



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA BICYCLE MONTH

WHEREAS, the bicycle plays an important role in the lives of millions of Florida's residents and visitors by providing a means to travel to work, school, and Florida's parks, and a popular form of recreation, helping to motivate eco-tourism and historical preservation through the conversion of former rail corridors into multi-use trails, and the promotion of bicycling has contributed significantly to economic redevelopment in a number of places; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to more than 8,000 miles of land trails and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails manages eight state trails, six of which are rail-trails, which are railroad corridors converted to recreational trails for biking and other recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, through Florida Forever, the state's premier land acquisition program, Florida has purchased important segments of the statewide greenways and trails system including the 51 mile East Central Regional Rail Trail, the state's longest state owned rail trail; and

WHEREAS, increased bicycle usage will promote health and wellness in the state and is an important part of encouraging all citizens to develop habits of physical activity to become or stay fit, avoid obesity and reduce the risk of many chronic diseases and conditions; and

WHEREAS, increased bicycle usage can help reduce motor vehicle emissions and thereby reduce the impacts of global climate change, provide mobility for those without access to a motor vehicle, and increase existing road and parking capacity when people choose bicycling for utilitarian trips; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation and many local governments throughout the state have adopted goals and policies to develop a multimodal transportation system that supports transportation choices including the bicycle; and

WHEREAS, the Conserve By Bicycle Study conducted by the Florida Department of Transportation indicated that bicycling activity can be encouraged through effective programs and partnerships that target distinct populations of school children, commuters, and diverse groups for recreation and physical activity promotion;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 2010 as **Florida Bicycle Month**.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 1st day of March, in the year two thousand ten.


Governor