



Public Hearing for Designation of Tuscawilla Road

Alachua County Scenic Road

- Presented to Alachua County Commission
- April 27, 2021



ARTICLE IX. - SCENIC ROAD CORRIDORS OVERLAY

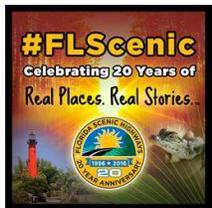
Sec. 405.34. - Objectives of article.

(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



State Byway Designation process was supported by 417 citizen signatures; on file in program records



Native American Preserve in Micanopy

Parking at this Town parcel on north side of road also is used by visitors to ACT Tuscowilla Preserve so pedestrian safety is a concern at this crossing as well as along road



Interpretive Kiosk at Micanopy Native American Preserve



Seminole Heritage

Battle of Micanopy

Second Seminole War

Funding provided by
Micanopy Historic
Trust for Forts and
Battles

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/ Road Data

AADT: 400 VPD

85th percentile speed: 43 mph

T₂₄ %: 0.8%

Crashes in last three years (2018 – 2020): Zero;

A prior crash was animal related

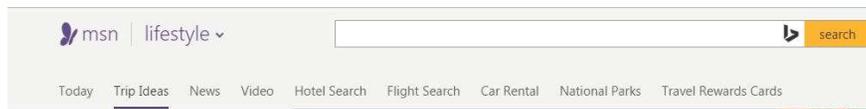
T₂₄ is the percentage of large trucks/vehicles on the roadway in a 24-hour period. VPD is vehicles per day. 85th percentile speed is the speed at which 85% of vehicles on the roadway are travelling, meaning that only 15% of vehicles on the roadway are travelling at a speed greater than 43 mph.

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
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(PureWow)
8/25/2016

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9/50 SLIDES © Allen Forest/Flickr

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

Cholokka Blvd.
shops are supplied
by box trucks.

Several new local
businesses in
Town and on US
441 since OFHH
designation

Discover Micanopy – One of America's Top 10 Historic Small Towns – A Great Destination for Treasure Hunting and Shopping



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 [Gainesville's Historic State Park](#).



During Annual Fall Festival
the access for vendors (RVs
and limited trucks is via
Tuscawilla to Cholokka;
Festival is pedestrian event
with thousands visiting Town



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

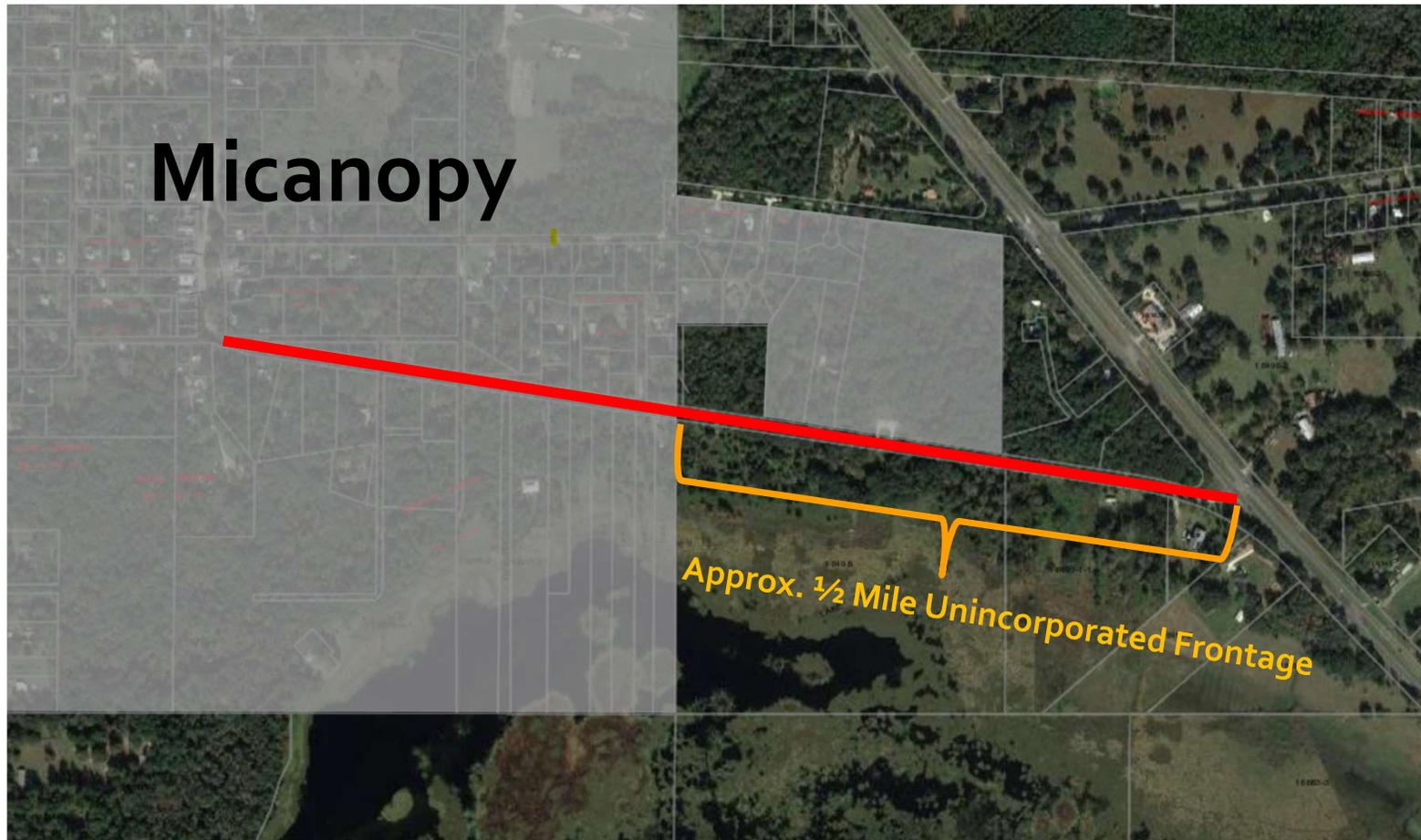
Comp Plan Policy regarding speed limits

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

Approve designation of Tuscawilla Road as a Scenic Road Corridor and adopt the Resolution



Cholokka Boulevard in Micanopy



Tuscawilla Road approaching US 441 turn