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Considering Community and Transportation Assets for the Future

REGIONAL TRAILS CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT OF THE RIVER TO SEA TPO PLANNING AREA

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In anticipation of potential funding changes that would support the construction of regional trails, the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (R2CTPO) undertook a comprehensive assessment of 195 miles of multi-use trails to identify gaps within the regional trail network. Completion of the Regional Trails Corridor Assessment (RTCA), included input from citizens, advocacy groups, governmental agencies, and municipalities within and adjacent to the R2CTPO's planning area. This process was supported by a quantitative and qualitative analysis utilizing data collected through previously conducted studies, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), field reviews and information provided through an extensive stakeholder outreach process.

The RTCA was beneficial to the citizens, visitors, and stakeholders within the R2CTPO study area by supporting the development of the following:

- A comprehensive understanding of the overall status of regional trails in the R2CTPO planning area;
- Regional Trail System Gap Identification;
- Data to update the Land Trails Opportunity Map of the Florida Greenways & Trails System Plan;
- Funding plan for closing trail gaps, including partnering, grant opportunities, federal, state, and local funding.

The RTCA resulted in concept designs and cost estimates for identified trail gap segments, as well as an interactive Google Earth mapping resource to ensure 24/7 access to the RTCA for interested parties. The effort encouraged collaboration among area partners and has positioned the R2CTPO members for funding opportunities developing within the State of Florida, including \$25 million allocated annually by the Florida Legislature to develop and maintain the statewide SunTrail System. The RTCA was adopted by the R2CTPO Board and then transmitted to the Office of Greenways and Trails within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to update the Land Trails Opportunity Map of the Florida Greenways & Trails System Plan. The adopted RTCA is accessible at this Internet link: <http://www.r2ctpo.org/bicycle-pedestrian-program/regional-trails-corridor-assessment-rtca/>.