



Coco Vista Centre  
 466 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd, Suite 111  
 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953  
 772-462-1593  
[www.treasurecoastscenichighway.com](http://www.treasurecoastscenichighway.com)

## TREASURE COAST SCENIC HIGHWAY (TCSH) COMMITTEE

### Regular Meeting

Friday, January 16, 2026  
 10:00 am

#### Public Participation/Accessibility

**Participation in Person:** Public comments may be provided in person at the meeting. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the St. Lucie TPO at 772-462-1593 at least five days prior to the meeting. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may use the Florida Relay System by dialing 711.

**Written and Telephone Comments:** Comment by email to [TPOAdmin@stlucieco.org](mailto:TPOAdmin@stlucieco.org); by regular mail to the St. Lucie TPO, 466 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Suite 111, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953; or call 772-462-1593 until 9:30 am on January 16, 2026.

### AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Comments from the Public**
4. **Approval of Agenda**
5. **Approval of Meeting Summary**
  - *October 10, 2025 Regular Meeting*
6. **Annual Officer Elections:** Election of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson for the TCSH Committee for 2025.

**Action:** *Nominate and Elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the TCSH Committee.*

7. **2025 Annual Work Report:** Review and approve 2025 Annual Work Report by the TCSHC for submission to the FSHP.  
*Action: Review and approve the 2025 Annual Report for submission to FSHP, approve with conditions, or do not approve.*
8. **TCSHC Corridor Management Plan Update Guidance:** An Overview of The Florida Scenic Highway Program's CMP Update requirement, presented by Mike Palozzi, consultant to FDOT D4.  
*Action: Discuss and provide comments.*
9. **TCSH Newsletter Approval:** Review the current edition of the TCSH Newsletter for distribution.  
*Action: Review and Approve TCSH Newsletter for distribution, approve with conditions, or do not approve.*
10. **Florida Channel – Florida Crossroads Segment:** View the Indian River Lagoon Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Florida Crossroads segment.  
*Action: Discuss and provide comments*
11. **Highlights from the IRL Science Festival:** Summary of TCSHC attendance at the IRL Science Festival on October 25, 2024.  
*Action: Discuss and provide comments.*
12. **Recommendations/Comments by Members**
13. **Staff Comments**
14. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the TCSHC will be a regular meeting on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 10:00 am.
15. **Adjourn**

#### **NOTICES**

The St. Lucie TPO satisfies the requirements of various nondiscrimination laws and regulations including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Public participation is welcome without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns about nondiscrimination should contact Marceia Lathou, the Title VI/ADA Coordinator of the St. Lucie TPO, at 772-462-1593 or via email at [lathoum@stlucieco.org](mailto:lathoum@stlucieco.org).

Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Marceia Lathou at 772-462-1593 at least five days prior to the meeting. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may use the Florida Relay System by dialing 711.

Items not included on the agenda may also be heard in consideration of the best interests of the public's health, safety, welfare, and as necessary to protect every person's right of access. If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the TCSH Committee with respect to any matter considered at a meeting, that person shall need a record of the proceedings, and for such a purpose, that person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Kreyol Aisyen: Si ou ta renmen resevwa enfòmasyon sa a nan lang Kreyòl Aysiyen, tanpri rele nimewo 772-462-1593.

Español: Si usted desea recibir esta información en español, por favor llame al 772-462-1593.



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## TREASURE COAST SCENIC HIGHWAY (TCSH) COMMITTEE

### Regular Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, October 10, 2025

**TIME:** 10:00 am

### MEETING SUMMARY

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 am.

#### 2. Roll Call

The roll call was conducted via sign-in sheet, and each member introduced themselves. Chairwoman Gregory announced Vice Chairwoman Emery would lead the meeting. A quorum was reached.

#### Members Present

Irene Arpayoglu

Eileen Emery, Vice Chair

Diana Gregory, Chair

Marissa Da Breo-Latchman

April Price

Caleta Scott

Morgan Phelps

#### Representing

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas Division

South Hutchinson Island (incorporated)

Indian River Drive

Port St. Lucie City Planning Department

St. Lucie County (at-large)

St. Lucie County (at-large)

Community Development Department

#### Others Present

Stephanie Torres

Teresa Lane

Jennifer McGee

#### Representing

St. Lucie TPO

Recording Specialist

St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department (ERD)

Jean Stasio  
Kyle Bartow  
Terry Price

St. Lucie County Attorney  
Indian River State College  
Indian River State College

### **3. Comments from the Public – None.**

#### **4. Approval of Agenda**

- \* **MOTION** by Chairwoman Gregory to approve the meeting agenda.
- \*\* **SECONDED** by Ms. Arpayoglu Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

## 5. Approval of Meeting Summary

**6. Walton Scrub Observation Tower Project:** The St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department (ERD) will present an overview of the Walton Scrub Observation Tower project.

Ms. Torres explained that the ERD is building a new observation tower that will provide sweeping views of the Indian River Lagoon and Savannas Preserve State Park, reinforcing the committee's objective to champion projects that increase awareness and access to the corridor's scenic, cultural and ecological assets. She introduced Ms. McGee and Mr. Bartow, partners in the project, to summarize the project.

Ms. McGee reported the 65-foot tower is slated for completion in December 2025, with an expected public opening in January 2026. Walton Scrub Preserve, a 31-acre tract adjacent to Savannas Preserve, is home to several protected species of plants and animals and provides rare access to the Indian River, she noted. Ms. McGee played a drone video of the vistas expected from the tower and added there will be a video camera installed for those who cannot climb the steps to the top.

She introduced Mr. Bartow, a biology teacher at IRSC, who is partnering with ERD to study shoreline restoration and marine habitats in a section of the lagoon where concrete erosion blocks are failing. Students have already begun researching better erosion-control methods and have documented marine plants and animals in the area, he remarked. Mr. Bartow praised potential plans for a pedestrian walkway crossing over Indian River Drive, stating it is unsafe to cross the road on foot currently. To date, students have monitored seagrass and oyster populations, planted mangroves and placed settlement tiles for oysters, he indicated.

Mr. Bartow introduced IRSC senior Terry Price, who explained she is one of 13 students working to restore the shoreline. Students have cataloged more than 50 species of plants, planted 100 mangrove trees and cleared wood and trash from the water, she reported. Although there are schools of manatees in the water, she stated, fish life is sparse. When Chairwoman Gregory asked if there is money for the pedestrian overpass, Ms. McGee said it is in the early stages of discussion but noted impact fees might be available for construction. Chairwoman Gregory opined there would be great public support for the overpass since residents regularly bemoan the lack of parking and safe passageway to the river along Indian River Drive.

**7. TCSHC 2025 Annual Work Plan Update:** An update on progress of the 2025 Work Plan Activities.

Ms. Torres stated the Annual Work Pan incorporates the activities and goals that will assist the committee with social media outreach, community engagements, and efforts to educate the community on the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway. She summarized the progress on 10 major activities that correlate with the committee's goals, and highlighted two areas that need to be revisited.

On grant opportunities, she noted, the committee has not yet explored funding opportunities due to lack of formal nonprofit or 501c(3) tax-exempt status. This limitation presents significant challenges, she explained, as many grant opportunities require applicants to be eligible for funding. Members discussed the pros and cons of establishing a nonprofit agency and whether the group has a clear enough vision statement to begin the process. Ms. Torres suggested members might have a better idea how to proceed after discussing the Corridor Management Plan slated for later in the meeting.

- \* **MOTION** by Chairwoman Gregory to postpone a decision on nonprofit status until after a discussion on the Corridor Management update.

**8. Youth Engagement Strategy:** A youth engagement strategy including partnerships with established local high school volunteer clubs will be presented for consideration.

Ms. Torres noted that a key focus of the 2025 Annual Work Plan is to strengthen community partnerships and expand youth engagement activities for the committee. Engaging young people in meaningful, place-based services helps cultivate a new generation of environmental stewards and community leaders, she added. Ms. Scott mentioned that Port St. Lucie just created a youth council that might be interested in a partnership with TCSHC, and Ms. Price offered to contact leaders of Scout troops and Boys and Girls Clubs. Ms. Torres, who pledged to contact area youth councils, suggested young people could help with the Walton Scrub shoreline restoration, while Ms. Price opined that road cleanups would be worthwhile projects as well.

