

NEFRC

LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting



September 22, 2023

Northeast Florida Regional
VIRTUAL Meeting



100 Festival Park Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32202
☎ (904) 279-0880
📠 (904) 279-0881
🌐 www.nefrc.org
✉ info@nefrc.org


Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

Bringing Communities Together

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

RE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 PRELIMINARY AGENDA

The next Legislative Policy Committee meeting will be held virtually **at 3:30pm** on **Thursday, September 22, 2023**. The meeting link is:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/83534344341>
Meeting ID: 835 3434 4341

Northeast Florida Regional Council

**LEGISLATIVE
POLICY COMMITTEE**

**PRELIMINARY
AGENDA**

Northeast Florida Regional Council
100 Festival Park Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/83534344341>
Meeting ID: 835 3434 4341

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023
3:30pm

(ADDED OR MODIFIED ITEMS IN BOLD)
(*Denotes Action Required)

TAB

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call – Chair Harvey

2. Invitation to Speak – Chair Harvey

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to speak on any item brought before the Council and will be recognized during public comments.

3. September 7, 2023 Committee Meeting DRAFT Minutes – Chair Harvey 1

4. 2024 Legislative Priorities Discussion – Chair Harvey 2

- Local Government Priorities Received

5. Public Comment – LIMITED TO **3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER**

5. Next Meeting Date and Location: **9:00 am, OCTOBER 5, 2023**
St. Johns County
Health & Human Services
200 San Sebastian View, Ste. 2300
St. Augustine, FL 32084

6. Adjournment

***Denotes Action Item**

Agenda

Item

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legislative Policy Committee

September 7, 2023

MINUTES

A virtual meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee was held virtually via zoom and in-person on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. **Chair Harvey** called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Present: Commissioner Anderson, Mayor Alfin, Commissioner Arnold, Mr. Drew, Commissioner Harvey, Commissioner Horvath, Mr. Kennedy, Mayor Lynch, Mr. Register, and Commissioner Renninger

Other Board Members: Mr. Conkey and Commissioner Sullivan

Staff Present: Eric Anderson, Tyler Nolen, Elizabeth Payne, Annie Sieger and Sheron Forde

Invitation to Speak

Chair Harvey stated that members of the public were invited to speak on any item to come before the Committee.

2024 Draft Legislative Priorities Discussion

Ms. Payne highlighted items for consideration such as the local government priorities received to date and those that will be received over the next few weeks; pertinent known priorities to date; the design and template of the publication; and distribution method. Discussion followed.

Chair Harvey noted that the 2024 Session begins in early January with Committees beginning in December; it is important to get the priorities completed and as soon as possible. He also suggested that the Members establish a rapport with their local legislature. He recommends that this Committee meet virtually over the next few weeks to compile and finalize the Regional Priorities.

Discussion followed on the design and format utilized last year. Ms. Payne shared some of staff's ideas on the design/templates for consideration.

The Members were informed of the process used to create the Regional Legislative Priorities. This involves a review, by this Committee, of the local governments' priorities received and determining those with the most regional significance for consideration as a top priority of the Region.

Ms. Payne discussed the next steps, which included finalizing the priorities this month with a draft provided to the Committee Members by the end of September. In October, the Committee will review a final draft for approval by the full Board at the October 5th meeting for printing and distribution by mid-October.

The Chair entertained comments from the Members on their local government legislative priorities.

Mr. Conkey inquired if the NEFRC would include the dates of the Legislative Delegation meetings on its website. Ms. Payne agreed to do so.

Public Comment: None.

Next Meeting Date: Virtual – TBD

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Larry Harvey
Chair

Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer

DRAFT

Agenda

Item

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Tab 2



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Bringing Communities Together

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

RE: PROPOSED 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The upcoming virtual meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee will be held to discuss the Legislative Priorities received to date from our member local governments and to review the proposed issues identified for the Northeast Florida 2024 Legislative Priorities. A list of the proposed issues is attached.

Follow Us.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

1-2 of 4 Proposed Issues:

- Transportation Infrastructure
 - SCRAP/SCOP
 - Rail
 - Trails
 - Transportation disadvantaged funding
- Resiliency
 - Flood mitigation projects –
 - Water & wastewater infrastructure
 - stormwater
 - property acquisition

3-4 of 4 Proposed Issues:

- Affordable Housing
 - SHIP allocations
 - Refinements to Live Local Act
- Conservation of Land/Protect Natural Resources
 - Farmland
 - Open Space
 - Historic Resources
 - environmentally sensitive lands

Baker County Legislative Priorities



2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

REOPENING OF BAKER CORRECTION INSTITUTE

Background: Baker C.I. was closed in the fall of 2021 due to statewide staffing shortages. The closure of this prison and the elimination of work squads has had a tremendous fiscal impact on local communities. Additionally, there are a loss of services and loss of revenue sharing related to this closure. Services provided previously by inmate work squads are now contracted to private companies at a significant cost to Baker County. Overall, prisons are a major economic driver in small counties and the service of prison work squads provide valuable labor services in Fiscally Constrained counties like Baker County.

Requested Action: Re-open Baker C.I. and allow staff to resume work in Baker County.

Effect: Baker County would see no loss in services and revert to the use of inmate work squads for programs currently being funded through general fund at an increased cost to the County. Additionally, Baker County would not see a loss of revenue through revenue sharing programs.

CONTINUE FUNDING SMALL COUNTY ROAD PROGRAMS

Background: The Small County Road Programs are critical to meeting Baker County's Transportation needs. The Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP), Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), Community Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) and the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) provide necessary transportation funding for road Improvements.

Requested Action: Continued support and increase monies generated by statewide gas tax collections to the State Transportation Trust Fund to provide essential transportation programs such as (SCRAP), (SCOP), (CIGP) and (TRIP). Prohibit the creation of any legislation that would restrict these types of funds due to comprehensive plan amendments adopted by small counties.

Effect: Continuation of these vital programs will enable counties to make much needed road improvements, create jobs, correct environmental problems created by runoff, and stimulate the local economy.

INCREASE MINIMUM S.H.I.P. ALLOCATION

Background: Due to population, Baker County receives the minimum State allocation for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of \$350,000 annually. These funds are used to help Baker County citizens with much needed home repair or replacement. Due to the increased cost of construction in recent years Baker County has seen a decrease in the amount of services we can provide to our citizens. While historic level funding has been made by the State into the SHIP fund, minimum allocation increases to Counties have not been considered.

Requested Action: Increase the minimum allocation to Small/Rural Counties.

Effect: Increase number of residents who are assisted with much needed home repair/replacement.

FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SHELTER

Background: Baker County has utilized two local elementary schools as general population storm shelters and Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital as a special needs shelter for many years. With a population of 29,000 and growing, plus being a recipient County from Duval and other coastal communities, these arrangements are no longer sufficient. Baker County wishes to construct a new storm shelter that could house both general and special needs citizens in one location. This would also allow schools to resume normal activities much quicker after a disaster if they were not utilized as a shelter in the future. Funding assistance from the State would allow the construction of a facility that will meet local and regional needs.

Requested Action: Support funding for a newly constructed shelter.

Effect: Will provide shelter for evacuees, both general and special needs, for local and regional residents in the event of a major disaster.

APPROVE LEGISLATION FOR A LOCALLY IMPOSED SALES TAX

Background: Ad valorem taxes have been insufficient and an inequitable source of revenue for small counties. Counties need to have the flexibility to levy additional sales tax at their discretion.

Requested Action: Allow counties the option to levy an additional sales tax.

Effect: The additional sales tax will create additional revenue for local governments that will affect the community as a whole and not limit the burden solely to property owners.

Clay County Legislative Priorities



Assistant County Manager,
Sustainability and Natural
Resources

3545 Rosemary Hill Road
Green Cove Springs, FL
32043

Area Code: 904
Phone: 284-6374

County Manager
Howard Wanamaker

Commissioners:

Mike Cella
District 1

Alexandra Compere
District 2

Jim Renninger
District 3

Betsy Condon
District 4

Kristen Burke, DC
District 5

www.claycountygov.com



September 14, 2023

To: Beth Payne
NE Florida Regional Council
Via Email to: epayne@nefrc.org

Hi Beth,

Below is the first draft (not yet approved by BOCC) Legislative Priorities as of today:

- 1) Modify P.A.C.E (Property Assessed Clean Energy) statute to clarify intent for county's authority to regulate P.A.C.E.'s activity within its jurisdiction. Improve consumer protections in the P.A.C.E. program.
- 2) No expansion of uses for TDC funding.
- 3) Continue to fully fund Visit Florida.
- 4) Short Term Rental Legislation (watch).
- 5) FRS Changes (watch)

All the best,

Charlie Latham

Flagler County Legislative Priorities



Protect and Increase Funding for the State of Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

Background: The Transportation Disadvantaged Program is a coordinated statewide effort, which groups riders together for a shared ride service. Transportation services are available in all 67 counties including Flagler County for those individuals that are eligible and have no access to transportation. The Florida Legislature created the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in 1989 to set policies, provide direction to staff, administer, and implement all provisions of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund per Chapter 427.013 F.S. The overall mission of the Commission is to insure the availability of efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for transportation-disadvantaged persons. The Commission is assigned to the Florida Department of Transportation for administrative and fiscal accountability, but they function independently of the department. The Commission develops a budget that is submitted to the Governor by the Florida Department of Transportation. The Commission works with the local Governing body to assist in meeting its responsibilities for the transportation disadvantaged. Northeast Florida Regional Council as the planning agency appointed members to a Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board to oversee the transportation-disadvantaged program for Flagler County residents. The program in Flagler County provides mobility to older adults, persons with disabilities, people with low incomes and at-risk children.

