

Program Name: Florida Greenways and Trails Program
Project Name: Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail
Project ID: 3200 (Formerly Project ID 3301)
Lead Agency: Office of Greenways and Trails
Authority: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed: 3.A.2

Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail Vision

The Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail (FKOHT) is being developed by the FDEP/OGT, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Monroe County as a world-class, multi-use bicycle and pedestrian facility that will traverse the Florida Keys from Key Largo to Key West. A recreational greenway, that upon completion, will include an integrated system of educational kiosks, roadside picnic areas, scenic overlooks, fishing piers, water access points, and bicycle and jogging paths serving both residents and visitors to the Florida Keys. The FKOHT will link communities by providing a safe and continuous multi-use path, offer an alternative form of transportation, help mitigate congestion, promote health opportunities, and provide a mechanism for the preservation and use of the historic Flagler Railroad Bridges. The trail will also provide outstanding educational opportunities for both residents and visitors to learn about the unique history of the Florida Keys and the importance of sustainable development, by offering cultural, historical and ecological interpretation, as users traverse the historical railroad bridges and the many conservation areas between Key Largo and Key West.

Measurable Output(s): Miles of trails: Existing 54.9 ocean side/37.5 bay side,

A recreational greenway, that upon completion, will include an integrated system of educational kiosks, roadside picnic areas, scenic overlooks, fishing piers, water access points, and bicycle and jogging paths serving both residents and visitors to the Florida Keys.

Project Synopsis:

Trail Planning and Development

Spurred by concerns in the community for the future of the Old Keys Bridges and under Executive Order, the "Old Keys Bridge Task Force" report was presented to then Governor Lawton Chiles in 1997, outlining recommendations for the old Flagler Railroad bridges as a linear greenway. A similar report had been presented in 1938, to then Governor Fred Cone by the Road and Toll Authority, the State Forestry Department and the National Park Service outlining the creation of a linear park from Key Largo to Key West. In 1998, Clean Florida Keys rallied enough local support to prepare a Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail Conceptual plan published in January 1999, and a Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail Action plan published in November 1999. With a combination of local citizen support, the Rails To Trails, National Park Service, Greenways and Trails, Monroe County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Transportation and many other agencies, the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail Master Plan was approved in August 2000. Monroe County passed a resolution in 2000, approving allocation of enhancement funding to the project and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed allowing the coordination, planning and implementation of the FKOHT as a joint effort between the FDEP, Monroe County, and the FDOT. Direct support for the 106-mile long multi-use recreational trail and facilities is one of the primary features of the Scenic Highway Corridor Management Plan Goals and Objectives, the Corridor Management Plan (CMP), the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail Master Plan, the Scenic Highway Interpretive Master Plan. In addition, the FKOHT was nominated as a National Recreational Trail in 1994 and has designated all 23 remaining historical Flagler Railroad Bridges on the National Registry of Historic Places. Recently completed signage plan and environmental plan provide a look and mechanism for reviewing the trail corridor as one entity rather than multiple separate segments.

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed in August 2001, by the FDEP/OGT to maintain FDOT right-of-way where the trail will be designed and built. The FDEP/OGT maintains a 50-year lease on all 23 historical bridges from State of Florida, Division of State Lands.

Current Status:

4.7 miles of new paved trail, improved trail, and historic bridge repair work were completed including Tom’s Harbor, Park Channel, Bow Channel, Kemp Channel, Saddlebunch, and Grassy Keys.

14.0 miles of improved trail and bridge construction underway include the following segments: Ramrod to Big Pine Key, Channel 2 Fishing Platforms, Channel 5 to Tollgate Road, Lower Sugarloaf Bridge, three separate Ohio-Missouri/Ohio Bahia Honda/Ohio Little Duck Bridges, and City of Marathon Safety Improvements;

There are several design projects that have been recently completed and OGT is currently preparing for bid. These are included in the following segments: Layton to Channel 5, Key Haven to Big Coppitt, and Spanish Harbor to Seven-Mile Bridge. Numerous design projects underway include Windley Key, Lower Sugarloaf Trail Segment(s), Craig Key to Long Key, Key West Botanical Gardens, Key Largo Trailhead, and South Pine Channel Bridge retrofit.

