



Nomination of Tuscawilla Road as a County Scenic Road

Presented to Alachua County Commission

February 9, 2021



ARTICLE IX. - SCENIC ROAD CORRIDORS OVERLAY

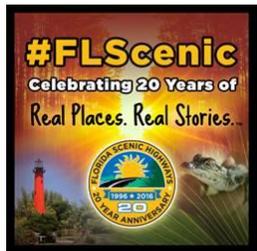
Sec. 405.34. - Objectives of article.

(a) To promote the convenience and enjoyment of public travel on the highways, roadways, and other travel corridors of the county. (b) To protect the natural and cultural heritage scenic road corridors of the county and to enhance their resource values for the enjoyment of future generations. (c) To protect the public investment in scenic road corridors from activities, land uses, signs, etc., which impair both the integrity of the corridor, its capacity for traffic, and its visual qualities. (d) To provide safe facilities for leisure driving, hiking, and biking. (e) To provide access to and protect outstanding visual experiences representative of the county's variety of landscape resources and cultural attractions. (f) To contribute to the environmental and historical appreciation of the county and education of the residents and visitors. (g) To attract visitors to the county by preserving natural beauty along the scenic road corridors. (h) To expose scenic views and vistas along the travel corridor.

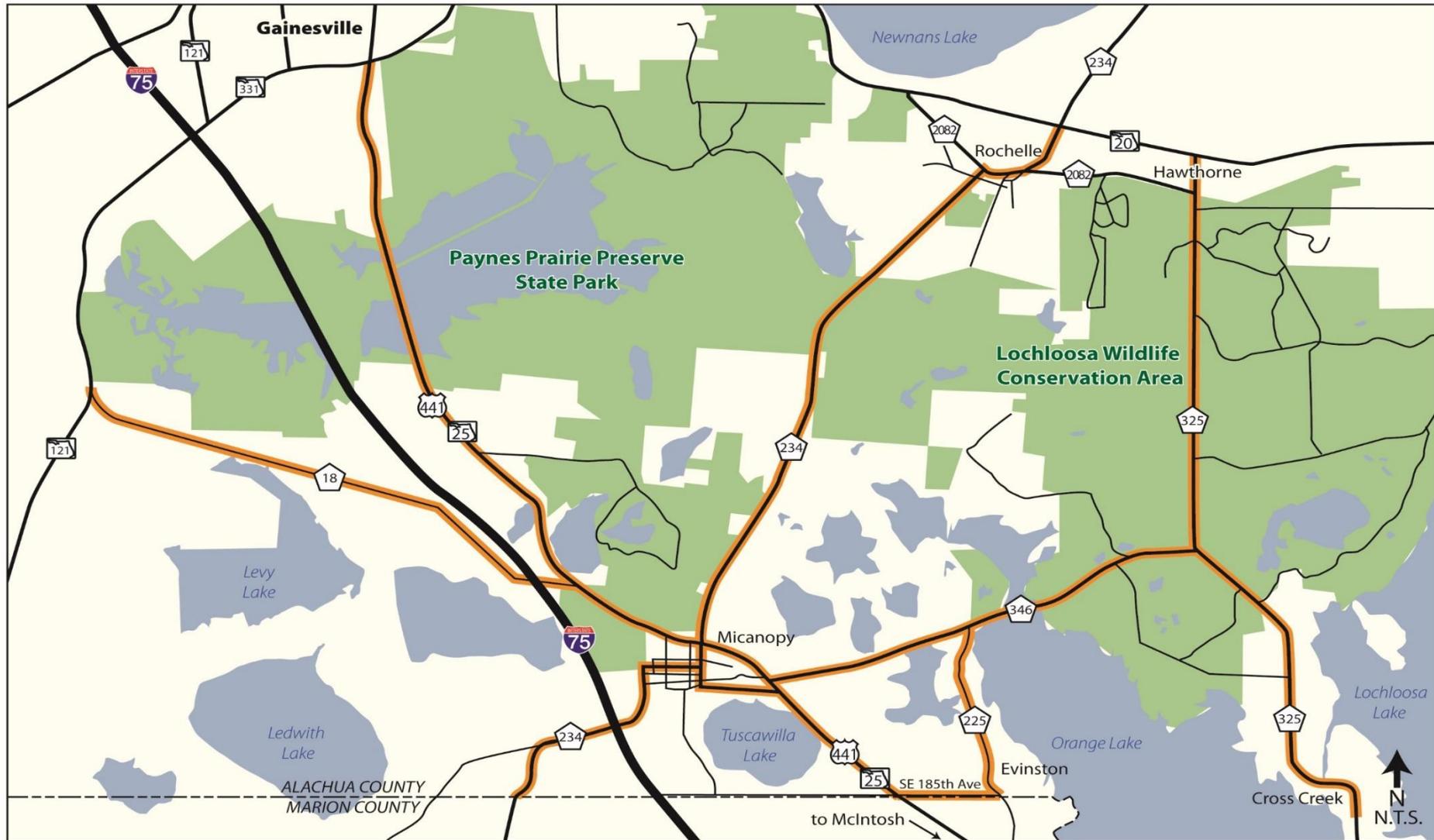
Florida Constitution Article II, Section 7:

