

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS CONTINUED

5.5 PARKING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1-1	5.6 TRANSIT SERVICES	5-18
1.1 GROWTH ON THE EMERALD COAST	1-1		
1.2 PURPOSE	1-2	5.7 STRATEGIES AND TACTICS	5-22
1.3 WHAT IS A SMART REGION?	1-2	CHAPTER 6: SUSTAINING THE ECONOMY	6-1
		6.1 MILITARY INSTALLATIONS	6-1
1.4 THE EMERALD COAST 7-LAYER CAKE	1-2	6.2 PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT	6-20
1.5 ORGANIZATION AND FOCUS OF THIS PLAN	1-3	6.3 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY	6-21
CHAPTER 2: CURRENT SITUATION	2-1	6.4 STRATEGIES AND TACTICS	6-32
2.1 COMMUNICATIONS BACKBONE	2-1		
2.2 ITS FIELD DEVICES	2-1	CHAPTER 7: BUILDING MORE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE	7-1
2.3 TRAVELER INFORMATION SYSTEMS	2-5	7.1 RESILIENT ACTION PLAN	7-1
2.4 SAFE STREETS FOR ALL DEMONSTRATION GRANT	2-5	7.2 STRATEGIES AND TACTICS	7-1
		CHAPTER 8: ENHANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DIVERSITY	8-1
CHAPTER 3: CONSTRUCTING COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE	3-1	8.1 NEED FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DIVERSITY	8-1
CHAPTER 4: MAKING HIGHWAYS AND STREETS SAFER	4-1	8.2 NATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM	8-1
4.1 SAFETY ACTION PLAN	4-1	8.3 STRATEGIES AND TACTICS	8-2
4.2 SAFETY TRENDS	4-1	8.4 CANDIDATE PROJECTS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DIVERSITY PROJECTS	
4.3 VULNERABLE ROAD USERS	4-3		8-2
4.4 SAFE SPEEDS	4-15	CHAPTER 9: LEVERAGING BIG DATA	9-1
CHAPTER 5: REDUCING CONGESTION	5-1	CHAPTER 10: SUPPORTING DISASTER RECOVERY	10-1
		10.1 BACKGROUND	10-1
5.1 SOURCES OF CONGESTION	5-1	10.2 STRATEGIES AND TACTICS	10-4
5.2 CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS	5-2	CHAPTER 11: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER	11-1
5.3 SYSTEM BOTTLENECKS	5-8	11.1 INDEX OF STRATEGIES AND TACTICS	11-1
E A CROWTHIN REMAND	F 13		

# LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1: ECRC 7-LAYER CAKE INITIATIVE	1-3
FIGURE 2: REGION-WIDE CRASH TYPES, 2019-2023	4-2
FIGURE 3: PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON	4-9
FIGURE 4: IN-PAVEMENT CROSSWALK LIGHTING IN MARCO ISLAND	4-9
FIGURE 5: IN-PAVEMENT CROSSWALK LIGHTING IN PAPILLION	4-9
FIGURE 6: RRFB IN ST. PETERSBURG	4-10
FIGURE 7: BICYCLE LOOP DETECTION	4-10
FIGURE 8: MICROWAVE DETECTION ALONG RAZORBACK GREENWAY TRAIL IN ARKANSAS	4-1
FIGURE 9: DETECTION CONFIRMATION SYSTEM IN PORTLAND	4-1
FIGURE 10: DYNAMIC SPEED FEEDBACK SIGN WEST OF LANSING	4-2
FIGURE 11: DYNAMIC CURVE WARNING SYSTEM ALONG PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE	4-2
FIGURE 12: RRFB IN ST. PETERSBURG	4-22
FIGURE 13: VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT SIGN	4-22
FIGURE 14: REGION-WIDE CAUSES OF CONGESTION	5-
FIGURE 15: FLORIDA-ALABAMA TPO CAUSES OF CONGESTION	5-
FIGURE 16: OKALOOSA-WALTON TPO CAUSES OF CONGESTION	5-
FIGURE 17: BAY TPO CAUSES OF CONGESTION	5-
FIGURE 18: DOWNTOWN PENSACOLA MARDI GRAS PARKING	5-16
FIGURE 19: BAYWAY TRANSIT SYSTEM MAP	5-17
FIGURE 20: ESCAMBIA COUNTY AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM MAP	5-18
FIGURE 21: OKALOOSA COUNTY EC RIDER SYSTEM MAP	5-19
FIGURE 22: DMS ON I-10	5-22
FIGURE 23: COTRIP PLANNER APP	5-22

# LIST OF FIGURES CONTINUED

FIGURE 24: VISIT PENSACOLA APP	5-23
FIGURE 25: ACTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	5-23
FIGURE 26: TRANSIT SIGNAL PRIORITY	5-23
FIGURE 27: DYNAMIC DETOUR SYSTEM	5-23
FIGURE 28: ON-STREET PAID PARKING IN SEATTLE	5-24
FIGURE 29: QUEUE WARNING SYSTEM	5-24
FIGURE 30: STREET PARKING OCCUPANCY SENSORS (SAN FRANCISCO AND ARLINGTON COUNTY)	5-25
FIGURE 31: COMMERCIAL LOADING ZONE SIGN IN MIAMI	5-25
FIGURE 32: SMART LOADING ZONE SIGN IN PITTSBURGH	5-25
FIGURE 33: VOLUMETRIC FILL ESTIMATES USING DRONES	10-4

# LIST OF MAPS

MAP 29: SMART REGIONS LOCATIONS NOT ON THE HIGH INJURY NETWORK

# LIST OF TABLES

MAP I: EXISTING ITS	2-2	TABLE 1: POPULATION FORECASTS	-
MAP 2: SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT CORRIDORS	2-4	TABLE 2: FIBER NETWORK NEEDS	3-1
MAP 3: VRU PRIORITY INTERSECTIONS	4-6	TABLE 3: TOTAL CRASH TRENDS BY COUNTY, 2019-2023	4-1
MAP 4: VRU PRIORITY INTERSECTIONS NEAR SUN TRAIL AND BEACH ACCESS LOCATIONS	4-8	TABLE 4: CRASH SEVERITY TRENDS BY COUNTY, 2019-2023	4-2
MAP 5: AGGRESSIVE AND SPEEDING CRASH HOT SPOTS - TOTAL CRASHES	4-18	TABLE 5: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CRASH HISTORY, 2019-2023 5-YEAR AVERAGE	4-3
MAP 6: AGGRESSIVE AND SPEEDING CRASH HOT SPOTS - CRASH RATES	4-20		4-4
MAP 7: CONGESTED CORRIDORS	5-3	TABLE 6: BICYCLE FATALITIES, 2019-2023 5-YEAR AVERAGE	
MAP 8: MAJOR FREIGHT CORRIDORS	5-5	TABLE 7: PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES, 2019-2023 5-YEAR AVERAGE	4-4
MAP 9: WAZE EVENTS	5-7	TABLE 8: CANDIDATE LOCATIONS FOR VULNERABLE ROAD USER DEPLOYMENTS	4-14
MAP 10: RECURRING CONGESTION AND BOTTLENECKS	5-11	TABLE 9: SPEEDING CRASH TRENDS, 2019-2023	4-15
MAP 11: PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS PARKING LOTS	5-13	TABLE 10: AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CRASH TRENDS, 2019-2023	4-15
MAP 12: RIDE-ON PARK AND RIDE LOTS	5-19	TABLE 11: TOP 5 SPEEDING OR AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CRASH LOCATIONS BY TOTAL CRASHES	4-16
MAP 13: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR 7TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP	6-5	TABLE 12: TOP 5 SPEEDING OR AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CRASH LOCATIONS BY CRASH RATE	4-16
MAP 14: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE	6-7	TABLE 13: CANDIDATE LOCATIONS FOR SPEED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEPLOYMENTS	4-24
MAP 15: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR HURLBURT FIELD	6-9	TABLE 14: TOP INTERSECTION BOTTLENECK LOCATIONS	5-8
MAP 16: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR PANAMA CITY NAS	6-11	TABLE 15: TOP 15 TOTAL AADT INCREASES 2019-2023	5-12
MAP 17: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR PENSACOLA NAVAL AIR STATION	6-13	TABLE 16: CANDIDATE LOCATIONS FOR CONGESTION MANAGEMENT	5-27
MAP 18: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE	6-15	TABLE 17: MILITARY BASE DIRECT EMPLOYMENT	6-2
MAP 19: TOP TOTAL AADT DIFFERENCES 2019-2023	6-17		
MAP 20: OPPORTUNITY ZONES	6-23	TABLE 18: BASE ACCESS ROADWAYS	6-19
MAP 21: COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	6-25	TABLE 19: TOP 10 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS BY COUNTY WITH 500 OR MORE EMPLOYEES	6-20
MAP 22: AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY	6-27	TABLE 20: STRATEGIES FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE UNDERSERVED	6-33
MAP 23: FOOD DESERTS	6-29	TABLE 21: RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNOLOGIES	7-4
MAP 24: MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS	6-31	TABLE 22: HURRICANES IMPACTING THE EMERALD COAST SINCE 2000	10-1
MAP 25: RESILIENT ACTION PLAN STATE ROADWAYS AND BRIDGES	7-3	TABLE 23: HIN SUMMARY OF NEEDS	11-9
MAP 26: EXISTING PUBLIC CHARGING STATION	8-5	TABLE 24: NON-HIN SUMMARY OF NEEDS	11-17
MAP 27: SELECTION OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS	8-7	TABLE 25: REGIONAL SUMMARY OF NEEDS	11-23
MAP 28: SMART REGIONS LOCATIONS ALSO ON THE HIGH INJURY NETWORK	11-25		