Cost:

Total: \$51,249,155

Project Development:

The FDOT work program and the FDEP/OGT implementation plan outline a progression of design and build projects that will construct the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail over the next six years. Construction of the FKOHT is funded in the FDOT Five Year Work Program using enhancement funds for the segments between historic bridges. Additional funding is being sought to retrofit the remaining historical bridges and fishing platforms. The FDEP/OGT is certified by the FDOT to design and build projects under the Local Agency Program (LAP) using enhancement funds.

Operations and maintenance

There are currently 78.3 miles of existing bike path. There are twenty-three bridges comprising fourteen miles of trail in various stages of completion and funding. The City of Key West currently maintains an agreement with the Office of Greenways and Trails on maintenance of the existing sections throughout the City. The Village of Islamorada signed an agreement in 2003 and the City of Marathon is in the process of developing agreements for maintenance and trail planning. The FDEP/OGT is responsible for the maintenance of the trail in accordance with the agreement established between FDOT and the FDEP/OGT and currently maintains 78.3 miles of trail.

Project Schedule: See table below:

TABLE 1

| Location | Length | | MM | O/S Trail | B/S Trail |
|--------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Ocean Side | Bay Side | | | |
| Key West | 4.1 | 4.1 | 1-4.1 | | |
| Cow Key Channel | 0.1 | 0.1 | 4.1-4.2 | | |
| Stock Island | | 1.1 | 4.2-5.3 | | |
| Boca Chica Channel | .5 | | 6-6.5 | FY 10/11 | |
| Boca Chica Key | | | 6.5-9.5 | FY 10/11 | |
| Rockland Channel | 0.2 | | 9.5-9.7 | | |
| Big Coppitt Key | 1.6 | .9 | 9.7-11.3 | 9.7-11.3 | 9.8-10.7 |
| Shark Channel | 0.3 | | 11.3-11.6 | | |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|---------|
| "Saddlebunch 5 Key" | .8 | | 11.6-12.4 | | |
| Saddlebunch No. 5 Ch | 0.2 | | 12.4-12.6 | | |
| "Saddlebunch 4 Key" | 0.4 | | 12.7-13.1 | | |
| Saddlebunch No. 4 Ch | 0.2 | | 13.1-13.3 | | |
| "Saddlebunch 3 Key" | .9 | | 13.3-14.2 | | |
| Saddlebunch No. 3 Ch | 0.1 | | 14.2-14.3 | | |
| "Saddlebunch 2 Key" | 0.2 | | 14.3-14.5 | | |
| Saddlebunch No. 2 Ch | 0.1 | | 14.5-14.6 | | |
| "Saddlebunch 1 Key" | 0.4 | | 14.6-15.3 | | |
| Lower Sugarloaf Channel | 0.3 | | 15.2-15.5 | | |
| "Harris Fill" | | | 15.6-16.6 | | |
| Harris Channel | | | 16.6-16.7 | | |
| Lower Sugarloaf Key | | | 16.7-17.6 | FY 10/11 | |
| Harris Gap Channel | | | 17.6-17.7 | | |
| "Harris Gap Fill" | | | 17.7-17.8 | FY 10/11 | |
| North Harris Channel | | | 17.8-17.9 | | |
| Park Key | | | 17.9-18.7 | FY 10/11 | |
| Park Channel | 0.1 | | 18.7-18.8 | 18.7-18.8 | |
| Upper Sugarloaf Key | | | 18.8-20.2 | FY 10/11 | |
| Bow Channel | 0.3 | | 20.2-20.5 | 20.2-20.5 | |
| Cudjoe Key | | | 20.5-23 | FY 10/11 | |
| Kemp Channel | 0.6 | | 23-23.6 | FY 12/13 | |
| Summerland Key | 0.5 | | 23.6-25.4 | 24.5-25 | |
| Niles Channel | 1 | | 25.4-26.4 | | |