Members discussed what role young people should play on the committee, with several agreeing members should work with existing youth groups rather than establish their own team of young volunteers.

\* **MOTION** by Chairwoman Gregory to work with established youth groups on the Youth Engagement Strategy.

\*\* **SECONDED** by Ms. Price Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. 2026 Annual Work Plan:** Review and adoption of the 2026 Annual Work Plan for the TCSH Committee.

Ms. Torres explained the Annual Work Plan specifies the programs, projects, and activities the TCSHC will undertake for the 2026 calendar year, along with a timeframe for completion and responsible parties. The 2026 Work Plan consists of nine major activities that correlate with the committee's five goals, she reported, noting that updating the Corridor Management Plan will be the top priority to clarify the group's goals. She noted that Florida Department of Transportation consultant Mike Pelosi will explain in January how to accomplish that update.

Other activities in the Work Plan include expanding social media storytelling and visual content and submitting a nomination for the Florida Scenic Highway Gary Balough Award to recognize the TCSHC's achievements, Ms. Torres reported.

- \* **MOTION** by Chairwoman Gregory to adopt the 2026 Annual Work Plan.
- \*\* **SECONDED** by Ms. Arpayoglu Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. 2026 Meeting Schedule:** Approval of the proposed 2026 regular meeting dates for the TCSH Committee.

Ms. Torres outlined the planned meeting dates for 2026, prompting Ms. Price to mention she will be unable to attend the July meeting. Other members agreed July is a busy time of year and discussed alternate dates, agreeing to change the proposed July 17 meeting to June 26. Other meeting dates will be January 16, April 10 and October 16.

- \* **MOTION** by Chairwoman Gregory to adopt the amended meeting schedule.
- \*\* **SECONDED** by Ms. Scott Carried **UNANIMOUSLY**

## **11. Florida Crossroads Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Production:**

An update on the upcoming Florida Crossroads production highlighting the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway.

Ms. Torres stated that Florida Crossroads is a documentary series produced by WFSU-TV, a PBS member television station owned by Florida State University in Tallahassee. WFSU is known for its educational and public affairs programming and partnered with the Florida Scenic Highways Program in 2022 to produce documentaries on the history of byways, Ms. Torres added. Since the series will feature the Treasure Coast in 2026, she stated, she asked members whether there are spots along the byway that should be filmed but may not be obvious to filmmakers.

Members mentioned the Manatee Center and Walton Community Center as possibilities, and Chairwoman Gregory agreed to sit for an interview with the station if needed. Others suggested community leaders who could be interviewed to provide a thorough history of the scenic byway.

**12. Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP) Update:** An update of FSHP activities.

Ms. Torres invited members to attend the FSHP 2025 Mid-Year Meet Up on September 25, 2025. The 3-5 p.m. meeting will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams and will include a program update, session on Florida's Sunshine Law, and session on updating a Corridor Management Plan. Ms. Torres mentioned the TCSHC's last Corridor Management Plan was drafted in 2011.

**13. Recommendations/Comments by Members** – Ms. Scott stated 4-H would be a good youth group with which to partner, and added she is excited to join the committee as a new member. Ms. Arpayoglou reported that her agency held an event recently called A Day in the Life that included scientific sampling. She suggested it could be included in the committee's newsletter.

**14. Staff Comments** – Ms. Torres reported she will be participating once again in the Indian River Lagoon Science Fest on October 25, and she invited committee members to join her. She noted the committee still has some member vacancies and needs alternates for several positions.

**15. Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the TCSHC will be a regular meeting scheduled for 10:00 am on Friday, January 16, 2026.

**16. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.

Respectfully submitted:

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Teresa Lane  
Recording Specialist

Approved by:

---

Diana Gregory  
Chairwoman



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## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC)
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	January 16, 2026
<b>Item Number:</b>	6
<b>Item Title:</b>	Annual Officer Elections
<b>Item Origination:</b>	TCSHC Bylaws, Rules, and Procedures
<b>UPWP Reference:</b>	Task 4.2: Intergovernmental Planning and Coordination
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Nominate and elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson for the TCSHC for 2026. The current Chairperson is Diana Gregory, and the current Vice Chairperson is Eileen Emery.
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	Not applicable

### Attachments

- None



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## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC)
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	January 16, 2026
<b>Item Number:</b>	7
<b>Item Title:</b>	2025 Annual Report
<b>Item Origination:</b>	Florida Scenic Highway Program (FSHP) Requirements
<b>UPWP Reference:</b>	Task 4.2: Intergovernmental Planning and Coordination
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Review and approve the 2025 Annual Report for submission to FSHP, approve with conditions, or do not approve.
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	Because the submittal of the 2025 Annual Report for the TCSHC meets the FSHP requirements, it is recommended that the 2025 Annual Report be approved for submission to the FSHP.

### **Attachments**

- Staff Report
- 2025 Annual Report



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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC)

**THROUGH:** Peter Buchwald  
 Executive Director

**FROM:** Stephanie M. Torres  
 Bicycle Pedestrian Program Manager

**DATE:** January 6, 2026

**SUBJECT:** **2025 Annual Report**

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### **BACKGROUND**

The 2025 Annual Report is a document required to be completed by the TCSHC. The Annual Report reviews the projects and activities that the TCSHC accomplished for the 2025 calendar year.

### **ANALYSIS**

The DRAFT 2025 Annual Report is attached and provides a comprehensive overview of the activities and accomplishments of the TCSHC. The Annual Report includes details of the committee's reorganization efforts, creation of subcommittees, and community engagement efforts.

The following major activities are included in the 2025 Annual Work Report:

- **Increase Social Media Presence:** The committee increased its social media presence by sharing engaging content that highlights Scenic Highway assets, partner organizations, and upcoming events, resulting in broader community awareness and engagement. Social media posts doubled in frequency from the 2024 reporting year.
- **Meet FSHP Reporting Requirements:** All required FSHP reports were completed and submitted in a timely manner, ensuring continued compliance and good standing with program guidelines.

- **Participation at Indian River Lagoon Symposium:** TCSHC participated in the Indian River Lagoon Symposium at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, engaging with regional stakeholders and showcasing the Scenic Highway's role in environmental stewardship, education, and heritage tourism.
- **Expansion of Partnership Network:** The partnership network was expanded through collaboration with ORCA, the Manatee Center, the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit at the St. Lucie County Aquarium, the Navy Seal Museum, and the St. Lucie Regional History Museum strengthening cross-promotion and shared outreach efforts.
- **Development and Distribution of the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Newsletter:** The Treasure Coast Scenic Highway newsletter "Highway Highlights" was developed and distributed to share project updates, partner highlights, and upcoming initiatives, serving as a key communication tool for stakeholders and the community.
- **Participation at Indian River Lagoon Science Festival:** TCSHC participated in the Indian River Lagoon Science Festival, providing outreach and education to attendees while promoting the TCSHC's connection to conservation, culture and coastal resources.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Because the submittal of the 2025 Annual Report for the TCSHC meets the FSHP requirements, it is recommended that the 2025 Annual Report be approved for submission to the FSHP.



