



# SOLTEC INTERNATIONAL INC

Environmental and Cultural Resources Consulting Services

December 1, 2008

Ms. Lorna Thomas, Director  
Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office  
17 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

**Subject:** Management Summary and Cultural Resources Management Plan for a Phase I  
Archaeological Survey for the Proposed St. Croix Bike Pathway  
Soltec International Inc. Project 081001

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Soltec International Inc. (Soltec) was retained by Cruzan Bikeways Inc. (CBI) to perform a Phase I Archaeological Survey (Survey) for the proposed St. Croix Bike Pathway. The Survey cannot be completed at this time because of a lack of landowner permission to access some of the land tracts. The following provides a summary of the scope of the project, survey methods employed, and preliminary findings. A Cultural Resources Management Plan for the completion of the Survey and the management of the cultural resources identified to date, as well as those resources which may be identified later, is also presented in this document.

## **The Proposed St. Croix Bike Pathway**

The proposed bike pathway (Figure 1) measures approximately 14.5 miles and extends from Estate Humbug to Point Udall. Figure 1 depicts the alignment for the proposed bike pathway. The bike pathway starts at the southeastern corner of the Hovensa property where a one acre plot of land will serve as a parking area. From the parking area, the bike pathway will cross the public road and traverse south to Estate Cane Garden and continue east to Grassy Point along a 30 foot wide corridor adjacent to the existing public road to just east of Grassy Point. From Grassy Point, the bike pathway will traverse to Point Udall along the existing right of way for a distance of approximately 4.5 miles.

## **Survey Methods**

The survey methods employed to date include the review of readily available archaeological and historical data to assess the potential for the presence of significant resources, complemented by a vehicular and pedestrian inspection of the bike pathway corridor. Systematic shovel testing at 30 meter intervals and/or the inspection of exposed ground surfaces has been performed for approximately one half of the proposed corridor.

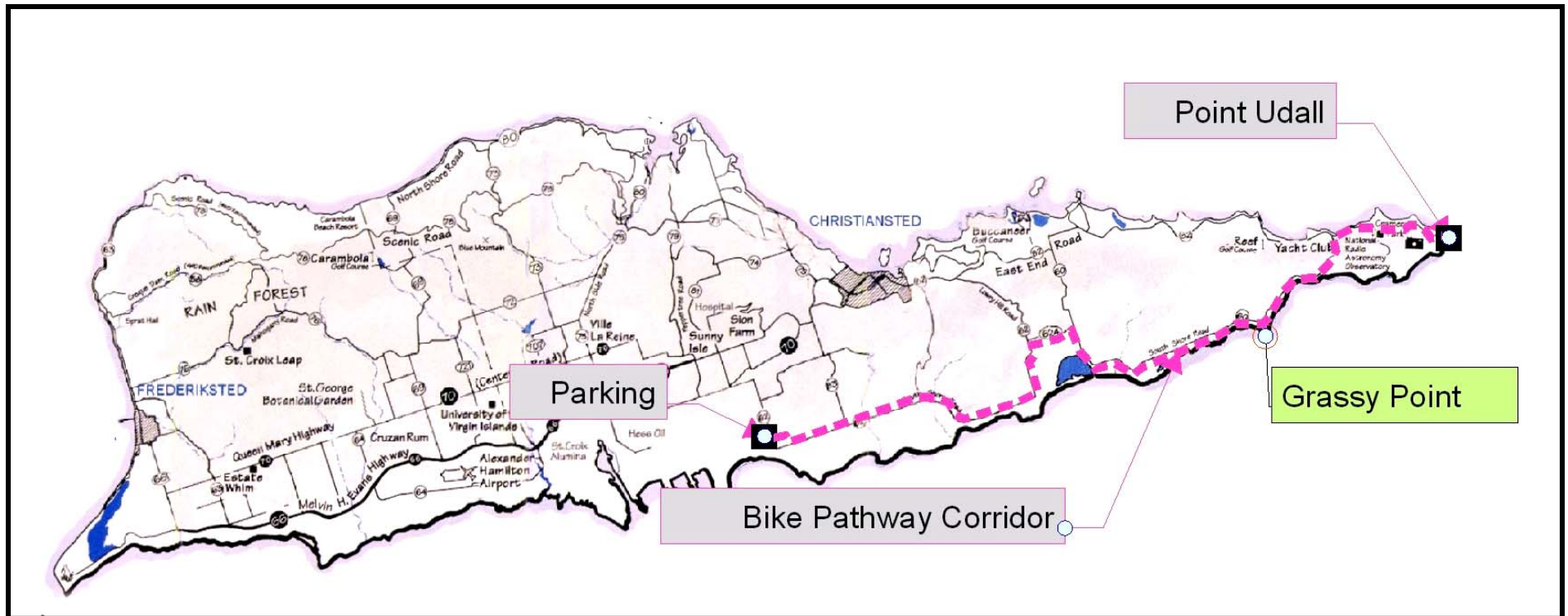
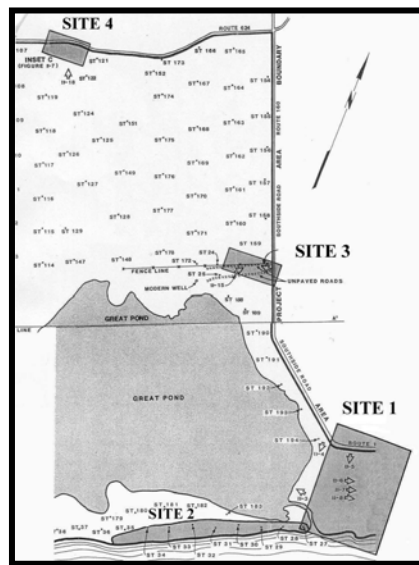


