

**Emerald Coast Regional Council
Regional Rural Transportation Program
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, August 27, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

GoToWebinar:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5174404431035382362>

Call To Order

Welcome and Introductions – Latilda Hughes-Neel, Chair

Public Forum

Please obtain a speaker request form from ECRC staff.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Rural Transportation Plan Minor Update

Gary Kramer and Jessica Walton, ECRC Staff

FDOT Updates

ACTION

2. Approval of the May 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

No Presentation

3. Regional Rural Transportation Program (RRTP) Public Participation Plan

Rae Emary, ECRC Staff

Info Packet

- a. Wildlife Corridor Access Improvement Grant NOFO
- b. US 90 Trail PD&E Study Handout (Walton County)
- c. Construction Contingency Procedure

ADJOURNMENT

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or family status. Reasonable accommodations for access will be made in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act and for languages other than English. Please notify ECRC Public Involvement of any special requirements or requests at publicinvolvement@ecrc.org or email Leandra Meredith at Leandra.Meredith@ecrc.org. You may also call 1-800-226-8914, ext. 203 or 1-800-955-8771 for TTY-Florida. All requests should be made at least 48 hours in advance.

El público está invitado a participar, sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. En acuerdo con el American with Disabilities Act, se harán arreglos razonables para el acceso a la reunión. Si su idioma principal no es inglés, en acuerdo con Title VI, usted puede pedir el servicio de un intérprete. Para pedir asistencia, comuníquese con Ada Rivera Clark, por carta electrónica al ada.clark@erc.org, por teléfono llame al 850-332-7976, ext. 227 o puede llamar al 1-800-955-8771, para TTY-Florida. Por favor póngase en contacto con 48 horas de antemano.

Agenda Item

1

Agenda Item Number: 1

SUBJECT: Rural Transportation Plan Minor Update

BACKGROUND: In February 2021, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) began a contractual services agreement to develop the first Regional Rural Transportation Plan for the seven counties served by ECRC. ECRC provides staff support to the Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton, and Bay County Transportation Planning Organizations (TPOs). The Bay County TPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary includes all of Bay County, while the Florida-Alabama and Okaloosa-Walton TPO MPA boundaries extend through approximately the southern half of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties. The remaining non-MPA areas of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties, along with all of Holmes and Washington counties, make up the Rural Study Area for the Rural Transportation Plan.

A full update to the Rural Transportation Plan is scheduled to begin in 2027. In the meantime, interim updates to the projects included in the plan are needed. The proposed schedule for this minor update is outlined below:

- August 27, 2026: Officially open the minor update process.
- September–October 2026: Conduct public outreach, including a virtual workshop. (date and time to be determined)
- November 2026: RRTP TAC to consider recommending approval of the minor update.
- November 2026: ECRC Board to consider approval of the minor update.

The RRTP can be viewed at www.ecrc.org/RRTP.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This item is for information only. Contact Jill Nobles, ECRC staff, at jill.nobles@ecrc.org or 850-332-7976 ext. 212 if additional information is needed.

FDOT UPDATE

Agenda Item 2

**Regional Rural Transportation
Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

The Chautauqua Building
95 Circle Dr, DeFuniak Springs, FL
GoToWebinar
May 20, 2026; 9:30am



Attendance

Scott Bitterman, Okaloosa County
Sydney Black (Virtual)
Mayor Ben Boutwell, Town of Century (Virtual)
Jane Dellwo, Holmes County (Virtual)
Andy Fleener, Washington County (Virtual)
Latilda Hughes-Neel, Chair City of Freeport
Cliff Johnson, Bay County
Anita Miller, (Virtual)
Dave Murzin, Town of Century
Kurvin Qualls, Governor Appointee -ECRC Liaison
Max Rogers, Santa Rosa County
Patrice Tanner, City of Chipley (Virtual)

ECRC Staff in Attendance:

Tiffany Bates (Virtual)
Rae Emary
Gary Kramer
Kandase Lee
Leandra Meredith
Tammy Neal
Jill Nobles
Jessica Walton (Virtual)

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Hughes-Neel welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Hughes-Neel opened the public forum. With no speakers or comments from the public, Chair Hughes-Neel closed the public forum.

PRESENTATIONS:

Item 1: US 90 Trail Corridor Alliance

Cassidy Haney, Office of Florida Greenways and Trails, provided a brief overview of the office's role in planning and supporting Florida's statewide system of land and water trails. She explained that the office works with state and local partners to compile trail data to help coordinate a connected, comprehensive trail network for recreational use.

Cassidy Haney provided an update on the US 90 Trail Corridor, a 424-mile regional trail planned to extend across the Florida Panhandle from Escambia County to Duval County. She explained that while the corridor is currently one of the least complete priority trails, programmed work has begun in Okaloosa and Walton counties, and a US 90 Trail Corridor Alliance has been formed to improve coordination and communication between partners working to advance the trail system.

Item 2: RRTP Public Participation Plan:

Rae Emary, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator, presented the updated draft Regional Rural Transportation Program (RRTP) Public Participation Plan for review and comment, explaining that the update includes revisions to reflect the RRTP's established brand identity, incorporation of additional planning strategies developed since adoption of the original plan, and general administrative updates including staff changes, contact information, and organizational details.

The public comment period opened on May 12, 2026, and will remain open through June 26, 2026. Comments may be submitted through the RRTP website or by email. Rae Emary noted that the updated plan will be brought to the August 27, 2026 meeting for ECRC Board approval and adoption.

No questions or comments were received.

ACTION ITEMS:

Item 3: Approval of the February 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Hughes-Neel asked for a recommendation on the February 18, 2026 meeting minutes.

Anna Hudson recommended approval of the February 18, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Cliff Johnson and was unanimously approved.

Item 3: Regional Rural Transportation Plan (RRTP) Project Priorities

Gary Kramer, Planner, presented the Regional Rural Transportation Plan (RRTP) Project Priorities for FY2028-2032 highlighting the geographical area covered by the RRTP and explained that the project priorities serve as guidance for the FDOT in developing its Five-Year Work Program.