Flagler County as a small county with limited resources does not have a transportation system similar to VOTRAN or JTA, so its residents without a vehicle of their own are severely limited in their ability to get to a place of employment, doctor's visits, school, the library or to a local retail store. The program in Flagler County provides mobility to more than 3,000 older adults, persons with disabilities, people with low incomes and at-risk children.

Requested Action: Urge the Florida Legislature to protect the Transportation Disadvantaged Program and request an increase in funding to support unmet trip requests.

Effect: Protecting and increasing the Transportation Disadvantaged Fund will not only continue the service but also allow more individuals without means of transportation to access much needed medical care, employment, food, education or other life sustaining needs. It contributes to the well-being of our residents and allows them to thrive in Flagler County.

- **Increase Financial Support of the SCRAP and SCOP Grant Programs to Assist Small Counties in Paving Farm to Market Roads.** Continue the current level of financial support to FDOT for the Small County Road Assistance (SCRAP) and Outreach Programs (SCOP).

Background: Currently, Flagler County receives millions of dollars each year of SCRAP & SCOP funding for projects. These funds make up the bulk of our entire capital improvement program. We use these funds to construct new roads, improve intersections, resurface and widen roadway and replace failing or aging stormwater structures. Many of the roadway projects that have been completed over the past several years provide some benefit to existing farming and agricultural operations in that we have been able to widen and resurface roadways that they utilize to move their crops/product to packing and from packing to market. There are existing packing house operations on CR 305, CR 304 and CR 2006.

Requested Action: Increase the amount of financial support to FDOT for the Small County Road Assistance and Outreach Programs.

Effect: Flagler County will be able to continue constructing new roads, improving existing roads and replacing any other infrastructure failure because of age or breakdown of the system. This infrastructure is an essential ingredient for economic development and growth in Flagler County.

➤ **Support Community Resiliency Programs for Wastewater, Water Quality, Beach Renourishment, Flood and Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Septic to Sewer Conversion Projects.**

Background: Post Hurricanes Matthew, Irma and now Ian, saw large portions of Flagler County experience severe flooding. While flooding presents its own problems, these problems are compounded when septic tanks are old and failing, discharging nutrients at high levels in environmentally sensitive areas, beaches are eroding, and water and wastewater infrastructure is deteriorating. When these systems flood, as in recent weather events, unwanted environmental discharges increase.

Areas of Flagler County continue to rely on decades-old water and wastewater infrastructure. Coastal communities' potable water lines are subject to saltwater intrusion with corroding metal sewer system pipes and deteriorating lift stations which will pose a constant threat to the environment. The coastal area is a major part of the water that drains towards the Matanzas inlet. This drainage, when coupled with the continued bacterial and untreated storm water pollution and freshwater discharges, impacts and threatens the remaining Class II shell fishing waters in both Flagler and St. Johns counties.

Requested Action: Urge the Legislature to increase available funding through the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Effect: Flagler County along with the local municipalities can begin to eliminate septic tank pollution, improve water quality, renourish the beach and add a layer of storm hardening for residents in the area for future events.

➤ **Support and Dedicate State Resources for the Development and Enhancement of Local Government Cybersecurity.**

Background: Local governments are routinely entrusted with gigabytes of personally identifiable, confidential and proprietary information about the businesses and citizens who live and operate within their jurisdictions. Several high-profile cyber-incidents in the public sector have highlighted the emerging challenges that cities face in protecting this data.

Local governments need help from the state in three primary areas: technical assistance, training and infrastructure improvements. Outside experts should be retained to conduct threat assessments to identify operational and system vulnerabilities so they can be addressed before they are exploited. Local governments should increase training for employees, emphasize the importance of being a cyber aware organization, and develop response plans in the event of a security breach. Finally, many cities and counties must devote resources to improving critical cyberinfrastructure to ensure that hardware and software are impenetrable.

Requested Action: Support legislation dedicating state resources for the development and enhancement of municipal cybersecurity by providing funding for technical assistance, threat assessments, employee training, infrastructure improvements and data protection, including the protection of exempt and confidential information such as law enforcement personnel information and security plans for government buildings and other key critical infrastructure.

Effect: Ensures the protection of County data and other critical infrastructure. Reduces risk of financial loss and of delays in emergency responses times and service delivery.

➤ **Support Purchase of Conservation Lands for Protection of Quality-of-Life Issues and to Support Eco-Tourism.**

The Environmentally Sensitive Lands fund and program in Flagler County was created to purchase and manage lands which are deemed to be environmentally sensitive and that provide specific values including recreation, protection of floodplains and recharge areas, protection of cultural resources, and protection of water quality and habitat for native species including threatened and endangered species.

Each of these stated values provides various interrelated benefits that support each of the others and preserve our way of life. By recognizing the value of and protecting floodplains and recharge areas we protect availability and quality of surface and groundwater. By conserving lands for native species on the landscape scale, we provide healthy flora and fauna which drives the public's readiness to get outdoors to recreate whether it be on biking and hiking trails, by engaging in hunting and fishing, or visiting our larger regional parks like

Princess Place Preserve, Betty Steflik Preserve, and Haw Creek Preserve. These “ancillary” benefits are what has become known as “ecotourism” but, in all reality, these activities have been an integral part of life in Florida and Flagler County historically.

As an example, by conserving the land buffering Haw Creek in the late 80’s, we have prevented impacts to the water quality of the creek that flows north and west into Dead Lake, Crescent Lake, Dunns Creek, and ultimately the St. Johns River as it flows north through Putnam County, Clay County, Duval, and Nassau County to the Atlantic Ocean. By purchasing nearby Bull Creek and providing camping opportunities and boater access to Dead Lake we attract visitors from all over the state and out of state due to access to clean water and great crappy fishing. We have provided opportunities for the public to access the creek from a park with intact ecosystems that provide opportunities for hiking, fishing, equestrian activities, bird watching, camping, wildlife viewing and other activities. For Floridians, these activities are a way of life.

According to the International Ecotourism Society, ecotourism refers to the responsible use of environmental assets and characteristics of an area that “sustains the well-being of the local people and involves interpretation and education”. By supporting eco-tourism, we support education about and the public support of conservation land purchases. Connecting people with these experiences, connects people with the land, the water, the clean air and an appreciation for these natural areas of “Old Florida”.

Requested Action: Urge the Legislature to support acquisition of conservation lands and funding for eco-tourism related projects.

Effect: Regionally the counties will be able to purchase more land in the conservation and wildlife corridors and sustain the well-being of the public while educating and connecting them to eco-tourism experiences.



Legislative Priorities

City of Bunnell



City of Bunnell Northeast Florida Regional Legislative Priorities 2024

❖ **Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collections System Projects:**

Background: The City of Bunnell's Master Utility Plan outlines a range of initiatives aimed at tackling the needs and deficiencies within the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System. Among the upcoming projects, in line with the Master Utility Plan, are those targeted at enhancing gravity collection systems and creating an underground sewer line map. These endeavors encompass slip lining, the rehabilitation of manholes, as well as the application of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping techniques.

Requested Action: Provide local levels of funding in the amount of \$4,500,000.00 to complete wastewater treatment and collection upgrades as identified in adopted Master Utility Plans.

Effect: This funding and the completing of these projects would improve wastewater infrastructure performance. Rehabilitated manholes can improve the overall performance of the sewer and utility systems. By ensuring proper flow capacity and reducing blockages, the rehabilitated manholes contribute to more efficient wastewater management. Slip lining offers several benefits, including reduced disruption to the surrounding area, cost savings compared to full pipe replacement, and reduction and/or elimination of ground and stormwater inflow and infiltration. By combining the capabilities of GPR and GIS mapping, we can gain a comprehensive understanding of their underground sewer infrastructure, leading to improved efficiency, reduced costs, enhanced safety, and better decision-making.

❖ **Restoration of the Historic Bunnell City Hall also known as the Bunnell Coquina City Hall:**

Background: Bunnell City Hall is in the heart of the oldest city in Flagler County. The Bunnell City Hall is a unique one-story public building constructed of locally quarried coquina stone. The building was constructed during the Depression Era of the 1930's under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a New Deal agency organized to alleviate unemployment. The building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 2019. Some of the uses of this site are elections, board and other organizational meetings, cultural events, community outreach, summer programs for children and a place for private family events. In 2021, the City had to close the building for use due to deteriorating conditions of the building and safety concerns for occupants as validated by a building inspector. In

2022, remediation of the building was completed at costs exceeding \$100,000.00. The City has received two awards to assist with the restoration of the facility; however, current construction costs have limited the impact of the awards and the issues that could be addressed using the funding provided. The amount of structural needs in the building and other aspects of the building requiring work plus the requirements of historical preservation, require additional funding to restore the facility to a safe and full use.

Requested Action: Provide local levels of funding in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to reconstruct the National Registered Historic Bunnell City Hall also known as the Bunnell Coquina City Hall.

Effect: This funding will assist the City offset a large capital outlay so that a facility vital to the community for its central location and ease of access for citizens can safely be reopened to allow for the cultural, educational and enrichment of the citizens of Flagler County and adjacent counties as well.

❖ **Water Treatment Plant and Distribution Systems Projects:**

Background: The City of Bunnell's Master Utility Plan identifies several projects to address the needs and deficiencies in the City's water treatment plant and distributions system. Among the next projects to be completed as established in the Master Utility Plan are projects that address the following: new well installation, pipe upsizing, material upgrading and watermain looping for fire protection.

Requested Action: Provide local levels of funding in the amount of \$4,600,000.00 to complete water treatment and distribution upgrades as identified in adopted Master Utility Plans.

Effect: This funding and the completing of these projects would provide for improvement of water quality, pressure levels, fire flow protection capabilities and increased capacity for the City Water Distribution system.