11-27

# List of Acronyms

**AFC** - Alternative Fuel Corridor

**ATIS** - Advanced Traveler Information System

**CCTV** - Closed Circuit Television Camera

**DMS** - Dymanic Message Signs

**ECAT** - Escambia County Area Transit

**ECRC** - Emerald Coast Regional Council

FDOT - Florida Department of Transportation

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

FHWA - Federal Highway Administration

FL511 - Florida 511 System

HRSA - Health Resources and Services Administration

IIJA - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

IRS - Internal Revenue Service

ITS - Intelligent Transportation System

LiDAR - Light Detection and Ranging

**MVMT** - Million Vehicle Miles Traveled

**NEVI** - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

NHTSA - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

PHB - Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

PPA - Pittsburg Parking Authority

**RCS** - Resilient Corridor Studies

RITIS - Regional Integrated Transportation Information System

RRFB - Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon

**RWIS** - Road Weather Information Systems

SDOT - Seattle Department of Transportation

SFMTA - San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

**SLZ** - Smart Loading Zone

SS4A - Safe Streets for All

SUN Trail - Shared-Use Non-motorized Trail

TMC - Traffic Management Center

TNC - Transportation Network Companies

**TPO** - Transportation Planning Organization

**UAS** - Unmanned Aerial System

**USDA** - U.S. Department of Agriculture

**USDOT** - U.S. Department of Transportation

**VDS** - Vehicle Detection Systems

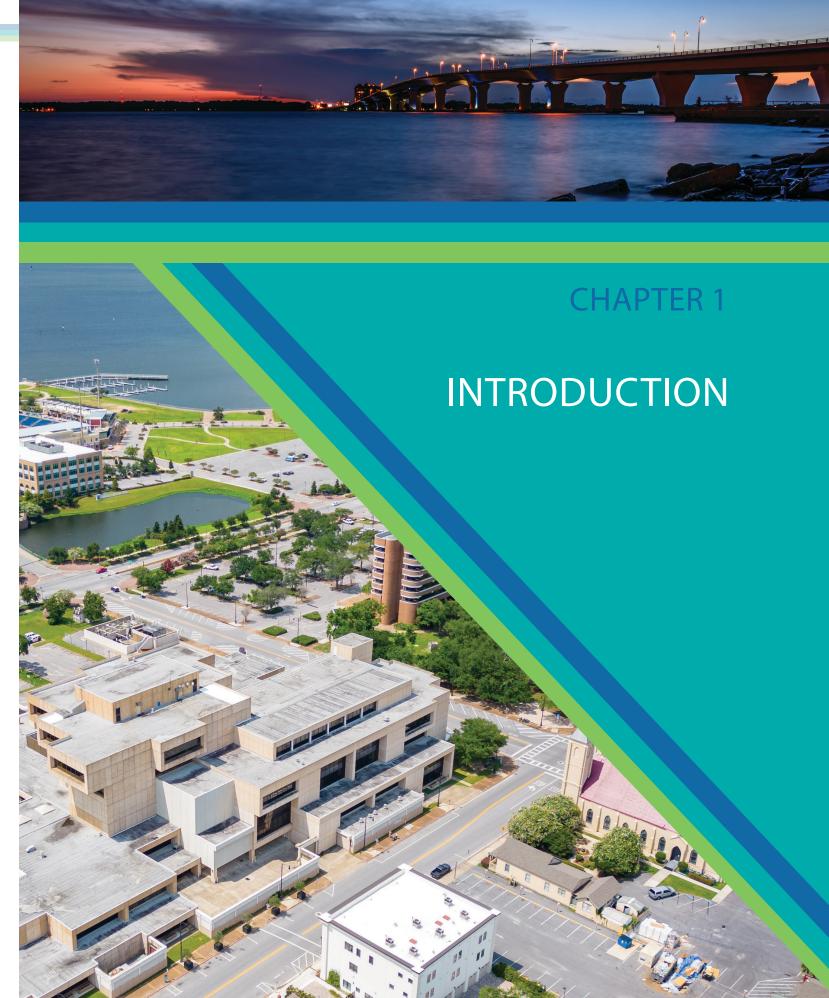
**VRU** - Vulnerable Road Users

# **Executive Summary**

The Emerald Coast Regional Council's (ECRC) vision is to leverage smart technologies to enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors. This Smart Regions Plan focuses on the following use cases to leverage information technologies to enhance the quality of life:

- Making highways and streets safer
  - Bicyclist and pedestrian safety
    - Trails
    - Beach access
  - Road safety
    - Off-road warning systems
- Reducing congestion
  - Alleviate bottlenecks
    - Scenario-based planning
    - Signal optimization
    - Traveler information systems
  - · Parking management
    - Traveler information systems
- Making investments that support economic sustainability
- Access to military and federal-related jobs
- Support tourism experience
- Creating economic opportunity for underserved communities
  - Investment in areas of persistent poverty
  - Workforce development
- Building more resilient infrastructure
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Sea-level rise
- Saving resources through energy efficiency
  - Congestion reduction
  - EV charging
- Enhancing the effectiveness of government services

Within the Emerald Coast this Smart Regions Plan focuses on identifying smart technologies that meet specific project needs that were identified through data analysis and stakeholder coordination. The focus is on proposing technologies that will meet these goals on a focused network selected based on the frequency of fatalities and serious injuries.



THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

# Introduction

The Emerald Coast Regional Council's (ECRC) vision is to leverage smart technologies to enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors.

#### 1.1 Growth on the Emerald Coast

The Emerald Coast's population is expected to grow by 24% by the year 2050 as summarized in Table 1. This population growth will place a demand on infrastructure that cannot be met through construction funding alone. Leveraging smart technologies will allow federal, state, and local governments to maximize the benefits provided through public services to save lives, improve mobility, and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

TABLE 1: POPULATION FORECASTS

TPO	County	2022 Population	2050 Medium Growth Scenario	Change	Percent Change
Bay	Вау	184,002	219,400	35,395	19%
	Escambia	329,583	376,700	47,117	14%
Florida-Alabama	Santa Rosa	196,834 278,000		81,166	41%
	Subtotal	710,419	874,100	163,681	23%
	Okaloosa	215,751	262,200	46,449	22%
Okaloosa-Walton	Walton	79,544	124,800	45,256	57%
	Subtotal	295,295	387,000	91,705	31%
	Holmes	19,784	20,300	516	3%
Adjacent Counties	Washington	25,461	28,300	2,839	11%
	Subtotal	45,242	48,600	3,358	7%
Total		1,234,958	1,529,100	294,142	24%

 $Source: Florida\ Estimates\ of\ Population:\ 2022,\ Bureau\ of\ Economic\ and\ Business\ Research\ at\ the\ University\ of\ Florida\ Retrieved\ 8/10/24.$ 

The Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton and Bay County TPOs boundaries do not include the entire counties in their boundaries. This plan includes the rural areas and adjacent counties to address regional safety needs and includes specific strategies for rural areas.

## 1.2 Purpose

To meet these needs, the ECRC's vision is to leverage smart technologies to enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors. This report's purpose is to outline a roadmap for the deployment of smart region technologies and to identify a set of strategies and tactics to be implemented.

# 1.3 What is a Smart Region?

A Smart Region integrates and coordinates smart cities by using digital technologies to improve the lives of its citizens, businesses, and sustainability. Smart cities use sensors, video cameras, and other inputs to collect data and provide feedback to citizens and city operators. This feedback helps citizens and operators make informed decisions and improve the quality of life. Technologies to collect data—including real-time data—are central to smart city initiatives and the benefits they promise. Data-driven insights will help local governments improve urban planning and the deployment of city services to enhance safety, mobility, economic growth, and access to under resourced communities, resilient infrastructure, and energy efficiency.

# 1.4 The Emerald Coast 7-Layer Cake

The ECRC has launched a series of interrelated plans to modernize the region's transportation system, likened to a 7-layer cake. Each layer of this initiative incorporates strategies and projects designed to enhance the system's safety, intelligence, and efficiency, ultimately benefiting the surrounding communities. The layers of the cake and their correlating plans are shown in Figure 1 below.

THE ECRO
THE ECRO
TO LAYER

CAKE

SAFE STREETS 4 ALL

SMART REGIONS PLAN

CONGESTION ELIMINATION PLAN

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

BROADBAND & FIBER DEPLOYMENT

TRANSPORTATION

MANAGEMENT CENTER

Central to these efforts is safety. The Safety Action Plan outlines comprehensive analyses and strategies aimed at achieving zero fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways. Complementing this, the Smart Regions Master Plan integrates advanced technologies to improve safety and the overall quality of life within our communities.

In parallel, the Data Analytics project is developing a platform to analyze data from smart technologies at the regional Transportation Management Center (TMC), enhancing our ability to respond to traffic conditions in real-time. The Congestion Elimination Plan will build on the information outlined in the Smart Regions Plan to identify strategies to alleviate traffic congestion and intersection bottlenecks.

These planning efforts are seamlessly integrated with the long-range transportation plans within the ECRC region. The expansion of broadband and fiber networks, coupled with the development of the regional TMC, brings the intelligent technologies envisioned in these initiatives to life, creating a transportation system that is not only safe and efficient but also sustainable and multimodal.

# 1.5 Organization and Focus of this Plan

Because a smart region can encompass so many possible futures, this plan is focused on mobility in the Emerald Coast and how it can enhance safety, mobility, and the quality of life of its citizens and visitors to the region. The different sections of this plan are briefly described below.

- Current Situation summarizes the existing communications and smart transportation infrastructure in the region.
- Constructing Communications Infrastructure lists the priorities established through prior studies to construct communications networks.
- Making Highways and Streets Safer identifies strategies, tactics, and potential locations for the implementation of technologies to enhance safety.
- Reducing Congestion details the causes of congestion in the Emerald Coast and proposes strategies, tactics, and potential locations for implementation of congestion management technologies.
- Sustaining the Economy describes the major economic drivers within the Emerald Coast and strategies and tactics to better serve major generators and provide greater opportunities for under-resourced communities.
- Building More Resilient Infrastructure delineates the priority assets in the state transportation network and proposes strategies and tactics to provide a more resilient transportation network.
- Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Diversity outlines opportunities to support the adoption of electric vehicles and provide charging for those traveling from outside the region to charge when visiting.
- Leveraging Big Data discusses the role of big data in the context of this plan and how it will be leveraged to
  enhance decision-making and real-time operations.
- Supporting Disaster Recovery designates opportunities to leverage technology to improve emergency evacuation and recovery efforts.
- Bringing it All Together provides a summary of the recommendations for additional evaluation and engineering to implement these strategies across the Emerald Coast.

