

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-04-19**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING LOCAL EFFORTS TO SEEK FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS OVERSEAS HIGHWAY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the character of the resources found within and adjacent to U.S. Highway 1 in the Florida Keys is unique in Florida and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, a Corridor Advocacy Group consisting of citizens, businesses and government representatives has been formed for the Florida Keys Scenic Highway as required by Florida Statutes for the purpose of designation as a Florida Scenic Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the scenic highway designation is to protect, enhance, preserve, and maintain the cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic resources of the designated corridor, while utilizing these resources for appropriate economic development and tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Marathon believes that significant benefits of additional resource conservation, aesthetic enhancement, recreational amenities, public information, and economic development can result from the scenic highway designation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corridor Management Plan, which delineates the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Florida Keys Scenic Highway corridor, has been developed and will be implemented with the approval of the local governments of the jurisdictions through which the corridor passes, without state or federal restrictions on land use within the corridor by virtue of the designation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.


**Section 2.** The City Council of the City of Marathon, Florida, hereby registers support for the designation of the Florida Keys Scenic Highway in Monroe County as a Florida Scenic Highway.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2001.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT MILLER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine V. Selchan  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY

# FLORIDA KEYS SCENIC HIGHWAY CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

**INTRODUCTION** The “Road to Paradise” – no, it’s not an old Bob Hope & Bing Crosby movie...it’s how folks in the Florida Keys describe the stretch of US 1 from Key Largo to Key West that travels through some of the nation’s most spectacular scenery. This southern section of US 1 is part of “the old national road” that starts in Maine and travels down the East Coast to Florida. Visitors and locals enjoy the festivals, sunset celebrations, state parks and recreation areas, historic sites, museums, artists, the rich cultural heritage of the Keys, island cuisine, sunshine, and the laid-back, tropical atmosphere and friendly people of the Keys. US 1 is the only route to these resources and attractions, as well as being “The Main Street” for the Keys community—the daily roadway to jobs, schools, colleges, shops and commercial areas, hospitals and services—all the necessities of life for Keys residents.

This scenic corridor of the Florida Keys Scenic Highway is one of a kind in the world. Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, Florida Bay and the Gulf of Mexico stretching out as far as the eye can see – it winds through vistas of natural beauty, areas rich in history and legend, views of spectacular sunrises, sunsets, sparkling stars and moonlight. It’s a highway where travelers from all over the world experience their own adventures in paradise – many have come for a visit and never gone home. The Florida Keys Scenic Highway is a magnificent route worthy of the Florida Scenic Highway designation – a pathway to innumerable hidden treasures waiting to be discovered.

## SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION

**PROCESS** In 1995 the State of Florida, through the Department of Transportation, established a program to promote the recommendation of state roads for consideration as scenic highways. This state program mirrors many aspects of the long-established federal program and project sponsorship is achieved through a grassroots effort with broad-based, public support.



In 1996 Florida Keys community leaders identified Clean Florida Keys Inc., (CFK), a local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. and Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc., as a perfect choice for sponsorship given CFK’s mission to “ enhance the beauty of the Florida Keys from Key West to

the Everglades.” Clean Florida Keys established The Florida Keys Scenic Highway Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) to begin the enormous task of completing the required documentation of why US 1 from MM 0 to MM 106.5—Key West to Key Largo—should be designated as a state scenic highway. This has been a major undertaking requiring significant time, dedication and involvement of volunteers throughout the Florida Keys.

#### *Old Keys Bridges and the Overseas Heritage Trail—Vital Resources for the Scenic Highway*

Simultaneously, CFK recognized the unique value of the Old Keys Bridges along the US 1 corridor. Pressure was on to lease the Old Keys Bridges to commercial entities, so CFK acted quickly to promote the historic and recreational value of the bridges rather than lose them to private developments. This campaign resulted in establishing the Governor’s Task Force on the Old Keys Bridges. The recommendations of the Task Force sparked support for funding from the state legislature to keep the bridges open for *public* use and study the long-term maintenance requirements associated with creating a trail along US 1 for bicycle and pedestrian use, the Overseas Heritage Trail that would follow Henry Flagler’s historic old railroad route.