Legislative Priorities

City of Flagler Beach



City of Flagler Beach

P.O. Box 70 • 105 South Second Street
Flagler Beach, Florida 32136
Phone (386) 517-2000

1. *Lambert Avenue Water Main Extension.* The City of Flagler Beach maintains and operates a municipal water system. This system, which includes extraction, treatment, and distribution, supports the City's residents and businesses. A critical shortcoming of the system, though, is the lack of redundancy: only one sixteen-inch transmission main crosses (below) the Atlantic Ocean Intracoastal Waterway (AICW). Due to that sole crossing, the transmission network is not effectively "looped," especially at the north end of the City's service area east of the AICW. This systemic shortcoming puts water system users at increased risk if the sole crossing were damaged or severed or if water at the north end of the system is not adequately circulated.

The estimated cost to design an extended water main north on Lambert Avenue and then cross the AICW as a redundant service and additionally "loop" the system is approximately \$300,000. The estimated cost of construction for the extended water main is approximately \$3,000,000. The City of Flagler Beach requests an appropriation of \$1,650,000, which the City would similarly match, to design and construct the Lambert Avenue Water Main Extension.

2. *Flood Mitigation Measures for City Facilities.* Several City facilities are vulnerable to storm surge and flooding, especially those located in the vicinity of the AICW. These facilities include the Police and Fire stations; a 1,000,000-gallon water storage tank; two City Maintenance facilities, and the Library. Although a berm is currently being designed to protect this general area, additional equipment can be utilized to enhance protection in specific areas.

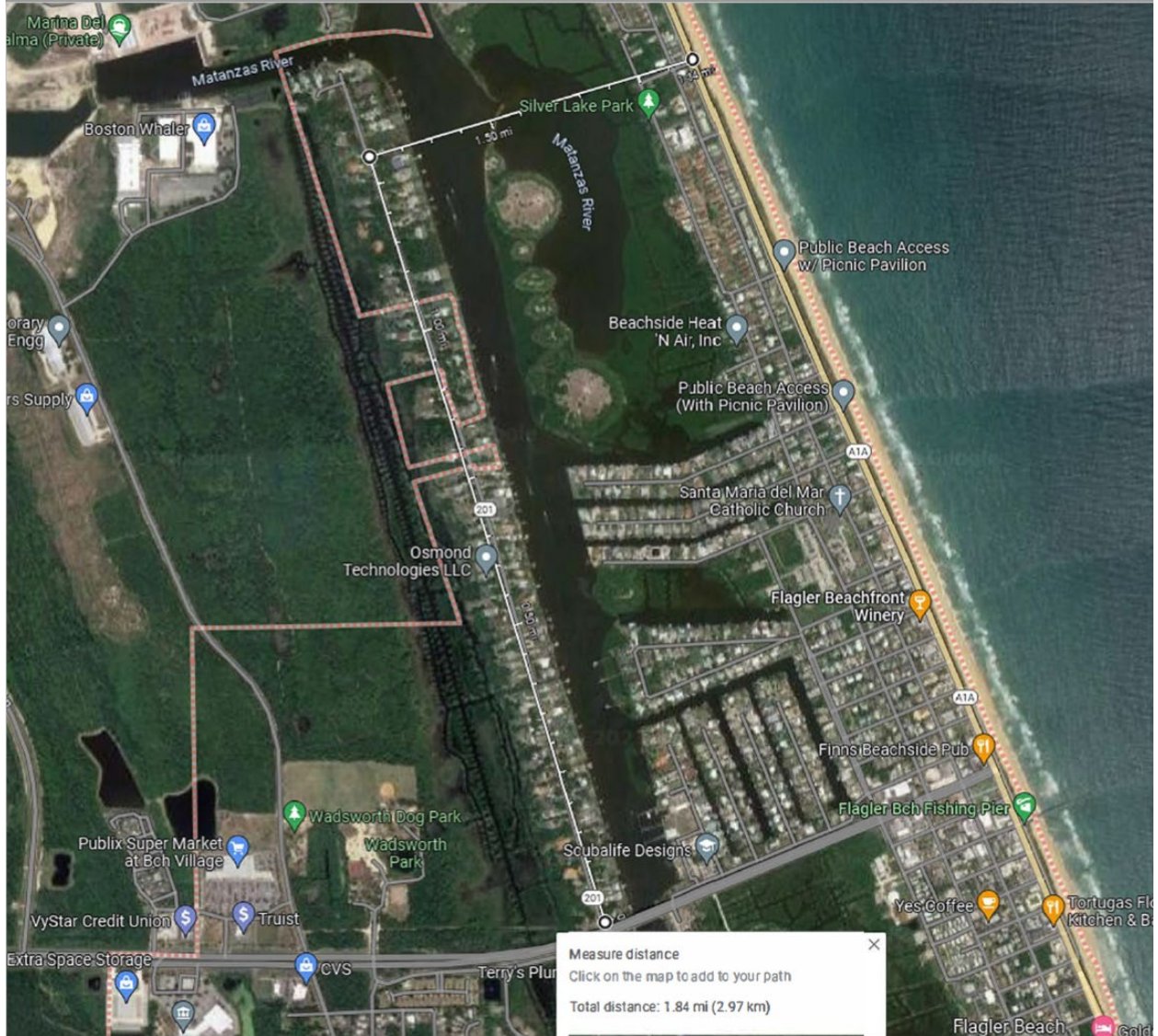
The estimated cost for sufficient protective measures (HydroDefense Flood Planks) is approximately \$150,000. The City requests an appropriation of \$150,000 for the purchase of an estimated twenty flood planks.

These projects will enhance the health, safety, and welfare of Flagler Beach residents during all phases of an emergency: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

Given the need for these projects, the City will also pursue alternative funding through federal, state, and regional agencies.

Encl: Map, Lambert Avenue Water Main Extension and AICW Crossing
Cost Estimate, Water System Improvements
Cut Sheet, PS Flood Barriers HydroDefense Flood Plank

**Proposed Lambert Avenue Water Main Extension and
Atlantic Ocean Intracoastal Waterway Crossing**
(depicted in white)



Flagler Beach Additional Storage at WTP and Redundant WM River Crossing
Order of Magnitude Project Cost Estimate
Revised 8/8/23

Description: Project involves addition of a 1MG ground storage tank (GST) on existing water treatment plant (WTP) site. Project also involves construction of 16" water main (WM) along Lambert Avenue from SR100, then cross the Matanzas River at N 17th Street and along N. 17th Street to SRA1A

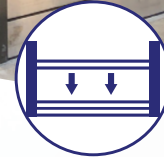
| Item | Description | Est. Qty | Unit | Est. Unit Price | Est. Extended Cost |
|------|---------------------------------|----------|------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Mobilization | 1 | LS | \$ 75,000 | \$ 75,000 |
| 2 | MOT/Soil & Erosion Control/Etc. | 1 | LS | \$ 60,000 | \$ 60,000 |
| 3 | GST Site Prep | 1 | LS | \$ 90,000 | \$ 90,000 |
| 4 | GST Site Piping | 1 | LS | \$ 120,000 | \$ 120,000 |
| 5 | 1MG GST | 1 | LS | \$ 1,600,000 | \$ 1,600,000 |
| 6 | GST Painting | 1 | LS | \$ 55,000 | \$ 55,000 |
| 7 | GST Chlorination/Activation | 1 | LS | \$ 25,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| 8 | 16" WM Tie-ins | 2 | EA | \$ 25,000 | \$ 50,000 |
| 9 | 16" HDPE via HDD (Upland) | 6800 | LF | \$ 175 | \$ 1,190,000 |
| 10 | 16" HDPE via HDD (Subaqueous) | 2400 | LF | \$ 300 | \$ 720,000 |
| 11 | 16" PVC via Open Cut | 500 | LF | \$ 65 | \$ 32,500 |
| 12 | 16" Valves | 10 | EA | \$ 7,900 | \$ 79,000 |
| 13 | Fittings | 1 | LS | \$ 85,000 | \$ 85,000 |
| 14 | Restoration | 1 | LS | \$ 75,000 | \$ 75,000 |
| 15 | General Conditions | 1 | LS | \$ 100,000 | \$ 100,000 |
| | | | | Subtotal | \$ 4,356,500 |
| | | | | 20% Contingency | \$ 871,300 |
| | | | | 15% Design/ Permitting/CEI | \$ 653,475 |
| | | | | Total | \$ 5,881,275 |

Notes:

1. Mead & Hunt does not guarantee estimate; actual costs may vary.
2. HDD costs provided by regional specialty contractor.



100%
Customizable



Stackable Planks



Quick Deployment

HYDRODEFENSE® FLOOD PLANK XL (FP-535)

FOR FLOOD PROTECTION ON LARGE OPENINGS, THE BEST DEFENSE IS HYDRODEFENSE®

The HydroDefense® Flood Plank XL (FP-535) from PS Flood Barriers™ is the most dependable way to protect large openings like driveways, loading docks, storefronts, retaining walls and full building perimeters from the advance of flood water. Specifically engineered to protect extra-large openings, the HydroDefense system is custom built using our proprietary flood planks, also known as stop logs, to address your distinct flood vulnerabilities. The HydroDefense Flood Plank XL is stored away from your opening, providing the perfect solution when you need protection in place only at the time of flooding.

