

HUTCHINSON ISLAND COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Martin County, Florida

January 2014

The most beautiful island in Florida



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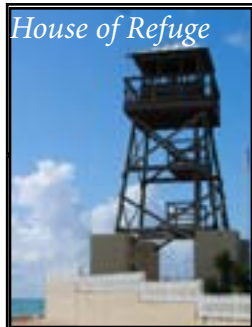
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Introduction & Overview



Area Summary

Area: Stuart, Hutchinson Island
Plan Initiation: September 8, 2011
Total Area: 1,595 acres

Area Highlights & Amenities:

- Quiet beaches that are free and easily accessible to the public
- Two public beachfront parks (Stuart Beach & Jensen Beach)
- Nesting destination for endangered sea turtles and unique Florida wildlife
- Year-round beautiful weather
- Paradise for boating, sailing, deep-sea fishing, golfing, swimming, surfing, shelling, and bird-watching
- Premier cultural attractions including the Elliott Museum and the House of Refuge
- Home of the nationally recognized environmental organization, Florida Oceanographic Society; a 57-acre marine life nature center that inspires environmental stewardship of Florida's coastal ecosystems through education, research and restoration programs
- Major tourist destination with two resorts (Marriott and the future Oceanside) and two access causeways
- Diverse land use including residential, vacation rentals, conservation areas, preserve areas and retail services



Florida Oceanographic Society

HUTCHINSON ISLAND is a barrier island 20 miles in length located within Martin County and St. Lucie County on Florida's Treasure Coast. Martin County's portion of the Island extends approximately 4 miles from Sailfish Point north along NE MacArthur Boulevard and SR-A1A/NE Ocean Boulevard to Jensen Beach Park (known from herein as "the Corridor.") The Island is easily accessible via the Stuart Causeway (Evans Crary Bridge) and the Jensen Beach Causeway.

In 1995, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) established a Municipal Service Taxing or Benefit Units (MSTU) district for the unincorporated areas of Hutchinson Island. The MSTU is an additional tax collected on an annual basis to support infrastructure upgrades and municipal services improvements on the Island.

Prior to 2012 all MSTU funds collected for Hutchinson Island were dedicated to its 4-mile beach program. In 2011 a volunteer organization known as the Hutchinson Island Coalition (Coalition) partnered with the Martin County Board of County Commissioners and other groups such as the Tourism Development Council to consider expanding MSTU funding beyond targeted beach improvements.

With a membership - consisting of condominium associations, single-family owner associations, non-profit organizations, and businesses - the Coalition worked diligently to create a preliminary Master Project Plan that was presented to the BOCC on September 8, 2011. Subsequently, a project engineer was assigned to the Coalition on a part-time basis to help further define the community's vision and transform the vision into an actionable plan.

The Coalition, with the assistance of the Martin County Engineering Department and Lucido & Associates land planning and landscape architect team, held a public open house on March 19, 2013 to gather broad community input and gain consensus on the vision for the future look of the Island. The feedback collected by participants was submitted to the Martin County Engineering Department on April 15, 2013 and has been synthesized in this Community Strategic Plan.

The objective of the 2014 Hutchinson Island Community Strategic Plan is to serve as a roadmap for targeted improvements and prioritization of projects utilizing the MSTU revenue stream, and other possible funding. The Plan recognizes that opportunities exists to further enhance the quaint style and natural ambiance of the Island, making it an even more unique and beautiful place - the jewel of Martin County.

As projects are implemented and tasks completed, the community will be one step closer to achieving the long-term vision for Hutchinson Island.

HUTCHINSON ISLAND COALITION COMMUNITY VISION

Retain a unique, quaint paradise island for its current residents while enhancing the environment to:

Entice tourists and visitors to make Hutchinson Island their vacation destination

Attact conferences to our two resorts

Captivate new homeowners to our many beautiful residential areas

Help our businesses and organizations on the island to succeed



Florida Oceanographic Society



Indian River Lagoon



Beach Trail



Nesting Sea Turtle

Location

MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA



EASTERN MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA



HUTCHINSON ISLAND MSTU BOUNDARY MAP



Existing Conditions

RESIDENTIAL

The predominant land use on Hutchinson Island is residential, consisting primarily of vacation and condominium developments along the Island's coast. These residential properties are comprised of thirty-five condominium associations with 2,500 residents, ten homeowner associations with 600 residents, seventy-five single-family homes, and an estimated 45 vacant residential lots.



COMMERCIAL

Hutchinson Island has a limited amount of land dedicated to commercial use with four locations on the island designated for future commercial development. Existing commercial businesses which support residents and visitors includes a mixture of retail, banks, resorts, and realty companies.



PUBLIC LANDS

State and County owned lands on Hutchinson Island include conservation areas, preserve areas, and vacant parcels that are currently undeveloped as shown in green. Developed sites include institutional and cultural attractions such as the Elliott Museum, Florida Oceanographic Society, and the House of Refuge as shown in purple. The entire Atlantic Coastline of the Island is open to the public with approximately 15 beach access points and two beachfront parks.



STREETS

The main streets on Hutchinson Island are NE MacArthur Boulevard, Jensen Beach Boulevard, and SR-A1A/NE Ocean Boulevard - the main north/south route that all residents of the Island must travel. The majority of the remaining streets on the island are private or gated. Due to physical and environmental constraints it is unlikely additional lanes will be added to the existing network.



Public Outreach

On March 19, 2013 an open house consisting of two identical sessions was held at the Marriott Resort at Indian River Plantation. The purpose of the open house was to bring local residents, organizations and businesses up-to-date on preliminary plans for enhancing Hutchinson Island and receive community feedback.

In preparation for the meeting the Hutchinson Island Coalition distributed a flyer to each resident on the Island, posted flyers in local businesses on the Island, and advertised the meeting in the Stuart News.

During the meeting presentations were given by Tom Lucido of Lucido & Associates, Mark Perry of the Florida Oceanographic Society, Diane Kimes of the Elliott Museum, and Jim Hudson and Dick Calolas of the Hutchinson Island Coalition.

Eleven manned exhibit booths provided residents the opportunity to ask questions and provide input. Exhibits included: Hutchinson Island Enhancement/Master Plan, Elliott Museum, Florida Oceanographic Society, Jensen Beach Cafe, Oceanside Resort, Medians and Landscaping, Gateway Signage, Jensen Beach Roundabout, Residential Crosswalks, Beach Restoration and Nourishment, and the Coalition. Feedback cards were also handed out and all attendees were encouraged to complete and return them to the Hutchinson Island Coalition. A sign-up sheet for membership into the Hutchinson Island Coalition and for future updates via the email distribution list was also made available to all participants. The entire open house session was videotaped and posted on the Martin County website. All feedback from the open house was categorized and submitted to the Martin County Engineering Department on April 15, 2013. This feedback has been used as the foundation of this Community Strategic Plan document.

The Hutchinson Island Coalition meets during the months of October through April. In addition, the Coalition has an Executive Steering Committee that meets periodically to set the agenda for Coalition meetings and to review architectural drawings and submissions by the Florida Department of Transportation. The Coalition will continue to host meetings and work closely with the community to implement the goals and objectives as outlined in this Community Strategic Plan.



