Can | Sell You a Trail?



Gresham Smith

Genuine Ingenuity

My Experience

- 30+ Years Multi-Modal and Transportation projects
- Recreational; Community and Regional Linkages; Access to Transit
- Spent 4 years in the public sector
- My wife & I are big trail users especially on vacations



Today's Agenda

- Trail Planning & Public Engagement
- Trail Design
- Trail Operations & Maintenance
- Q&A





Trail Planning

Accommodate all users



PF THE WITHLACOOCHEE ANNUAL BIKE RIDE IN OCTOBER OCTOBER 4, 2009

INVERNESS

Planning Objectives

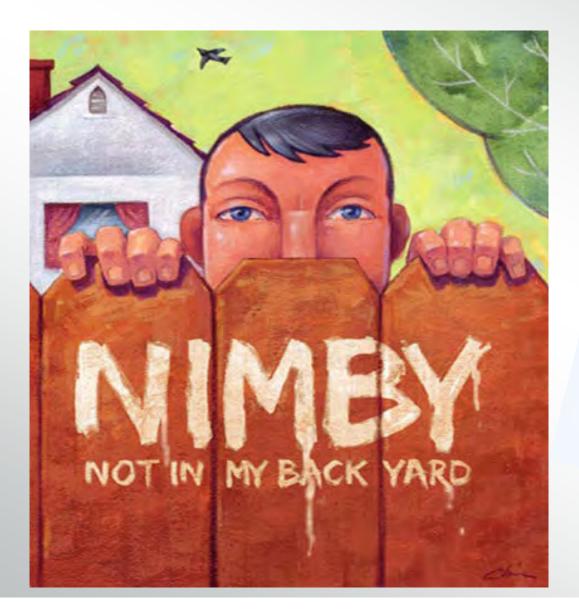
- Close gaps in existing network (complete earlier trail plans)
- Provide safe and separated facilities for non-motorists
- Community connections
- Community engagement







