

## Agenda Item 22-3262

Jeremy had mentioned in the last meeting that the money available to use in the Tree Fund was bigger than we had thought, and could potentially support a really big multi-million project. The idea of a wild corridor was one that I liked and agreed with, so I did some research on it. I understand official studies and bids would need to be done on it, but here is what I think is some useful information:

A) A wildlife corridor can be a tunnel under the ground or over the road (like a bridge). The underground option is cheaper, however research has shown that wildlife prefers (and uses more) the bridge option. The research points to animals preferring open air and see the tunnel as a potential hazard.

B) A tunnel can get as high as \$3M while a bridge can get to \$7M or more. If this is something worth pursuing it may take more than what is in the fund and the city may have to save the money for a bit before it can be done (or raise money a different way)

C) A wildlife corridor not only helps animals stay safe, it also keeps humans and their property safe. If we can find a way to eliminate car/animal collisions, it'll aid in the almost \$500K average per year a town or city's residents suffer in damage each year. The 150 average human deaths per year should also be considered.

D) Even if North Port has lower numbers in terms of animal collisions. It can still be a big benefit to wildlife in terms of migration and food. With North Port growing so fast animals are constantly on the move looking for food and shelter. Being smart enough to avoid I-75 still keeps them from moving to a different part of town for food and reproduction. If the city is going to allow such rapid growth, the least it can do is give animals a way to move in a safer manner.