- Natural resources and scenic beauty – (a) It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty

Florida Scenic Highways Program will celebrate 25 years in 2021. Tuscawilla Road is part of the State designated “Old Florida Heritage Highway,” as of June 2001. FSHP is a grass-roots effort to heighten awareness of our State’s historical and intrinsic resources (cultural, recreational, natural, archaeological, historical and scenic) which collectively, enhance the overall traveling experience.



"Old Florida Heritage Highway," June 2001



Native American Preserve in Micanopy



Interpretive Kiosk at Micanopy Native American Preserve



Seminole Heritage

Battle of Micanopy

Second Seminole War

Funding provided by
Micanopy Trust for
Forts and Battlefields

Whooping Crane (1 of about 600 in the world) and 1 of 11 in Florida on Tuscawilla Rd.



Whooping Crane at 409 Tuscawilla Rd. & on road;
Crane photos courtesy of Aaron Weber



County Engineering Input on this process

1. The road is currently posted at 30 MPH and the latest speed data we have indicates an 85th percentile speed of 48 MPH. There has been no reason to evaluate or change the speed limit on this road and there has only been one crash in recent history and it was animal related. If for some reason there were in an increase in accidents that could be related to the speed being posted too low we would want to evaluate the appropriate posted speed limit.
2. After this facility becomes scenic, we will become limited on what improvements could be made on the roadway in the future. To our knowledge, there are currently no plans for improvements at this time.

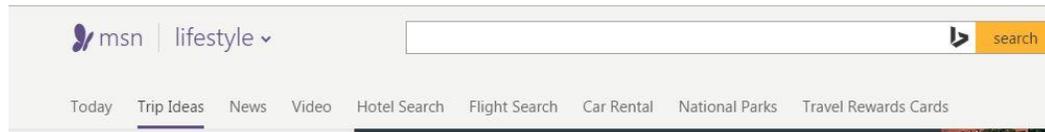
An item of note is that there are currently no weight restrictions on this roadway.

