RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION 2024-08

RESOLUTION OF THE RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE ST. JOHNS RIVER TO SEA LOOP TRAIL

WHEREAS, the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the duly designated and constituted body responsible for carrying out the urban transportation planning and programming process for Volusia County and portions of Flagler County inclusive of the cities of Flagler Beach, Beverly Beach, and portions of Palm Coast and Bunnell; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 339.175; 23 U.S.C. 134; and 49 U.S.C. 5303 require that the urbanized area, as a condition to the receipt of federal capital or operating assistance, have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process that results in plans and programs consistent with the comprehensively planned development of the urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan establishes the vision for implementing a connected statewide system of greenways and trails for recreation, conservation, alternative transportation, healthy lifestyles, a vibrant economy, a high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop is a 260-mile Shared-Use, Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail traversing Flagler, Volusia, Brevard, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail is one of fourteen regionally significant trails in the FGTS Plan that cross multiple counties, attract national and international visitors, and serve as an opportunity for economic and ecotourism development; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail showcases the natural value of Florida's wildlife areas, ecology, natural resources, and serves as a main corridor for critical links and trail connectedness across the state; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail is currently the second leading regional trail priority in the State of Florida, behind the Coast-to-Coast Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Greenways and Trails Council will be developing a prioritized/reprioritized list of the current FGTS regional trails at their March 27-28, 2024 meeting in Winter Haven, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the River to Sea TPO is a strong proponent of the provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the River to Sea TPO that the:

- 1. River to Sea TPO acknowledges the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail as one of the leading regional trail priorities in the State of Florida; and the
- 2. River to Sea TPO recognizes the importance of completing this five-county regional trail; and the
- 3. River to Sea TPO supports the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail maintaining or improving its #2 SUNTrail priority ranking; and the
- 4. Chairperson of the River to Sea TPO (or his designee) is hereby authorized and directed to submit this resolution to the following:
 - a. Florida Department of Transportation;
 - b. Florida Greenways and Trails Council;
 - c. East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC);
 - d. Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC); and
 - e. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT).

DONE AND RESOLVED at the regular meeting of the River to Sea TPO held on the **27**TH day of **March, 2024**.

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

DeLand Mayor Christopher M. Cloudman Chairperson, River to Sea TPO

CERTIFICATE:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the River to Sea TPO certified that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the River to Sea TPO held on <u>March 27, 2024</u>.

ATTEST:

DONNA KING, RECORDING SECRETARY/

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION