

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021

Members Physically Present:

Terry Lodge
Ted Wendler, Vice Chairperson
Larry Coletti
Nic Mostert
Bob Storke
Gayle Belin
Andrew Dodzik
Nancy Epps
Chris Daun
Jason Aufdenberg, Chairperson

Members Virtually Present:

Tom Ryan
Christy Gillis
Patrick McCallister
Tim Grigsby

Non-Voting Technical Appointees Virtually Present:

Gwen Perney
Terri Bergeron
John Cotton
Stephanie Moss

Members/Technical Appointees Absent:

Holly Ryan
Paul Eik (excused)
Adam Mengel
Heidi Petito
Mark Oebbecke (excused)
Nancy Burgess-Hall (excused)
Roy Walters
Rob Brinson

Others Present:

Stephan Harris
Colleen Nicoulin
Becky Mendez
Ralf Heseler

Others Virtually Present:

Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
Pam Blankenship
Richard Hamilton
Robin Birdsong
Brian Stanger
Paul Schoelzel
Carey Caldwell
Sarah Goolsby
Bobbie King

Representing:

DeBary
DeLand
Flagler County
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Palm Coast Alternate
Ponce Inlet Alternate
Volusia County Council Chair
Volusia County At-Large Alternate

Representing:

Holly Hill
South Daytona
Volusia County, District 1
Volusia County, District 4

Representing:

Port Orange
Volusia County Alternate
Votran
FDOT

Representing:

Daytona Beach
Flagler Beach
Flagler County
Flagler County Public Transportation
Ponce Inlet
Volusia County, District 2
Volusia County At-Large
Volusia County School Board

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Orange City Development Services
Votran

Representing:

TPO Staff
TPO Staff
Citizen
FDOT
FDOT
FDOT
FDOT
Tindale Oliver
Volusia County

I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Determination of Quorum / Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chairperson Jason Aufdenberg. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was physically present. Due to the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held in a hybrid format with ten voting members physically present and four voting and four non-voting members virtually present.

Chairperson Aufdenberg stated the members participating virtually are doing so as a result of social distancing restrictions associated with COVID-19. Rulings from the Florida Attorney General require that the members physically present take a vote to allow virtual participation due to "extraordinary circumstances".

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Wendler to allow members attending virtually to participate and vote. The motion was seconded by Ms. Belin and carried unanimously.*

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

II. Public Comment/Participation

There were no public comments.

III. Action Items

A. Review and Approval of June 9, 2021 BPAC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Storke to approve the June 9, 2021 BPAC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mostert and carried unanimously.*

B. Review and Recommend Approval of Resolution 2021-## Amending the FY 2021/22 to 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Ms. Nicoulin stated every year at this time, the TPO receives a report from FDOT for roll forward projects. The new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was adopted in June and became effective July 1, 2021. She explained that sometimes there are projects from the old TIP that were supposed to be started or were unfinished so there is carryover funding that needs to be rolled into the new TIP. This process automatically happens with FDOT's Work Program but the TPO has to go through a formal amendment to carry forward those projects from the old TIP which expired June 30, 2021 into the new TIP.

Ms. Nicoulin stated the TPO also received a request from FDOT to add two new projects into the TIP. One is a transit project; Votran receives funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in this case for the preventative maintenance and operation of vehicles. This will add \$720,000 in the current fiscal year for this Votran project. The other project is a railroad crossing project to upgrade the crossings at four roadways in Holly Hill; 10th Street, 8th Street, 6th Street and 3rd Street.

Mr. Daun asked if the railroad crossings project will also include pedestrian facilities.

Ms. Nicoulin replied the project is not adding new pedestrian facilities but upgrading the existing facility crossing in place. Two of the streets, 10th Street and 6th Street, already have pedestrian crossing arms. 8th Street has a sidewalk but does not have a pedestrian crossing arm; she contacted FDOT and they indicated that adding one is not a component of this project. 3rd Street has no sidewalk on either side and they will not be adding them as part of this project. The project is an upgrade to the detection of the trains; LED lights, cabling and all the crossing features that are currently there.