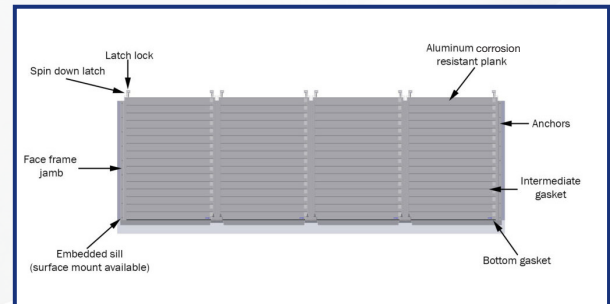
EASY DEPLOYMENT

- No sealant required on planks during deployment – watertight protection that deploys quickly without mess or dry time
- Identical flood planks of symmetrical shape allow for quick assembly because planks fit either way
- Easy-grip construction makes part handling simpler and safer
- Fewer pieces to track mean less stress during assembly
- Easy-to-replace seal can be changed in the field in minutes



KEEPS WATER OUTSIDE WHERE IT BELONGS

- Rugged extruded-aluminum planks and durable gaskets are tested to withstand the rigors and unpredictable nature of flooding
- Components are engineered to integrate together to form a structural watertight wall
- Rugged T-Lock seal is mechanically locked in place



CUSTOMIZABLE, ADJUSTABLE AND SAFE – HYDRODEFENSE MAKES MORE SENSE

- 100% customizable to meet virtually any building or large area opening requirements
- Unique spin-down latches enable walls to be set up with varying heights (instead of all or nothing)
- Lockable spin-down latches allow the deployed barrier to lock in place
- Affordable replacement seals make it easier to keep a well-maintained flood solution

Ask About Our Other Flood Barriers For Large Openings:



Self-closing
Flood Barrier



Vertical Lift
Flood Barrier



Sliding
Flood Barrier

701.746.4519 | 877.446.1519 | www.psfloodbarriers.com | 4psinfo@psindustries.com

STANDARD TECHNICAL DATA

MATERIAL:

- **Flood Planks and Frame:** 6000 series aluminum alloy
- **Seal:** UV Resistant EPDM (High-grade material)
- **Installation:** To be installed to structural walls, typically concrete or masonry
- **Floor Surface:** Seals to existing floor surface or optional embedded steel sill
- **Mullions:** Removable mullions create a sectional barrier of any length

HARDWARE:

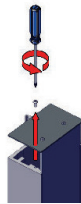
- Spin-down compression latches with security locking

PERFORMANCE RATING:

- Tested to the American National Standard for Flood Abatement Equipment, ANSI/FM 2510 2014, section 4.3.3, for water protection up to 12 feet

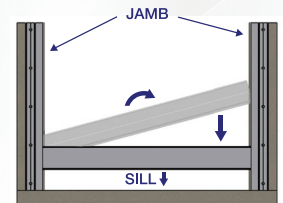
DEPLOYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1. Remove cover assembly from jambs and spray jamb seals with a water-soap mixture.



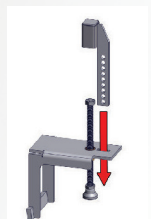
Step 2. Install the plank that is labeled “Bottom Plank” first. This plank is unique and the gaskets have been factory sealed to ensure a watertight junction with the sill.

- Place one corner of the bottom plank into the jamb.
- Angle the opposite end of the plank upward until it clears the opposite jamb.
- Slide the plank into the jamb, taking care to not tear the jamb gasket.
- Level plank and slide down.
- Center the plank between the jambs and ensure that the plank fully overlaps both jamb gaskets.



Step 3. Install the intermediate planks in the same manner as the bottom plank, ensuring that each plank is fully seated onto the plank below. If this is not achieved, lift and re-seat the plank on the plank below before continuing.

Step 4. Install latching, making certain to tighten both latch sides evenly to compress planks uniformly. Tighten latch bolts to a torque of 100 in.-lb. To ensure that the gaskets are compressed uniformly, measure from the floor to the top plank on both ends. These dimensions are required to be within 1/4" of each other. Use of supplied latch-lock is optional but recommended in locations where tampering of the HydroDefense™ Flood Plank Wall System is prevalent.



Legislative Priorities

City of Palm Coast



2024 Legislative Session – Local Priorities

Safety through Smart Growth

Continue to support Transportation Access to the West (NEFRC Regional Priority)

The FEC Railroad divides Palm Coast into two sections, running in a north-south direction just to the west of US1. To the west of these railroad tracks lies approximately 12,000 acres of land within Palm Coast's municipal boundaries, which currently have limited access. Construction on the initial access point is scheduled to begin this year, and plans are in progress for the development of a loop road that will connect Matanzas Woods Parkway to Palm Coast Parkway. **Provide legislative support.**

Request FDOT Fund Old Kings Road Construction Phase III (NEFRC Regional Priority)

The top-priority transportation project for the city within the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the widening of Old Kings Road, which commenced under the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in 2009. Phase 1, funded by FDOT in 2019, reached completion in 2022, and Phase II construction is scheduled for 2024. The River to Sea TPO ranks this project as the third highest among Regionally Significant Non-Statewide Infrastructure System (SIS) Projects. **Provide legislative support.**

Maintenance Operations Center

The existing Public Works Facility was transferred to the City by Flagler County in 1999. Since then, Palm Coast has operated within this facility, making incremental improvements to address immediate needs and deficiencies. However, the current facility is insufficient in terms of storage and maintenance capabilities to meet the growing demands of the City of Palm Coast safely and efficiently.

Presently, the facility faces several shortcomings, including inadequate parking and material storage areas, aging buildings with structural issues, and an inadequate number of fleet mechanics' bays, which don't provide sufficient space for servicing many of the City's larger work trucks, heavy equipment, and fire apparatus.

The existing Public Works facility cannot adequately meet the current operational requirements and must be upgraded in terms of safety, technology, capacity, traffic flow, and workflow. Establishing this new Public Works facility is crucial to maintaining a high level of service to our residents and addressing the present and future needs of the community. The work carried out by our Public Works teams has a

significant impact on every resident, visitor, and City employee, and an appropriate facility is essential for staff to work with maximum efficiency.

Being proactive in anticipating and addressing both current and future community demands is a key part of our strategy to ensure that we can maintain the expected service levels needed to properly manage City facilities and public assets such as parks, community centers, rights-of-way, City fleet and equipment, and effectively respond to emergency and disaster situations without exposing our employees to additional risk.

The new facility, situated on a 128-acre parcel along US Highway 1, is strategically located in anticipation of the City's westward expansion. This complex will cater to all City departments and will include a Fleet Maintenance Building, Fuel Depot, Fleet Wash Building, and an Administrative Building housing warehouse and shop spaces. To enhance sustainability, the complex will feature rooftop photovoltaic systems, partially powering it and aiming for LEED Silver Certification.

Furthermore, the Maintenance Operations Center will be constructed as a critical, fortified facility, doubling as the City's Emergency Operations Center. The site will include designated areas for debris storage, storm event material staging and storage, and the distribution of public sandbags. It will be the primary facility for coordinating staff and equipment during storm events and during the recovery process. **Support funding for public safety.**

Preserve Historic Fire Station 22

Preserving Historic Fire Station 22 in Palm Coast is essential to maintaining the city's unique identity and honoring its rich history. This historic landmark serves as a tangible link to the past, offering residents and visitors a glimpse into the early days of the community's development. By preserving this iconic structure, Palm Coast can ensure that future generations continue to appreciate the historical context and evolution of firefighting services, fostering a sense of pride and connection to the local heritage. Moreover, repurposing the building for community use, such as a museum or cultural center, would provide a valuable space for educational programs and events, promoting a deeper understanding of the area's history. In embracing its past, Palm Coast can create a legacy that enhances both its sense of place and its sense of community. This request is for state funding to accomplish required building code updates to repurpose the building for an assembly use. **Support funding for historic preservation.**

Construction of a YMCA

The establishment of a YMCA in Palm Coast would usher in a plethora of advantages for the community. Firstly, a YMCA serves as a central hub for health and wellness activities, offering a diverse array of fitness programs, sports facilities, and recreational opportunities catering to individuals of all age groups. This not only promotes mental and physical well-being but also nurtures a sense of community involvement and social interaction.

Furthermore, YMCA facilities often serve as venues for educational programs, workshops, and classes, contributing significantly to personal development and lifelong learning opportunities for residents. Additionally, a YMCA can effectively address the community's need for secure and supervised after-school programs, providing children with a productive and enriching environment while their parents are at work.

Moreover, the YMCA's strong emphasis on inclusivity ensures that individuals from all backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses can readily access its services, thus promoting social cohesion and fostering equality within the community. Ultimately, the presence of a YMCA in Palm Coast would serve as an

asset, enhancing the overall quality of life and contributing to the city's vibrant and health-conscious cultural landscape.

In FY23, the Volusia Flagler YMCA secured \$1,000,000 for the design of a new facility in Palm Coast, with the city having identified available public lands for the project. **Support funding for community wellbeing projects.**

Reduce the Risk of Flood

Support Funding Blare Drive and Colbert Lane Flood Mitigation and Flood Map Study and Revision

This project centers on enhancing the stormwater conveyance capacity at three culvert crossings, namely (1) Blare Drive and (2) Colbert Lane. The goal of this undertaking is to enhance the efficiency of the drainage system, ensuring swifter recovery during and after storm events. Simultaneously, it bolsters the flood protection and resilience of the adjacent residential neighborhoods.

As part of this project, advanced stormwater modeling software and data are being employed, surpassing the capabilities of the previous model. This presents an opportunity to recalibrate the existing flood maps, offering a more precise delineation of the floodplain boundaries once the project is completed. The potential revision of these flood maps holds the promise of reducing flood insurance premiums for homeowners whose properties fall outside the updated floodplain boundaries. **Support funding for community resiliency.**

Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Protect Palm Coast Parkway's Unique Hard Wood Tree Canopy

The stretch referred to as the "Tree Tunnel" extends from the intersection of Palm Coast Parkway and Florida Park Drive to the Hammock Dunes Bridge. This area offers a captivating display of the splendid native trees that grace Palm Coast and offers a glimpse of the origins of Graham Swamp. Within the Palm Coast Parkway and Colbert Lane property, you'll find trees with diameters exceeding 70 inches, critical habitats for native wildlife, and vital floodwater storage components integrated into the swamp's ecosystem.

