

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 8D

From: Staff

Date: February 19, 2016 Council Meeting

Subject: Resolution in Support of Florida Bike Month

Introduction

The purpose of this item is to request Council approval of a resolution in support of Florida Bike Month, which is a statewide activity regarding the promotion of bicycle facilities, accessibility, and safety. These activities are planned and implemented by the Florida Department of Transportation, metropolitan and transportation planning organizations, local governments, and others.

Overview and Analysis

The use of multi-modal transportation networks and development of “complete streets” is a priority of growing importance across the State of Florida. Transportation networks that safely and conveniently accommodate motorized vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians yield the greatest efficiency and mobility, improve access, reduce carbon emissions, and contribute to healthier lifestyles. The Southeast Florida region operates with a roadway-dominant transportation network, wherein more than 80 percent of commuters drive alone to work daily. National statistics indicate the region’s heightened reliance on automobile travel produces thousands of hours of lost productivity and billions of dollars of lost revenue due to travel delay. Expanding knowledge, awareness, and facilities for alternative modes, such as transit, bicycling, and walking can improve conditions for all users.

Across the state, bicycle safety and awareness has become an increasingly critical issue as national studies indicate Florida has by far the highest rate of bicycle accidents and fatalities per capita in the nation. This emphasis on safety includes consideration of roadway design, complete streets, expanded educational programming, and facility improvements. Following national models to increase emphasis on cycling, March 2016 has been declared Florida Bike Month by the State of Florida, metropolitan and transportation planning organization, local governments, cycling advocacy organizations, and others. The month includes coordinated activities to promote cycling safety, bike to work activities, recreational cycling events, and educational activities across the region.

Conclusion

Multi-modal transportation, with a strong emphasis on bicycling, is a key component of a healthy region, both economically and physically. Increasing awareness of bicycling through events that improve safety, offer recreational opportunity, encourage bicycle commuting, and expand the public's knowledge of bicycling is beneficial for the region. Florida Bike Month provides an opportunity to increase this awareness, contributing to the region's health, mobility, and quality of life.

Recommendation

Council should adopt Resolution 16-03 in support of Florida Bike Month and authorize its transmittal to the metropolitan and transportation planning organizations in the region.

Attachment

RESOLUTION #16-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, PALM BEACH, AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES, FLORIDA PROCLAIMING MARCH 2016 AS FLORIDA BIKE MONTH

WHEREAS, residents and visitors in the Treasure Coast Region engage in bicycling as a viable and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent form of physical activity and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida recognizes March officially as Bike Month; and

WHEREAS, Florida Bike Month features a number of fitness opportunities and events for riders of all ages to enjoy throughout the month at various parks and locations through the region; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of Florida Bike Month will raise awareness of bicycling and ultimately promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles by elevating bicycling as a more widely accepted choice of transportation; and

WHEREAS, each of the region's metropolitan and transportation planning organizations plan and recommend substantial projects to make bicycling more accessible, convenient, and safer, and they promote comprehensive community education efforts aimed at improving bike safety; and

WHEREAS, increased bicycle usage can help provide mobility for those without access to a motor vehicle and increase existing road and parking capacity when people choose bicycling for utilitarian trips, reducing the number of automobiles on roadways; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, local government comprehensive plans, and metropolitan and transportation planning organization long-range transportation plans include goals, policies and strategies to develop multimodal transportation systems that support transportation alternatives, including the bicycle; and

WHEREAS, through these efforts, the region has hundreds of miles of designated bicycle lanes and paved shared-use pathways, with many more planned, and advancing these initiatives will make the bicycling experience more inviting, comfortable, and safe for all ages and abilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL PROCLAIMS THE MONTH OF MARCH 2016 IN THE TREASURE COAST REGION AS FLORIDA BIKE MONTH.

DULY ADOPTED by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council this 19th day of February 2016.

Michel Davis
Chairman

Michael J. Busha
Executive Director