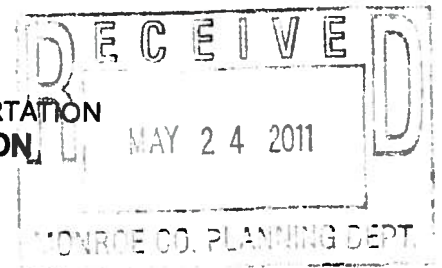


STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION  
ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**



**Project Title:** Higgs Beach Park: Multi-Modal Transportation Safety and Archeological Preservation

**Project Sponsor** (municipal, county, state, or federal agency, or tribal council):

Monroe County Board of County Commissioners

Contact Trish Smith, AICP

Title Transportation Planner

Address Monroe County Planning Department, 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050

Phone (305)304-0412

FAX (305)289-2854

Priority (relative to other applications submitted by the Project Sponsor). See local scoring matrix

Name of Applicant (If other than Project Sponsor): n/a

**1. Qualifying Enhancement Activities:**

Check the enhancement activity that the proposed project will address. **(NOTE: Checking all activities possible does not ensure or increase eligibility. Each activity checked must meet all criteria listed for that activity in Appendix A of FDOT Procedure #525-030-300, Transportation Enhancement Projects).**

- ☒ Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
- ☒ The provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrian and bicyclists
- ☐ Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- ☒ Scenic or historic highway programs, (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities)
- ☐ Landscaping and other scenic beautification
- ☒ Historic preservation
- ☐ Rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals)
- ☐ Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails)
- ☐ Control and removal of outdoor advertising
- ☐ Archaeological planning and research
- ☐ Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
- ☐ Establishment of transportation museums

## 2. Project Description:

Use additional sheets as necessary to respond to the following:

(a) What type of work is being proposed? (Check all that apply)

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Planning Activities                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Project Development and Environmental Studies      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Engineering and Final Plans Preparation Work       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Right of Way Acquisition                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Construction                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Construction Engineering and Inspection Activities |

(b) Describe how the proposed project is related to the intermodal transportation system by either function, proximity or impact. (One or more may apply).

*Higgs Beach Park is in the Florida Keys Scenic Highway corridor along the Atlantic Ocean on the south side of Key West and is transected by Atlantic Boulevard. The existing recreational area, owned and managed by Monroe County, contains a sandy beach, tennis courts, West Martello (a civil war era fort) which is home to the Key West Garden Club, Salute Restaurant, Astro City playground, one bathroom building, concrete benches and cabanas, large and small dog parks, the Whistling Duck Pond, volleyball and handball courts, Reynolds Street Pier, the African Memorial, and the swimming and snorkeling area adjacent to the beach. The park is at the southern terminus of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail bicycle/pedestrian path and is a major tourist attraction. The trail counter on the path at the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and White Street (by the east edge of the park) has had an average of 38,150 bicyclists and pedestrians cross it per month in 2011.*

*Atlantic Boulevard in Higgs Beach Park is a County road that provides critical local and tourist connections on the island of Key West. Relative to the State Road System, the eastern end of Atlantic Boulevard starts approximately 1000 feet from the western end of SR A1A (South Roosevelt Boulevard), connected by Bertha Street. Atlantic Boulevard continues on to White Street then through Higgs Beach Park to its terminus at Reynolds Street.*

*The proposed project area will effect several areas of the park including bike paths, sidewalks and crosswalks, intersections at the entrances to the park, the African Memorial and Graveyard, and the West Martello Fort (Civil War era fort).*

*As part of the Master Plan for Higgs Beach Park, relocating Atlantic Boulevard and parking is proposed to:*

- 1) resolve safety issues with the proximity of the road to the West Martello Fort, pedestrian and bicycle activity, the relationship of the current parking areas and loading zones to the travel lanes of the road, and traffic flow in the intersections of the Atlantic Boulevard with Reynolds Street and White Street;*
  - 2) provide designated bicycle lanes, sidewalks and crosswalks;*
  - 3) protect and enhance historic, cultural, and archeological integrity of the Scenic Highway and adjacent area while enhancing visitor appreciation; and*
  - 4) remove all development from the recently located African gravesites in one of the only known cemeteries of African refugees in the United States.*
- (please see photographs in the Attachments illustrating need).*

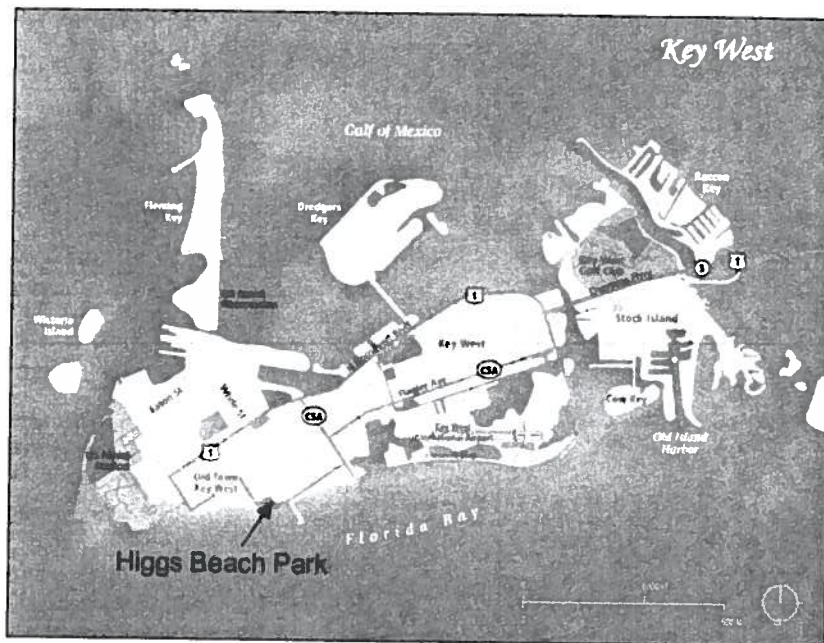
- (c) Where is the project located (and what is the project length and termini, if appropriate)? Include location map.