#### *Relationship of Florida Keys Scenic Highway Project and the Overseas Heritage Trail*

For years the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Monroe County have provided bike paths throughout the Key. However, a long-term strategy for the development of an overall trail from Key Largo to Key West was lacking. As part of the CAG’s ongoing work, it seemed appropriate to assist in the development of a long-range vision for the Overseas Heritage Trail. Traveling US 1 from Key Largo to Key West along US 1 this singular route provides access to: cultural, archeological, historical, scenic, environmental and recreational resources that are unique and treasured by residents and visitors alike. Indeed, feedback from the public supported the concept of a well-planned, developed and maintained Overseas Heritage Trail as part of the scenic experience for US 1 travelers.

#### *Promoting Citizen Participation in the Development of a Trail Master Plan*

CFK applied for and received a small seed grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to develop a draft plan for one small segment of the trail—Key West to Sugarloaf – MM 00 to MM 20. CFK formed a partnership among FDEP, FDOT, Monroe County, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the National Park Service. A draft plan was then developed utilizing the partnerships and the professional services of Michael Design Associates—specialists in trail design. This draft plan was discussed in two public meetings and input from the public was incorporated into the revised draft.

## *Public Feedback Supports Overseas Heritage Trail and Scenic Highway Plans*

Feedback from the public received at many public meeting and presentations strongly supports the concept of collaboration and teamwork. Partnerships are essential if the Florida State Scenic Highway designation and plans for the Overseas Heritage Trail are to become realities. With the Overseas Heritage Trail, government agencies liked the idea of developing a cooperative vision and the County received matching grants both from FDOT and FDEP to complete a Trail Master Plan for the entire length of the Keys. A second round of six public meetings were held throughout the Keys in December 1999 and May 2000.



After this last round of public meetings, FDEP Recreation and Parks Division agreed to assume management of the Overseas Heritage Trail as an addition to its State Park System – *the Overseas Heritage Trail State Park*. In addition, FDOT and FDEP with Monroe County are working together on plans to create a trailhead at Sunset Park (near Knight’s Key) and to start trail segments on Big Coppitt Key and Grassy Key in 2001. Clean

Florida Keys will also continue to garner citizen feedback to make the planning and development of the Overseas Heritage Trail an integral part of future planning for the Florida Keys Scenic Highway.

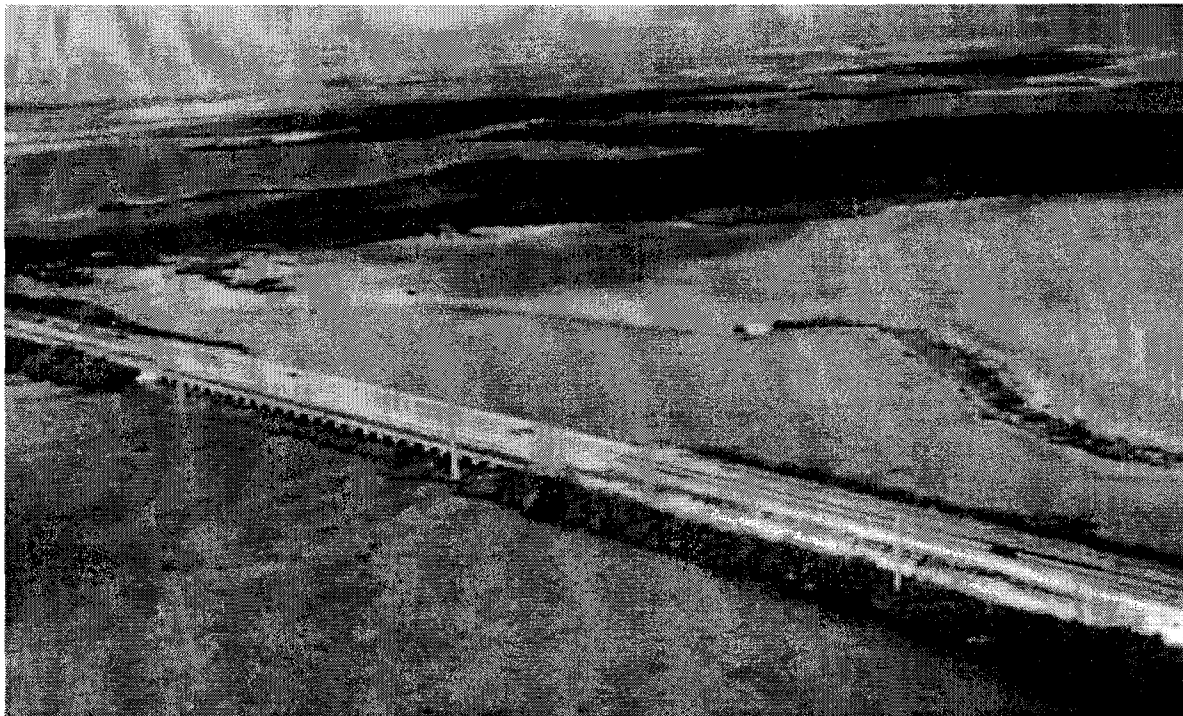
**CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN** On Saturday, November 18, 2000, the sixth Public Forum in a series of public meetings on the scenic highway and the trail took place in Marathon. The goal was to gain feedback for a draft of the Florida Keys Scenic Highway Corridor Management Plan (“CMP”). This CMP draft was developed using input from the previous public meetings and research conducted by the CAG. Nearly 100 people showed up to take part in lively one-on-one and group discussions that included a PowerPoint presentation and visual displays. Individual citizens, local neighborhood and environmental groups, local elected officials, governmental staff and consultants interacted with representatives from the CAG, FDOT & FDEP, specialists in landscaping, trail design, signage, and facilities to make the scenic highway and trail more safe, beautiful and user friendly.

The final step in the Florida Scenic Highways Program designation process is the completion of the Corridor Management Plan (CMP) that serves as a record of a scenic highway’s development as well as the plan by which the scenic highway is implemented, maintained and

enhanced indefinitely. The CMP provides a record of the actions and agreements necessary to implement and sustain the scenic corridor. The CMP is a dynamic document, which will be revisited and revised as necessary to satisfy the vision and goals for the scenic corridor.

All local government jurisdictions through which the corridor runs must approve the Corridor Management Plan and incorporate applicable provisions into their local Comprehensive Plans. A representative from each local government will be required to serve as a member of the Corridor Management Entity (CME), a type of steering committee whose purpose is to coordinate and administrate the implementation of the CMP. Other members of the CME should include those necessary to fully implement the CMP. For example, representatives from the CAG, Chambers of Commerce, community associations, historical, cultural and environmental groups, hikers and bicycle groups, and agencies with management responsibilities within the corridor should be included in the CME.

The Florida Keys Scenic Highway CAG, in a collaborative process, developed the following Vision Statement, during the eligibility phase to guide the activities that will be used to implement the Corridor Management Plan. The goals, objectives and strategies that follow the Vision Statement were developed and prioritized by the CAG and through input gathered at numerous public meetings and presentations during the eligibility and designation phases of the process. Ultimately, an Action Plan will be developed by the CME that delineates a series of projects and activities proposed to implement the goals, objectives and strategies.



## FLORIDA KEYS SCENIC HIGHWAY VISION STATEMENT

The Florida Keys Scenic Highway from Key Largo to Key West is a magnificent journey across more than 100 miles of unique interconnected islands. The islands abound in rich historical, cultural, recreational, natural and scenic treasures, and offer an unrivaled paradise for the mind, body and soul.

The Florida Keys Scenic Highway welcomes residents and travelers on a safe and relaxing tropical journey that conjures up images of bygone eras. Striking views open to the crystalline turquoise and emerald waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. Native mangroves and tropical hardwood hammocks dominate the roadside landscape with distant barrier islands on the horizon.

A magnificent pedestrian and bicycle trail parallels the length of the highway, meandering through a landscape of native plants and trees and across historic Old Keys Bridges - the remnant of Henry Flagler's railway. The trail is a world-class attraction for the enjoyment of residents and visitors and provides safe access to shops, restaurants and nightlife - a boon to the local economy. Opportunities for camping, boating, fishing, cycling, swimming, and hiking in pristine environments abound.

Small-scale buildings hug the water's edge and reflect the scale of the island communities with their funky and informal architecture. Commercial areas are clean, uncluttered and well landscaped. Buffer yards screen industrial areas, large parking lots and unattractive views.

The Florida Keys Scenic Highway links Keys communities with a diverse local, state and national park and refuge system which protects the coral reef, beaches, mangroves and hammocks, and the unique plant and animal species found here. The Florida Keys Scenic Highway is well marked with excellent night lighting - especially at busy intersections. Overall it is well maintained and litter free with roadside pullouts and scenic overlooks at points of interest. Rest area facilities and amenities are also provided. Educational kiosks and interpretive information unbury the fascinating tales of the islands and their histories along this fascinating route across the seas.

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES.....

