

Coastal Georgia Greenway Steering Committee (CGGSC)

~~January-March 3, 2000~~ 13, 2000

I. MISSION “We are creating an alternative transportation network to connect South Carolina and Florida through coastal Georgia linking historical/cultural centers, waterways, parks, wildlife preserves, lighthouses, and the historic Bartram trail for a unique human experience and for fostering local and regional economic development. We will also work with local governments to identify and protect open space in our communities and counties the region.”

- The Plan: “The Gateway to Coastal Georgia: Connecting the Coast” Master Plan recommends the creation of a 450-mile system of trails to be known as the Coastal Georgia Greenway. This plan recommends steps for implementation, -which include it’s adoption; designation of a demonstration project in each county for initial implementation; and organization for the purpose of overseeing all future project functions. The Master Plan has been adopted, and a Coastal Georgia Greenway Demonstration Project has been selected in each of the six Coastal Georgia Counties*.
- *Glynn County adopted the Master Plan with revisions as documented by the National Park Service in its Coastal Georgia Greenway Map.
- The Budget: The Master Plan, completed in 1997, identified a Preliminary Cost Estimate for completion of the project, within 20 years, of \$65,307,210.00.
- To be adopted as part of the plan, Rrevisions to each county’s adopted master plan shall be approved by this CGGSC and approved by the local jurisdiction.
- The continuous Coastal Georgia Greenway Route, which will link South Carolina to Florida through coastal Georgia, shall become, by East Coast Greenway Alliance designation, the East Coast Greenway in Georgia, the construction of which shall be coordinated with the CGGSC.

“The East Coast Greenway is a long-distance, inter-urban, multi-user transportation and recreation trail network connecting major urban centers along the East Coast of the United States from Maine to Florida. This spine route consists of a series of locally owned and managed trails, linked to form a continuous trail network, easily identified by the public through signs, maps, and user guides. The East Coast Greenway Trail Network is intended to be an off-road route serving cyclists, hikers, and other non-motorized users for recreation and transportation.”

(Source: East Coast Greenway Alliance Mission Statement, adopted by the Board of Trustees, May 2, 1998.)

- The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) “Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan” includes fourteen statewide corridors, Scheduled for completion by 2016. For the most part, the proposed routes follow existing federal and state-aid roadways. Five of these routes, see below, traverse or terminate in coastal Georgia. Currently, GDOT does not anticipate upgrading the condition of shoulders or widening rumble strips along the designated routes except where such improvements are programmed as part of other transportation improvements. Additional funding for shoulder upgrading and widening to provide on-road bicycle facilities would occur in the typical GDOT funding cycle.

Like the neighboring states of South Carolina and Florida, the State of Georgia is conscious of providing touring opportunities for long-distance cyclists. An on-road bike route on US. Highway 17 will traverse all six counties on the coast as part of the statewide bicycle plan. GDOT is working cooperatively with both neighboring states to identify continuous routes, which cross into the adjoining state. The connection to South Carolina’s Palmetto Route will take place at Clio in Effingham County. The connection to Florida has not been determined but will likely be the U.S. Highway 17 bridge over the St. Marys River in Camden County.

The Construction of the following routes, identified in the GDOT “Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan” shall be coordinated with the Coastal Georgia Greenway: The March to the Sea Route, the Trans-Georgia Route, the Savannah River Run and the Southern Crossing Route.

- Economic Impact: In Georgia, the region's total tourism business is second only to that of the Atlanta metro area. Coastal Georgia tourism now totals more than \$2 billion annually, according to the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Based on national surveys of nature-based tourism*, we estimate that at least one quarter of the region's total tourism business volume is attributable to outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, bird-watching, etc. This means that about \$500 million a year of coastal Georgia's business is generated (directly & indirectly) by nature-based activity. If the Coastal Georgia Greenway project stimulates even a modest 5% growth in this segment of coastal Georgia's tourism, **it will contribute at least \$25 million a year to the local and regional economy by the time it is completed.** Further, if it is assumed that during construction such economic benefits derived from the project will rise to this ultimate level in proportion to the extent it is built (e.g., \$12.5 million contribution a year at 50% of completion), the project will have paid for itself in economic development benefits (job creation and business activity) well before it is finished. Employment supported by \$25 million annually is equivalent to **at least 800 jobs**, assuming average business revenue of about \$30,000 per employee per year.

* (Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Survey of Outdoor Recreation, 1995.)

II. GOALS

- Construct each county's Coastal Georgia Greenway Demonstration Project within five years;
- Build the East Coast Greenway (as a Class B unpaved trail) through Coastal Georgia within ten years; the route will eventually be upgraded to touring-bicycle standards (paved).
- Conduct events on the routes and market the trails as they are built; and
- Continue to cooperate with other environmental, historic, educational, recreational and health organizations to achieve similar goals.
- Support Construction of Georgia Department of Transportation Statewide Bike/Pedestrian Routes, with construction of the Coastal Route as top priority.
- Establish a well-coordinated, accountable, and reliable process for maintaining all trails within the Coastal Georgia Greenway system.

