

**East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA) Event
and Amelia Island Trail (AIT) Team Meeting**
11/2/16 Minutes

1. **INTRO:** Phil Scanlan, Friends of AIT Inc. - CEO welcomed all to the meeting. Phil reviewed: Agenda and Attendee list (see att.). This meeting is a combined ECGA Fundraising Event and AIT semi-annual Trail Team meeting.

Bob Spiegelman ECGA Board of Trustees, President met with attendees at each table during lunch to get their inputs on trail priorities.

2. **ECG Update:** Bob Spiegelman gave an update on ECG status and plans. The ECG goal is to complete a 3000 mile off-road paved trail for bicycling from Maine to Florida Keys. About 30% of the route (1000 miles) is now completed paved off-road paths; and about 250 miles/yr is being added. ECG has worked with the Federal Dept. of Transportation to make the ECG Trail the number one priority for federal trail funding grants given out on a regional basis. ECG also encourages the east coast states to make the ECG trail a very high priority for state trail funding to support this national trail program. ECG guides and supports local trail efforts and provides ECG trail designation for completed and approved off-road trails. ECG will soon be naming a new GA-FL ECG Coordinator to replace Herb Hiller who retired recently. All donations to ECG fund raising events in Florida will be dedicated to support ECG efforts in Florida. Over \$1,100 in ECGA Donations were made at this event on 11/2/16. However this falls a bit short of our Amelia Island fund raising goal of \$2,000 for ECGA.

ECG check donations can be made out to ECGA and mailed to: East Coast Greenway Alliance:
East Coast Greenway Alliance
5315 Highgate Dr. Ste. 105
Durham, NC 27713

For Credit card donations, ECG Membership and an ECG trail map go to;
www.greenway.org

3. **Amelia Island Trail Study:** The Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) funded a Sprinkle Consulting study of the **bike-pedestrian trail for all of Amelia Island that completed Sept. 2016**. This plan should be very helpful to our Amelia Island Trail planning and to the city and county trail improvement efforts. The next step is for Friends of AIT to work with the County and City trial planners to prioritize the many recommendations in this excellent report into a City and County a 5 year Trail Improvement Plan.

4. **Big Talbot Causeway Erosion:** Michelle Waterman, Talbot Parks Manager, reviewed the erosion problem caused by Hurricane Matthew on the causeway that connects the Nassau River Fishing Bridge to the Big Talbot Park. Three major erosion spots each over 100 ft. long have washed out the road connecting the fishing bridge to Big Talbot Park. The Park has officially closed this path because the road damage is so severe. The Park also believes this road will continue to wash out due to erosion and

therefore a team has been established to determine what to do. The Team includes Park, FDOT, Senator Bean Staff and a Friends of AIT representative (Mike Pikula). Options include: 1. Repair the causeway damage and armor the entire causeway. 2. Evaluate the cost of a pedestrian–cyclist bridge to replace the causeway to avoid erosion problems. 3. Mark the breakdown lanes on A1A as bicycle lanes, provide a separation or barrier between A1A vehicle traffic and the bike lanes on the bridge, provide access to the bike lanes on the north-west side of the Nassau River via the under-bridge path, and reduce the speed limits on the A1A bridge. Recognizing there is no current connection from the Amelia Island off-road trails to the Big Talbot and Timucuan off-road trails; it was agreed that the access to the A1A bridge brake-down lanes from the North west side of the river would be a high priority.

5. TIMUCUAN NATIONAL PARK TRAIL PLANS:

Colin Moore, City of Jacksonville, gave the group an update on Timucuan Trail Plans, and a handout on specific FDOT Timucuan Trail plans was distributed.

There are about 10 miles in the Timucuan along A1A/Heckscher Dr. to connect the Amelia Island off-road Trail to the Mayport Ferry.

Four (4) segments have been completed covering about 6.5 miles.