**Protect, preserve and enhance the resources found within the Florida Keys Scenic Highway corridor. Provide an integrated environment that allows flourishing habitats for indigenous plant and animal communities while permitting appropriate access to these resources consistent with sound environmental planning.**

***Manage vegetation along the corridor in order to preserve, maintain and enhance the natural resources and scenic views.***

- Develop a comprehensive vegetation management plan that:
  1. identifies areas within the corridor where exotic or invasive species are concentrated and where views are obstructed;
  2. develops an appropriate methodology for selective clearing within these areas that will maintain the environmental integrity of the corridor; and,
  3. prioritize selective clearing projects.
- Provide information directly, or through other land management agencies, to private property owners along the FKSH regarding the importance of vegetation management and describing environmentally sensitive methodologies.



***Ensure that design and construction along the FKSH corridor preserves, maintains and enhances its scenic and natural resources.***

- Coordinate with FDOT to design and construct guardrails that enhance or, at a minimum, do not detract from the scenic beauty of the surrounding landscape.
- Coordinate with Monroe County, the cities of Key West, Key Colony Beach, Marathon and Layton, and Islamorada, Village of Islands, and with state and federal agencies in developing aesthetic/design guidelines for the FKSH corridor to assist adjacent property owners in the design and construction of their projects.



***Enhance recreational opportunities along the FKSH corridor.***

- Enhance existing roadside parks and design new ones to include amenities such as boardwalks, picnic areas, hiking trails, and wildlife observation areas where appropriate.
- Coordinate with Monroe County, FDOT and FDEP in the

restoration of the Old Keys Bridges as pedestrian facilities that include opportunities for hiking, bicycling, fishing, boat ramps, picnicking, etc.



Preserve US 1 as an arterial highway that accommodates the needs of both vehicular and non-motorized users and provides opportunities for alternative modes of transportation throughout the corridor while providing access to natural areas, connecting communities and neighborhoods, and enhancing cultural resources.

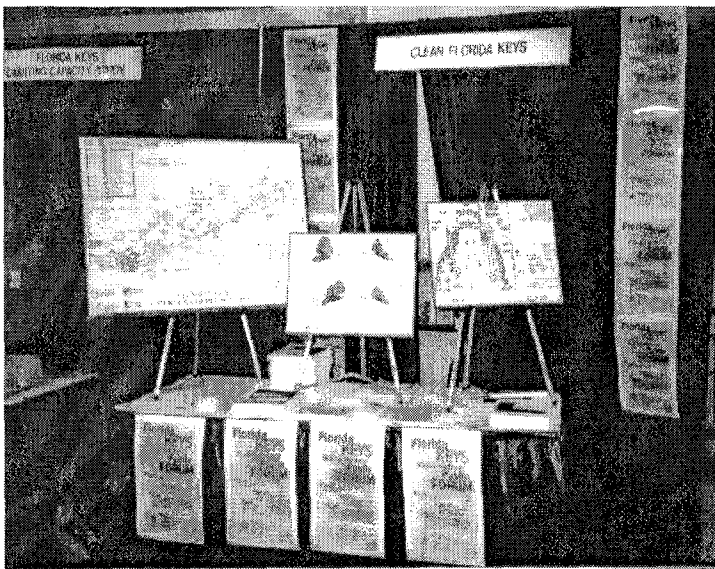
***Coordinate with the FDEP, FDOT and all other local, state and federal agencies in planning activities within the FKSH corridor, or plans that may have an effect on the corridor.***

- Participate in the development and implementation of the Overseas Heritage Trail, an interconnected linear trail for shared use, recreational use, and alternative transportation uses incorporating existing local pathways and the Historic Bridges along the US 1 corridor from MM 0 (Key West) to MM 106.5 (Key Largo).
- Participate in the development and implementation of the following local governments' plans for the FKSH corridor within their jurisdictions: Islamorada, Village of Islands; Key Colony Beach; Key West; Layton; Marathon; and, Monroe County.
- Coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation in the development of the Five-Year Work Program for District 6.

***Provide for the safety of pedestrians and motorists within the FKSH corridor.***

- Ensure the safety of the trail by providing secure trailheads, bathrooms, rest stops with shelter, drinking water, periodic call boxes or telephones, and safe travel clearances for all trail users.
- Identify roadway improvements necessary to promote ease and safety of access into and within the corridor for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- Provide safe pullouts and pulloffs along the scenic highway corridor.
- Monitor accident rates along the highway to identify future improvement needs.

