

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
**SAMPLE APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION
 ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

2/2005
 Page 1 Of 3

Project Title: Evinston Historic Preservation Project: Evins-Wood House and Scenic Viewshed and CR 225 Road Enhancement

Project Sponsor (municipal, county, state, or federal agency, or tribal council):

Alachua County

Contact: **Ramesh Buch** Title: **Program Manager**

Address: **ACEPD, 201 SE 2nd Avenue, Suite 201. Gainesville, FL 32601**

Phone: **352-264-6800** FAX: **352-264-6852**

Priority (relative to other applications submitted by the Project Sponsor). .

Name of Applicant (If other than Project Sponsor): **Alachua County**

1. Qualifying Enhancement Activities:

Check the enhancement activity that the proposed project will address. **(NOTE: Checking all activities possible does not ensure or increase eligibility. Each activity checked must meet all criteria listed for that activity in Appendix A of FDOT Procedure #525-030-300, Transportation Enhancement Projects).**

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
- The provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrian and bicyclists
- X** Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- Scenic or historic highway programs, (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities)
- X** Landscaping and other scenic beautification
- Historic preservation
- Rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals)
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails)
- X** Control and removal of outdoor advertising
- Archaeological planning and research
- Environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
- Establishment of transportation museums

2. Project Description:

Use additional sheets as necessary to respond to the following:

(a) What type of work is being proposed? (Check all that apply)

_____ Planning Activities

_____ Project Development and Environmental Studies

_____ Engineering and Final Plans Preparation Work

X (public interest) Right of Way Acquisition **(scenic easement)**

_____ Construction

_____ Construction Engineering and Inspection Activities

(b) Describe how the proposed project is related to the intermodal transportation system by either function, proximity or impact. (One or more may apply).

The Evinston Historic Preservation Project: Evins-Wood House and Scenic Viewshed and CR 225 Road Enhancement project is a re-submittal of the original project, *the Evinston Historic Preservation Project to protect the Wood & Swink Old Country Store and Post Office, the Wood's Packing House and the Evins-Wood House*, that was submitted in 2005 by Alachua County. Only a portion of the project, the acquisition of a scenic easement on the Evins-Wood House and property, is being re-submitted because matching funds are available from the Alachua County Forever land acquisition program.

The Evinston Scenic View and Road Enhancement project relates to the intermodal transportation system because of its proximity to the transportation system and the impact that a permanent easement will have on the long-term protection of a scenic viewshed on County Road (CR) 225. The project will also beneficially impact the scenic beauty of approximately two miles of the transportation system for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists by planting native wildflowers on CR 225, which stretches from CR 346 south to Alachua County's southern boundary.

The acquisition of a scenic conservation easement on the 42-acre Ashley Wood property will permanently preserve a scenic vista that is located along a scenic road designated by the state of Florida. County Road 225, also known as the Henry Deaver Wood Memorial Road, is a loop road of the Scenic U.S. 441 "Old Florida Heritage Highway."

The A. Wood property is an idyllic pastoral landscape framed by a mixed upland forest with native pine, oak, magnolia, hickory, maple, and other hardwoods. Beneath the trees are scrub palmetto, wild plum, wire grass, goldenrod, purple astor, beauty berry, and many other natives plants and vines. The pasture has a significant uphill slope and is affectionately called "Hickory Ridge" by town folk. At the top of the hill, is an historical 1885 house, one of the first homes to be built in Evinston by one of the first families – the W. D. Evins family, after whom the town is named and who are also the ancestors of Ashley Wood. During the winter, several sandhill cranes can be seen forging in the pasture area between the historical house and CR 225; and occasionally, there can be up to 30 cranes in the pasture at one time.

(c) Where is the project located (and what are the termini, if appropriate)? Include location map.

The project is located in Alachua County in the unincorporated area of Evinston. The A. Wood house is located at 8414 SE 182nd Avenue (the entrance is off CR 225) (Parcel # 18354-016-000). The property is located in Section 32, Township 11 South, and Range 21 East. (See included maps 1 and 2)

Native wildflowers will be planted along CR 225, which is a two-lane paved roadway with a 2.1 mile length that runs north and south through the town of Evinston in southeast Alachua County. The road's south boundary in Alachua County is SE 185th Avenue (Figure 1), which is the Alachua-Marion County line road. The road continues on southward into Marion County where it ends in about 2 miles at the Boardman Road. The north terminus is SE CR. 346 (Figure 2), known as the River Styx Road, which runs between Micanopy and the Cross Creek Road. The road is currently listed as a Florida Scenic Highway and in 2005 was designated the H.D. Wood Memorial Highway, named for Henry Deaver Wood, a past Evinston businessman, postmaster, county commission chair, and four-term Alachua County commissioner.

- (c) Summarize any special characteristics of project. Provide typical section drawings for appropriate projects.

Scenic significance

CR 225 is one of the county's most scenic roadways (Figures 3-6). Much of the landscape in Evinston is much as it was almost 100 years ago. (See enclosed excerpt from Fredrick W. Wood's writing titled *Evinston, Home – God's Country*.)