In support of the Project Priorities, Leandra Meredith, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, summarized the public outreach efforts conducted, which included a public survey, virtual open house, interactive mapping tools, social media campaigns, email notifications, and coordination with local governments and community organizations. Outreach results showed that participants identified seasonal tourism and school traffic, limited roadway connections, and high traffic demand as key contributors to congestion, while prioritizing road maintenance, congestion reduction, safety improvements, drainage, and multimodal and capacity enhancements.

Chris Wallace moved to recommend approval of Resolution ECRC 2026-07, adopting the Regional Rural Transportation Plan Project Priorities for FY2028-2032. The motion was seconded by Anna Hudson and was unanimously approved.

Information Items:

- a. US 90 Shared-Use Trail PD&E Study Handout (Okaloosa County)
- b. US 90 Trail PD&E Study Handout (Walton County)

Adjournment: With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 9:57am.

DRAFT

Agenda Item 3

Agenda Item Number: 3

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution ECRC 2026-10, Approval of the Regional Rural Transportation Program (R RTP) Public Participation Plan (PPP)

BACKGROUND: In 2019, the ECRC incorporated a Regional Rural Transportation Program in conjunction with the Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton, and Bay County Transportation Planning Organizations (TPOs). The counties included in the plan are Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Holmes, and Washington.

Part of this project includes a Public Participation Plan (PPP). The PPP provides guidelines for achieving quality public involvement when developing major planning documents and programs. Effective public participation begins early in the planning process and continues throughout, helping to avoid, minimize, and mitigate negative impacts while providing the best solutions. The PPP is due to be updated to ensure the most effective public outreach is being implemented for the success of the plan.

The draft PIP was distributed to the ECRC board members at the May 2026 meeting for review which opened the 45-day public review process. The PPP was also sent to agency partners for review. The draft PPP can be found at: www.ecrc.org/R RTP.

ATTACHED:

- Resolution ECRC 2026-10

RECOMMENDED ACTION: A motion for the ECRC chair to sign Resolution ECRC 2026-10, approving and adopting the Regional Rural Transportation Program Public Participation Plan (PPP). Contact ECRC Marketing & Outreach staff at (850) 332-7976 or marketing@ecrc.org if additional information is needed.

RESOLUTION ECRC 2026-10
A RESOLUTION OF THE EMERALD COAST REGIONAL
COUNCIL ADOPTING THE REGIONAL RURAL
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Office of Policy Planning provides guidance to Transportation Planning Organizations (TPO) through identification of Planning Emphasis Areas in support of the Florida Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) incorporated a Regional Rural Transportation Program (RRTP) by allocating a total of \$108,000 for Task R.1 in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP) through contributions from the Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton TPO, and the Bay County TPOs; and

WHEREAS, the three TPOs approved the Regional Rural Transportation Plan Scope of Services in June 2019; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2021, FDOT entered an agreement with ECRC to develop an RRTP to include the counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Holmes, and Washington; and

WHEREAS, the scope of services for the agreement requires ECRC to develop and implement a Public Participation Plan (PPP) that complies with all applicable federal and state regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The ECRC board has reviewed the RRTP public participation procedures, hereafter referred to as the Public Participation Plan, to assure that full and open access to the RRTP decision-making process is provided to all citizens and finds the document to be in compliance with the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR 450.316) and the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Handbook.
- 2) The ECRC board adopts the RRTP Public Participation Plan.

Duly passed and adopted by the Emerald Coast Regional Council on this 27th day of August, 2026.

BY: _____
Kurvin Qualls, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Kandase Lee, ECRC Chief Executive Officer



INFO PACK



GRANTING ORGANIZATION:	Trust for Public Land
FUNDING SOURCE:	Disney Conservation
PARTNER ORGANIZATION:	Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation
FUNDING TITLE:	Wildlife Corridor Access Improvement
ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE:	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:	TPL-TWDC-FWCF-26-06

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 1, 2026	NOFO Opening Date
September 30, 2026	Application Closing Date
October 31, 2026	Initial Award Selections
December 1, 2026	Anticipated Start of Period of Performance for Initial Selections

DEADLINE: Application packages will be accepted on a rolling basis until September 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) through <https://forms.office.com/r/UHEQwCZm3M>. TPL is unable to consider applications received after the closing date and time.

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3. Project Timeline & Reporting
4. Application Instructions and Documents
5. Scoring and Evaluation

1. Introduction

Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit that connects everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create parks and protect public land where they're needed most. Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 4 million acres of public land, created more than 5,500 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places, raised over \$112 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected nearly 10 million people to the outdoors. To learn more, visit <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/florida-wildlife-corridor>.

Trust for Public Land (TPL) is partnered with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation (FWCF) to improve access to the Florida Wildlife Corridor (the Corridor). FWCF champions a collaborative campaign to permanently connect, protect, and restore the Corridor. FWCF aligns efforts for conservation of the Corridor's highest priorities, accelerates connectivity by providing tools and resources that elevate partners' work, and celebrates collective successes through storytelling and art. To learn more, visit floridawildlifecorridor.org.

Disney Conservation Fund is continuing their 30-year commitment to conservation by granting the FWCF funds to support the expansion of access to the Florida Wildlife Corridor, especially in communities where access is limited. FWCF is furthering Disney Conservation Fund's goal by choosing to work with TPL as a trusted partner and leader in equitable access to the outdoors to administer the Wildlife Corridor Access & Trailhead Improvement funding opportunity.

By supporting new trailheads and public entry points, FWCF, Disney Conservation Fund, and TPL hope to make nature more accessible to all Floridians, helping them connect with and appreciate the state's wild beauty found in the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Program Purpose:

The program aims to grant one award totaling \$150,000 to an Applicant within the Florida Wildlife Corridor for capital improvements that address expanding access to outdoor recreation assets.

Program Priorities:

The Program has four priorities that will be considered during application review. Though these are priorities for the program, a project not meeting one or more of these priorities does not preclude it from potential funding.