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## TREASURE COAST SCENIC HIGHWAY COMMITTEE (TCSHC) 2025 Annual Work Report

Program/Project/Activity	Goal(s)	Lead	Estimated Date of Completion	Funding/Technical Support Source(s)
<b>Increase social media presence.</b>	Goals 3-4	TCSHC & St. Lucie TPO	Ongoing <b>(Doubled post frequency from 2024 to 2025)</b>	Volunteers & St. Lucie TPO
<b>Participation in community engagement efforts educating the community on the byway and FSHP.</b>	Goals 4-5	TCSHC Public Outreach Subcommittee	Ongoing	Volunteers, St. Lucie TPO, & FDOT
<b>Meet FSHP reporting requirements. Submittal of Annual Report and Annual Work Plan.</b>	N/A	TCSHC & St. Lucie TPO	<b>COMPLETED</b> February 1, 2026 November 15, 2025	St. Lucie TPO & FDOT
<b>Expand partnership network adding at least five local businesses, environmental organizations, or community groups to support the TCSHC.</b>	Goals 1,3 & 4	TCSHC Partner Outreach Subcommittee	<b>COMPLETED</b> ORCA ERD MANATEE CENTER SMITHSONIAN AQUARIUM IRL SCIENCE FESTIVAL NAVY SEALS MUSEUM ST. LUCIE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM	Volunteers & St. Lucie TPO
<b>Support partner projects that are consistent with the organization's vision.</b>	Goals 1-3	TCSHC Partner Outreach Subcommittee	Ongoing	Volunteers & Partners
<b>Development and distribution of the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Newsletter</b>	Goals 3-4	TCSHC Partner Outreach Subcommittee	MAY 2025 - <b>COMPLETE</b> Aug. 2025 - <b>COMPLETE</b> Jan. 2026 - <b>In Progress</b>	Volunteers & St. Lucie TPO
<b>Identify potential grant opportunities and submit one grant application.</b>	Goals 1, 3-5	TCSHC Funding Outreach Subcommittee	Activity undergoing additional review	Volunteers, St. Lucie TPO, & FDOT
<b>Support FSHP efforts to educate the community on the value of a designated byway.</b>	Goal 4	TCSHC & St. Lucie TPO	Ongoing	Volunteers, St. Lucie TPO, & FDOT
<b>Develop Youth Outreach Program.</b>	Goals 3-4	TCSHC Youth Cmtee	Ongoing	Volunteers & St. Lucie TPO

<sup>1</sup>TPO: St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization

<sup>2</sup>N/A: Not Applicable

<sup>3</sup>FDOT: Florida Department of Transportation



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## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC)
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	January 16, 2026
<b>Item Number:</b>	8
<b>Item Title:</b>	TCSHC Corridor Management Plan (CMP) Update Guidance
<b>Item Origination:</b>	Florida Scenic Highway Program (FSHP) Requirements
<b>UPWP Reference:</b>	Task 4.2: Intergovernmental Planning and Coordination
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Discuss and provide comments
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	None

### Attachments

- Staff Report
- TCSHC Current Corridor Management Plan



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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC)

**THROUGH:** Peter Buchwald  
 Executive Director

**FROM:** Stephanie M. Torres  
 Bicycle Pedestrian Program Manager

**DATE:** January 6, 2026

**SUBJECT:** **TCSHC Corridor Management Plan (CMP) Update Guidance**

---

### **BACKGROUND**

The Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP) is the foundational planning document for a Florida Scenic Highway. It defines the corridors intrinsic qualities, and establishes long-term strategy for their preservation, enhancement and promotion. The CMP serves as the guiding framework for decision-making, project prioritization, and partnership development along the corridor.

### **ANALYSIS**

Regular updates to the CMP are essential to ensure the byway remains responsive to changing conditions, community priorities, and transportation and land-use trends. Updating the CMP allows the byway committee to reaffirm and, where appropriate, refine its mission, vision, values, and objectives so they continue to reflect current realities and aspirations for the corridor.

As recommended by the Florida Scenic Highway Program, CMPs should be reviewed and updated every five years to remain current and compliant with program standards. This requirement helps ensure that designated byways are actively managed and that planning documents reflect current conditions and best practices.

The most recent update to this corridor's CMP was completed in 2011, which places the plan well beyond the required update cycle. As a result, portions of the document may no longer accurately reflect existing conditions, emerging opportunities, or current community and stakeholder priorities. Initiating an update will strengthen the committee's ability to guide future initiatives, potentially pursue funding opportunities, and maintain good standing within the Florida Scenic Highway Program.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Because an updated TCSHC Corridor Management Plan is required to meet FSHP standards, it is recommended that the committee discuss initiating an update to the CMP with support from FDOT D4.



## Treasure Coast Scenic Highway

5-Year

**Corridor Management Plan Update**



**October 1, 2011**



2300 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982-5652  
Telephone: 772/462-1593  
Facsimile: 772/462-2549

Clint C. Eliason  
TranSystems  
101 Southhall Lane, Ste. 355  
Maitland, FL 32751

Dear Mr. Eliason,

This report contains the five-year Corridor Management Plan Update for the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway (TCSH). The Florida Scenic Highway Program Manual Procedure #650-050-0055 Section 4.3.2 states that this five-year update is to be submitted in place of the annual report. If you have any questions please contact me at 772-462-1533 or St. Lucie TPO Executive Director Mr. Peter Buchwald at 772-462-1593.

Sincerely,

Edward DeFini  
Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager  
St. Lucie Transportation Organization  
2300 Virginia Ave.  
Fort Pierce FL. 34982

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## **1.0 CORRIDOR CONDITIONS**

On September 26, 2004, Hurricane Jeanne made landfall on Hutchinson Island, just east of Sewall's Point, exactly three weeks after Hurricane Frances did so at the same location. In the five years since the designation of the TCSH in 2006, St. Lucie County has been recovering from the effects of those major hurricanes and has increased the number of inhabitants by approximately 10 percent bringing the estimated total population from 252,724 in July 2006 to 277,789 as of the 2010 Census. Despite the pressures of new development and re-development due to the hurricanes, the intrinsic and natural resources that are visible from the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway (TCSH) have been maintained and enhanced.

### **St. Lucie County from Indian River County Line to Martin County Line**

The reconstruction of A1A from US Highway 1 to Blue Heron Boulevard was a \$29.8 million dollar joint effort between FDOT and the City of Fort Pierce. The project started in 2008 and three of the four phases are finished. Five major parks along A1A have been reconstructed and a new park has been completed, titled "Inlet Linear Park". This new byway facility utilizes the Army Corps of Engineers easement along the Fort Pierce Jetty and includes a 1/2 mile walking, biking and fishing trail which connects with Jetty Park and A1A in a circular fashion. The local Community Redevelopment Agency has purchased and demolished an old hotel next to the existing Jetty Park for expanded parking for both Jetty Park and the new Inlet Linear Park.

- The A1A project encompassed 4.2 miles of State Road A1A extending from US Highway 1 to Blue Heron Boulevard.
- Allocated funding sources for the project included:
  1. FDOT ~ \$22 million
  2. FPRA ~ \$4.4 million
  3. FPUA ~ \$2.2 million
  4. Harbor Isle Developer ~ \$1.2 million
- The project construction was divided into four phases.
  1. Phase IIA (US 1 to South Causeway Bridge) – Construction completed December 2006.
  2. Phase III (Blue Heron Boulevard to Gulfstream Avenue) – Construction completed December 2009.
  3. Phase IIB (South Causeway Bridge to Bayshore Drive) including the Harbor Isle

Roundabout – Completed August 2010.

4. Phase I (Bayshore Drive to Gulfstream Avenue) – Construction Completed 2011

The A1A improvements include the total reconstruction of the roadway complete with bike lanes, on-street parking, curb and gutter, sidewalks, drainage facilities, landscaping, irrigation, decorative street lighting, underground electric/cable/phone, and water and sewer utility upgrades.

### Corridor Conditions – Photographs



Photos Courtesy of St. Lucie TPO



## 2.0 Corridor Resources

Resource Name	Description	Special Circumstances
Avalon State Park	Beach access w/facilities. Lagoon access w/limited facilities	Avalon has more than a mile of increasingly rare undeveloped beachfront. The park provides habitat for many species of wildlife. Threatened and endangered sea turtles such as the loggerhead, Atlantic green and leatherback nest on the beach during the spring and summer. Dune crossovers protect the fragile dune ecosystem.
Jack Island	Nature Preserve with 5 mile trail and observation tower. Used often for school trips to demonstrate native vegetation and wildlife, specifically mangrove and tropical beach hammock ecosystems	Actually divided into several separate areas, the 340-acre recreation area is loaded with beach, dunes, and coastal hammock. Its most interesting hiking, however, is Jack Island State Reserve located in the Intracoastal Waterway. Jack Island is a 641-acre impoundment of coastal hammock and dense mangrove. It is one of the state's best birding areas, home to thousands of egrets, herons, and ibis. As many as 200 different species winter here.
Pepper Park	Beach access w/ various facilities. Lagoon access w/ various facilities, including fishing pier and canoe launching	None
Urca De Lima Underwater Archeological Preserve	Shipwreck of Spanish merchant ship. National Register of Historic Places	None
Navy Seal Museum	Mementos, books and videos of Seal involvement in World War II and conflicts	Recently nationally designated as the only Navy Seal Museum
Fort Pierce State Recreation Area	340 Acre State Park with extensive facilities, beach access and Lagoon access	None
Manatee Center	Manatee Viewing year round, built on Indian River	None
AE Backus Gallery	5,000 sf public visual arts facility	None
Seven Gables House	Historic home staffed by St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce as a visitor welcome center	None
Indian River Memorial Amphitheater	Open-air venue hosts music events, religious services, and civic events. Part of Veteran's Memorial Park	None