The road follows a slightly rolling terrain and is located between two large bodies of water, Orange Lake and Fish Prairie. Two creek beds flow under the roadway. The middle location provides magnificent views of the lake, pastures, marshes, and woodlands. This area is frequently photographed and painted by the art community, with annual seven-day "Paint Out" events scheduled for 50-100 artists and patrons.

In the southern section of the roadway, an annual spring blooming season of native coreopsis and phlox bring hundreds of visitors to the area to view the wildflowers. The northern mile of road is lined with native pine, oak, magnolia, hickory, maple, and other hardwoods. Beneath the trees are scrub palmetto, wild plum, wire grass, goldenrod, purple astor, beauty berry, and many other natives plants and vines (Figure 7). The unspoiled character of the roadway with little adverse land use and structures provides an excellent wildlife habitat along both sides of the road (Figure 8). This attracts many wildlife enthusiasts and bird watchers. The fall and winter sandhill crane migration brings thousands of the birds to the pastures along the road. In addition to the sandhill cranes, eagles, hawks, osprey, and swallowtail kites, as well as many songbirds, are regularly viewed. Often deer, bears, otters, wildcats, foxes, raccoons, opossums, and alligators are seen. Many snakes, amphibians, and other reptiles are also seen crossing the roadway.

Directly across from the A. Wood property is a 172-acre property owned by Ashley's brother Freddie, which has been protected by a permanent conservation easement by Alachua County. Freddie's property borders Orange Lake and the rolling landscape is dotted with clusters of live oaks and palm trees that allow for an unobstructed view of Orange Lake and feeding grounds for sandhill cranes. The family has a strong commitment to protecting their family's heritage and land. Both properties have been in the Wood family for over 100 years and are "Century Pioneer Family Farms, as designated by the Florida Agricultural Museum. Freddie and Ashley graze cattle in their pastures and the cattle visual enjoyment to the country landscape.

The conservation easement will protect a currently unspoiled landscape and enhance the scenic beauty of the transportation system, but urbanization threatens the natural beauty of CR 225; making it desirable to assure its preservation. The viewshed of

the scenic highway transportation system would be severely impacted if the vista of A. Wood's property was not a part of the scenic viewshed.

There is always a degree of urgency to protect both the land and scenic roads as they exist today. Although growth in this area is not as rampant as the northwest Alachua County area, the area will continually be pressured as land values rapidly increase and current generations who have protected the environment age and pass on. There are constant offers from developers who seek to purchase, sell, and/or develop the properties.

Cultural significance

This area has been populated for thousands of years due to the fertile land, abundant game and vegetation, and access to water. In the 1950s, a Native American village was excavated by the Florida Museum of Natural History (Figure 9). Projectile points, pottery, and ancient implements are abundant in many of the fields and forests adjacent to the road. The road is shared by all and used daily for multiple recreational uses including pedestrians walking for health and scenic beauty; horseback riders, who favor the broad shoulders of the road and little traffic; and bicycle and motorcycle riders, who enjoy the beauty and solitude of the roadway (Figure 10). Large groups of bicycle riders as well as solitary riders are seen daily on the road regardless to weather or season. As stated earlier, the roadway is used constantly by artists, photographers, naturalists, birdwatchers, and native plant and wildflower enthusiasts. The road is also used weekly by tour busses carrying visitors who come to the Micanopy, Cross Creek, Evinston, and McIntosh area to enjoy the antiques, historical attractions, parks, natural areas, and scenic beauty.

History

This roadway was originally a dirt road that linked Evinston with Boardman to the south and the River Styx Road to the north. It originated about 1880 with the establishment of the Florida Southern Railroad line that linked Gainesville and Ocala and was located next to the roadway. Originally, the road crossed the railway tracks directly north of the Evinston depot, and then ran 2 miles north on the east side of the railroad. The section from the county line to the original crossing was about 100 yards and was the only paved section for many years. In 1958, after the depot was moved, the road was paved. A section of the roadway was moved to the west of the tracks, took the east section of the community park and playground, and now crosses the tracks about 100 yards further north in an "S" curve at SE 182nd Avenue (Figure 11).

The paving of the road also created a slight relocation of the Evinston Community Store and Post Office, a National Historic Landmark structure (Figure 12), a restructuring of the town's packinghouse, and repositioning of the park and playground (Figure 13). North of the town, the road remains very near the original historic location. In 1981, the railroad tracks were removed leaving the roadway without its original transportation partner. The town's historic marker (Figure 14), located on the shoulder of the roadway discusses the town, depot, post office, and road. These structures, the town, and road are also listed on the county's "Southeast Alachua County Historic Tour Guide."

With the development of the Interstate system and the four-laning of U.S. 441, all to the west of Evinston, the road was used less for a transportation corridor. In the past 60 years, the road has become more of a scenic and recreational roadway. A number of historic structures can be viewed from the road through and near the town of Evinston (Figure 15).

Partnerships

The active project partners include Alachua County Forever who will acquire and annually monitor the scenic conservation easement and The Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. (<http://www.conserveflorida.org>) and The Florida Wildflower Federation (<http://floridawildflowerfoundation.org/index.html>), who will lead and support the beautification effort for the 2.1 mile right of way on CR 225.

