

COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA



COUNTY OF VOLUSIA

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

**County of Volusia  
2015 State Legislative Agenda  
November 6, 2014**

**Unfunded Mandates**

*Oppose* codifying the state budget shortfalls through cost shifts to local governments.

**State Reimbursement of Juvenile Justice Overpayments**

*Support* the State's fulfilling its obligation to reimburse Volusia County for overpayments to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for four prior years (FY08-09, FY 09-10, FY 10-11, and FY 11-12) totaling over \$12.3 million.

**Commercial Space Launch Facilities**

*Support* legislation that encourages the efforts of Space Florida to develop commercial space launch facilities in appropriate locations north of the current Kennedy Space Center complex after conducting environmental surveys to ensure that the environmental conditions of the area are duly preserved.

**Dedicated Rail Funding**

*Support* legislation that would provide dedicated funding from the State for SunRail operation and maintenance costs.

**Trails Funding**

*Support* legislation that would maintain or increase dedicated recreational trails program funding.

**Funding for Water Supply Projects**

*Support* legislation that provides dedicated funding for the development of a new water supply source to serve the southwest region and to protect and preserve Volusia Blue Spring.

**Funding for Springs Protection**

*Support* legislation that provides dedicated funding to protect springs, including infrastructure projects such as expansion of sewer services into areas currently served by on-site sewage disposal systems.

**Funding for Water Quality Improvements**

*Support* legislation that provides dedicated funding to improve surface and ground water quality.

**Amendment 1 Implementation**

*Engage* in the development of criteria for the distribution of monies collected by Amendment 1 to fund important water quality infrastructure improvement projects.

**Florida Association of Counties**

*Support* the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Program unless specific issues conflict with County of Volusia positions.

## ***Oppose Unfunded Mandates***

### **Finance and Administration**

The County of Volusia is ***opposed*** to codifying the state budget shortfalls through cost shifts to local governments.

#### **Current Situation**

In 1990, the Florida Constitution was amended to add provisions governing the passage of laws that affect the revenues and expenditures of local governments. This section of the constitution provides general guidance on the legal interpretation of a mandate. State mandates are defined in Article VII, section 18 of the Florida Constitution as laws requiring counties to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, laws reducing the authority to raise revenue, or laws reducing the percentage of a state tax shared with counties. A state directive that compels local governments to provide a service, program, or benefit without providing the appropriate monies or a funding source is regarded as an unfunded mandate.

County officials recognize that some state-funded mandates are justified because they achieve agreed-upon statewide policy goals. However, many, if not most, mandates on counties are imposed without the consensus of local governments or the resources for implementation.

Mandates drain the financial lifeblood from county governments and impede their ability to adequately deliver the fundamental services required by law. Mandates also compromise a county's ability to provide discretionary services requested by the local community.

#### **Proposed Changes**

Legislation will likely be introduced again in 2015 to shift costs to local governments. Unless a designated corresponding funding source is shifted down, any cost would have a negative impact to the budget. Any shift of costs would require service levels changes or a corresponding increase in the tax rate.

#### **Analysis**

Currently Volusia County appropriates funding for many items where a designated funding source was not filtered down to local levels. Some of these programs include: Medicaid nursing home costs, court related functions, and juvenile justice.

## ***Support State Reimbursement of Juvenile Justice Overpayments***

### **Public Protection**

The County of Volusia ***supports*** the State's fulfilling its obligation to reimburse Volusia County for overpayments to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for four prior years (FY 08-09, FY 09-10, FY 10-11, and FY 11-12) totaling over \$12.3 million.

### **Current Situation**

Non-fiscally constrained counties share costs with DJJ for secure detention. The state covers all juvenile justice costs in fiscally constrained counties. Legislation mandating this cost share originally passed in 2004, at which point the 37 non-fiscally constrained counties became the primary revenue source for the state's juvenile detention facilities. Counties paid for secure detention days prior to a juvenile's final court disposition and the state paid for days after their case was resolved.

Beginning in FY 2008-09, DJJ began billing counties for all secure detention days except for those incurred while a juvenile awaited "commitment" to a residential facility. This abrupt conversion shifted thousands of additional days to counties and was done despite there being no corresponding change in statute.

Ultimately, this led several counties to file administrative actions against DJJ in which they contested the validity of DJJ's rules. The department of administrative hearings and the appellate court sided with the counties, and invalidated those rules.

In 2012, the County of Volusia joined 14 other counties to challenge DJJ's annual reconciliations for FY 2008-09, FY 2009-10, FY 2010-11, and FY 2011-12. DJJ now admits that the original calculations were wrong and has recalculated what each county should have paid. DJJ's own calculations reflect that DJJ overcharged the county for the four years in question in an aggregate amount of over \$12.3 million. Despite that admission, however, DJJ refuses to either refund the overpayment or grant credits to the county for future services. DJJ contends that a legislative appropriation will be required to reimburse the counties for the overpayments, because DJJ lacks the funds to pay. Other years' payments to DJJ (FY 12-13, FY 13-14) also may be subsequently determined to be overpayments, but due to DJJ's refusal to be transparent about the starting basis for its calculations, the information is unknown at this time.

### **Action**

The Revenue Estimating Conference has projected more than \$1billion in surplus for FY 2015. The Legislature should direct a portion of this surplus to reimburse Volusia County for the amounts overpaid for the DJJ program before any tax cuts are considered.

### **Analysis**

The impact to Volusia County from this proposed reimbursement would be to make the County whole with respect to its \$12.3 million overpayments to DJJ and restore inter-governmental relations.

## ***Support Commercial Space Launch Facilities***

### **Leadership**

The County of Volusia ***supports*** legislation that encourages the efforts of Space Florida to develop commercial space launch facilities in appropriate locations north of the current Kennedy Space Center complex after conducting environmental surveys to ensure that the environmental conditions of the area are duly preserved.

### **Current Situation**

Space Florida is an independent special district of the State of Florida, created by Chapter 331, Part II, Florida Statutes, for the purposes of fostering the growth and development of a sustainable and world-leading space industry in Florida. It fosters bold economic development activities to expand and diversify domestic and international opportunities that support talent development, enhance infrastructure, and support governments and organizations in improving the state's competitive business climate. Space Florida is responsible for advocating the needs of Florida's space industry to the Florida Legislature.

A generation ago the United States launched 100% of the world's commercial satellites from Florida but that market and its associated jobs have since gone overseas. There are 34 private spaceports planned or underway worldwide, including 17 in other states in the U.S.

The citizens and communities of the Space Coast have paid a high price for being solely reliant upon the government launch programs, and there now exists the opportunity to diversify into a broader, more robust, and unlimited commercial marketplace.

The relationship between this nation's space program and the enjoyment and preservation of our natural environment is a history of successful partnership for over 50 years.

### **Possible Changes**

The State of Florida has requested the transfer of title for certain property back from the Federal Government to the State to establish a comprehensive commercial spaceport capability, which launch site will be in close proximity to, yet jurisdictionally independent of, the government launch infrastructure at Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

### **Analysis**

Funding by the Florida Legislature for spaceport infrastructure, financing and business development is crucial to Space Florida's success. Commercial space launch facilities north of the Kennedy Space Center can leverage private investment to develop infrastructure needed to increase the number of users in east central Florida. The result will be not only improved U.S. competitiveness in the space industry and enhanced reputation for Florida as a center of commercial innovation, it will add jobs to the area directly and indirectly through the inevitable increase in supporting businesses.

## ***Support Dedicated Rail Funding***

### **Public Works**

The County of Volusia ***supports*** legislation that would provide dedicated funding from the State for SunRail operation and maintenance costs.

#### **Current Situation**

There currently is no dedicated funding at the state level for long term SunRail operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is responsible for O&M costs for the first seven years after the SunRail becomes operational. After seven years, O&M costs become the responsibility of the partnering local governments. If ridership revenue does not generate adequate funding for O&M costs, the local governments will be responsible to make up the shortfall from an undetermined revenue source.

#### **Proposed Change**

The State should identify revenue(s) for long term SunRail O&M costs.

#### **Analysis**

Failure to fund SunRail O&M costs adequately will result in a steady decline in the quality of SunRail infrastructure, reduced ridership and a loss of the transportation investment. A dedicated state funding source would ensure long term funding of SunRail, stabilize operations and continue to provide an alternative transportation means to relieve traffic congestion on I-4 and connecting roadways that are primarily state highways.

## ***Support Trails Funding***

### **Community Services**

The County of Volusia ***supports*** legislation that would maintain or increase dedicated recreational trails program funding.

#### **Current Situation**

Volusia County is developing two significant paved trail systems – the Spring to Spring Trail and the East Central Regional Rail Trail.

The Spring to Spring Trail extends from DeLeon Springs to Green Springs Park. The East Coast Regional Rail Trail extends from Green Spring Park eastward to Edgewater and Titusville. Each segment is a part of the 280 mile, five county St. Johns River to the Sea Loop.

The East Central Regional Rail Trail is a part of the Coast to Coast Connector Trail. This multi-use trail extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean through Central Florida. Once complete it will be the longest regional trail in the United States. The estimated cost to close the remaining gaps (75 miles) is approximately \$42 million. As part of this year's budget, Florida lawmakers approved \$15.9 million towards the Coast to Coast Connector.

The Coast to Coast Connector encompasses many significant trail systems throughout the state. The Connector is a major priority within the Florida Greenways and Trails Systems Plan which is being implemented by the Office of Greenways and Trails, and is the keystone project within the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation's "Close the Gaps" Campaign.

#### **Anticipated Changes**

If the Water & Land Conservation Amendment passes on November 4, the County of Volusia will be applying for trails grant funds to further complete unfunded sections of the Spring to Spring Trail and the East Central Regional Rail Trail.

The Amendment is drafted broadly without detail as to how the funds will be distributed. If the Amendment passes, the legislature will establish criteria for disbursement of funds.

It is anticipated that lawmakers will propose funding for the Coast to Coast Connector again this year. Supporters of trails throughout the State are preparing and lobbying to educate the Governor and legislators on the importance of this funding. They expect a favorable outcome.

#### **Impact Analysis**

If Amendment 1 passes, it will be crucial for Volusia County to have an active voice in the decisions related to distribution of the funds.

Recreational trails are important to Volusia County for the benefits brought to the local economy through eco-tourism and for the improvement of its multi-modal transportation network. Funding for the important Coast to Coast Connector and the Spring to Spring Trail will allow for the completion of this important Central Florida asset.

## ***Support Funding for Water Supply Projects***

### **Public Works**

The County of Volusia ***supports*** legislation that provides dedicated funding for the development of a new water supply source to serve the southwest region and to protect and preserve Volusia Blue Spring.

#### **Current Situation**

Volusia Blue Spring is one of Florida's 33 first magnitude springs, with an average daily discharge of 102 million gallons per day. The 130 square mile Blue Spring Basin encompasses portions of five cities within Volusia County, and is home to more than 150,000 residents.

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) identified the Blue Spring Basin as a priority resource caution area and has developed and approved minimum flows and levels (MFL) for Blue Spring. The MFL is intended to protect the use of the spring as a winter warm water refuge for the West Indian manatee population and to support the protection of water resource value. The spring flow must improve from the current long-term average of 133 cubic feet per second (cfs), to a long-term average flow of 157 cfs, by March 2024.

Working in cooperation with the SJRWMD, the public water suppliers of DeLand, Deltona, Orange City and Volusia County have an approved Prevention and Recovery Strategy, which includes water supply development projects that reduce groundwater withdrawals within the Blue Spring Basin while meeting the demand of the current population and anticipated future growth. The water supply plan includes projects to maximize the use of reuse water as well as development of new groundwater sources outside the springshed boundary

#### **Action**

While most recent legislative attention has been focused on improving overall water quality of Florida's rivers, lakes, springs, and wetlands in order to protect our environment, it is also imperative for the state to work with local governments to ensure adequate and sustainable potable water supplies necessary for continued economic growth and prosperity.

#### **Impact Analysis**

Development of potable water supply outside the Blue Spring Basin area improves flow and biological integrity of the spring and the spring run. It also helps in accomplishing statewide goals for minimum flows and levels and improved water quality through reduced groundwater withdrawals from an environmentally sensitive first magnitude spring.

Over the past two years, the local governments of West Volusia have made significant investment (\$15 million) in the development of alternative water supply projects. However the cost for full implementation of the proposed projects in the West Volusia region's water supply plan is estimated to be between \$120 – \$130 million. Dedicated funding for statewide environmental goals is essential for not only preserving Blue Spring's ecosystem, but also ensuring affordable public water supply for West Volusia citizens and businesses.

## ***Support Funding for Springs Protection***

### **Environmental**

The County of Volusia ***supports*** legislation that provides dedicated funding to protect springs, including infrastructure projects such as expansion of sewer services into areas currently served by on-site sewage disposal systems.