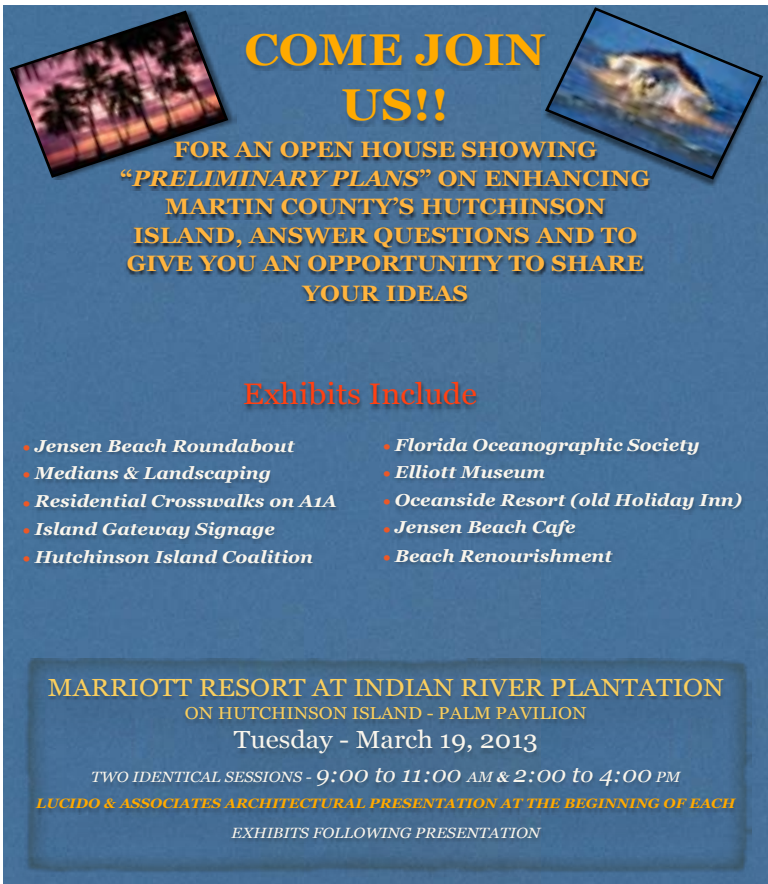
Hutchinson Island Open House



Exhibit 1: Master Plan Map



Exhibit 11: Hutchinson Island Coalition



Invitation to the Open House



Exhibit 5: Oceanside Resort



Exhibit 8: Jensen Beach Roundabout



Exhibit 7: Gateway Signage



Exhibit 2: Elliott Museum



Exhibit 9: Residential Crosswalks



Exhibit 6: Medians & Landscaping



Exhibit 4: Jensen Beach Cafe



Exhibit 3: Florida Oceanographic

Master Project Plan

SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

On March 2, 2011 a meeting was held with several residents, business owners, and organization directors to form a Hutchinson Island Coalition (Coalition). In this meeting a list of potential ideas of island beautification and safety enhancements were listed and organized. Challenges, benefits, goals and next steps were defined. A meeting with Martin County officials further determined how to proceed.

In September 2011 an initial project plan was presented to the Board of Martin County Commissioners (BOCC). Since that time, members of the Coalition have met with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to receive guidance on state requirements since many of the items on the project plan involved State Road A1A.

Lucido & Associates (a local architectural firm) was given a contract to help put some of these ideas into plans that could be used to submit to the FDOT for permitting.

On March 19, 2013 the Coalition, with the assistance of Martin County Engineering and Lucido & Associates, held an Open House for the Martin County Hutchinson Island residents to present all the projects and plans to date and to get feedback and additional ideas. Resident feedback from the Open House was combined into this Master Project Plan. The current Strategic Plan Document is the result of many hours dedicated to refining, organizing, detailing and planning projects for Martin County’s Hutchinson Island.

The projects which follow will be implemented in phases as final planning and approval, funding and resident support are provided.



Potential Project Map, 2011

- A. Signage “Welcome to Beautiful Hutchinson Island”
- B. Building Medians
- C. Landscaping along A1A
- D. Fountain to identify South part of the island (Round-about at A1A & MacArthur)
- E. Signalization at Old MacArthur
- E. Pedestrian crossings
- E. Expanding the roundabout at Jensen Beach
- F. Building Medians
- F. Pedestrian crossings
- G. Signalization at Old MacArthur
- H. Widen roundabout at Jensen Beach (Right hand turn lanes south bound on A1A & east bound on JB Causeway)
- H. Expanding the roundabout at Jensen Beach
- I. Enhancements to the Roundabout at Jensen Beach (Right hand turn lanes south bound on A1A and east bound on JB Causeway)
- J. Sprucing up the public entrances to the beach

Master Project Plan



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Master Project Plan

A. CLEAN AND PRISTINE ISLAND

Litter is a concern for residents along major corridors such as SR-A1A/NE Ocean Boulevard, the Jensen Beach Causeway, and NE MacArthur Boulevard; in addition to wetland areas, beaches, and both public and private parking lots. Littering can be hazardous to human health and have environmental consequences. Debris may be carried by storm drains into local waterways with potential for environmental contamination. Litter is harmful to wildlife and can cause external injuries or suffocation if ingested. Plastic, glass, and aluminum cans can also become home for disease-spreading insects such as flies and mosquitoes.

VISION

- Clean and pristine environment free of litter
- Causeway free of dead fish, hooks and trash
- Clean beaches
- Installation of small, inconspicuous trash cans in key locations
- Increase in littering fines

PARTNERS

- Martin County Parks & Recreation, Engineering, & Sheriff
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
- Adopt-A-Highway

ESTIMATED COSTS

Installation of Trash Receptacles: \$ per receptacle - Under Review

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Waste Management

NEXT STEPS

1. Establish a Coalition sub-committee to consider alternatives and assist in implementing the following action plans
2. Work with community businesses, organizations and the Adopt-a-Highway program to obtain sponsorship for areas along SR-A1A or the Causeway not currently “adopted.”
3. Work with Engineering & Parks and Recreation to install trash bins of appropriate size and design (as approved by the Coalition) along NE MacArthur Boulevard and the beaches, in addition to ensuring a regular schedule of trash collection.
4. Work with FDOT to install trash bins along the Corridor and

the Causeways and ensure regular schedule of trash collection.

5. Work with Martin County Sheriff Office to increase the littering fines on the Island.
6. Research feasibility of enhanced beach cleaning such as utilization of a tractor towed beach cleaner, which is currently not used in Martin County.



TRACTOR TOWED BEACH CLEANER
Image: M. Barber & Sons



Master Project Plan

B. COMMERCIAL & GOVERNMENT SIGNAGE

The residents of Hutchinson Island are concerned that many of the signs on Hutchinson Island do not fit with the vision or character of the community. This includes existing signs such as the Wells Fargo and Mobil gas station sign which are of considerable height and size.