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.



# **Current Situation**

### 2.1 Communications Backbone

The communication network is the foundation of all Smart Region technologies. The existing infrastructure within the region is built around the fiber optic networks constructed to provide traveler information and incident management services. Known networks include:

- I-10 and I-110 have full coverage of fiber optic backbone, Closed Circuit Television Camera (CCTV), Vehicle Detection Systems (VDS), and Dynamic Message Signs (DMS).
- SR-281 has a fiber optic backbone that goes from US 90 to I-10
- SR-85 connects I-10 to Destin and Fort Walton Beach via SR-123 and US-293
- SR-123 connects SR-85 for the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport and Eglin Air Force Base
- US-293 connects SR-85 near the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport to US-98 via the Mid-Bay Toll Bridge
- US-331 connects I-10 near DeFuniak Springs to Santa Rosa Beach at US-98
- US-231 connects I-10 to Panama City has a fiber backbone and CCTV coverage
- US-98 in Bay County has full fiber and CCTV coverage that was implemented as part of the Smart Bay Project
- US 98 from I-110 to South Approach of Pensacola Bay Bridge (General Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. Bridge)
- SR 95/US 29/Pensacola Boulevard from 9 1/2 Mile Road to Diamond Dairy Road
- US 90A/SR 10/Nine Mile Road from Pine Forest Road to Palafox Street
- SR 296/Brent Lane/Bayou Boulevard from US 29/Palafox Street to 12th Avenue
- SR 95/US 29/Palafox Street from SR 296/Brent Lane to Texar Drive
- SR 295/Fairfield Drive from Texar Drive to 12th Avenue
- US 90/Cervantes Street from A Street to 17th Avenue
- SR 281/Avalon Boulevard from Carroll Road to I-10 (then a wireless jump to US 90)
- US 90/SR 10 from Pea Ridge Connector to Willing Street (wireless radio link to fiber located at Avalon Boulevard and Carroll Road)
- Palafox Street from Maxwell Street to US 90/Cervantes Street (wireless radio link to fiber at Cervantes Street at Palafox Street)

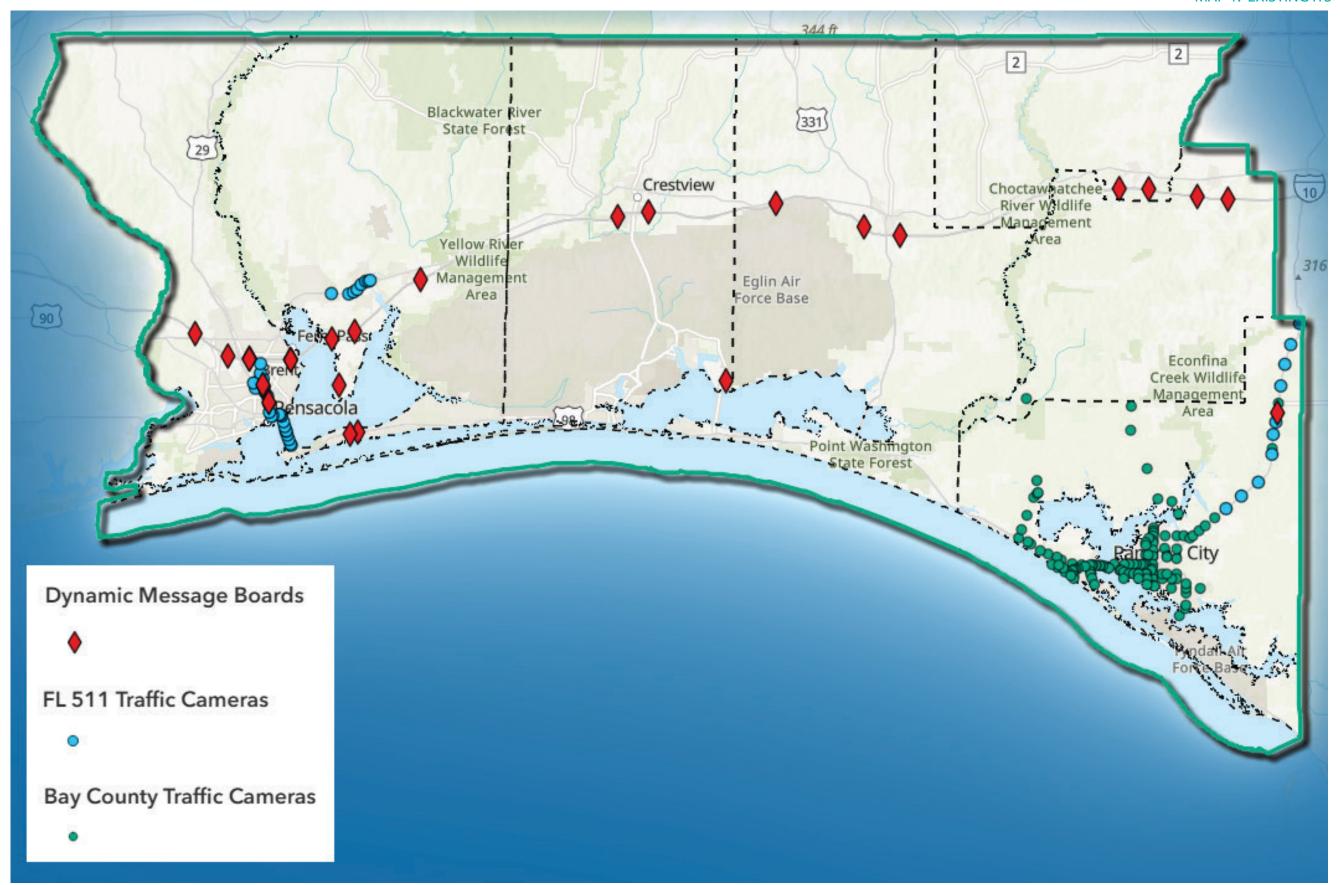
#### 2.2 ITS Field Devices

A summary of the existing ITS devices within the region are provided in Map 1. This infrastructure consists of CCTV, VDS, and DMS. There is full CCTV coverage of I-10 within the study area which is shown because of the density of the devices in the corridor.

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

2-1 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 2-2

#### MAP 1: EXISTING ITS



### 2.3 Traveler Information Systems

Traveler information systems communicate to users based on web-based software and applications. Providing access to Wi-Fi services is now near ubiquitous and is an essential part of smart regions.

#### Florida 511

The Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Florida 511 (FL511) Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS) provides real-time traffic information, including up to three routes to choose from, travel times for requested routes, congestion, construction, lane closures, severe weather and emergency evacuation information on Florida interstate highways, toll roads including Florida's Turnpike, and many other major metropolitan roadways. The resource is available 24 hours a day on the web at www.FL511.com and on the mobile application for Apple and Android devices. The website is available in English and Spanish. Drivers can follow any of the statewide, regional, or roadway-specific Twitter feeds (#FL511), such as @FL511\_Northeast, @FL511\_I10 and @FL511\_I95. Also, 511 is available on Facebook, @FL511, and on Instagram, @Florida\_511. Full video coverage is available on I-10. Where video coverage is available on other corridors is shown in Map 1.

#### **Private Traveler Information Services**

Other private traveler information services are actively used within the region such as Google Maps/ Waze and in-vehicle navigation systems such as Tom-Tom. These information providers rely on data collected by FDOT and disseminated through 511, social media posts (as reported in Waze), and data collected on the location and speed of travelers through cell phones and Bluetooth devices.

#### **Roadside Traveler Information**

Roadside traveler information is primarily conveyed to users via DMS that rely on fiber optic networks, point-to-point wireless networks, or private cellular networks. The known DMS that exist in the region are shown above in Map 1.

#### 2.4 Safe Streets for All Demonstration Grant

ECRC was recently awarded a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant to focus on ITS safety improvements along Fairfield Drive from Mobile Highway to Texar Drive and Pensacola Boulevard from W Street to Brent Lane. The corridors are shown in Map 2.

The improvements to be considered include:

- Speed Warning and Enforcement via Variable Message Signs
- Wrong Way Vehicle Detection and Warning
- Queue Warnings
- Road Weather Motorist Alert and Warning Systems
- Connected Vehicle System Monitoring and Management
- Connected Vehicle Traffic Signal System
- Transit Signal Priority

- Emergency Vehicle Preemption
- Artificial Intelligence Traffic Analysis Software

Fairfield Drive and Pensacola Boulevard were identified in the safety analysis of the ECRC Safety Action Plan as Priority Segments due to their high crash rates per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (MVMT) and Vulnerable Road User fatalities.

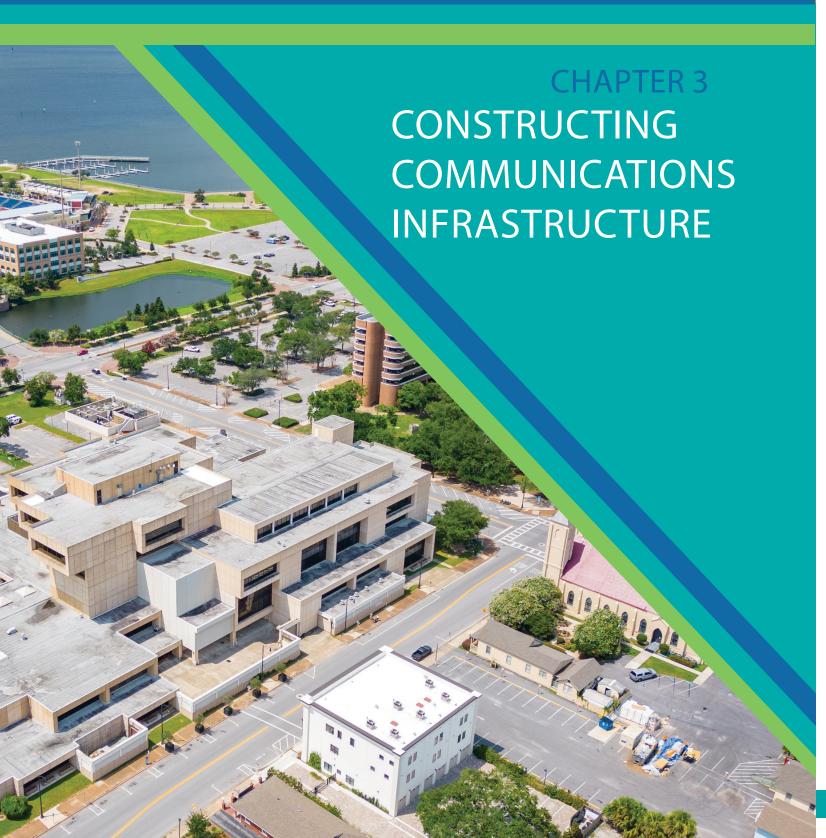
The ECRC and Escambia County are currently designing the fiber network along these corridors. The construction funding for the fiber network is being proposed as the match element for this application.

