

## **INITIAL OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL**

### **"INDIAN RIVER LAGOON ROCKLEDGE DRIVE HERITAGE TREE SCENIC BYWAY"**

This newly proposed approach is a **"win-win"** for Brevard County and its citizenry as follows:

1. It would result in Federal funding dollars being available to the County for the continued maintenance, paving, beautification, tree care, and natural resilience like storm water runoff abatement, sedimentation control and all other positive attributes this natural area performs and offers.
2. After your consideration of this Initial Overview of this proposal and the emailed letter to you today, outlining this new win-win solution, we would like to set up a telephone call and meeting as soon as your schedules permit in order to discuss the specifics of the County's potential participation.
3. We can then present this IRL Rockledge Drive Heritage Tree Scenic Byway, dedicated by the Florida Legislature in 1965, as an existing part of the Federal Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway in order for the County to qualify and receive Federal Funding.

Two of the requirements to receiving these public Dollars are that the Natural beauty of the Rockledge Road Scenic Drive be preserved and secondly, that a separate volunteer nonprofit Citizen group be formed, incorporated and coordinated with the existing non-profit IRL Scenic Byway Coalition, Inc. This would provide local, ongoing fund-raising support (such as a Specialty License Tag) and continued beautification of the area for tourism and local commerce enhancement.

4. Once the above is accomplished applications will be submitted to the Florida State Scenic Byway Program and the Federal (FDOT) Scenic Byway program to allow all benefits to flow to the County and the Byway.

Thank you for your consideration.

J. Marshall Gilmore, Esq.

Attorney for Rockledge Drive Tree Coalition

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OCTOBER 12, 2023

John Denninghoff  
Brevard County Assistant County Manager  
2725 Judge Fran Jamison Way, Bldg C  
Viera, FL 32940

Re: "Indian River Lagoon Scenic Byway/Heritage Tree Corridor"

Dear Mr. Denninghoff:

We are proposing to Brevard County a potential "Win-Win" scenario where we enhance our Federal National Scenic Byway Program standing and support for this section of the IRL Byway on South Rockledge Drive creating preventative solutions for a variety of issues facing Communities everywhere.

The Amendment to 23 USC Section 162 provides for Reviving America's Scenic Byways Program. In 2019 this Program awarded over \$21.8 Million Dollars to designated Scenic Byways across the US. This Byway should be a great candidate for receiving funding.

This Grant will provide dollars for the County for maintaining, paving and other costs of this section of roadway, freeing up current available tax dollars for other pending projects.

Some requirements for eligibility for these Federal dollars are the preservation of the scenic, cultural heritage, environmental and natural beauty of the Byway. Its unique location and rare shaded Tree canopy is one that the Public of all ages can enjoy simply while driving along, biking or

merely walking their dog. It is a true "Scenic Jewel" that needs preserving for our kids and grandkids!

These Trees offer natural resiliency, preventing runoff into the Indian River Lagoon, homes for birds, provides shade and purify our air and water. This preservation would help the County, the residents of South Rockledge Drive, as well as helping the local small business establishments with tourism with events like running competitions and the overall mixed use we can witness daily on this section of the road.

The natural beauty of this roadway, with its slow pace and amazing 100+ year old Trees offers so many benefits for all our Citizens, young and old. Working together we can enhance the current standing of Rockledge Drive as one of the Nationally designated Federal Byway Program Projects that will provide funding, preservation and recognition for this unique section of the Byway.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the Rockledge Drive Tree Coalition.

***s/ J. Marshall Gilmore***

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Attorney for Rockledge Drive Tree Coalition, Inc.