The proposed project will help fulfill the goals of additional partners such as the Old Florida Heritage Highway Master plan to increase the scenic beauty of the roadway through native wildflower plantings and through permanent protection of A. Wood property, which one of the larger remaining unprotected parcels that border CR 225. The Scenic 441 Old Florida Heritage Highway Committee is seeking national designation of the roadway and loop road (Figure 16).

The road is also in the process of being designated a Scenic Road by Alachua County. Only two remaining steps need to be taken in order for the designation to take effect – the official public notice and the public hearing by the County Commission.

The proposed project will also complement the historic, cultural, and recreational goals of both Alachua County and the state of Florida.

(e) Describe the project's existing right of way ownerships. This description shall identify when the right of way was acquired and how ownership is documented (i.e. plats, deeds, prescriptions, certified surveys).

Alachua County owns the right of way on CR 225. The land and historic house are in the Ashley M. Wood Life Estate.

(f) Describe any proposed right of way acquisition, including expected matching fund source, limitations on fund use or availability, and who will acquire and retain ownership of proposed right of way.

No right of way will be acquired.

(g) Describe any related project work phases that are already complete or currently underway.

The FW Wood conservation easement has been completed and protected in perpetuity the eastern scenic view of CR 225.

(h) Other specific project information that should be considered.

The Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. a not-for-profit land trust, will lead the beautification effort along the county right of way on CR 225. The Conservation Trust has been working with Evinston community members to ensure protection of the scenic and historic character of the historic town and the Cross Creek area, both located near Orange Lake. The Conservation Trust will work with the Florida Wildflower Federation to plant appropriate wildflowers for the area. Reseeding wildflowers will be planted in late fall to winter at designated areas along the 2.1 mile portion of CR 225. The flowers will include softhair coneflower, wand goldenrod, standing cypress, black-eyed Susan and several types of coreopsis.

3. Project Implementation Information:

Attach documentation as exhibits to this application.

(a) Describe the proposed method of performing (i.e. contract or in-house) and administering (i.e. local or state) each work phase of the project. If it is proposed that the project be administered by a governmental entity other than the Department of Transportation, the agency must be certified to administer Federal Aid projects in accordance with the department's **Local Agency Program Manual** (topic no. 525-010-300).

Alachua County has submitted and completed its LAP certification to FDOT.

- (b) Describe any public (and private, if applicable) support of the proposed project. (Examples include: written endorsement, formal declaration, resolution, financial donations or other appropriate means).

Sue M. Cobb, Secretary of State; The Micanopy Historic Preservation Trust; The Alachua County Historical Commission; the Alachua County Historic Trust; Matheson Museum, Inc.; the Micanopy Historical Society Museum; and the Old Florida Heritage Highway, a Florida Scenic Highway Committee have endorsed the Evinston/Orange Lake Project. Included here are letters of support from the Old Florida Heritage Highway Corridor Management Council and the Alachua County Land Conservation Board supporting the specifics of the proposed project are included here.

- (d) Describe the proposed ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the project when it is completed.

Alachua County will complete the acquisition of the A. Wood conservation easement. Its responsibilities will include annual monitoring of the terms of the easement. The Wood family will continue to own and maintain the 42 acre property with the conservation easement which will restrict future development and any obstruction to the scenic view. Alachua County will be responsible for maintenance of the right of way as it currently is and will time mowing to complement the planting of the wildflower additions.

- (d) Describe source of matching funds and any restrictions on availability.

When approved by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, will be responsible for the 20% match, of which the landowner is willing to donate a portion. These costs are an appropriate use of the Wild Spaces & Public Places Funding. The County's Land Conservation Board is prepared to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the project for final funding upon receipt of this award.

The Florida Wildflower Federation is committed to funding \$1000 for wildflower plantings. Evinston Community members and CTF volunteers will contribute the bulk of additional in-kind labor for wildflower plantings.

- (e) Other specific implementation information that should be considered.

It has been recognized by all the parties interested in preserving the scenic landscape of Evinston, that this application may require additional refinement and assistance from the FDOT District 2 staff. As has been stated in the project description above, this very unique vestige of Florida's past fits in perfectly with the area's interest and emphasis on historic preservation and eco-tourism. We look forward to working with FDOT staff in this endeavor.

References cited in report:

***South West Alachua County Historic Tour Guide*, Researched and compiled by the Alachua County Historical Commission.**

***Evinston, Home – God's Country*, Fredrick W. Wood.**

4. Project Cost:

What is the total estimated cost of the work requested to be funded as an enhancement project through this application?

Planning Activities. \$ _____

Project Development and Environmental Studies. \$ _____

Engineering and Final Plans Preparation Work. \$ _____

Right of Way Acquisition. \$ _____

Construction. (wildflowers, garden implements,
Soil embellishments, \$500 at \$15/hr for 30 hr labor) \$2500 _____

Construction Engineering and Inspection Activities. \$ _____

Other. (Describe) \$ 315,000 (purchase of scenic conservation
easement at \$7500 per acre for 42 acres)

TOTAL: \$ _____

How will the project be funded?