Begin Pensacola Blvd Segment

End Fairfield Drive

MAP 2: SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT CORRIDORS





# Constructing Communications Infrastructure

Prior studies were conducted to identify and prioritize the need for communications infrastructure within the region. Table 2 summarizes the needs for fiber optic connectivity within the region. A total of 53.3 miles of fiber network are identified to connect the existing backbones and create an integrated transportation management system.

**TABLE 2: FIBER NETWORK NEEDS** 

Priority	Corridor	From	То	Approximate Length (mi.)
1	SR 95 Pensacola Boulevard	W Street	Brent Lane, Beverly Parkway	1.7
2	Fairfield Drive	Mobile Highway	Texar Drive	2.8
3	US-98 Gulf Breeze Parkway	South approach of General Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. Bridge	Gondolier Boulevard and Kelton Boulevard	4.4
4	Mobile Highway	Pine Forest Road	Fairfield Drive	3.3
5	Saufley Field Road, Michigan Avenue, Beverly Parkway, and Brent Lane	Mobile Highway	SR 95 Pensacola Boulevard	3.6
6	US-98 Gulf Breeze Parkway	Tiger Point Boulevard	Sunrise Drive	7.2
7	US-98 Gulf Breeze Parkway and Navarre Parkway	Sunrise Drive	Rosewood Drive	8.2
8	Davis Highway	Brent Lane	Scenic Highway	5.2
9	SR 95 Pensacola Boulevard	Kingsfield Road	9 & Half Mile Road	2.1
10	US-90	Scenic Highway	Pea Ridge Connector	8.1
11	US-90	Avalon Boulevard	Ward Basin Road	3.9
12	Palafox Street	Texar Drive	Main Street	2.7
		Total		53.3

Source: ECRO

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

# Making Highways and Streets Safer

# 4.1 Safety Action Plan

The ECRC has completed a Safety Action Plan as a more detailed assessment of crash histories, strategies, and tactics. This portion of the Smart Regions Plan evaluated technologies that can be used to enhance safety. The Safety Action Plan and the Smart Regions Plan were prepared concurrently to ensure consistency across different initiatives.

# 4.2 Safety Trends

Safety analyses for the Emerald Coast were conducted as part of the Safety Action Plan. Crash analysis included all crashes in the region from 2019 to 2023. Table 3 and Table 4 depict the total crash trends by each county and Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) in the Emerald Coast. Figure 2 illustrates the region-wide crash type trends.

TABLE 3: TOTAL CRASH TRENDS BY COUNTY, 2019-2023

TPO	County	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Вау	Bay	7,664	5,298	7,043	6,635	6,542	33,182
	Escambia	9,835	8,385	9,543	9,168	8,778	45,709
Florida- Alabama	Santa Rosa	2,980	2,918	3,353	3,231	3,194	15,676
	Subtotal	12,815	11,303	12,896	12,399	11,972	61,385
	Okaloosa	5,467	4,668	5,715	5,393	4,927	26,170
Okaloosa- Walton	Walton	2,054	1,901	2,377	2,304	2,203	10,839
	Subtotal	7,521	6,569	8,092	7,697	7,130	37,009
Adjacent	Holmes	388	346	377	366	400	1,877
Counties	Washington	477	510	496	435	469	2,387
Total		28,865	24,026	28,904	27,532	26,513	135,840

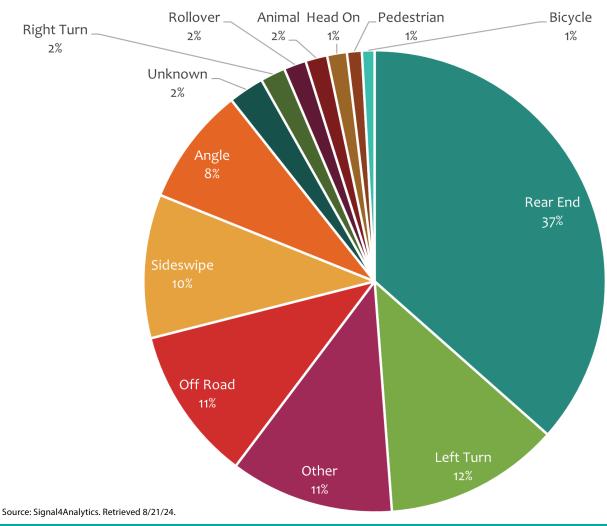
Source: Signal4Analytics. Retrieved 8/21/24.

TABLE 4: CRASH SEVERITY TRENDS BY COUNTY, 2019-2023

		Crash Severity						
TPO	County	Fatality	Serious Injury	Injury	No Injury	Total		
Bay	Bay	167	597	6,062	26,356	33,182		
	Escambia	292	922	12,121	32,374	45,709		
Florida- Alabama	Santa Rosa	100	356	4,091	11,129	15,676		
Alabama	Subtotal	392	1,278	16,212	43,503	61,385		
	Okaloosa	160	712	6,037	19,261	26,170		
Okaloosa- Walton	Walton	119	299	2,468	7,953	10,839		
vvaitori	Subtotal	279	1,011	8,505	27,214	37,009		
Adjacent	Holmes	28	96	385	1,368	1,877		
Counties	Washington	35	90	515	1,747	2,387		
	Total	901	3,072	31,679	100,188	135,840		

Source: Signal4Analytics. Retrieved 8/21/24.

#### FIGURE 2: REGION-WIDE CRASH TYPES, 2019-2023



## 4.3 Vulnerable Road Users

#### **Trends**

The safety of bicyclists and pedestrians is a primary consideration in the design of all roadways. Crashes were filtered for Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs), including bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorcyclists. Table 5 shows the total number of bicycle and pedestrian crashes within the Emerald Coast from 2019 to 2023, while Table 6 and Table 7 show the bicycle and pedestrian fatalities.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates 2.26 pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 residents nationally (2022) and 0.50 bicycle fatalities per 100,000 residents nationally (2021). As show in Table 6 and Table 7, both national average estimates are far exceeded in the Emerald Coast, which exhibits 3.80 pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 residents and 0.94 bicyclist fatalities per 100,000 residents. It is important to note that the crash rates per resident do not account for extra vehicles and non-motorists on the roadway networks due to tourism.

TABLE 5: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CRASH HISTORY, 2019-2023 5-YEAR AVERAGE

County	Residents	Bicycle Crashes	Bicycle Crashes per 100,000 Residents	Pedestrian Crashes	Pedestrian Crashes per 100,000 Residents
Bay	175,216	48	27.39	71	40.52
Escambia	321,905	91	28.27	137	42.56
Holmes	19,653	1	5.09	1	5.09
Okaloosa	211,668	61	28.82	65	30.71
Santa Rosa	188,000	21	11.17	23	12.23
Walton	75,305	19	25.23	27	35.85
Washington	25,318	2	7.90	3	11.85
Total	1,017,065	243	23.89	327	32.15

 $Source: US\ Census\ Bureau\ Total\ Population\ (2020),\ Signal 4 Analytics\ Crash\ Data\ (2019-2023).\ Retrieved\ 6/16/24.$ 

#### TABLE 6: BICYCLE FATALITIES, 2019-2023 5-YEAR AVERAGE

	Bicycle Fatalities							
County	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average per 100,000 Residents		
Вау	4	3	2	4	0	1.48		
Escambia	5	2	6	3	4	1.24		
Holmes	0	0	0	0	0	0.00		
Okaloosa	2	0	2	2	0	0.57		
Santa Rosa	1	2	0	1	0	0.43		
Walton	1	1	0	1	2	1.33		
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0.00		
Total	13	8	10	11	6	0.94		

 $Source: US \ Census \ Bureau \ Total \ Population \ (2020), Signal 4 Analytics \ Crash \ Data \ (2019-2023). \ Retrieved \ 6/16/24.$ 