*The project is in Higgs Beach Park on the south side of Key West (see map of Key West to the right).*

*The legal description is:*

*KW PT TR 27 RR-342/343 W-458/459  
G33-276/280*

*Atlantic Boulevard from Reynolds Street and White Street will be affected by the project (see proposed site plan, next page).*



- (d) Summarize any special characteristics of project. Provide typical section drawings for appropriate projects.

*Since the early days of Key West, the site known as Higgs Beach Park has a past rich with historically significant events. Within the boundaries of the park, there are numerous cultural and recreational activities used by both residents and tourists. The sandy shoreline has withstood all that human nature and Mother Nature can deliver – from hurricanes to the notorious wreckers. Prior to the Civil War the beach was one of the early cemeteries on the island, not only for residents but also for African refugees rescued in the 1860's from slave ships bound for Cuban sugar plantations. Although storms removed many of the early gravesites, the location of the African refugee graves have been located and memorialized. This section of coastline has protected the island community during wars that threatened not only Key West but also the entire Country. From the West Martello Fort, constructed in 1863 as the War Between the States loomed, to the barracks, gun turrets and radio tower built in the 1900's in response to the threat of World Wars. Henry Flagler's Railroad terminated near here and it is reported the rails from that infamous train track were used in the construction of the Reynolds Street pier in the 1940's. At the close of World War II, the military barracks were no longer needed and negotiations began with Monroe County to surplus this land. In 1948 Monroe County accepted the beach and began to enhance the park.*

*Monroe County is endeavoring to protect and enhance this heritage, and has approved the preliminary site design as part of the Master Planning process for Higgs Beach Park. This Master Plan includes the following enhancement elements:*

#### **Atlantic Boulevard**

*Atlantic Boulevard is the lifeblood of the park and provides the primary access for many residents and visitors. During the design process, the safety concerns expressed included the proximity of the road to the West Martello Gardens, pedestrian and bicycle conflicts, loading zones for the restaurant and Gardens, the relationship of the current parking areas to the travel lanes of the road, intersections of the road with Reynolds Street and White Street. The proposed design, keeps the road alignment in the same location adjacent to the tennis courts. However, beyond the tennis courts, the road has been shifted to north and a gentle curve to facilitate traffic calming has been designed. Relocating the road has also provided the additional area needed to preserve the recently discovered additional graves of African refugees. The parking areas have been redesigned to include crosswalks and reduce conflict points with pedestrians. The proposed design of the road has also been widened to accommodate bicycle lanes on both sides.*



WILLIAM P. HARRIS  
ARCHITECT, P.A.

DATE: 12-15-10

BY: WPH

PROJECT: CLARENCE HIGGS BEACH

SCALE: 1" = 60'-0"

DATE: 12-15-10

BY: WPH

PROJECT: CLARENCE HIGGS BEACH

SCALE: 1" = 60'-0"

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BY: WPH

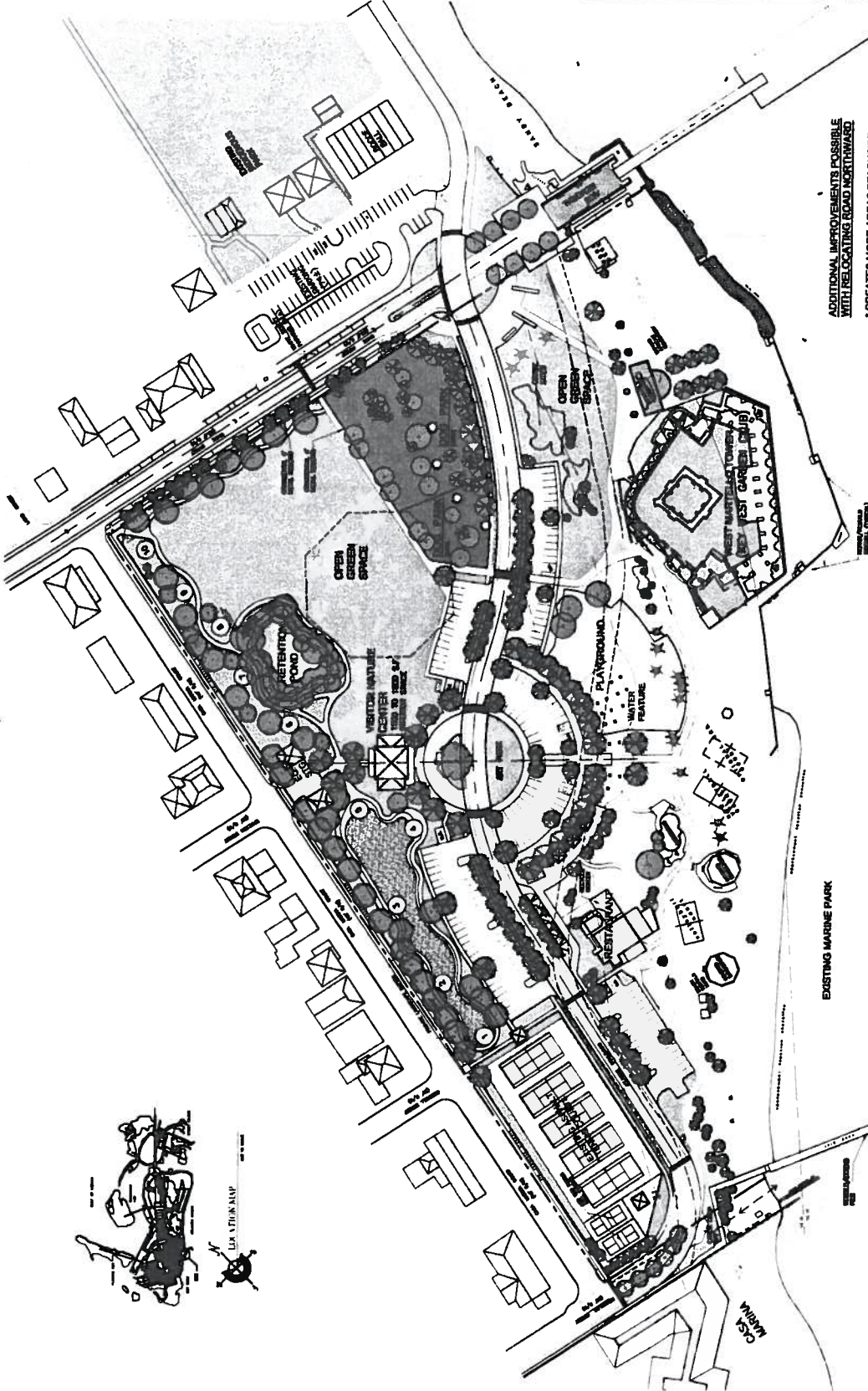
PROJECT: CLARENCE HIGGS BEACH

SCALE: 1" = 60'-0"

