



CITY OF VENICE

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Office of the Mayor

March 22, 2016

Florida Greenways and Trails Council
Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Council Members,

The City of Venice strongly supports the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail and urges the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to select our greater region as the next priority portion for multi-use trail funding.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail will provide tourists and state residents a safe, alternative transportation network that serves as a resource for leisure and exercise, while also providing for commuters and consumer destinations.

The Southwest Coastal Regional Trail would stretch from Naples, Florida to the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg where it will join with the Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C). The C2C currently extends from the Pinellas Trail north through Pasco and Hernando County, eventually reaching the east coast of Florida. Once all segments are completed, it will be part of a network that will be the nation's largest system of locally connected trails.

Our organization welcomes the opportunity to work alongside all the governmental and advocacy partners in this regional effort to invest in Florida's eco-tourism, economic development, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,

John Holic
Mayor, City of Venice