Fort Pierce Inlet State Park	Atlantic beaches, dunes, coastal hammocks, and mangroves are found in this park on the north shore of the Fort Pierce Inlet. mangroves.	Gulls, terns, and shorebirds are common on the beach. Migrating warblers may be spotted along the nature trail. Dynamite Point, a sheltered, mangrove-fringed cove, provides year-round opportunities to observe laughing gulls, royal terns, black skimmers, brown pelicans, and double-crested cormorants. Semi-paleated and black-bellied plovers, willets, sandpipers, and ruddy turnstones appear in winter.
St. Lucie County Historical Museum	Artifacts, exhibits and dioramas on the Spanish treasure fleets, the Seminole War, and the turn of the century industries in St. Lucie County	The Smithsonian Institute once described the St. Lucie County Historical Museum as "an unusually fine historical museum." Located along the Indian River Lagoon, the Historical Museum features silver and gold from a fleet of 11 Spanish ships that sank during a 1715 hurricane. That and other sunken treasure helped the area earn the reputation as Florida's "Treasure Coast." The museum also features equipment from turn-of-the-century industries that help shape St. Lucie County, such as fishing, pineapple, cattle and citrus, as well as artifacts from the 1838 Seminole War.
St. Lucie County Marine Center	Educational facility with a classroom and recreational display	
Smithsonian Marine Station	Provides marine research facilities to scientists actively studying the ocean and Indian River Lagoon	The Smithsonian Marine Station (SMS) at Fort Pierce, Florida is 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.
Coast Guard Barracks/ IRSC Marine Center	Used by Indian River State College for marine classes and also as a "hospital" facility for marine life which later are transferred to the St. Lucie County Marine Center (above)	None
Bear Point Sanctuary	Lagoon access and trails, fishing pier	None
Blind Creek Park	Lagoon access, beach access, trails, canoe launching	None
Turtle Beach Nature Trail	One mile boardwalk loop with observation points, beach access	None
FPL Energy Encounter	Florida Power and Light education center, designed to teach children and adults about electricity.	None
Frederick Douglass Memorial Park	Beach access, visitor's facilities, Guided horseback riding	None
PP Cobb Building	Historic Downtown Building, one of the first trading posts on the Treasure Coast	None
John Brooks Park	Beach access, lagoon access, trails	None
Ocean Ray Beach Access	Beach access, trails	None

Waveland Beach Access	Beach access, boardwalk, public facilities	None
Herman's Bay Beach Access	Beach access	None
Normandy Beach Access	Beach access	None
Savannas State Preserve	Educational Center, biking, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, fishing	The Savannas Education Center has live exhibits, a gift shop, self guided tour booklets, and information on many of Florida's State Parks. Interpretive guided tours and canoe/kayak trips are offered by the Friends of Savannas Preserve State Park (a nonprofit citizen's support organization). A calendar of events and newsletter may be picked up at the Education Center.
Savannas Recreation Area (County Park)	County Park which encourages camping.	<a href="http://www.stlucieco.gov/parks/savannas.htm">http://www.stlucieco.gov/parks/savannas.htm</a>
Edgartown Historic District	Locally designated historic district - primarily residential in nature	1,050 historic structures exist inside and outside the city's six historic districts: Avenue D, Downtown, Edgartown, Oakland Park, River's Edge and Sample Oaks. Structures outside the downtown area are eligible for historic designation, which she said would bring both benefits and responsibilities to the property owners
Downtown Historic District	Locally designated historic district - primarily commercial in nature	
River's Edge Historic District	Locally designated historic district - primarily residential in nature	Structures outside the downtown area are eligible for historic designation,
Eden Cemetery	Oldest Cemetery in St. Lucie County	None
The Boston House	Also known as Cresthaven, National Register of Historic Places	None
The Governor's House	The childhood home of one of Florida's elected governors.	Demolished by owner
Old Fort Park	Site of the original Fort Pierce, for which the municipality was named.	This facility is proposed to be renovated.
Riverwalk	Pathway and Observation Stations along lagoon	None
Jetty Park	Beach access, fishing pier on Atlantic and Inlet	Jetty Park is expanding to almost three times its size with help from a Scenic Byway Grant. Parking will be more than doubled. Connecting with new Inlet Linear Park (below) 2011
Veterans Memorial Park	Major open area along Indian River Drive. Site of several festivals, including annual July 4th fireworks.	Veteran's Memorial Park is slated for upcoming renovations
Fort Pierce Community	Public facility open for events	None

Center	and rentals	
City Marina	Located on Indian River, holds an average of 10 fishing tournaments annually	Fort Pierce City Marina is the only downtown marina serving the Treasure Coast. Conveniently located along the beautiful Indian River Lagoon, the marina is one of Florida's best all-weather inlets and offers 284 slips.
Marina Square	Public open space on Indian River, used for events such as Farmer's Market (weekly) and Friday Fest (monthly)	None
Kimberly Bergalis Memorial Park	Ocean access w/facilities	Kimberly Bergalis Memorial Park is currently undergoing renovations
Causeway Park	River Access w/facilities	Causeway Park was renovated by the local municipality
South Beach Park	Ocean Access w/facilities	South Beach Park was renovated by Fort Pierce
Jaycee Park	River Access with playground, boat ramps, and park facilities	Jaycee Park was renovated by the City of Fort Pierce
Inlet Linear Park	Complete	2010

## Plants and Animals in the Indian River

The Indian River Lagoon is the most biologically diverse estuary in North America with more than 4,000 species of plants and animals. It is home to one-third of the endangered manatees which you can frequently see swimming. You'll also see the native mangrove trees thriving in the wetlands. The mangrove trees provide an important ecosystem for the Indian River Lagoon for fish, crustaceans, mollusk, and wading birds. This is where many of their lives begin, thrive, and reproduce providing 75% to 90% of the habitat for the source of all commercial fishing.

## Fishing Spot - Local Favorite

At the intersection of Indian River Drive and Walton Road there is a small parking area that is popular with locals. If you want to wade in the river and fish one of the biggest challenges is finding a place to park so the Walton Road parking area is a local favorite.



## 3.0 Corridor Usage

Since its designation in 2006, it is estimated that Average Daily Vehicle Trips on both State Road A1A and the Indian River Drive portion of the TCSH have increased by approximately 15% (approximately 1,400 trips) 2006-2011. Both roads are operating at a Level of Service "C" and both have a capacity to carry approximately 6,000 additional trips.

