

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: Wed., January 18, 2006

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes  No

Department: Commissioner David Rice, District 4

Staff Contact Person: Tamara Lundstrom

---

**AGENDA ITEM WORDING:** Approval of Resolution to support efforts by the Historic Florida Keys Foundation to include the Old Seven Mile Bridge in America's eleven most endangered historic places of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

---

**ITEM BACKGROUND:** The designation by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, if successful, would assist the County in securing funding for its restoration, and is hoped would encourage FDOT to program funds for the project.

---

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:**

---

**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:**

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

---

**TOTAL COST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BUDGETED:** Yes  No

**COST TO COUNTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REVENUE PRODUCING:** Yes  No  **AMOUNT PER MONTH** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED BY:** County Atty  OMB/Purchasing  Risk Management

**DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:**

***David P. Rice***  
(David P. Rice, Commissioner)

**DOCUMENTATION:** Included  Not Required

**DISPOSITION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA ITEM #** \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY THE  
HISTORIC FLORIDA KEYS FOUNDATION TO INCLUDE THE  
OLD SEVEN MILE BRIDGE IN AMERICA'S 11 MOST  
ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES OF THE NATIONAL TRUST  
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION .**

**WHEREAS**, South Florida, in general, and the Florida Keys, in particular were remote outposts of America until the early 1900's when Henry Flagler built a railroad allowing convenient travel and facilitating development of South Florida's mainland and the long chain of islands reaching 130 miles towards Cuba; and

**WHEREAS**, the old railroad bridges became the roadbed for the bridges after the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935; and

**WHEREAS**, the Overseas Highway, as 120 miles of the road and connecting bridges became known, has enabled the Florida Keys to become America's island vacation destination for millions over the years, providing easy access for the rest of the nation to a tropical paradise and its historic treasures, including many historic homes and museums; and

**WHEREAS**, the saltwater environment eventually caused such deterioration to the old bridges that new bridges were constructed for vehicular traffic in the late 1970's and early 1980's; and

**WHEREAS**, three of the old bridges - the Old Seven Mile, Long Key Bridge, and Bahia Honda bridges - were placed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 13, 1979; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County did pass Resolution No. 059-1992, designating the three bridges as historic and cultural landmarks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Old Seven Mile Bridge still provides pedestrian access from the approach to the new Seven Mile Bridge to Pigeon Key, a small island which was once the base for a toll-keeper cottage and upon which several historic cottages are maintained and operated as a museum by the Pigeon Key Foundation under contract with Monroe County, the owner of Pigeon Key; and

**WHEREAS**, until recently, when the State Department of Transportation deemed the old bridge too unsafe to continue vehicular traffic of any nature on

the old bridge, a trolley transported visitors to Pigeon Key and the bridge enabled art festivals and other community events to be staged on Pigeon Key; and

**WHEREAS**, continued use of the old bridge for any purpose is threatened by insufficient state funds to maintain, despite collaborative efforts of the County and State agencies over the years to find funding to maintain the bridge and to incorporate it into the Overseas Heritage Trail; and

**WHEREAS**, the Old Seven Mile Bridge constitutes a treasured landmark to many while to others it simply represents an important piece of Keys heritage; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, that:

1. Monroe County deems the Old Seven Mile Bridge to be a significant part of the heritage of the Florida Keys.
2. Monroe County fully supports the efforts of The Historic Florida Keys Foundation to have the Old Seven Mile Bridge, or at least that portion connecting Pigeon Key with Knight's Key, designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.
3. This Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its adoption herein.
4. The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to The Historic Florida Keys Foundation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a meeting of said Board held on the eighteenth day of January, A.D. 2006.

Mayor McCoy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor Pro Tem Nelson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commissioner Neugent \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commissioner Rice \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commissioner Spehar \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

(Seal)  
Attest: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Chairman

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY  
APPROVED AS TO FORM

*[Signature]*  
 SUZANNE H. HUTTON  
 COUNTY ATTORNEY  
 1/03/06



## History Is in Our Hands

Search the website

Why Preserve? · Get Involved · Historic Places · Community Building · Historic Travel

### HISTORIC PLACES

National Trust  
Historic Sites

National Trust  
Associate Sites

11 Most Endangered  
Places

2005's List

Past Lists

11 Most Endangered  
Places Database

Nomination Form

Restore America

Legal Advocacy & Tools

Issues and Initiatives

Barn Again

Save America's  
Treasures

#### Site Resources

Join

Help

The Trust in Your State

Site Map

Contact Us

Home

## 11 Most Endangered Places

Since 1988, the *11 Most Endangered Historic Places* list has been one of the most effective tools in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage.

The 11 sites chosen each year are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. Some are well-known, such as the Vieux Carré in New Orleans or Ellis Island in New York Harbor. Others, like the Kennecott Copper Mines in Alaska or the village of East Aurora, New York, are less famous but just as important, because they too represent preservation challenges facing thousands of communities. Each site raises awareness about the dangers to specific parts of America's heritage and about preservation generally.



Angel Island Immigration Station, one of 1999's 11 Most Endangered.

The list has now brought national attention to 168 significant buildings, sites and landscapes. At times, that attention has galvanized public support to rescue a treasured landmark, while in others, it has been an opening salvo in a long battle to save an important piece of our history. *11 Most* has been so successful at educating the public that now more than 20 states and numerous cities and towns publish their own lists of endangered places.

See the [2005 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places](#).

### WHAT'S NEW

Use the onlin  
to learn abou  
the past 11  
over the yea

11 Most 11 Most  
Most 11 Most 11  
Most 11 Most 11  
Most 11 Most 11