



MEETING SUMMARY

Date: January 10, 2007 - 3:00 PM

Re: SR 40 PD&E Study
Project Advisory Group Subcommittees Aesthetics Meeting No. 2

Attendees: See sign-in sheet

Alex Hull, consultant Project Manager, began the meeting with some welcoming and introductory statements. Alex then introduced Glenn Burns of Burns Consulting to discuss the SR 40 Scenic Byway work.

Glenn introduced himself and explained that he is the consultant project manager for the SR 40 Black Bear Scenic Byway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) which is working towards having SR 40 designated as a Scenic Byway and an All American Road. Glenn gave an overview of the group's schedule. He explained that he has been working with the group on this since September of 2006, March 14th is the date of submittal to the FDOT for review, May or June is when the State Scenic Highway meets and either accepts or denies designation and in the fall the National Scenic Highway group will meet for potential All American Road designation.

Glenn next explained that the Corridor Management Council, made up of representatives from local governments, public advocacy groups and state and federal agencies will be setting up a group in the next few months. Glenn also passed out a press release for two upcoming public workshops on the SR 40 Scenic Byway.

Cathy Lowenstein of FDOF inquired about the aesthetics of the retention ponds. Alex mentioned that the ponds can be aesthetically designed and stated that the issues with fencing will be addressed. Moreover, Alex explained that they have started the pond site identification phase, however where and how many ponds will be needed has yet to be determined. He stated that they will have the pond sites by the next PAG meeting.

Charles Lee of Audubon commented that it would be worthwhile to look at innovative alternatives to retention ponds. He mentioned that since the soil is high in permeability there may be a way to diffuse the water in order to reduce or eliminate the need for ponds. Vickie Sharpe of FDOT commented that there is a FDOT study that considered natural conveyance. She offered to bring the information on the D7 project back to the group at the next meeting.

Next, there was a group discussion on the aesthetics of the power line easement along the Silver River State Park property. Keith Schue of the Nature Conservancy asked about the type of mitigation that is being done for those impacts. Alex stated that the City of Ocala is handling this issue and that he would find out additional information. The group recommended that they work with Ocala Electric in regards to the habitat connectivity under the easement and Silver River State Park.

Monso Tatum of the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville made a comment about the tree canopy over the Ocklawaha Bridge and how he would like to see the bridge maintain its height and/or be used as a hiking bridge. Alex asked if anyone had heard of the bridge being closed during high

winds. He stated that Inwood received information from Marion County that the Ocklawaha River Bridge has been closed when there are high winds. Nobody could confirm that this has actually happened.

Monso commented that the Pioneer Settlement Barberville is having issues with noise pollution and asked for a noise barrier or for the road to be moved away from the Settlement. Alex stated that it is not likely that a noise wall or any other improvements will be made in a no-build area.

Alex next gave an explanation of the improvements in the Astor/Volusia area.

Glenn Burns requested that a representative from Inwood Consulting Engineers be present at the two, upcoming Black Bear meetings in order to answer any questions about the study. Alex confirmed that either he or David Dangel of Inwood will attend.

Next, there was a group discussion on the aesthetics of the fencing. There was a comment suggesting that they look at Suncoast Parkway's natural looking fence. Alex commented that alternative types of fencing will be considered. He also made a commitment to investigate the type of fence used on the Suncoast Parkway.

There was a discussion on wildlife crossing issues. Keith commented on the possibility of spending the effort and money that would be used on the crossings in the 2-lane area on the widened area in order to broaden connectivity areas. Alex indicated that the crossing at the AA location will serve to connect sand skink habitat. Keith asked if bear kills were due to alignment issues and if it would be possible to realign the road to fix the problem. Charles commented that land acquisition could be more beneficial than providing crossing structures. The group discussed considering a wildlife crossing in the Astor and Astor Park area. Keith asked to consider realigning Emporia Road so that its intersection with SR 40 is east of its current location to facilitate wildlife crossing issues in the future.

Alex asked if there were any other topics of discussion. The meeting concluded at 4:10 pm.

*Note: The above reflects the writer understands of the contents of the meeting. If any misinterpretations or inaccuracies are included, please contact **David Dangel (407) 971-8850** as soon as possible for resolution and revisions if necessary.*



Sign-In Sheet

Name <i>(Please Print)</i>	Business or Group <i>(Please Print)</i>	Mailing Address <i>(Please Print)</i>	E-Mail Address <i>(Please Print)</i>
Cathy Lowenstein	FL Dir. of Forestry		
Paul Heeg	RS&H		
Ben Lehr	"		
Paul Schmitt	"		
Mandy Rankin	Inwood		
Vicki Sharpe	FDOT/CEMO		
Stephen Tomjes	FDOT DS		
Alex Hull	Inwood		
David Dangel	Inwood		