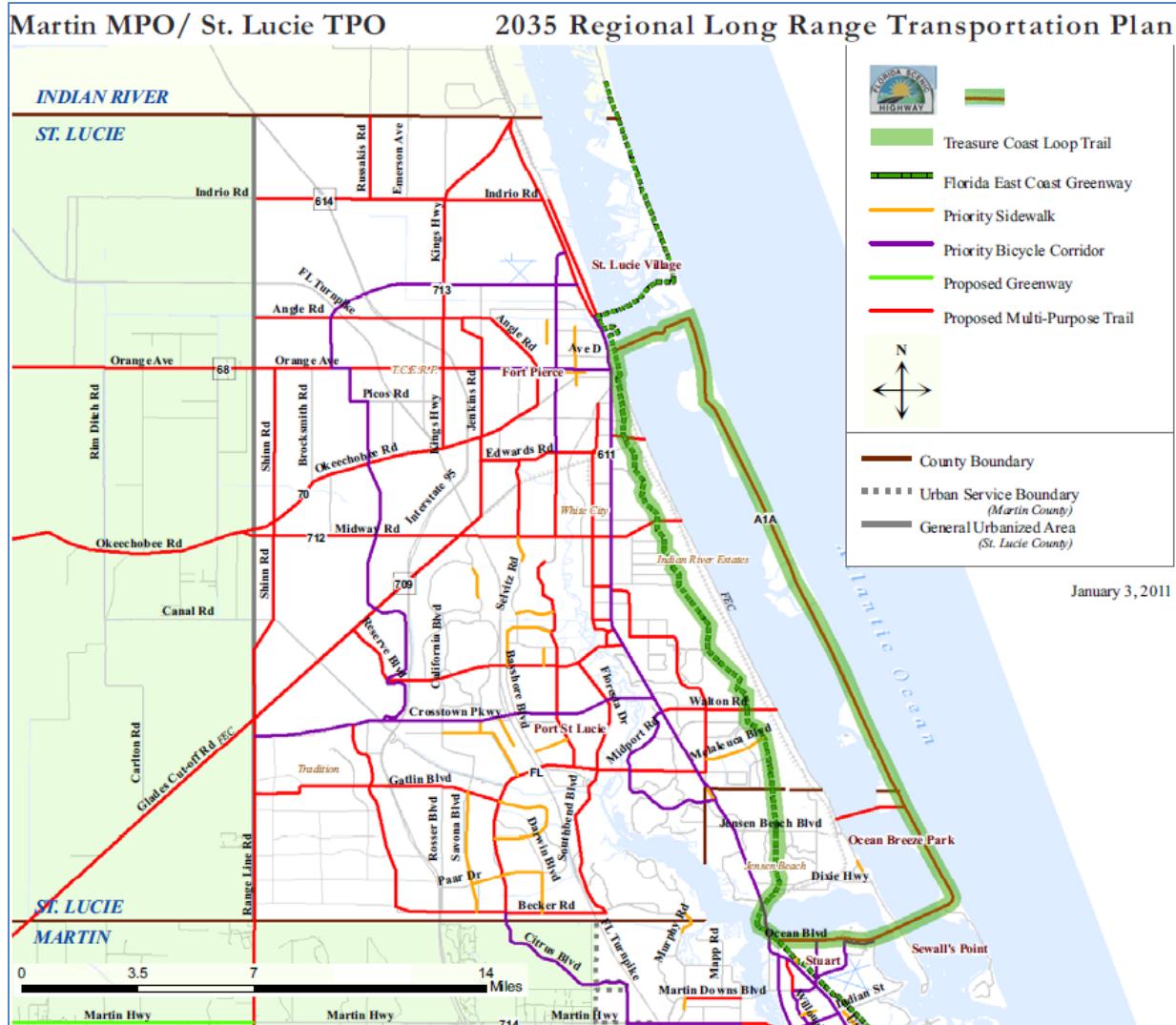
YEAR	Count site	Treasure Coast Scenic Highway (STATE ROUTE A1A)	AADT
2009	890157	SR A1A/MARTIN - ST LUCIE CO LINE	13300
2009	940719	SR A1A / S - S OF FPL POWER PLANT (COUNTY 719)	4200

2009	940711	SR A1A/S - E OF SR 5/US 1 (COUNTY 711)	11600
2009	940709	SR A1A / N - E OF SR 5/US 1 (COUNTY 709)	3500
2009	940705	SR A1A/N - N OF N BRIDGE CAUSWAY (COUNTY 705)	6600
2009	940703	SR A1A/N - S OF REGAL RD (COUNTY 703)	5500
2009	940123	SR 5/US 1 - S END OF TAYLOR CREEK BRIDGE (COUNTY 123)	25000
2009	940116	SR A1A / S - S OF BLUE HERON BLVD, FT PIERCE (COUNTY 116)	3600
2009	940115	SR A1A / S - E END OF S BRIDGE	12400
2009	940114	SR A1A / N - E END OF ICWW BR, ST LUCIE CO	7100
2009	945016	SR A1A/S - S OF SEAWAY DR (COUNTY 5016)	7500
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Count Site</b>	<b>Treasure Coast Scenic Highway (INDIAN RIVER DRIVE)</b>	<b>AADT</b>
2009	940004	INDIAN RIVER DR - 707 S OF A1A / BRIDGE (COUNTY 4)	7100
2009	940003	CR 707/INDIAN RIVER DR - N OF ORANGE AVE (COUNTY 3)	5800
2009	947092	ON INDIAN RIVER DR - N. OF SAVANNAH RD (COUNTY 501)	4200
2009	947022	ON INDIAN RIVER DR - N. OF MARTIN COUNTY LINE (COUNTY 127)	5700
2009	947020	ON INDIAN RIVER DR - N. OF MIDWAY RD EAST (COUNTY 123)	4100
2009	945151	CR 707/INDIAN RIVER DR. - N. OF WALTON RD. (COUNTY 125)	4000
2009	945029	SR 707/INDIAN RIVER DR - N OF CITRUS AVE (COUNTY 5029)	6200



#### **4.0 Corridor Vision After 5 Years**

The vision of the corridor has been maintained over the five year period through the diligence and through the cooperation of businesses, citizens, homeowner associations and governments, among others. The Old Florida rural beach atmosphere, historical preservation, Coastal Greenways, and beach recreational access are being maintained within the vision. These ideas still represent the community's desire for the scenic corridor. The Treasure Coast Scenic Highway is a unique river to sea experience that encompasses exceptional natural, scenic, cultural, archeological, historical, educational and recreational resources. It runs through St. Lucie County and joins Florida's East Coast Greenway to Indian River County in the north with the Scenic & Historic A1A Scenic Highway. Traveling south along A1A in St. Lucie County, the A1A portion of the TCSH is proposed to become a 21 mile portion of what is known as the "Treasure Coast Loop Trail (TCLP)." The TCLP is a cost feasible 44 mile long loop trail proposed in the 2035 Joint Martin/St. Lucie Regional Long Range Transportation Plan.



### Amtrak Passenger Rail on the FEC Flagler Line (TCSH)

[http://www.tcrpc.org/special\\_projects/fec\\_amtrak/fec\\_amtrak\\_home.htm](http://www.tcrpc.org/special_projects/fec_amtrak/fec_amtrak_home.htm)

The state wants to upgrade the coastal FEC freight lines into a network capable of carrying Amtrak's 90-mph trains. This train would result in a treasure coast scenic railway directly adjacent to the TCSH.

Once passenger rail service begins as planned, a twenty-two mile long St. Lucie County portion of the TCSH will be visible within one-half mile (walking distance) of treasure coast scenic railway which will have a boarding station in Fort Pierce.

Currently, Amtrak runs on CSX tracks that veer west to Orlando, then back east. The trip takes about nine hours from West Palm Beach to Jacksonville. Amtrak trains could make the entire 326-mile run from Miami to Jacksonville in only six hours using the existing FEC tracks.

In addition to rail upgrades, new Amtrak stations would be built in Stuart, Fort Pierce, Vero Beach, Melbourne, Cocoa, Titusville, Daytona Beach and St. Augustine. The project would also include construction of a key rail interconnection between the CSX and FEC tracks in West Palm Beach that could allow Tri-Rail service to be extended north to Jupiter. Once passenger rail service begins, the St. Lucie County portion of the TCSH will be within walking distance of the treasure coast scenic railway station in Fort Pierce.

Last year, the Florida Department of Transportation applied for \$268 million in federal stimulus dollars, but the project wasn't far enough along to qualify for funding. The Amtrak/FEC corridor project will create an estimated 2,100 new jobs.



Photos Courtesy of St. Lucie TPO

### The South Causeway Bridge Re-configuration Study (TCSH)

[http://stlucietpo.org/pdf/SLTPO\\_South\\_Causeway\\_Bridge\\_061311\\_rev\\_from\\_12\\_to\\_11.pdf](http://stlucietpo.org/pdf/SLTPO_South_Causeway_Bridge_061311_rev_from_12_to_11.pdf)

The TPO and the City of Fort Pierce are engaging the public in an effort to enhance the TCSH. In accordance with USDOT policy, integrating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on new, rehabilitated, and/or limited-access bridges with connections to streets or paths is encouraged. The South Causeway Bridge on South State Route A1A (the TCSH in Fort Pierce) is being considered for such accommodations as the current configuration is inadequate for both bicycles and pedestrians. An improvement may encourage a connected walking/bicycling environment from Downtown Fort Pierce to the beach. A study is being completed which evaluates the current configuration and includes the feasibility of a change, permitting and regulatory requirements, a public workshop with community members and other stakeholders, and an implementation plan. A consultant is being utilized for the study.

