RESOLUTION NO. 90-LEG-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE FLORIDA RECREATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM AS CREATED BY CHAPTER 260, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR SUPPORT OF THE TRI COUNTY CHAPTER OF RAILS TO TRAILS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE ABANDONED RAILROAD LINES WITHIN THE APOPKA TO LAKE COUNTY RAILROAD CORRIDOR FOR CONVERSION TO A LINEAR PARK SYSTEM; URGING THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE CSX OWNED PORTION OF SAID RAIL CORRIDOR; PROVIDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BE DIRECTED TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT UPON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE COUNTY PURCHASING CERTAIN PRIVATELY OWNED SEGMENTS OF THE SAID RAILROAD CORRIDOR AND THE EXPENSE ATTENDANT THERETO; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida enacted Chapter 260, Florida Statues, the Florida Recreational Trails Act 1979, wherein they created and provided for the expansion of a network of recreational and scenic trails designated as the Florida Recreational Trails System; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 260, Florida Statutes, Section 260.012(2), provides that it is the intent of the Legislature of the State of Florida to provide for the acquisition of abandoned railroad rights-of-way for use as public recreational trails, and, to encourage the multiple use of public rights-of-way, and to use, to the fullest extent possible, existing and future scenic roads, highways, park roads, parkways, and national recreational trails; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 260, Florida Statutes, Section 260.012(1), further provides that it is the intent of the Legislature of the State of Florida that these recreational trails will serve to encourage horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, canoeing, and jogging, and thereby improve the health and welfare of the people; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 260, Florida Statutes, Section 260.012(2), further provides that it is the intent of the Legislature of the State of Florida to coordinate recreational trail plans and development among local governments, and with the State of Florida; and
WHEREAS, Chapter 260, Florida Statutes, Section 260.012(3) authorizes the Florida Department of Natural Resources, together with other governmental entities and agencies of the State of Florida, and all counties, municipalities and special districts of the State of Florida, to spend public funds for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, The Rails to Trails Conservancy, headquartered in Washington, D.C., has an active Chapter located in Central Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Tri County Chapter (Orange, Seminole, Osceola Counties) of the Rails to Trails Conservancy is dedicated to the creation of an interconnected linear park system of rail and trails accessible to communities in the Tri County area and to a diverse variety of users; and

WHEREAS, within Orange County there exists an abandoned railroad corridor, extending from Apopka to Lake County, which has not yet been preserved in its entirety; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, Florida, that:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Orange County supports the Tri County Chapter of Rails to Trails in their efforts to acquire abandoned railroad lines for conversion to a linear park system.

Section 2. The Legislature of the State of Florida is hereby urged to appropriate sufficient funds to enable the Florida Department of Natural Resources to purchase the CSX owned sections of the Apopka to Lake County railroad corridor.

Section 3. The Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes the Parks and Recreation Department to expend current operating funds of the Department for appraisals and consultations for the purpose of estimating expenditures which would be necessary for the acquisition of the remaining privately owned (or nonrailroad owned) section of the Apopka to Lake County railroad corridor.

The Board of County Commissioners hereby directs the Department to utilize such appraisals and consultations in
the preparation of recommendations to be submitted by the Department concerning the acquisition by the County of the said privately owned sections for the purposes described herein. Such recommendations shall include an amount certain to be included within the appropriations for the 1990-91 Fiscal Year Capital Improvements Project budget for the Department for the purpose of such acquisitions.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be transmitted to the members of the Orange County Legislative Delegation.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, Florida.

ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF March, 1990.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Chairman