Figure 1: Map of St. Croix showing the proposed Bike Pathway corridor alignment

## Preliminary Findings

The literature and records search performed to date indicates that three cultural resources of record are contained within the proposed bike pathway corridor. These sites were recorded by MAAR and Associates in 1989 as part of the Phase I Archaeological Survey performed for the proposed “Great Pond Resort Complex.” Figure 2 depicts the location of the cultural resources. Our current understanding is that Sites 3 and 4 represent the remains of Pre-Columbian settlements or activity areas, and that Site 1 contains both Pre-Columbian and Colonial components. Soltec understands that Sites 1, 3 and 4 are considered to be potentially significant cultural resources and that the VISHPO required that Phase II Archaeological Testing and Evaluation be performed prior to any earth change activities occurring in the vicinity. It is our understanding that Phase II Archaeological Testing and Evaluation for these resources, has not been performed to date.

One other known cultural resource, the Robin Bay Site, is located within close proximity to the proposed bike pathway. The location of that site is indicated in a later figure in this management summary. The site has been found to be significant and further work to mitigate adverse effects resulting from the proposed development has been agreed to by the developer and the VISHPO.



**Figure 2: MAAR and Associates map (1989) showing the location of the Great Pond Sites**

## Bike Pathway Sites Found during this Survey

To date, four additional cultural resources have been identified during the course of the Phase I Archaeological Survey currently underway by Soltec. These include a cemetery located in Estate Retreat, a slave/worker village area in Estate Longford and two Pre-Columbian Sites in Estates Mount Retreat and Wood Cottage. The locations of these sites are depicted in Figures 3 and 4.



**Figure 3: Satellite image (Google Earth Pro) showing the location of the cemetery and the Longford village structures**



**Figure 4: Satellite image (Google Earth Pro) showing the location of the Pre-Columbian sites**

#### *Cemetery*

The cemetery consists of an as yet unknown number of graves. Preliminary observations indicate that the cemetery may be contained within a low walled enclosure, as evidenced by an articulated stone alignment (at ground level) on its west side.

### *Longford Village*

At least three structures, a water trough and artifact scatters are noted throughout this area. The rubble masonry structures have been modified and are currently occupied. Preliminary indications are that the archaeological deposits (artifact scatters) are contained within plow zone contexts.

### *Pre-Columbian Sites*

Both Pre-Columbian Sites (BP Sites 1 and 2) were initially recognized as light artifact and shell scatters along the proposed bike pathway corridor. Further assessment by shovel testing and visual inspection indicates that the sites extend to, or in close proximity to, the shore line. No diagnostic ceramics were recovered to indicate a chronological or cultural provenance. The preliminary assessment for both sites indicates that those parts of both sites contained within the corridor lack contextual integrity.

## **Cultural Resources Management Plan**

The management of the cultural resources within the proposed bike pathway will be accomplished through:

- Completion of the Phase I Archaeological Survey
- Performance of Phase II Archaeological Testing and Evaluation Studies for cultural resources that cannot be avoided to determine whether the resource(s) meet criteria of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or are otherwise significant to the archaeology or history of the U.S. Virgin Islands
- Performance of Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery Studies for sites found to meet criteria of eligibility to the NRHP and which cannot be avoided during construction

### *Completion of Phase I Archaeological Survey*

The Survey will be completed following receipt of permission to enter and test the un-surveyed parts of the bike pathway. A report of the Phase I Archaeological Survey will be prepared and submitted to the VISHPO within 30 days of the completion of the field activities.