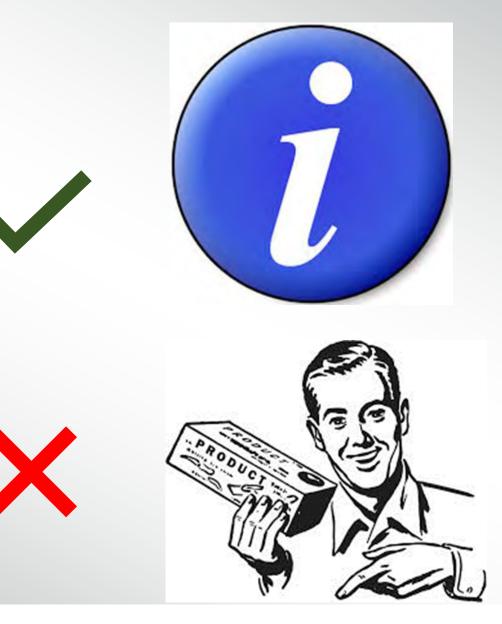




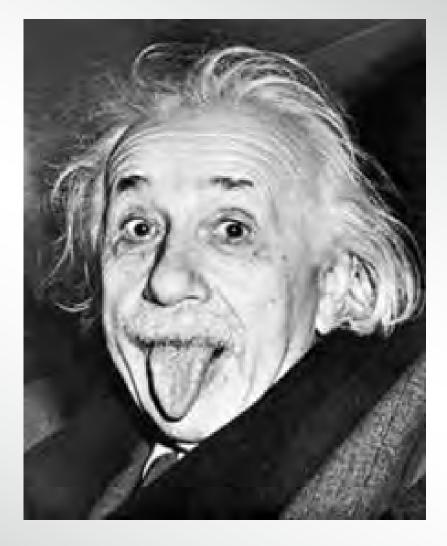


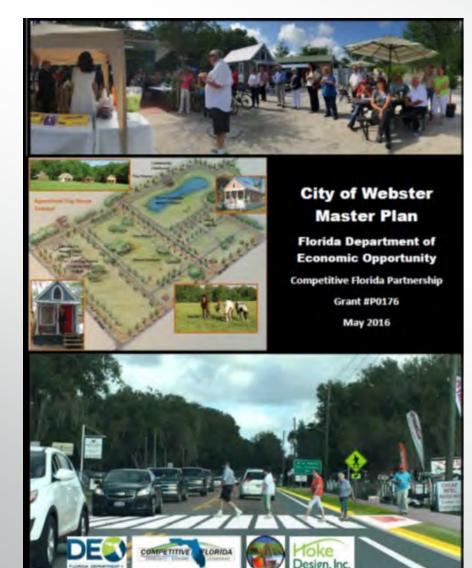
Rule 1:

Inform... don't sell

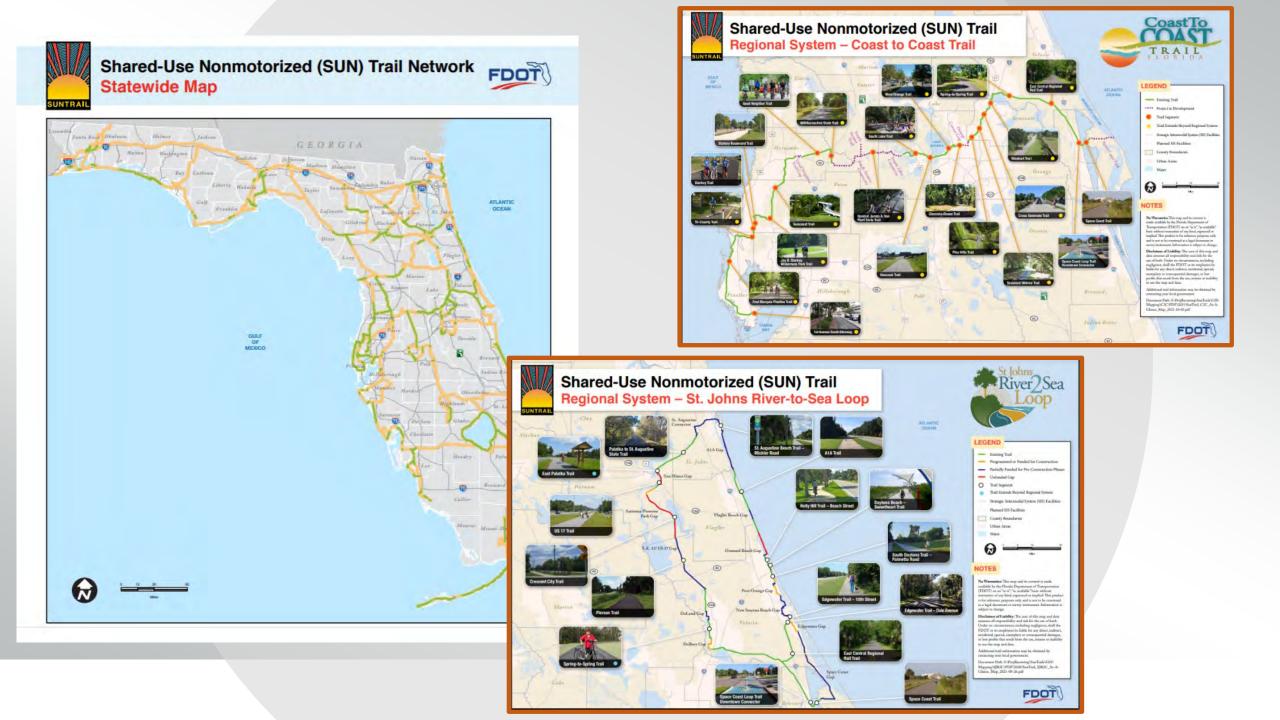


"WHO CAME UP WITH THIS BRILLIANT IDEA ?!"



