

## SUN Trail Funding Shines on the Tampa Bay Region

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tampa, FL. (October 12, 2016)** – On October 11, 2016, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) awarded \$44.4 million in Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Funding to 45 trail projects throughout the State of Florida. Following the leadership of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) and transportation organizations in West Central and Southwest Florida, \$11.1 million, a 25 percent share, was allocated to portions of the Coast-to-Coast Connector, Southwest Coastal Regional Trail, Heart of Florida Loop, and Peace River to Nature Coast multi-use trail corridors within the Tampa Bay region.

The SUN Trail Program provides a dedicated annual funding source for developing a statewide network of connected, multi-use paved trails for bicyclists and pedestrians that are physically separated from vehicular traffic. The funding is awarded primarily to construction-ready projects, though it can also include various pre-construction phases (i.e. Feasibility studies, Environmental Review & Design) as well. The \$44.4 million in funding is allocated for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Funded trails represented on the 2016 TBARTA Regional Multi-Use Trails Priority Projects list include:

- Withlacoochee-Dunnellon Trail Connector (Citrus County) - \$280,000
- Good Neighbor Trail Connector (Hernando County) - \$475,358
- Pinellas Trail Loop Phase 2 (Pinellas County) - \$5,700,000
- Courtney Campbell Causeway Pedestrian Overpass (Pinellas County) - \$1,362,488
- Van Fleet State Trail Pedestrian Bridge Replacement (Polk County) - \$251,000

Additional trails funded on the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail corridor include:

- Harborwalk Phase 1B Southern Boardwalk (Charlotte County) - \$1,114,800
- North Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge (Lee County) - \$215,000
- Van Buren/El Dorado/Kismet Trail (Lee County) - \$1,778,100

“This is a perfect example of what regional collaboration and having a shared vision for the future of transportation in our region can accomplish,” said TBARTA Executive Director, Ramond Chiamonte. “Our communities deserve increased pedestrian friendly travel options along with the amenities that support them. Through our established partnership with Metropolitan Planning Organizations and coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation and Office of Greenways and Trails, TBARTA will continue to participate in the SUN Trails program to help secure funding for trails not selected this year in an effort to complete our share of the statewide trail network.”

TBARTA congratulates municipalities and counties throughout Florida that were awarded funding for regional multi-use trails. Furthermore, TBARTA acknowledges the effective collaboration among the Hernando/Citrus MPO, Hillsborough MPO, Forward Pinellas, Pasco County MPO, Polk County TPO, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, Lee County MPO, and Collier County MPO in their efforts to collaborate and compete for individual projects within the regional trail corridor system.

For more information about the SUN Trails program and projects, contact Anthony Matonti, TBARTA Senior Planner and Project Coordinator, at [Anthony.Matonti@tbarta.com](mailto:Anthony.Matonti@tbarta.com), or Michael Case, Principal Planner and Project Manager, at [Michael.Case@tbarta.com](mailto:Michael.Case@tbarta.com)