Tuscawilla Road corridor



Photo from presentation on Bartram's Travels thru Micanopy

Tuscawilla Rd. terminates at Micanopy National Historic District



The Cutest Town in Every U.S. State | Cities are so overrated



PureWow

editor@purewow.com
(PureWow)
8/25/2016

- SHARE
- TWEET
- SHARE
- EMAIL



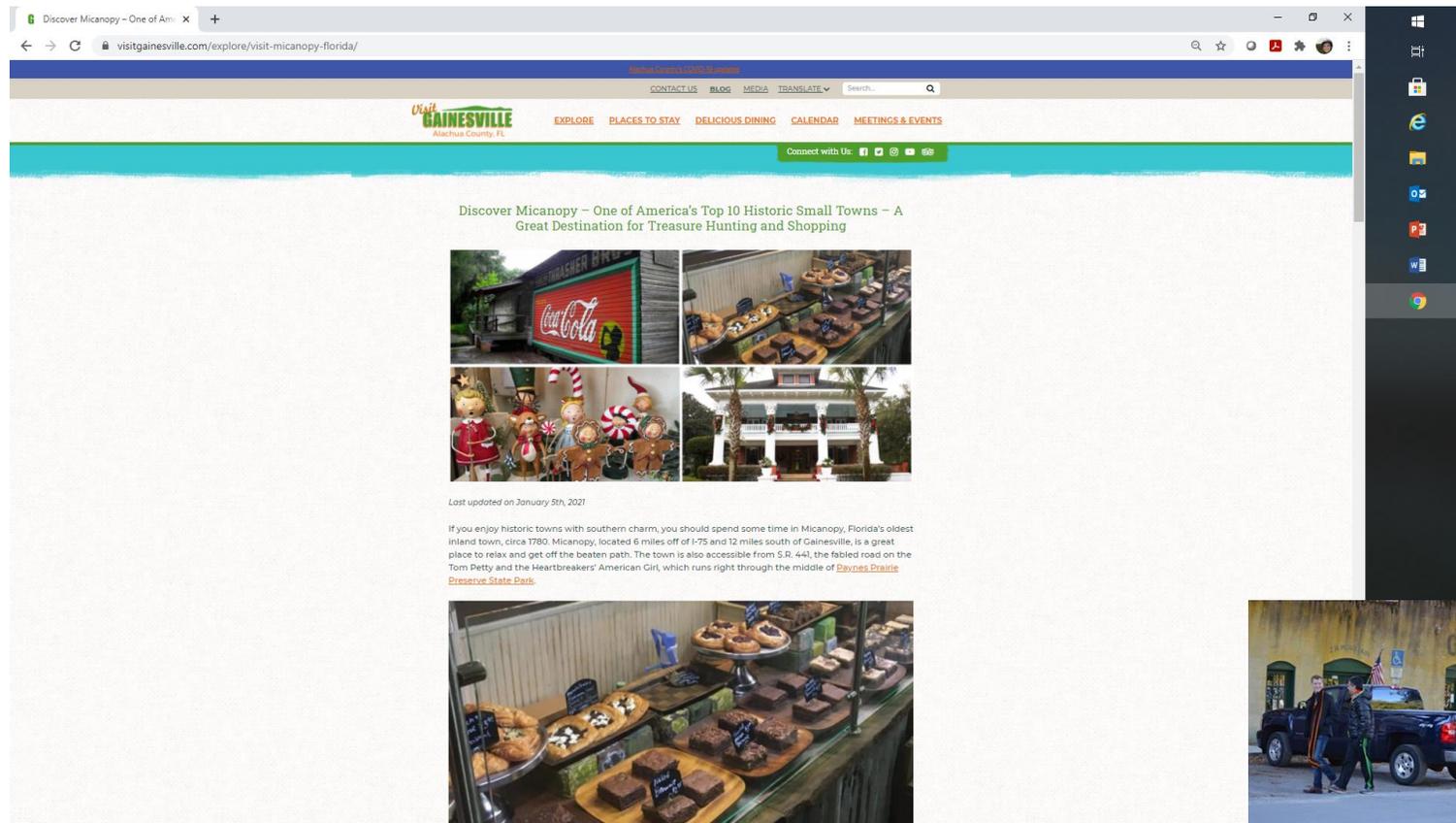
FLORIDA: MICANOPY

This rural, sleepy town just south of Gainesville, nicknamed “the little town that time forgot,” has a population of about 600. The busiest road, Cholokka Boulevard, is lined with typical Florida architecture, old oak trees covered in Spanish moss and antique storefronts.



Note: Other similar distinctions as above occur often

Visit Gainesville helps promote local shops



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website visitgainesville.com/explore/visit-micanopy-florida/. The page features a navigation menu with links for CONTACT US, BLOG, MEDIA, TRANSLATE, EXPLORE, PLACES TO STAY, DELICIOUS DINING, CALENDAR, and MEETINGS & EVENTS. The main content area has a heading: "Discover Micanopy – One of America's Top 10 Historic Small Towns – A Great Destination for Treasure Hunting and Shopping". Below the heading is a grid of four images: a Coca-Cola vending machine, a bakery display, a group of people in costumes, and a large white building. A text block follows, stating: "Last updated on January 5th, 2021. If you enjoy historic towns with southern charm, you should spend some time in Micanopy, Florida's oldest inland town, circa 1780. Micanopy, located 6 miles off of I-75 and 12 miles south of Gainesville, is a great place to relax and get off the beaten path. The town is also accessible from S.R. 441, the fabled road on the Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' American Girl, which runs right through the middle of [Baynes Framie Preserve State Park](#)."



Blue Highway and Mosswood Farm Store began since OFHH designation

Article 4, Chapter 402 of this ULDC requires public notice for designation:

- a. Description/location of the corridor & popular name;
- b. Maximum weight limit to be set, if any;
- c. Speed limit to be set, if any;*
- d. Description of the protected area; and
- e. Any other special limitation, restriction or use not covered above which may be imposed along the scenic road corridor.