The issue of sign clutter has also become a concern on Hutchinson Island. For example, close to the north end of the Island, there are roughly 25 “No Parking” signs within a relatively small area. Residents would prefer to see one sign at each of the entrances to the Island that says “No Parking in Right-of-Way.” There are many other signs along the Corridor that could be evaluated as to whether or not duplication exists and removal would be appropriate. There is also the option to combine with other existing signage.

Residents would like to explore the development of sign regulations that are specific to Hutchinson Island and reflect the appropriate community character as is done in the County’s redevelopment areas. The regulations would address requirements for installation of new signage and replacement of existing signage.

VISION

- Context sensitive signage that fits the vision and character of the Hutchinson Island Community
- Reduction in sign clutter through the removal of duplicate signage or combination of existing signage.

PARTNERS

- Martin County Growth Management Department
- Martin County Engineering
- Martin County Legal Department

ESTIMATED COSTS

Scope and fee for assistance from sign professional: \$ - Under Review

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

\$ - Under Investigation

NEXT STEPS

1. Establish a Coalition subcommittee to work with Martin County Engineering and Growth Mangement Departments and a sign professional to define changes in the law and identify sign clutter.
2. Work with Martin County Engineering staff to identify areas affected by sign clutter. Determine which signs can be removed or eliminated and which signs can be combined. Submit the request to the FDOT.
3. The Coalition should work with a sign professional to review currently permitted signs and define what changes they would like to see.
4. With assistance from a sign professional, the Coalition should conduct outreach to the public to determine which of the currently permitted signs are deemed appropriate or inappropriate by the community. Consider which sign types may be appropriate that are not currently in the code.
5. Based on the public outreach, work with a sign professional to develop illustrations of context sensitive signage.
6. Work with Growth Management staff and the Martin County Legal Department to review signage on the island and prepare a draft ordinance based on draft illustrations.
7. Present a sign ordinance to the Martin County Board of County Commissioners for adoption.



Master Project Plan

C. COMMUNITY IDENTIFICATION & WAYFINDING

Gateway features are desired on the Island as many visitors are unaware they have crossed the threshold of Hutchinson Island. Martin County Engineering has already identified locations on the island where gateway features could be installed and have reviewed the Florida Department of Transportation criteria. The two key locations identified are prior to the Jensen Beach Causeway roundabout and the foot of the Evans Crary Bridge.

In addition to its beautiful beaches, Hutchinson Island is also home to attractions such as the Elliott Museum, House of Refuge, and the Florida Oceanographic Center. Visitors are sometimes unaware of their whereabouts as they traverse the Island or incognizant of additional attractions and amenities.

While several designs for community identification and wayfinding signage have been presented to residents, there is no clear consensus to date. The most favorable images from the community workshops held on March 19, 2013 included the House of Refuge, Sea Turtle, Treasure Chest, Pelican, Heron, and Palm Tree. There was a consensus that signs should not be big and that any gateway signs located in the southern part of the island should be located before NE MacArthur Boulevard and should say “South Hutchinson Island.”

VISION

- Utilize signage as a way to brand an image for the Island
- Installation of “Beach Access” signage for all beach entrances
- Installation of “Welcome” signage and gateway features
- Installation of wayfinding signage throughout the island

PARTNERS

- Martin County Parks and Recreation, Tourism Development Council, and Engineering Department
- Martin County Convention and Visitors Bureau

ESTIMATED COSTS

Sign Design: \$ - Under Review
Construction & Installation: \$ per sign - Under Review

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Arts in Public Places Program

NEXT STEPS

1. Establish a coalition subcommittee to consider alternatives and the following action plans.
2. Host a public workshop with an illustrator to gain consensus on the design for wayfinding and identification signs.
3. Map the locations for the installation of wayfinding, community identification, and beach access signage which ensures maximum visibility.
4. Install signage as funding becomes available.



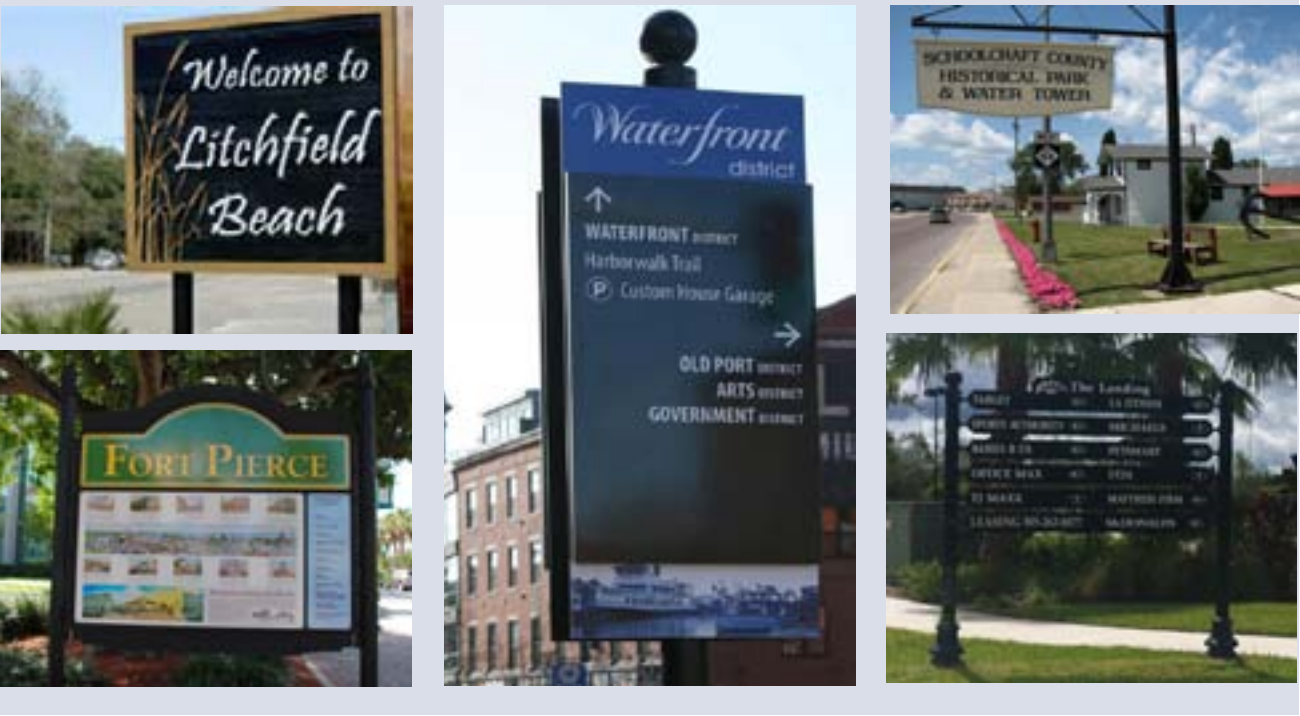
ABOVE: Gateway Signage Display at the Open House
BELOW: Potential Hutchinson Island Welcome Sign



Existing Conditions



Inspirational Images



Master Project Plan



Proposed A1A Corridor Plan by Lucido & Associates, 2013

Master Project Plan

D. JENSEN BEACH ROUNDABOUT ENHANCEMENTS

With the support of the Coalition, the Martin County Engineering Department is working with the Florida Department of Transportation to improve the performance and appearance of the roundabout at the intersection of Jensen Beach Boulevard and the Corridor.

