

BIG BEND SCENIC BYWAY

ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION ELEMENTS

Following approval of the Letter of Intent, the Corridor Advocacy Group must compile and submit an Eligibility Application to the Florida Department of Transportation. This outline developed by Florida Foresight, provides background on how to structure the application. The outline follows the newly revised FDOT guidelines. Special thanks to Laura Haddock, District 3 Scenic Highways Coordinator, for her review and comments.

1. Title Page

Standard format, using logo, if possible, for Big Bend Scenic Byway

2. Table of Contents

Compile in accordance with application sections specified below

3. List of Tables, Exhibits, and Figures

Compile following completion of application

Tip: Every page should be numbered including tables, exhibits, and figures

4. Eligibility Application

Use standard FDOT form

5. SHAC Comments to Letter of Intent and Response

These are on record (letter on LOI from Prescott, comments following SHAC tour)

6. Background Assessment

(Meets UC #3, "Public Road" plus UC # 5, "Generally More Than One Mile in Length and Provides Access to Resources")

a. Roadway/Right-of-Way Description

(acquisition of property rights)

b. Existing Land Use and Zoning (derived from comp plan, current regulations)

Tip: Reference a L U and Z map here

c. Signage (including outdoor advertising)

d. Future Land Use (to the extent known from comp plan or other sources)

Tip: If one is available, reference a F L U map here

e. Safety Issues (available from FDOT or other local source)

Tip: Talk to the County Engineer for local safety issues, USFS for any possible forest safety issues, and FDOT for state / US road safety issues

f. Traffic Volumes and User Types (available on FDOT website).

Tip: Also, USFS may have info regarding user types within the Forest

g. Levels of Service (LOS)

Should be able to get off FDOT website.

h. Transportation Planning (projects that are known to be on the drawing board).

Tip: From Regional Planning Office; locals

i. Roadway Improvements (projects that are already funded and scheduled).

Tip: FDOT's 5-yr Work Program; Locals; USFS

j. Social and Economic Conditions

Tip: From locals, USFS, Regional Planning Office

k. Tourism and User Facilities

Tip: Locals, USFS, National & State Agencies

l. Other Programs (supportive of, or compatible with, Scenic Byway).

Tip: Locals and state agencies

7. Intrinsic Resource and Criteria Assessment

(Meets UC #1, "Visible Resources," UC #4, "Corridor Features," and UC #6, "Qualifying Resources")

a. Preliminary Definition of Corridor Limits
(appropriate length and width)

b. Corridor Impressions Survey

(use standard FDOT form). *Tip: FDOT form is only one available method. CAG may use other methods as long as the desired outcome is achieved*

- ⇒ Involve public groups and volunteers
- ⇒ Record all impressions
- ⇒ Highlight thoughts about quality of corridor
- ⇒ Include list of all comments on master sheet
- ⇒ Note frequency of comments
- ⇒ Provide totals of quality evaluation scores

c. Field Inventory

Use standard FDOT form

- ⇒ Best conducted by CAG, whose members know corridor best
- ⇒ Document locations
- ⇒ Note visibility and/or accessibility of resources from roadway
- ⇒ Record all significant features, positive and negative (latter are useful to help define later improvement strategies)
- ⇒ Use one form per mile or segment of corridor
- ⇒ Use codes representing visibility and/or accessibility of resources

d. Intrinsic Resource Assessment

Based on Corridor Impressions Survey and Field Inventory

- ⇒ Provides more detailed information about corridor
- ⇒ Provides basis for developing the Byway Story
- ⇒ Covers cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, natural, and scenic resources
- ⇒ Focuses on noteworthy features and resources (answering question “Why would someone leave the Interstate Highway and choose to drive this corridor?”)
- ⇒ Highlights resources that may meet Program Criteria
- ⇒ Addresses both scenic and heritage resources, but indicates which one will be highlighted for Scenic Byway application

e. Refined Definition of Corridor Limits

(if necessary after research)