Preserving the northernmost section of Graham Swamp serves a dual purpose: it conserves the distinctive "Tree Tunnel" character while maintaining the swamp's integrity as an interconnected system, capable of storing water and facilitating water treatment for the city. This preservation effort ensures that the natural beauty and ecological functions of this unique area are safeguarded for current and future generations to enjoy. **Support inclusion in the Flagler County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program and Florida Forever funding.**

Acquire Bulow Creek Relic Dune and Burial Mound

Designated as the relic dune or Sandridge by city staff, this topographical feature holds a distinct and significant position within Palm Coast. Soaring to an elevation of 42 feet above sea level at its highest point, this ridge stands out as a rarity in this region. The ridge serves as a protective barrier for Bulow Creek, recognized as an Outstanding Florida Waterway, extending from Old Kings Road S and offering the creek additional safeguards against pollution.

Bulow Creek plays a pivotal role in floodplain management, serving as a regulatory floodway where high-velocity floodwaters travel southward until reaching the Intracoastal Waterway. At the terminus of the ridge lies a Native American burial mound, which, although devoid of remains or artifacts, remains a

significant cultural site. The combined presence of the Sandridge, adjacent wetlands, and Bulow Creek creates a diverse range of habitats for numerous species and plants, further underscoring the importance of preserving this area.

In line with Comprehensive Plan Policy 1.1.9.18, the City is committed to collaborating with land acquisition entities and public agencies to secure environmentally and culturally significant lands situated in the Planning Area to the east of Old Kings Road. **Support inclusion in the Flagler County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program and Florida Forever funding.**

Protection of Water Supply

Indian Trails Reclaimed Watermain Extension and Sprots Complex Irrigation Conversion

The Indian Trails Sports Complex in the City features numerous ball fields for public recreation and sports clubs. Until now, the irrigation system has relied on four shallow irrigation wells as its water source. However, these wells have been steadily declining in their raw water production and have faced issues related to fouling. Maintaining a dependable irrigation system for the ball fields is crucial for preserving the quality of the playing surfaces and attracting sports clubs and tournaments.

To address this issue, a project is planned to extend a reclaimed water main, spanning approximately 1 mile, to connect with a stormwater irrigation pond. Reclaimed water will be utilized to maintain the water level in the pond, thereby offsetting the depletion caused by irrigation usage. Additionally, the pond will be equipped with an irrigation pump system to replace the four shallow irrigation wells, ensuring a more reliable and sustainable water supply for the sports complex. **Support funding for community resiliency.**

Citation Boulevard Reclaimed Watermain Extension

The developer of Seminole Palms is constructing the Citation Boulevard extension and associated utilities including a reclaimed wastewater main. This request it to connect to the new reclaimed main and continue it west to Belle Terre Boulevard. This will provide reclaimed service to both Seminole Palms to the east and Flagler Village and Citation Estates to the west. This project includes sidewalks and street lighting to match the new portion of Citation.

Support funding for community resiliency.

Land Acquisition for Rapid Infiltration Basins (NEFRC Regional Priority)

Acquire land in the western part of the city to provide additional inland disposal and storage of treated wastewater effluent to accommodate growth, protect natural waterways by avoiding surface water discharge, and provide storage and recovery for irrigation needs when irrigation demands are at peak levels which may exceed daily production of effluent during weather or seasonal conditions. RIBs are an essential component of water conservation and protection of surface waters. Utilizing treated effluent/reclaimed water for irrigation reduces aquifer and potable water consumption. When demand for irrigation water reduces with increased rainfall, it becomes necessary to dispose of excess treated effluent/reclaimed water. Disposing of excess reclaimed water in RIBs helps to replenish the surficial aquifer. **Support funding for community resiliency.**

Protection of Water Quality

Wastewater Treatment Facility No. 1 Capacity Expansion

Expand Wastewater Treatment Facility No.1 from 6.83 million gallons per day treatment capacity to 9.1 million gallons per day treatment capacity, improve electrical and control systems, and upgrade process equipment needing replacement. WWTF-1 is the City's primary wastewater treatment facility and

currently serves most of the City's residences and businesses. The City has undergone significant growth in recent years, and WWTF-1 is nearing its current capacity and needs expansion to accommodate additional growth. WWTF-1 also produces a considerable amount of reclaimed water for irrigation use which is beneficial in offsetting the consumption of aquifer water. **Support funding for community resiliency.**

Construct Regional Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) Site

A study for a Resiliency Plan for the Rapid Infiltration Basin (RIB) site is complete. The study revealed that converting the spray irrigation to rapid infiltration basins is feasible and will increase the much-needed effluent capacity and storage. The RIB treats the effluent as it infiltrates through the soil and, at the same time, replenishes the aquifer. The process can treat a much larger volume of wastewater than aboveground high-volume irrigation on a small land area. This request is to convert approximately 43 acres used for treated wastewater effluent wet weather disposal from spray fields to rapid infiltration basins to increase disposal volume to accommodate growth and reduce discharge frequency to the Matanzas River. **Support funding for community resiliency.**

Legislative Priorities

Town of Beverly Beach

**TOWN OF BEVERLY BEACH
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
FISCAL YEAR 2024**

1. RESILIENCY AND VULNERABILITY STUDY

BACKGROUND

The Town of Beverly Beach has partnered with the City of Flagler Beach to commission a Coastal Resiliency and Vulnerability study through a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The engineering firm, Mead and Hunt, is managing the data. The town has had several sites that have been vulnerable to storms in the past seven (7) years, including town infrastructure. Massive erosion from wave action has also occurred.

REQUESTED ACTION

The town needs to listen to the interpretation of the study data, and add its own processes to implement the findings. Any recommendations that need financial backing can be budgeted by the town.

EFFECT

If the study can identify even one element that the town is not aware of, the study will be well-worth the time and effort. The town has advocated lifting the moratorium on seawalls on residential properties on the oceanfront – as a matter of desperation. A second action, taken by the State, is to buttress the shoreline with dredged sand. The dredging will occur in 2025.

2. PARKING WITHIN THE TOWN

BACKGROUND

The town has been overwhelmed by the growth that has come to Flagler County in the past few years. With that growth has come heavy traffic – especially at public attractions like the beach. The town has never developed the infrastructure to deal with this overflow, mostly because: 1) It has not needed to; 2) Much of the traffic is from adjoining towns and not from Beverly Beach.

REQUESTED ACTION

With limited land to create parking lots, the town must inventory its facilities and develop solutions within its capacity. Land that is close to the beach is invariably expensive, the purchase of which would seem extravagant to its citizens. One of the options is to create reserved parking for the town's citizens. However, much of the town's available land is on a state-owned easement that cannot be reserved. Enforcing a "reserved parking" facility might also require increased code enforcement.

EFFECT

Creating an innovative solution at this level is not only a logistics problem, but a financial one. The town has limited resources and reserving unused space for citizens is a difficult task. Better service for tax-paying citizens is the immediate outcome.

3. FRAGMENTED STORMWATER SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

In one of the town's major subdivisions, the Osprey Point District, the developer left the town and the State of Florida, holding the proverbial "bag." No homeowners association had been formed, and the state has the Environmental Resources permit, while the town controls the three roads in the district. However, the stormwater infrastructure is in the hands of the private property owners, including the two large retention ponds. With sea-level rise has come more flooding and ponds that are filled to capacity. While the town receives Local Gas Option Tax Funds to care for the roads, the amount is not large enough to take corrective action on the infrastructure, nor can the town do so on its own volition – given the political fallout of spending tax-payer funds for the benefit of a few private land owners. The town attempted to apply for a REDI grant from St Johns River Water Management District and was told that the grant cannot be used for private property.

REQUESTED ACTION

The town has taken a variety of approaches to this issue. Even a public/private partnership to treat the ponds for algae has been retracted. There is no incentive for private owners to provide a public benefit. Consequently, actions that need to be done, such as the dredging of the ponds, do not get done. While a court order can encourage corrective action, it is a last resort for homeowners, and the town does not want to be forced into eminent domain-type seizures. As of this date, there have been no proposed alternatives. The subdivision cannot be forced to form an HOA and a Special Taxing District is administratively burdensome.

EFFECT

St Johns River Water Management District has declared that the stormwater system is functional. The town wants it to remain functional, despite the proclivity of 100 year storms, and wants to alleviate flooding concerns in the future.

Nassau County Legislative Priorities



Flood Mitigation/Resiliency

Background: Nassau County consists of 253.7 miles of streams and 35% of its jurisdiction is affected by high-risk flood zones A, AE, and VE. The Nassau County Master Storm Water Plan (April 2012) provided an engineering analysis of the existing storm water management system and identified problematic riverine areas which have indeed been impacted by subsequent storms. County code requires new and major improvements to be built to standards which reasonably protect from flood hazard and recent entry in the NFIP/CRS program has incentivized the community to protect property, persons, and natural floodplain functions from risk and hazard in flood prone areas, many of which are sensitive environmental sites. Older residences in Volume Sensitive Areas and problematic areas are acutely at risk for flood damage and personal danger. Although FEMA offers assistance to mitigate flood risk for these types of property, the national demand for flood mitigation has increased the competitiveness of these grants. To provide just one local example, Nassau County Completed a Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Grant through USACE executing a study of the Thomas Creek Watershed. The Thomas Creek Watershed includes numerous repetitive loss properties and routinely suffers property damage during named and unnamed storm events.

Requested action: Continue to prioritize funding and proactively assist local governments in their efforts to mitigate the impacts of flooding/sea level rise and create more resilient communities. This may come in the form of match assistance for grants received through the USACE and/or FEMA, funding for physical improvements such as living shore installations and erection of sea walls, funds to purchase and remove repetitive loss properties, or funds to raise repetitive loss structures above the base flood elevation. Local implications include implementation of the recommendations from the USACE to mitigate flooding and reduce repetitive loss of property within the Thomas Creek Watershed. All these options are outlined in the Board Approved Thomas Creek Implementation Plan. Support appropriations to assist local government for property acquisition, building elevation and relocation of buildings in area of high risk, thus reducing risk to persons and property, and to allow for conversion of those areas to open space or conservation areas.