The project entails widening the intersection to allow the addition of a right turn lane on SR-A1A/NE Ocean Boulevard for traffic headed south from St. Lucie County. In addition bike and pedestrian facilities will be improved. Landscape splitter islands will be added to A1A along with turtle friendly lighting. This work has been evaluated by the world renowned transportation engineer Michael Walwerk, the leading expert on roundabouts.

VISION

- Improved transportation benefits
- Aesthetically pleasing entryway to Jensen Beach Park
- Safely move pedestrian and bicycle traffic through the roundabout

PARTNERS

- Martin County Engineering
- Florida Department of Transportation

ESTIMATED COSTS

Total Construction Cost: \$ - Under Review

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- This project is fully funded and has been approved by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners. The project has been added to the County’s Capital Improvement Plan and is expected to begin construction in Summer 2014.

NEXT STEPS

1. Martin County Engineering will schedule a meeting with the Coalition in early 2014 to present the final design plans and garner feedback.
2. Monitor roundabout to assess the need for additional east-to-south turn lane.



View of Proposed Jensen Beach Roundabout Enhancement

Master Project Plan

E. LANDSCAPING

In addition to enhancing community aesthetics, appropriate landscaping such as landscaped medians can be used as a tool to increase safety and manage speed along roadways. The Corridor is an auto focused roadway with two travel lanes and occasional center and right turn lanes. The majority of landscaping along the corridor has been installed by private property owners or as part of a development project.

The Coalition has been working closely with Lucido & Associates, who have identified three preliminary landscape zones on the island along with a master landscape plan. The zones identified on the island are Gateway Zones, Urban Zones and Native Zones. With input from landscape architect Gene Barnes, Lucido & Associates is also in the process of developing a Landscape Pattern Book (LPB). The LPB will provide a master template of appropriate plant species, typical conditions, and an implementation strategy for businesses, organizations, and associations considering landscape improvements in or adjacent to the right-of-way.

VISION

There are many areas along the Corridor that are still in need of landscaping. The three major areas of focus identified by the Hutchinson Island Coalition for landscape improvements are as follows:

1. Both sides of the Corridor from NE MacArthur Boulevard to the Elliott Museum.
2. The area before the proposed Oceanside Resort past Jensen Beach Park.
3. The area coming onto the Island from Jensen Beach Causeway to the Jensen Beach roundabout.

PARTNERS

- Lucido & Associates
- Martin County Engineering
- Martin County Growth Management Department
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

ESTIMATED COSTS

MacArthur Blvd to the Elliott Museum \$ - Under Review

Oceanside Resort past Jensen Beach Park \$ - Under Review
Jensen Beach Causeway to Jensen Beach roundabout \$ - Under Review

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Under Investigation
- FDOT Highway Beautification Grant

NEXT STEPS

1. Have Lucido & Associates and Gene Barnes (from the Coalition) liaise with the Martin County Engineering Division to gain an understanding of the procedures necessary to obtain appropriate right-of-way use permits and maintenance agreements needed to facilitate landscape enhancements within the right-of-way by private entities.
2. Work with Martin County Engineering and Growth Management Department staff to review the intended landscape theme and ensure the plant palette meets all land development regulations and county code provisions.
3. Upon completion and acceptance of the Landscape Pattern Book (LPB) by the Hutchinson Island Coalition, encourage the Martin County Board of County Commissioners to officially adopt the LPB. Adoption will provide consistency in landscape design across the Island and ensure implementation of the community vision.
4. Present the three major areas of focus to the Board of County Commissioners for adoption into the Martin County Capital Improvement Project plan.
5. Work with FDOT to explore opportunities to add landscaped medians along the Corridor and implement the landscape plan.



Landscape Priority Area: NE MacArthur Boulevard to the Elliott Museum



Landscape Priority Area: Jensen Beach Causeway to Jensen Beach Roundabout

Master Project Plan



Landscape Priority Area: Proposed Oceanside Resort (former Holiday Inn) landscape improvement plans



*ABOVE: Master Landscape Theme for Hutchinson Island
BELOW: Sample Landscape Pattern Book*

Chapter 5
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R&D Design Guideline Supplement

MAIN ENTRANCE LANDSCAPING

- All required utilities including power poles, transformers, switch boxes, backflow preventors, etc., should be carefully coordinated by the developer with the City Master Developer and respective utility provider. Locations should be mutually selected where these utilities are accessible but not located in major view corridors or in front of major entrances, signage and/or other important elements of the power center. Failure to achieve proper coordination may result in the relocation these utilities by the TDR.
- Information and directional signs may be provided if they are designed as an integrated system to reflect the character of the overall R&D development. This is often accomplished with ornamental posts, frames, finish colors, etc.
- If earthen berms are incorporated into the entry design they should be integrated with the layout of the landscape beds to accentuate the forms and height of the beds. The berms should not be overly high but rather create subtle differences in grade and transition down where they cross designated sight triangles.
- Similarly, if security features are required at the front entrances and/or along major access drives of R&D sites, they should be incorporated as aesthetically acceptable options. These include security fencing, walls, bollards, gateways and guardhouses, etc., that are designed as a compatible extension of the building architecture, materials and overall appearance
- Landscaping of significant scale and extent to create an effective backdrop on each side of the main entrance access drive as well as in the median. The landscaping should be layered so that taller trees and/or palms are located in the background with understory accent trees and/or palms, shrubs, groundcovers and annuals located in the foreground. Large specimen shrubs and/or tall shrubs, etc., should be located under any canopy palms used in the background.
- Fewer species of groupings of trees and palms and larger shrub and groundcover beds are preferred to an overly complex design of many species and smaller beds.
- Shrub beds should reflect a graceful curvilinear design and all trees should be located entirely in or out of the beds.
- Grass sod, if used in the design should consist of a strip that follows and helps to define the curvilinear shrub beds and is wide enough to mow and maintain easily. Small fragmented patches of grass sod should be avoided.



- Other vertical hardscape design elements such as entry monuments or pedestrian gateways may be provided to enhance the main entry points provided that they are compatible with the overall architectural design of the center, are appropriate in terms of scale, detailing, finishes and location and meet the requirements herein.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN GUIDELINES

Main Entrance Landscaping

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DRAFT

Master Project Plan

F. LIGHTING

Lighting along the Corridor was a concern expressed by residents in the Hutchinson Island Open House. In many sections of the Corridor there are no lights illuminating the streets or the sidewalks. It was the opinion of many that it was important to have subdued lighting in order to keep the quaint ambiance of the island, but also to not interfere with turtle nesting season.

There was also concern about current lighting of several businesses (such as Publix) and the lighting on the Causeways. These lights are too bright and too tall in many cases for the character of the island.

VISION

- Locate sidewalk lighting along the Corridor
- Design lighting that is turtle friendly, low-illumination, and designed to highlight the character of the island.
- Replace current tall street light poles with shorter light poles and dimmer lights.
- Work with the businesses that have tall and/or bright lighting to replace with shorter/lower-illumination lighting.