FDOT Enhancement Funds \$253500 + Local \$ 64000 = Total \$ 317,500

FDOT Enhancement Funds 75% + Local 25% = 100%

CERTIFICATION OF PROJECT SPONSOR

I hereby certify that the proposed project herein described is supported by Alachua County,
(municipal, county, state or federal agency, or tribal council)
and that said entity will: (1) provide any required funding match; (2) enter into a maintenance agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation; (3) comply with the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Acquisition Policies Act for any Right of Way actions required for the project, and (4) support other actions necessary to fully implement the proposed project. I further certify that the estimated costs included herein are reasonable and understand that significant increases in these costs could cause the project to be removed from the Florida Department of Transportation work program.



Signature

Ramesh Buch
Name (please type or print)

Program Manager
Title

06-01-2009
Date

FOR FDOT USE ONLY

	YES	NO
Application Complete	_____	_____
Project Eligible	_____	_____
Implementation Feasible	_____	_____
Include in Work Program	_____	_____



Painting of Evins-Wood Historic Home by Elaine Hahn, as viewed from CR 225.

Excerpted from
Evinston, Home -- God's Country --
 by Frederick W. Wood

Mr. Wood, a resident of Evinston, is a great-grandson W. D. Evins who settled in Evinston in 1880

Our Town - Our settlement, which straddles the Alachua-Marion County line, is about 110 years old. Records show our post office to have been chartered in 1882. The railroad and the depot (both now gone) were also built that same year. The depot was discontinued by the Atlantic Coastline Railroad in the early 1950s, and was (literally) picked up and moved a short while later to be used as a barn and storage building on the farm of the Richardson brothers. It functioned as such until the mid 1980s, when it was totally destroyed by in a fire. The railroad was used until the early 1980s. After the trains stopped running in 1982, it was taken up and all traces removed. The railroad was here exactly 100 years.

Besides the railroad and depot, in its early period of settlement Evinston had (at one time or another, but not all at the same time) four or five stores, a blacksmith shop, a barber shop, and a grist mill. A second railroad also ran outside of town about two miles west of us. Its name was the "T. and J." (Tampa and Jacksonville) and it was discontinued in the 1940s.

Evinston also had schools for both White and Black children. The White school building was located a little to the west of the Evinston United Methodist Church. It was built in 1891. Until then, the school had been held in a building next to the (then) Center Point Presbyterian Church (now the site of the Mount Elliah Baptist Church). Mrs. Anna Evins Wood an early student later taught at this first school site. Mrs. Jesse Wilson and Mrs. Kate Hemphill were early teachers at the Evinston school. This school was discontinued in 1924 and the pupils were moved to classes in Micanopy. Mrs. W. A. Johnson, a long-time teacher in Evinston, made the move also and continued to teach at the Micanopy school for many years. The Evinston school for Black children, started about 1942 and discontinued in 1950, was held in the Mount Olive A.M. E. Church. Mrs. Nancy Lee Perry Gill taught there for many years. The school is discussed later in the chapter about Evinston sites.

We, here in Evinston, consider our town, with its 100 year history, to be old. Actually, Man has been in this area constantly for over 10,000 years. I, being a farmer, have found arrowheads (projectile points) over the fields I tend that date back to the Clovis Period of early Man in Florida (10 thousand B. C.). I have also found points from all the periods following that time, and from many different Indian cultures. In addition, I found strange, handmade bricks on a bluff overlooking Orange Lake. Early records say a Spanish Mission was located near us in the 1500s--maybe this was the location.

My father repeated stories that his ancestors told of an early trading post that was on the northeast side of our property. Supposedly it was operated by a man named Baxter who traded with the Indians in the early 1800s. A few large rocks are all that remain of the building there. About a quarter mile from this site, to the southwest, a team from the University of Florida located the remains of an Indian village. Points, pottery, and artifacts found there dated to the last Indian period in our area, the Pinellas Period. This is referred to as the last period for projectile points because after this time the Indians began using fire arms. The finding of this village adds very much to the stories of Baxter and his trading post. As to who told Baxter's story to my people, I know not! This information has been lost in time.

Micanopy, the town about three miles north of us, is said to be the second oldest city in Florida. Probably the first White family to permanently settle here in Evinston were the Basil Reeveses from North Carolina, about 1875. Their home, now gone, was located approximately one quarter mile east of the Evinston Park, on the land owned presently by Richardson Brothers Farm. The old Reeves home burned in 1954. At this time no Reeves descendents live in Evinston, although the present day Patterson family, whose ancestors came here to work for the Reeveses, live close by.

The second family to locate here were the J. L. Wolfendons from Wisconsin. Their first home was a little to the east of the present home of Mrs. Nancy Richardson. The first Wolfendon home was torn down many years ago. The second one was built a short distance northwest of the first home site. After his death, this house was home to J. L. Wolfendon's grandson, Leroy Richardson, and his family. Mrs. Leroy Richardson continues to reside there today. This house was built in 1892; the date that the first Wolfendon home was built is no longer known.