DATE: 12-15-10

BY: WPH

PROJECT: CLARENCE HIGGS BEACH



ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS POSSIBLE WITH RELOCATING ROAD NORTHWARD:

- \* CREATES MORE AREAS BEACHSIDE
- \* PLAYGROUND MOVES TO BEACHSIDE
- \* VISITOR/NATURE CENTER GOES TO PARK SIDE OF ROAD AND SUPPORTS SPORTS USES AND MULTIPURPOSE FIELD EVENTS
- \* ROAD MOVES AWAY FROM FORT AND GRAVES SITES
- \* ALLOWS POSSIBLE REDESIGN OF END OF WHITE STREET AND ENTRY TO PARK

- ① FITNESS TRAIL STOP
- COVERED TABLE
- ☒ SHADE STRUCTURE

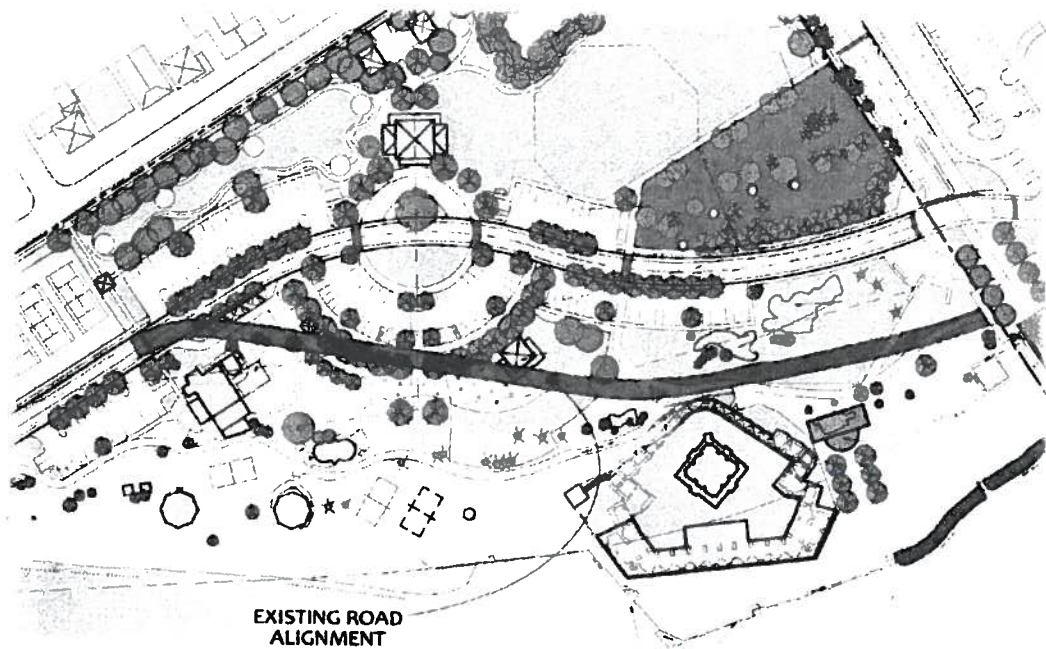
PROPOSED SITE PLAN - OPTION 1

SCALE: 1" = 60'-0"

SITE PLAN BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM SURVEY PREPARED BY ROBERT A. HARRIS, SURVEYOR DATED ON 04-23-10

# CLARENCE HIGGS BEACH - MASTER PLAN

NEW WEST, FLORIDA



#### **Atlantic Boulevard and White Street Intersection**

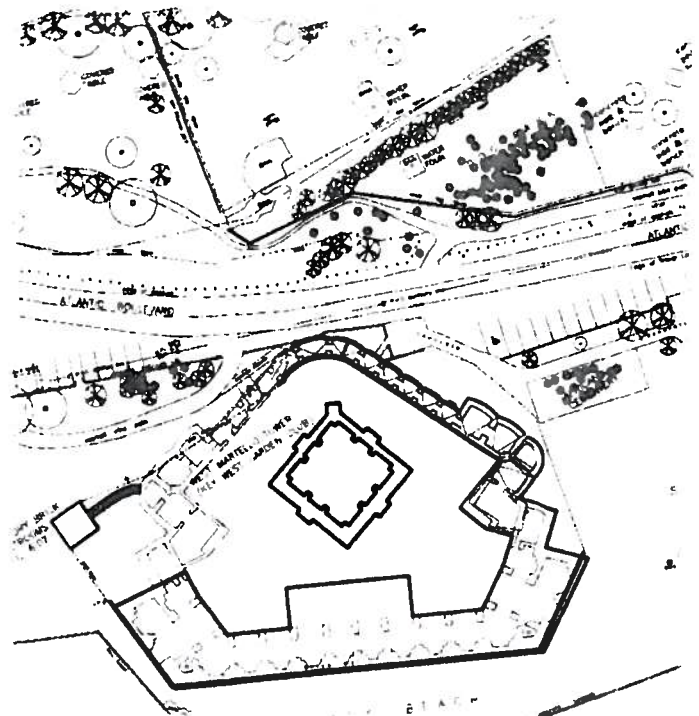
The intersection with White Street has been changed as a result of the northern shift of Atlantic Blvd. Early in the design process, preliminary research indicated there was a need to review this location. There is no doubt that White Street and Atlantic Blvd is a very busy intersection. The potential for accidents exists due to the sheer number of automobiles, scooters, trolleys, pedestrians and bicyclists that traverse this area on a daily basis. The proposed design creates a sense of place for the end of White Street as well as an entrance to the park. Furthermore, it enlarges and provides an opportunity to enhance the entrance to White Street Pier and the AIDS Memorial.