Ms. Belin referred to 8th Street and that there is a sidewalk but no pedestrian crossing arm; she thinks that would be important to pedestrian safety.

Ms. Nicoulin replied according to FDOT, that is not a part of the scope for this project but she can reach out to them and ask if they will include it. We have done that in the past for other crossings and FDOT was receptive. She will let them know that this committee would like the pedestrian arm included as part of that upgrade.

Discussion continued.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Daun to recommend approval of Resolution 2021-## amending the FY 2021/22 to 2025/26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion was seconded by Mr. Coletti and carried unanimously by a roll call vote.*

C. Review and Recommend Approval of the Regional List of Prioritized Projects – Regional Trails and Transit

Mr. Harris stated each year members of the Central Florida MPO Alliance (CFMPOA), which includes the TPO, work together to develop a list of regional prioritized projects. The Regional List of Prioritized Projects (LOPP) is based on the respective priority lists of each M/TPO and is approved by each of the member M/TPOs. The regional trails and transit lists are included in the agenda; there are other lists such as the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) lists that will be reviewed by the CAC, TCC and TPO Board. He reviewed the changes to the regional trails in the TPO's planning area which include the Spring to Spring Trail gap in Deland from Lake Beresford Park to Grand Avenue and the St. John's River to Sea Loop gap in New Smyrna Beach from SR 44 to US 1.

Chairperson Aufdenberg asked if the Black Bear Scenic Trail intersects with the Heart of Florida Trail.

Mr. Harris replied yes and it is also on the TPO's priority list. This trail starts at Levy Hammock Road in Marion County and proceeds east to US 17 in Volusia County along SR 40. The trail goes through three counties and three MPO planning areas. The proposed phase is for a PD&E study costing \$1.1 million. He reviewed the changes to the regional transit list which include the Sun Rail Phase II North Expansion to DeLand; it has moved to a design/build project in the Work Program and is underway. It is expected to go online late in 2023 or early in 2024. The second change is adding a prospective transit project to add Votran service to the new Sun Rail station in Deland.

Mr. Mostert referred to the New Smyrna Beach to Port Orange trail gap; the project limits show from US 1 to Beville Road. He thought they were going to run the trail down Big Tree Road and Nova Road; he asked if it had been changed.

Chairperson Aufdenberg stated it goes down to Port Orange to a road that parallels US 1. It is also confusing because there are two trails; the East Coast Greenway and the St. Johns River to Sea Loop. He spoke to Mr. Harris about this and was told they are not the same thing.

Mr. Mostert stated there are two separate trails; one cutting through Big Tree Road to Nova Road and to Rose Bay in New Smyrna Beach and then this trail that he was not aware of. The way this is written, the trail goes from Edgewater via US 1 to Beville Road.

Mr. Harris replied there was a large PD&E study and those were the original project limits; it started in New Smyrna Beach around US 1 north to Beville Road. That study was segmented into sections that are now being programmed for development.

Discussion continued.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Storke to recommend approval of the Regional List of Prioritized Projects Regional Trails and Transit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daun and carried unanimously.*

IV. Presentation and Discussion Items

A. Presentation and Discussion of the Shared Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Program

Mr. Harris introduced Mr. Paul Schoelzel, FDOT, to give the presentation.

Mr. Schoelzel gave a PowerPoint presentation of Sun Trail funded projects in the River to Sea TPO's planning area. He stated gave the history and definition of the Sun Trail program and projects and went on to explain the funding. The annually allocated \$25 million for the SUN Trail network is shared statewide so every MPO is competing for this funding. SUN Trail funding is two-tiered; individual trail projects receive one-third of the funding and regional trail systems receive two-thirds of the funding. Individual trail projects either connect or contribute to a SUN Trail network. One caveat for the individual trail projects is that an allocation to one project phase is not a commitment for allocations for future project phases. He reviewed the SUN Trail eligibility requirements and stated all projects must meet these requirements and noted that eligible projects that are ready for programming will advance more quickly. He reviewed a map of the Coast to Coast Trail and stated the maps he will show today are available on the SUN Trail website. He noted the final Coast to Coast Trail gap in Volusia County was completed in May and that it is also part of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop; he also reviewed a map of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop and noted 120 miles are complete of the 260-mile trail. He reviewed the projects for the St. Johns River to Sea Loop within the TPO's planning area.

