



# FROGG

## Friends of the River of Grass Greenway



Volume IV Issue 2  
website: [www.evergladesROGG.org](http://www.evergladesROGG.org)

FROGG, P.O. Box 5031, Everglades City, FL, 34139  
email: [info@evergladesROGG.org](mailto:info@evergladesROGG.org)

Winter 2019

### Everglades Bike Ride Schedule

If you are interested in joining us for any of our **FREE guided** rides, FROGG will be offering a different tour each month. We will be riding just for the fun of exploring the Everglades area. Since these are self-supported rides, bring your own snacks, etc. We'll meet at 9:00 am and plan to have lunch together either during or after each ride. *Note change of date for February ride due to Everglades Seafood Festival (Feb. 9-10).*

#### January 13

#### Janes Scenic Drive in the Fakahatchee

(17 miles off-road)

Meet at Fakahatchee Strand  
Headquarters in Copeland

#### February 17

#### Ave Maria

(40 miles on-road)

Meeting location TBA

#### March 10

Bear Island in the Big  
Cypress (off-road)

Meeting location TBA

For information: email  
[info@evergladesrogg.org](mailto:info@evergladesrogg.org) or  
call (239) 695-2397

### Bike Rides through the Everglades (Photos from our most recent rides)



#### September

Everglades City to  
Port of the Islands

#### October

Shark Valley in ENP



#### November

Loop Road in Big Cypress



#### December

Everglades City to  
Chokoloskee

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

**Come join us for great rides  
and camaraderie,  
experiencing wild rural  
southwest Florida**



*FROGG is committed to establishing the safe use by the general public of US41 across the Everglades between Naples and Miami, focusing on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, and cycling through south Florida and the Everglades.*

## Updates Along the Tamiami Trail

### West End – Tamiami Trail

Road conditions along the west end of the Tamiami Trail have not changed in the past year. It is hopeful (and FROGG continues to communicate with the Florida Department of Transportation) that safety conditions will be improved by removing the raised pavement markers between SR92 (San Marco) and Port of the Islands. These were placed there to alert motorists of an upcoming narrow bridge (of which there are many); however, they are obstacles and at times a danger to cyclists who must move into the line of traffic. Eventually, when the road needs to be repaved, FROGG has been informed that the raised pavement markers will be replaced with the audible/vibratory markings along the edge of the shoulder and painted with durable paint instead of the “slippery” thermoplastic (as was installed when the road was resurfaced between Port of the Islands and Everglades City).

### East End – Bridge Construction Completed

The bridge work by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the National Park Service (NPS), which started construction in November of 2016, has been completed. Two bridges (one mile each in length) were open to travellers in December and are located approximately between eight miles and 11 miles west of Krome Avenue. This project provides additional freshwater flow within Everglades National Park and improves the ecological conditions in the park and in the central Everglades, north of Tamiami Trail. Because work continues on removing the old roadbed on the north side of the bridges, there are concrete barriers approaching the bridges that leave little room for the cyclist so please take care in this area until the bridge work is totally completed (expected late February). Additional information is available on the SW8 St/Tamiami Trail page of the department's website. You may also contact Construction Community Outreach Specialist Heather M. Leslie at 305-905-5876 or email her at [Heather@hmlpublicoutreach.com](mailto:Heather@hmlpublicoutreach.com). Drivers are encouraged to call 511 before they drive or log onto [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com) to get real-time traffic and lane closure information.

## Miami-Dade County KROME AVE Construction Update

On December 8 the Krome Avenue Inaugural Bike Ride was held to celebrate the opening of the multi-use pathway along Krome Avenue in western Miami Dade County. This safety project was planned in conjunction with the widening of Krome Avenue and greatly benefits those cyclists who travel across south Florida from Naples to Key West.

The northern end of the “Krome Path” begins at the Tamiami Trail (US41) intersection as a 10-foot shared-use pathway on the east side of the roadway for bicyclists and pedestrians. Currently, it is 8.5 miles in length but will eventually connect to existing/future trail networks.

The next phase of the project will cover the area between SW 136 Street and SW 296 Street with the pathway being constructed on the west side of the roadway.

Additional projects are currently in the planning and design phases. All projects have the goal of enhancing mobility and creating a safe corridor for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Congratulations, Miami-Dade, for improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

### FROGG Board Members

Dayna Fendrick (Naples) Patty Huff (Everglades City) Scott Shook (Marco Island) Oscar Rattenborg (Ft. Myers)  
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## Name that Trail!

Communities throughout Florida and the United States have a network of connected multi-use trails and pathways designed exclusively for non-motorized transportation.

Naples Pathway Coalition is promoting the creation of a network of multi-use pathways throughout Collier County that will connect to others in our region. They have partnered with Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to help achieve this goal. To “name that trail,” submit your suggestions to Michelle: [Michelle@NaplesPathways.org](mailto:Michelle@NaplesPathways.org) with PATHWAY NAMING CONTEST in the subject. There's no limit to the number of entries you can submit; the winning name will be announced at the TD Bank Naples Bike Brunch on March 3 at Fleischmann Park.