#### **Current Situation**

Volusia County is home to several freshwater springs, including Blue Spring, one of 33 first magnitude springs. Water quality declines in springs have led to increased algae growth and encroachment of invasive species. Springs are primarily groundwater fed, and thus preserving and improving water quality is difficult.

Primary factors of spring water quality decline include reduced spring flows and excessive nutrient pollution, particularly nitrogen. Nitrogen in spring outflows can come from many sources including on-site sewage disposal systems (septic tanks), treated wastewater effluent, stormwater, atmospheric deposition and groundwater leaching of fertilizers. The Volusia County Health Department estimates that there are approximately 90,000 septic tanks in the county. Septic tanks eliminate waste through a system of collection of solids and discharge of liquid waste into the soil through a drainfield. The liquid discharge is high in nutrients, bacteria, and other pollutants.

Volusia Blue Spring has been identified as impaired for nitrate. Actions to eliminate septic tanks, reduce nutrients in wastewater effluent, and implement the county's fertilizer restrictions can contribute to improved water quality. Gemini Springs has been closed to swimming since 2010 due to bacteria levels.

#### **Possible Changes**

Springs protection remains a priority at the state level, and many legislators have discussed funding for water quality improvement projects. A revised "Springs Protection" bill is likely to be introduced by Sen. Simmons, identifying funding for water quality projects, perhaps in conjunction with the proposed Water and Land Conservation Amendment (Amendment 1).

#### **Analysis**

Legislation that provides assistance to local governments to fund important water quality improvements, including reducing reliance on septic tanks, may improve water quality, preserve ecosystems, protect human health in our springs, and promote economic vitality.

## ***Support Funding for Water Quality Improvements***

### **Environmental**

The County of Volusia ***supports*** legislation that provides dedicated funding to improve surface and ground water quality.

#### **Current Situation**

Several water bodies in Volusia County have been, or are in the process of being, identified as impaired for nutrients and/or bacteria. Volusia County has identified four primary ways to improve water quality: 1) Eliminating septic tanks in watersheds/springsheds of priority water bodies; 2) Improving stormwater conveyance and treatment systems to reduce nutrient pollution; 3) Developing meaningful education and outreach programs to inform citizens about water quality, (4) Reducing nutrients from wastewater plant discharges to surface or ground water.

The Volusia County Health Department estimates that there are approximately 90,000 on-site sewage disposal systems (septic tanks) in the county. Septic tanks discharge liquid waste, high in nutrients, bacteria, and other harmful substances, into the soil through a drainfield. Septic tanks are documented to contribute to nutrient and bacteria pollution of our groundwater and surface waters.

Stormwater systems control and treat rainfall for flood control and pollution reduction. Modern stormwater systems rarely remove more than 50% of the nutrients. The remaining nutrients are added to the ground water or discharged downstream.

Individual citizens make important decisions every day that impact water quality. Educating citizens about their choices, particularly related to the use of fertilizer, yard waste and reclaimed water, is an important component of water quality improvement.

Surface water discharges by several cities in Volusia County are contributing to the degradation of the Halifax/Mosquito Lagoon estuary. West Volusia Utilities are discharging wastewater into ground water within the Blue Spring springshed. Reclaimed water used for irrigation with fertilizer is also adding to the groundwater nutrient load.

#### **Possible Changes**

Volusia County has identified priority areas for extension of sewer service, stormwater improvements, and a public outreach campaign, designed to protect and improve water quality. Water quality is a regional and state issue, and local governments need funding partnerships to implement costly infrastructure improvements.

#### **Analysis**

Legislation that provides assistance to homeowners and local government to fund important water quality improvement projects may preserve ecosystems and protect human health in our surface and groundwater.

## ***Engage in Amendment 1 Implementation***

### **Environmental**

The County of Volusia intends to ***engage*** in the development of criteria for the distribution of monies collected by Amendment 1 to fund important water quality infrastructure improvement projects.

#### **Current Situation**

Several water bodies in Volusia County have been, or are in the process of being, identified as impaired for nutrients and/or bacteria. Volusia County has identified four primary ways to improve water quality: 1) Eliminating septic tanks in watersheds/springsheds of priority water bodies; 2) Improving stormwater conveyance and treatment systems to reduce nutrient pollution; 3) Developing meaningful education and outreach programs to inform citizens about water quality, (4) Reducing nutrients from wastewater plant discharges to surface or ground water.

On November 4, 2014, Florida voters will decide whether to support the Florida Land and Water Conservation Amendment (Amendment 1), which may provide an estimated \$10 billion over the next 20 years to fund land acquisition and management and water quality improvement projects.

#### **Proposed Changes**

The Water and Land Conservation Amendment would dedicate 33% of net revenues from existing documentary stamps for 20 years. The amendment is estimated to provide \$625 million in FY 2015, and up to \$10 billion in 20 years.

Funds will be deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and used to “acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands”. Moneys in the trust fund have also been used to support water quality projects that do not include land acquisition.

The Amendment is drafted broadly without detail as to the specific allowable uses of the funds. If the Amendment passes, the legislature will need to establish criteria for disbursement of funds.

#### **Impact Analysis**

If Amendment 1 passes, it will critically important for Volusia County to have an active voice in the decisions related to distribution of the funds. Prioritization should focus on projects that meet Volusia’s water quality improvement goals.

**Volusia County Projects**  
**Member Supported Funding Requests for 2015 State Legislative Session**  
**As of November 6, 2014**

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>
<b>Water Quality</b>		
Blue Spring Water Quality - Southwest Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility Expansion for the Elimination of Septic Systems	\$5,130,000	\$8,500,000
Indian River/Mosquito Lagoon Water Quality - Sanitary Sewer Collections System for the Elimination of Onsite Septic Systems	\$5,120,000	\$6,400,000
<b>Water Supply</b>		
Water Production – Blue Spring Basin Protection Test/Production Well Program in West Volusia	\$ 575,000	\$1,150,000
<b>Transportation</b>		
CR4136/Park Avenue Project	\$2,000,000	\$3,900,000
CR4118/Pioneer Trail Project	\$3,600,000	\$7,100,000
CR4110/Old New York/SunRail Project	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000
Dunn Avenue Project	\$6,400,000	\$12,700,000
<b>Environmental/Education</b>		
Expansion of the Volusia County Marine Science Center	\$3,000,000 land \$7,700,000 facility	\$3,000,000 land \$9,500,000 facility
<b>Stormwater</b>		
Wilbur by the Sea Drainage Improvements Project	\$320,000-Phase I \$320,000-Phase II	\$640,000 – Phase I \$640,000 – Phase II
Gemini Springs Water Quality Improvements Project	\$400,000	\$500,000

**Support Funding for Blue Spring Water Quality**  
**Southwest Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility Expansion for the Elimination of Septic**  
**Systems**  
**\$5,130,000 request for \$8,500,000 project**

The County of Volusia requests your *support* in funding advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) and expansion of treatment capacity at the Southwest Regional Wastewater Facility, located in DeBary, Florida. Capital improvements at the facility will increase treatment capacity necessary to accommodate conversion of up to 5,000 onsite treatment and disposal systems (septic tanks) and provide efficient and cost effective means for improved water quality and the protection of Volusia Blue Springs.