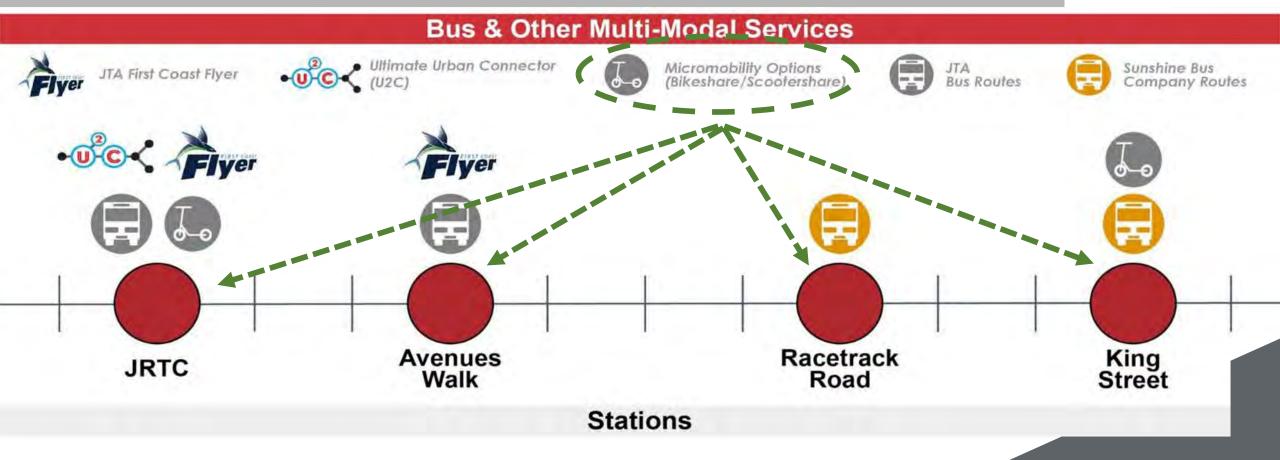


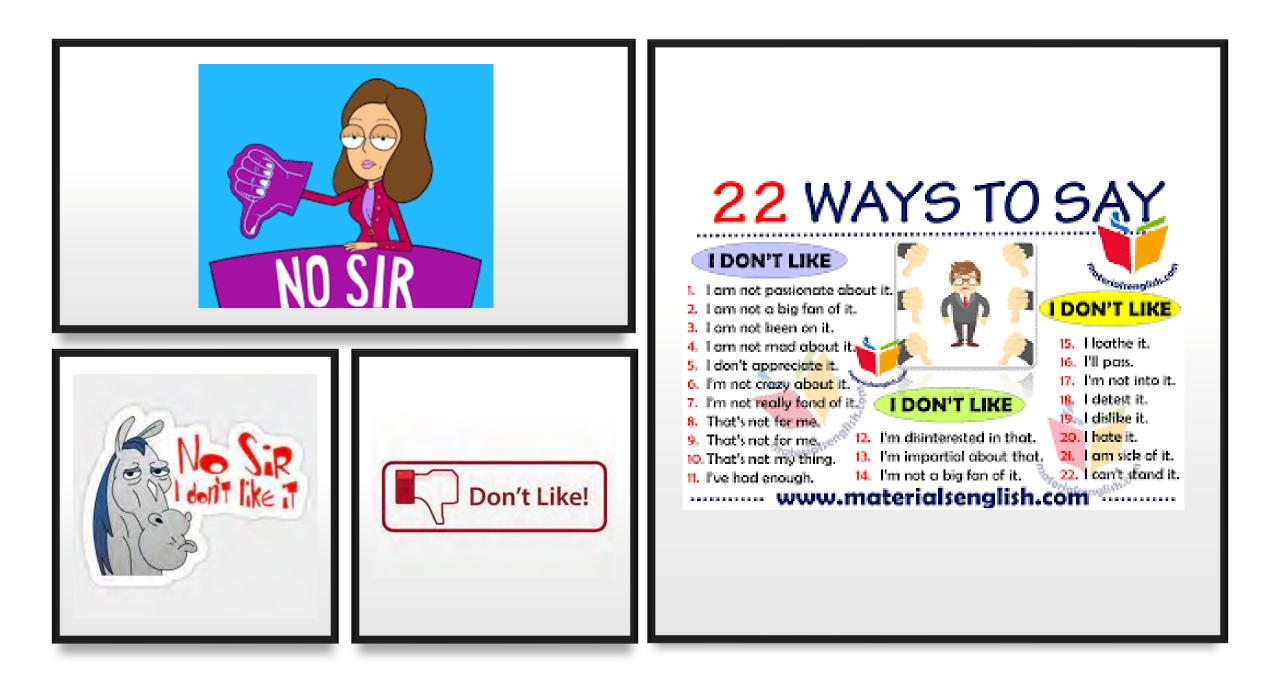




Commuter Rail Multi-Modal Access

All stations are accessible by bus routes operated by the Jacksonville Transportation