South Causeway Bridge  
(A1A Treasure Coast Scenic Highway)



Existing 4 Lanes bike/ped 5' sidewalk



2 Lanes with Bike/Ped Enhancements



Photos Courtesy of St. Lucie TPO



### **5.0 Corridor Story**

On September 29, 2006, Members of The Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Corridor Advocacy Group officially celebrated the designation of St. Lucie County Florida Scenic Highway during Friday Fest in Downtown Fort Pierce.

The Florida Department of Transportation approved portions of Indian River Drive and State Road A1A as part of Florida's Scenic Highway program in January. The Indian River Lagoon-Treasure Coast Scenic Highway corridor is approximately 42 miles in length and travels along SR A1A from the Indian River/St. Lucie County line, south along North Hutchinson Island, crossing over the Indian River Lagoon to U.S. 1. The scenic highway continues south on U.S. 1 to South A1A (Seaway Drive) to the St. Lucie County Martin County line. Indian River Drive (SR 707) is also part of the scenic highway, beginning at the Martin/St. Lucie County line continuing north to downtown Fort Pierce, ending at Seaway Drive.

Members of the Corridor Advocacy Group, which consisted of county staff members, elected officials, as well as residents and business representatives from the scenic highway, were stationed at an information booth, handing out balloons, pencils and information about St. Lucie County's Scenic Highway.

A1A is an historical coastal highway traveling through a nationally recognized ecosystem that captures —Old Florida from the time of Native American dominance to colonists and settlers, to movie producers, to tourists and to the residents who gravitate to Florida's East Coast. This river to sea corridor combines the changeable beauty of the ocean and beaches with the peacefully relaxing vistas of the river, separated by magnificent moss-laden oaks. It combines educational enrichment opportunities with a changing environment; it is simply a soothing, rejuvenating experience down a road to "Old Florida."

Facilities such as one-of-a-kind military and historical museums to environmental education centers will be easily identified as part of the 42-mile corridor that makes up the Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway. But the corridor's best feature isn't its bricks and mortar. What makes the Indian River Lagoon - Treasure Coast Scenic Highway extraordinary is the view from the sandy, coastal dunes that drift out into the Atlantic Ocean to the mangrove-covered banks of the Indian River Lagoon – home to more than 4,000 species of plants and animals, including 50 species that are endangered or threatened.

This corridor is more than a paved path that takes you from Point A to Point B. It's an educational experience designed to enhance St. Lucie County's remarkable historical, cultural, and environmental resources.

Even though you are surrounded by Florida's natural beauty, it's the things you can't see that make this Scenic Highway truly unique, from the ghosts of World War II veterans, who stormed the beaches of Hutchinson Island before arriving in Normandy, to artists such as landscape painter A.E. Backus, Highwaymen Alfred Hair, and Harlem Renaissance author Zora Neale Hurston. It's the trace remnants of pineapple farms, fishing villages, Indian mounds, and military forts that rest along the banks of the Indian River that make this corridor worth designation. This watershed has been, and always will be, the lifeline of the community that surrounds it in the present and for the future generations to come.



## 6.0 Community Participation Program

Unfortunately CME meetings have dropped off. However, the TPO is a County wide agency responsible for transportation planning, programming, and financing of State and Federal Transportation Funds. The TPO's community participation program, through its many boards and committees, provides businesses, citizens, homeowner associations and local governments, among others, opportunities to provide input concerning the TCSH. For example, the South Causeway (A1A) Bridge Reconfiguration Study Public Input Meeting.

[http://stlucietpo.org/pdf/SLTPO\\_South\\_Causeway\\_Bridge\\_061311\\_rev\\_from\\_12\\_to\\_11.pdf](http://stlucietpo.org/pdf/SLTPO_South_Causeway_Bridge_061311_rev_from_12_to_11.pdf)

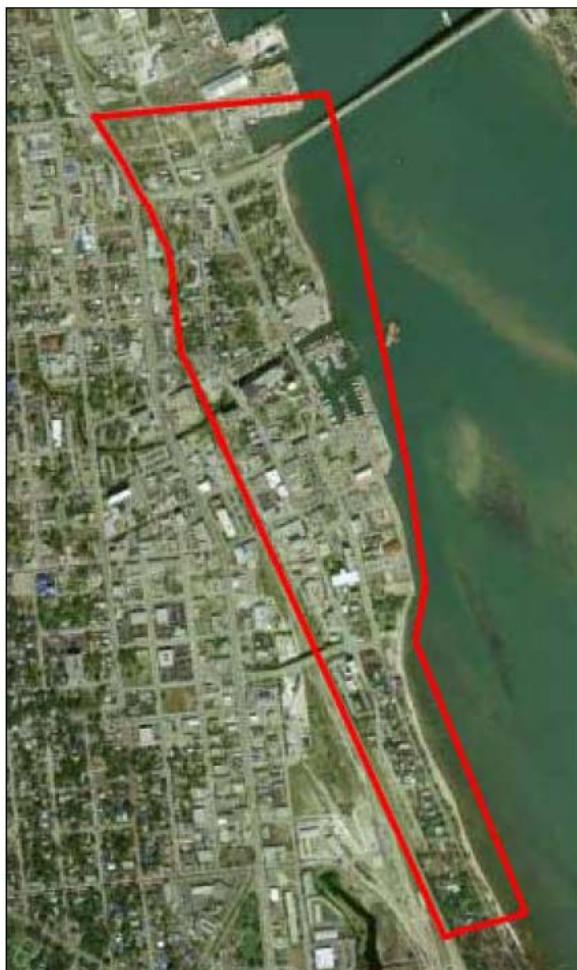


Photos Courtesy of St. Lucie TPO

## Fort Pierce Downtown Charrette (TCSH)

[http://www.tcrpc.org/departments/studio/fort\\_pierce\\_power\\_plant/flyer.pdf](http://www.tcrpc.org/departments/studio/fort_pierce_power_plant/flyer.pdf)

[http://www.tcrpc.org/departments/studio/fort\\_pierce\\_power\\_plant/fp\\_power\\_plant\\_home.htm](http://www.tcrpc.org/departments/studio/fort_pierce_power_plant/fp_power_plant_home.htm)



## CHARRETTE PUBLIC WORK SESSION

*Saturday March 15th, 2008 – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Historic City Hall  
Southwest corner of Avenue A and US 1, Fort Pierce  
Refreshments and lunch will be provided*

Participants will be working with neighbors and with a team of professionals on their vision for the area. At the end of the day, citizens will present their ideas for the future of the area.



## PRESENTATION OF WORK IN PROGRESS

*Friday March 21st, 2008 – 7:00pm – 9:00pm  
Fort Pierce Commission Chambers  
100 North US - Fort Pierce, FL 34954*

This two-hour session consists of a presentation of work in progress to unveil the conceptual master plan and to take into account additional citizen and professional input.

The City power plant along Indian River Drive in downtown Fort Pierce was demolished in 2009. The Redevelopment Master Plan of this 8 acre site includes an "entertainment district", with hotels, restaurants, retail and residential spaces. Also included in this Master Plan is the continuation of the Moore's Creek Linear Park, which will connect pedestrian access through the entire development along Moore's Creek, which intersects at this site with the Indian River Lagoon, across the street from the Manatee Center. Additional future development plans include Veteran's Park, a \$2,000,000 project which will reconfigure the park facility along Indian River Drive in downtown Fort Pierce. The park includes the Manatee Center, the RiverWalk, the Amphitheater, the Community Center, and the Backus Art Gallery.

Through public outreach efforts, the TPO is providing coordination for the planning, prioritizing, funding, and implementation of bicycle, pedestrian, and/or greenway facilities along the TCSH corridor in accordance with the goals, objectives and strategies of the corridor.

The St. Lucie County home of the TCSC Our vision of the future is to preserve as much of the past and natural surroundings as we can. The extraordinary efforts of volunteers, combined with the implementation of the Municipal Ordinances, Comprehensive Plans, Land Development Regulations, and the Site Review Protocol, will help us continue to achieve this goal.