**Current Situation**

The Volusia County Southwest Regional and Four Towns wastewater facilities provide safe wastewater treatment service for area residents, institutions, and businesses within the cities of DeBary, Orange City, and nearby unincorporated areas. Both facilities are located within the Blue Springs Basin and operate within the compliance standards of their respective Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regulatory permits. The current permit standards require reduction of nitrogen to less than 10 Mg/L and phosphorus to less than 3 Mg/L.

In July 2014, the FDEP adopted new regulatory (TMDL) standards for Blue Spring. The impact of the new regulatory standards will:

- Require reduction of nitrogen to less than 3 Mg/L and phosphorus to less than 1 Mg/L
- Cause significant capital investment (at both wastewater treatment facilities) in order to achieve new standards for nitrogen and phosphorus reduction
- Necessitate development of a regional long-term strategic plan for the conversion of privately owned septic systems to sanitary sewer collection systems

**Project**

Rather than invest in expensive AWT processes at both facilities, the County intends to decommission the aging Four Towns facility and direct wastewater flow to the newer and more efficient Southwest Regional facility. The project scope consists of:

- Engineering, design, and construction of new infrastructure and AWT monitoring technology to achieve new standards for nitrogen and phosphorus reduction
- Expansion of the current capacity from 1.7 MGD to 3.2 MGD in order to accommodate the increased flow from the Four Towns facility as well as increased flow resulting from the conversion of septic tanks

**Community Impact and Benefits**

Facility expansion and treatment to AWT standards will:

- Reduce the loading of nitrogen between 10-12 tons/yr and phosphorus between 4-5 tons/yr within the spring basin based on current wastewater treatment plant flows
- Reduce the loading of nitrogen approximately 125 tons/yr and phosphorus approximately 40 tons/yr based on the long range conversion of 5,000 onsite treatment and disposal systems to central sanitary sewer collections systems.
- Help preserve the ecosystem and natural habitat within the spring

**State Return on Investment**

This project helps achieve statewide goals for improved water quality in Blue Spring through quantifiable reductions in the amount of nutrients in the Blue Spring Basin.

**Contact for more information:** Michael Ulrich, Water Resources and Utilities Director, at 386-943-7027 or mulrich@volusia.org

**Support Funding for Indian River/Mosquito Lagoon Water Quality  
Sanitary Sewer Collections System for the Elimination of Onsite Septic Systems  
\$5,120,000 request for \$6,400,000 project**

The County of Volusia requests your **support** in funding the construction of a sanitary sewer collections system for the removal of 300 onsite treatment and disposal (septic) systems, located in Oak Hill, FL along canals leading to the north portion of the Indian River Lagoon Estuary. The proposed collections system will provide an efficient and cost effective means for significant nutrient reductions critical for improved water quality and the protection of the lagoon ecosystem.

**Current Situation**

The Mosquito Lagoon is part of the 156 mile long Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Estuary. The IRL has experienced several devastating algae blooms in recent years, which have contributed to dozens of fish kills, mass die off of hard clams, and unprecedented mortality of dolphins, brown pelicans, and manatees. The IRL ecosystem is under increasing pressure from nutrient and bacteria pollution from a number of sources, including leaching from septic systems.

The northern portion of the IRL, located partially in Volusia County is currently under nutrient Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for both total nitrogen and total phosphorus pollutants.

**Project**

The proposed project calls for the retrofit of approximately 300 residential lots with central wastewater service. Due to the high lot density within the community and its location relative to the canals leading directly to the lagoon, it is ranked as the top priority for the conversion of onsite septic systems in Southeast Volusia County.

The project scope consists of engineering, design, and construction of central sewer collections system.

**Community Impact and Benefits**

Construction of the wastewater collections system and elimination of 300 onsite septic systems will:

- Reduce the loading of nitrogen between 7-9 tons/yr and phosphorus between 2-3 tons/yr
- Improve the lagoon's water quality and seagrass beds
- Help preserve the ecosystem and natural habitat within the lagoon

**State Return on Investment**

The Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is considered a valuable ecological and economic asset for the state of Florida.

- The IRL is considered the most biologically diverse estuary in North America
- The lagoon directly and indirectly supports a large part of the region's and state's economy
- This project helps achieve state goals and objectives for improved water quality within the Indian River Lagoon through quantifiable reductions in total nitrogen and total phosphorus nutrients

**Contact for more information:** Michael Ulrich, Water Resources and Utilities Director, at 386-943-7027 or mulrich@volusia.org

**Support Funding for Water Production – Blue Spring Basin Protection  
Test/Production Well Program in West Volusia  
\$575,000 request for \$1,150,000 project**

The County of Volusia requests your **support** in funding two (2) water test/production wells constructed outside the Blue Spring Basin in order to assess groundwater quality and determine withdrawal capacity. This project is a key step toward implementation of a water supply system which will eventually provide a new water supply source and reduce existing groundwater withdrawals in the spring basin.

**Current Situation**

Volusia Blue Spring is one of Florida's 33 first magnitude springs, with an average daily discharge of 102 million gallons per day. The 130 square mile Blue Spring Basin encompasses portions of five cities and unincorporated areas, and is home to approximately 150,000 residents.

Working in cooperation with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), the public water suppliers of DeLand, Deltona, Orange City and Volusia County have an approved Prevention and Recovery Strategy, which includes water supply development projects necessary to reduce groundwater withdrawals within the Blue Spring Basin, while meeting the demand of the current population and anticipated future growth.