Authority and/or St. Johns County's Sunshine Bus Company.





Rule 2

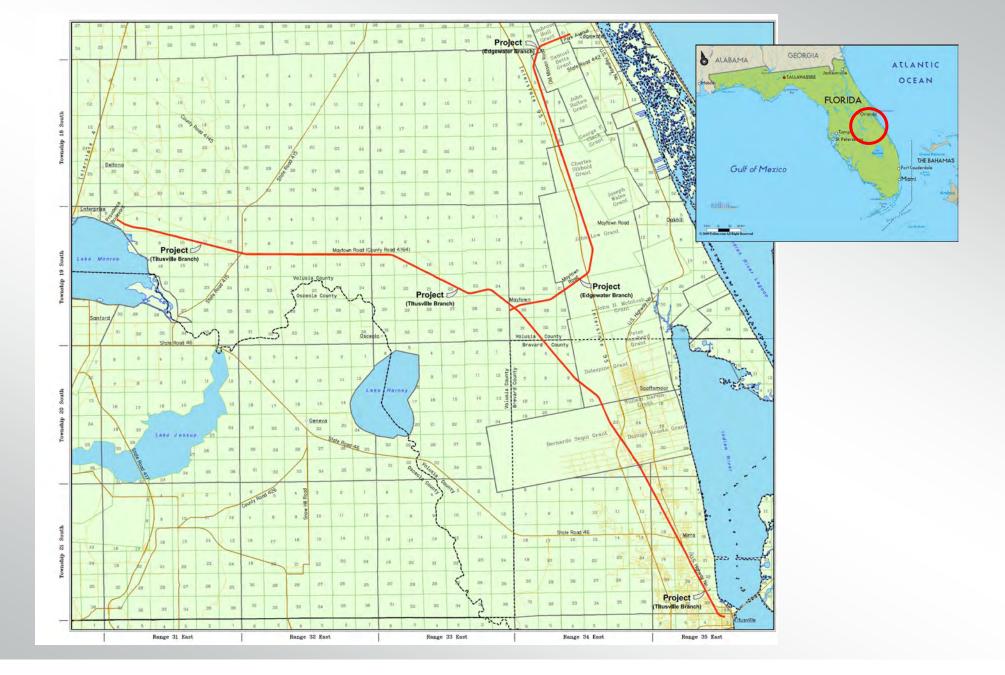








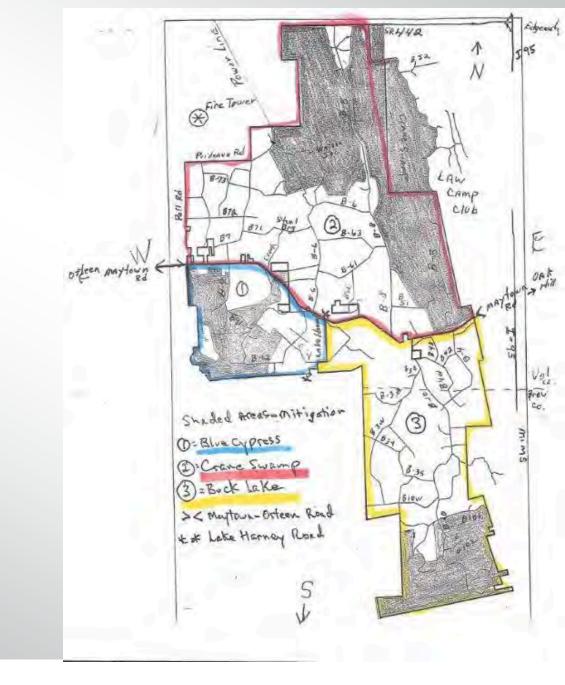
IF WE DON'T **KNOW YOU** GO AWAY!

















