



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 3

February 2026

The Florida Channel - Florida Crossroads Visits the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway



The Treasure Coast Scenic Highway was recently featured in a segment filmed by the Florida Channel's Florida Crossroads program, shining a spotlight on the region's rich history, culture, and scenic beauty. The crew spent time capturing the unique

character that makes the Treasure Coast a distinctive destination within Florida. During filming, the program interviewed Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Chairwoman, Diana Gregory, who shared insight into the mission of the Scenic Highway Committee and its role in preserving and promoting the area's natural, cultural and historical assets. Key locations included the Navy Seal Museum and the St. Lucie Regional History Museum, highlighting the region's deep military and historical roots. Additional footage showcased the charm of Indian River Drive, featuring its residential and historic neighborhoods, as well as downtown Fort Pierce, with its vibrant murals and waterfront setting. The segment will help introduce viewers statewide to the stories, places, and people that define the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway. The Florida Crossroads segment featuring the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway is scheduled to air in March on the Florida Channel once the Legislative Sessions are complete.

The segment is also available on demand on the Florida Scenic Highway Program Webpage at:
<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/florida-scenic-highways-and-byways-indian-river-lagoon-treasure-coast/>

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HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS



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Walton Scrub Observation Tower Construction Progress

New Eco-Attraction on the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway

St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department along with Representatives from Indian River State College attended the TCSHC fourth quarter meeting to share a progress update of the brand-new observation tower being constructed at the Walton Scrub Natural Area. Established in 1995 the Walton Scrub Natural Area is a 33-acre preserve that is owned and managed by St. Lucie County. The tower is over fifty feet tall and will offer stunning panoramic views of Florida's unique scrub ecosystem as well as the beautiful waters of the Indian River Lagoon. The observation tower will serve as a destination point, drawing both residents and visitors to experience the area's natural beauty from an environmental perspective. Future plans for Walton Scrub will include construction of an outdoor pavilion and restroom facility as well as a boardwalk and fishing pier on the lagoon for visitors to enjoy. Whether you are a nature lover,

photographer, or simply looking for a peaceful outdoor escape, the new observation tower at the Walton Scrub Preserve and natural area promises an unforgettable experience. Stay tuned for Preserve re-opening dates. 10809 South Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, Fl. 34981 More information on the Walton Scrub Preserve can be found at: <https://www.stlucieco.gov/departments-and-services/environmental-resources/county-preserves/walton-scrub>



Walton Scrub Observation Tower Construction Progress



Approximate
Tower Location

Walton Scrub - Start of Trail www.floridahikes.com

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

Manatales - Thursday, February 19th 9:30am - 10:30am

Get ready for more ManaTales Storytime Programs at the Manatee Center! We've added new sessions of our beloved Mommy-and-Me style ManaTales, featuring Helping People Succeed - Music and Movement! RSVP at <https://manateecenter.org/events/>

Free Community Day - Wednesday, February 25th 10:00am - 4:00pm

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

Ocean Research Conservation Association (ORCA)

1235 16th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960 / www.teamorca.org



COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES

March 10 at 3:00 PM - Fish as Biological Indicators: ORCA's One Health Fish Monitoring Project.

What can fish tell us about the health of the Lagoon - and ourselves? Join ORCA Research Scientist, Beth Falls, Ph.D. to learn how One Health Fish Monitoring is using fish sampling to better understand pollution in our waters. [Register at www.teamorca.org](http://www.teamorca.org)

April 14 at 3:00 PM - Empowered by Data: Citizen Science in Action. -

Missy Weiss will guide us through how ORCA turns data collected by scientists and citizens into action. Discover how you can be part of the solution through citizen science.

