

Update on Canopy Roads Citizens Committee and Staff Activities to Implement Recommendations from the 2005 Annual Report

On April 11, 2006 the Board of County Commissioners accepted the 2005 Annual Report from the Tallahassee – Leon County Canopy Roads Citizens Committee (CRCC) and received a presentation on the key recommendations of the report from Chairman Ron Davis. The Board then directed staff to bring back information related to implementation of the recommendations. Each of the key recommendations from the May 10, 2006 presentation are included below with information on current implementation actions.

1) Develop public information programs.

- An Education and Outreach Subcommittee has been formed to focus on these issues.
- On June 12th the CRCC hosted the “Protecting Trees from Construction Damage” training to increase the technical knowledge of its members, staff, and developers.
- A contract has been negotiated to print color educational pamphlets about the value of Canopy Roads and landowner responsibilities. These will be mailed to everyone who owns land within a Canopy Road protection zone.
- CRCC member Richard Butgereit is working with Kristy Jeffries, an FSU intern from the Geography Department, and the Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center to develop and host a new interactive web site on Canopy Roads and their history. Their research on the history of Canopy Roads can be used for a variety of future outreach efforts.
- The Outreach Subcommittee is evaluating the possibility of a new design for Canopy Road signs and they are evaluating the placement of signs on Canopy Roads.

2) Start annual awards for innovative projects along Canopy Roads.

- The Outreach Subcommittee is developing criteria for an awards program that will recognize innovative development projects that are designed to perpetuate the Canopy Roads experience.

3) Use Canopy Road tree replacement funds (Tree Bank) for Canopy Road improvement projects.

- Planning Department staff is working with City Accounting Service to develop a separate reserve account to hold funds that are generated by permits on Canopy Roads. CRCC member Jennifer Gihring is also working on proposed policy language to guide the use of these funds. We have not yet investigated the possibility of a designated Canopy Road Tree Bank in the County.

4) Develop and adopt special traffic design standards for Canopy Roads.

- County Public Works’ Canopy Road Coordinator has provided written criteria for reviewing sight distance at Canopy Road intersections. This criteria is already being informally applied to County maintained Canopy Roads. CRCC and staff will investigate the steps necessary to formally adopt this and additional criteria for use on all Canopy Roads.

5) Provide for early review and tree protection planning for construction along Canopy Roads.

- The Land Use Division of the Planning Department has already agreed to include a Canopy Roads staff representative in pre-application meetings for development projects on Canopy Roads.

6) Develop and enforce appropriate and consistent penalties for violations of the tree ordinance.

- A Regulations Subcommittee has been formed to develop options.