"Don't tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I'll tell you what they are."

- James W. Frick

KEEP CALM AND DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY

Rule 3





"If your identical twin got cosmetic surgery, it would be hard not to feel a little insulted."

Woody Page, ESPN

Thank you, Mr. Customer for personally insulting me. I'll be happy to assist you in the most minimal way possible.



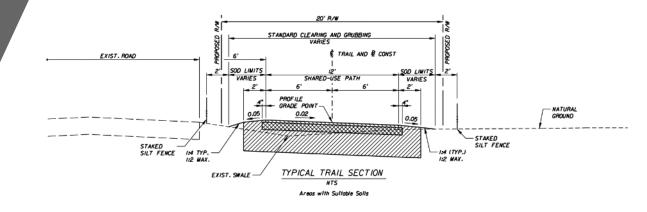
NEVER !





Trail Design

"It's just a single-lane road"







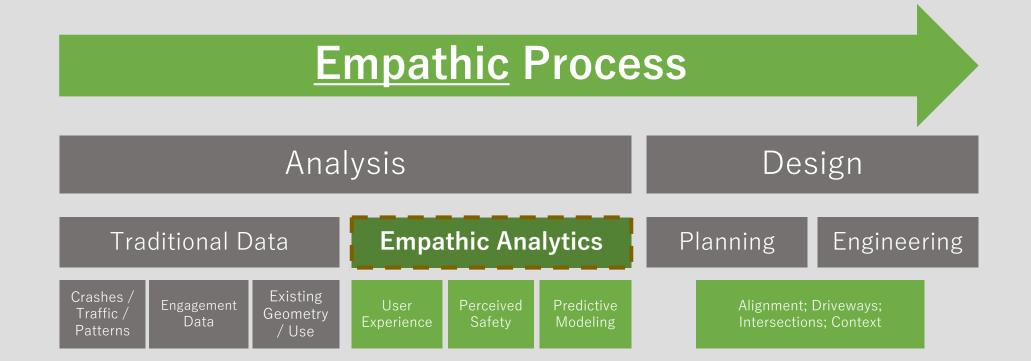
Being Empathic pertains to a person's ability to perceive emotion in someone else, and whether we know it or not, that is a big part of what we do as designers and engineers – we build environments. Sometimes those environments evoke positive emotions and sometimes negative.

We believe the future of design, whether its roadway design, signal design, hospital design, or airports, will be centered around the **user experience**.





Innovation in the Design Process





What causes us to be stress-free?



Stressful

What causes us to be stressed?



How it Works

- Field users wear heart rate monitors
- Correlated with location data
- Walk / ride / drive (ANY USER)
- Platform communicates directly with device (backend via API)
- Platform determines locations of comfort and stress
- Correlated with other substantive datasets to establish scenarios



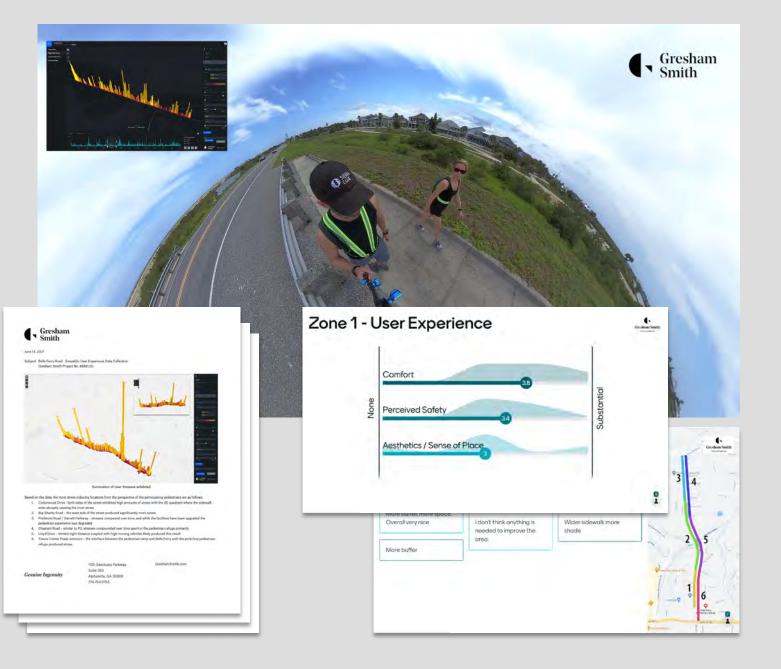
Empathic Analytics in Preliminary Design

