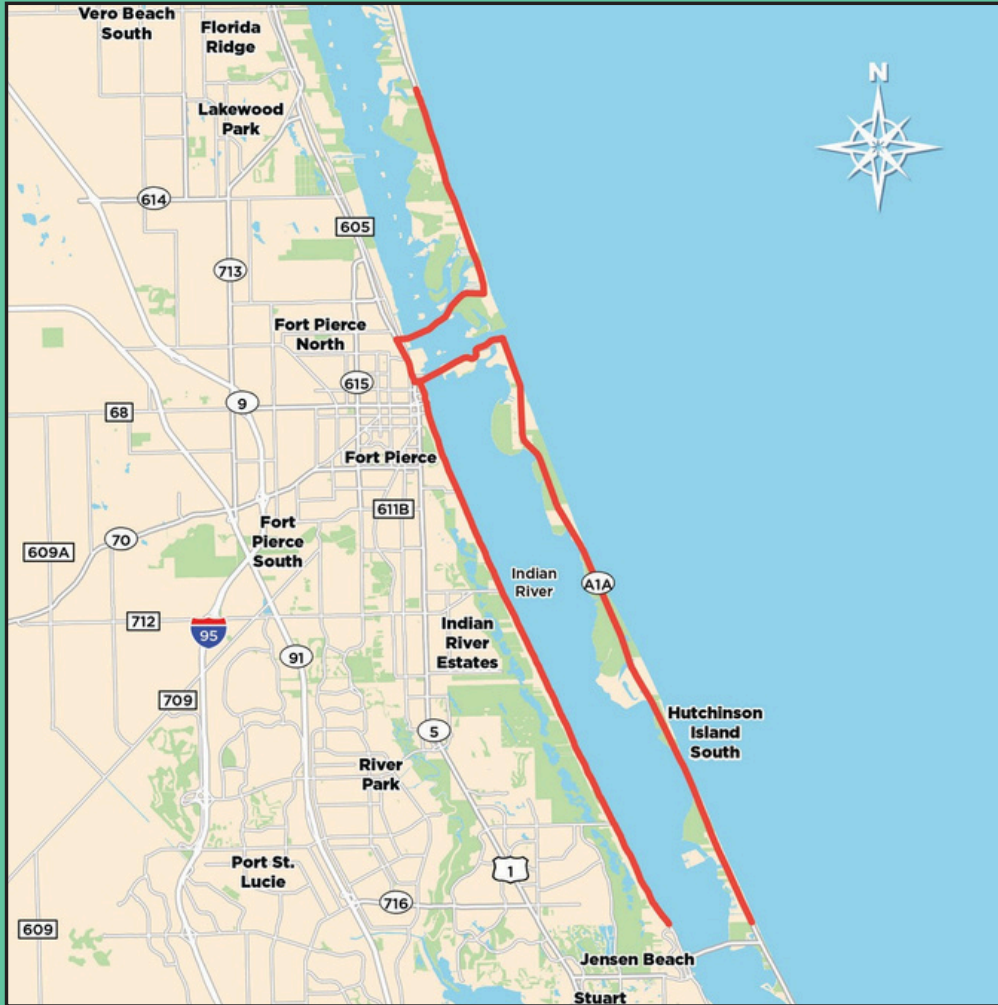
- One 12-foot travel lane in each direction
- Improved navigational clearance for marine traffic (85 ft vertical / 125 ft horizontal)
- Barrier-protected sidewalk and shared-use path for pedestrians and cyclists
- Buffered bicycle lanes on both sides of the bridge
- New observation deck (opening at a later phase)

⚠ Please note: At opening, some pedestrian and bicycle features, as well as the observation deck, will remain temporarily closed as construction continues. The existing drawbridge will be permanently closed and removed as part of the final phase of the project, with construction continuing through late 2027.

For more information, please visit www.d4fdot.com.



Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway



Great views of the Indian River Lagoon, the Atlantic Ocean can be enjoyed along this byway, which is filled with historical, cultural and environmental resources. World War II soldiers trained on Florida's beaches here in preparation for the Normandy invasion, and numerous artists and writers have been inspired by the beauty of the region.



Real Places. Real Stories.™

We Want to Feature YOU! Share Your Scenic Story

Do you have a favorite memory, hidden gem, or community project along the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway? We're looking for inspiring stories, personal experiences, local spotlights, and photos to include in upcoming newsletters! Whether you're a resident, volunteer, business owner, or simply someone who loves the byway, we'd love to hear from you. Help us showcase the people and places that make the Treasure Coast so special. Submit your story or suggestion today to: stephanie.torres@stlucieco.gov

Join Us in Preserving the Beauty of the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway!

Committee Members Needed



Are you passionate about protecting Florida's natural beauty and cultural heritage? Do you want to make a meaningful impact in your community? The Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee is looking for enthusiastic new members to join our team! As a committee member, you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with local leaders, residents, and organizations to promote tourism, sustainability and community pride. If you're a long-time resident, a business owner, or simply someone who loves the charm of the Treasure Coast, we welcome your voice and vision. Contact Stephanie Torres, St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization at stephanie.torres@stlucieco.gov.



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@IRLTCSH

The Indian River Lagoon Treasure Coast Scenic Highway is a proud member of the Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP). FSHP was established to showcase the outstanding intrinsic resources (cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic) that can be found along Florida's highway system.

The Florida Scenic Highway Program byway collection includes 27 state designated scenic highways. Of these, six are further designated at a federal level as National Scenic Byways, and the Florida Keys Scenic Highway and A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway are designated as All-American Roads.

The program is a grass-roots effort to heighten awareness of these resources which enhance the overall traveling experience in Florida. Program participation provides benefits to each byway's region, including resource preservation, enhancement and economic development. More information on the state program can be found at: <https://floridascenichighways.com/>



Jimmy Buffet Memorial Highway, Fort Pierce

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