



US 441 SCENIC HIGHWAY



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

GOAL # 1:

Encourage Contextual Appropriate Signing and Development that Compliments Intrinsic Resources within and adjacent to the corridor.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: Maintain the Scenic Integrity of the existing land uses along the highway

STRATEGIES:

- 1.1.1 Encourage policy tools that can provide incentives for improvements to existing development along the corridor [e.g. property tax relief, conservation/restoration subsidies, scenic conservation easements.]
- 1.1.2 Review land use and zoning designations that currently apply within the corridor for potential incompatible uses that may affect the scenic integrity of the corridor [e.g. variances, special exceptions, restrictive subdivision regulations].
- 1.1.3 Ensure that the scenic highway designation is accounted for in all planning, zoning development and infrastructure decisions within the corridor.
- 1.1.4 Require development approval or development modification requests that may affect the scenic integrity of the corridor to receive review by an appropriate governmental staff person and/or the CME.
- 1.1.5 Review existing public and private infrastructure planning efforts for incompatibilities with the scenic character of the roadway [e.g. utilities, cell towers, etc.].

OBJECTIVE 1.2: Improve the scenic integrity of future development in the viewscapes along the designated highway.

STRATEGIES:

- 1.2.1 Encourage contextually appropriate public investment in scenic and intrinsic resource enhancements within the Corridor. [e.g. median and right-of-way landscaping, gateway signage, interpretative signage and centers].
- 1.2.2 Encourage policy tools that provide the local governments with flexibility to negotiate development agreements that improve the scenic character of the designated highway [e.g. density bonuses, special exceptions and variances for conformance with setbacks, viewshed maintenance and architectural and signage conventions].
- 1.2.3 Develop voluntary architectural guidelines for use along the corridor [e.g. vintage]
- 1.2.4 Work with property owners within the corridor to manage the viewscapes and intrinsic resources [e.g. provide incentives for management of sandhill cranes].

GOAL # 2:

Identify and Secure Funding Sources for Implementation of the US 441 Corridor Action Plan.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: Obtain funding for the highest priority activities along the corridor

STRATEGIES:

- 2.1.1 Generate a list of governmental programs and other funding options.
- 2.1.2 Identify funding measures through promotion and corridor marketing techniques.
- 2.1.3 Coordinate with federal and state funding sources for improvements, i.e. transportation enhancement funds, resurfacing funds, safety funds, P2000.
- 2.1.4 Apply to the appropriate agencies. Attach supporting documentation and photos.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: Identify local government projects and funding programs that will be useful in implementing the Action Plan.

STRATEGIES:

- 2.2.1 Meet with local elected officials to seek support for this objective.
- 2.2.2 Coordinate with other local related programs such as the Legacy Lands Initiative, the I-75 Corridor Council, the City of Alachua Scenic Grant, etc.
- 2.2.3 Review local government's transportation budgets.

GOAL #3:
*Enhance the Recreational Opportunities Dependent on the Natural Landscape
within the Corridor and Loop/Spur Roads.*

OBJECTIVE 3.1: Improve safety for non-motorized users.

STRATEGIES:

- 3.1.1 Promote bike lanes and bike paths along US 441 and loop roads, including safety improvements such as rumble strips, guardrail, additional signing.
- 3.1.2 Promote and delineate crossing areas for hikers, and equestrians.
- 3.1.3 Where appropriate, install pedestrian crosswalks that are highly visible.
- 3.1.4 Provide additional signage identifying bicycle facilities along US 441
- 3.1.5 Improve parking facilities at SR 20/CR 234 Canoe Trail, currently there is no where to park at bridge.
- 3.1.6 Identify roadway safety improvements along US 441 such as acceleration/deceleration lanes, turning lanes, roadway markers and delineation.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: Enhance recreational facilities within the corridor.