P. K. Richardson, Mr. Wolfendon's son-in-law, lived for a few years after his marriage in the original Wolfendon home. In 1909, he built a new house to the west of the original one. After his death in 1947, his son, Walter W. Richardson and family along with P. K.'s widow lived in this home. Walter's wife, Mrs. Nancy Richardson, lives there now. There are several pretty old homes in Evinston--this house and grounds always stood out to me as the prettiest! Many of J. L. Wolfendon's descendents still live in Evinston. They are the Richardson families.

The third family to settle in Evinston were my ancestors, the W. D. Evins family. They arrived in the early 1880s and came from Anderson County, South Carolina. They built a small house a little to the southwest of the larger house, built in 1886, which still stands today. The small, original house was torn down in the early 1940s. The name of the spot on which the second house was built was called "Hickory Ridge" and is still named this today.



Alachua County Advisory Board Program

Land Conservation Board

Jack Hauptman, Chair
Tom Hocht, Vice Chair
D.J. Chandler, Secretary

Memorandum

Date: May 29, 2009

To: Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

From: Jack Hauptman, Chairman
Land Conservation Board

Subject: Letter of Support for the County's application; "Evinston Scenic View and Road Enhancement" to the Florida Department of Transportation "Transportation Enhancement Project: Surface Transportation Program.

The Land Conservation Board wholeheartedly supports the "Evinston Scenic View and Road Enhancement" application to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) "Transportation Enhancement Project: Surface Transportation Program. We ask the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approve submitting this grant for funding consideration by the State.

The 2009 application would provide improvement for travelers on Scenic Road CR 225 from CR 346 south to the Alachua County southern boundary and conserve a 42-acre easement on the Ashley Wood property on CR 225. The proposed project has two outcomes: first it will help fulfill the goals of conservation of the existing Alachua County Forever (ACF) Lochloosa Wildlife Connector project by increasing the conserved acreage in the Lochloosa Lake area; and second, it enhances the scenic beauty of CR 225 in the very picturesque community of Evinston.

The scenic easement will protect the Wood property which one of the larger remaining unprotected scenic parcels that border the described segment of CR 225. Ensuring the scenic view of this property will support the historic nature and natural beauty of this rural Florida community.

The Wood property consists of approximately twenty-seven acres of improved pasture and approximately nine acres of upland mixed forest, with the remaining approximately five acres containing a depressional wetland feature, a small borrow pit with standing water at the time of the site visit, a historical 1885 house, and the owner's residence. The owner stated that there are often up to 30 sandhill cranes foraging in the pasture area between the historical house and CR 225.

Finally, this project will also complement the existing investment of Alachua County. Last year, the ACF program, using a federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program grant, purchase a conservation easement on 170 acres on the west side of CR 225 directly across from the subject parcel.

It is our understanding that, if funded by FDOT, the County will be responsible for the 20% match, of which the landowner is willing to donate a portion, and the long-term monitoring of the easement. These costs are an appropriate use of the

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E-Mail: landconservation@alachuacounty.us ■ Home Page: www.alachuacountyforever.us

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Wild Spaces & Public Places Funding and the LCB is prepared to recommend the BoCC approve the project at that time.

In summary, improvement to the bicycle and pedestrian use of Scenic Highway (CR 225) coupled with the significant scenic protection of the Wood property will complement the historic, cultural and recreational goals of both Alachua County and the state of Florida. If we may be of any further assistance, please contact Ramesh Buch at 264-6804.

JH/rpb

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Randall H. Reid, County Manager
Chris Bird, Director of Environmental Protection
Ramesh Buch, Alachua County Forever Land Conservation Program Manager



Old Florida Heritage Highway, Alachua County

May 29, 2009

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
12 SE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32602-2877

RE: Evinston Scenic View and Road Enhancement; Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.

Dear Commissioners,

The Old Florida Heritage Highway (OFHH) Corridor Management Council voted at the meeting of May 27 to support the application by the Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. (CTF) for a grant application the Florida Department of Transportation "Transportation Enhancement Project: Surface Transportation Program" to provide a scenic easement along CR 225. This proposal will provide improvement for travelers on CR 225 from CR 346 south to the Alachua County southern boundary and conserve a 42 acre scenic easement on CR 225. The project will help fulfill the goals of the Old Florida Heritage Highway Master plan to **increase the scenic beauty of the roadway through native and wildflower plantings** for a two-mile segment of CR 225. The scenic easement will protect the Ashley Wood property which is one of the larger remaining unprotected parcels that border the described segment of CR 225. Ashley Wood's property consists of approximately twenty-seven acres of improved pasture and approximately nine acres of upland mixed forest, with the remaining approximately five acres containing a depressional wetland feature, a small borrow pit with standing water at the time of the site visit, an historical 1885 house, and the owner's residence. There are often several sandhill cranes forging in the pasture area between the historical house and CR 225, occasionally up to 30 crane individuals. **This project will implement the Corridor Management Plan Strategy 1.2.4.; "Work with property owners within the corridor to manage the viewscape and intrinsic resources [eg. Provide incentives for management of sandhill cranes]."**

CR 225 connects to historic Evinston and provides views of Orange Lake. The patches of forest that remain near Evinston hint of a past landscape form that demonstrates the larger concept of landscape patterns within the region; namely a transition from a more karst topography in the northern part of the scenic byway corridor to a more dry and upland habitat in the southern part of the corridor.

