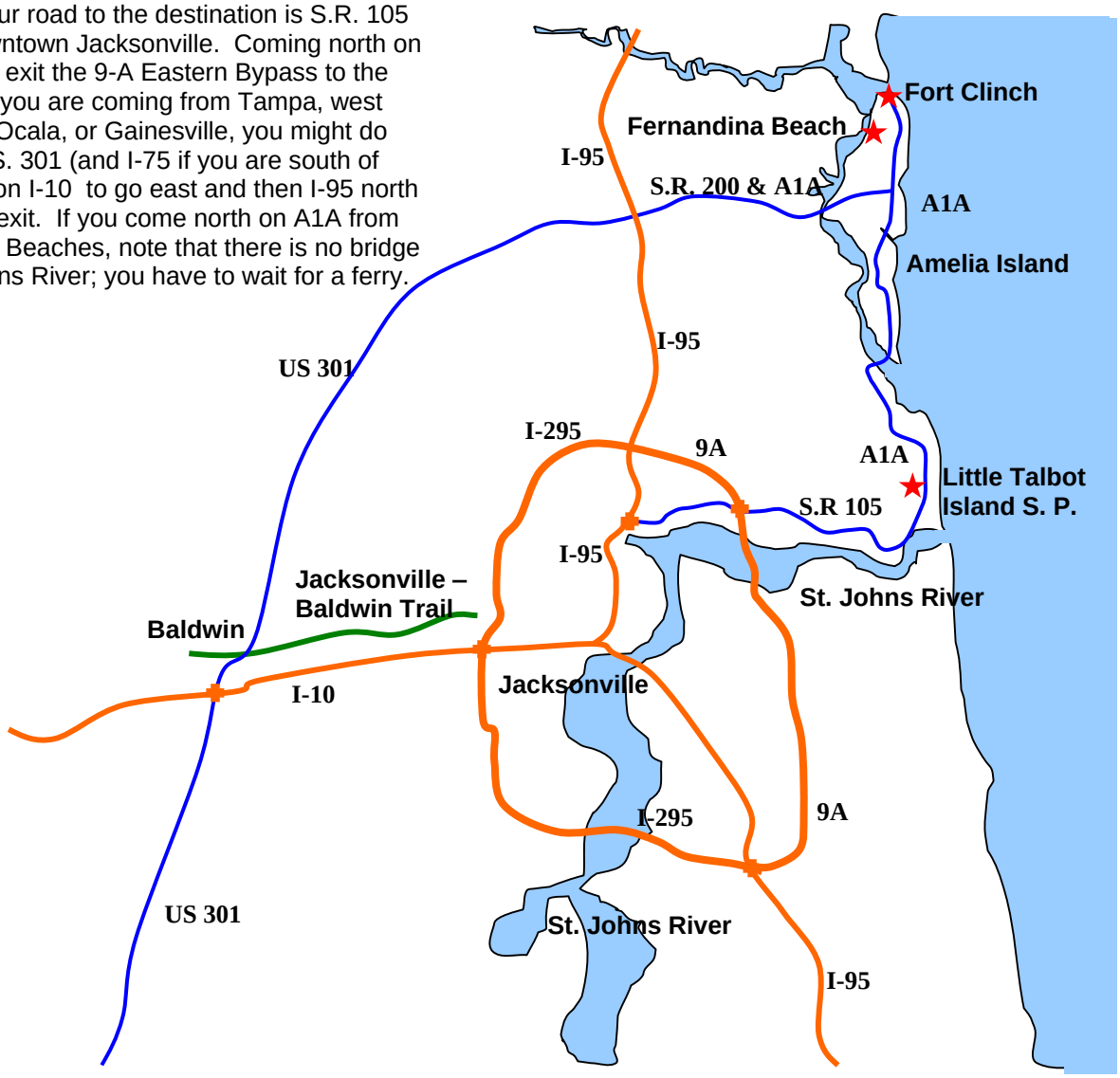
Destination: Little Talbot Island S.P. If you are coming from out of town especially south of Jacksonville, your road to the destination is S.R. 105 out of north downtown Jacksonville. Coming north on I-95, it is best to exit the 9-A Eastern Bypass to the S.R. 105 exit. If you are coming from Tampa, west central Florida, Ocala, or Gainesville, you might do best coming U.S. 301 (and I-75 if you are south of Ocala) and get on I-10 to go east and then I-95 north to the S.R. 105 exit. If you come north on A1A from the Jacksonville Beaches, note that there is no bridge over the St. Johns River; you have to wait for a ferry.



Travel time along S.R. 105 is challenging. It is a 2-lane road and the 4 or 5 bridges are all under construction. And if you are traveling Friday evening, expect heavy traffic. Moreover, there is a drawbridge at one of the bridges. It is my estimate that once you hit the Jacksonville beltway either from the west or the south, you should expect at least 1 hour to get to the State Park. Unless you are sightseeing or have tons of time, do not go north of Jacksonville and cut over on S.R. 200 to Amelia Island, that will take you out of the way of Little Talbot River State Park. S.R. 105 turns into A1A when you see the blue signs for the ferry crossing. Once you reach the Atlantic Ocean and start heading north, you will notice excellent bike lanes and very good scenery, especially from the bridges with their 10-foot shoulders. Early arrivers might want to take advantage of bike riding this stretch of A1A and also inside the State Park (ocean side, not camp side). Unfortunately, we cannot use this stretch of the A1A for Saturday's ride because once you cross over onto Amelia Island, A1A is narrow, has no shoulder and the traffic moves fast. It just does not look very safe.

Jacksonville-Baldwin Rails-to-Trails Sunday Ride - On Sunday morning, we break down and head back out S.R. 105. We enter the 9-A beltway heading north and travel around the top of the Jacksonville loop until we get to I-10. We exit I-10 west and travel about 15 miles to U.S. 301 where the community of Baldwin is located. The trailhead is actually just west of Baldwin. We will bike east on the trail. The trail is 14.5 miles or 29 miles round trip. We can do as much as we are satisfied with. Although the eastern end of the trail cuts through wooded and acreage size residential areas, the unattractive feature are the high tension power lines that parallel the trail. That is why we are starting on the west end, as the sat photos indicate considerably more canopy on the west half making for a more scenic section. Alternatively, if a pair wish to stop at the eastern terminus of the trail, which is just over a mile off of I-295, and leave a car for a single way trip, that is a possibility if you can work out the details with someone else. The point is, I can lead you to that trailhead and we will wait for you. Note, there are no facilities and no food and water sources along the entire stretch of this trail; except port potties at each end. Bring plenty of hydration and a lunch and high energy snacks.