1. Wildlife Corridor Commitment: Current or planned activities for education, protection and planning around the Florida Wildlife Corridor geography by Applicant.
 - a. Example: Note of Florida Wildlife Corridor in Comprehensive or strategic plan, dedicated funding for land conservation and recreation, or cultural and Indigenous relationship to geography.
2. Leveraging Funding: Match funds are not required, but the demonstration of additional investments in the proposed project will be considered in application review.

3. **Level of Improved Access:** Improved access can be noted by an increase in variety of user types or the availability of recreational amenities in your region.
 - a. **Example:** A footpath was previously only used by hikers; Improved access: footpath for hikers, bike rack installation for cyclists, creation of waterfront access for fishing, camping site for backpackers, and ADA accessible viewing platform for birders.
4. **Project is Shovel-Ready:** The proposed project is shovel-ready, and the applicant is able to expend all project funds and complete construction of the project no later than December 31, 2027.

2. Eligibility

Applicants:

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, local governments, and Tribal and Indigenous communities or governments that have a project to create or improve access on land they own in the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Further applicant eligibility requirements are described below.

1. **Non-profit organizations:** To qualify as a non-profit, an organization must be filed as a 501(c)3 incorporated within the State of Florida. The organization must either own the property included in the project application or be applying in partnership with another eligible applicant within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.
2. **Local governments:** Eligible local government entities include counties, municipalities, cities, towns, school districts, special districts, etc.
3. **Tribal governments:** Federally or State recognized Tribes and Indigenous governments or communities with a nonprofit status are eligible to apply for funding.

Eligible Land:

Eligible applicants must own land within or near and connected to the geographic area of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, which is defined by the Florida Ecological Greenways Network priority 1-3 data layers. This land, and the improvements made through this grant, need to be made publicly accessible to all. Access improvements proposed in an application should be located, either partially or entirely, within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. You can check your location in the Wildlife Corridor by using this online tool (Florida Ecological Connectivity (EcoCon) Planning Viewer):

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/16766dbce8c24722b84210e4c92db35c/page/Map/>

Applications for a project on a parcel(s) that fall out of this definition are not eligible.

Eligible Activities/Costs:

Eligible activities for this grant are capital improvements to expand access to new and current users of the land in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The funding should be directed towards increasing access to, and diversity of, recreational opportunities at large, either through

improvements to existing access points or the construction of new and/or additional access points. Capital improvements must be located in, or within a half mile of and connected to, the Florida Wildlife Corridor and must be made permanently accessible to the public.

Examples of eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Trail-head improvements/creation
2. Trail extension/rehabilitation
3. Parking lots and bike racks
4. Campground creation/improvements
5. Observation platforms

Eligible Costs

This grant funds capital improvement projects only, with the exception of a groundbreaking event and a grand opening event that are required to include in the grant budget. Grant funds must be used for necessary costs associated with implementing approved capital projects that expand access to recreational opportunities on lands located within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Eligible costs may include the following:

1. Materials and supplies
2. Labor and rented equipment
3. Recreational amenities (benches, bike racks, way-finding signs, etc.)
4. Other required capital costs
5. Required to include in the grant budget:
 - a. Costs for a groundbreaking celebration event
 - b. Costs for a grand opening ceremony/celebration event

All costs must be outlined in the application budget.

Ineligible costs include but are not limited to:

1. Staff pay (other than staff pay for the construction of access improvements)
2. Operating costs
3. Overhead costs
4. Promotional costs
5. Acquisition of land (neither within, nor outside of, the Florida Wildlife Corridor)
6. Planning and design
7. Permitting and compliance
8. Support costs such as appraisals or title work

Match: No cost sharing or matching is required as a condition of eligibility under this program. Leveraging grant funding is a priority for this program. If the project plans to leverage other funds, this will be outlined in the Narrative and the Project Budget.

3. Project Timeline & Reporting

The award agreement will be executed between October 2026 and November 2026. Project work will commence in December 2026. Key milestones:

- A groundbreaking celebration will be required when project work begins. FWCF and TPL will assist in planning the groundbreaking celebration.
- Project funds must be expended no later than December 31, 2027.
- A grand opening ceremony will be required no later than December 2027. FWCF and TPL will partner on the opening ceremony.

Reporting and invoicing dates:

- Throughout the project period, quarterly reports and invoices showing project expenditures with backup documentation will be required.
- A final report and invoice will be due on January 31, 2028.

4. Application Instructions and Documents

Application Instructions

The application involves two steps that are to be completed in the following order:

1. Fill out this form <https://forms.office.com/r/UHEQwCZm3M> with the Applicant's narrative materials. The Applicant will receive a submission number and confirmation of the form's submission over email. If the Applicant does not receive this email, please check the spam inbox of the email listed in the application and then email Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org if the confirmation was not received.
2. Reply to the email sent from Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org following the form submission and submit the 5 attachments outlined on page 7. Ensure that the attachments follow the naming conventions below as well as that the subject line includes your submission number. Submission of attachments must also be completed by 11:59 pm ET on September 30, 2026.

It is suggested to draft the application outside of the form and enter answers in the form at the end as it does not save. Please note **the application is not complete until both steps one and two are completed** and the Applicant receives the second email from Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org confirming the receipt of the attachments.

Application Documents

Narrative (35 points):

Executive Summary (5 points)

1. Entity/Organization Name
2. If applicable, please provide a URL for the Entity/Organization

3. Proposed Project Site Information
 - a. List the proposed improvement(s) discussed in the Narrative (max 50 words).
 - b. Provide the address(es) or GPS coordinates of the proposed improvement(s) proposed in the Narrative.
 - c. Please briefly discuss the existing conditions of, and what outdoor recreation asset(s) exist on the project site in a few words. Ex: trail, parking lot, lookout tower, etc. (max 150 words).
4. Contacts
 - a. Project Director: Provide the name, phone number, email address, and mailing address of the Project Director assigned to this proposed project. This person should be the main point of contact for the project and should be the person responsible for the project's day-to-day operations.

