SUN Trail Funding Fact Sheet

Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail at County Road 18

Established in 2015 with enacted changes in 2023 under Section 339.81, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail program receives an annual allocation from the redistribution of new vehicle tag revenues deposited in the State Transportation Trust Fund. Administration of the program is by the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Systems Implementation Office. The competitively awarded funding is one source for expanding a safe statewide system of interconnected, high priority, and strategic paved multiuse trails (SUN Trail network) for bicyclists and pedestrians and for connecting Florida's Wildlife Corridors.

In 2016 FDOT received a funding request to complete the Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail (PLBST). A former rail corridor, it was acquired in 2001 by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) 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. Due to the overall project cost, manageable segments were created for FDOT to continue delivering funded project phases. Completing the connection between Keystone Heights and Hampton, this segment received over $3.6 million from the SUN Trail program and an additional $2.6 million from other FDOT funding sources. Extending nearly four miles along County Road 18 from State Road 100 to Southeast 36th Avenue, this 12-foot-wide asphalt trail includes a bridge through the Santa Fe Swamp.

DEP Florida State Parks manages the PLBST along with 174 other award-winning state parks, trails and historic sites spanning nearly 800,000 acres and 100 miles of sandy beaches. According to DEP, Florida State Parks provided an economic benefit to Florida last fiscal year of over $3.6 billion while supporting more than 50,000 jobs. Providing PLBST infrastructure and economic diversification through tourism, the SUN funded segment connects communities within Bradford County, an area of the North Central Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO), and beyond. Defined as adversely affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters designation of RAO communities is by Executive Order of the Governor. This project is integral Florida's nonmotorized transportation system and the environment. Other distinctions 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. It spans 1,500 miles from the Panhandle to the Everglades. See: **www.fs.usda.gov/fnst**
- Florida Wildlife Corridor, Priority 3 of the Florida Ecological Greenway Network's "Critical Linkages". See: **floridawildlifecorridor.org**

To visit the trail or for more information, please contact
Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Florida Park Service
352-262-8129 • 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: 3.9 miles

SURFACE TYPE: Asphalt

PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NUMBER: 433171-5

LIMITS: County Road 18 from State Road 100 to SE 36th Avenue

CONSTRUCTION START: September 2022

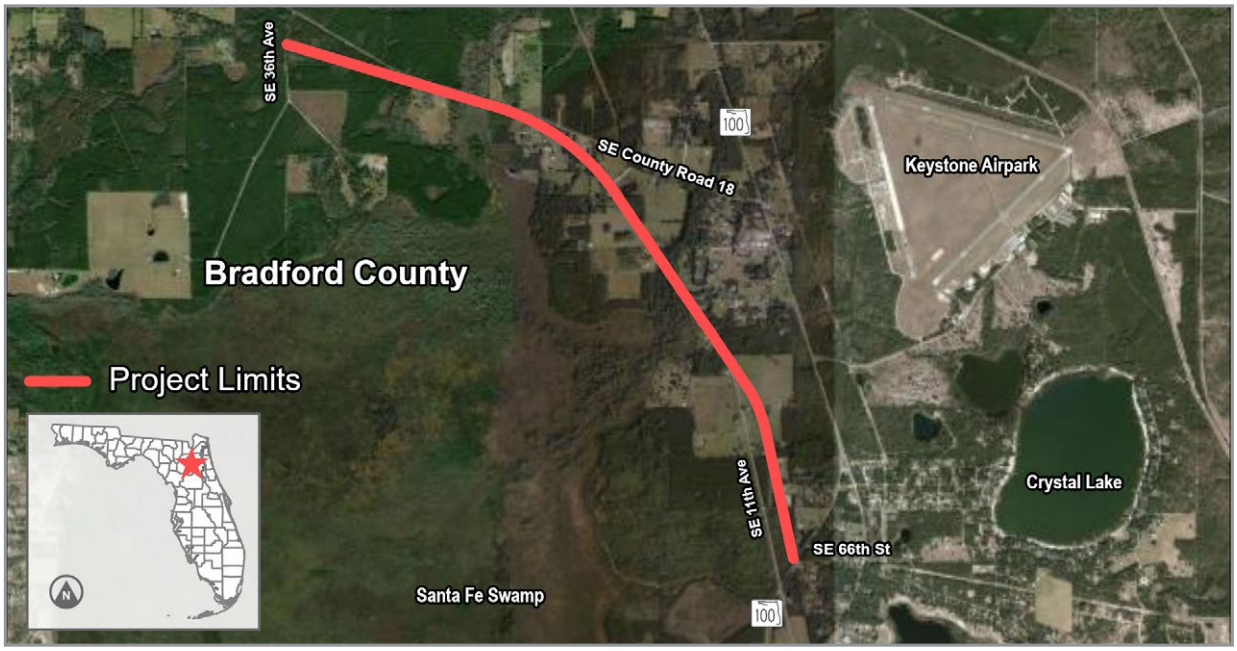
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: December 2023

Improving access for travelers to urban and rural areas while providing economic development through tourism

FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2022

AMOUNT: $3,616,720 was awarded by the SUN Trail program. Within the project boundary an additional $2,670,027 was provided by other FDOT state sources beginning in 2018



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

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

FloridaSunTrail.com

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