

Jan. 11, 2008

Media Contact: Susan Walsh, 941-861-0951 or 941-650-4791, swalsh@scgov.net

Project Contact: Mary Ellen Maurer, 941-861-0611 or 941-809-2685, memaurer@scgov.net

Paving of The Legacy Trail begins next week

Asphalt paving of The Legacy Trail is scheduled to begin the week of Jan. 14. The first section of the county-owned recreational trail to be paved is the area north of Bay Street and continuing south to Dona Bay, approximately 3.5 miles.

Paving of the 10.6-mile trail along the former railroad corridor between Sarasota and Venice is expected to be complete by the time of the trail grand opening March 28-30. The paved area will be about 12 feet wide.

Six of the eight trestles along the trail also are being replaced or repaired as part of the \$14.7 million construction project that began last July. The two largest trestles, over Dona Bay and Roberts Bay, are not part of this project.

Concrete decks will be poured next week for bridges over South Creek near Oscar Scherer State Park and the bridges just north and south of Central Sarasota Parkway. Areas of active construction have been posted as "No Trespassing" zones by contractor Gibbs & Register Inc. of Winter Haven.

The project also includes the establishment of five trail heads at existing parks or other county facilities and two new trail connections. Other work includes the installation of signals or crosswalk beacons at Bird Bay and the U.S. 41 Bypass, Colonia Lane, Laurel Road, Central Sarasota Parkway and Palmer Ranch Parkway. A reuse waterline, a sewer force main and a telecommunications conduit have also been installed.

Construction of The Legacy Trail is funded through the penny sales tax and general fund revenues. Funding for the utilities portion of the project is through central county water reuse rates and U.S. 41 sewer force main rates.

In December 2004, the county paid \$11.75 million to purchase the corridor, which stretches from just over a mile south of Clark Road by Sawyer Loop Road to the southern terminus near Center Road in Venice.

The Legacy Trail construction updates appear on the county Web site, www.scgov.net. Click on "County Road Projects" on the left. For general information about The Legacy Trail, visit the Sarasota County Web site and click on "County A-Z" on the left and then Legacy Trail; or contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.