Narrative Criteria/Questions (30 points)

1. Project Summary: Describe the purposes of the project, existing and future uses, existing improvements, natural and historic resources, and resource protection and enhancement activities. What is the outdoor recreation asset that will be improved or created? Provide a description of the existing conditions of the land and resources that are already there. Who are the current users of the existing asset(s)? (400 word maximum, 5 points)
2. Improvement Strategy: Describe the proposed physical improvement in detail. What is the planned improvement for the outdoor recreation asset? Does the planned improvement build upon existing infrastructure or is it a new outdoor recreation asset? (300 word maximum, 5 points)
3. Community Need & Engagement: Discuss the improved access to recreational assets that the community will receive. Use Trust for Public Land's Impact Report Tool (<https://gis.tplgis.org/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=35a1ed898dcd41fbf7f47a4dbbfad36> **) to look at statistics for improved access to recreational assets. Save the 10-Minute Walk & 20-Minute Drive Impact Reports from the Impact Report Tool to attach to the application (*See: Map & Photos #3*). (250 word maximum, 5 points)
Please note that the initial pop-up to this website includes detailed usage instructions
4. Community Benefit & Partnership: Discuss the community that will benefit from this outdoor recreation asset and the way(s) in which they may do so. Describe any partnerships, community planning, or engagement that contribute to the project. (300 word maximum, 5 points)
5. New Users: Who are the new users of the outdoor recreation asset? How will this project invite new users? (300 word maximum, 5 points)

6. Project Readiness: Discuss the level of planning and development that has already occurred or is upcoming for the project. Highlight and describe the ability to meet the proposed project timeline. (300 words maximum, 5 points)
7. Timeline Certification: I certify that my project can be reasonably completed in the project period, with all funds expended and project completed by December 31, 2027. (0 points, mandatory for award consideration as outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity's timeline)

Attachments (40 points):

Map & Photos (10 points)

1. Please attach a map of the property. Please include on the map the location of the project site where the improvements will take place. Label the attachment: Project_Name_Map.
2. Upload one file (.doc or PDF) showing up to 5 images with a description of the site and planned future improvements. Label the attachment: Project_Name_Photos.

ParkServe Tool: 10-Minute Walk & 20-minute Drive Impact Report (10 points)

3. Please attach *both* (2) [Project Impact Report](#) reports. These include the two-page PDF reports created using The Trust for Public Land's ParkServe Tool to show the 10-Minute Walk and the 20-Minute Drive Impact Reports. These reports are associated with *Narrative Criteria/Questions #3* above. Label the attachment: Project_Name_Report.

Workplan and Timeline (10 points)

4. Please provide a timeline, no longer than one page, ranging from October 2026 to December 2027. Make note of key milestones and requirements, including any permits needed for construction. If additional funds are being sought to complete the project budget, also make note of any decision deadlines. You may use your own format, but please upload it as a pdf. Label the attachment: Project_Name_Timeline.

Budget and Cost Effectiveness (10 points)

5. Upload the budget for the project. See section 2. *Eligibility* with questions regarding eligible expenses. Though match/leveraged funds are not a requirement, they are a priority of this program. If you have matching/leveraged funds, put them in the budget in the appropriate sections. See the budget template in the application package. Label the attachment: Project_Name_Budget.

5. Scoring and Evaluation

Applications will be scored by a panel of reviewers from the Trust for Public Land, The Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation, and Disney Conservation Fund. Applications will be reviewed out of 100 points, as broken down below.

- Narrative (35 points):
 - Executive Summary (5 points)
 - Narrative Criteria/Questions (30 points)
 - Project Summary (5 points)
 - Improvement Strategy (5 points)
 - Community Need & Engagement (5 points)
 - Community Benefit and Partnership (5 points)
 - New Users (5 points)
 - Project Readiness (5 points)
 - Timeline Certification (0 points, mandatory for award consideration as outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity's timeline)
- Attachments (40 points)
 - Map and Photos (10 points)
 - ParkServe Tool: 10-Minute Walk & 20-minute Drive Impact Report (10 points)
 - Workplan and Timeline (10 points)
 - Budget and Cost Effectiveness (10 points)
- Overall Alignment with Program Priorities (25 points)
 - Wildlife Corridor Commitment (8 points)
 - Leveraging Funding (5 points)
 - Level of Improved Access (7 points)
 - Project is Shovel-Ready (5 points)

If you have further questions, contact Florida-Access-Grant@tpl.org.



STATE ROAD (S.R.) 10 (U.S. 90) TRAIL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY

U.S. 90 FROM WOODYARD ROAD TO BALDWIN AVENUE AND
BALDWIN AVENUE FROM U.S. 90 WEST TO U.S. 90 EAST

FINANCIAL PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS: 452969-1-22-01 & 452969-2-22-01
WALTON COUNTY



HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER
361 NORTH 10TH STREET, DEFUNIAK SPRINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