* see next slide

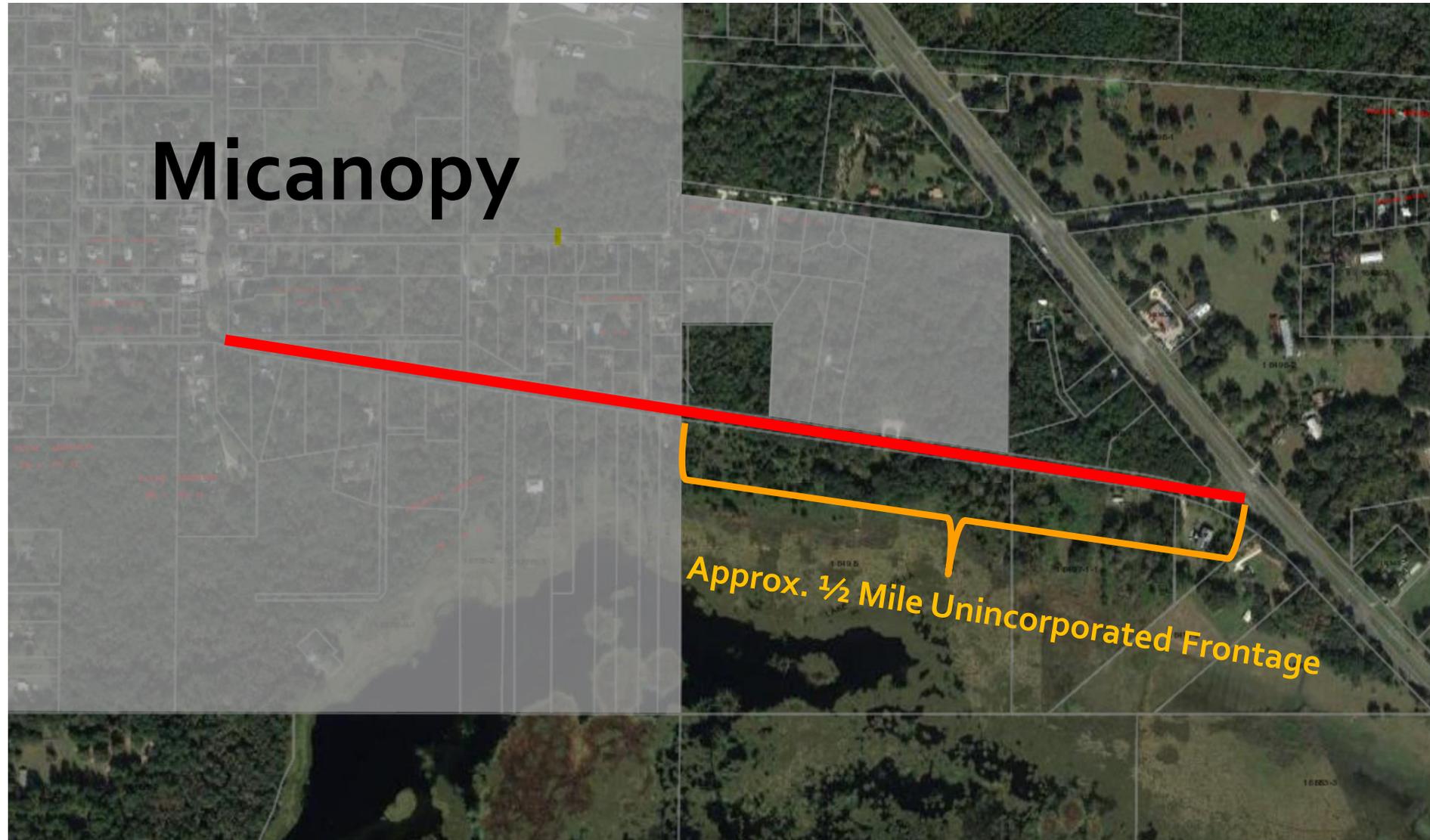
Comp Plan Policy regarding speed limits

TME Policy 1.8.5 It shall be the Policy of the Board of County Commissioners that speeds on County roads shall be the minimum necessary to ensure safe and efficient travel. Roads and streets shall be designed with context sensitivity using the techniques in Transportation Mobility Element Policy 1.6.5 to encourage reduced speeds. The County's general policy shall be that proposed posted speed increases shall be brought to the Board for approval along with suggested alternatives.

Some Impacts of Proposed Scenic Road Designation on the Corridor

- Protects area along the scenic road corridor within 100 feet of the right-of-way
- Most outdoor advertising signs are prohibited (with a few residential exceptions)
- Any commercial activity is prohibited within the protected area.
- Overhead utilities are prohibited, except for designated types; existing can remain
- Guidelines for scenic road corridor maintenance take effect, including- ...Clear cutting of vegetation in the scenic road corridor right-of-way shall not be permitted, except under specified circumstances ; Selective vegetation cutting may be permitted to open up and enhance views and vistasupon recommendation of the staff and approval of the county commission; Where proper permits have been obtained controlled burning may be practiced where necessary to encourage vegetation growth and control insect and pest occurrence....

Unincorporated Area Adjacent to Corridor



Staff Recommendation

Direct staff to advertise a public hearing to consider designating Tuscawilla Road as a Scenic Road Corridor



Cholokka Boulevard in Micanopy



Tuscawilla Road approaching US 441 turn