#### TABLE 7: PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES, 2019-2023 5-YEAR AVERAGE

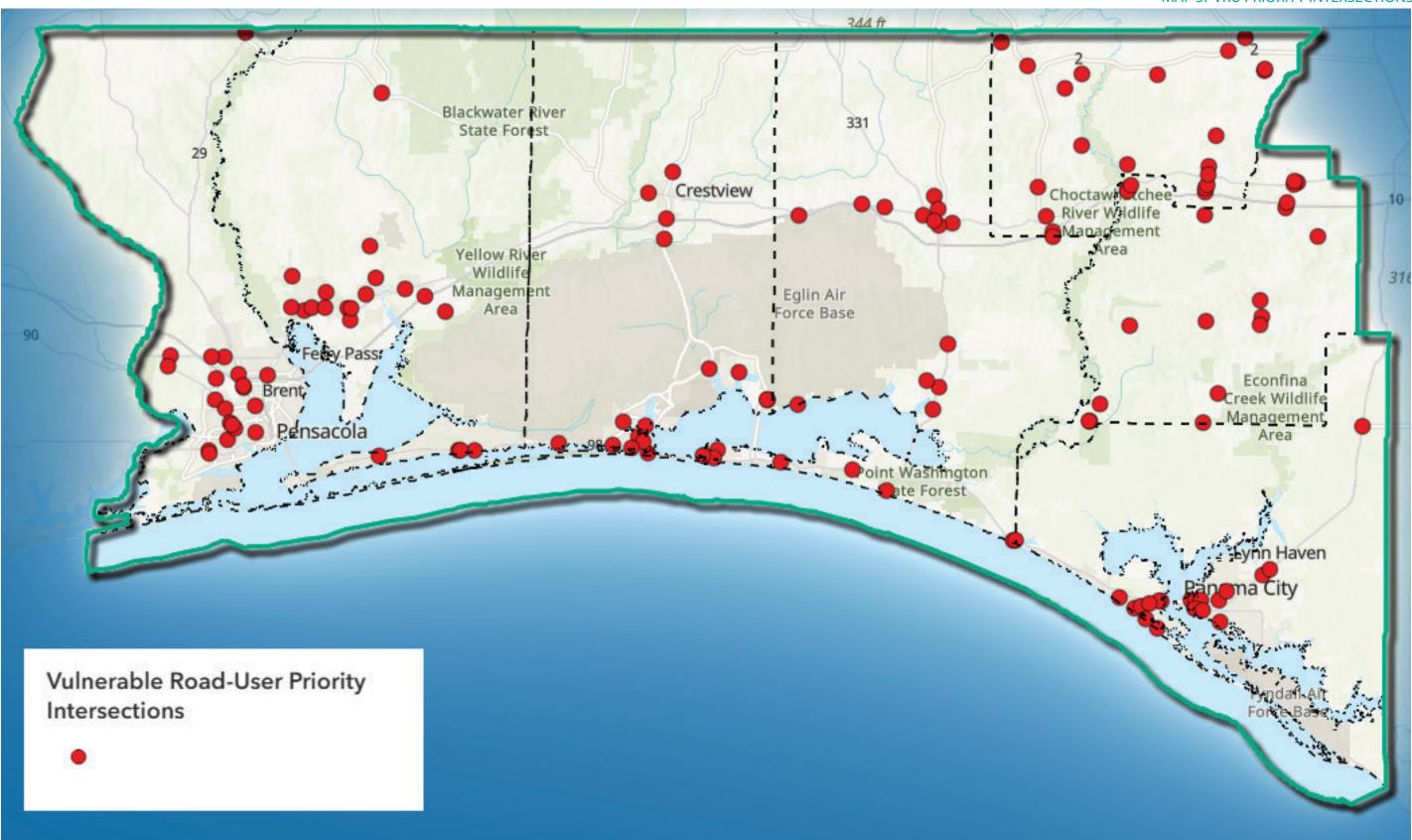
	Pedestrian Fatalities							
County	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average per 100,000 Residents		
Вау	6	4	7	12	3	3.65		
Escambia	17	18	25	14	20	5.84		
Holmes	0	0	0	0	0	0.00		
Okaloosa	4	14	9	3	2	3.02		
Santa Rosa	4	1	4	2	2	1.38		
Walton	5	5	3	2	3	4.78		
Washington	0	0	1	2	1	3.16		
Total	36	42	49	35	31	3.80		

Source: US Census Bureau Total Population (2020), Signal4Analytics Crash Data (2019-2023). Retrieved 6/16/24.

## Crashes on Roads

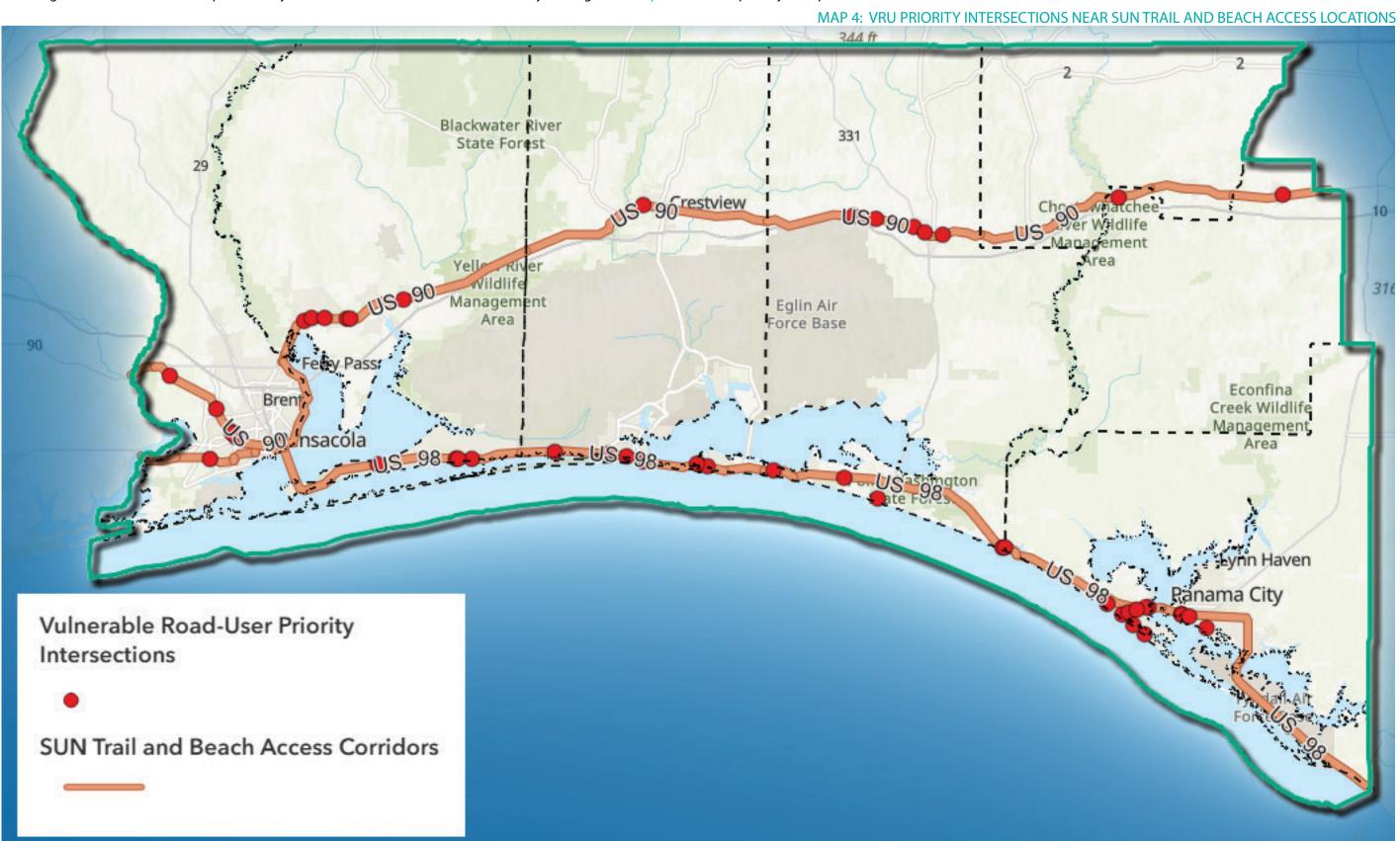
Map 3 shows the priority intersections for VRU crashes throughout the Emerald Coast.

#### MAP 3: VRU PRIORITY INTERSECTIONS



# Crashes along SUN Trail and at Beach Access

A special emphasis was placed on high VRU crash locations within proximity to the Shared-Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail or to beach access locations. The SUN Trail network and the beach access locations were overlayed on the high VRU crash locations map to identify the locations in which VRU's are currently at a high risk. Map 4 shows the priority hot spots for VRU crashes near the SUN Trail or beach access locations.



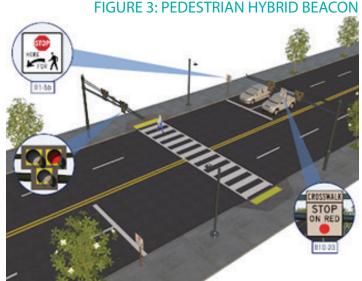
#### **Strategies and Tactics**

The VRU hot spots near the SUN Trail and beach access locations were further analyzed to determine the locations most in need of safety upgrades. Smart technology strategies and tactics that can address these needs include the following.

#### Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

Pedestrian hybrid beacons provide a new technology to ehance protected crossings and promote safety. Overhead beacons stop mainline vehicular traffic while pedestrian signals give the right of way to pedestrians. These can be located at intersections that are currently signalized or at the mid-block. Figure 3 shows examples of pedestrian hybrid beacons





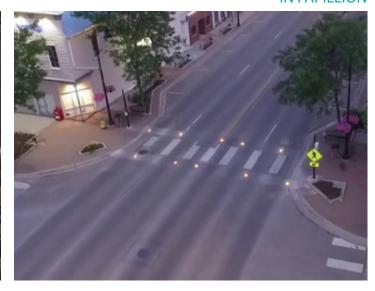
#### In-Pavement Crosswalk Lighting

In-pavement crosswalk lighting can alert drivers of pedestrians up to 1,000 feet in advance of a crosswalk) and are particularly effective in severe weather conditions and at night when pedestrian visibility is reduced. Examples in Marco Island, Florida and Papillion, Nebraska are shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5.

#### FIGURE 4: IN-PAVEMENT CROSSWALK LIGHTING IN MARCO ISLAND



FIGURE 5: IN-PAVEMENT CROSSWALK LIGHTING IN PAPILLION



#### Connected Vehicle to Vulnerable Road Users System

Vulnerable road users can be identified using applications in phones that emulate connected vehicle roadside units and on-board units to notify drivers of their presence in crosswalks or in bicycle lanes. This is an emerging technology and as connected vehicle market penetration and roadway network coverage of connected vehicle technologies grow, this strategy has the potential to reduce crashes that cause fatalities and serious injuries.

#### Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

The application of RRFB in St. Petersburg, Florida, seen in Figure 6 found that motorists yielded to pedestrians 81% of the time when approaching a crossing with a two-beacon RRFB system, compared to just 18% of the time prior to RRFB installation (FHWA, 2008). Compliance increased to 88% at crossings with a four-beacon system.



FIGURE 6: RRFB IN ST. PETERSBURG



#### **Automated Detection Systems**

#### **Bicycle Loop Detector**

Loop detectors are considered a low cost, reliable strategy to support bicyclists' safety at intersections by alerting the signal controller of bicycle crossing demand. They afford bicyclists the ease of a hands-free, passive solution, in contrast to push buttons which require users to reach over to activate. They can also provide count data. A variety of loop detection technologies are available, offering flexibility to meet application context, as seen in Figure 7. In addition to presence detection at intersections, loop detectors may be utilized for advance detection as bicycles approach an intersection.







