SUN Trail Construction Project Factsheet

Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail

Construction of the Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail (PLBST) continues through Bradford County with over two million dollars awarded in 2021 by the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail program. Bradford County is a Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) community and within one of the three Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO). Adversely affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters designation of RAO communities is by Executive Order of the Governor. According to the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) "Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation Activities in Florida" trails provide economic opportunities for communities they traverse.

A former rail corridor, the PLBST was acquired in 2001 by DEP's Division of State Lands on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Governor and Cabinet) through Preservation 2000, the precursor to Florida Forever, which is the state's blueprint for conservation of natural resources. This one-and-sixth tenths of a mile SUN Trail funded construction project includes a wing-wall culvert to direct water flow while preventing soil erosion and maintaining the adjacent embankment. This Hampton segment is part of the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST or the Florida Trail). The Florida Trail connects the state's unique natural, cultural, and historic resources from the Everglades at Big Cypress National Preserve in the south to Gulf Islands National Seashore in the western end of the Panhandle.

Florida lawmakers established the SUN Trail program in 2015 under Section 339.81, Florida Statutes, as a funding source for helping communities expand a safe statewide system of interconnected, high priority and strategic paved multi-use trails (SUN Trail network) for bicyclists and pedestrians. The SUN Trail program receives an annual allocation from the redistribution of new vehicle tag revenues deposited in the State Transportation Trust Fund for administration by the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Systems Implementation Office. Projects with funding from the SUN Trail program help implement the vision of the Florida Transportation Plan, which guides the state's transportation future, by improving safe mobility of bicyclists and pedestrians, enhancing the environment, and accommodating the diverse needs of Florida's communities and growing population. Distinctions of the PLBST include:

- **Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST or the Florida Trail), established in 1983, is one of a prestigious group of 11 National Scenic Trails designated by the U.S. Congress.**
  See: www.fs.usda.gov/fnst
- **Designation as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System in 2007.**
  See: floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/designations

SUNTRAIL

To visit the trail or for more information, please contact:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Florida Park Service

352-473-4701 • www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/palatka-lake-butler-state-trail

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

TRAIL

FDOT DISTRICT NUMBER: 2

CITY: Hampton

COUNTY: Bradford

WIDTH: 12 feet

LENGTH: 1.6 miles

SURFACE TYPE: Asphalt

PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NUMBER: 433171-4 (see also 433171-2)

LIMITS: County Road 325/Prospect Avenue to Southeast 36th Avenue

CONSTRUCTION START: September 2021

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: May 2022

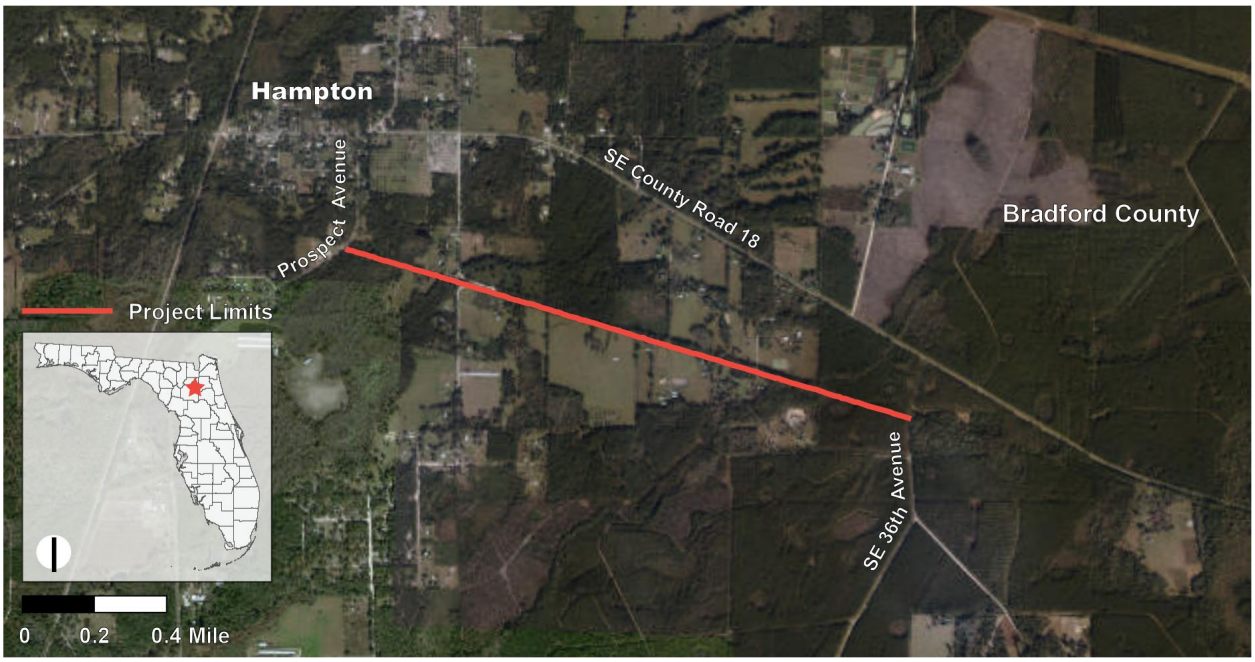
PHASE: Construction and Construction Engineering Inspections

Extending rural trails provides social, economic, and environmental benefits

FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2021, 2022

AMOUNT: $2,016,657 was awarded by the SUN Trail program. Within the project boundary, another $1,076,048 was provided by FDOT federal sources beginning in 2014.



Florida Department of Transportation
Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Program

Systems Implementation Office
605 Suwannee Street, MS 19
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

FloridaSunTrail.com

5/2022