Mr. Daun stated he would like more information for one of the trails on the East Coast Greenway that may be proposed to go through a state park and asked if that would eliminate the possibility of it being designated as a regional trail.

Mr. Schoelzel replied trails are only excluded if they are wholly within a state park.

Mr. Daun stated it is in the preliminary stages of getting it in the state park five-year plan; the issue is it is on a barrier island with not much right-of-way. There is a maintenance trail for facility vehicles that is already cleared that may become part of the trail route. He asked if that would make it a no-build.

Mr. Schoelzel replied that the way he interprets it is that a trail cannot be inside a state park. He suggested Mr. Daun defer to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for more detailed information regarding what is planned for state parks.

Chairperson Aufdenberg referred to the small projects in South Daytona and Port Orange and asked if those were reflected in the most recent Florida Greenways and Trails map.

Mr. Schoelzel replied he will check and get back to him.

B. Presentation and Discussion of a Trailhead Concept Plan for the West French Avenue Shared Use Path

Mr. Harris introduced Ms. Becky Mendez, Development Services Director for Orange City, to give the presentation.

Ms. Mendez gave a PowerPoint presentation of the trailhead concept plan for the West French Avenue shared use path. She noted the lack of bicycle/pedestrian facilities on West French Avenue. The city segmented the project into "Little French" and "Big French" to connect Valentine Park to the Spring to Spring Trail at Blue Springs State Park. Valentine Park is controlled by Orange City although it is outside the city limits; the city wants to make the pedestrian improvements from Valentine Park to US 17/92 and has included paved shoulders and a six-foot wide sidewalk. Then from Valentine Park to the Spring to Spring Trail, "Big French", includes a stand-alone pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks; the Spring to Spring Trail is on the west side of the tracks. There is a vehicular bridge that goes into Blue Springs State Park but there is no sidewalk or bike path on that bridge. The city awarded the design to Traffic Engineering Data Solutions (TEDS) in 2017 which is 90% complete, including the stand-alone pedestrian bridge, in February 2020 and the city applied for construction funding in June 2020. She reviewed a map of the proposed trail including the Spring to Spring Trail and pedestrian bridge.

Mr. Daun asked if the trail would traverse through the state park.

Ms. Mendez replied yes. To get into Blue Springs State Park, a vehicle enters on West French Avenue but a mile south is Blue Springs Avenue which is where the county's pedestrian bridge is for the state park and the Spring to Spring Trailhead. This is Orange City's attempt to get access to a regional trail. She explained that as part of applying for FDOT construction funding, they had to apply for a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) which was denied. The city provided alternate routes which was required; the DEP preferred the alternate route on the north side of West French Avenue. She reviewed the alternate routes and the challenges with them. They also had to get utility clearance which they were unable to obtain. She reviewed the other permits and easements they needed. They presented the facts to the city Council in February 2021 and received direction to close out the existing Local Agency Program (LAP) contract with FDOT and to segment the trail to end at the railroad tracks and at the city's expense, to fund the re-design. The next steps are to re-submit to FDOT for construction funding if the TPO accepts the segmented design.

Discussion ensued regarding the trail and possible alternatives.

C. Presentation and Discussion of the Votran Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update

Mr. Harris introduced Ms. Bobbie King, Volusia County, to give the presentation.