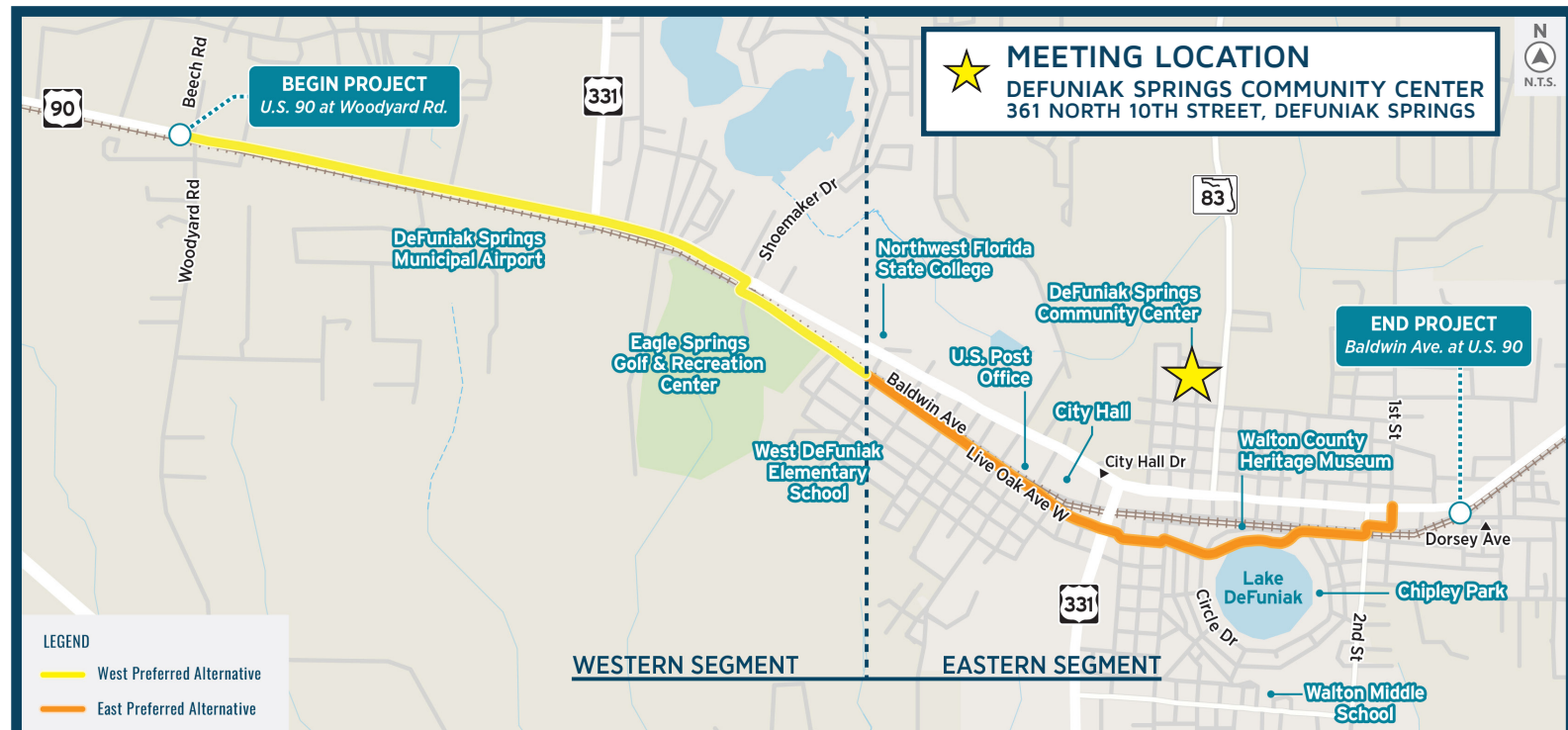
5:30 – 6:30 P.M. (CDT)



SCAN ME ↑

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will hold a hybrid public meeting regarding the U.S. 90 Shared-Use Trail Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. This meeting is being held both virtually and in-person to provide interested persons an opportunity to express their views concerning the proposed improvements. Citizens are encouraged to attend the meeting online at www.nwflroads.com/projects/452969-1. Those who are unable to participate virtually may attend the meeting in person. **Pre-registration is required for the virtual format and encouraged for in-person attendees.** See the information sheet in this handout for details.

Maps, drawings, and other information is available for review online beginning at 12 p.m. (CDT), Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026, at www.nwflroads.com/projects/452969-1. Project materials will also be available at the in-person meeting. The materials may also be viewed by contacting the FDOT Project Manager.





A silhouette of a family consisting of a man, a woman, and two children walking away from the viewer on a winding path. The man is on the left, holding a jacket. The woman is on the right, holding the hand of the youngest child. The path is bordered by green grass and white flowers. In the background, there are tall pine trees under a clear blue sky. The FDOT logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

WHAT IS A PD&E STUDY?

A PD&E Study is the formal process that develops and compares alternatives to determine a preferred action that meets project goals, while minimizing impacts to the social, natural, cultural, and physical environments. Engaging the public by sharing and receiving information is a key component of this process and is required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