#### **Atlantic Boulevard and Reynolds Street Intersection**

The Reynolds Street entrance to the park has been modified to improve circulation and enhance this access point to the park. The parking adjacent to the tennis courts has been removed, and two Pickleball Courts are proposed. Parking for these activities has been relocated to the east end of the tennis courts. The widened roadway allows for the radius of the curve to be increased, a landscape median added, room for the bicycle lanes and a canoe/kayak drop off area.

#### **African Memorial and Graveyard**

Several years ago, a ground penetrating radar survey was conducted and identified nine gravesites located to the east of the West Martello Fort. The current African Cemetery Memorial stands at that site today. Then, in conjunction with Master Plan development, a ground penetrating radar survey was conducted in November 2010. This survey revealed a significant number of graves located (as shown by the dots at right). Upon completion of the survey, the Master Plan was revised to relocate the Small and Large Dog Parks, shift the road and relocate proposed parking in order to remove all development from the grave





area. It is expected that additional graves are located beneath the existing road. Once the road has been removed, these too shall be preserved. The history of the African refugees and the West Martello Fort are linked together. The opportunity to preserve and enhance these two parts of island history adds another gem to the features of Higgs Beach Park. An additional benefit is the further protection of the West Martello Fort due to the relocation of the road away from the Fort.

*The location of these graves is a significant archaeological discovery, one of the only known cemeteries of African refugees in the United States, and presents an opportunity for preservation of this historic discovery.*

- (e) Describe the project's existing right of way ownerships. This description shall identify when the right of way was acquired and how ownership is documented (i.e. plats, deeds, prescriptions, certified surveys).

*Monroe County owns the Atlantic Boulevard right of way in Higgs Beach Park, between Reynolds Street and White Street. In 1948 Monroe County accepted the Navy surplussed land that is the park today, including the road. Ownership documents are on file at the Monroe County Appraiser's Office.*

- (f) Describe any proposed right of way acquisition, including expected matching fund source, limitations on fund use or availability, and who will acquire and retain ownership of proposed right of way.

*No right of way acquisition is required for this project.*

- (g) Describe any related project work phases that are already complete or currently underway.

*Monroe County and the City of Key West have been collaborating in the development of the Higgs Beach Park Master Plan, which includes this proposed enhancement project. Although the Higgs Beach Park property belongs to Monroe County, the site is located within the City of Key West jurisdictional boundaries and redevelopment of the site is therefore subject to the municipal Land Development Regulations.*

*The public design and approval process has included over ten public meetings, a preliminary hearing at the City of Key West's Development Review Committee Meeting, and preliminary design approval of phase one of the Master Plan at the Board of County Commissioners.*

*As part of phase two, the Master Plan will be submitted to the City of Key West's Planning Department in the summer of 2011 and will enter into a development plan review and approval process that will include additional intergovernmental coordination, a DRC meeting, Planning Board meeting, and finally a City Commission hearing. An interlocal Development Agreement between the City of Key West and Monroe County is currently in development. Upon receipt of the development approval outlined above, the permitting process begins. Development of construction drawings, meeting City, County, State and Federal mitigation requirements, and obtaining multijurisdictional approvals and required licenses will be a collaborative effort between the County and City of Key West.*

- (h) Other specific project information that should be considered.

*Please see photographs illustrating need in the Attachments.*

### **3. Project Implementation Information:**

Attach documentation as exhibits to this application.

- (a) Describe the proposed method of performing (i.e. contract or in-house) and administering (i.e. local or state) each work phase of the project. If it is proposed that the project be administered by a governmental entity other than the Department of Transportation, the agency must be certified to administer Federal Aid projects in accordance with the department's **Local Agency Program Manual** (topic no. 525-010-300).

Monroe County would act as the LAP Agency for the design and construction of this project.

- **Administration:** All administration for each phase Higgs Beach Park project will be completed by Monroe County, which became LAP certified in 2009.
  - **Engineering and Final Plans Preparation Work:** Engineering design plans will be completed by a consulting engineering firm utilizing the Higgs Beach Park Master Plan and under the direction of Monroe County's Engineering Services Director. The project will be designed to meet the most recently approved planning and design requirements of the following: (1) American Association of State Transportation Officials (AASHTO): Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, (2) FDOT: Florida Bicycle Facilities Planning and Design Handbook, (3) FDOT: Pedestrian Facilities Planning and Design Handbook, (4) the Americans with Disabilities Act Architectural Guidelines and (5) FDOT: Plans Preparation Manual, Volumes I and II (Nos. 625-000-005 and 625-000-006).
  - **Right of Way Acquisition:** The right of way is owned by Monroe County. No right of way acquisition is required for this project.
  - **Construction:** At this time, it is unknown who will contract with Monroe County to fulfill the construction work tasks.
  - **Construction Engineering and Inspection Activities:** All CEI activities will coincide with construction activities. At this time, it is unknown who will contract with Monroe County to fulfill the CEI work tasks.
- (b) Describe any public (and private, if applicable) support of the proposed project. (Examples include: written endorsement, formal declaration, resolution, financial donations or other appropriate means).

The public design and approval process has included over ten public meetings, a preliminary hearing at the City's Development Review Committee Meeting, and preliminary design approval of phase one of the Master Plan at the Board of County Commissioners.

Attached are the following regarding evidence of support:

- Monroe County Board of County Commissioners Resolution Supporting Cohesive Planning with the City of Key West for Redevelopment of Indigenous Park and Higgs Beach Park.
- Letter from City of Key West Planning describing its participation and collaboration in the Higgs Beach Master Plan Planning process.
- Letter from the City Manager of Key West supporting this enhancement project.
- FDEP Letter of Support

- (c) Describe the proposed ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the project when it is completed.

While the site is located within the City of Key West jurisdictional boundaries, Higgs Beach Park is the property of and maintained by Monroe County. Monroe County will continue to own and maintain Higgs Beach Park and the section of Atlantic Boulevard therein when the project is completed.

- (d) Describe source of matching funds and any restrictions on availability.  
Monroe County has committed \$132,000 for the development of a Master Plan for Higgs Beach Park, and \$4,400 for the Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of the middle and eastern sections of the park for the location of archeological resources associated with the African Memorial.