There are 4 additional sections needed for the remaining 3.5 miles:

	<u>Construction</u>	<u>Length</u>
Fort George River to Little Talbot Island --	Underway	0.5
Fort George Trailhead to Huguenot Park --	2018	0.5
(Funded by FL SUN Trails Funds)		
Little Talbot to Big Talbot (with 2 bridge replacements)	2020	2.0
(Funded by FL SUN Trails Funds)		
Fort George River to Huguenot Park	Unfunded	<u>0.5</u>
		3.5

6. NASSAU COUNTY TRAIL GRANT APPLICATIONS: Susan Taylor gave an update for Mike Pikula on Nassau County trail grant applications and plans for Federal and State funds. The TPO grant project along Simmons Rd. is in the **design phase** with **construction planned for 2017- 2018.** This fast-tracked 2.2 mile off-road paved trail project has received overwhelming support from neighborhood associations, Nassau County Growth Management, the NF-TPO and FDOT. This path will connect the parks at the beach to the ball parks on Bailey Rd. at the airport. There will be a connection at the ball park to a privately built trail already constructed to enter the Crane Island development providing access to the Amelia Riverside. Nassau County is managing the project for FDOT. A public Meeting on the Trail Plans will be held soon to allow interested person to comment on the trail design. Final trail design is scheduled to be complete by July 2017 with construction to follow. Mike Pikula is representing AIT in this project.

6. Water Taxi connection to GA:

Work has begun to see if we can help initiate a Water-Taxi service (with bike racks) between St. Marys, GA and Fernandina Beach, FL. Leaders of both cities, the ECG and Friends of AIT are all supporting this effort as a key part of the East Coast Greenway (ECG). Both City Commissions (F.B. and St. Marys) have passed resolutions of support

for this proposed water-taxi service and in the resolutions both have agreed to wave dock fees for 2 years and to provide marketing support for the taxi service – via web sites and event announcements.

We are also in the process of applying for a joint FL/GA TPO grant as an incentive to attract a private water-taxi service. We believe these incentives will enable a new service to build up to the 30 passengers/day to support a self sustaining water-taxi. Tris Bux is supporting our efforts to apply for these needed grants.

This is an important connection to provide a safe ECG trail connection between GA and FL and to increase tourism visits to both cities, and to allow FL residents and visitors a waterway connection to the St. Marys ferry to Cumberland Island National Park.

7. FRIENDS OF THE AMELIA ISLAND TRAIL (AIT), INC. (NON-PROFIT):

If you have not yet joined or renewed your Friends of AIT membership at www.AmeliaIslandTrail.org for 2016 please consider:

Trail Friend: Any contribution up to \$25
Trail Blazer: \$25 to \$99
Trail Advocate: \$100 or more

Please help us keep the AIT web site up-to-date by sending info on new walk, run or ride events to Mike Pikula at AFEagle31@aol.com.

8. Adult Bikes for Barnabas (ABB):

One of our partners is Barnabas. We initiated an Adult Bikes for Barnabas (ABB) program about 5 years ago to provide refurbished bikes to the needy so they will have transportation to work. This program has provided an average of 5 refurbished bikes per month to the needy in our community, and has provided over refurbished 250 bikes in the past 5 years.

To continue this program we need donations of 60 used adult bikes per year and donations from 60 contributors of \$60/bike needed for repair parts. The repair labor is given for free by the 8th St. Cycle & Fitness shop (Joel Beckham owner/operator).

Donations of used Adult Bikes can be made to:

Cycle and Fitness Center at 11 South 8th St., F.B., FL 32034

Donations of \$60/bike for repair parts (with lights & lock) can be made to:

Barnabas Center, Inc. 1303 Jasmine St., Suite 101, F.B., FL 30034

Make checks out to Barnabas and put ABB on check memo line.

Phillip Scanlan
Amelia Island Trail Team, Co-Chair
Friends of Amelia Island Trail, Inc. - CEO