Effect: Funds for flood mitigation and proactive actions that promote resiliency will help local communities to retrofit or remove properties from high-risk areas thereby reducing the risk to persons and property. Removal of persons and properties from high-risk areas can allow for the conversion of said areas to open space or conservation area which can provide recreation and can positively impact water quality, reduce future flooding potential and create more sustainable and resilient communities that, over time, require less monetary investment to maintain and protect.

Small, Rural and Transitioning Counties Infrastructure Program Support

Background: Like many counties in Florida, Nassau is a rapidly transitioning coastal county that is in a hyper-growth situation. The rapid expansion of the population and correlating urbanization of rural lands has placed a significant strain on existing infrastructure and the need for investment in new infrastructure. In addition to traditional infrastructure demands, the global pandemic shined a light on the critical nature of universal access to broadband/highspeed internet. There is broad consensus that we, as a collective society, view broadband/high-speed internet as essential infrastructure and bridge the 'digital divide'. Across Florida the demand generated by growth exceeds the ability of most local jurisdictions to unilaterally keep pace with infrastructure needs. Nassau, like most transitioning communities, is dependent on State and Federal support to accommodate growth in a responsible manner.

Requested Action: Respectfully request the Legislature to enhance funding for small county transportation infrastructure programs such as SCOP and SCRAP. These programs, and other similar programs, provide vital revenue for small counties to deliver critical transportation projects and keep pace with growth. Additionally, it is respectfully requested of the Legislature to continue to provide grant funding in both the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Commerce. Such funding will aid in the construction and expansion of centralized water and sewer to (1) eliminate septic systems and individual wells and (2) to promote economic development in rural and transitioning communities. It is requested that programs be designed to allow small, rural and/or transitioning counties to have an equitable opportunity to secure funding. To aid in accessibility of broadband/highspeed internet, it is respectfully requested of the Legislature to continue to pursue programs that make universal broadband realistic and assist local government in executing installation.

Effect: The allocation of additional funds and creation of more robust programs aimed at assisting small, rural and/or transitioning counties in the execution of infrastructure projects will result in more resilient, sustainable, and livable communities for the citizens and businesses of Florida. Continued allocation of funding to expand water and sewer will provide for the elimination of individual well and septic systems in environmentally sensitive areas and will have the direct positive effect of reducing environmental impacts to environmentally sensitive areas. Additionally, grant funding for system expansions and fast track permitting of water and sewer system expansion will also allow enhanced economic development in rural and transitioning communities. Having the ability to quickly get water and sewer to sites already approved for industrial development will increase Florida's economic competitiveness in attracting industry.

Likewise, as acknowledged by the NEFRC and made a part of the 2022 Regional Legislative Priorities, it has been recognized that broadband has evolved to be essential infrastructure in the current age as internet connectivity has become necessary to access job opportunities, educational content, healthcare options, government benefits and numerous other services. Therefore, Nassau County supports all efforts by the State of Florida and the

Department of Commerce for the provision of reliable and affordable high-speed internet access to every household and business throughout the State of Florida. These actions not only make Florida more competitive on the global scale for economic expansion and high wage jobs, but it also creates more equitable, resilient, and livable communities for the citizens of Florida.

Home Rule

Background: Home rule is an important and vital component of city and county government. It keeps state government from interfering on matters that should be regulated by local jurisdictions as officials should know what is best for the development of their areas and for their citizens. Recent actions by the state legislature have impaired local jurisdiction's ability to protect job creating land use from residential development, generate needed funding for infrastructure, reduced abilities to regulate certain aspects of our communities that citizens value, and placed unexpected financial strain on local ad valorem tax dollars.

Requested Action: While we acknowledge there are certain items that are of State interest that warrant preemption of local authority, we respectfully request the Legislature to more fully assess the impacts of enacting legislation that limits local jurisdictional control over urban planning and design, land-use policy, protection of job creating land uses from residential development, impact fees, short-term/vacation rental, and other related matters as these types of issues are not universal and are subject to the context of place - each jurisdiction is different.

Effect: Allowing local jurisdictions to apply regulations crafted in the unique context of each locality allows jurisdictions to leverage their uniqueness of place and capitalize on opportunities while at the same time creating more livable communities for our citizens.

Affordable Housing

Background: Housing affordability is a challenge across the US. In Florida, the challenge is magnified by the rapid in-migration from other states. The latest population estimates from the US Census Bureau revealed that Nassau's population expanded by 7.02% from 2020 to 2022. This extraordinary growth rate ranks Nassau as the 65th fastest growing County out of 3,145 counties in the United States. In addition, according to Lightcast's Talent Attraction Scorecard, from 2016-2020, Nassau County ranked as the #1 small county [under 100,000 persons] in the Country. From 2016-2022, the median single-family home price has increased from \$237,000 to \$446,500. This challenge is not unique to Nassau County or the Northeast Florida Region, housing affordability is a State-wide challenge. As such, the challenge of home affordability cannot be solved by local government alone nor can it be solved by local preemptions that inhibit the ability of local government to protect job creating land uses and set affordability standards suited to the local market.

Requested Action: Amend or repeal portions of the Live Local Act. Specifically:

- (1) Reduce the affordability standard from 120% to 80% AMI.
 - a. In the alternative, allow Counties to undertake a county specific housing affordability assessment and set the affordability standard based on the County specific data.
- (2) For properties with an industrial Future Land Use Map designation and/or industrial zoning classification, allow the construction of affordable housing to be an option available to local government.
 - a. In the alternative, create exemptions for:
 - i. planned industrial parks,
 - ii. working waterfronts,
 - iii. job centers/industrial areas where the local government has funded infrastructure for the purpose of creating jobs, e.g. installation of public water,
 - iv. job centers/industrial areas where the local government has accepted a grant with job creation criteria, e.g. State of Florida Job Growth Grant,
 - v. lands accessible by rail

Effect: (1) Protect job creating industrial lands that are critical to Florida's future economy, (2) maintain LLA mandates to allow affordable housing on commercial and mixed-use lands, and (3) set an affordability rental rate standard that is affordable to the workforce based on the local market conditions, (4) allow local governments to meet the job creation requirements of previously awarded grants.

St. Johns County Legislative Priorities

12**AGENDA ITEM
ST. JOHNS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS***Deadline for Submission - Wednesday 9 a.m. – Thirteen Days Prior to BCC Meeting***9/19/2023****BCC MEETING DATE****TO:** Joy Andrews, Interim County Administrator**DATE:** July 17, 2023**FROM:** Adam Tecler, Grants and Legislative Manager**PHONE:** 904 209-0545**SUBJECT OR TITLE:** Consider the proposed 2024 St. Johns County Legislative Action Plan**AGENDA TYPE:** Business Item**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The St. Johns County Legislative Action Plan is a focused list of priorities for which the County requests financial assistance and other support from our State and Federal representatives. County Administration presents a list of recommended items from County staff for the Board to consider adopting as the 2024 Legislative Action Plan. The approved Legislative Action Plan is subsequently presented to the public and submitted to the County's Legislative Delegation and other public agencies for consideration.

1. IS FUNDING REQUIRED? No**2. IF YES, INDICATE IF BUDGETED.** No**IF FUNDING IS REQUIRED, MANDATORY OMB REVIEW IS REQUIRED:****INDICATE FUNDING SOURCE:****SUGGESTED MOTION/RECOMMENDATION/ACTION:**

Motion to adopt the 2024 St. Johns County Legislative Action Plan.

For Administration Use Only:**Legal:** DM 9/5/2023**OMB:** JDD 9/6/2023**Admin:** Brad Bradley 9/11/2023

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A photograph of the St. Johns County Courthouse, a grand neoclassical building with a central dome and a portico supported by six tall white columns. The building is set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. An American flag flies from a tall pole in front of the dome. The entrance is reached by a wide set of stone steps. Two palm trees and ornate black street lamps with white globe lights are positioned on either side of the steps. Red and white striped awnings are visible over the windows on the second floor.

Legislative Action Plan

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**St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners
Office of Grants and Legislative Affairs**



Improving Transportation Infrastructure

The population of St. Johns County is projected to double over the next 25 years. To address future infrastructure needs, the County is prioritizing the design and construction of new and upgraded roads in primary East-West and North-South corridors, roadways that support the First Coast Expressway, and a robust trail network from the St. Johns River to the Atlantic Ocean. State and federal resources are requested to address more than \$400 million in critical projects.

East-West Corridors

Upgrade State Road 16, County Road 210, State Road 208, State Road 207, and State Road 206 to provide traffic relief, improve connectivity, fortify hurricane evacuation routes, and enhance safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

State Road 16

St. Johns County requests \$20 million in state appropriations to design and construct a new 4-lane divided roadway with a multiuse path from International Golf Parkway to I-95.

North-South Corridors

Address overcapacity along US 1 and I-95 and strengthen connectivity between employment centers and residential communities by completing extensions of County Road 2209, State Road 312/313, and related connectors.

County Road 2209

St. Johns County requests \$10 million in state appropriations to complete the central segment of this roadway from International Golf Parkway to State Road 16. This project enhances access to the county interior and provides a north-south route that parallels I-95.

Repair & Protect State Road A1A

Request the St. Johns Congressional Delegation urge the Federal Highway Administration to allocate emergency relief funds for the armoring and permanent repair of State Road A1A at Vilano Beach and Marineland. Identify additional resources to expand the sidewalk network.



Trails and Greenways

Pursue state and federal resources to implement the St. Johns County Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan, such as the Orangedale to Mickler Trail, the Vermont Heights to St. Augustine Trail, and the Mickler to Vilano Trail.

