SUN Trail Funding Fact Sheet

Amelia Island Trail
Amelia Island Parkway Segment

Incorporated in 2012 a Florida nonprofit, known as the Friends of the Amelia Island Trail (AIT), began fostering the establishment of bicycling and pedestrian trails; the preservation of historical, scenic, and natural environmental conditions; and providing public education about the economic, social, and cultural benefits of the resources. According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation Activities trails provide communities economic opportunities. Located in coastal Nassau County, a Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) community defined as economically distressed, the first AIT segment opened in 2013. By resolution 2014-58 the City of Fernandina Beach endorsed extending the AIT. On March 24, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners followed by action approval for staff to coordinate with the North Florida Transportation Organization and seek funding for AIT extensions.

Established in 2015 with enacted changes in 2023 under Section 339.81, Florida Statutes, 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 for administration 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, strategic paved multi-use trails (SUN Trail network) for bicyclists and pedestrians and improving connectivity of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act lands.

In 2017 FDOT received an application for SUN Trail to fund AIT project phases from Amelia Island to Fernandina Beach. Leveraging Transportation Alternatives Set Aside program funds, the SUN Trail program provided $339,856 to complete construction of this near mile long segment. Along Amelia Island Parkway from State Road A1A / South Fletcher Avenue to Via del Ray Road, this 10-foot-wide spatially constrained trail balances environmental impacts and improves resiliency with modification of existing swells near the Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport while providing nonmotorized travel improvements. Learn about other distinctions along the AIT:

- East Coast Greenway, a developing 3,000-mile national trail system that will link eastern seaboard communities from Key West, Florida to Calais, Maine. See: **www.greenway.org**
- A1A Ocean Islands Trail, a Florida Scenic Highway. See: **floridascenichighways.com/our-byways/ northern-region/a1a-ocean-islands-trail/**
- Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, a National Heritage Area established by the U.S. Congress. See: **www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org/?Itemid=102**

To visit the trail or for more information, please contact

Nassau County – Parks and Recreation Department
904-530-6120 • nassaucountyfl.com/540/Bike-Trails

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

TRAIL

FDOT DISTRICT NUMBER: 2

CITY: Fernandina Beach

COUNTY: Nassau

WIDTH: 10 feet

LENGTH: 0.8 miles

SURFACE TYPE: Asphalt

PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NUMBERS: 437334-1

LIMITS: Amelia Island Parkway from State Road A1A / South Fletcher Avenue to Via del Rey Road

CONSTRUCTION START: July 17, 2023

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: May 2024

PHASE: Construction

Expanding opportunities in a Bicycle Friendly Community designated by the League of American Bicyclists

FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2021, 2022

AMOUNT: SUN Trail awarded $339,856 for completion of this project. Within the project boundary an additional $1,301,707 was provided by other FDOT (federal) sources beginning in 2020

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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