



WEST VOLUSIA, FLORIDA

September 15, 2011

Karl D. Welzenbach, Executive Director
Volusia Transportation Planning Organization
Indigo Professional Center
2570 West International Speedway Blvd., Suite 100
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-8145

Re: Letter of support for the Tiger III grant application to complete the unfunded sections of the East Central Regional Rail Trail

Dear Karl:

I am pleased to support, on behalf of the West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority, the Tiger III grant application for funding to complete the East Central Regional Rail Trail. The Rail Trail is an important part of the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop Trail that connects west and east Volusia with neighboring counties.

The Tourism Authority, charged with promoting the resources of west Volusia County, considers trails development as an important economic stimulus for building tourism. On a monthly basis, hundreds of people come into our visitor's center, many requesting information on area trails and outdoor activities. In fact, a large portion of our display information is dedicated to trails. Our website, visitwestvolusia.com also promotes our trails as well as an advertising budget line item devoted to trails promotion.

We are fortunate here in west Volusia that many miles of trails have been developed. These trails wind through our communities and our local, county, state and national parks. They provide the opportunity for users to enjoy the charm of our rural landscapes, small town ambiance, unspoiled natural surroundings and plentiful wildlife. However, there are missing links that void connectivity which makes promoting trails adventure vacation packages difficult.

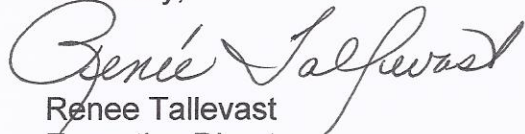
For several years now, the Tourism Authority has been involved with the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop working committee as a support agency. We intend to remain an integral part of this group as we plan future programs and promotions designed around the Loop Trail and the coming of Sun Rail to DeBary and DeLand.

Mr. Karl D. Welzenbach
September 15, 2011
Page Two

By completing the Rail Trail we will have the opportunity to gain national exposure, increase tourism and boost economic development to the five Loop counties. The Tourism Authority totally supports this application for Federal funding and request that it be approved.

Please let me know if you need any additional information that would support this application.

Sincerely,



Renee Tallevast
Executive Director