We anticipate that the outcome of the December 2008 application for National Scenic Byway designation will be announced by the federal government in Fall 2009. A photograph of the Evinston Wood & Swink Post Office was included with this application as the representative photo for the Old Florida Heritage Highway. This structure is on the National Register of Historic Places, and there are nine additional structures in Evinston identified as potentially eligible for a local register and contributing to a historic district in the "Historic Structures Survey of Unincorporated Alachua County, June 2000." Protecting the scenic easement in the vicinity is very important to preserving the intrinsic quality. I have been notified by Debrah Miller, FDOT Project Specialist & District 2 Scenic Highway Coordinator, that regardless of the outcome of the national designation application that FDOT will be providing marketing and financial planning to our byway during the upcoming fiscal year.

The issue of heritage corridors ties perfectly with tourism—building cultural resources and recreation resources, and then linking them as tourist attractions allowing access by bicycle or car, and building economic development from that theory of tourist attractions. For this reason the Old Florida Heritage Highway Corridor Management Council, representing state park staff and citizen support organizations, the Micanopy Chamber of Commerce and Historical Society, local business and land landowners, supports the protection of the scenic quality of CR 225 by this grant for a scenic easement.

OFHH Chair David Carr also serves on the Board of the CTF, Inc. (the grant applicant), so I am providing this letter concerning the Corridor Management Council unanimous support and plan guidance. If I can provide any further information on this matter or concerning the Master Plan please let me know.

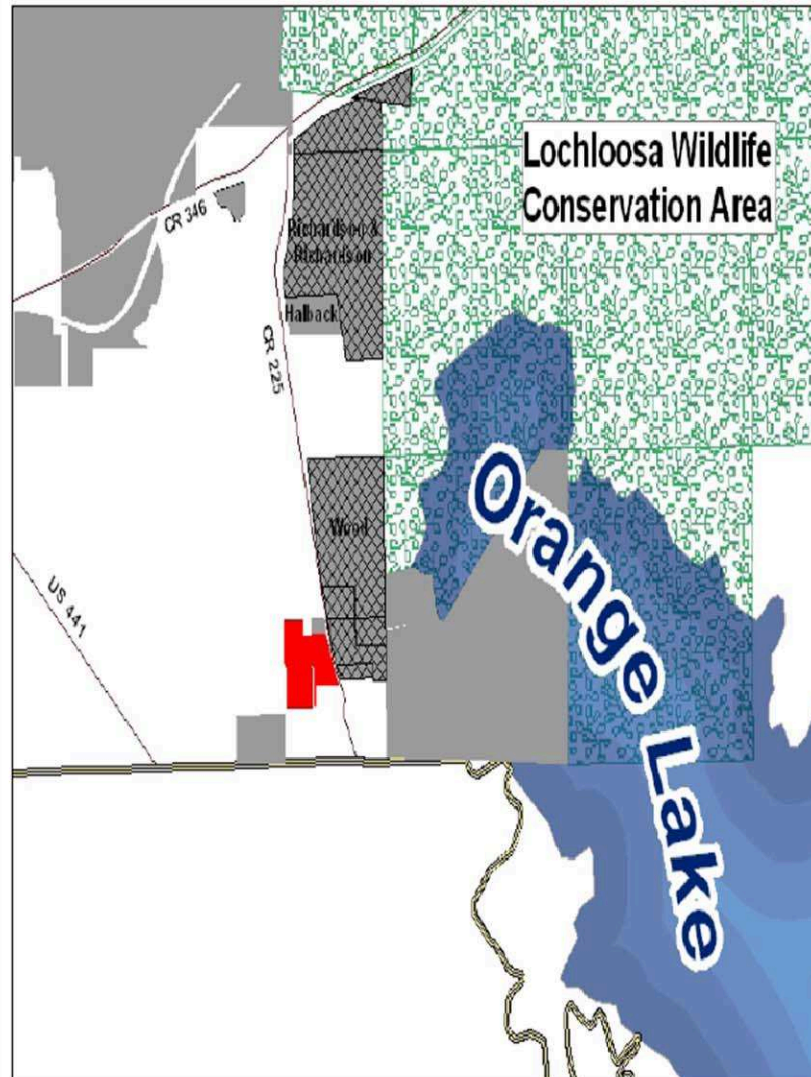
Sincerely,



Kathleen W. Pagan, AICP
Alachua County Growth Management Senior Planner & Staff Liaison to the OFHH

Lochloosa Forest - Levy Prairie Connector Ashley Wood

Map 1



Legend

- Ashley Wood
- Conservation Lands
- Lakes
- Major Roads
- County Boundary
- ACF Projects:**
- Lochloosa Connector
- Active Acquisition



DISCLAIMER: This map and the spatial data provided are made available as a public service, to be used for reference purposes only. The Alabama County Environment and Infrastructure Department does not warrant the accuracy or reliability of any data. The quality of the data is dependent on the various sources from which each data layer is obtained.