PARTNERS

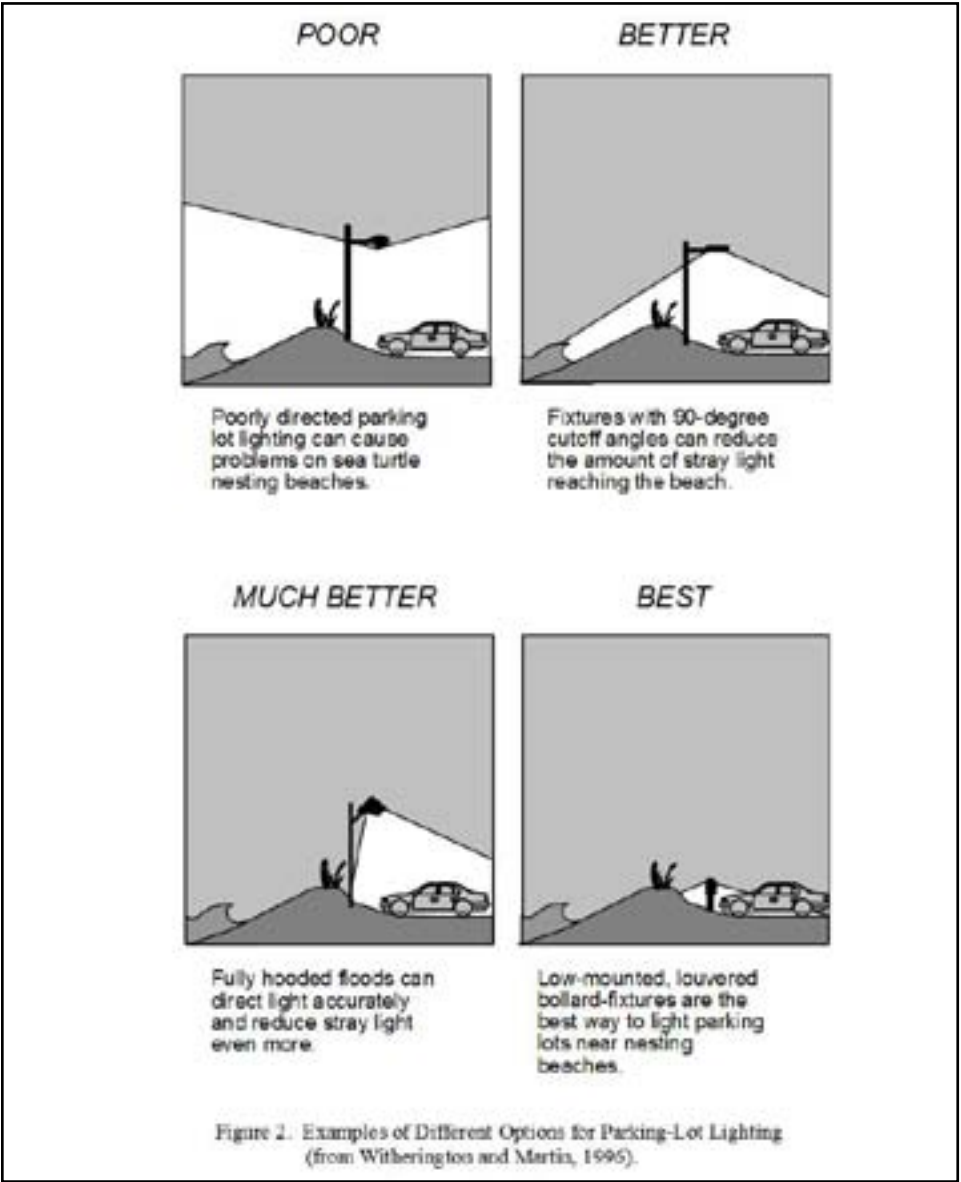
- Florida Power and Light
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Martin County Engineering

ESTIMATED COSTS - Under Review

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES - Under Investigation

NEXT STEPS

1. Establish a Coalition subcommittee to work with Martin County Engineering to review lighting alternatives. It is possible that more than one type of lighting may need to be considered - one type for the street and another for the sidewalks. Martin County Engineering has selected lighting for the Jensen Beach Roundabout improvements and this lighting may be considered for other street and/or sidewalk lighting.
2. Work with necessary agencies to determine viability.



FROM LEFT: County standard decorative street light proposed for A1A/Causeway roundabout; Parking lot lighting diagram ; baby sea turtle

Master Project Plan

G. PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS

Residents of the Island and members of the Coalition are concerned with two issues as it relates to crosswalks on Hutchinson Island. The first pertains to crosswalk conditions on the Corridor. While signage indicating that there are crosswalks along the Corridor exists, pavement markings at crosswalk locations are not clearly visible. The result is that there is little indication for drivers that pedestrians may be crossing ahead and they need to slow down. The lack of pavement markings also makes it difficult for pedestrians to be aware that crosswalks exist.

The second concern pertains to the insufficient number of crosswalks on the Island. There is a high density population on the island particularly in the winter months. This results in an increase in both vehicular and pedestrian traffic along the Corridor - the main thoroughfare used by both residents and visitors to reach their destination. Residents on the west side of the Corridor often traverse to the east side on foot to access the beaches; conversely residents on the east side cross the Corridor Boulevard to access the river, businesses and retail services available on the west side. The key areas that have been identified for crosswalk installations are Hutchinson House, Oceanview, Sandpebble Beach Club, Joe's Point, Rigel's Cove and Hutchinson Island Shops - an area where a pedestrian fatality occurred in nearby St. Lucie County in 2013. According to the FDOT Safety Study the agency has approved crosswalks with rapid flashing rectangular beacons (RFRB) at two of these locations - Hutchinson House and Hutchinson Island Shops.

A third concern is the existing bike facilities. Bike lanes are narrow and many cyclists feel more comfortable riding on the sidewalks; unfortunately, this places cyclists in conflict with pedestrians.

VISION

- Visible crosswalks which are appropriately designed to visually narrow the corridor and induce a reduction in vehicle speed while clearly indicating to both vehicles and pedestrians there is a crossing location.
- Installation of additional crosswalks in six priority areas:
 1. Hutchinson House

2. Oceanview
 3. Sandpebble Beach Club
 4. Joe's Point
 5. Rigel's Cove
 6. Hutchinson Island Shops
- Improved crossings to beach access points, particularly those with parking lots located on the west side of the Corridor.
 - There are two major intersections, with traffic lights, along the Corridor; MacArthur Boulevard and the intersection at Stuart Beach Park. It is the wish of the community to have these two intersections designed to be more attractive.
 - Safe bicycle facilities.