PROJECT GOALS



IMPROVE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



ENHANCE TRAIL CONNECTIVITY



PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL BENEFITS



PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

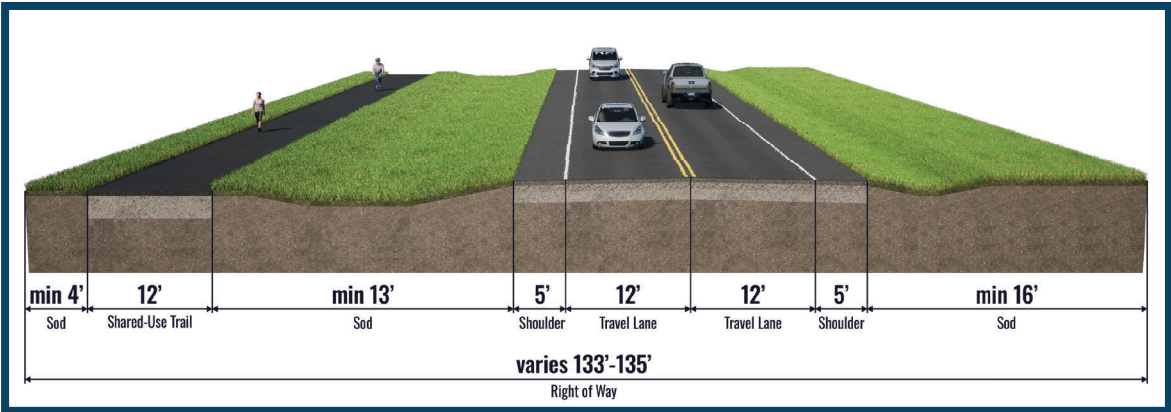


SUN TRAIL PROGRAM

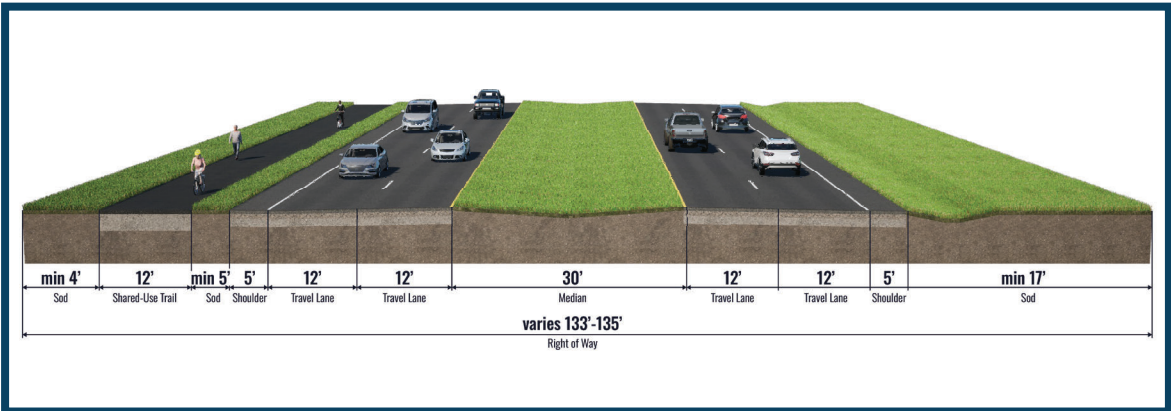
This PD&E Study is part of the Shared-Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail Program. Please visit www.floridasuntrail.com to learn more about the SUN Trail network and its existing and conceptual trails.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

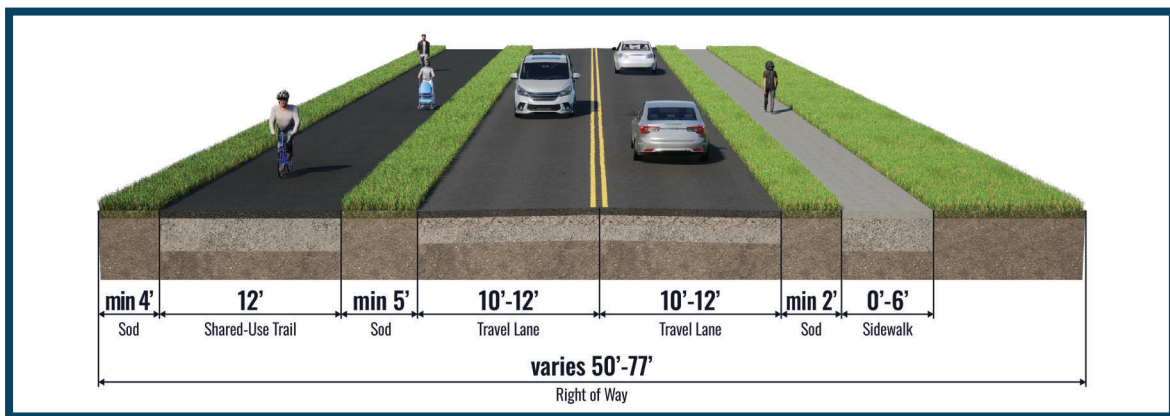
FDOT has evaluated alternatives to add a shared-use trail along U.S. 90. The alternatives were presented to the public for review and comment during the Virtual Project Update held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at www.nwflroads.com. Based on public input and the results of the environmental and engineering analysis conducted, FDOT is recommending the preferred alternative be advanced to the design phase. These proposed improvements include adding a shared-use trail along U.S. 90 from Woodyard Road to Baldwin Avenue, and along Baldwin Avenue from U.S. 90 West to U.S. 90 East in Walton County. Design is funded fiscal year (FY) 2030. Right of way and construction are not funded at this time. The proposed typical sections, which are visual representations of the basic configuration of the proposed shared-use trail, are provided below.



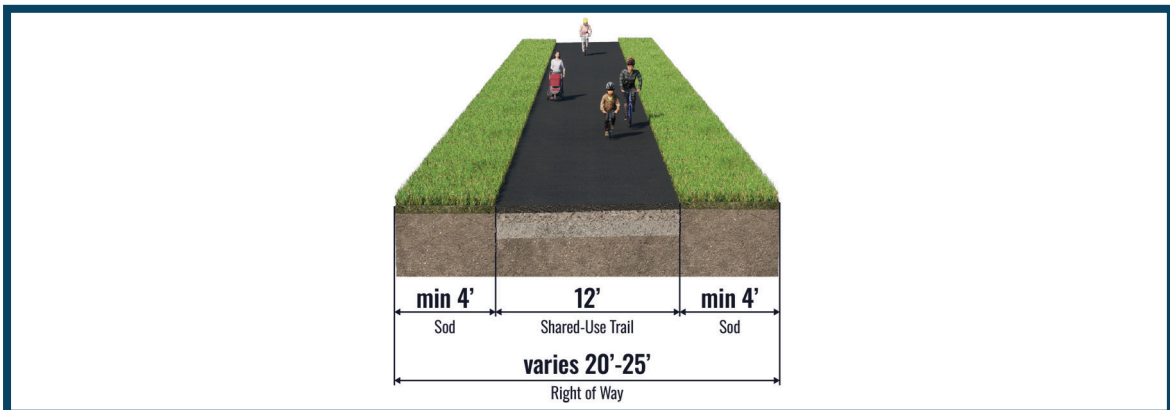
U.S. 90 from Woodyard Road to U.S. 331 North