St. Johns County Logo | Orangedale to Mickler Trail Corridor | SJC Logo | 616

Rail Safety

Request the Congressional Delegation urge the Federal Railroad Administration to fully fund the St. Johns Safe Rail Project, which protects a strategic rail corridor by eliminating a dangerous rail crossing at County Road 210A and US 1. The project will reroute existing traffic on CR 210A by constructing a westbound bridge over US 1, access ramps, and will incorporate a buffered crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Commuter Rail

St. Johns County supports the completion of the feasibility study for a transit line to connect the City of Jacksonville with the City of St. Augustine.





Strengthening Community Resilience

Central Public Safety Station

This 26,000 sqft. facility will extend operational capacity for the St. Johns County Fire Rescue and the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. The station will provide services in a rapidly developing portion of the community, including an area that is currently outside recommended travel distance by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO).

Located on County Road 2209, this facility serves a primary north-south corridor and is located in immediate proximity to I-95 and the First Coast Expressway extension. The County anticipates the station will improve emergency response capabilities requiring heavy rescue. St. Johns County requests \$15 million in state appropriations.

First Responders

Amend Florida Statutes to provide presumptive disability for emergency responders diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Regional Fire Training Facility

This all-hazards training facility directly addresses the growing first responder workforce shortage in northeast Florida. This state-of-the-art complex will include a drill tower, engineered live-fire flashover simulator, hazardous material training props, driving track, classrooms, dedicated water supply, and designated urban search and rescue training areas.

Serving a four-county region, the complex will improve regional training capacity, optimize training quality and efficiency, and is expected to prepare more than 500 new first responders for service in 5 years. St. Johns County requests \$5 million in state appropriations.

Additional fire stations supported by the Regional Fire Training Facility will reduce the ISO fire rating in St. Johns County and provide annual insurance premium cost savings in the millions of dollars countywide.



Porpoise Point Beach Stabilization

During the past seven years, a series of tropical cyclones and nor'easters have caused the Porpoise Point area to experience wave impacts, storm surge inundation, and beach erosion impacting underground public utilities, residential building foundations, and acres of environmental habitat.

The project will stabilize Porpoise Point by constructing a system of breakwaters and groins along with possible sand placement.

Completion of the stabilization project will allow the United States Corps of Engineers to initiate a sand tightening project to protect the federal navigation channel and reverse the erosion of Vilano Beach. St. Johns County requests \$9 million in state appropriations.

Beach Restoration Mandates

St. Johns County opposes additional regulations related to contracting that may increase permit processing times and monitoring costs for beach restoration projects, or disrupt construction schedules, especially federal dredge projects unrelated to deepwater port maintenance. Such regulations will jeopardize the readiness of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to place beach quality sand on critically eroded beaches or in nearshore areas.

South Ponte Vedra Beach

St. Johns County requests the Legislature, in coordination with the existing project development timeline, provide a long-term commitment to address beach erosion south of the Guana Reserve. This project will provide durable protection of property and enhance economic growth.

Youth Mental & Behavioral Health

St. Johns County urges the Legislature to develop bold solutions to address the mental health crisis in this State, with a focus of the critical needs of children and young adults.

Provider Capacity

Streamline the reciprocity of licenses, eliminate certain license requirements incongruent with level of care, and provide licensure equity between state employees and the private sector.

Innovation

Explore opportunities to improve the existing programmatic framework and provide additional resources to enhance service delivery, such as elevating mobile response teams and expanding telehealth options, as well as encouraging provider collaboration at a regional level.

Vaping Products and Minors

Modify section 569.315, F.S., providing flexibility for local governments to enact ordinances establishing minimum distances between schools and the commercial sale of nicotine products.

Youth Sports

Recognizing the correlation between physical health and mental health, provide resources to local governments for sports infrastructure and development youth sports programs.

Libraries Build Strong Communities

Sustain State Aid to Public Libraries funding (F.S. 257.17) from the current \$17,304,072 to a minimum of \$17,500,000 in recurring funds, in conjunction with \$6,000,000 in non-recurring funding, which would begin to restore the State's support for library services back to prior recent years.





Sustaining Economic Prosperity

World Golf Hall of Fame Site

Pursue \$5 million in state appropriations or competitive funds to acquire the World Golf Hall of Fame building and other ancillary buildings. St. Johns County will identify community needs and evaluate future opportunities that align with the existing site.

Vilano Beach Street Improvements

This project continues the revitalization of the Vilano Beach town core by replacing hardscape, landscape, irrigation systems, and electrical access for seasonal lighting. St. Johns County requests \$250,000 in state appropriations.

School Capacity

St. Johns County requests the Legislature identify and modify provisions of law and/or administrative rules that may limit the construction of new school facilities, or tie the authorization of construction of new schools to existing school capacity. Additional flexibility will facilitate strategic planning for high-growth districts.

Affordable Housing Compatibility

Revise the Live Local Act to restore local government review of multifamily housing projects proposed for land zoned for commercial or industrial uses.

Property Assessed Clean Energy

Revise chapter 163, F.S., to clarify local government authority to regulate Pace Program entities and protect property owners from predatory lending practices.

Genovar Park & Boat Ramp

St. Johns County requests \$3 million in state appropriations to design and construct enhancements at this 31-acre park, including a regional boat ramp.

Southwest Water Reclamation Facility

This project eliminates approximately one million gallons a day of treated effluent being discharged to the Matanzas River and enhances the quality of reclaimed water delivered to customers. St. Johns County has identified state and federal funds for this project.

Utility Relocation Costs

Request the Legislature oppose legislation that would require local governments to fund the relocation of infrastructure for private and public utilities.

Hastings Water Infrastructure

Improvements are necessary to bring the water system level of service up to current standards for fire flow, storage, and reliability. This project will provide critical water infrastructure, such as storage for fire flow delivery, raw water wells and pipeline, treatment capacity, and watermain grid rehabilitation. St. Johns County has identified state and federal funds for this project.

Unfunded Mandates

Request the Legislature oppose legislation that requires utilities to expend funds providing information, reports, or other documents to the State without providing a funding source for development of those reports. Specifically, the Legislature should pay careful attention to unfunded reporting mandates related to SB 712 (2020), HB 53 (2021), SB 64 (2021), and HB 1379 (2023).

Strengthen SB 64

Modify current law to provide that an alternative water source, if available, must be used first and that no Consumptive Use Permits will be issued except for emergency use.





Protecting Natural & Historic Resources

State Museum of Black History

St. Johns County encourages the Museum of Black History Task Force to provide due consideration to the City of St. Augustine as the future site location of a new state museum honoring the history of African Americans in Florida. The County also requests the Legislature support the mission of the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center.

Old Matanzas River Restoration

Urge the Legislature to dedicate resources to the Department of Environmental Protection or the St. Johns River Water Management District to develop a long-term solution for this critical habitat that will provide benefits that extend beyond county boundaries. St. Johns County anticipates the Old Matanzas River Ecosystem Restoration Project will require a regional holistic approach.

Historic Farming Communities

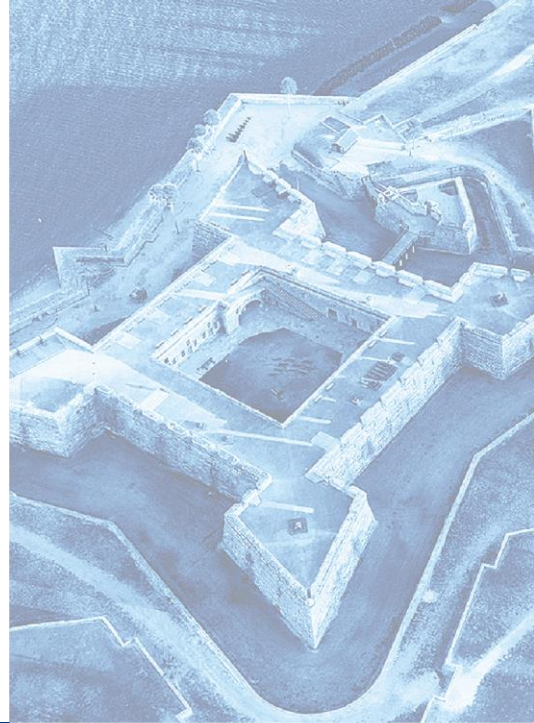
Request the State Delegation support legislation that identifies historic farming communities throughout this State and provides pathways for these communities to conserve working lands and facilitate new investment.

The legislation should also identify opportunities to encourage recreation and agritourism by expanding state designated scenic agriculture corridors.

Other Critical Restoration Projects

The Legislature should also prioritize other regional ecosystem restoration projects, such as Deep Creek, and the St. Johns River Eelgrass Restoration Initiative.





2024
ST. JOHNS COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN



PURPOSE

The Legislative Action Plan is a list of priorities for which the County requests assistance from State and Federal elected officials.