PARTNERS

- Martin County Engineering
- Florida Department of Transportation

ESTIMATED COSTS

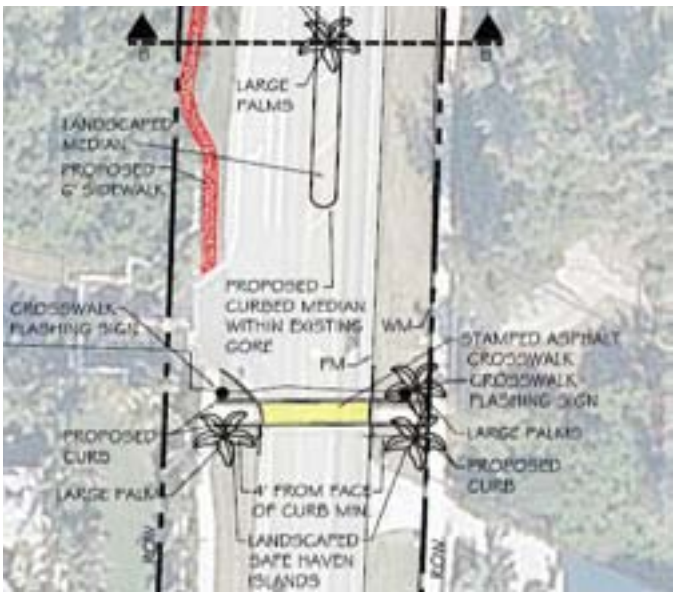
Crosswalk Design: \$ - Under Review
Crosswalk Construction: \$ per crosswalk - Under Review

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Under Investigation

NEXT STEPS

1. Establish a Coalition subcommittee to consider alternatives in design of crosswalks, intersection improvements, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
2. Work with FDOT and Martin County Engineering on appropriate typical section(s) for existing and future crosswalks. Utilize resources and findings such as the Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing Study to facilitate discussion.
3. With a consensus on the approved typical section(s) in place, work with Lucido & Associates on a consistent design for all crosswalks that is in keeping with the landscape theme for the Island.
4. Work with FDOT and Martin County Engineering to implement the approved typical section and landscape design.
5. Investigate funding opportunities



ABOVE: Lucido & Associates proposed crosswalk drawings and example of clearly marked crosswalk
BELOW: Crosswalks with rapid flashing rectangular beacons (RFRB) and example of bike lanes protected by a landscape buffer



Master Project Plan

H. PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS

Beautiful Hutchinson Island and its beaches entice both County residents and tourists to visit the area year after year. The entire Atlantic Coastline is open to the public with numerous entrances over the sand dunes. Access to the beach is one of the main features that makes Martin County a great place to live, vacation or retire. There are approximately 15 public beach access points on Hutchinson Island with signage installed at 8 of these access points. The community has identified the need to have consistent signs at beach entrances that make this valuable asset more visible. This includes educational signage, plaques, nature trails and amenities found within beach access points. The design should be attractive and uniform in size and shape.

In December 2013, FDOT agreed to provide beach access signs.

VISION

- Ensure all beach entrances have visible signage
- Ensure all beach amenities have visible signage
- Have signage that is consistent in size, content, color, materials
- Have a consistent landscape palette to complement beach signage and beach entrances
- Orient signage to favor visualization from the road

PARTNERS

- Parks and Recreation Department
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

ESTIMATED COSTS

Sign Design: \$ - Under Review

Construction & Installation: \$ per sign - Under Review

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Florida Recreation and Parks Association Grant
- National Scenic Byway Grant
- FDOT Highway Beautification Grant

NEXT STEPS

In conjunction with Community Identification & Wayfinding:

1. Establish a Coalition subcommittee to consider alternatives and assist in the implementation of the following action plans.
2. Host a community workshop to formalize signage design.

3. Work with Lucido & Associates to design a consistent landscape palette to complement beach entrances.
4. Work with the Parks and Recreation Department to adopt the agreed upon design for beach access signage & landscaping.
5. Identify beach access points that currently do not have signage and install adopted beach access signage.
6. Require damaged signs or signs in need of repair to be replaced with the adopted beach access signage.
7. As funding becomes available, replace existing signs with the adopted beach access sign and add landscaping to entrances.
8. Partner with FDOT to enhance proposed beach access signs.
9. Investigate pervious pavers at unpaved beach entrances.

Existing Conditions



ABOVE: Existing signage along beach access points and nature trails
BELOW: Erosion of an unpaved beach entrance and a plaque that lacks visibility in its current location



Inspirational Images



STANDARD
Limited Text
Large to Medium font size
High stability
Long distance visibility



POLE STYLE
Very Limited text
Big font size
Good Visibility
Medium/High stability



BANNER STYLE
Limited Text
Medium Font Size
Good Visibility
Medium stability



INFORMATIONAL
Rich Text
Small font size
Readable from a short distance
High stability

Master Project Plan

I. SIDEWALK EXTENSION ON SE MACARTHUR BOULEVARD TO SAILFISH POINT

There is a real need for sidewalks along SE MacArthur Boulevard to Sailfish Point. Due to the extremely narrow roadway conditions it is very dangerous for persons to walk or ride a bike in this area. One of the biggest barriers to implementation is the lack of County owned right-of-way along the corridor. The project would require property owners along SE MacArthur Boulevard to donate sufficient right of way or give a sidewalk easement to the County.

VISION

- Continuous sidewalk along SE MacArthur Boulevard that is wide enough to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians
- Improved safety along this stretch of road for all users

PARTNERS

- Property owners along SE MacArthur Boulevard
- Martin County Property Management Division, Engineering Department, and Growth Management Department

ESTIMATED COSTS - Under Review

- Cost to prepare surveys and documentation for sidewalk easement or right of way donations: \$ per property
- Cost to design and install sidewalks: \$ per linear foot