## **7.0 Corridor Local Support**

The TPO's Community Participation Program has been fully functioning but the CME's has not. St. Lucie County's sponsorship of the CME was suspended in 2007 due to budget cuts and the group has not proven to be viable on its own. However, TPO has assumed the role of the CME until meetings resume. The St. Lucie TPO, the FDOT, and the City of Fort Pierce have continued to move forward with identified improvements to the corridor. The TPO continues the public involvement process (PIP) with regular public meetings of the CAC, TAC, BPAC, LCB and TPO Board. Once the TCSHC is continued public and involvement will be encouraged in accord with the TPO's UPWP PIP objectives which include Website Redesign and Maintenance, Major PIP Update and Annual PIP Evaluation of Effectiveness



## **8.0 Corridor Evaluation of Protection Techniques**

The City of Fort Pierce municipality has completed a two-year shoreline restoration project (CMP Objective 1.1 and 1.2) which removed exotic vegetation and replanted a 50 foot buffer and natural dune vegetation. Almost every City-owned beach park has been renovated (Objective 1.4). The Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency (local CRA) purchased a blighted hotel building and demolished it for use as extra parking for scenic travelers (CMP Objective 1.6). Plans are underway for improvements for enhanced recreational access at Veteran's Memorial Park and Old Fort Park (CMP Objective 1.3).

St. Lucie County is now a certified "Green County," joining the ranks of only five other Florida counties to receive this prestigious recognition from the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC).

"Receiving the Green County designation is a proud moment for St. Lucie County," said Board of County Commissioners Chairman Charles Grande. "I'm especially proud of all the County employees who came together and worked cooperatively to find ways we could operate more efficiently and save taxpayer dollars."

The FGBC uses a standard of criteria to evaluate performance in implementing policies and programs in the areas of energy, water, air, land, waste and education/awareness. St. Lucie County submitted a several-hundred-page application to the FGBC in September 2009. It was evaluated using a point system, with St. Lucie County achieving gold level certification for its exceptional stewardship and sustainability initiatives. St. Lucie County is currently tied with Indian River County for the third highest score in the FGBC application process.

Many of the policies and programs that led to St. Lucie County's gold level score had already been in place for some time prior to initiating the certification process, including the environmentally significant lands program, innovative land planning codes and policies and numerous educational and community outreach programs. Additional credits were earned from recently adopted policies and programs, including the County's implementation of environmentally preferred purchasing standards, green cleaning and landscaping policies, databases to track green certified buildings, and an energy and water manager position to coordinate green programs and track resultant cost savings.

The recommendation to pursue green local government certification came from the St. Lucie County Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC), an advisory board commissioned by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners.

"Becoming a Green County is much more than developing a stewardship mindset within county government," said SAC Chairman Alan Gilbert, executive director of Facilities and Maintenance for the St. Lucie County School District. "It has to be embraced by business people and individual citizens to be truly successful. This initiative being driven by the business people, industry representatives, and citizen ambassadors that make up the Committee speaks volumes to the commitment of our community."

May 20, 2010: FORT PIERCE Sand Dollar Shores resident Peter Degen, who watched hurricanes erode his beach, said he's ready for a restoration project to begin as early as the summer of next year. "If you look at the beaches there," he said, "there is no beach. High tide brings water up to the dune level." As a member of the condominium's board of directors since 2003, Degen joined more than 50 people Wednesday night at a public meeting in St. Lucie County Commission Chambers about the Environmental Impact Statement for the South Beach and Dune Restoration Project. Five buildings of Degen's condominium are in the project's 3.8-mile stretch from the Walton Road area to the St. Lucie/Martin county

line. "The preservation of the beaches is a must," Degen said. The meeting is the first step in the Environmental Impact Statement process meant to identify issues related to the project. St. Lucie County submitted applications for the project to the state and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which determined the need for the statement. Corps project manager Garrett Lips explained the project would consist of dredging sand less than three miles offshore from the project site and moving it to the shore to restore the beach and dune. The project was predicted to cost about \$10 million split nearly even between the county and the state. The estimated environmental impact is to 1.08 acres of hard bottom habitat, which may affect endangered species like nesting and swimming turtles, manatees and smalltooth sawfish. At the meeting, people voiced concerns about the animals and the environmental impact of the project. Comments and questions from the public were recorded to be taken into consideration.

South Ocean Drive resident Robert Wolfe was concerned how the dredging would affect ocean swells. He asked them to include a wave study analysis in the statement process. As president of a committee representing 38 homeowner associations on Hutchinson Island called the President's Council, Pat Pacitti said the beach needs its sand back. No vegetation or beach remained after the 2004 hurricane season, she said. Residents would get up at 4:30 a.m. to help disoriented baby turtles. "The people that live on the island really do care about the environment," Pacitti said. "They actually live it."

Source: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2010/may/20/corps-of-engineers-takes-public-comment-on-st/>



## **9.0 Corridor Funding**

Funding sources for maintenance and enhancements of the TCSH are obtained from a variety of sources and by a variety of agencies. Mostly from the FDOT, FHWA and from various local government offices of those communities which have passed resolutions supporting the program.

April 21, 2010 FORT PIERCE — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency with \$600,000 in grants as part of an effort to help communities revitalize contaminated properties.

[http://cityoffortpierce.com/pdf/Arial\\_of\\_HD\\_King\\_Power\\_Plant\\_Property.pdf](http://cityoffortpierce.com/pdf/Arial_of_HD_King_Power_Plant_Property.pdf)

FPRA Director Jon Ward said the money would be used to clean up the former H.D. King Power Plant site on Indian River Drive. The grants will cover the entire cost of the cleanup, Ward said. The Redevelopment Agency already has spent \$100,000 on the cleanup with a grant it received from the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. City officials want to see a hotel built on the property. In all, the EPA awarded eight communities in Florida with \$3 million in Brownfield grants. Fort Pierce was the only government agency on the Treasure Coast to receive grant money. Brownfields are parcels of land where their reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance.



## **10.0 Corridor Promotion and Measuring Success**

<http://www.floridascenichighways.com/sights-sounds/ir-treasure-gallery/>



## **11.0 Local Government Comprehensive Plan Relationship**

Existing policies in the Coastal Element and Conservation Element of the St. Lucie Comprehensive Plan provide measurable targets (through the site plan review process) to encourage preservation of scenic views and intrinsic qualities unique to the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway (Indian River Drive and A1A).

[http://www.stlucieco.gov/pdfs/EAR\\_Adopted\\_10-28-08\\_\(2\).pdf](http://www.stlucieco.gov/pdfs/EAR_Adopted_10-28-08_(2).pdf)



## **12.0 Corridor Partnerships**

<http://harbourisleflorida.com/>





### **13.0 Problem Areas**







## **13.0 Corridor Action Plan**

The action plan is a prioritized list of activities and tasks to be accomplished. The TPO CME has updated the original CMP plan by reviewing the goals, objectives, and strategies and determining reasonable completion schedules. The TCSH action plan consists of a five year action plan. Action items in each of these categories range from the highest priority to medium and lower priority projects. The acronyms to the items listed in the table below are shown following the table.

## A. Corridor Improvements/Enhancements

SLC County/City Parks and Recreation  
DEP Department of Environmental Protection  
ECG East Coast Greenway  
ESL Environmentally Sensitive Land Program  
FP City of Fort Pierce  
FBG FDOT Beautification Grant  
FBIP Florida Boating Improvement Program  
SLC St. Lucie County  
FCMP Florida Coastal Management Programs  
FCT Florida Communities Trust  
FDOT Florida Department of Transportation  
FRDAP Florida Recreation and Development Assistance Program  
GOS Goals, Objectives, and Strategies  
HR Division of Historic Resources  
MS Museum  
PR Private Parties  
SFWMD South Florida Water Management District  
SHG Scenic Highway Grant  
SPS State Parks Services  
TDC Tourist Development Council  
Visit Florida



Coco Vista Centre  
 466 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd, Suite 111  
 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953  
 772-462-1593  
[www.treasurecoastscenichighway.com](http://www.treasurecoastscenichighway.com)

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC)
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	January 16, 2026
<b>Item Number:</b>	9
<b>Item Title:</b>	TCSH Newsletter Approval
<b>Item Origination:</b>	Florida Scenic Highway Program (FSHP) Requirements
<b>UPWP Reference:</b>	Task 4.2: Intergovernmental Planning and Coordination
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Review the current edition of the TCSH Newsletter for distribution, approve with conditions, or do not approve.
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	Because the distribution of the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Newsletter aligns with the TCSHC 2026 Work Plan Goals, it is recommended that the Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Newsletter be approved for distribution.