STRATEGIES:

- 3.2.1 Coordinate with State and local government agencies, associations and other resource entities to identify enhancements and improvements. The following is list of improvements that should be considered: Develop Canoe Trails at Newman's Lake through coordination and approval from Lochloosa Wildlife; Develop Hiking Trails through coordination with WMD and FWCC; Create "Park and Observe" areas south of CR 346, bird watching (Bald Eagles) on the way to Rawlings House; Investigate Lake Levy Conservation opportunities; Construct separate bike path on CR 234 that connects the Gainesville/Hawthorne Trail to Historic Micanopy.
- 3.2.2 Develop US 441 through Payne's Prairie Proper as a "Linear Parkway" for enhanced recreational use and carry forward design concepts through the upland portion of the prairie to create a parkway feel. Create a scenic overlook and boardwalk at the Payne's Prairie crossing.

GOAL #4:

Protect and Enhance the Natural Resources within the Corridor such as Wildlife and Vegetation.

OBJECTIVE 4.1: Establish an ongoing, coordinated process with Resource and Regulatory Agencies to Protect and Enhance the Natural Resources of the corridor.

STRATEGIES:

- 4.1.1 Locate and nominate candidate parcels for potential acquisition or purchase of easements to protect sensitive lands or maintain existing vistas along the US 441 corridor and loop/spur roads.
- 4.1.2 Seek funding for voluntary fee-simple purchase or easements of identified properties.
- 4.1.3 In an ongoing manner, participate in review and development of county or local management plans, land use plans, and land development regulations to ensure compatibility of activities with the scenic 441 designation area.
- 4.1.4 Identify roadway locations of high animal mortality for potential wildlife crossings or other mitigation activities.
- 4.1.5 Establish and sponsor a litter abatement/control program for the designated area.

OBJECTIVE 4.2: Develop Interpretive Themes and Materials Describing the Natural and Cultural Patterns that Have Shaped the Landscape.

STRATEGIES:

- 4.2.1 Locate for ongoing use a GIS data base of the region that describes the natural and cultural features such as topography, soils, hydrology, vegetative cover, endangered or threatened species distributions, human habitation and use, roads, cultural and recreational sites, and so forth.
- 4.2.2 Identify areas to pursue as restoration/education projects with broad public participation. This could include removal of exotic species and replanting of natives.
- 4.2.3 Develop interpretive centers at three relevant locations that describe the natural history and human habitation of the region, including the importance of natural phenomena such as fire and flooding and the vast changes human habitation has brought, including destruction of wetlands and pine flatwoods.

OBJECTIVE 4.3: Ensure that New Developments Do Not Encroach Upon Sensitive Land or Habitat.

STRATEGIES:

- 4.3.1 Retain the services of an urban forester/arborist to conduct a vegetation inventory in the designation area and help draft an ordinance that addresses tree protection.
- 4.3.2 Develop a coherent theme and landscape plan for the US 441 corridor that includes appropriate native trees. The plan should include, at minimum, gateway designs at the corridor termini and the town of Micanopy.
- 4.3.3 Coordinate with the Legacy Lands Initiative, which promotes developing a bond-financed land acquisition of environmentally important lands, to inform them of lands we identify as critical to maintaining the visual and environmental character of the corridor.
- 4.3.4 In an ongoing manner, pursue voluntary agreements with landowners for right-of-way/scenic easements to protect land adjacent to US 441 and the loop/spur roads.

GOAL #5:

Pursue the Extension of the Corridor into the Township of McIntosh

OBJECTIVE 5.1: Communicate with the City of McIntosh such that they have a better understanding of the benefits of the Scenic Highway Program.

STRATEGIES:

- 5.1.1 Publish a newsletter and distribute to citizens within the Marion county portion of the original corridor, approximately 15 miles south of the County line.
- 5.1.2 Maintain the lines of communication between the Scenic US 441 CAG and interested parties within those communities.
- 5.1.3 Coordinate with local businesses, non-profit organizations and others to present/pass out literature on the benefits of the Scenic Highway Program at existing events and festivals.