**Project**

The project consists of two 16" diameter test/production wells constructed into the upper Floridan aquifer. The wells will reside east of the Blue Spring Basin on County owned property. The project:

- Will assess overall water quality and determine groundwater withdrawal capacity
- Has been endorsed by the SJRWMD and all West Volusia public water suppliers
- Is considered a "cornerstone" of the Prevention and Recovery Strategy for Blue Spring
- Represents a critical first step towards the development of a regional wellfield and water treatment facility serving the cities of DeLand, Deltona, DeBary, Orange City, Lake Helen and parts of unincorporated Volusia County.

**Community Impact and Benefits**

This project will:

- Provide for the development of potable water supply outside the Blue Spring Basin area
- Help improve long-term minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for Blue Spring
- Protect the use of the spring as a winter warm water refuge for the West Indian manatee population
- Reduce the necessity for withdrawals from the St. Johns River, a controversial and costly alternative
- Provide sufficient water supply necessary for continued economic prosperity and growth of West Volusia

**State Return on Investment**

This project helps achieve statewide goals for minimum flows and levels and improved water quality through reduced groundwater withdrawals from sensitive first magnitude spring basins.

**Contact for more information:** Michael Ulrich, Water Resources and Utilities Director, at 386-943-7027 or [mulrich@volusia.org](mailto:mulrich@volusia.org)

**Support Funding for CR4136/Park Avenue Project**  
**\$2,000,000 requested for \$3,900,000 project**

The County of Volusia requests your **support** in funding the CR 4136/Park Avenue, Edgewater, roadway project. This project will add 1.3 miles of bi-directional turn lane and paved shoulders from CR 4137/Old Mission Road to Dale Street.

**Current Situation**

- Substandard two-laned road (10-foot wide lanes with no turn lanes)
- Freight traffic uses road to access the industrial areas along the Park Avenue corridor
- Traffic volumes on Park Avenue are expected to increase by 14,000 total daily trips in the future as the Parktowne Industrial Park develops (2,000,000 square feet of light industrial)
- Federal Functional Classification: Major Urban Collector
- 3-Year Crash History: 8 crashes (10 injuries, \$31,000 vehicle & property damage) – 4 angle, 2 bicycle, 1 left-turn, 1 rear-end

**Project**

This project will add 1.3 miles of bi-directional turn lane and paved shoulders from CR 4137/Old Mission Road to Dale Street.

- Public-Private Partnership: Private donation of additional right-of-way
- Supported by Resolutions from City of Edgewater & Volusia County
- Volusia County is LAP (Local Agency Program) certified by FDOT
- Funding requested for:  
☒ Surveying    ☒ Engineering Design    ☐ Right-of-Way    ☒ Construction & Inspection

**Community Impact and Benefits**

This project will:

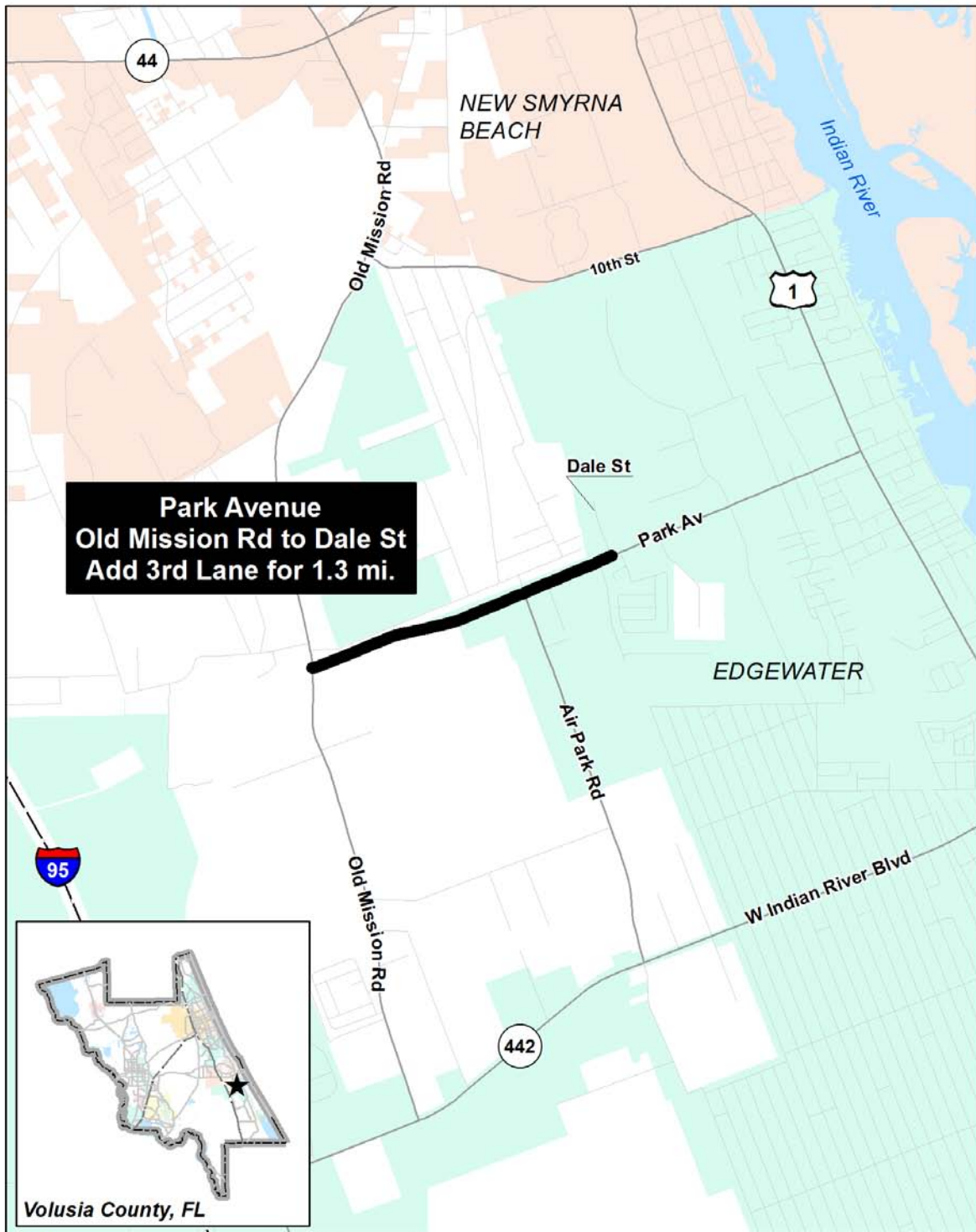
- Create commercial/industrial development opportunities for qualified targeted industries
- Allow for creation of jobs in new development area
- Allow easy freight access to the industrial areas along the Park Avenue corridor
- Improve safety along the corridor

**State Return on Investment**

The indirect economic benefits include - reduced travel delay, reduced vehicle operating costs, external cost savings (e.g., improved traffic flow and reduced delays have a positive environmental impact on emissions and fuel consumption), and enhanced business efficiency/productivity (by reducing overall travel time or by providing a consistent travel time).

