

**RESOLUTION No. 2017-01**

**A RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 2008-07, WHICH SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF THE RIVER OF GRASS GREENWAY (“ROGG”), WITH DIRECTION TO STAFF TO REMOVE U.S. 41 EAST (THE ROGG ALIGNMENT) FROM THE REGIONAL NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION NETWORK MAP AND REASSESS ITS TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM REGIONAL PATHWAYS PRIORITIES (INCLUDING JOINT REGIONAL PATHWAY PRIORITIES), REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT PRIORITIES AND OTHER PLANNING INITIATIVES THAT MAY ALSO REQUIRE AMENDMENT OR REVISION AS A RESULT OF THE MPO’S WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT OF THE ROGG PROJECT.**

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2008, the Collier MPO adopted Resolution 2008-07 supporting the concept of the River of Grass Greenway (“ROGG”), a proposed non-motorized connection between Collier and Miami-Dade Counties along the U.S. 41 corridor, the only open road across southern Florida and the Everglades, one of the world’s unique ecosystems (the “U.S. 41 corridor”); and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and other indigenous people belonging to neither of those incorporated tribes (collectively, the “indigenous tribes”), reside along and adjacent to the U.S. 41 corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, at the time the Collier MPO adopted Resolution 2008-07 endorsing the “concept” of the ROGG— posed as a potential major transportation, recreation and economic development facility connecting various regional leisure, recreational, cultural and park destinations, very little public outreach nor any cost feasibility studies had been conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, the MPO recently learned of opposition to the ROGG, including previously undisclosed written correspondence from the Miccosukee Tribe produced in response to a draft feasibility study and master plan prepared by Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department under the auspices of the National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, which staff discovered and timely brought to the MPO’s attention; and

**WHEREAS**, at an October 21, 2016, Joint Collier and Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) meeting a presentation concerning a proposed Revised Regional Non-motorized Transportation Network produced significant public comment in opposition to the ROGG project, including from representatives of the indigenous tribes situated on the U.S. 41 corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Collier MPO staff in consultation with its engineering consultants annually prepares the MPO's various planning priorities, as directed by the MPO, based upon the most current information available; and

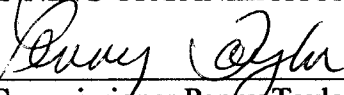
**WHEREAS**, based on the discovery of the indigenous tribes' opposition to the ROGG, as well as the general public comment received at the October 2016 Joint Collier/Lee County MPO meeting, the MPO believes it to be in the public interest and appropriate to rescind its prior endorsement of the concept of the ROGG project and to direct staff to remove U.S. 41 East (the ROGG Alignment) from the Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Network Map and reassess and consider the impact of this direction as it produces its various regional transportation planning recommendations.

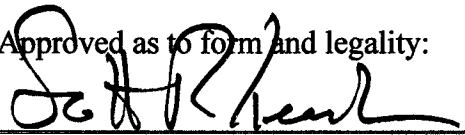
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLLIER MPO THAT:**

1. The MPO hereby rescinds Resolution 2008-07, which supported the concept of the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG), and directs its staff to remove US 41 East (the ROGG Alignment) from the Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Network Map, reassess the MPO's Transportation Alternatives Program Regional Pathways Priorities (including Joint Regional Pathways Priorities), Regional Enhancement Priorities and other planning initiatives that may also require amendment or revision as a result of the MPO's withdrawal of support of the ROGG project as staff conducts its usual annual evaluation of transportation planning priorities.

This Resolution adopted this 10th day of February, 2017 after motion, second and majority vote in favor of passage.

ATTEST:   
Anne McLaughlin  
MPO Executive Director

COLLIER METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
By:   
Commissioner Penny Taylor  
COLLIER MPO CHAIR

Approved as to form and legality:  
  
Scott R. Teach  
Deputy County Attorney

