

**Welcome for ECG Relay Riders: 10/17/17 noon to 12:15 pm**

The ECG Relay Riders arrived from St. Marys, GA at the Fernandina Beach marina, via water-taxi by the Amelia Island River Cruises, at about 11:30 am on 10/17/17. They joined the AIT-ECG noon to 2 pm lunch meeting.

**ECG-AIT Trail lunch meeting: 10/17/17 noon to 2 pm.**

The ECG-AIT Trail lunch meeting was held at the Karibo Restaurant, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor private room, and included a buffet lunch. The meeting which included 60 attendees representing interested organizations and trail users included a dozen speakers. Below is a short summary.

**1. Phil Scanlan – CEO Friends of Amelia Island Trail, Inc.**

Phil reviewed 10 Amelia Island trail projects that had been implemented from 2009 to 2017 and 3 more projects scheduled for 2018 to 2022. The total funding for these 13 projects is about \$13 million over 13 years; about \$1 million per year for Amelia Island trails.

Phil also reviewed the top 3 unfunded trail projects that needed to be addressed:

- a. Repair or replace the Saw Pit connector at Nassau River.
- b. Reestablish a daily water-taxi service F.B. to St. Marys. Ga.
- c. Establish safe paths from F,B, to south-end trails.

The attendees focused on the need for a safe bicycle crossing over the Nassau River. It was agreed we should pursue getting a plan of action on this item with a team consisting of;

- a. Senator Bean's staff
- b. AIT Leaders
- c. ECG FL Coordinator
- d. FL DEP Greenways and Trails Staff
- e. Nassau & Duval Bike Ped. Coordinators
- f. FDOT

Phil also presented a Trail Creation process flow-chart that showed how non-profit and government organizations must work together to develop a complete trail plan. Phil also handed out a flyer for the "Adult Bikes for Barnabas" (ABB) program that has provided over 250 refurbished bicycles for adults in the community that need a bike to get to work, using donations of used bikes and funding donations of \$60/bike for repair parts.

2. **Mike Pikula – President of Friends of Amelia Island Trail, Inc.** 2

Mike reviewed current plans for the “Amelia River-to-Sea Trail” which is to be constructed in 2018 on Amelia Island. The trail will run from a public park Crane Island at the Amelia River-side to Bailey Road and then to Simmons Road eastward to S. Fletcher Ave.

The segment of this trail from the Amelia River to the FB City Ybor Alverez Park on Bailey Road will be funded and constructed by a private developer that will also be constructing a public park on Crane Island at the river-side end of the trail.

That part of the trail between the City’s Ybor Alverez Park on Bailey Road and S. Fletcher (A1A) Ave. will be funded by a federal grant approved by the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO); and will be constructed by Nassau Road & Bridge beginning in March 2018.

According to Nassau County’s Engineering Department, the contract for the construction is to be awarded by the end of 2017 with construction to start in March 2018 and be completed in Dec. 2018.

Various amenities along the new trail will be funded and/or constructed by Friends of Amelia Island Trail, Inc. (FOAIT).

Mike also provided a financial status of FOAIT. FOAIT is a 501c(3) non-profit and tax deductible donations to FOAIT are appreciated. Donations can be sent to: Friends of the Amelia Island Trail, Inc. P.O.B. 16113. Fernandina Beach, FL 32035. Web site: [www.AmeliaIslandTrail.org](http://www.AmeliaIslandTrail.org)

3. **Dennis Markatos-Soriano - ECG Ex. Director**

Dennis explained the ECG 3000 mile River Relay Ride event being held to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ECG and to connect with the 450 communities committed to the Goal of achieving a national East Coast Trail. This national trail must cross a number of rivers and Dennis supports our efforts to provide safe ECG Trail crossing for both the St. Marys River on the north and the Nassau River on the south of Amelia Island. Jim Inghram and Mike Pikula will represent A.I. in the ECG Relay River Ride from Fernandina Beach to Titusville. Dennis also thanked the Amelia Island Trail Leaders and the leaders developing trails to the south in the state and national parks. Dennis gave an ECG Recognition plaque to Phil Scanlan and Mike Pikula for their leadership.

4. **Paul Haydt – ECG Florida Coordinator** 3

Paul emphasized the ECG trail would enable people to get out and safely bicycle to and through parks in their area. People need to be able to enjoy the many amenities of our parks such as: Ocean, Rivers, Museums, History, Recreation, etc. Parks along the ECG are important destination points for people and all our parks supporting the Goal of having the ECG connect to and through our local, state, and national parks is critical. This of course applies to all the parks on Amelia Island, as well as those just to the north and to the south of Amelia Island.

5. **Brent Buice – ECG GA & SC Coordinator**

Brent shared that GA is also developing its ECG trails and is very supportive of establishing a safe trail connection to Florida via a daily water-taxi service from St. Marys, Ga. to Fernandina Beach, FL.

6. **Kalilah Jamall – Representative of US Senator Bill Nelson**

Jamall thanked all the organizations involved in developing the ECG and AIT trails and added thanks from Senator Bill Nelson. Senator Nelson has been a runner all his life and supports the trails efforts. Jamall also presented a letter from Senator Nelson to Phil Scanlan for his trail leadership efforts and for hosting the ECG-AIT 10/17/17 meeting.

7. **Austin Nicklas – Representative of FL Senator Aaron Bean**

Austin also shared thanks from FL Senator Aaron Bean for the ECG and AIT trail efforts. Senator Bean is also a frequent user of the local Amelia Island Trails. Austin also volunteered to help with developing a plan for a safe bicycle crossing of the Nassau River, following the Matthew & Irma erosion of the Saw Pit island connector.

8. **Doug Alderson – FL DEP Greenways & Trails Assistant Bureau Chief**

Doug explained the role of the FL Greenways and Trails organization; which is to provide FL trail maps and plans for future FL Trails to be considered for Federal and State grants in Florida. FL Counties must submit their proposed ECG segments and FL Regional trail plans to the FL Greenways and Trails organization to be considered for Federal and State grant funding,

Doug is also working on DEP proposals to incent more support from the Parks for trail connections to and through the parks. Doug also volunteered to help with developing a plan for a safe bicycle crossing over the Nassau

River; urgently needed as a result of the Matthew & Irma hurricane erosion of the Saw Pit Island road.

**9. Derek Dixon – FL FDOT District 2 Bike/Ped. Coordinator and Mary O’Brien – FL FDOT Statewide Bike/Ped. Coordinator**

Derek and Mary thanked the ECG and AIT for their trail support and volunteered to help.

**10. Danny Leeper – Nassau County Commission & Regional TPO Chair**

Danny added his thanks and appreciation for the efforts of the ECG and AIT. Danny also volunteered his continued support for trail efforts.

**11. Dave Reilly – St. Marys, GA – City Commissioner**

Dave rode over on the water taxi service, provided by Amelia River Cruises, with the ECG River Relay Riders. Dave added his thanks to all involved in the trail efforts and volunteered his support for reestablishing a daily water-taxi service between FB and St. Marys as part of the ECG.

**12. Tim Poynter – Fernandina Beach – City Commissioner**

Tim added his thanks to all involved in the trail efforts and volunteered his continued support.

**13. ECG Alliance**

Learn more about the ECG Alliance at [www.greenway.org](http://www.greenway.org).

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