Ms. King gave a PowerPoint presentation of Votran's Transit Development Plan (TDP) and explained the TDP is a 10-year plan which is updated every five years; it is an FDOT requirement for funding. The presentation included the background, process, public involvement, transit needs, financial needs, recommendations and an implementation schedule. The study included a Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) which was a look at the system to find ways to be more efficient. She reviewed the public involvement process they undertook. The top priorities found were the need for increased frequency of buses, more weekend service and earlier and later service. She reviewed the needs development plan which was broken down into short term (1 to 3 years) and mid-term (4 to 10 years). She reviewed the recommended changes to the system including changing routes and bus stops, new technology, express routes, etc.; this will require a lot of public involvement. She reviewed mobility on demand (MOD) and explained it could be used for the first/last mile to and from the bus stop via a ride sharing option. She reviewed the implementation plan and costs associated with it; if the plan as presented by the consultant was implemented, it could result in almost \$1 million in savings to Votran. However, that does not take into account new infrastructure for new routes. The draft TDP will be presented to the Volusia County Council for approval on August 17, 2021 and must be submitted to FDOT by September 1, 2021.

Mr. Daun asked if the plan included funding for bike sharing as part of their service.

Ms. King replied she does not know exact numbers for what funds they have for bike sharing but she thinks that may involve the TPO more so than Votran.

Mr. Harris stated there are no bike sharing projects currently on the TPO's priority list but the Call for Projects is opened every year. He would encourage all of the TPO's member local governments to submit an application for bike sharing. It would be eligible for some federal funding the TPO receives.

Chairperson Aufdenberg commented that could be another option for the first/last mile to and from the bus stop. He referred to the bus rider survey results shown in the presentation and suggested a key be added to explain what the results are. He asked if the draft TDP is available to members.

Ms. King replied yes; Mr. Harris has a copy and could provide it to him. It is a large document and too big to email. It is on the Volusia County Council's agenda for August 17, 2021 which is available online.

Mr. Harris replied he would make the report available to BPAC members.

Mr. Heseler referred to the bus rider survey results and stated the number one answer was more weekend service; the number two answer was earlier and later service; and the number three answer was more frequent service. For the general public survey results, the number one answer was more frequent service; the number two answer was more weekend service; and the number three answer was earlier and later service.

D. Presentation and Discussion of the Paratransit Service Analysis

Mr. Harris introduced Ms. Sarah Goolsby, Tindale Oliver, to give the presentation.

Ms. Goolsby gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Paratransit Service Analysis and stated the analysis was initiated due to the growing demand for paratransit and transportation disadvantaged (TD) service at the local, state, and national levels. They wanted to identify what changes have occurred in the industry and how they have positively or negatively impacted service provisions and cost efficiencies and find opportunities to fix issues that were identified. One of the changes researched was non-emergency Medicaid transportation (NEMT) and its impact on services; Florida switched to a managed care organization in 2015 to provide NEMT services. Prior to that, the local Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) contracted with the state TD Commission to provide services. The pros are it is more cost efficient but the cons can cause a decrease in service quality for the rider. CTCs have had a decrease in funding which can influence the cost of a trip. She reviewed the statewide TD trend from 2014 to 2019 and the TD trend in Flagler and Volusia Counties. She also reviewed the statewide paratransit trend from 2011 to 2019 as well as for Flagler and Volusia Counties. They also conducted a demographic analysis which she reviewed. She noted that Flagler County does not have any existing fixed route service; Volusia County has 27 fixed routes that operate from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm weekdays and Saturday with limited Sunday service. In Volusia County, Votran provides paratransit and TD service through its Gold service; American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) door-to-door service for eligible riders within the three-quarter mile service area around a fixed route. Flagler County provides countywide door-to-door TD service to eligible riders six days per week.