Type D Loop in Huntsville, Alabama (left): Type Q Loop in San Luis Obispo, California (middle): Parallelogram Loop Detector in Portland, Oregon (right).

#### **Bicycle Video Detection**

At intersections where installation of loop detection is hindered, video detection is another option. Advances in camera technology and image processing allow for reliable detection accuracy. While existing video-based detection systems can have bicycle detection capabilities added, the City of Austin has installed bicycle specific video cameras for greater accuracy.

#### Microwave/Radar Detection

For signalized intersections where loop detection and video detection installation are not practical or are problematic, microwave radar detection is an alternative option. Microwave radar detection may be utilized for both presence and advance detection. They are also capable of collecting counts and speed data. In addition to signalized intersections, microwave detection can be utilized at roadway crossings for trails, as seen in Figure 8.





#### Bicycle Detection Confirmation System

While bicycle detection improves safety, detectors can fail to detect bicyclists if the bicycle is not positioned in the correct stopping location. Delayed detection not only lowers the bicycling experience, but can lead to increased risk-taking behavior, such as signal non-compliance. The application of detection confirmation systems provides cyclists with feedback to confirm they are being detected at an intersection.

The systems applied in Portland, Oregon, as seen in Figure 9 found 81% of cyclists indicated the device improved their waiting experience, which can potentially lead to greater signal compliance. As of 2019, the City of Portland had 19 intersections equipped with blue feedback lights. As of 2020, other cities using a confirmation light include Austin, Texas, Santa Clarita, California, Santa Monica, California, Seattle, Washington, Denver, Colorado, Salem, Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, and Corvallis, Oregon among others.

FIGURE 9: DETECTION CONFIRMATION SYSTEM IN PORTLAND



#### THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

# Candidate Projects for Vulnerable Road Users

Table 8 shows candidates recommended for VRU safety upgrades and the applicability of each potential countermeasure to the selected locations.

#### TABLE 8: CANDIDATE LOCATIONS FOR VULNERABLE ROAD USER DEPLOYMENTS

				ITABLE	O. CANDIDANE LOCATIO	TIST ON VOLITEIT/TIBEE TO	AD USER DEPLOYMENTS
County	Location	Category	Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon	Connected Vehicle to Vulnerable Road Users	In-Pavement Crosswalk Lighting	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)	Automated Detection System
Bay	Thomas Drive at Crescent Drive	Beach Access					
Escambia	SR-10 9 Mile Road at Beulah Road	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Escambia	SR-10 9 Mile Road at SR-297 Pine Forest Road	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Escambia	SR-10 9 Mile Road at Bowman Avenue	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Okaloosa	SR 30 at Santa Rosa Boulevard	Programmed SUN Trail					
Okaloosa	US-98 at Cedar Avenue SW	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Okaloosa	US-98 at E Timberlake Drive	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Okaloosa	US-90 at CR 188/Enzor Road	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Okaloosa	US-98 at SR-393/Mary Esther Boulevard	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Santa Rosa	Hamilton Bridge Road at Oakleaf Drive	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Santa Rosa	Hamilton Bridge Road at Cora Street	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Walton	US-90 at Park Street	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Walton	CR 30A at Retreat Drive/Triggerfish Street	SUN Trail					
Walton	US-90 at Walden Road	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Walton	US-90 at Boy Scout Road	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Walton	US-90 at Twin Lakes Drive	Partially funded					
Walton	US-90 at S 23rd Street	Partially funded					
Washington	US-90 at East Boulevard	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					
Washington	US-90 at Palmer Drive/Sessoms Avenue	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail					

4-13 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 4-14

# 4.4 Safe Speeds

Speeding was involved in 36 percent of the regionwide fatal and serious-injury crashes from 2019 to 2023. Table 9 and Table 10 show speeding and aggressive driving crash trends by county throughout the region. Table 11 and Table 12 summarize the top five locations for total speeding and aggressive crashes and crash rates, respectively. These locations are shown on Map 5 and Map 6.

TABLE 9: SPEEDING CRASH TRENDS, 2019-2023

	County	Speeding-Related Crash Severity					
ТРО		Fatality	Serious Injury	Injury	No Injury	Total	
Вау	Bay	10	32	241	678	961	
Florida-Alabama	Escambia	24	28	253	476	781	
	Santa Rosa	6	20	126	263	415	
	Subtotal	30	48	379	739	2,362	
	Okaloosa	17	54	267	587	925	
Okaloosa-Walton	Walton	8	22	125	303	458	
	Subtotal	25	76	392	890	1,383	
Adjacent Counties	Holmes	1	7	30	73	111	
	Washington	1	2	21	64	88	
Total		67	165	1,063	2,444	3,739	

Source: Signal4Analytics. Retrieved 6/15/24.

#### TABLE 10: AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CRASH TRENDS, 2019-2023

		Aggressive Driving-Related Crash Severity					
ТРО	County	Fatality	Serious Injury	Injury	No Injury	Total	
Bay	Bay	15	60	460	1,218	1,753	
	Escambia	32	56	419	679	1,186	
Florida-Alabama	Santa Rosa	9	32	171	349	561	
	Subtotal	41	88	590	1,028	1,747	
Okaloosa-Walton	Okaloosa	19	73	376	793	1,261	
	Walton	8	33	170	396	607	
	Subtotal	27	106	546	1,189	1,868	
Adjacent Counties	Holmes	2	10	36	84	132	
	Washington	2	4	26	78	110	
Total		87	268	1,658	3,597	5,610	

Source: Signal4Analytics. Retrieved 6/15/24.

TABLE 11: TOP 5 SPEEDING OR AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CRASH LOCATIONS BY TOTAL CRASHES

County	Roadway	From	То	Speeding or Aggressive Crashes	Speeding or Aggressive Crashes per 1,000 AADT
Escambia	I-110 to I-10 WB On Ramp	l-110	I-10	44	2.1
Escambia	I-110 to I-10 EB On Ramp	I-110	I-10	42	3.2
Walton	I-10	SR-285	US-331	40	1.4
Escambia	I-10	SR-297	US-29	32	0.5
Okaloosa	SR-189	SR-393	Lewis Street	22	0.4

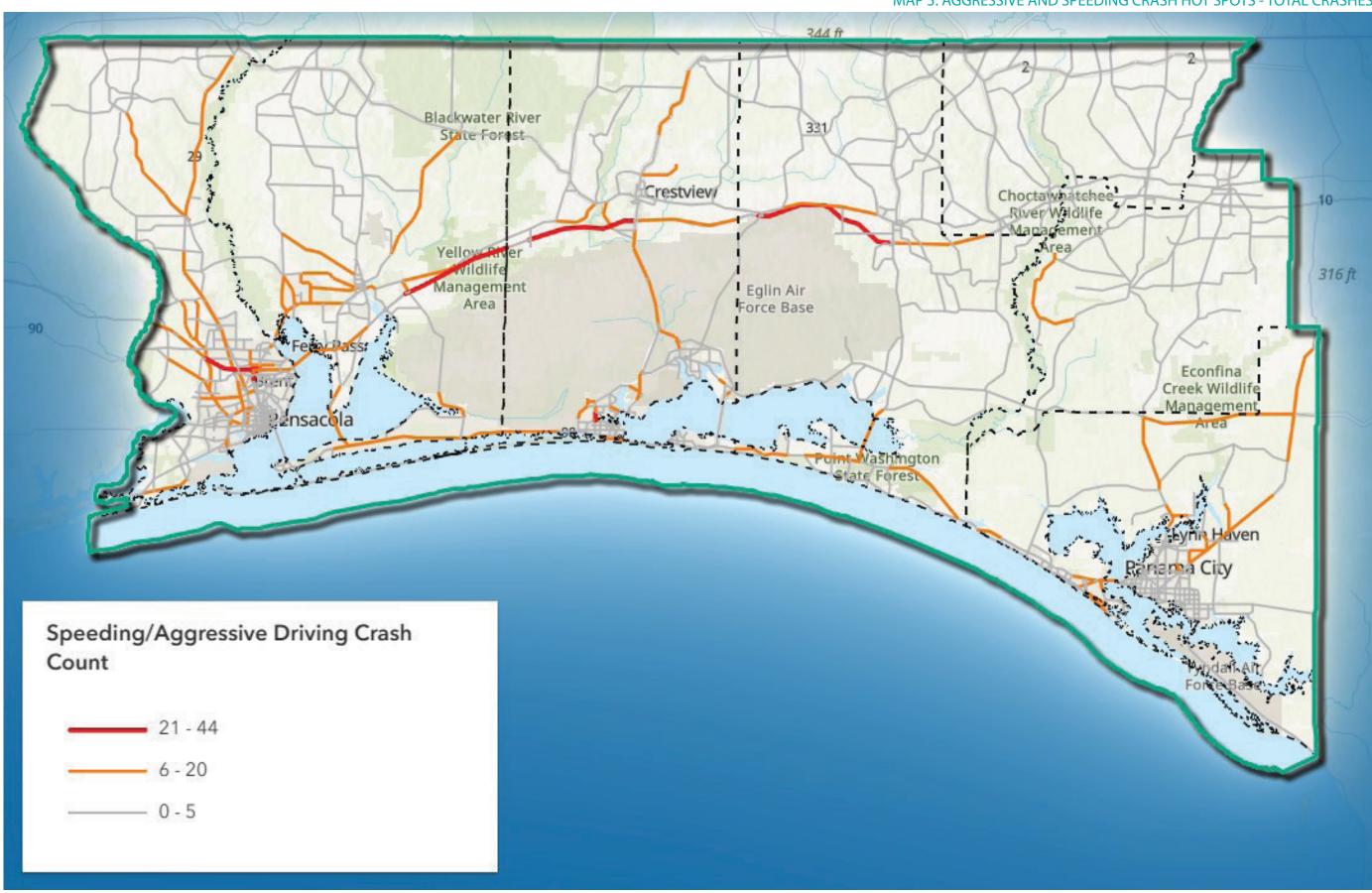
Source: Signal4Analytics. Retrieved 6/15/24.