[Register at www.teamorca.org](http://www.teamorca.org)



ORCA's Explorers Experience at Triton Submarines

February 28, 2026 - 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Join the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) for our premiere fundraising event, ORCA's Explorer's Experience, hosted at the cutting-edge headquarters of Triton Submarines. This one-of-a-kind evening invites community leaders, environmental advocates, and ocean enthusiasts to gather for an unforgettable night of dinner, drinks and discovery- all inspired by the mysteries of the deep sea. Surrounded by state-of-the-art submersibles designed to explore the ocean's most extreme depths, guests will enjoy locally sourced cuisine, live music, and indulge in a silent auction. Proceeds support ORCA's current focus on protecting and restoring the Indian River Lagoon and surrounding coastal ecosystems through innovative technology, science-based action, and community engagement. For tickets visit: <https://www.teamorca.org/events/>

Experience the Scenic Highway: More from Our Partners

Smithsonian Marine Station 701 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, FL

A research center specializing in marine biodiversity and ecosystems of Florida. Research focuses on the Indian River Lagoon and the offshore waters of Florida's east central coast, with comparative studies throughout coastal Florida. Free public tours are available on the 3rd Thursday monthly with a reservation, which can be made by calling (772)462-6216.



Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee Engages the Community

On October 25, 2025 the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee attended the 10th Annual Indian River Lagoon – Science Festival at Veteran's Memorial Park in Fort Pierce. This is a community loved annual event that celebrates science, nature, and community spirit along the scenic highway and draws attendees from all around. Stephanie and Irene enjoyed a fun filled day interacting with over 200 families who visited our information table. The kids joined in on a fun seashell painting craft while learning about the scenic highway.



Enhancing access and Connectivity: Key Construction Projects along the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway

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INDIAN RIVER DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS: MARINA WAY TO SEAWAY DRIVE



City of Fort Pierce - Indian River Drive Corridor Improvements

The Indian River Drive Corridor Improvements project is a major infrastructure initiative focused on the full roadway reconstruction of Indian River Drive between Seaway Drive and Marina Way. This transformative project will improve safety, functionality, and the overall appearance of one of Fort Pierce's most scenic and historic corridors.

Key project elements include:

- Replacement of the Moore's Creek Bridge
- Pedestrian safety improvements to enhance walkability and connectivity
- Landscaping enhancements to beautify the waterfront corridor
- Utility upgrades and infrastructure improvements to support long-term reliability
- The project represents a coordinated effort between multiple partners and funding sources, including the City of Fort Pierce, the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, the Florida Job Growth Infrastructure Grant, and the Half-Cent Infrastructure Surtax.

Construction began in December 2025, with project completion expected in 2027. Updates, construction milestones, and progress photos can be found at the City of Fort Pierce:

<https://www.cityoffortpierce.com/1209/Indian-River-Drive-Corridor-Improvements>



Progress continues on the North Bridge Replacement Project North Causeway Over the Intracoastal Waterway. Construction crews are making steady headway, with key structural work now nearing completion. This phase focuses on improving bridge safety and longevity while enhancing traffic flow for locals and visitors along the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway. Expect continued lane adjustments and periodic short closures as the project advances.

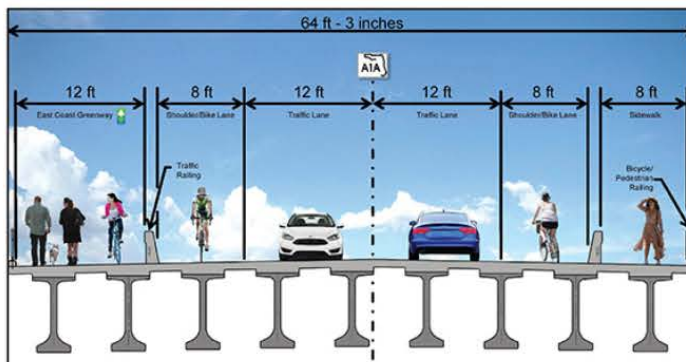
Completion Date: Late 2027

Contractor: Vecellio & Grogan, Inc.

Estimated Construction Cost: \$111.5 million.