- (e) Other specific implementation information that should be considered.

**Statement of Previous Funding Awards:** Monroe County in a unique position because of our previous commitment to the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail projects. In past years, FDOT, FDEP, and Monroe County agreed as a team to allow FDEP to utilize Monroe County's enhancement allocations for the design and construction of the trail. However, FDEP was responsible for working directly with FDOT to implement the LAP agreements and to complete the projects. Monroe County was not notified when LAP agreements were signed, and we were not kept informed by FDOT of past due LAP projects. Unfortunately, there is a significant backlog in enhancement funding in the current Monroe County FDOT 5 year work program due to circumstances beyond our control. FKOHT projects have rolled over in the work program for almost a decade. Please consider that we should not be penalized for incomplete projects that have been managed by

FDEP. Monroe County is prepared to be the LAP administrator on the Higgs Beach Park project and commits to spending work program funds in a timely manner. Our track record on implementing ARRA projects over the past few years is a testament to our dedication towards working cooperatively with FDOT to complete LAP projects in a timely manner.

#### 4. Project Cost:

What is the total estimated cost of the work requested to be funded as an enhancement project through this application?

Planning Activities.	\$ <u>COMPLETED</u>
Project Development and Environmental Studies.	\$ <u>136,400</u>
Engineering and Final Plans Preparation Work.	\$ <u>150,000</u>
Right of Way Acquisition.	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Construction.	\$ <u>800,000</u>
Construction Engineering and Inspection Activities.	\$ <u>50,000</u>
Other. (Describe)	\$ _____

**TOTAL:** \$ 1,136,400

How will the project be funded?

FDOT Enhancement Funds \$1,000,000 + Local \$136,400 = Total \$1,136,400

FDOT Enhancement Funds 88 % + Local 12 % = 100%

#### CERTIFICATION OF PROJECT SPONSOR

I hereby certify that the proposed project herein described is supported by Monroe County BOCC,  
(municipal, county, state or federal agency, or tribal council)

and that said entity will: (1) provide any required funding match; (2) enter into a maintenance agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation; (3) comply with the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Acquisition Policies Act for any Right of Way actions required for the project, and (4) support other actions necessary to fully implement the proposed project. I further certify that the estimated costs included herein are reasonable and understand that significant increases in these costs could cause the project to be removed from the Florida Department of Transportation work program.

This project will be administered using the department's Local Agency Program (check one) yes X no     

  
Signature

Townsley Schwab  
Name (please type or print)

Sr. Director of Planning and Environmental Resources  
Title

5.24.11  
Date

FOR FDOT USE ONLY		
	YES	NO
Application Complete	_____	_____
Project Eligible	_____	_____
Implementation Feasible	_____	_____
Include in Work Program	_____	_____



# **Attachments**

- **Photographs**
- **Resolution**
- **Letters of Support**
- **National Scenic Byways Designation  
Press Release**
- **Higgs Beach Park Master Plan Report**



Photo 1  
Aerial photo of Higgs Beach Park project site. The numbers are referencing following photos.





Photo 2  
Taken from  
intersection of  
Atlantic Boulevard  
and Reynolds Street  
looking East.

Photo 3  
Taken at West  
Martello fort looking  
East. Note the  
bicycling related signs  
on far right and  
unmarked crossing.

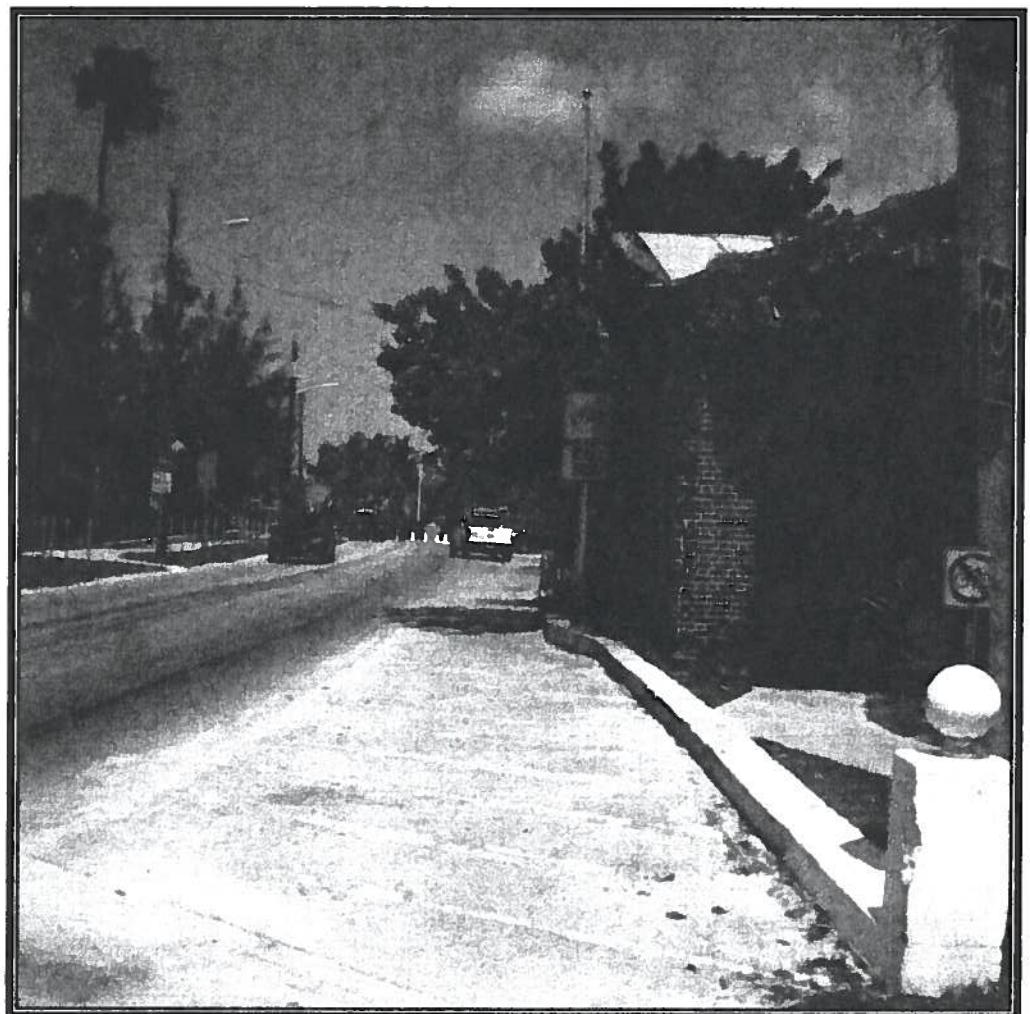




Photo 4  
Taken at African  
Cemetery Memorial,  
looking East.

