

Scenic Corridors Update Working Committee Kick-Off Meeting

July 19, 2010

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Planning Commission Board Room

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Marcie Stenmark (Planning Commission staff) began the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves. Eleven attendees signed the sign in sheet.

2. Meeting Purpose

Planning Commission staff indicated that this was the first of several meetings regarding the update to the Scenic Corridors map and associated Land Development regulations for unincorporated Hillsborough County. Staff summarized the meeting agenda and announced the project web site:

<http://www.theplanningcommission.org/hillsborough/hillsborough/ScenicCorridors>

3. Update Overview Presentation

Planning Commission staff presented a powerpoint summarizing the history of the scenic corridors program, existing regulations, the Comprehensive Plan policy that calls for the update, other scenic corridors programs in Florida, and the project schedule.

The original ordinance initiating scenic corridors was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in 1992 (92-5). Regulations are found in Section 6 of the Land Development Code. The adopted Scenic Corridors map is entitled "2015 Future of Hillsborough Unincorporated County Scenic Corridors."

Tom Hiznay (Planning and Growth Management staff) presented the existing Land Development Code requirements. Regulations are applied to new development within three categories of roads, based on the Future Land Use. Parcels adjacent to roadways designated within rural Future Land Use categories

(AM, A, AR, AE, PEC ½, and RES-1) are required to provide a 30 foot scenic easement left in a natural state. Parcels adjacent to roadways designated within suburban Future Land Use categories (RES-2, RP-2, and RES-4) are required to provide a 15 foot buffer yard with four canopy trees and four understory trees per 100 feet. If street trees do not exist, one street tree per every 50 feet is required. Parcels adjacent to roadways designated within urban Future Land Use categories (all other categories) are required to provide one street tree per 40 feet of frontage and one canopy tree for every 50 feet of frontage.

A working committee of interested community leaders and a technical committee of County staff are being formed to review the existing map and regulations. The working committee will meet on August 16, 2010 and November 1, 2010. Nominations for the revised scenic corridors map will be accepted in August of 2010 through the Planning Commission's web site.

Comprehensive Plan amendments and Land Development Code amendments will be prepared as a result of this process. Planning Commission staff will submit Comprehensive Plan amendments (map and text) with a goal submittal date of the second cycle of 2011 Plan amendments. Planning and Growth Management staff will submit Land Development amendments with a goal submittal date of Fall of 2011 (subject to approval of the Comprehensive Plan amendments).

4. Working Committee Role and Sign Up

A working committee is being formed. Interested volunteers are asked to fill out the sign up sheet which will be made available on the Planning Commission web site. Working Committee members will be asked to provide input regarding the development of the Scenic Corridors map and regulations update. Future working committee meetings are scheduled on August 16th and November 1st. A representative from the Alachua County scenic corridors program will attend the August 16th meeting.

5. Scenic Corridor Criteria

Draft scenic corridors criteria were distributed and discussed.

6. Questions and Answers

Staff responded to attendee questions. Two attendees provided written comments, which are scanned at the back of the summary. Other comments are listed below:

- Would like to shift to the goal of preserving scenic corridors, rather than new plantings.
- Having eighty two roads designated scenic loses its meaning.
- The current program only applies to new development. As a result, implementation is made on a piece meal basis and is meaningless. Plantings do not occur in a coordinated method or at the same time.
- 7th Avenue and Bayshore Boulevard are really the only scenic corridors in this area.
- The planting of trees could actually block scenic views and may not be desirable in some areas.
- Consider adding light rail corridors and recreational trail corridors to the Scenic Corridor map.

Follow Up Items

- Prepare a case study of a few parcels that have developed adjacent to scenic corridors (including site photographs from the adjacent road).
- Prepare a map depicting the rural, suburban, and urban Future Land Use categories that correspond to the scenic corridor Land Development Regulations.
- Discuss the scenic corridors update with Tampa Electric Company.
- Determine whether any of the Hillsborough corridors could be nominated to state or national programs.
- Bring back information regarding how Land Development regulations have changed since 1992 pertaining to landscaping adjacent to road right-of-ways.
- Coordinate with other jurisdictions regarding the Scenic Corridors update.