New SR A1A Bridge Typical Section



Byway Enhancements to Our North - Sebastian Inlet Bridge Replacement

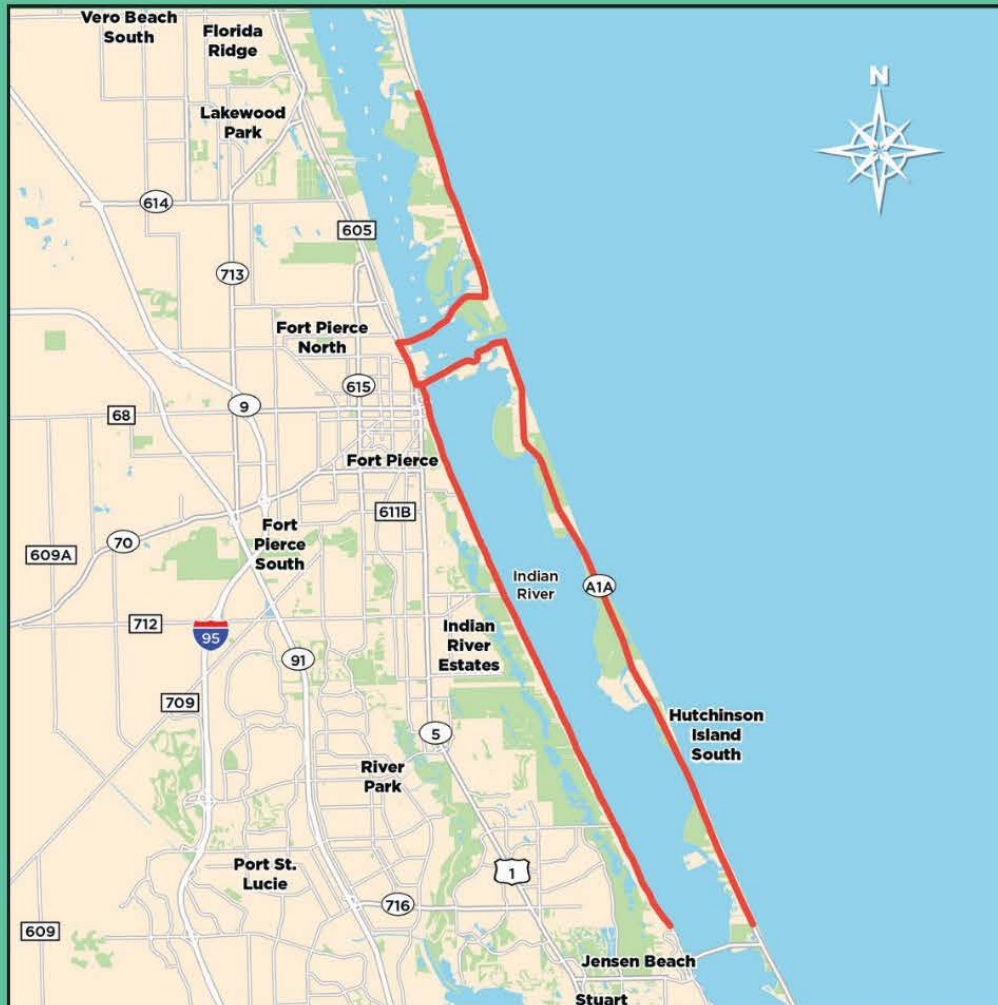


The Sebastian Inlet Bridge replacement project aims to enhance safety and connectivity while addressing structural deficiencies. The new bridge will be approximately 12 feet taller than the existing structure, improving vertical clearance and resilience against environmental factors. The updated design includes two 12-foot travel lanes, two 8-foot shoulders for safety, and two 12-foot shared-use paths for cyclists and pedestrians, effectively closing a critical connectivity gap. While stormwater management improvements will enhance sustainability and reduce runoff impacts on the Sebastian Inlet. Construction is expected to begin in 2026, with efforts made to maintain two-way traffic across the inlet throughout the project. Temporary lane closures may occur during non-peak hours, but the bridge will remain open to minimize disruption to the community. The estimated construction cost for the bridge replacement is approximately \$92 million, with an additional \$11.4 million allocated for resurfacing SR A1A. The total project cost is projected to be \$103.4 million, funded through state and federal sources.

For more detailed updates, you can visit the official FDOT project at:

<https://www.fdot.gov/projects/sebastian-inlet-bridge/home-page>

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.



HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

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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/>



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Jimmy Buffet Memorial Highway, Fort Pierce

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