- Developed in partnership with medical professionals
- Measurement is based on heart rate and advanced algorithms to detect stress
- Project Scoping
- Alignment Determination

FDOT

• Planning & Design (SR A1A – D2)

Projects in Lexington, Atlanta, Dallas (2022), Netherlands



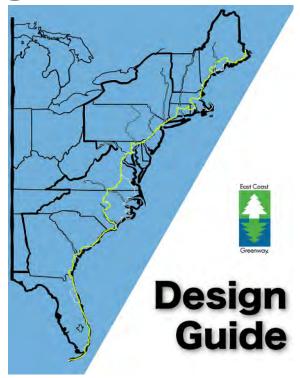
Common "headscratchers" during design

- Typical Section
- Available R/W
 - Property Titles
 - Abandoned corridors (RR)
 - Easements
- Crossings & Intersections
- Environmental/Contamination
- Utilities (UG & OH)

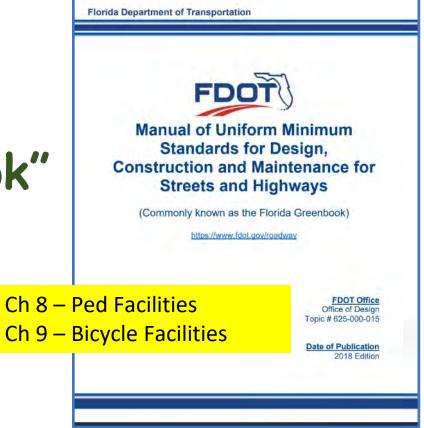
FL Design Manual

Ch. 222 – Ped Facilities
Ch. 223 – Bicycle Facilities
Ch. 224 – Shared Use Paths

East Coast Greenway Design Guide



"Greenbook"





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Standards

Design

rai

Florida State

Tallahassee - St. Marks State Trail Crawfordville, FL

Trail Width: 12'-14' Distance between Trailheads: 8-12 miles Rest stops between trailheads: 1-2

Trailheads should include restrooms, drinking water, a parking area, and informational panels. Rest stops should include a covered bench.

Corridors are typically associated with adjacent road right-of-way, utility corridors, and defunct railroad lines.

Planning for support facilities should include an analysis of existing and potential recreation and tourism opportunities along the trail corridor and incorporate existing and planned facilities into trailhead and rest stop design.

Permeable **surfaces** should be incorporated into the design of parking areas at trailheads.



Trail Width: 10'-14' Distance between Trailheads: 5-8 miles Rest stops between trailheads: 1/mile Trailheads should include restrooms, drinking water, a parking area, and informational panels. Rest stops should include a covered bench.

Corridors are typically associated with adjacent road right-of-way, utility corridors, and defunct railroad lines.

Planning for support facilities should include an analysis of tourism opportunities along the trail corridor and incorporate existing and planned facilities into trail design. Trail-friendly businesses can help supplement the need for facilities, such as restrooms, when appropriate.

Permeable **surfaces** should be incorporated into the design of parking areas at trailheads, when appropriate.

Trail Width: minimum of 8'

Trailheads are not mandatory at regular intervals in most urban areas due to easily accessible amenities provided by public facilities and businesses.

Corridors are typically associated with linear public spaces and park facilities and can be designed with the pedestrian in mind, resulting in esplanades and promenades, or focusing on cyclists, which would lead to separated bicycle lanes; or both.