**Contact for more information:**  
gbrinton@volusia.org

Gerald Brinton, County Engineer, at 386-736-5967 or



**Support Funding for CR4118/Pioneer Trail Project**  
**\$3,600,000 request for \$7,100,000 project**

The County of Volusia requests your **support** in funding the CR 4118/Pioneer Trail roadway project. This project will upgrade 2.8 miles of substandard road and add paved shoulders from CR 415/Tomoka Farms Road to Interstate 95/Turnbull Bay Road.

**Current Situation**

- Substandard two-laned road (varies from 9 to 12 feet with no turn lanes nor paved shoulders) with deep storm water ditches on both sides
- Regional Significant Road
- Federal Functional Classification: Major Urban Collector
- 3-Year Crash History: 26 crashes (19 injuries, \$109,050 vehicle & property damage) – 11 road departures, 8 rear-ends, 3 sideswipes, 2 angles, 1 left-turn, and 1 head-on

**Project**

This project will upgrade 2.8 miles of substandard road and add paved shoulders from CR 415/Tomoka Farms Road to Interstate 95/Turnbull Bay Road.

- Volusia County is LAP (Local Agency Program) certified by FDOT
- Funding requested for:
  - ☒ Surveying    ☒ Engineering Design    ☒ Right-of-Way    ☒ Construction & Inspection

**Community Impact and Benefits**

This project will:

- Improve safety along the corridor
- Allow easy freight access to the future commercial/retail areas along the Pioneer Trail corridor

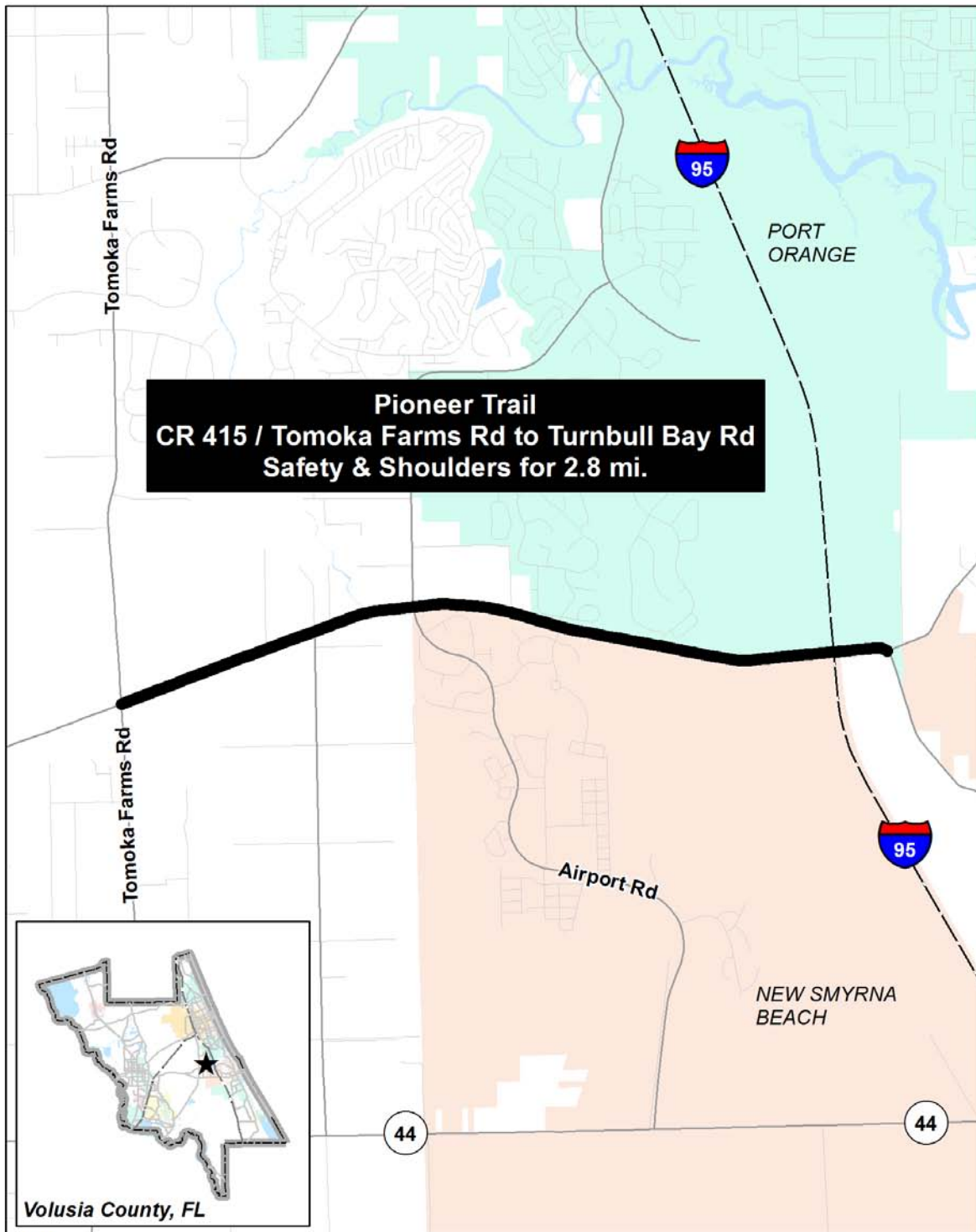
**State Return on Investment**

The indirect economic benefits include - reduced travel delay, reduced vehicle operating costs, external cost savings (e.g., improved traffic flow and reduced delays have a positive environmental impact on emissions and fuel consumption), and enhanced business efficiency/productivity (by reducing overall travel time or by providing a consistent travel time).

**Contact for more information:**

Gerald Brinton, County Engineer, at 386-736-5967 or

gbrinton@volusia.org



**Support Funding for CR4110/Old New York/SunRail Project**  
**\$2,000,000 request for \$4,000,000 project**

The County of Volusia requests your **support** in funding the CR 4110/Old New York Avenue roadway project. This project will upgrade 1.3 miles of substandard road and add paved shoulders from SR 44 to the DeLand SunRail Station.