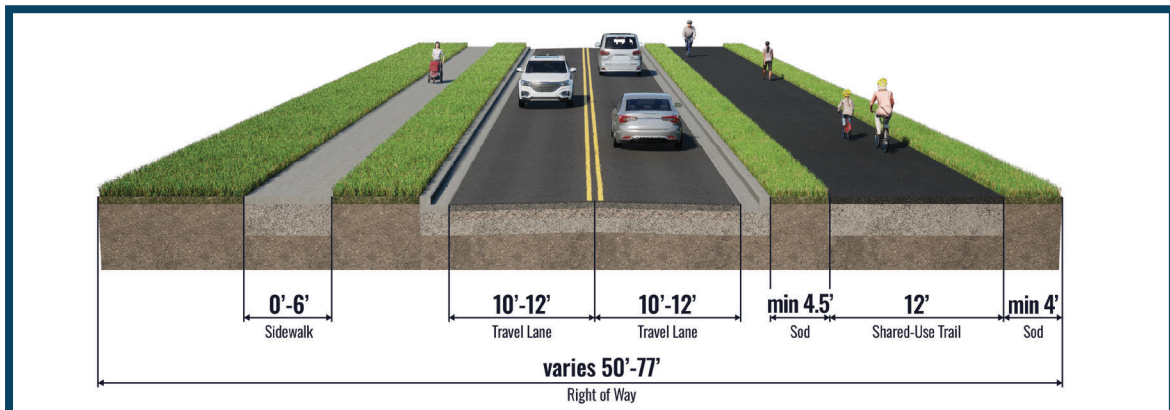
U.S. 90 from U.S. 331 North to Country Club Drive



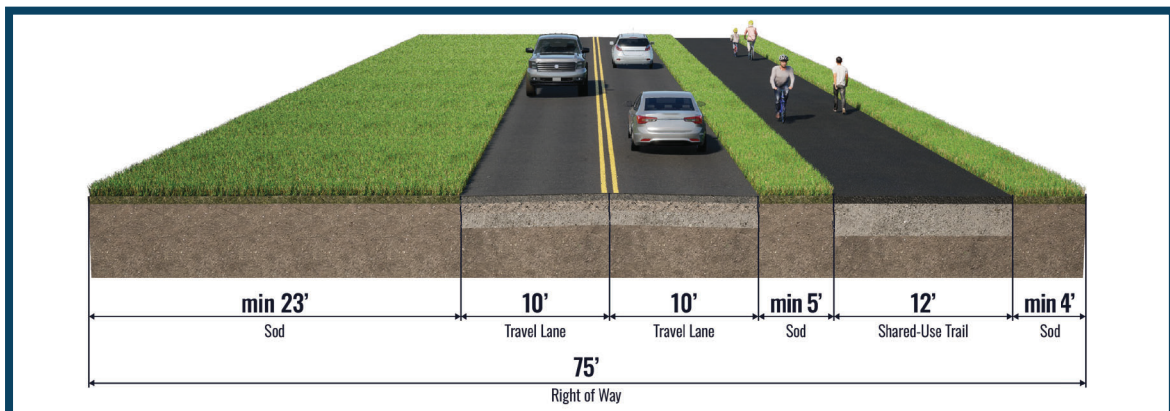
Country Club Drive from U.S. 90 to Country Club Drive, Live Oak Avenue from 26th Street to 13th Street and from 11th Street to Circle Drive, and 2nd Street from East Main Avenue to Baldwin Avenue and Baldwin Avenue from 2nd Street to 1st Street



Country Club Drive to 26th Street (Eagle Springs Golf and Recreation Center) and Circle Drive to just east of 6th Street (Chiple Park)



Live Oak Avenue from 13th Street to 11th Street and Circle Drive and East Main Avenue from just east of 6th Street to 2nd Street



1st Street from Baldwin Avenue to U.S. 90

PROJECT SCHEDULE



TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



SECTION 4(F)

As part of the project development process and in accordance with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, FDOT has identified the Eagle Springs Golf and Recreation Center and the Chipley Park as Section 4(f) protected properties, and is seeking comments from the public concerning the potential effects on the activities, features, and attributes that may result from the proposed addition of the shared-use trail. Following the public comment period, and in consideration of any input received, FDOT intends to pursue a *de minimis* impact determination on the resources.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE (ONLINE)

- Enter your comments in the chat box during the public meeting.
- Submit any comments or questions to the FDOT Project Manager via email or by mail by Monday, Sept. 14, 2026.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

- Complete a comment form and drop it in the comment box.
- Provide comments or questions during the public meeting to the project team.
- Submit any comments or questions to the FDOT Project Manager via email or by mail by Monday, Sept. 14, 2026.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Your comments are very important to us. A final decision on the preferred alternative will not be made until all comments received by the designated date have been reviewed. FDOT will consider and respond to each comment and is anticipated to make a decision by late 2026. The decision will be announced via the project webpage on www.nwflroads.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

All comments provided, or postmarked, on or before **Monday, Sept. 14, 2026**, will become part of the official project record.

TORI WHITE

FDOT PROJECT MANAGER

PHONE: TOLL-FREE (888) 638-0250, EXT. 1455

EMAIL: TORI.WHITE@DOT.STATE.FL.US

IAN SATTER

FDOT DISTRICT THREE PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR

PHONE: TOLL-FREE (888) 638-0250, EXT. 1205

EMAIL: IAN.SATTER@DOT.STATE.FL.US

1074 HIGHWAY 90, CHIPLEY, FL 32428



WWW.NWFLROADS.COM



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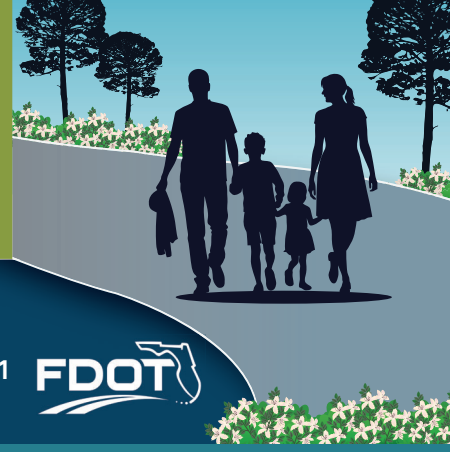
Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons wishing to express their concerns about Title VI may do so by contacting Derek Chadwell, FDOT District Three Title VI Coordinator, 1074 Highway 90, Chipley, FL 32428, toll-free at (888) 638-0250, ext. 1507, or via email at derek.chadwell@dot.state.fl.us. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the FDOT Project Manager, at the information listed above, at least seven days prior to the meeting.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and FDOT.





