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**Current Planning** 

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P O Box 1707 DeLand, FL 32721-1707

February 5, 2014

Re: Opposition to Approval of Cellular Communications Tower on Osteen-Maytown Road. Case S-14-014

Dear Members of the Volusia County PLDRC:

The River of Lakes Heritage Corridor, Inc. would like to voice its strong opposition to the County's approval of this cellular communications tower along Osteen – Maytown Road.

According to the Staff Report for this case, in October of 2011, a 496 foot tall tower was approved for construction by Entravision Communications just 1.17 miles east of the proposed lease area. Construction of the tower was considered finaled by the County's building department on July 6, 2012. The completed guyed tower is approved for a minimum of four future carriers.

This special exception was approved with the intent of co-locating a minimum of four additional cellular communication carriers. As such, cellular coverage in this area has already been provided for by approval of the special exception for the Entravision Tower, located on 495 Pell Road, Osteen. The Entravision tower is of sufficient height to meet what is required by both AT&T and Verizon.

Also according to the Staff Report, in 2012, the County Council passed a resolution to provide for pass-through costs for a third party to review and verify technical data submitted with certain applications. The council can direct staff to hire a consultant through the bidding process to review and verify the structural specifications of the Pell Road tower.

The River of Lakes Heritage Corridor, Inc. respectfully requests that the PLDRC forward this request to County Council with a recommendation of Denial. As stated earlier, the Pell Road Tower was put in place with the assurance of the applicant that a minimum of four cellular carries could colocate on that tower, thus eliminating the need for additional towers in that area. Until such time that the engineers for that tower explain why this cannot now be achieved, and a third party review is submitted, this tower should be denied.

The River of Lakes Heritage Corridor, Inc. is responsible for promoting and preserving the natural and cultural treasures of the corridor, as well as managing the River of Lakes Corridor Scenic Highway. Osteen-Maytown Road is a State and County designated scenic highway that provides visitors with beautiful vistas of natural Florida habitat and is deserving of protection. While we appreciate the fact that the applicant has agreed to place the tower further north of the Scenic Highway than originally planned, we feel strongly that no additional towers should be erected until such time as all other options have be explored.

As an organization dedicated to protecting and promoting Volusia County's natural and historic heritage for locals and visitors alike, and recognizing the harm that the proposed cell tower will have on the natural beauty of the Osteen-Maytown Road Scenic Highway and the East Central Regional Rail Trail, the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor, Inc. urges the County of Volusia to deny approval of the proposed cellular communications tower on this property.

Sincerely,

Cindy Sullivan, Chairman

cc: Kelli McGee
Jason Davis
Joyce Cusack
Josh Wagner
Deb Denys
Doug Daniels
Pat Patterson
Pat Northey