Lochloosa Forest - Levy Prairie Connector Ashley Wood

Map 2



Legend

Ashley Wood

Roads

Parcels

ACF Projects:

Lochloosa Connector

Active Acquisition



0 250 500 1,000 Feet

DISCLAIMER: This map and the spatial data it contains are made available as a public service, to be used for reference purposes only. The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department provides this information AS IS without warranty of any kind. The quality of the data is dependent on the various sources from which each data layer is obtained.





Figure 1. The intersection of Southeast Alachua County Roads 225 and 185th Avenue. The view is north from the Marion County side toward the center of the historic town of Evinston. The Alachua-Marion County line is 185th Avenue.



Figure 2. The intersection of Southeast Alachua County Road 225 with Southeast Alachua County Road 246 is the northern terminus of Southeast Alachua County Road 225. The view is from CR. 246 looking south down CR. 225.



Figure 3. The roadway has many scenic views. This scene is looking east through pasture and woodland at the northern end of Orange Lake.



Figure 4. This view, looking northeast from the roadway, shows more of the scenic open lands. This area will soon be declared conservation lands through an easement provided by the Alachua County Forever Program and the National Resource Conservation Service.



Figure 5. This scenic view, from the roadway looking southeast through pastureland toward Orange Lake, is a view often photographed and painted by the art community. The historic town of Cross Creek can be seen across the lake in the far distance.



Figure 6. About 1 mile from the beginning of the roadway's 2.1 mile total length, this view is looking northwest toward pastures and woods.



Figure 7. Thick woodland lines the last half mile of the roadway. This view is looking east toward the woods, swamps, and marshes of northern Orange Lake and the lower River Styx.



Figure 8. This view is north toward the final two curves of the roadway. Sandhill cranes, eagles, hawks, osprey, and swallowtail kite, as well as many songbirds are regularly viewed along the roadway. Often deer, bears, otters, wildcats, foxes, racoons, opossums, alligators, snakes, amphibians, and other reptiles are also seen near or crossing the roadway.



Figure 9. The pastureland, located in this view looking southwest from the roadway's midpoint, was excavated in the 1950s by the Florida Museum of Natural History. Remains of a Native American campsite were discovered. Numerous Native American artifacts have been found on both sides of the roadway.



Figure 10. This view is looking south toward Evinston. The roadway is a recreational delight and used daily by hikers, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and drivers seeking scenic beauty and solitude. The roadway is extremely popular with the area's bike clubs.



Figure 11. This view is looking north, directly across from the community park and playground. The roadway follows an “S” curve, which at one time crossed the railroad tracks of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. The tracks were abandoned and removed in 1981.



Figure 12. Built in 1882, the Evinston Community Store and Post Office, a National Historic Landmark, has been featured in movies, television shows, news articles and features, radio programs, photo essays, paintings, and in many personal photos. From the roadway looking west, this is an early morning scene prior to opening.



Figure 13. This 100-year-old packinghouse is located on the west side of the road and is situated between the the Evinston Community Store and Post Office and the community park and playground.



Figure 14. This is looking north with the historic marker (right foreground) in the center of Evinston and east of the roadway. The marker is directly across the roadway from the Evinston Community Store and Post Office. The marker is frequently viewed, especially on weekends and holidays.



Figure 15. Beyond the "S" curve, a west view from the roadway shows the historic Wood/Evins home. The home was built in the 1880s and is situated on the Wood/Evins Century Pioneer Family Farm.



Figure 16. This view looking north is the last several hundred yards of the roadway before it intersects with Southeast Alachua County Road 246. Note the deep woods used for wildlife habitat.



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JEB BUSH
Governor

SUE M. COBB
Secretary of State

April 4, 2006

Ms. Busy Kislig-Shires Byerly, Executive Director
Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.
Post Office Box 134
Micanopy, Florida 32667

Dear Ms. Byerly:

As Florida's Chief Cultural Officer, I extend my congratulations to **Artists Alliance of North Florida** and the **Conservation Trust of Florida** in partnering to produce the **Evinston to Cross Creek Paint Out** to benefit the **Wood & Swink Old School and Post Office**.

Listed on May 5, 1989 in the National Register of Historic Places as the Evinston Community Store and Post Office, this rural, frame vernacular, commercial building still maintains its original integrity to a remarkable degree. It is places like the Wood and Swink Old Store and Post Office that help us understand and appreciate the lives of those who came before us. On behalf of the citizens Florida, I applaud your interest in the preservation of this property which has served the surrounding area continuously since 1896.

Our state's remarkable wealth of culture and heritage continue to make Florida a better place to live, work, and visit. The state as a whole benefits greatly because this unique industry generates tourism, stimulates business development, attracts new businesses, creates jobs, and contributes to the economic vitality of our communities.

Thank you all for your continued support of the arts, culture and historic preservation in Florida!

