

RESOLUTION NO. 2080-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE EAST COAST GREENWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY BE INCLUDED IN THE NORTH FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S 2021/2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF RECITALS, DECLARATION OF SUPPORT, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the East Coast Greenway is a proposed 3,000-mile shared-use pathway that will pass through Duval County to connect cities along the eastern seaboard from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida (the "Greenway"); and

WHEREAS, the Greenway, considered the "urban equivalent of the Appalachian Trail," will pass through sites showcasing the nation's scenic, historic, and cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, the Greenway will spur the building of a network of pedestrian and bicycling greenways through the beaches communities of Duval County; a goal supported by the City of Jacksonville Beach; and

WHEREAS, the Greenway will serve bicyclists, walkers, the physically challenged, and other non-motorized users, both residents and long-distance travelers; and

WHEREAS, the Greenway, by providing an off-road route separated from vehicular traffic, will encourage people of all ages to increase the time they spend outdoors, offering improved health and physical fitness through improved access to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the independent regional transportation planning agency for Duval, Clay, Nassau, and St. Johns counties; the TPO studies transportation problems, develops solutions, and programs federal funding for transportation facilities in the counties; and

WHEREAS, the TPO receives federal and state transportation planning grants and local member assessments, and is responsible for approving transportation projects funded with federal assistance, regardless of the grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the TPO's two-year planning and operational budget that describes and defines TPO's upcoming studies and administrative tasks, and details the funding sources for program elements; and

WHEREAS, one of the UPWP transportation planning local priority projects is the East Coast Greenway (Beaches) Feasibility Study; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jacksonville Beach would benefit if the TPO include the East Coast Greenway (Beaches) Feasibility Study in the 2021/22 UPWP to determine the feasibility of constructing a beach trail loop parallel to the Atlantic, Neptune, and Jacksonville Beach beaches; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlantic Beach developed a draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Neptune Beach is developing an area of town to create Beautiful Streets & Trails as part of the Neptune Beach Vision Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jacksonville Beach has created an Urban Trails Committee that has developed a preliminary urban trail connectivity plan; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, and Jacksonville Beach would all benefit from a feasibility study identifying the East Coast Greenway route that crosses municipality boundaries and coordinates with the planning efforts of each of the Beaches Communities to be involved with and included in the Greenway beach trail route.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Adoption of Recitals. The above recitals are adopted and incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. City Declaration of Support and Request for Inclusion in Study. The City of Jacksonville Beach hereby declares the City's support of the Unified Planning Work Program of the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization. The City requests that the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization include and consider the City of Jacksonville Beach's urban trail connectivity plan and a beach trail loop parallel to the Atlantic, Neptune, and Jacksonville Beach beaches in the East Coast Greenway (Beaches) Feasibility Study in the 2021/22 Unified Planning Work Program.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution should be held invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, said determination shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section, sentence, phrase, or portion of this resolution not otherwise determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption by City Council.

AUTHENTICATED this 19 day of April, 2021.

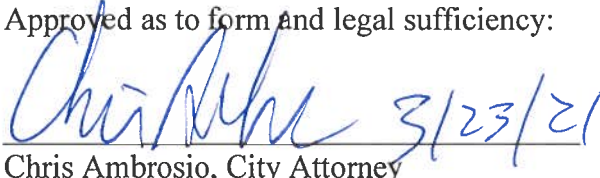


Christine H. Hoffman, Mayor



Laurie Scott, City Clerk

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Chris Ambrosio, City Attorney