### ***“Hiking, Cycling and Paddling the Everglades” Brochure***

Our brochure about amenities along the Tamiami Trail now includes paddling as well as hiking and cycling. It is currently being updated and will go to the printers later this month. In the meantime you can still find copies around Everglades City and the various bike shops in Naples and Marco Island. For more information, email [info@evergladesrogg.org](mailto:info@evergladesrogg.org).

## ***CYLING THE TAMIAMI***

by Patty Huff

South Florida has an abundance of exciting backcountry trails through our parks: Collier-Seminole, 10,000 Islands Wildlife Refuge, Picayune Strand Preserve, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve, Big Cypress Preserve and Everglades National Park. All of these are located either along or adjacent to the Tamiami Trail (yes, a “trail”), named in the early 1900s connecting Tampa with Miami. Today the south section is the main artery between Naples and south Miami. Many cyclists and group tours traverse this route in order to experience the beauty of our environment. Adventure Cycling has an agreement with the National Park Service to promote a bicycling network through our National Parks.

For background information, Barron Gift Collier provided the state of Florida the funding needed for the completion of the Tamiami Trail with an understanding that the southernmost part of Lee County (which he owned the majority) be re-named Collier County. A state-wide celebration was held in Everglades City on April 26, 1928, for the grand opening. Building a road in the middle of a swamp was quite a feat, likened to one of the great wonders of the world. To accommodate the traffic Barron Collier built way stations that provided gas and food every 10 miles. Fast forward 90 years and his legacy has become a two-lane rural highway connecting the various parks between Florida’s east and west coast. It is no wonder that long distance cyclists come from all over the world to experience the wonders of the Everglades in a non-motorized vehicle. Over the past 35 years there have been many safety improvements: the removal of large Australian Pines lining the canal; resurfacing the road several times with shoulders added where there were none; installing a stoplight at the entrance to Everglades City; building two separate multi-use pathways in the western section near Naples; adding two “Share-the-Road” signs to alert motorists of cyclists, fishermen and photographers; and removing the raised pavement markers in the shoulders between Port of the Island and Everglades City. Despite these enhancements there are still safety concerns: high speed traffic, narrow bridges and the remaining raised pavement markers. Cyclists who are familiar with these obstacles will continue to ride this corridor in order to experience the variety of birds, wildlife, vistas and cultural / historic sites. In November a group of 67 cyclists celebrated their 9<sup>th</sup> annual 72-hours to Key West Ft. Myers to Key West ride to raise funds for Tiny-Hands Foundation. In March the *Ends of the Earth Cycling* group will also take a charity ride along the Tamiami Trail. In addition, several individual bicyclists have been calling this year to learn about the conditions before they ride. For more information, visit our website or call (239) 695-2397.

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## TOURS THROUGH THE EVERGLADES

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual KEY WEST Bike Ride

From **March 16-20, 2019**, the *Ends of the Earth Cycling* will host a multi-day cycling tour from Ft. Myers to Key West to promote and fund global youth ministries. This is one of many of their tours throughout the United States. They will be staying overnight in Everglades City on their way east. For any inquiries or questions, check out their website at [www.endscycling.com](http://www.endscycling.com) or email [EndsCycling@nmsi.org](mailto:EndsCycling@nmsi.org).



### 72 Hrs to Key West Charity Bike Ride

This year marked the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual 72-Hours to Key West Bike Tour. When this bike ride was organized to benefit the Tiny Hands Foundation ([www.tinyhandsfoundation.org](http://www.tinyhandsfoundation.org)), there were only nine bicyclists who participated. On the morning of November 2, 2018, a group of 67 cyclists left Ft. Myers Beach and traveled through the Everglades along the Tamiami Trail to spend the first night at the Miccosukee Resort. The following day they cycled down the new multi-use pathway alongside Krome Avenue, finishing the day in Marathon in the Keys before completing the tour in Key West on Sunday. Congratulations!!

Read more about the riders' testimonials on website: <http://www.72hourstokeywest.com/>.



If you are not a member of the Florida Bicycle Association, please go to their website and join! The FBA works diligently for all Florida cyclists. One of the most important things FBA does is to influence legislation through the direct involvement of its Executive Director, Becky Afonso. Becky has developed a strong reputation in the legislature and in the bicycle community as a knowledgeable advocate for Florida cyclists.

#### The legislative goals for the FBA in the coming legislative session include:

- 1) Amend the Move Over Statute to require drivers to move over and slow for people (cyclists).
- 2) Make texting a primary offense (currently it is only a secondary offense).
- 3) Hand-held device ban for motorists (and bicyclists).
- 4) Adopt E-bike legislation with categories as proposed by People for Bikes.
- 5) Expand funding for paved and natural surface trails.

Much of this agenda seems so logical, you'd wonder how there could possibly be any objection. But there are strong objections by diverse factions. We need strong support to move this agenda forward. The easiest way to show your support is to join FBA. Individual memberships start at \$25 a year.

For information about joining FBA, visit <http://floridabicycle.org/membership-and-sponsorship/>. Support safe cycling and learn more about the Florida Bicycle Association and its advocacy programs: [www.floridabicycle.org](http://www.floridabicycle.org).

*"Ride as much or as little, as long or as short as you feel. But ride"*  
– Eddy Merckx

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