



## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

1300 White Street Key West, FL 33040

March 24, 2021

Steven Craig James, RLA  
District Environmental Manager  
Planning and Environmental Management Office  
Florida Department of Transportation, District Six  
1000 NW 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 6109  
Miami, FL 33172

**RE: Bridle Path Statement of Significance**  
**FDOT Financial Project ID: 250548-8-52-01**  
**FDOT Project Description: SR A1A/South Roosevelt Boulevard from Bertha Street to the end of Smathers Beach in Key West, Monroe County, Florida**

Dear Mr. James,

As the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ), please accept this letter as a formal Statement of Significance for the Bridle Path. For purposes of Section 4(f) (49 U.S.C. § 303), significance means that in comparing the availability and function of the recreation area, park, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge area with the recreational, park, and refuge objectives of the community, the land in question plays an important role in meeting those objectives. The Bridle Path is considered a significant recreational resource within the meaning of Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act regulations.

The Bridle Path is a 1.2-mile intermittent path located along the north side of SR A1A/South Roosevelt Boulevard from just east of Bertha Street to just west of Faraldo Circle. The path crosses several parcels owned by different entities (including the City of Key West, the Monroe County Land Authority, and the Florida Keys Land Trust), but is maintained by the City of Key West. The Bridle Path consists of a sandy, unpaved path that is used by the public for walking, jogging, bicycling, and overflow parking for Smathers Beach. The path is buffered by palm trees to the south and salt ponds to the north that provide a scenic setting and enhances the recreational use of the property. The Bridle Path measures approximately 3.58 acres and is accessible to the public at all times.

Most of the property adjoining the work area is a salt pond/mangrove wetland area with a few transitional wetland areas that abut a disturbed upland area. The proposed work will occur in the disturbed upland area. The disturbed upland area is locally called the Bridle Path and has one or two rows of coconut palms. This area is commonly used by the public for recreational purposes such as walking, biking and

*Key to the Caribbean - Average yearly temperature 77° F.*

pet walking. There is no dedicated public access to the salt pond or wetland areas at this location; however, the public occasionally enters into the transitional wetland area for bird watching purposes. Generally, public access to the salt pond area is gained via Government Road or the Riviera Canal on the northside of the pond area

The name "Bridle Path" is locally historically significant as this area was used for access prior to the creation of South Roosevelt Boulevard particularly by horse and carriage. The proposed work area is part of a larger tract of conservation lands called the "Salt Ponds".

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 305-809-3944 or by email at [pmclauchlin@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:pmclauchlin@cityofkeywest-fl.gov).

Sincerely,



Patti McLauchlin  
Assistant City Manager  
City of Key West

Cc: Steve McAlearney, City of Key West, Director of Engineering  
Kelly Crowe, P.E., City of Key West, City Engineer  
Karen DeMaria, City of Key West, Urban Forestry Manager  
Barbara Culhane, FDOT-District 6, District Cultural Resources Coordinator  
Joaquin De la Cruz, P.E., FDOT-District 6, Project Manager