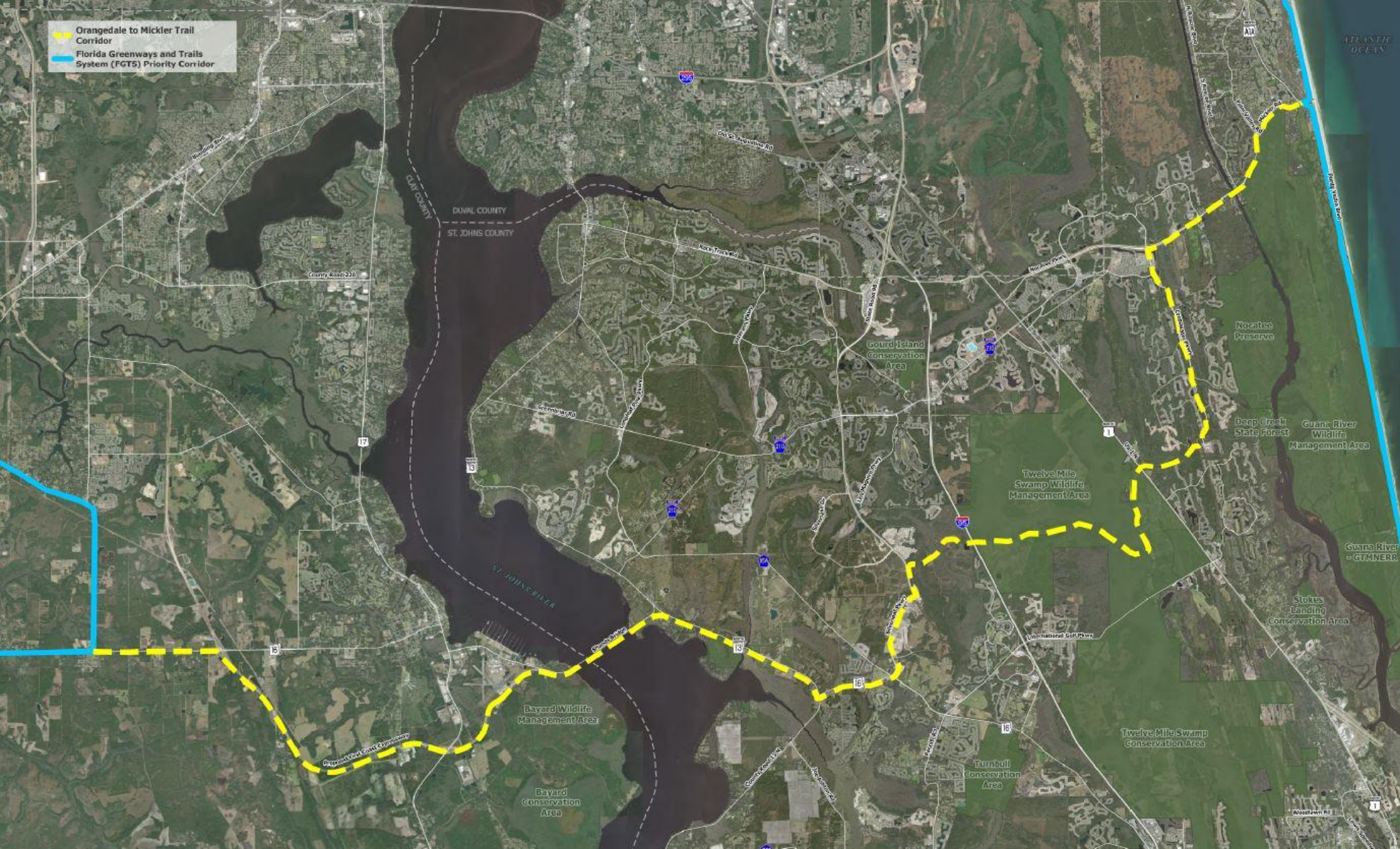
PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Plan is compiled by the Board, staff, and coordinated with the County's State and Federal lobbyists. The Chair presents the final LAP to the Legislative Delegation at the annual meeting.



Improving Transportation Infrastructure





Improving Transportation Infrastructure



Strengthening Community Resilience



CHARACTER COUNTS!
IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY
SIX PILLARS **6K - 3K** RUN WALK



Strengthening Community Resilience





Sustaining Economic Prosperity





Protecting Natural & Historic Resources



MOTIONS

- Adopt 2024 St. Johns County Legislative Action Plan.
- Presentation at upcoming Legislative Delegation meeting (October 13th).



Legislative Priorities

City of St. Augustine

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

SUBJECT: Support for Home Rule

1. PURPOSE: Support Home Rule for Local Governments

2. DISCUSSION/FACTS:

- a) Home Rule powers ensure that cities are effectively and efficiently providing for the needs and wishes of their residents.
- b) Home Rule ensures that cities can address the unique needs of its residents with local solutions.
- c) As State legislation is passed that limits the Home Rule powers of cities, local needs may no longer be able to be met by local government.

3. CONCLUSION /RECOMMENDATION:

The City of St. Augustine supports the repeal of any legislation that limits Home Rule powers for local government.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

SUBJECT: Legislative-Appropriation-for-Construction of Museum Exhibit Displays in the City of St. Augustine's Visitor Information Center

1. **PURPOSE:** Appropriate \$800,000 for construction of museum exhibit display cases in the Visitor Information Center in support of the City and State of Florida's commitment to maintain Cultural Heritage ties to Spain.
2. **DISCUSSION/FACTS:**
 - a) The City of St. Augustine is committed to an underwater archaeological exchange with the State of Florida, Department of State and Spain.
 - b) This will include a museum exhibit and interpretive video and materials being produced by the Minister of Culture in Spain and archaeological artifacts being loaned by the State of Florida, Department of State.
 - c) These archaeological artifacts and museum exhibits will be located in the City of St. Augustine's Visitor Information Center.
 - d) The Visitor Information Center is host to millions of visitors to St. Augustine and the State of Florida every year, making this an ideal venue to showcase our commitment to underwater archaeology and cultural ties to Spain.
3. **CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATION:**

A legislative appropriation of \$800,000 would expedite the construction of a modern, museum quality exhibitions space for a cultural exchange between the City, the State of Florida and Spain.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

SUBJECT: Legislative Appropriation for Conservation Land Acquisition

1. **PURPOSE:** Purchase of environmentally sensitive lands for conservation and flood mitigation purposes.
2. **DISCUSSION/FACTS:**
 - a) There are privately owned wetlands and forested uplands that have the potential for being developed.
 - b) Development of these sensitive lands has a negative impact on the environment and can put adjacent homes and businesses at risk for flooding and storm surge by eliminating natural drainage patterns in the community.
 - c) These sensitive lands have never been developed because of the expense and complexity of wetland mitigation and tree removal.
 - d) The value of land in St. Augustine has dramatically increased, making the filling of wetlands and clearing of natural areas for development financially feasible.
 - e) The loss of these few remaining conservation areas will permanently alter the local ecology and eliminate any appreciation for the environment for future generations.
3. **CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - a) The City requests a legislative appropriation of \$1,000,000 as start-up funding for a Conservation Land Acquisition Fund to purchase undeveloped, environmentally sensitive lands.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

SUBJECT: Transportation Infrastructure

1. **PURPOSE:** Support for the continued construction of State Road 313.
2. **DISCUSSION/FACTS:**
 - a) The State Road 313 Bypass will create a half-loop around St. Augustine to relieve excessive congestion along U.S. 1 and provide an improved non-local travel route that bypasses the core City.
 - b) Rerouting the non-local traffic will assist in easing the congestion issues presently experienced along U.S. 1.
 - c) The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization fully supports this project and has included it in their Transportation Improvement Program.
 - d) The Florida Department of Transportation, in Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, will continue working on right-of-way acquisition for State Road 313 from State Road 207 to State Road 16.
 - e) Funding was provided in Fiscal Year 2020 for improvements at the U.S. 1 and State Road 313 interchange.
 - f) The Florida Department of Transportation has been working on preliminary engineering to extend State Road 313 from State Road 207 to Holmes Blvd. to be let for construction in future years.
3. **CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - a) The City of St. Augustine requests the State provide necessary funding to complete the initial phase of connecting State Road 207 with State Road 16.
 - b) The City of St. Augustine requests the State provide necessary funding to continue the State Road 313 extension from State Road 16 to U.S. 1 North.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

SUBJECT: Commuter Rail Between Jacksonville and St. Augustine

1. **PURPOSE:** Legislative appropriation to the FOOT for commuter rail design and construction.
2. **DISCUSSION/FACTS:**
 - a) The Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) has proposed and provided conceptual design to construct a commuter rail service between downtown Jacksonville to downtown St. Augustine.
 - b) The rail would reduce trips on 1-95 which is about to begin a capacity expansion plan and construction.
 - c) The 1-95 construction will exacerbate travel times on 1-95.
 - d) The commuter rail will provide an alternative and predictable alternative to 1-95 thereby relieving the amount of congestion.
 - e) The commuter rail will result in transportation capacity which will benefit the economic health of Northeast Florida.
 - f) The City of St. Augustine will invest in construction of a parking garage at the St. Augustine commuter train stop.
3. **CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - a) The -legislator appropriation phased funding to the FOOT in a financing plan recommended by the JTA.
 - b) Create legislation that requires the expediting of comprehensive planning requests for approval of transit-oriented development zoning to encourage development around train stops.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

SUBJECT: Tree Pruning, Trimming, or Removal on Residential Property

1. **PURPOSE:** Support the repeal of the 2019 statute regarding tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential property.
2. **DISCUSSION/FACTS:**
 - a) The City of St. Augustine tree canopy is held in high regards by residents.
 - b) Statute 163.045, passed in 2019, is detrimental to the City's tree canopy.
 - c) The statute does not allow local government to require any notice, application, approval permit or mitigation for tree removal if an arborist or licensed landscape architect provides the property owner with documentation stating that the tree presents a danger to persons or property.
 - d) The statute does not allow local government to require a replanting if a tree is removed in this manner.
 - e) This bill is an erosion of Home Rule.
3. **CONCLUSION/ RECOMMENDATION:**

The City of St. Augustine supports the repeal of the 2019 statute regarding tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential property.

Legislative Priorities

City of St. Augustine Beach

The St. Augustine Beach City Commission discussed your request at their meeting last night and directed me to send to you the following as their legislative priorities for 2024:

- Continue financial allocations by the state for beach restoration projects
- Provide state financial support for barrier island cities to develop resiliency projects to meet the threat of sea level rise
- Legislative action either to allow cities to directly collect bed tax dollars to pay for services related to tourism, or to require counties to provide a percentage of bed tax dollars to cities to fund law enforcement services and infrastructure projects that benefit tourists
- Develop alternative modes of transportation and implement the River-to-Sea Loop in Putnam, St. Johns and Flagler counties
- Provide legislation to develop a regional plan for affordable housing
- Adopt legislation that will protect and strengthen the authority of cities and counties to regulate vacation rentals