Planning an urban trail will aim to encourage an active and heavily used trail corridor that will facilitate alternative modes of transportation for users.

Trail surfaces can vary widely based on the general vision for the corridor. Bike lanes will be paved, but wider pedestrian oriented corridors could incorporate a variety of permeable surfaces such as packed gravel or shell, cobblestone, or other pavers.





Key Design Considerations

Paved trail width

- 10 to 14'
- 8' under constrained conditions for a limited distance

Horizontal clearance from travel lane (posted speed <= 45)

- 5' flush shoulder
- 4' curb section

Clear zone

- 4' on each side of trail
- 2' with max. 1:6 slope

Maximum longitudinal grade = 5%

Max. ramp grades = 8.33%

- Max. rise of 30"
- Level landing of 5' distance

Vertical clearance = 12' (desired)

• 8' under constrained conditions

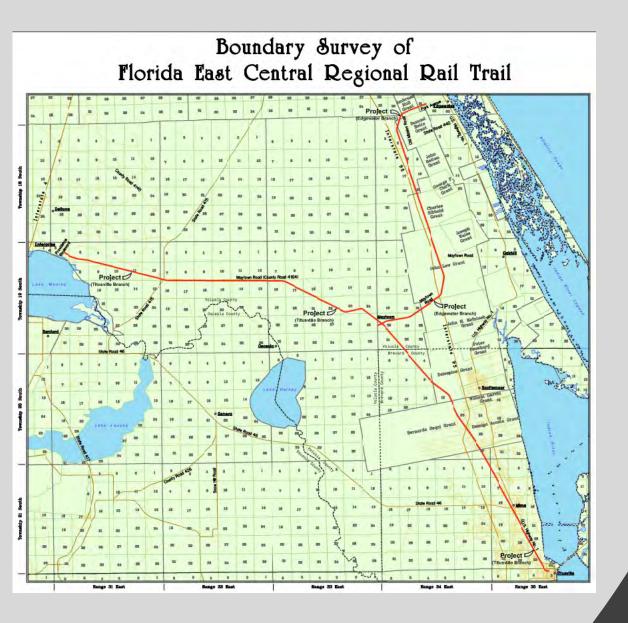
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Right-of-Way

ECRRT project: FDEP Acquisition & Title Issues

Trail operations & maintenance considerations

Maintenance & Operations

- Maintaining agency (MOU/MOA) & continual funding
- Surface material (repaving; boardwalk/bridge maintenance)
- Vegetation management (CPTED)
- Signing & pavement markings
- Rail crossings
- Patrolling
- Equestrian use
- Accommodating other area uses (hunting)
- Enlisting stakeholders (users, healthcare industry, adjacent/benefitting businesses)

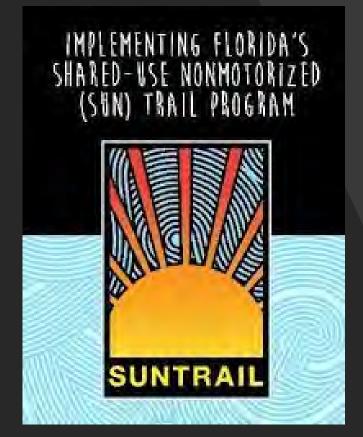


Maintenance Practices and Costs of Rail-Trails



SUN Trail MMOA

- On-System
 - FDOT repairing, restoring or replacing major components
 - Also minor repairs (sealing pavement, repainting)
- Off-System
 - All maintenance is by local agency







Recognizing various user groups

- Hunting within adjacent lands
 - Farmton Hunt Club (Volusia) C2C Trail
 - Green Swamp and Rochloam WMA (Polk) – Van Fleet Trail
- ATVs / Scooters / E-Bikes
- Golf carts
- Equestrian

Value of Partners

Advocacy for program support

Trail Town Program / local economic development

Hospitals advocating health benefits & sponsorships

Amenities, connections, community enhancement

P3 opportunities

From local officials to users to businesses/residents

Q&A / Discussion

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