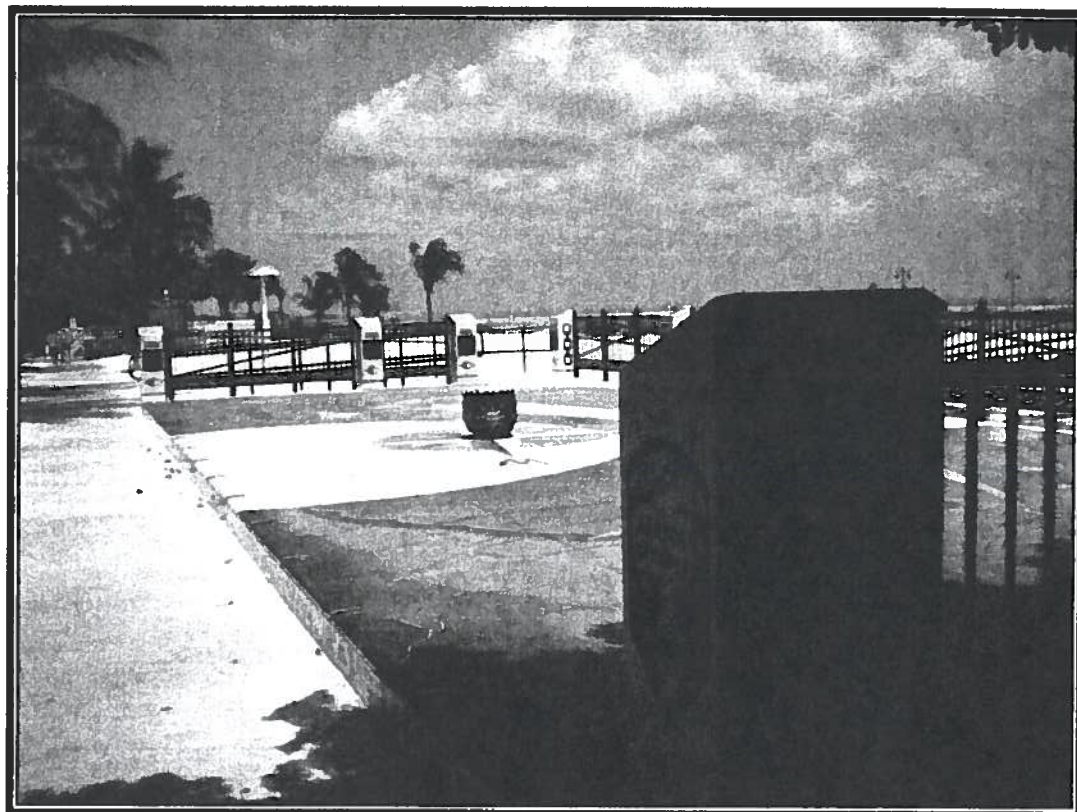
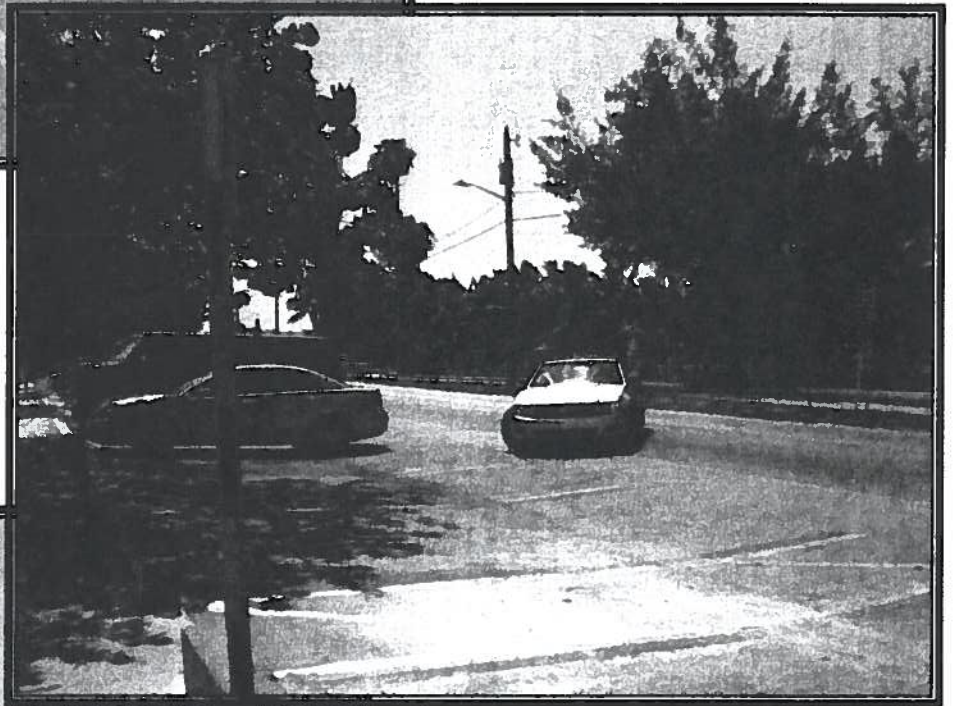
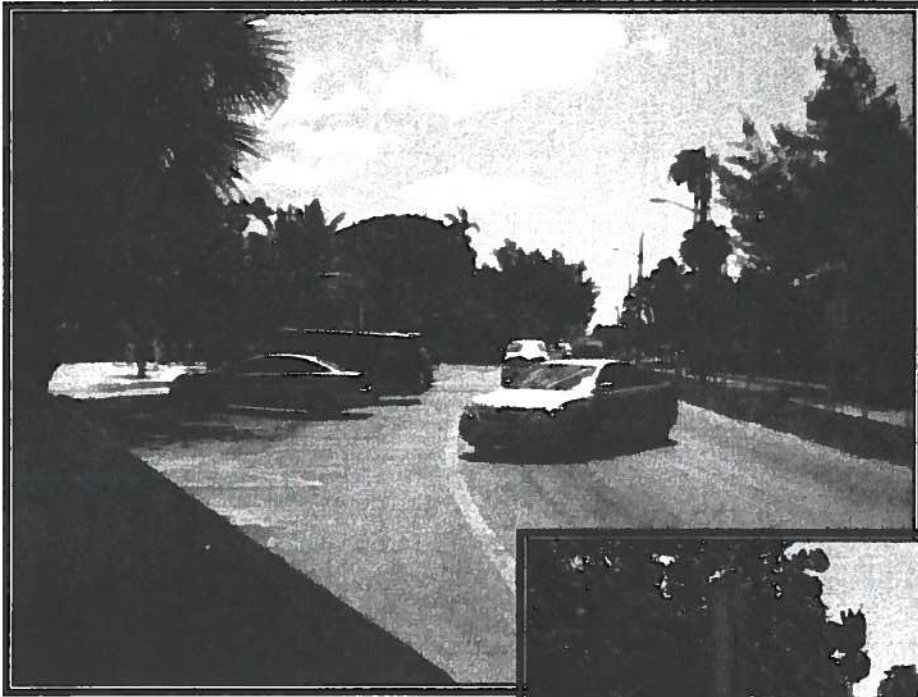