She stated they researched other systems in Florida and nationally and found an increase in demand is seen everywhere due to a large proportion of the aging population that can no longer drive. Some examples of how other systems are addressing the increased need are: deviating fixed routes services; enhanced scheduling technology; mobility on demand (MOD) service; commingling paratransit and general transit trips; partnering with transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft; and system regionalization. The short term recommendations are applicable to both Volusia and Flagler Counties and include actions the agencies could take in the next year that would not need much planning or have low associated costs such as agency involvement with land development to facilitate transit access for future facilities in the beginning. Mid-term recommendations include a bus stop implementation plan to make fixed route service more desirable to the TD population as well as a mobility on demand (MOD) study among others. They have one long term recommendation for Volusia County that corresponds to Votran's TDP which is to implement a MOD zone in DeLand.

Chairperson Aufdenberg asked if there was a burden for people having knowledge of the program or applying for service; if people know if they are eligible and how to apply.

Ms. Goolsby replied Flagler County Public Transportation and Votran have links on their websites to the eligibility guidelines and an application to complete and submit to the agency; the agency will inform the rider if they are eligible.

Chairperson Aufdenberg asked if the presentation could be distributed to the committee members.

Mr. Harris replied he will upload it to the TPO's website.

E. Presentation and Discussion of FY 2021/22 Community Safety Events

Ms. Blankenship gave a PowerPoint presentation of the TPO's FY 2021/22 Community Safety Events. She stated COVID-19 has had a big impact on the TPO's community outreach events; in the past, bicycle helmet fittings were a major part of the TPO's outreach but we have been unable to do those this year due to COVID-19. In place of helmet fittings, the TPO developed a bicycle and pedestrian light distribution program with the Volusia County and the Flagler County Sheriff's Offices and the Daytona Beach Police Department. Other police departments were contacted but did not respond. As part of the Community Safety Awareness Plan (CSAP), a Speaker's Bureau was developed; we have spoken to a few Rotary clubs on distracted driving, speeding and what a serious injury actually entails. The TPO has instituted a Constant Contact Newsletter on a monthly basis and started a video series; one video has been released and more are in development. She reviewed outreach

events the TPO will be participated in since the beginning of the fiscal year of July 1, 2021 and scheduled events through October including Port Orange Family Days and Mobility Week events; we will not be fitting bicycle helmets but distributing safety items, tip cards and speaking with people about safety. Mobility Week will run October 29, 2021 through November 2, 2021. Events past November have not yet been scheduled; we want to see what happens with COVID-19. She reviewed the ongoing community outreach activities. She encouraged members to let her know if they have any suggestions or ideas or have groups they would like to have the Speaker's Bureau come speak to.

Mr. Daun commented that the TPO did a great job with the distribution of bicycle/pedestrian lights; he asked Ms. Blankenship to repeat the information regarding the event at Andy Romano Park event.

Ms. Blankenship replied the TPO will be working with FDOT at two locations; Andy Romano Beachfront Park and Sun Splash Park. They will set up tents and tables and will distribute bicycle/pedestrian lights and tip sheets to people using the crosswalks. The tentative dates are September 18, 2021 and October 2, 2021; she will let members know when the dates are definitive.

Chairperson Aufdenberg commented he and Mr. Wendler have been distributing lights for years when the time changes and it gets dark an hour earlier; he suggested doing that at multiple locations then. Many years ago, during Port Orange Family Days, there was a bike ride through the neighborhood; he asked if that could be done again.

Ms. Blankenship replied that one of the suggestions for Mobility Week was a ride in Ormond Beach; she has not gotten in the planning of that yet. She will look into it for Port Orange Family Days.

V. Staff Comments

→ R2CTPO Staffing Changes

Mr. Harris announced that July 30, 2021 was Lois Bollenback's last day as Executive Director of the TPO; a farewell open house was held on July 29, 2021. The Interim Executive Director is Ms. Colleen Nicoulin. The Executive Committee has formed a selection committee; they are serving a dual role and going through the process to hire a new Executive Director.