- ⇒ Remember continuity
- ⇒ Define viewshed in terms of Corridor Vision

f. Corridor Video (or Power Point) & Graphic Depiction

- ⇒ Visual representation of corridor
- ⇒ Consider this an opportunity to “show off”
- ⇒ Think of this as major sales pitch for corridor (may be requested by VISIT FLORIDA or legislators)
- ⇒ Graphic depiction can be in form of an attractive sketch map with illustrations of key resources

8. Corridor Vision and Initial Goals

a. Vision

- ⇒ Vision drives present and future decisions
- ⇒ Assessments provide knowledge base of resources
- ⇒ Statement of significance is starting point of Vision
- ⇒ Should include broad, attainable community aspirations
- ⇒ Should be written in present tense with view 15-20 years in the future
- ⇒ Should incorporate public and community input
- ⇒ Possibly use a subcommittee of the CAG to draft?

b. Initial Goals

Must include at a minimum the following areas:

Economic Development and Tourism
Resource Protection
Transportation and Safety
Community Support and Participation
Education and Story

- ⇒ Use generalized statements
- ⇒ Cite specific end results
- ⇒ Define manageable pieces and phases
- ⇒ Keep a creative and unrestrained perspective
- ⇒ Relate vision and goals to specific objectives and strategies

9. Corridor Story

(Meets UC #2, “Tells a Story”)

- ⇒ Provides educational opportunities through a cohesive story or history of the area, features, resources, or events, which are part of “Florida’s Story”
- ⇒ Must include initial thoughts on how this story will be told to roadway travelers
- ⇒ Keep to 1-2 pages maximum in length, and think of this as a marketing tool

10. Corridor Advocacy Group Formation

(Meets UC #7, "Organized CAG")

- ⇒ Membership list including Chair, Vice Chair, Other Officers, Committee Chairs
- ⇒ Contact information
- ⇒ Copy of CAG Bylaws (if available)
- ⇒ Statement regarding conflict of interest

11. Community Participation Program

(Meets UC #8, "Community participation Plan")

- ⇒ Ongoing program to promote public participation, foster involvement, and build consensus and support
- ⇒ Use of newsletters, workshops, fliers, newspaper articles, website
- ⇒ Identify methods of record-keeping and notification for public meetings
- ⇒ Certify compliance with Sunshine Law requirements

12. Local Support

(Meets UC #9, "Strong Local Support")

Letters of local support from:

- ⇒ Landowners
- ⇒ Elected officials
- ⇒ Businesses
- ⇒ Planning organizations
- ⇒ Civic organizations
- ⇒ Consumer groups
- ⇒ Environmental groups
- ⇒ Others

13. Protection Techniques

(A step toward meeting UC #10, "Corridor Management Plan and Corridor Management Entity Creation;" Criterion is finally met in Designation and Implementation Phases, not in Eligibility Phase)

- ⇒ In form of narrative, discuss existing policies, standards, regulations, and ordinances that can contribute to intrinsic resource protection along the corridor
- ⇒ Provides background for an eventual Corridor Management Plan
- ⇒ Assists in development of strategies

14. Funding and Promotion

- ⇒ Brief narrative stating how funding and promotion for the corridor will be pursued
- ⇒ Cite specific plans if possible
- ⇒ Consider alternative sources of support

15. Relationship to Comprehensive Plan

- ⇒ Beginning thoughts as to how CAG will work with local government to amend Comprehensive Plan
- ⇒ Provide a narrative on goals of such amendments and prospective schedule

16. Schedule

For Development of Corridor Management Plan (A step toward meeting UC #10, "Corridor Management Plan and Corridor Management Entity Creation;" Criterion is finally met in Designation and Implementation Phases, not in Eligibility Phase)

- ⇒ Make schedule as realistic and attainable as possible
- ⇒ Maintain momentum
- ⇒ Advance the designation of the corridor
- ⇒ Keep a perspective on management of the process to assist FDOT
- ⇒ Need not be highly detailed at this stage

17. Appendices