

11. CITY MANAGER

a. Informational Items

- i. Update and Schedule of Public Meetings and Survey of Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands Project**



City of Sanibel

Planning Department

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 16, 2009

TO: Judie Zimomra, City Manager

FROM: Robert J. Duffy, AICP, Planning Director

RE: **Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands Project Update – Public Meeting, Web Site, Reports and Survey**

The following is a brief update on key reports completed to date and public meetings and surveys scheduled as part of the Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands Project.

1. Public Scoping Meeting

On Thursday, January 29, 2009, the Project's consulting team will hold a public scoping meeting to begin the process of identifying and evaluating a range of alternative and environmentally sensitive transportation options to manage the volume of visitors to the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The scoping meeting will be held between 4:30 and 6:30 PM at the City of Sanibel's Recreation Center.

2. Project Web-Site (www.dingdarlingtransportation.com)

The Project consultant team has established a web site at the above address to provide information, reports, meeting notices and contacts. The web site also serves as a forum for public comments and interaction with the Project team.

2. Stakeholder Interview Summary Report (Attachment)

The enclosed report summarizes the results of interviews conducted by the Project's consulting team on September 16 – 18 and October 7 – 8, 2008 at the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The interviews involved representatives from twenty six Island based public agencies, environmental organizations, civic organizations, business organizations and resorts. Each interview involved fifteen questions regarding current environmental and transportation conditions and issues facing the Refuge and Sanibel.

3. Existing Conditions Report (Attached)

The Project's consulting team has completed the attached Existing Conditions report that identifies the Project's purpose and goals, study areas, and basic conditions and issues associated with the natural, transportation and human environments within the Refuge and Sanibel. Potential carrying capacity thresholds are also defined. The report has been posted to the Project's website for public review and comment.

4. Surveys to be Conducted During the Week of January 26

During the week of January 26, 2009, the Project's consultant team will conduct a survey of visitors to the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The survey will be similar to an origin and destination survey and will compile information regarding visitor and trip characteristics. A survey of island residents, visitors, businesses, employees and resort guests will also be conducted.