### Attachments

- Vol. 3 – January 2026 TCSH Newsletter



## 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

January 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/>

# HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS



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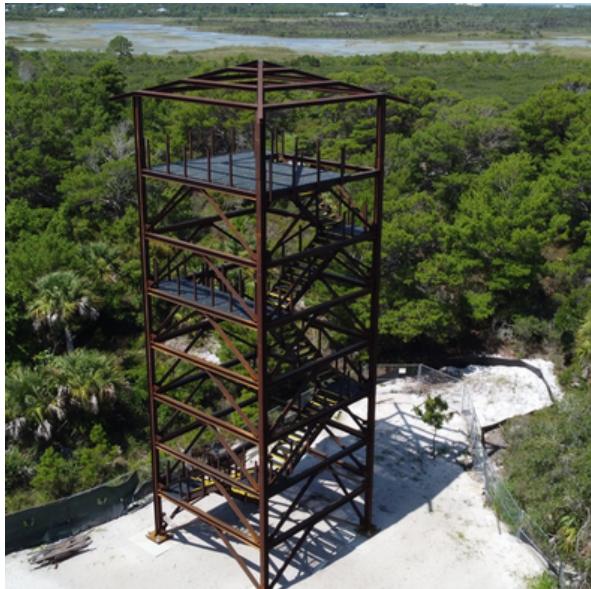


Walton Scrub Observation Tower Construction Progress

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>

## 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,



Walton Scrub Observation Tower Construction Progress



Walton Scrub - Start of Trail [www.floridahikes.com](http://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 activites 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

#### Free Community Day - Wednesday, January 28th 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.

#### Nature Fest - Saturday, February 28th 10:00am - 2:00pm

This vibrant celebration brings the magic of the Indian River Lagoon to life with exciting exhibits and hands-on-adventures. Join us for a day of discovery that will ignite your love for the wonders of Florida's coastal world. For more information contact: geraghty@fpua.com

### Ocean Research Conservation Association (ORCA)

1235 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Fl. 32960 / [www.teamorca.org](http://www.teamorca.org)



## Explorer's Experience

AN EVENING OF DEEP-SEA WONDER BENEFITTING THE  
OCEAN RESEARCH & CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026



### 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/>

### COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES

#### February 10 at 3:00 PM - Pollution Hotspots: Findings from Queens Cove & St. Sebastian River.

Go behind the scenes with Dr. Laura Kleiman. Hear what the ORCA Team has uncovered in Queens Cove and the St. Sebastian River and how these findings are helping guide smarter restoration and protection strategies.

#### 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)

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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



### INDIAN RIVER DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS: MARINA WAY TO SEAWAY DRIVE



## City of Fort Pierce - Indian River Drive Corridor Improvements

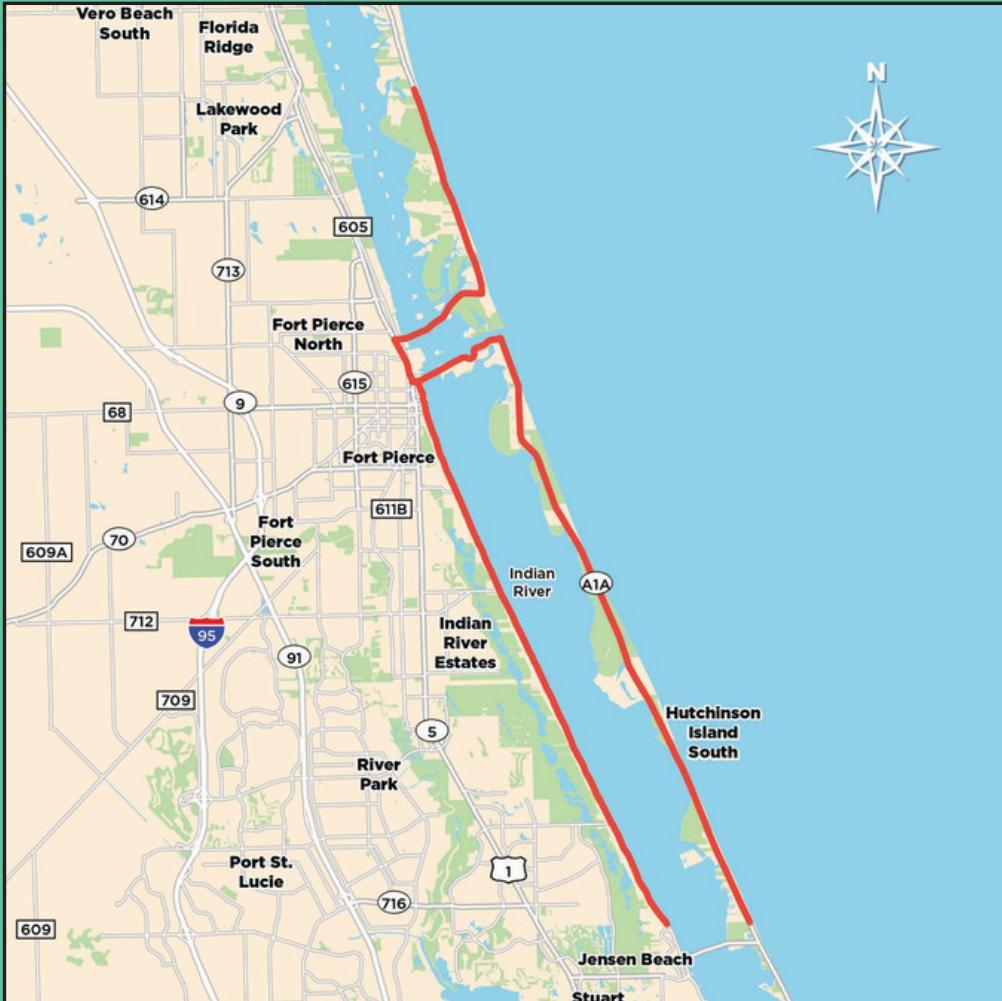
The Indian River Drive Corridor Improvements project is a major infrastructure initiative focused on the full roadway reconstruction of Indian River Drive between Seaway Drive and Marina Way. This transformative project will improve safety, functionality, and the overall appearance of one of Fort Pierce's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



## North Bridge Replacement A1A over Indian River Lagoon Progress



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.™

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.



# HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

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## **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](mailto:stephanie.torres@stlucieco.gov)

## **Committee Members Needed**



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

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](mailto:stephanie.torres@stlucieco.gov).



Follow us on  
**Instagram**



**@IRLTCOSH**



Jimmy Buffet Memorial Highway, Fort Pierce

[WWW.TREASURECOASTSCENICHIGHWAY.COM](http://WWW.TREASURECOASTSCENICHIGHWAY.COM)

ST. LUCIE TPO, 466 SW PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL. SUITE 111, PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL. 34953



Coco Vista Centre  
 466 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd, Suite 111  
 Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953  
 772-462-1593  
[www.treasurecoastscenichighway.com](http://www.treasurecoastscenichighway.com)

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC)
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	January 16, 2026
<b>Item Number:</b>	10
<b>Item Title:</b>	Florida Channel – Florida Crossroads Segment
<b>Item Origination:</b>	Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee
<b>UPWP Reference:</b>	Task 4.2: Intergovernmental Planning and Coordination
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Discuss and provide comments. The committee will view the Indian River Lagoon – Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Florida Crossroads segment.
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	Not applicable.

### Attachments

- None



Coco Vista Centre  
466 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd, Suite 111  
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953  
772-462-1593  
[www.treasurecoastscenichighway.com](http://www.treasurecoastscenichighway.com)

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee (TCSHC)
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	January 16, 2026
<b>Item Number:</b>	11
<b>Item Title:</b>	Highlights from the IRL Science Festival
<b>Item Origination:</b>	Treasure Coast Scenic Highway Committee
<b>UPWP Reference:</b>	Task 4.2: Intergovernmental Planning and Coordination
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Discuss and provide comments. Ms. Torres will provide an overview of TCSHC participation at the IRL Science Festival.
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	Not applicable.

### **Attachments**

- None