**Provide residents and business of the Florida Keys with a variety of opportunities to participate in the planning and implementation of the Florida Keys Scenic Highway Corridor Management Plan, based on their interests, skills, and time they can offer to the effort.**



***Provide a variety of opportunities for public involvement in the Corridor Management Planning process and in its implementation.***

- Schedule regular meetings of the Scenic Highway CAG/CME that are open to and advertised to the public.
- Assure that CME membership includes a wide range of residents and business owners from throughout the Keys.
- Develop partnerships with other private and public entities to share information and planning activities.

- Ensure that widespread public involvement is required as an integral element for any planning projects within the corridor.

***Develop an on-going citizen participation/education program to update citizens on activities of the Scenic Highway Corridor Management Plan.***

- Participate in a speaker's bureau or similar organization and educate the citizens of the Keys on activities of the CMP.
- Partner with the public schools and colleges to notify students about corridor activities.

**Provide educational opportunities that will heighten awareness of the globally unique scenic elements of the Florida Keys by interpreting the rich and unique historical, archaeological, cultural, and natural resources of the Keys that are united by US 1, the transportation backbone of the region.**

***Promote the Florida Keys Scenic Highway as an outdoor classroom for the Keys' citizens, school children, and visitors, advocating respect for the natural, historical, and cultural resources found along the US 1-based trail corridor.***

- Conduct an interpretive signage study to identify the location and content of interpretive signs along the highway corridor. This signage study should include archaeological, environmental, and cultural aspects of the area.
- Construct information kiosks that explain the cultural and historical significance of the Florida Keys Scenic Highway.
- Develop brochures and audio tours of the highway corridor that emphasize the unique environmental resources and the culture and history of the highway.

**Provide a corridor experience that enhances environmental-friendly regional economic development, oriented primarily towards eco-tourism with appropriate recreational and commercial support opportunities.**

***Provide corridor improvements that will enhance interaction with local businesses along the US 1 corridor.***

- Provide amenities such as the Overseas Heritage Trail, trailheads, landscape planting, intersection improvements, and rest stops that are strategically placed for maximum connectivity with US 1 businesses.

***Provide information to residents, visitors and potential visitors.***

- Develop a standardized joint (private/public) brochure that promote the services and amenities within the corridor. Coordinate with local and regional tourism-related businesses to distribute this promotional information.
- Develop an internet webpage that promotes the services and amenities within the corridor and link this webpage to local, regional, state and international tourism-related websites.

***Coordinate promotional campaigns with businesses and tourism-related associations along the highway corridor.***

- Develop a series of promotional events related to the resources within the corridor that will promote awareness of the corridor. These could include events such as marathons, cleanup days, cultural festivals, bicycle races, fishing tournaments, etc.



I, Katherine V. Selchan, Administrator of Municipal Services and Notary Public, State of Florida, in and for the offices of Moyer & Associates/Severn Trent Services, and on behalf of the City of Marathon, do hereby certify that the attached documents are a true and correct copy of the originals, which are on file in our office located in Broward County, Florida.

Witness under my hand and seal this 13th day of April, 2001.



Katherine V. Selchan  
Commission # CC 789318  
Expires DEC. 22, 2002  
BONDED THRU  
ATLANTIC BONDING CO., INC

(SEAL)

Katherine V. Selchan  
By: Katherine V. Selchan  
Notary Public State of Florida

TRANSMITTAL

**CITY OF MARATHON**  
c/o MOYER & ASSOCIATES/SEVERN TRENT SERVICES  
210 NORTH UNIVERSITY DRIVE  
SUITE 301  
CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA 33071

**Telephone (954) 753-5841**  
**Fax (954) 345-1292**

**TO:** Mr. John Clese  
Membership Department  
Dolphin Research Center  
P.O. Box 522875  
Marathon Shores, FL 33052-2875

**DATE:** April 13, 2001

**SUBJECT:** City of Marathon

**VIA:** U. S. Mail

**WE ARE TRANSMITTING HEREWITH:**


Enclosed please find a copy of the following document(s) for your records:

1. Copy of Resolution 01-04-19 supporting local efforts to seek Florida Scenic Highway Designation for the Florida Keys Overseas Highway, which was approved and signed on behalf of the City of Marathon at the City Council meeting held on April 4, 2001.

**AND REQUEST THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding this material, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Katey Selchan  
Administrator of Municipal Services  
Moyer & Associates/Severn Trent Services

:ks  
Enclosures