Photo 5  
Taken at intersection  
of Atlantic Boulevard  
and White Street  
looking West. Note  
scooter behind sign  
post.



Photos 6, 7, & 8  
Taken from or near  
intersection of Atlantic  
Boulevard and White  
Street. Photos 5, 6, 7,  
& 8 were taken within  
three minutes of each  
other in this very busy  
intersection.



**Mayor Heather Carruthers**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 132 -2011**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
SUPPORTING COHESIVE PLANNING WITH CITY OF  
KEY WEST FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS  
PARK AND HIGGS BEACH.**

**WHEREAS**, the County Commission for Monroe County recognizes that the City of Key West may from time to time desire to redevelop all or parts of Indigenous Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous Park is on the east side of White Street and a portion of Higgs Beach Park, owned and operated by the County, is on the adjacent south side of White Street; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized that both parks would probably be best served if redevelopment on either park is designed to complement the other park to benefit the local residents and tourists who utilize either or both parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the County currently has contracted with an architect for design of a master plan for redevelopment of Higgs Beach Park consistent with the expressed desires of residents to improve safety, enhance recreational use and beautify Higgs Beach Park for City and County taxpayers, residents and tourists; and

**WHEREAS**, under the continuing contract with William P. Horn, Architect, the County could revise the Higgs Beach project contract to allow design efforts for Indigenous Park up to a maximum of \$67,999 if an interlocal agreement is entered whereby the City provides commensurate consideration for the design services of the architect; and

**WHEREAS**, it is possible that in the course of seeking grants for redevelopment of Higgs Beach Park, the County could partner with the City in seeking grants that would also fund redevelopment of Indigenous Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the County recognizes that any reconfiguration of the road intersecting Higgs Beach Park should be coordinated with the City to ensure that no municipal problems are created; and

**WHEREAS**, the County wishes to extend to the City of Key West the opportunity to work together to benefit the residents and tourists who visit both the city and county parks adjacent to White Street;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the City of Key West is invited to participate in any of the public meetings concerning redevelopment of Higgs Beach and to seek that such meetings enhance the complimentary redevelopment of both parks.



2. The County would like to open discussions with the City of Key West regarding the possibility of an interlocal agreement whereby:

a) the County may agree to revise the architect's Higgs Beach project contract to increase the dollar amount to cover up to \$67,999 in additional design services for Indigenous Park, provided the City agrees to provide reimbursement of the amounts spent on design specific to Indigenous Park; and

b) the City and County may agree to explore operational issues regarding the parks; and

c) the City and County may agree to partner in applying for grants for redevelopment of Higgs Beach Park and Indigenous Park; and

d) the City and County may agree to terms regarding any reconfiguration of the road intersecting Higgs Beach; and

e) the interlocal agreement may include any other considerations upon which the parties may agree.

3. The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the City Clerk.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida at a regular meeting of said board held on April 20, 2011.

Mayor Carruthers	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Pro Tem Rice	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Murphy	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Neugent	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Wigington	<u>Yes</u>



ATTEST:

DANNY L. KOLHAGE, CLERK

By: Danny L. Kolhage  
Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: [Signature]  
MAYOR

Higgs Beach Park Res re City 2

[Signature]  
4/21/11

FILED FOR RECORD  
2011 APR 25 PM 2:56



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

P.O. Office Box 1000 Key West, FL 33040-1000 Phone: 305.291.5000

April 5, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Jane Tallman  
Scenic Highway Coordinator  
Planning and Environmental Resources  
Monroe County Government Offices  
2798 Overseas Highway, Suite 400  
Marathon, FL 33050

RE: Higgs Beach Collaborative Planning Process

Dear Ms. Jane Tallman,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a document from the City of Key West Planning Department regarding our participation and collaboration in the Higgs Beach Master Plan Planning process. Although the Higgs Beach property belongs to Monroe County, the site is located within the City of Key West jurisdictional boundaries and redevelopment of the site is therefore subject to the municipal Land Development Regulations. To date, the public design and approval process has included over ten public meetings, a preliminary hearing at the City's Development Review Committee Meeting, and preliminary design approval of phase one of the Master Plan at the Board of County Commissioners.

Over the past year the Planning Department's designated representative, Nicole Malo, has been involved in the public charrette process which has included collaboration with the design and project management team, Monroe County Commissioners and staff, the Friends of Higgs Beach and the interested public. At the August 26, 2010 City's Development Review Committee (DRC) Meeting, the design and project management team presented for pre-application discussion the draft design for city staff.

