

**Minutes of Amelia Island Trail Meeting**  
**10/11/18**

**Introduction:**

**Phil Scanlan provided an introduction that covered 4 topics:**

- 1. The Meeting Agenda and Attendees (See attachment)**
- 2. Bicycle Safety (See attachment)**
- 3. A.I. Trail Plan – Ex. Overview ( See attachment)**
- 4. A.I. Trail Projects (See attachment)**

**Panel 1: Trail Improvement Plans**

**This panel included:**

- 1. Rex Lester – F.B. City Streets and Parks Director**
- 2. Terry Landreth – St. Marys Trail Leader**
- 3. Kailey Saver – Nassau County Planner II, Bike and Ped. Coord.**

**The following trail improvement priorities were discussed:**

- 1. Cumberland to Timucuan Trail – need priority ASAP for TPO grant**
- 2. FL to GA Water-Taxi being planned for April 2019 launch**
- 3. River to Sea Trail – construction schedule is for July 2019 complete.**
- 4. Crane Island path connection and park; plan for July 2019 complete.**
- 5. N. 14<sup>th</sup> St. safety improvements needed – County doing safety study**
- 6. Need bike lane connections from 18<sup>th</sup> st to 14<sup>th</sup> st. – City planning it.**
- 7. Need path connection from Clinch Drive to 7<sup>th</sup> St. – City planning it.**
- 8. Egans Greenways Trails being improved by F.B. Parks.**
- 9. Enclave Association & Nassau planning trail – Sea to Ocean**

**In addition to the above Amelia Island projects 2 St Marys items were discussed:**

- 1. St. Marys Trail and Trail Head improvements**
- 2. In Nov. 2018 there will be the annual 3-Rivers Ride in St. Marys.**

**Panel 2: Elected Official positions on trails**

**This panel included:**

- 1. Chip Ross – F.B. City Commissioner**
- 2. Dave Reilly – St. Marys City Councilman**
- 3. Aaron Bell – Nassau County Commissioner, Elect (11/20/18)**

**The following key points were made by the elected officials:**

- 1. City of F.B. established the first trail budget starting in 2019.**

2. City of F.B. and St. Marys have budgeted economic incentives to establish a private water-taxi service. Planned launch in April 2019.
3. Following marina dock hurricane damage; F.B. plans to have marina docks repaired by April 2019 and St. Marys plans to have their municipal docks repaired by mid-2019.
4. Support for the island Trail plan for 4 main off-road trails with safe access connections, to enable safe bicycle transportation connections.
5. Support for safe trail connections to schools.
6. Trails are good for exercise, transportation and overall economy.
7. Trails require Teamwork – 3 Cities, 2 counties, state, TPO/Federal and the Community – Trail Users, Trail advocates, Businesses.
8. Trail users and advocates need to use their voice and show up at city and county meetings to support Trail Plans and their funding.
9. If you see a safety issue – take a photo and send to a city or county commissioner for action.
10. Inter-state, inter-county and inter-city partnerships are required to close the gaps in the national ECG trail along the coast.
11. Call the maintenance phone numbers when trails need maintenance. (Trail maintenance phone numbers are on the bottom of the Agenda.)
12. St. Marys encourages riders to try the 3-Rivers trail and the Tabby Trail in St. Marys. Trail heads are at Sugar Mill Tabby site and the Sweetwater Park.

### **2018 Friends of Amelia Island Trail Support Awards:**

The first ever Friends of Amelia Island Trail Support Awards were given to:

1. The City of Fernandina Beach – Accepting Chip Ross
2. The City of St. Marys – Accepting Dave Reilly
3. Nassau County – Accepting Aaron Bell
4. The State of Florida – Accepting Austin Nicklas
5. The US Government – Accepting Michelle Barth

The awards were presented by Friends of Amelia Island Trail CEO, Phil Scanlan. Phil said that after 12 years of trail advocacy this is the first year an island wide trail plan has been developed and is being supported by all the levels of government needed to implement the plan.

### **Panel 3: Future Trail Funding Plans**

This panel included:

1. Kailey Saver – Nassau County, Planner II, Bike & Ped. Coord.
2. Lorelei Jacobs – Fernandina Beach City, Grants Administrator
3. Colin Moore - Jacksonville City, Project & Grant Mgr. – Parks

**The following key points were made by the panelists:**

- 1. The Timucuan trail gaps are being closed. It is expected by 2021 there will be a continuous paved path trail connection from the Nassau River to the St. Johns Ferry.**
- 2. Jacksonville/Duval County wants to partner with Nassau County and our state Senator Office to appeal to FDOT to plan and budget for a protected bike path on the Nassau River vehicle bridge.**
- 3. Jacksonville is planning an ECG spur that would create a paved path on Beach St. from the ECG trail to downtown Jacksonville.**
- 4. Jacksonville has a 5 year trail budget plan of \$30 million.**
- 5. Fernandina Beach City has established a \$30,000/year trail budget starting in 2019.**
- 6. Both F.B. and St. Marys have committed \$10,000/yr. for an incentive to launch a private water-taxi service to connect the two cities for pedestrian and bicyclists. Thus will close an 8 mile gap in the ECG.**
- 7. Nassau County is planning a new Mobility Fee starting in 2019 that will provide some funding dedicated for trail funding. County Commission hearings on this proposal are planned for Dec. 2018.**
- 8. F.B. City and Nassau County are working on a joint Island wide multi-year trail plan – with funding identified for projects in a 5-year plan.**
- 9. The most important and urgent major future funding plan is for both F.B. City and Nassau County Commissions to approve the Florida Regional Cumberland to Timucuan Trail (also the ECG Trail) as the next county trail priority for TPO federal and state grants, This trail priority approval should be done by Jan. 2019.**
- 10. The state of Georgia is planning to spend at least \$1 million/year to close gaps in the Georgia section of the ECG trail.**

**The meeting was closed with a show of appreciation for the government officials who took the time to meet with trail advocates and trail users to discuss trail plans.**

**Phil Scanlan  
Friends of Amelia Island Trail, Inc. – CEO  
[phillipscanlan@att.net](mailto:phillipscanlan@att.net)  
Cell 904-206-3334**