VI. Information Items

- BPAC Attendance Record
- TPO Outreach and Activities
- TPO Board Reports

VII. BPAC Member Comments

Mr. Coletti announced he attended a FDOT public meeting on July 15, 2021 for the Beverly Beach area on SR A1A; they are installing a center island with special crosswalks. His concern was that on other projects along SR A1A such as just south of the Flagler Beach pier, they eliminated the bike lanes; however, this project will have bike lanes on both sides of the road so he was very happy. There are a couple of driveways along SR A1A where the pavement is not smooth so FDOT is paving over those when they resurface the road.

Ms. Belin announced she will be attending the Ormond Beach City Commission meeting on August 17, 2021 to discuss the bike trails; the next day she will be attending the Ormond Beach Parks and Recreation meeting to discuss trails and natural areas. During the meeting, she emailed Mr. Shawn Finley, Ormond Beach Engineer, regarding the preferred path of the Ormond Beach trail gap and he responded that it would go over the Granada Bridge to SR A1A as to not disrupt the neighborhoods. They are also moving forward with a mixed-use path on SR A1A.

Mr. Daun stated FDOT has provided GIS codes for the Halifax Heritage Byway; for the corridors and the byway. He has distributed them to the TPO, Daytona Beach, Ormond Beach, Holly Hill, Volusia County, Daytona Beach Shores and


Ponce Inlet. The state is making GIS codes available through FDOT for all the scenic byways in Volusia County and the TPO's planning area.

Chairperson Aufdenberg stated he attended an FDOT public meeting on July 15, 2021 regarding changes to SR A1A in Daytona Beach and he came away with a better feeling; especially for roads perpendicular to SR A1A. They are installing protected bike lanes on Seabreeze Boulevard and Oakridge Boulevard; there are some vertical elements including completely separated bike lanes and raised intersections so there will be flush crossings. FDOT is thinking more creatively and safely. He announced that FDOT confirmed at the end of June that there are leading pedestrian interval (LPI) signals at two crossings near the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) campus at Embry Riddle Drive and Beville Road.

VIII. Adjournment

The BPAC meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

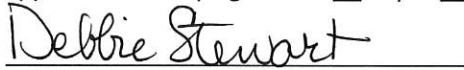
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization



**Dr. Jason Aufdenberg, Chairperson
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

CERTIFICATE:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the River to Sea TPO certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the August 11, 2021 regular meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), approved and duly signed this 8th day of September 2021.



**Debbie Stewart, Recording Secretary
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization**

ROLL CALL VOTE TIP AMENDMENT

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) ROLL CALL SHEET

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 11, 2021

QUORUM: 9 MEMBERS 9 YES / NO

MEETING TIME: 2:00 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION: RIVER TO SEA TPO
2570 W INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BLVD., SUITE 100
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114

<u>REPRESENTING:</u>	<u>BPAC MEMBER:</u>	<u>YES</u> / <u>NO</u>
DAYTONA BEACH	HOLLY RYAN/DOUG HALL	✓ /
DEBARY	TERRY LODGE	✓ /
DELAND	TED WENDLER	✓ /
FLAGLER BEACH	PAUL EIK	✓ /
FLAGLER COUNTY	LARRY COLETTI	✓ /
HOLLY HILL (NED WOLFARTH)	TOM RYAN	✓ /
NEW SMYRNA BEACH	NIC MOSTERT	✓ /
ORANGE CITY	BOB STORKE	✓ /
ORMOND BEACH	GAYLE BELIN	✓ /
PALM COAST	ANDY DODZIK	✓ /
PONCE INLET	NANCY EPPS-MARK OEBBEKKE	✓ /
SOUTH DAYTONA	CHRISTY GILLIS	✓ /
VOLUSIA COUNTY (AT-LARGE)	ROY WALTERS/JASON AUFDENBERG	✓ /
VOLUSIA COUNTY (D-1)	PATRICK MCCALLISTER	✓ /
VOLUSIA COUNTY (D-2)	NANCY BURGESS-HALL	✓ /
VOLUSIA COUNTY (D-4)	TIMOTHY GRISBY	✓ /
VOLUSIA COUNTY CHAIR	CHRIS DAUN	✓ /