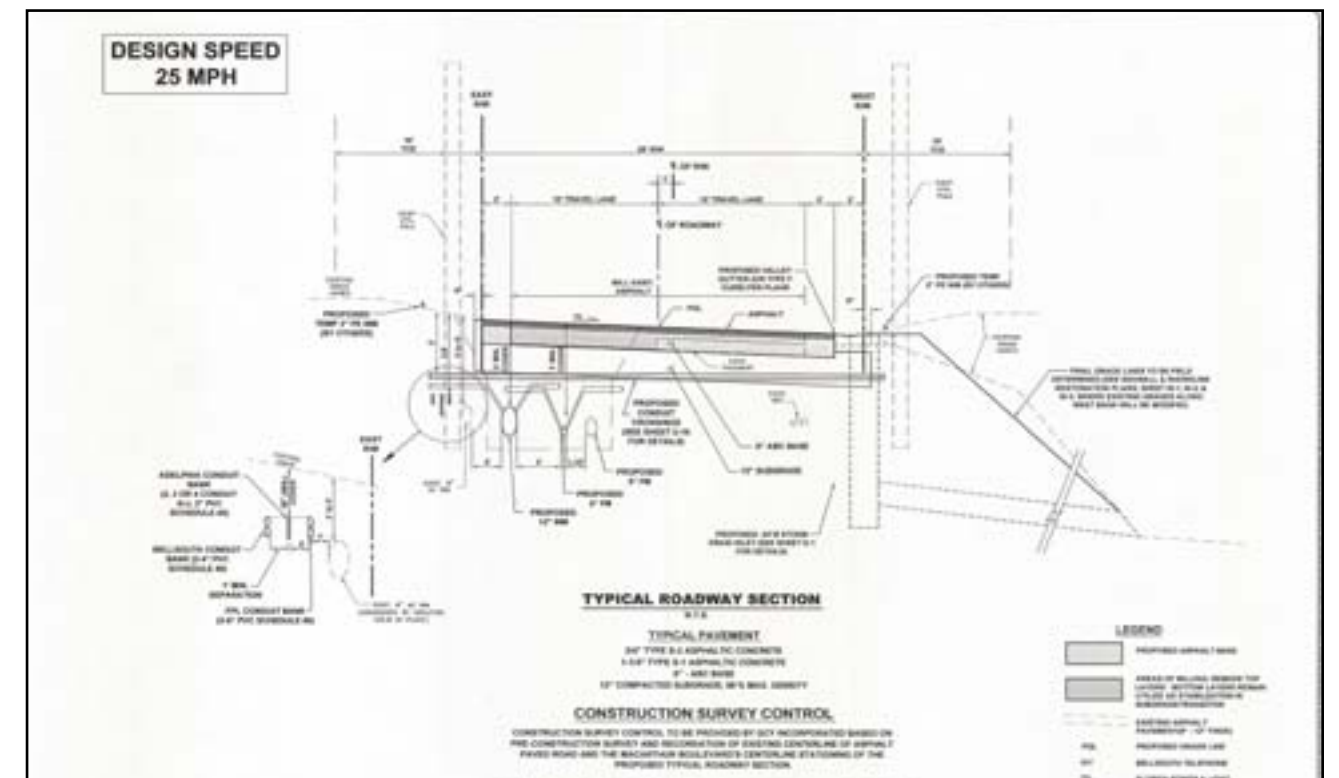
POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES - Under Investigation

NEXT STEPS

1. Conduct targeted outreach to residents and property owners along SE MacArthur Boulevard to gauge interest and level of support for future sidewalk installation.
2. Work with the County Property Management division to secure sidewalk easements or right of way donations from willing property owners.
3. Begin construction of sidewalks on any land along the corridor that is County owned
4. Install missing sidewalk links as easement agreements or right of way donations are executed.
5. Work with Engineering and Growth Management to explore a right of way requirement for all new development in the area.



ABOVE: Aerial showing existing and missing sidewalks
TOP RIGHT: Existing MacArthur Boulevard roadway drawing
BELOW RIGHT: Photo of missing sidewalk along SE MacArthur



Master Project Plan

J. SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION

According to a recent presentation made to Martin County by Florida Department of Transportation representatives, Florida had over 10,000 pedestrians and cyclists injured and over 600 fatalities on our roadways over the course of a year.

The Hutchinson Island Coalition has received several complaints about the speed of traffic along the Corridor. Traffic along the roadway typically travels at speeds higher than the posted 45mph speed limit. This has created a concern for the safety of both residents and visitors as the character of the road changes. These changes include additional ingress/egress access points as a result of new development projects including the addition of three high-rise bridges to the Island, an increase in the number of businesses and organizations, installation of an emergency signal, and increasing use of the corridor by bicyclists, walkers, and runners.

At a recently held Hutchinson Island Open House to discuss possible safety and landscaping enhancements to the island, one owner expressed her constant worry that one of her four school-aged children might be hit by traffic moving along the Corridor at high speeds. Many others highlighted the fact that the Island is home to an aging population of retired individuals who are constantly crossing the Corridor on foot, while vehicles are going by at speeds of 45 mph or more. The limited number of crosswalks and the lack of visibility of existing crosswalks serves to exacerbates the problem. Pedestrians are left to cross wherever possible while vehicular traffic is unaware that there may be persons crossing the street. There recently was a fatality involving a 13 year old boy who was struck while trying to cross the corridor. Residents want to be proactive in preventing this from happening again by reducing the speed limit on the Island. This will help to ensure no one visiting or living on the island becomes a future statistic.

There are two areas specifically, that the Coalition would like to be considered for a reduction in the speed limit. One area is from the Stuart Causeway to the entrance of Galleon Bay development. The second is the area from Seaside of Stuart condominiums north to the Martin County line, which includes the new proposed Oceanside Resort hotel, Jensen Beach Park and the Hutchinson

Island Shops. Martin County does have future plans for these areas that include some landscaped medians and newly designed crosswalks which are still in the design phase and which will be submitted to FDOT for appropriate approval and permitting. These design enhancements are of high priority to residents, and the community would like to see these enhancements completed as soon as possible.

VISION

- Increased safety on the Corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists
- Reduced speeds along certain areas of the Corridor

PARTNERS

- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
- Martin County Engineering and Growth Management Department

ESTIMATED COSTS

\$ - Under Review

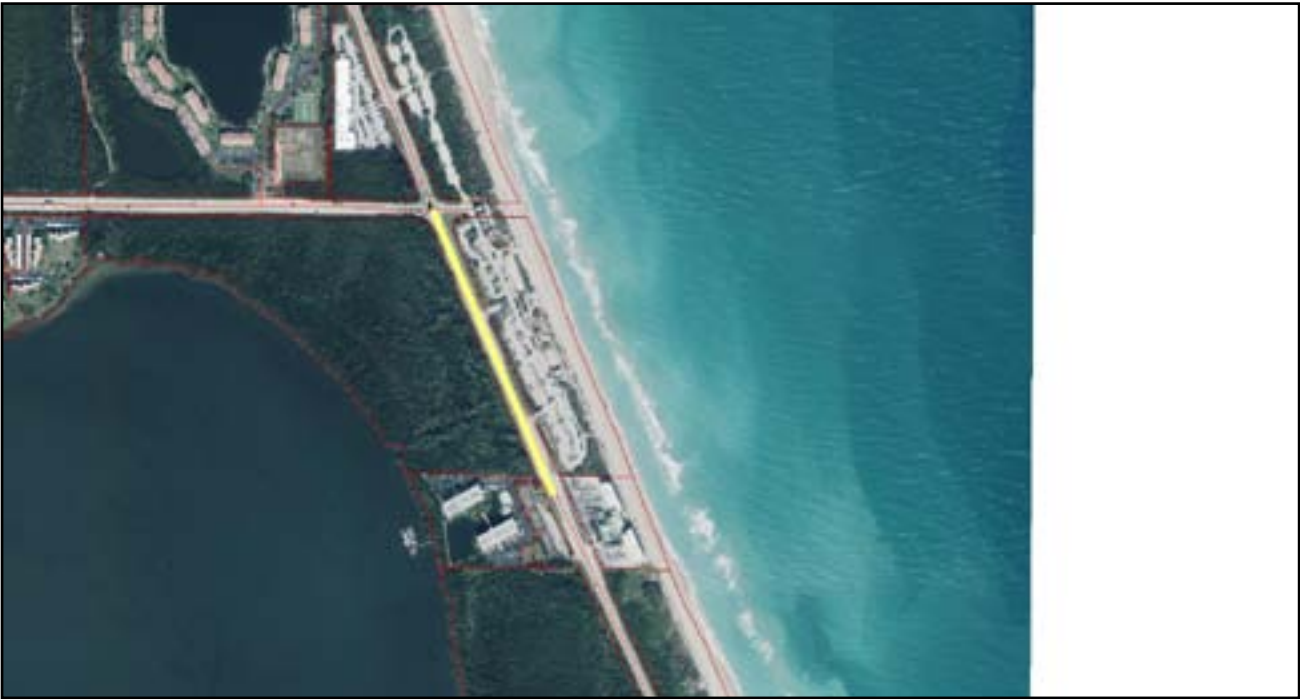
POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- FDOT