| Ramrod Key | 1 | | 26.4-27.4 | 26.4-27.4 | |
| Torch-Ramrod Channel | | | 27.5-27.6 | | |
| Middle Torch Key | .4 | | 27.6-28 | 27.6-28 | |
| Torch Channel | | | 28-28.1 | | |
| Little Torch Key | .6 | | 28.1-28.7 | 28.1-28.7 | |
| South Pine Channel | 0.1 | | 28.7-28.8 | FY 12-13 | |
| "Pine Channel Fill" | .6 | | 28.8-29.4 | 28.8-29.4 | |
| North Pine Channel | | | 29.4-29.5 | | |
| Big Pine Key | .9 | 1.5 | 29.5-32.9 | 29.6-30.5 | 29.5-31 |
| Spanish Harbor Channel | | | 32.9-33.7 | FY 11/12 | |
| Spanish Harbor Keys | | | 33.7-35.3 | FY 11/12 | |
| Bahia Honda Channel | | | 35.3-36.6 | FY 11/12 | |
| Bahia Honda Key | | | 36.6-38.4 | FY 11/12 | |
| Ohio-Bahia Honda Ch | | 0.1 | 38.4-38.6 | | |
| Ohio Key | | | 38.6-38.9 | FY 11/12 | |
| Missouri-Ohio Channel | | 0.2 | 38.9-39.1 | | |
| Missouri Key | | | 39.1-39.4 | FY 11/12 | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Little Duck-Missouri Ch | | 0.1 | 39.4-39.5 | | |
| Little Duck Key | | | 39.5-40 | FY 11/12 | |
| 7 Mi Bridge | | | 40-46.8 | | |
| Old 7 Mile Bridge | | 0.7 | 40-40.7 | | |
| Knight's Key Bridge | | 2 | 44.8-46.8 | | 44.8-46.8 |
| Vaca Key (Marathon) | 4.5 | 6 | 47-53 | 48.6-53 | 47-53 |
| Vaca Cut | .1 | .1 | 53-53.1 | 53-53.1 | 53-53.1 |
| Grassy Key | 1.4 | 5.2 | 53.1-60.5 | 53.1-54.5 | 53-58.2 |
| Toms Harbor Channel | 0.2 | | 60.5-60.7 | 60.5-60.7 | |
| Duck Key | 0.5 | | 60.7-61.5 | 59.9-60.4 | |
| Toms Harbor Cut | 0.2 | | 61.5-61.7 | 61.5-61.7 | |
| Conch Keys | | | 61.7-63.1 | | |
| Long Key Bridge | 2.2 | | 63.1-65.3 | | |
| Long Key | 3.4 | | 65.3-70.9 | 65-68.4 | |
| Channel 5 | 0.5 | | 70.9-71.9 | | |
| Craig Key | | 0.9 | 71.9-72.8 | | 71.9-72.8 |
| Channel 2 | | 0.3 | 72.8-73.1 | | 72.8-73.1 |
| Lower Matecumbe Key | | 4.4 | 73.1-77.5 | | 73.1-77.5 |
| Lignumvitae Channel | | | 77.5-77.7 | | |
| "Lignumvitae Fill" | 0.2 | 0.2 | 77.7-77.9 | 77.7-77.9 | 77.7-77.9 |
| Indian Key Channel | | | 77.9-78.3 | | |
| Indian Key Fill | 0.8 | 0.8 | 78.3-79.1 | 78.3-79.1 | 78.3-79.1 |
| Tea Table Channel | | | 79.1-79.2 | | |
| Tea Table Fill | 0.4 | 0.4 | 79.2-79.6 | 79.2-79.6 | 79.2-79.6 |
| Tea Table Relief Channel | | | 79.6-79.7 | | |
| Upper Matecumbe Key | 4 | 4 | 79.7-83.7 | 79.7-83.7 | 79.7-83.7 |
| Whale Harbor Channel | | | 83.7-83.8 | | |
| Windley Key | | | 83.8-85.5 | | |
| Snake Creek | | | 85.5-85.6 | | |
| Plantation Key | 4.3 | 4.3 | 85.6-90.8 | 86.5-90.8 | 86.5-90.8 |
| Tavernier Creek | 0.1 | 0.1 | 90.8-90.9 | | |
| Key Largo | 15.6 | | 90.9-106.5 | | |
| Total Miles | 54.9 | 37.5 | | | |

Detailed Project Budget Information-

| | 2003-05 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | Total |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|---------|----------|
| State | 17,055.70 | 5,811.8 | 1,036.1 | 2,875.5 | 1,640.1 | 1,343 | 6,000 | 7,192.4 | 42,954.6 |
| Total | 17,055.70 | 5,811.8 | 1,036.1 | 2,875.5 | 1,640.1 | 1,343 | 6,000 | 7,192.4 | 42,954.6 |

Hyperlink: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/>

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