



North Merritt Island Pioneer Trail Feasibility Study – Kickoff Meeting Summary

FM# 439893-1-14-01

Space Coast TPO Conference Room

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Melbourne, FL 32940

April 17, 2024 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM

ATTENDEES

Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (Space Coast TPO)

- Sarah Kraum
- Debbie Flynn

Brevard County Parks and Recreation

- Mary Ellen Donner
- Steven Kimball

Florida Department of Transportation, District 5

- Aishwarya Sandineni – Attended Virtually
- Paul Schoetzel – Attended Virtually

Kittelson & Associates, Inc. (KAI)

- Travis Hills
- Fanny Kristiansson
- Rajvi Shah

Inwood Consulting Engineers, Inc.

- Jason Houck
- Jada Barhorst

Introduction

The purpose of the meeting was to kick off the North Merritt Island Pioneer Trail Feasibility Study and share an update on project work activities completed thus far. The meeting included sharing the draft Purpose & Need statement, reviewing the existing conditions analysis, conducting an alternative alignment workshop, coordinating stakeholder outreach, and preparing for the field review. The meeting agenda, presentation, and other materials are attached to this summary.

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The following bullets provide an overview of the discussion topics from the meeting:

- Sarah led off the meeting with an overview of the Study then facilitated introductions. KAI then reviewed the scope/schedule of the Study and major milestones.
- KAI reviewed the draft Purpose & Need statement. The primary need for the Study is to identify a safe walking/biking route from the Merritt Island Barge Canal to the Pine Island Conservation Area. The meeting attendees did not have any other comments on the Purpose & Need elements.
- KAI reviewed the Existing Conditions Analysis, and the following discussion took place:
 - Study Area: Extends from S.R. 528 in the south to Pine Island Conservation Area in the north, and from the Indian River in the west to the Banana River in the east.
 - This Study is not exploring an E/W connection across the Indian River.
 - Traffic Data: KAI to verify if horses were captured in the pedestrian/bicycle counts for the Equestrian Loop Trail in the Pine Island Conservation Area.
 - Safety Data:
 - Fixed object/run-off road crashes make up 21% of all crashes in the study area. Important to consider when evaluating trail alignments along roadways, especially SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway.
 - All fatal and serious injury crashes occurred along SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway. Consider using the east/west roadways to connect to the north/south corridor and avoid crash hotspots.
 - Existing Trails & Parks:
 - KAI to remove the Island Estates Pier as this is a private trail only accessible to local residents.
 - KARS Park has an entrance fee and might not be able to provide a north/south connection through the park.
 - Identify Environmental Endangered Lands (EEL) within the study area.
 - Existing Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities: KAI to verify sidewalk widths within the study area during the field review.
 - Resiliency:
 - Elevated trails might be considered due to the future flooding risk in the study area.
 - Space Florida is working on an Environmental Master Plan and there might be an opportunity for collaboration.
 - Attractions: All schools shown are associated with churches. There are no public schools in the study area
 - Existing Conditions Analysis Follow Up:
 - Identify and highlight residential communities.
 - Identify and highlight properties owned by the US Government/NASA.
 - Space Coast TPO to confirm ownership of Audobon Road.

- The meeting attendees participated in an Alternative Alignments Workshop and the following roadways were identified for future analysis:
 - Below is a list of potential north/south trail alignment connections –
 - N Tropical Trail
 - SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway
 - Raised berms on EEL property between SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway and The Savannahs
 - Judson Road
 - Unpaved/unnamed roadway east of The Savannahs and Stone Lake Estates south of Crisafulli Road and Tel 4 Road/SW B Avenue north of Crisafulli Road
 - Audobon Road
 - Below is a list of potential east/west trail alignment connections –
 - Grant Road – N Tropical Trail to SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway
 - Smith Road – SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway to EEL property between SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway and The Savannahs
 - E/W powerline area from the EEL property to Audobon Road
 - Hall Road – N Tropical Trail to Audobon Road (eastern portion is on NASA property)
 - Porcher Road – N Tropical Trail to SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway
 - Chase Hammock Road – SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway to Audobon Road (eastern portion blocked and unpaved)
 - Crisafulli Road – N Tropical Trail to Audobon Road (eastern portion requires connection near Tel 4 Road/SW 28th Avenue)
 - SE 22nd Street/Dalbora Road – SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway to Audobon Road (eastern portion requires connection near Tel 4 Road/SW B Avenue)
 - McGruder Road/Jerome Road – N Tropical Trail to Audobon Road (potential spur connection west of SR 3/N Courtenay Parkway along powerline area to Pine Island Road)

- Through discussions with meeting attendees, the final alignment may contain multiple of the options above, not just one continuous north/south connection. The Study may also consider a “Trail Network” with potential spurs off the main Pioneer Trail to connect to multiple locations as seen in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 Alternative Alignments Workshop – Potential Hand drawn Trail Alignments

- Stakeholder Outreach: KAI discussed Stakeholder Outreach coordination with the meeting attendees:
 - The following Stakeholders were identified:
 - Brevard County Board of County Commissioners
 - South Central Advisory Board
 - Other Brevard County Staff/EEL Program
 - North Merritt Island Home Owners Association
 - Prioritize meetings with EEL and North Merritt Island Home Owners Association during the Alternatives Analysis task.
- Public Involvement: KAI reviewed Public Involvement activities included in the Study scope. One public meeting is currently included, and the attendees agreed this meeting would likely be performed towards the end of the Study.
- Field Review Coordination: KAI will draft field review plan and will coordinate with meeting attendees on potential field review dates.
- KAI was asked to include the FM number on all Study materials.

Action Items

1. KAI to incorporate FM number into all Study materials
2. KAI to incorporate feedback and finalize Existing Conditions Analysis
3. KAI to coordinate field review dates
4. KAI/SCTPO to verify ownership of Audobon Road
5. KAI to initiate Alternative Analysis