III. COMPOSITION

The Coastal Georgia Greenway Steering Committee shall be composed of ~~20~~11 voting representatives from the following non-profit organizations and from within the six coastal counties of Georgia, ~~South Carolina and Florida~~, and 14 Advisory, non-voting, representatives (or others as approved by the CGGSC):

- The Coastal Georgia Land Trust, board member or appointed representative*;
- The Coastal Georgia Land Trust, staff
- The Coastal Georgia Center for Sustainable Development, board member or appointed representative*;
- The Coastal Georgia Center for Sustainable Development, staff
- The Coastal Georgia Resource Conservation & Development Council, board member or appointed representative*;
- The Coastal Georgia Resource Conservation & Development Council, staff
- The East Coast Greenway Alliance, board member or appointed representative*;
- The Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association, board member or appointed representative*;
- ~~An elected official from e~~Each coastal Georgia county 's Chairperson who shall appoint a member and an alternate member to also serve "At-Large" to represent all local jurisdictions -within the county (i.e., may be a city or county elected official): a total of six representatives-representatives, one to be appointed by each coastal County's Chairperson.* The Alternate Member should be a

A staff person (city, county, Regional Development Center, Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce or Metropolitan Planning Commission) from each of the six coastal counties, the following professions should be represented: planner, engineer, recreation professional, landscape architect,

marketing: a total of six ~~representatives~~ alternate members. ~~to be appointed by each coastal County's Chairperson.~~

- A representative from the GDOT;
- A representative from the GDNR-Coastal Zone Management Program
- A representative from South Carolina; (attendance at meetings, optional: only if issues related to the state are to be considered.) and,
- A representative from Florida (attendance at meetings, optional: only if issues related to the state are to be considered.)
- A representative from GITT- Colonial Coast Tourism Department

IV. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The CGGSC shall seek the support of related organizations to achieve its MISSION.

A current listing of Supporting Organizations is to accompany this document.

V. ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION

- The mission shall be accomplished through the collaborative efforts of the CGGSC, supporting individuals and organizations, and appropriate local, state and national government agencies.
- The trail is to be built, operated, and sustained by local and state government agencies working with the CGGSC. The Coastal Georgia Greenway's character, identity, and consistency as a coastal Georgia alternative transportation and recreation trail system are the responsibility of the CGGSC.
- The CGGSC shall prepare an overall work plan for completing the Coastal Georgia Greenway including actions, responsible party, costs and timetable.
- Implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway is a project of
 - The Coastal Georgia Center for Sustainable Development.
 - The Coastal Georgia Resource Conservation and Development Council;
 - The Coastal Georgia Land Trust;
 - The Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association.
 - The Coastal Georgia Center for Sustainable Development
- The CGGSC shall select a lead organization from the above list, or other, for implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway under the direction of the CGGSC. The lead organization will then hire and supervise staff or contract with qualified consultants qualified to perform the duties as approved by the CGGSC. The lead organization will also be responsible for all reporting requirements of the applicable funding program(s), including financial documentation. (see item IX Funding)
- The CGGSC shall also approve duties to be accomplished by the other supporting organizations, which shall be called on an "as needed" basis. These duties may include, grant writing, hosting meetings, gathering local comments, review of implementation tasks, or other duties as agreed by the CGGSC and each organization's Board of Directors. The CGGSC may also delegate responsibilities for reporting requirements under the applicable funding program(s), including financial documentation related to the additional supporting duties.
- Member organizations of the CGGSC shall Execute Letters of Agreements, and Memoranda of Understanding with appropriate parties to accomplish the work plan.
- The method for accomplishing the mission is as follows:
 1. Identify the Specific North – South Connector Route, based on the approved Master Plan, which will be proposed for designation as the East Coast Greenway in Georgia;
 2. Oversee funding for implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway
 3. Obtain public access to identified corridors;
 4. Oversee design and construction of the Coastal Georgia Greenway;
 5. Approve Management Agreements (including maintenance) with corridor owners and managers;
 6. Designate completed segments to the Coastal Georgia Greenway;

7. Nominate segments to the East Coast Greenway Alliance for designation as part of the East Coast Greenway;
8. Promote sustainable economic development and open space designation supporting related to the Coastal Georgia Greenway and community enhancement;
9. Conduct at least one Coastal Georgia Greenway event annually through project completion;
10. Promote use of the Coastal Georgia Greenway through media, public presentations, and published materials; and
11. Monitor and survey designated segments, work with managing groups to ensure standards are being maintained and make recommendations for correcting problems, including re-delegating management functions or ~~and for~~ de-designation, if necessary.

VI. MEETINGS

A minimum of four quarterly meetings shall be held per year.

VII. TERM OF OFFICE

Terms of office shall be

~~agreed upon by the coastal County's chairpersons, for example, term of office can be based on the term of the county commissions. However, first terms shall be staggered one year so that one half of the committee's term expires then the other half.~~

VIII. COASTAL COUNTY'S AUTHORIZATION

Each County shall adopt a resolution authorizing the chair-person to appoint representatives to the committee; execute letters of agreement to conduct the business of the committee (within the jurisdiction); and to execute letters of agreement with other coastal cities and counties (*or others*) to jointly or separately

1. Acquire public access for trail corridors;
2. Design trail facilities;
3. Construct trail facilities; and
4. Maintain trail facilities.

Each county currently has the ability to acquire, build and maintain recreational facilities. The organization of the CGGSC; will significantly improve allow for regional cooperation collaboration, cooperation - and coordination required to properly implement of implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway. Ownership of the regional trail system will be by each appropriate local jurisdiction (e Cities will own the corridor within their incorporated areas and -cities, and counties within their jurisdictions, or as other-wise as appropriate) approved by formal agreementa between / among participating local governments.

~~Project Management: \$36,000.00 20 hours per week~~

~~Duties oversee implementation of CCG, includes defining specific projects, developing budgets for the work, work with supporting organizations to write grants, and oversee fund raising efforts, provide project management for work to be accomplished by grants received.~~

~~Fund Raising: \$24,000.00 20 hours per week~~

~~Goal for first year, raise \$1,000,000.00 from private sources. Also, write grants for public support of the project, in cooperation with Project Manager.~~

~~Administration: \$24,000.00 (by the lead organization)~~

~~Supplies & Expenses: \$10,000.00~~

~~Travel: \$ 6,000.00~~