NEXT STEPS

1. Martin County staff has engaged FDOT in exploring speed limit reduction on SR-A1A/NE Ocean Boulevard and some speed limit changes have been recently approved. The Coalition should continue to work with Martin County and FDOT to improve conditions along the corridor and conduct speed limit studies where appropriate for a proposed reduction in the 45mph speed limit.
2. Continue dialogue with the Metropolitan Planning Organization / Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MPO/BPAC) to promote safer roads on the Island for all users.
3. Work with Growth Management staff to encourage future development projects to incorporate safety and speed reduction enhancements when new construction or redevelopment is taking place.

AERIAL SHOWING TWO MAJOR AREAS FOR SPEED REDUCTION APPROVED BY THE FDOT



Master Project Plan

K. UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

As a barrier island, Hutchinson Island is on the front line of approaching storms and is vulnerable to high winds. The Coalition would like to explore hardening of the power service in the community by undergrounding overhead transmission lines on the Island. Most of the private services have already been undergrounded.

Martin County has worked with FPL in the past in other areas to underground utilities. Martin County can work with the Coalition to initiate a procedure with FPL to explore the feasibility and cost to complete this work. The County can also work with new developments to implement undergrounding of utilities along the frontage of new projects. Underground piping is already available on MacArthur Boulevard to facilitate electrical service once funding is available.

VISION

- Underground transmission lines
- Hardened utility infrastructure

PARTNERS

- Florida Power and Light
- Martin County: Engineering Department, Property Management Division and Growth Management Department

ESTIMATED COSTS

FPL Preliminary Design & Cost Estimate: \$ - Under Review

Construction estimate: \$ - Under Review

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

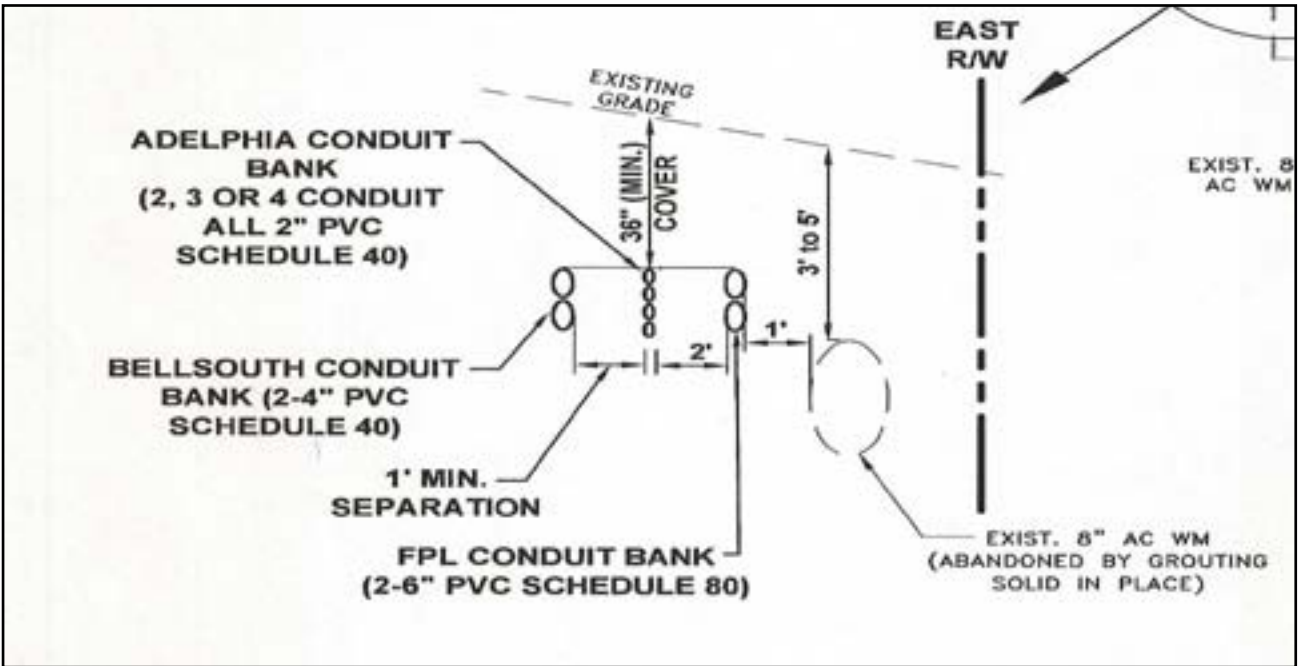
\$ - Under Investigation

NEXT STEPS

1. Engage FPL to develop a preliminary design and cost estimate for undergrounding overhead transmission lines including identifying locations for placement of transformers and switch boxes.
2. Work with Martin County Engineering to create a capital improvement project sheet once preliminary design and

construction estimate is complete which includes cost, funding sources, and timeline to completion.

3. Work with Growth Management staff to identify opportunities for new development to underground overhead utilities.
4. The Coalition should work with residents to obtain any necessary easements from private property owners.
5. Implement project as funding becomes available.



ABOVE: Detail of conduit installed on MacArthur Boulevard to accomodate future underground electric
BELOW: Typical images of overhead power line distribution along the Corridor



Master Project Plan

L. OTHER PROJECTS

The feedback from the Hutchinson Island Open House resulted in many other suggestions. A lot of these suggestions did not neatly fall within any one category above. However, consideration of the following suggestions should be reviewed while Coalition members and partners are considering designs, signs, changes in regulations/laws, or action plans dealing with these areas in mind.

1. Engineering Issues on the Corridor
 - a. Water does not drain quickly enough in front of Maritimes.
 - b. Water is frequently standing in the Jensen Beach Park between the sidewalk and the parking lot.
 - c. Regulations on mooring boats along the shoreline of the Indian River Lagoon.
 - d. Not all condominiums/associations have turn lanes or center turn lanes into their property. It is especially dangerous when having to cross on-coming traffic with no center turn lane and automobiles traveling at 45+ mph coming up behind your car. These conditions are critically dangerous at night. While making any road changes to the Corridor, this should be kept in mind and improvements made accordingly.
2. Parks & Beach Issues
 - a. There needs to be more bike racks at Stuart Beach and Jensen Beach Parks.
 - b. Need signage at beach stating rules (dogs - no dogs, leashes - no leashes for pets, fishing - no fishing).
 - c. Need some kind of barriers (ropes, wind breaks) to keep people off the dunes
 - d. Examine ways to have a nature walking trail connecting the Elliott Museum and the House of Refuge