OBJECTIVE 5.2: Appear before the Marion County Board of County Commissioners with Marion County landowners along the corridor that support the scenic highway designation.

STRATEGIES:

- 5.2.1 Meet with Marion County government officials to discuss potential involvement strategies.
- 5.2.2 Organize meeting with Marion County landowners adjacent to US 441 and demonstrate the benefits and the protection measures that can be associated with the Scenic Highway designation.
- 5.2.3 Circulate a petition by Marion County landowners adjacent to the corridor that demonstrates support for the designation.

GOAL #6:

Encourage the Appreciation of the Scenic US 441 and the Loop/Spur roads.

OBJECTIVE 6.1: Make printed information about US 441 corridor and its resources available for distribution to target audiences.

STRATEGIES:

- 6.1.1 Develop a one page, front and back brochure that highlights the resources along the US 441 corridor and the loop/spur roads.
- 6.1.2 Identify target audiences and provide print and audio/visual materials or make presentations.
- 6.1.3 Contact groups/agencies that produce maps of area and ask that Scenic US 441 and accompanying loops/spurs be highlighted.
- 6.1.4 Develop a newsletter that periodically reminds people of events, activities and resources along US 441 and adjoining towns and roads.

OBJECTIVE 6.2: Utilize the internet as a means to distribute information about Scenic US 441 to a broad audience.

STRATEGIES:

- 6.2.1 Maintain and update existing website for the Scenic US 441 corridor and connect to other websites such as Alachua County, Historic Micanopy and FDOT Scenic Highways.
- 6.2.2 Establish a permanent location for hosting the Web Site.

OBJECTIVE 6.3: Sponsor events within the corridor designed to showcase the corridors' intrinsic resources.

STRATEGIES:

- 6.3.1 Coordinate with local businesses and promote/advertise the US 441 scenic corridor using local events and festivals; for instance the Micanopy festival in late October.
- 6.3.2 Sponsor bicycling events.
- 6.3.3 Sponsor Antique car rally.
- 6.3.4 Sponsor running events: 5K, 10K.
- 6.3.5 Coordinate with local historical and nature tours (Micanopy, Payne's Prairie and others).

OBJECTIVE 6.4: Instill a sense of pride regarding the Scenic Highway and Loop/Spur roads in the citizens and property owners along the corridor.

- STRATEGIES:**
- 6.4.1 Use the newsletter to identify specific individuals and/or businesses that contribute to the success of the US 441 Corridor and loop/spur roads scenic highway designation.
 - 6.4.2 Print T-shirts or hats to give as awards to these individuals.

GOAL #7:
Preserve and Enhance the Historic/Cultural Resource along Scenic US 441 and the Loop/Spur Roads.

OBJECTIVE 7.1: Assist the Micanopy Heritage Park Committee in the preservation and public education of the Town's cultural, architectural, archaeological, historical, and ecological resources.

- STRATEGIES:**
- 7.1.1 Assist Micanopy in creating a Native American Heritage Park at the site of William Bartram's observation which are adjacent to US 441 and "Old 441 Loop".
 - 7.1.2 Connect regional literary sites as part of a Heritage trail.
 - 7.1.3 Heritage trail should include historic sites in region.
 - 7.1.4 Identify and establish historic markers and kiosks for ghost towns, forts, trading posts, steam boats at selected spots of significance.

OBJECTIVE 7.2: Coordinate with the Seminole Indian tribe to identify protection and enhancement opportunities for Native American historic and archaeological sites within the corridor.

- STRATEGIES:**
- 7.2.1 Work with Pat Wickman and Chief James Billie of the Seminole Tribe.
 - 7.2.2 Develop brochure of preservation and enhancement programs for regional land owners, i.e. conservation/scenic easements.
 - 7.2.3 Identify and establish historic Native American Trails.
 - 7.2.4 Work with Alachua County to designate National Historic Districts.