STATE ROAD (S.R.) 10 (U.S. 90) TRAIL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY



U.S. 90 FROM WOODYARD ROAD TO BALDWIN AVENUE AND
BALDWIN AVENUE FROM U.S. 90 WEST TO U.S. 90 EAST

FINANCIAL PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS: 452969-1-22-01 & 452969-2-22-01

WALTON COUNTY



Instructions for Attending the Hybrid Public Meeting Thursday, September 3, 2026

Registration is required for the virtual format and encouraged for in-person attendees. Interested persons can visit the project website at www.nwflroads.com/projects/452969-1 and register for one viewing option (virtual or in-person). The same materials will be presented for each format. If you have any questions or issues registering, please contact Tori White, FDOT Project Manager, at (888) 638-0250, ext. 1455.

To register, visit:
www.nwflroads.com/projects/452969-1
or contact Tori White, FDOT Project Manager,
at (888) 638-0250, ext. 1455.



TO ATTEND THE VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING



The Virtual Public Meeting will be held through
GoToWebinar

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (CDT)

*Persons registered for the Virtual Public Meeting
can attend online using GoToWebinar.*

1. Virtual attendees should use the sign-in link emailed to them after registering.
2. During the meeting, attendees will have an opportunity to provide input and ask questions to project team members by entering comments in the designated chat box.
3. The GoToWebinar presentation will be broadcast to virtual attendees.
4. Public comments may be submitted by any of the methods mentioned in the project handout. All comments provided or postmarked on or before Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, will become part of the official project record.

TO ATTEND THE IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETING



The In-Person Public Meeting will be held at:
DeFuniak Springs Community Center
361 North 10th Street, Defuniak Springs

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (CDT)

*Persons registered for the In-Person Public Meeting
can attend at the designated public viewing location.*

1. Upon arrival, please sign-in.
2. Project displays will be available for review. Project team members will be on-site to assist with questions and/or concerns.
3. Public comments may be turned in during the meeting or until Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, via the methods presented in the project handout. All comments provided or postmarked on or before Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, will become part of the official project record.



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

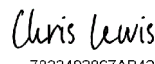
JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

FORECASTING AND PERFORMANCE BULLETIN 26-02 **(FHWA Approval: N/A)**

DATE: June 22, 2026

TO: District Directors of Transportation Operations, District Directors of Transportation Development, District Design Engineers, District Construction Engineers, District Maintenance Engineers, District Program Management Engineers, District Specifications Engineers, District Estimates Engineers, District PLEMO

FROM: Chris Lewis, P.E., Director, Forecasting and Performance Office

Signed by:

7833492867AB42C...

COPIES: Will Watts, Jennifer Marshall, Rudy Powell, Tim Lattner, Katasha Gruver, Jose Hernando, Brenda Young, Will Potter, Mark Mathes, Scott Arnold, Daniel Strickland, Kendra Sheffield, Giancarlo Martinez, Jose Ortiz, Ebony Pena-Lopez

SUBJECT: **Contingency Amount for LAP Construction Projects**

REQUIRMENTS

This bulletin outlines updates to FDOT's Local Agency Program (LAP) procedures related to contingency funding requirements for construction projects, in accordance with Section 339.28201, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

BACKGROUND

Historically, unforeseen construction costs are managed at the local agency level between the agency and its contractors. Pursuant to section 339.28201, F.S.:

- The Department must update the project cost estimate in the year the project is let.
- The project cost estimates must include a locally funded contingency amount.
- Local agencies are required at a minimum to:
 - Use LAP Division One Specifications, and
 - Include a Local Funds Construction Contingency (LFCC) amount in the construction phases of project costs estimates and their schedules of funding to account for unforeseen conditions.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

Key Changes

The following updates will be implemented:

- Contingency Amount Requirement:
 - A Local Funds Construction Contingency (LFCC) amount must be included in all LAP construction phase project estimates and schedule of funding.
 - Contingency Amount: The greater of 0.5% of the contract amount or \$10,000.
 - This applies in the year the project is to be let.
- Funding Designation:
 - The LFCC amount shall be programmed as non-budgeted local funds by district Work Program offices.
 - LAP Agreements with construction phases shall include language on the requirement of inclusion of funds on the project in “Exhibit A” and shall capture the amount of the funds in “Exhibit B” under Phase of Work By Fiscal Year- Construction - Phase 58, column (2) Local Funds.
 - These funds are held and managed by the local agency and not by the Department.
 - Use of funds is at the discretion of the local agency and its contractor(s).
 - Local agencies must include the LFCC amount in their schedule of funding and provide proof of contingency funds depletion before a request seeking funding for shortfalls can be made to the Department.

Documents Affected

The following documents are revised to reflect this requirement and ensure uniform application and clarify for all LAP participants:

1. FDOT LAP Manual (525-010-300)
2. LAP Agreement (525-010-040)
3. Work Program Instructions (WPI)

To Comply:

- Local agencies must include the appropriate LFCC amount in all applicable LAP Agreements
- Local agencies must have funds available to cover the required contingency amount, which is:
 - The greater of 0.5% of the original contract amount or \$10,000.
- Acknowledgement of this requirement will be included in the following updated documents:
 - Local Agency Program Manual (525-010-300), Acronyms: LFCC, Chapter 5: Grant Agreements by Funding Program, Grant Agreement Content & Exhibits (Table 1), Resources, Chapter 6: Identification of Eligible and Ineligible Costs.
 - Local Agency Program Agreement (525-010-40), Section 5(j): Requisitions and Payments and Section 7(i): General Requirements.

- Work Program Instructions (WPI), Part III, Chapter 15: *LAP (Programming Guidelines)*.

COMMENTARY

All LAP projects with construction phases must include the LFCC amount in their cost estimates for the year they are to be let and included in the schedule of funding for LAP agreement execution. Local agencies should coordinate with their district Local Programs office to ensure compliance.

IMPLEMENTATION

All LAP agreements with construction phases executed on or after 7/1/2026 must comply with the statutory local fund construction contingency requirements.

CONTACTS

Samantha Samford
State Local Program Administrator
Phone (850)414-4383
Samantha.samford@dot.state.fl.us