**Current Situation**

- Substandard two-laned road (varies from 9 to 12 feet with no turn lanes nor paved shoulders) with 4 horizontal curves
- Provides direct access to DeLand SunRail Station and future transit oriented development
- Freight traffic uses road to access the industrial areas along the Old New York corridor
- Federal Functional Classification: Minor Urban Collector
- 3-Year Crash History: 8 crashes (5 injuries, \$80,000 vehicle & property damage) – 4 angle, 2 road departures, 1 left-turn, and 1 head-on

**Project**

This project will upgrade 1.3 miles of substandard road and add paved shoulders from SR 44 to the DeLand SunRail Station.

- Volusia County is LAP (Local Agency Program) certified by FDOT
- Funding requested for:  
☒ Surveying    ☒ Engineering Design    ☐ Right-of-Way    ☒ Construction & Inspection

**Community Impact and Benefits**

This project will:

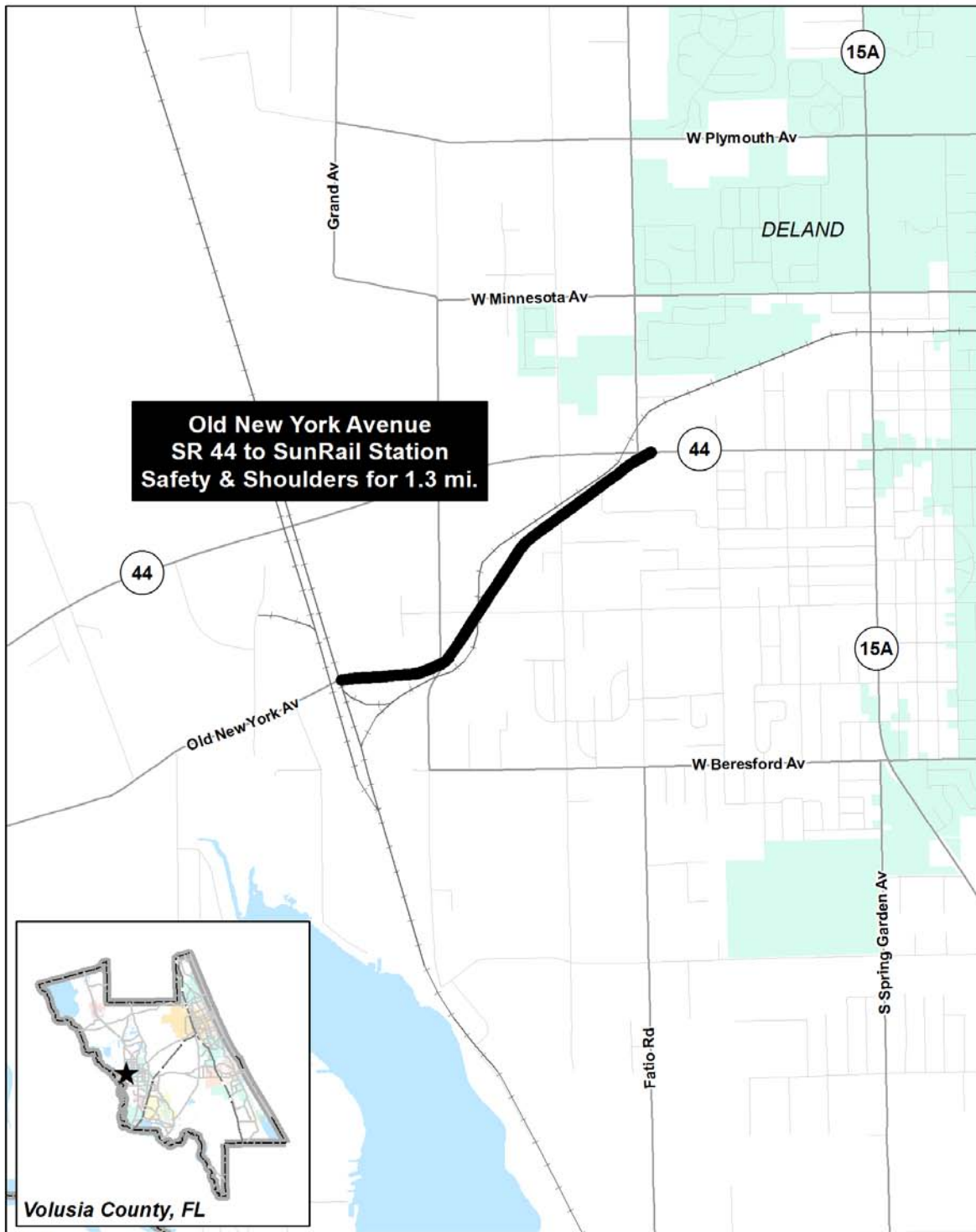
- Allow easy transit, vehicle and bicycle access to DeLand SunRail Station and future transit oriented development
- Allow easy freight access to the industrial areas along the CR 4110/Old New York Avenue corridor
- Improve safety along the corridor

**State Return on Investment**

The indirect economic benefits include - reduced travel delay, reduced vehicle operating costs, external cost savings (e.g., improved traffic flow and reduced delays have a positive environmental impact on emissions and fuel consumption), and enhanced business efficiency/productivity (by reducing overall travel time or by providing a consistent travel time).

**Contact for more information:**  
gbrinton@volusia.org

Gerald Brinton, County Engineer, at 386-736-5967 or



  
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### Old New York Avenue Funding Request for 2015 State Legislative Session



**Support Funding for Dunn Avenue Project**  
**\$6,400,000 request for \$12,700,000 project**

The County of Volusia requests your **support** in funding Dunn Avenue, Daytona Beach, roadway project. This project will widen 2.1 miles of Dunn Avenue from CR 4009/Williamson Blvd to SR 483/Clyde Morris Boulevard.

**Current Situation**

- Two-laned road
- Freight traffic uses road to access the industrial areas along the corridor
- Federal Functional Classification: Major Urban Arterial
- 3-Year Crash History: 24 crashes (20 injuries, \$48,600 vehicle & property damage) – 17 rear-ends, 3 left-turns, 2 road departures, 1 sideswipe, and 1 motorcycle lost control

**Project**

This project will widen 2.1 miles of Dunn Avenue from 2 to 4 lanes from CR 4009/Williamson Blvd to SR 483/Clyde Morris Boulevard.