#### TABLE 12: TOP 5 SPEEDING OR AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CRASH LOCATIONS BY CRASH RATE

County	Roadway	From	То	Speeding or Aggressive Crashes	Speeding or Aggressive Crashes per 1,000 AADT
Okaloosa	Old River Road	Vinson Ray Road	SR-2	1	10.0
Walton	CR 101 E	SR-83	SR-2	4	8.9
Okaloosa	CR-2	SR-189	Old River Road	3	7.5
Walton	Black Creek Road	Philips Drive	SR-20	4	7.3
Santa Rosa	SR-399	SR-4	SR-87	3	6.0

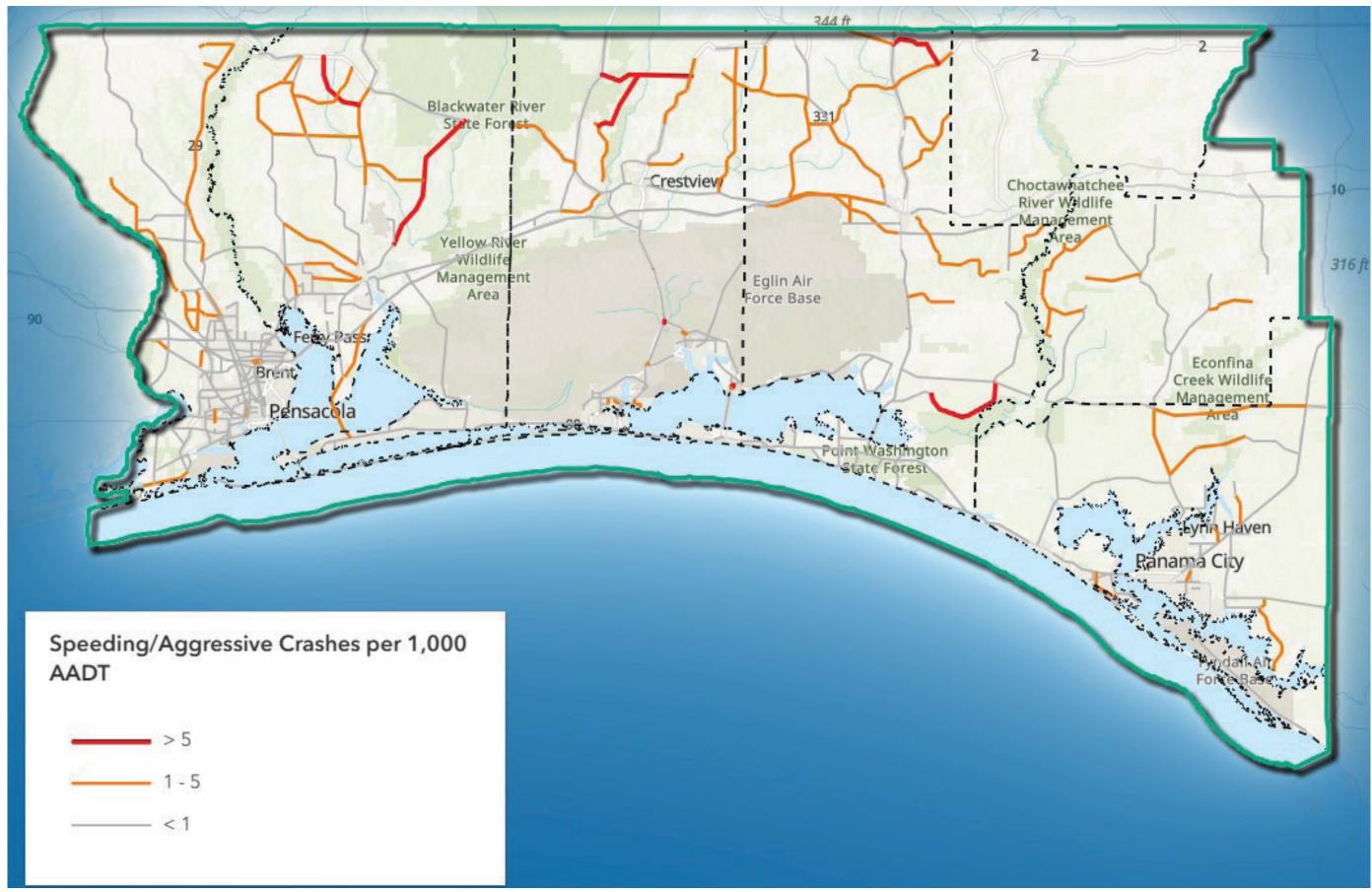
Source: Signal4Analytics. Retrieved 6/15/24.

#### MAP 5: AGGRESSIVE AND SPEEDING CRASH HOT SPOTS - TOTAL CRASHES



Source: Signal4Analytics.

#### MAP 6: AGGRESSIVE AND SPEEDING CRASH HOT SPOTS - CRASH RATES



#### **Strategies and Tactics**

The following sections offer instances where some of the potential countermeasures to reduce speeding and run off road crashes have been successfully applied.

#### Dynamic Speed Feedback Sign

Dynamic speed feedback signs have been successfully implemented in a variety of settings, from work zones to school zones. The Michigan Department of Transportation has determined dynamic speed feedback signs to be effective at reducing speeds as vehicles approach horizontal curves on freeway ramps.

At the critical westbound I-96 to southbound US-127 system interchange west of Lansing, Michigan, seen in Figure 10, this strategy was applied at a ramp with an advisory speed of 30 mph off a mainline speed limit of 70 mph. During a 14-month examination period after installation of this sign, the effects on driver behavior were found to be sustained over time. In



a study with five other interchange applications across Michigan's capital region, it was found that the countermeasure lowered speeds by 1.5 mph to 4.0 mph on average.

# FIGURE 11: DYNAMIC CURVE WARNING SYSTEM ALONG PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE

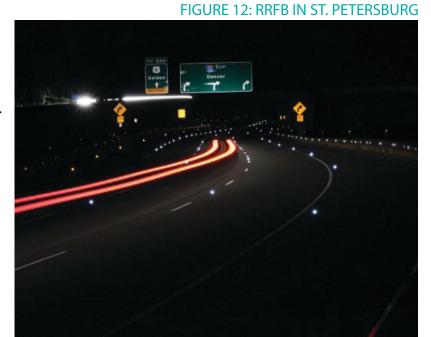


#### **Dynamic Curve Warning System**

Dynamic curve warning systems have been widely applied to reduce run off road crashes due to drivers failing to traverse sharp curves at a safe speed. The countermeasure led to a reduction in the frequency of crashes when applied at a curve along the Pennsylvania Turnpike, seen in Figure 11, which was previously identified to be a high crash location (penndot. pa.gov).

# In-Pavement Lights Through Curve

The addition of in-pavement lights can mitigate lane delineation, especially as drivers traverse curves in low light conditions or adverse weather. The Colorado Department of Transportation implemented in-pavement lights along the lane lines and shoulder of a segment of I-70, seen in Figure 12. The state estimates the initial installation of the countermeasure reduced crashes by approximately 35% for "property damage only" crashes and 50% for injury crashes (codot.gov).



#### **Variable Speed Limits**

Dynamic signs that change the speed limit based on prevailing information on the roadway, including traffic speed, volumes, weather, and road surface conditions have proven effective in many corridor applications. Figure 13 shows a variable speed limit sign.



4-21 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 4-22

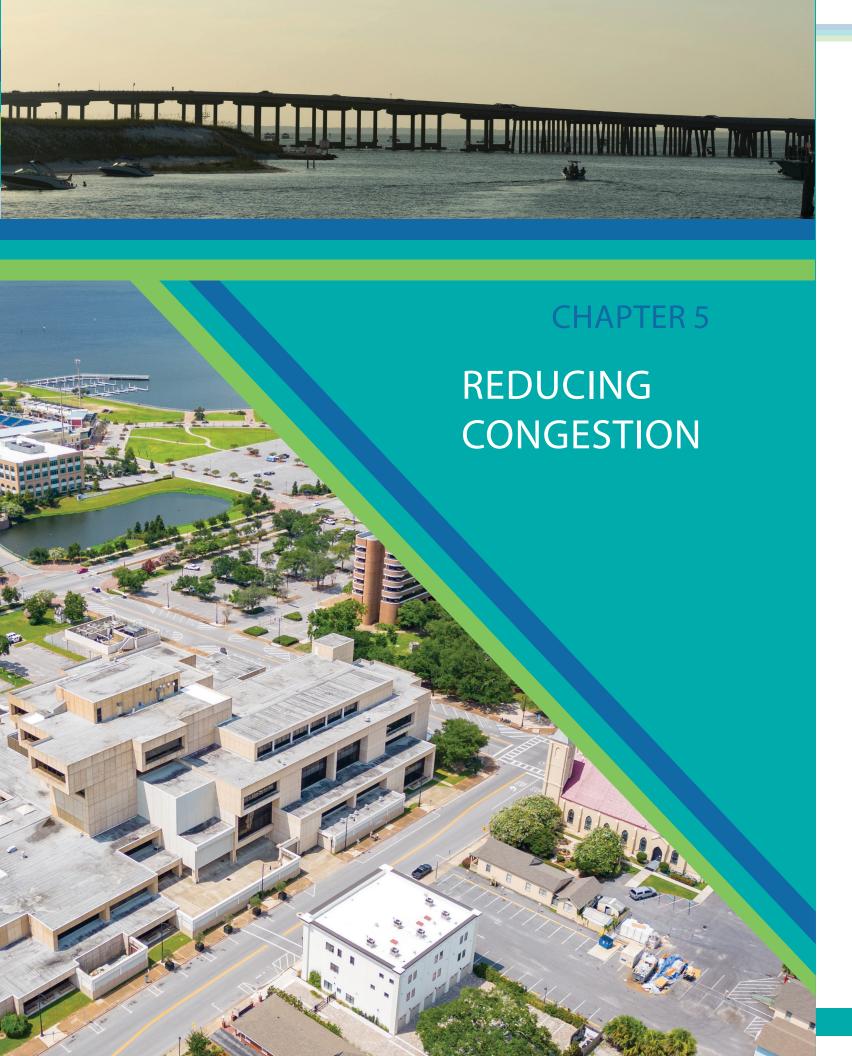
# Candidate Projects for Speed Management System Deployment

Table 13 shows locations based on a history of speeding and aggressive driving crashes where speed management strategies may be appropriate.