### *Phase II Archaeological Testing and Evaluation*

Phase II Archaeological Testing and Evaluation Studies will be required for the sites of concern identified to date and others that may be identified during the completion of the Survey. The primary objectives of the Phase II Archaeological Testing and Evaluation will be to:

- Determine whether the cultural resource meets criteria of eligibility to the NRHP
- Determine horizontal and vertical dimensions of the cultural resource
- Identify the cultural provenance(s) of the site
- Obtain site data for design purposes to avoid and/or minimize adverse effects

A research/work plan for each site requiring Phase II Archaeological Testing and Evaluation will be submitted to the VISHPO for review and comment prior to the start of such studies. At present, the sites requiring Phase II Archaeological Testing and Evaluation include:

- MAAR Sites 1, 3 and 4
- Cemetery (to define limits and avoid)
- Longford village area (to define limits and avoid)
- Pre-Columbian Sites

*Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery*

In the event that Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery studies are required, a research design for each site requiring a Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery will be submitted to the VISHPO for review and comment prior to the start of any excavations.

**Closing**

In the interest of advancing this important community project with the required permitting process, we recommend that the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office (VISHPO) issue a *conditioned* finding of *no objection* to the project based on the stipulations of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the VISHPO and CBI for the cultural resources management requirements for the project. We have attached a draft MOA for your review.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and we look forward to working with you and your staff on this very important community project for St. Croix. Please contact the undersigned at 954-349-6020 for any other information that we may be able to provide.

Respectfully,



Carlos Solís  
General Manager and Senior Archaeologist

Attachment: Draft MOA

## Memorandum of Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT is made on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008, by and between the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office (hereinafter, VISHPO) and Cruzan Bikeways Inc. (hereinafter CBI) in the matter of the proposed St. Croix Bike Pathway

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (hereinafter, DPNR), Division of Coastal Zone Management (hereinafter CZM), has issued a request for comments regarding Major CZM Permit Application No.; and

**WHEREAS**, Phase I Archaeological Survey for parts of the proposed Bike Pathway corridor have not been completed; and

**WHEREAS**, significant and potentially significant cultural resources have been identified or may later be identified along the Bike Pathway by further studies; and

**WHEREAS**, the VISHPO is responsible for carrying out the mandates of the Antiquities and Cultural Properties Act of 1998 (Title 29, Chapter 17, of the VI Code) in “providing technical assistance to the owner who is willing to restore, preserve and maintain the historical or cultural property”; and

**WHEREAS**, following his designation as State Historic Preservation Officer, the Commissioner of DPNR, or his designate, the Director of the VISHPO, as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, has the authority to enter into this agreement in order that the Applicant may continue to apply for, and meet the requirements of a complete Environmental Assessment Report, as part of the CZM application process; and

**WHEREAS**, The Applicant may develop within the boundaries or in proximity of cultural resources identified for the Bike Pathway,

NOW THEREFORE, the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office (hereinafter, VISHPO) and CBI enter into this Memorandum of Agreement.

### **Identification, Preservation and Mitigation of Cultural Resources located within the Proposed St. Croix Bike Pathway**

(VISHPO Conditions for Completeness of CZM Major Permit Application  
No. \_\_\_\_\_)

Based on the VISHPO’s review of the Phase I Archaeological Survey Management Summary prepared by Soltec International Inc., for the proposed St. Croix Bike Pathway, St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands. The VISHPO and CBI agree

1. CBI will commission and cause the completion of the Phase I Archaeological Survey for the proposed Bike Path Corridor
  
2. CBI will commission and cause the completion of additional archaeological studies for potentially significant cultural resources within its proposed right of way to determine whether the resource(s) meet criteria of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places and in the event that a resource or resources meet these criteria, to avoid and preserve significant site(s) or mitigate adverse effects through the implementation of Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery Studies.
  
3. CBI will submit to the VISHPO a Report of Investigations within 30 days of the completion of the Phase I Archaeological Survey field activities
  
4. CBI will submit a research plan for the Phase II Archaeological Testing and Evaluation Studies for potentially significant cultural resources identified along the Bike Pathway which cannot be avoided or for which additional data are required to the VISHPO for review and approval, prior to the inception of any field activities.
  
5. CBI will pay the curation costs for the archaeological collections (documents and artifacts) obtained during the archaeological studies performed for the St. Croix Bike Path Corridor project.
  
6. CBI agrees that the VISHPO may at its discretion; perform routine or special site visits to verify compliance with the terms of this MOA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date first written below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Hoffman  
Cruzan Bikeways Inc.

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Date

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Lorna Thomas, Director, and Deputy  
Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date