- Project on Volusia TPO's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan
- Consistent with 2060 Florida Transportation Plan goals of (1) improved mobility and connectivity for people & freight, (2) safety and security for all users and (3) investing in transportation systems supportive of a globally competitive economy.
- Volusia County is LAP (Local Agency Program) certified by FDOT
- Funding requested for:
  - ☒ Surveying    ☒ Engineering Design    ☒ Right-of-Way    ☒ Construction & Inspection

**Community Impact and Benefits**

This project will:

- Provide relief to US 92 SIS connector
- Provide easy access to Interstate 95, Daytona International Speedway and Daytona Beach International Airport
- Create commercial/industrial development opportunities for qualified targeted industries
- Allow for creation of jobs in new development area – One Daytona
- Allow easy freight access to the industrial areas along the Dunn Avenue corridor
- Improve safety along the corridor

**State Return on Investment**

This project is consistent with the goals of the 2014 East Central Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

The indirect economic benefits include - reduced travel delay, reduced vehicle operating costs, external cost savings (e.g., improved traffic flow and reduced delays have a positive environmental impact on emissions and fuel consumption), and enhanced business efficiency/productivity (by reducing overall travel time or by providing a consistent travel time).

**Contact for more information:**

Gerald Brinton, County Engineer, at 386-736-5967 or

gbrinton@volusia.org



  
 Volusia County  
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### Dunn Avenue Funding Request for 2015 State Legislative Session



**Support Funding for the Expansion of the Volusia County Marine Science Center**  
**\$3,000,000 request for \$3,000,000 land acquisition**  
**\$7,700,000 request for \$9,500,000 facility improvement**

Volusia County respectfully requests your *support* in funding the purchase of additional land and construction of a state-of-the-art marine education and rehabilitation facility.

**Current Situation**

The mission of the Volusia County Marine Science Center (MSC) is to

1. Create inspiring marine education experiences which empower our guests,
2. Provide outstanding sea turtle and shorebird rehabilitation, and
3. Promote the emerging field of conservation medicine.

Opened in 2002, the MSC has rehabilitated nearly 17,000 sea turtles, 11,000 shorebirds, and hosted over 700,000 visitors. The MSC is a small facility nestled in the maritime hammock in Lighthouse Point Park in Ponce Inlet. The great success of the center creates new and different challenges that require a facility expansion.

**Project**

To acquire property adjacent to the existing MSC, and to construct a state-of-the-art facility including:

- Immersive and interactive education displays showcasing the marine and estuarine environments,
- A world class sea turtle and shorebird veterinary facility, in partnership with the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and
- A research center focusing on public-private partnerships to understand and protect our fragile ecosystems.

**Community Impact and Benefits**

This project will:

- Teach stewardship and conservation to thousands of Volusia County residents and visitors
- Develop and expand partnerships with local universities and research institutions.
- Set a new standard for conservation medicine and the rehabilitation of sea turtles and shorebirds

**State Return on Investment**

The indirect economic benefits include – increased visitation and tourism expenditures.

**Contact for more information:** Kelli McGee, Growth and Resource Management Director, at 386-822-5013 or [kmcgee@volusia.org](mailto:kmcgee@volusia.org)

***Support Funding for Wilbur by the Sea Drainage Improvements Project***  
**\$320,000 request for \$640,000 project – Phase I**  
**\$320,000 request for \$640,000 project - Phase II**

The County of Volusia requests your ***support*** in funding the Wilbur by the Sea Drainage Improvements Project. This project is being proposed in two phases. Phase I is the installation of exfiltration piping and a stormwater treatment system for the Marcelle outfall. Phase II of the project includes the installation of exfiltration piping and the interconnection of stormwater retention ponds. These projects will add capacity to the stormwater conveyance system and provide sediment and nutrient removal enhancing water quality discharging to the Halifax River in the Northern Coastal Basin, an impaired water body.

**Current Situation**

The Wilbur by the Sea area currently has an under capacity stormwater conveyance system and limited stormwater treatment. Negative impact includes:

- Recent storm events have resulted in flooded structures and roadways.
- Untreated stormwater currently discharges to the Halifax River in the Northern Coastal Basin, an impaired water body.

**Project**

The installation of exfiltration piping will add capacity to the stormwater conveyance system and will provide stormwater treatment. The installation of a stormwater treatment box and the interconnection of the retention ponds will provide additional stormwater treatment.

- Exfiltration piping will add capacity for stormwater conveyance
- Exfiltration trench media will provide nutrient removal improving water quality
- Stormwater treatment box will provide sediment and nutrient removal improving water quality
- Interconnection of retention ponds will improve stormwater conveyance and provide additional sediment and nutrient removal, improving water quality

**Community Impact and Benefits**

This project will:

- Reduce flooding of structures and roadways
- Provide stormwater treatment improving water quality

**State Return on Investment**

The project will reduce the potential for home and roadway flooding, reducing flood damage claims. The project will enhance property values and the quality of life in this vital residential community.

**Contact for more information:**

Judy Grim, Road and Bridge Director, 386-822-6422 or [jgrim@volusia.org](mailto:jgrim@volusia.org)

**Support Funding for Gemini Springs Water Quality Improvements Project**  
**\$400,000 Request for \$500,000 Project**

The County of Volusia requests your *support* in funding the Gemini Springs Water Quality Improvements Project. This project includes the installation of five stormwater treatment boxes to provide treatment of the stormwater prior to discharge into Gemini Springs. The stormwater treatment boxes will provide sediment and nutrient removal enhancing water quality discharging to Gemini Springs, an impaired water body.

**Current Situation**

Gemini Springs is a County owned park that currently prohibits swimming due to poor water quality. The five drainage outfalls currently discharge untreated stormwater into Gemini Springs. The outfalls are County maintained; however the majority of drainage flow is from the City of DeBary residential neighborhoods.

Negative impact includes untreated stormwater currently discharges to Gemini Springs, an impaired water body.

**Project**

The installation of five stormwater treatment boxes will provide stormwater treatment for all of the drainage outfalls discharging into Gemini Springs. Stormwater treatment box will provide sediment and nutrient removal improving water quality.

**Community Impact and Benefits**

This project will:

- Provide stormwater treatment for City of DeBary residential neighborhoods;
- Improve usability of County owned park; and
- Provide stormwater treatment, improving water quality.

**State Return on Investment**

The project will improve the ability for residents to use this beautiful park. The project will enhance property values and the quality of life in this vital community.

**Contact for more information:**

Judy Grim, Road and Bridge Director, 386-822-6422 or

jgrim@volusia.org