Sincerely,

Sue M. Cobb
Secretary of State

Alachua County Historical Commission
PO Box 17
Gainesville FL 32602

April 21, 2005

Mr. Jordan Green
Rural Area Transportation Administrator
Florida Department of Transportation, District II
1109 South Marion Avenue
Lake City, FL 32305

Dear Mr. Jordan,

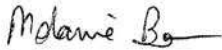
I am pleased to send this letter on behalf of the Alachua County Historical Commission in support of the Evinston Preservation Project as submitted by Conservation Trust for Florida. This grant will enable them to purchase an easement on the Wood & Swink Old Country Store and Post Office, the Wood's Packing House, and the Wood-Evins House, and restore the store and the packing house.

I urge you to fund this grant because without it there will be no way to know for certain that these buildings will survive the pressures of development or the ravages of time. Additionally, the community of Evinston would change dramatically if these buildings were lost, or altered inappropriately, because Evinston is so small that unsuitable changes made to a single building, or the loss of one historic building, would be extremely harmful to the character of Evinston.

Evinston is a community unlike any other in Alachua County. It still retains several of the original historic buildings that were constructed shortly after the town was founded in 1882, and there are few modern structures intruding in the vicinity of the original settlement. It is located in a pastoral setting and appears mostly undisturbed by the 21st century. Please help keep it this way.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely



Melanie Barr
Chair Alachua County Historical Commission

ALACHUA COUNTY HISTORIC TRUST:
Matheson Museum, Inc.

513 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Telephone: (352) 378-2280
Facsimile: (352) 378-1246
info@mathesonmuseum.org

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April 18, 2005

Jordan Green
Rural Area Transportation Administrator
Florida Department of Transportation, District II
1109 S. Marion Ave.
Lake City, FL 32025

Dear Mr. Green:

The board of directors of the Alachua County Historic Trust: Matheson Museum, Inc. wishes to express its full support for the application of the Conservation Trust for Florida to purchase an historic easement on three historic structures in Evinston, Florida, and for funds to restore one of them. The Trust is a non-profit museum of Alachua County history, and the board and staff are very familiar with the significance of the town and its structures to our county's past.

Evinston is a county and state treasure. Its history is that of many of the towns in North Central Florida: built on a railroad line, it served as a packing and shipping point for the abundance of farm crops in our area. But what makes Evinston unique is that it has changed very little since the turn of the 20th Century: its built environment has survived and its rural character has been maintained. To go there is to step into history and to get a sense of the old Florida—the Florida that used to be. Few places like it remain.

This project would preserve an important part of Florida history for the state's residents, tourists, and future generations. Preserving the structures protects the view shed along the scenic highway, but it also contributes to our understanding of commerce and community in the state over a century ago. The Alachua County Historic Trust enthusiastically supports this worthy proposal and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Lisa B. Auel
Executive Director

Micanopy Historical Society
MUSEUM

Micanopy, FL 32667
(352) 466-3200

P.O. Box 462



Chief Micanopy
Head Chief of the Seminole Nation
1855-1892

April 21, 2005

Mr. Jordan Green
Rural Area Transportation Administrator
Florida Department of Transportation, District II
1109 South Marion Avenue
Lake City, FL 32035

Dear Mr. Green,

As President of the Micanopy Historical Society, and on behalf of the membership of the Micanopy Historical Society, I would like to inform you that we strongly support the Evinston Preservation Project. We, who work to collect and preserve the history of the town of Micanopy, feel very strongly about all the means and measures that need to be implemented to protect and preserve historical structures.

We urge you to give strong support to the proposal to purchase a historic easement on the Wood and Swink Old Country Store and Post Office, the Wood's Packing House and the Woods-Evins house.

We thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwin Geers".

Edwin Geers
President, Micanopy Historical Society

April 11, 2005

Jordan Green
Rural Area Transportation Administrator
Florida Department of Transportation, District II
1109 South Marion Avenue
Lake City, FL 32025

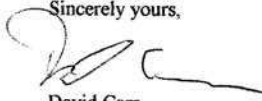
Dear Mr. Green,

This is a letter of support for the Conservation Trust for Florida's purchase of an historic easement of properties in Evinston, Florida: the Wood and Swink Old Country Store, the Wood's Packing House and the Wood-Evins house.

The above properties adjoin a scenic road known as the Old Florida Heritage Highway in Alachua County. The focus of this corridor is to preserve and enhance the area's historic and cultural heritage. All three buildings represent a timeline of late 19th century Florida history. They represent an architecture that is significant and distinctive of rural-agricultural Southern living. The United States Post Office has been located within the Wood and Swink Old Country Store since 1884. Fresh produce grown in the field behind is still purchased by the local citizens. The Wood's Packing House is a barn-metal sheeted-wood structure once used for the storage of locally grown crops until shipped north by trains. The Wood-Evins house is home to one of Evinston's founding families and sits atop a hill overlooking Orange Lake.

These three buildings represent the unique, historic, architectural and cultural qualities endemic to rural Alachua County. An historic easement will enable the preservation of our past into the future. The Old Florida Heritage Highway Corridor Management Council wholeheartedly endorses this project.

Sincerely yours,



David Carr
Chairperson, Old Florida Heritage Highway

DC/sb