As part of phase two, the Master Plan is expected to be submitted to the Planning Department sometime this summer and will enter into a development plan review and approval process that will include additional intergovernmental coordination, another DRC Meeting, Planning Board meeting, and finally City Commission hearing. Discussions between city and county legal and planning staff have begun regarding the feasibility of a Development Agreement or other long-term agreement between the two governmental entities. All City, County, State, and Federal mitigation requirements, multijurisdictional approvals, and required licenses will be corroborated on as well.

Please feel free to contact myself or Nicole Malo for further information

Respectfully,

Donald L. Craig, AICP, Interim Planning Director

Xc: Mark Finigan, Assistant City Manager  
Larry Erskine, Assistant City Attorney  
Townsley Schwab, Senior Planning Director  
Barbra Mitchell, Project Planner  
Carol Schreck, Executive Assistant  
Nicole Malo, Planner  
GEO Files

K:\Geo Projects\Higgs Beach\2011\04.05 Letter to county.doc





# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott  
Governor

Jennifer Carroll  
Lt. Governor

Herschel T. Vinyard Jr.  
Secretary

February 15, 2011

Ms. Trish Smith, AICP  
Monroe County Planning Department  
2798 Overseas Highway, Suite 410  
Marathon, FL 33050

RE: Higgs Beach Master Plan

Dear Ms. Smith:

The Office of Greenways and Trails is pleased that the Higgs Beach Master Plan was approved by the Monroe Board of County Commissioners last month at their regular January meeting. We believe that the upgraded facility will provide a great benefit for visitors and locals alike.

Higgs Beach is listed in the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail (FKOHT) Master Plan as a rest area and a trailhead. Its location adjacent to the beach, as well as its restroom and park amenities, provides a draw for trail users at the southern end of the FKOHT. We applaud the community on forming a 501(c)3 organization to oversee the long term maintenance and management of Higgs Beach, and we support Monroe County on its efforts to seek grant funding for the capital improvements associated with the Higgs Beach Master Plan.

Sincerely,

James M. Wood, Assistant Director  
Office of Greenways and Trails

JMW/sf

# **America's Byways® Press Room**

## **October 16, 2009 - U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Announces America's Byways ® Designations for 2009**

FHWA 31-09

Friday, October 16, 2009

Contact: Doug Hecox

Phone: 202-366-0660

WASHINGTON – U. S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced 42 new designations to the America's Byways® collection, including five All-American Roads and 37 National Scenic Byways in 26 states. This increases the number of America's Byways® to 151.

"By enriching the National Scenic Byways program with their own unique historical or aesthetic quality, these new additions help our national road system tell our country's story," said Secretary LaHood. "These routes continue to offer Americans exciting new opportunities to explore the nation – whether they travel close to home or across the country."

With Massachusetts and New Jersey included in the 2009 designations, 46 states have America's Byways® in them.

Created in 1991, the National Scenic Byways program is a collaborative effort to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. It has funded 2,672 projects for state and nationally designated byway routes in 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

The U.S. Department of Transportation recognizes certain roads as All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways based on one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities.

The following are the 2009 All-American Road (AAR) and National Scenic Byways (NSB) designations:

<b>Byway</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>Alabama's Coastal Connection</b>	<b>Alabama</b>	<b>NSB</b>
<b>The George Parks Highway Scenic Byway</b>	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>NSB</b>
<b>Haines Highway - Valley of the Eagles</b>	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>NSB</b>
<b>Historic Route 66 - Arizona</b>	<b>Arizona</b>	<b>AAR</b>
<b>Top of the Rockies</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>NSB</b>
<b>Lariat Loop Scenic and Historic Byway</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>NSB</b>
<b>Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>NSB</b>
<b>Florida Keys Scenic Highway</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>AAR</b>

<b>Byway</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>Big Bend Scenic Byway</b>	Florida	NSB
<b>Ormond Scenic Loop &amp; Trail</b>	Florida	NSB
<b>Indiana's Historic Pathways</b>	Indiana	NSB
<b>Lincoln Heritage Scenic Highway</b>	Kentucky	NSB
<b>Woodlands Trace</b>	Kentucky	NSB
<b>Kentucky Great River Road</b>	Kentucky	NSB
<b>Louisiana Great River Road</b>	Louisiana	NSB
<b>Acadia All American Road - Trenton Extension</b>	Maine	AAR
<b>Journey Through Hallowed Ground Byway</b>	Maryland	NSB
<b>Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway</b>	Maryland	AAR
<b>Baltimore's Historic Charles Street</b>	Maryland	NSB
<b>Religious Freedom Byway</b>	Maryland	NSB
<b>Connecticut River Byway</b>	Massachusetts	NSB
<b>Woodward Avenue (M-1) - Automotive Heritage Trail</b>	Michigan	AAR
<b>Gunflint Trail Scenic Byway</b>	Minnesota	NSB
<b>Mississippi Great River Road</b>	Mississippi	NSB
<b>City of Las Vegas, Las Vegas Boulevard State Scenic Byway</b>	Nevada	NSB
<b>Millstone Valley Scenic Byway</b>	New Jersey	NSB
<b>Delaware River Scenic Byway</b>	New Jersey	NSB
<b>Dry Cimarron Scenic Byway</b>	New Mexico	NSB
<b>Forest Heritage National Scenic Byway</b>	North Carolina	NSB
<b>Outer Banks Scenic Byway</b>	North Carolina	NSB
<b>Historic Route 66</b>	Oklahoma	NSB
<b>Dry Cimarron Scenic Byway</b>	Oklahoma	NSB
<b>Cherokee Hills Byway</b>	Oklahoma	NSB
<b>Wichita Mountains Byway</b>	Oklahoma	NSB
<b>Journey Through Hallowed Ground Byway</b>	Pennsylvania	NSB
<b>Edisto Island National Scenic Byway</b>	South Carolina	NSB
<b>East Tennessee Crossing</b>	Tennessee	NSB
<b>Great River Road - Tennessee</b>	Tennessee	NSB
<b>Scenic Byway 143 - Utah's Patchwork Parkway</b>	Utah	NSB
<b>Journey Through Hallowed Ground Byway</b>	Virginia	NSB
<b>White Pass Scenic Byway</b>	Washington	NSB
<b>Coal Heritage Trail</b>	West Virginia	NSB