#### TABLE 13: CANDIDATE LOCATIONS FOR SPEED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEPLOYMENTS

County	Roadway	From	То	Dynamic Speed Feedback Signs	Dynamic Curve Warning Systems	In-Pavement Lighting Through Curves	Variable Speed Limits
Escambia	I-110 to I-10 WB On Ramp	I-110	I-10				
Escambia	I-110 to I-10 EB On Ramp	I-110	I-10				
Escambia	I-10	SR-297	US-29				
Okaloosa	SR-189	SR-393	Lewis Street				
Okaloosa	Old River Road	Vinson Ray Road	SR-2				
Okaloosa	CR-2	SR-189	Old River Road				
Santa Rosa	SR-4	CR-399	SR-87				
Walton	I-10	SR-285	SR-83/US-331				
Walton	CR 101	SR-83	SR-2				
Walton	Black Creek Road	Philips Drive	SR-20				

4-23 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 4-24

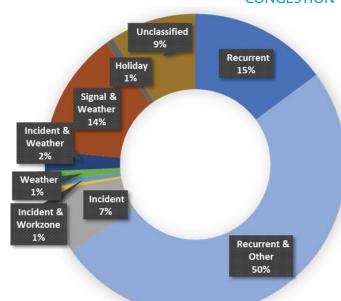


# **Reducing Congestion**

# **5.1 Sources of Congestion**

The region-wide causes of congestion are shown in Figure 14. Causes of congestion for each of the major TPOs in the Emerald Coast are shown in Figure 15 through Figure 17.

FIGURE 14: REGION-WIDE CAUSES OF CONGESTION

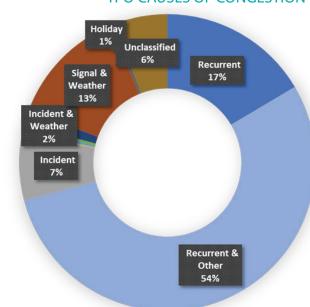


Source: RITIS Causes of Congestion Report

11%

Source: RITIS Causes of Congestion Report

# FIGURE 16: OKALOOSA-WALTON TPO CAUSES OF CONGESTION



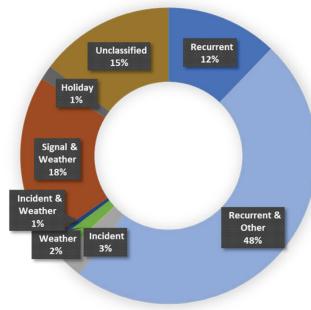
Source: RITIS Causes of Congestion Report

# FIGURE 17: BAY TPO CAUSES OF CONGESTION

FIGURE 15: FLORIDA-ALABAMA TPO

**CAUSES OF CONGESTION** 

Recurrent 14%

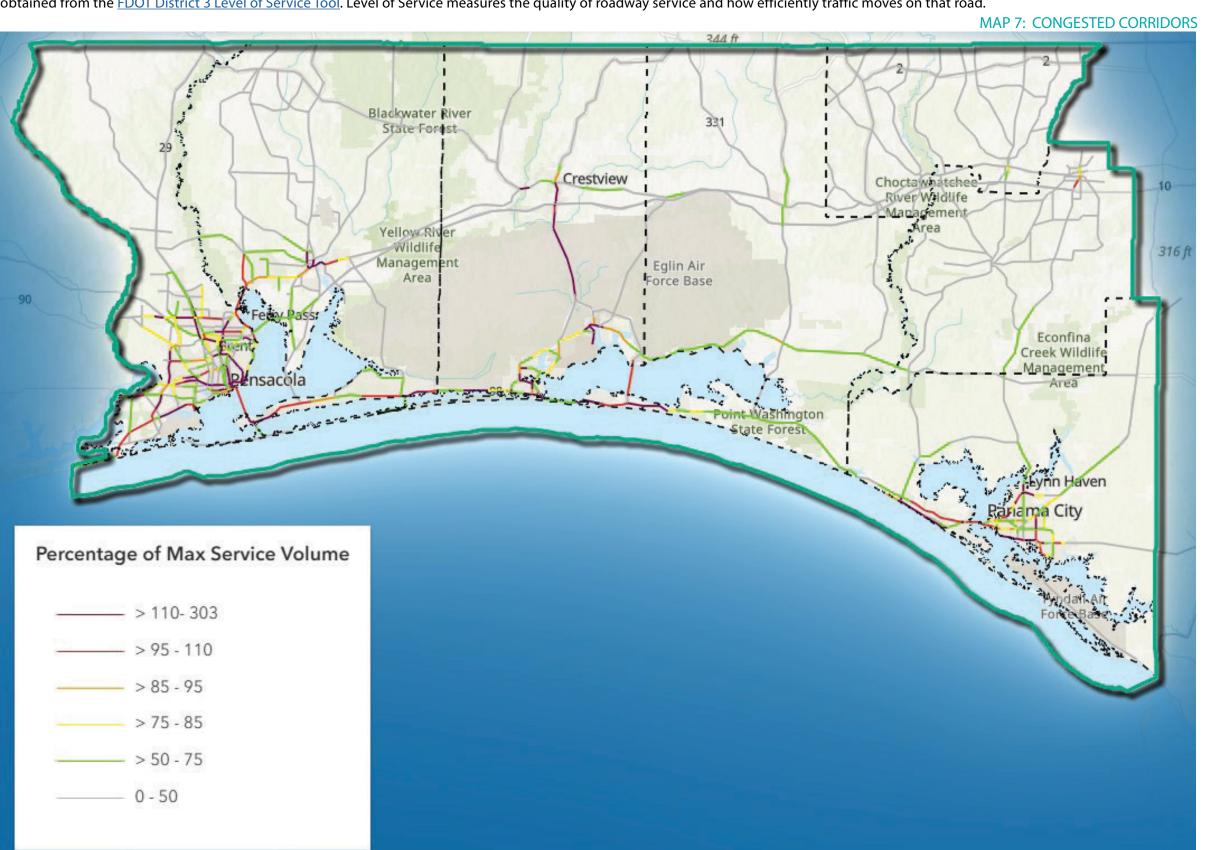


Source: RITIS Causes of Congestion Report

# **5.2 Capacity Constraints**

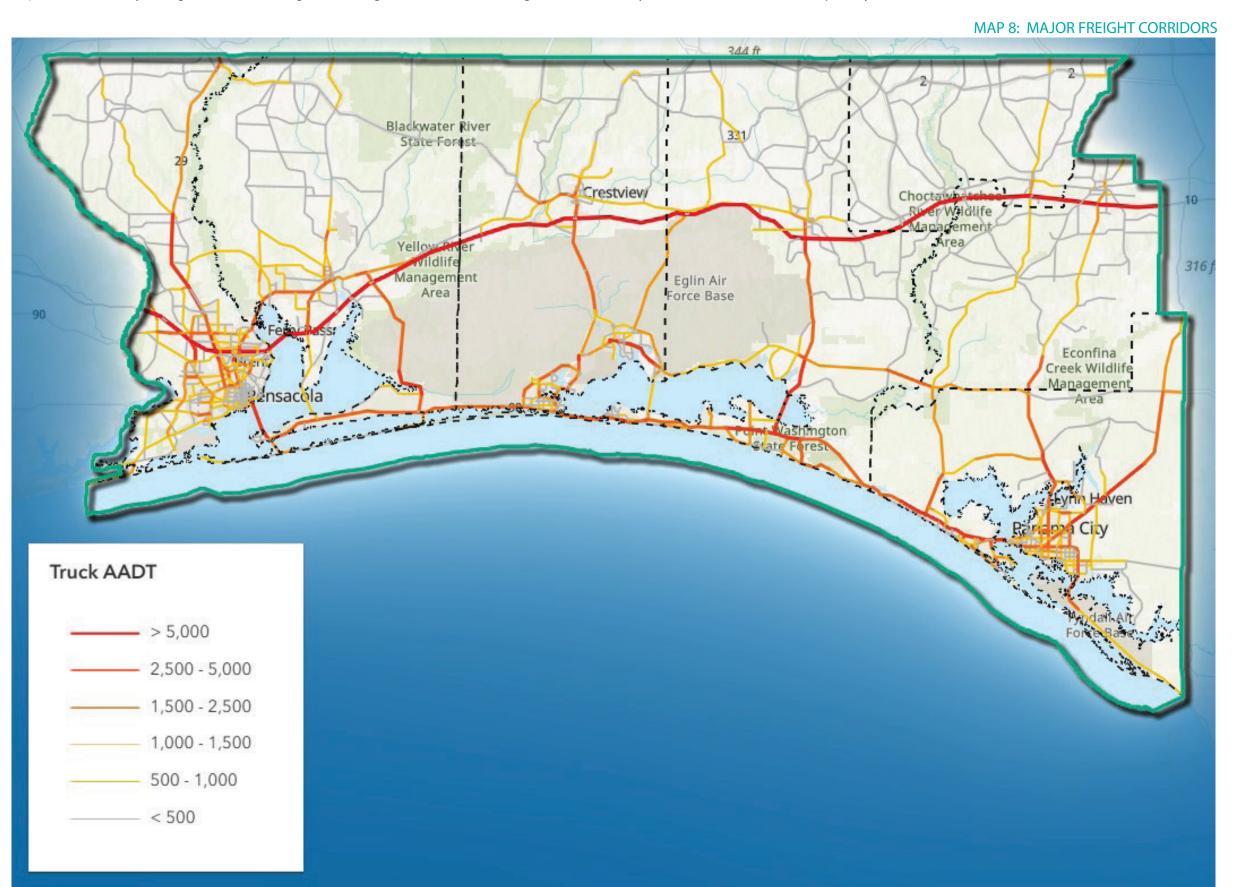
## Volume to Capacity

Map 7 shows the congested corridors based on the volumes counted divided by the estimated capacity or the percent maximum source volume per day in 2023, obtained from the <u>FDOT District 3 Level of Service Tool</u>. Level of Service measures the quality of roadway service and how efficiently traffic moves on that road.



# **Major Freight Corridors**

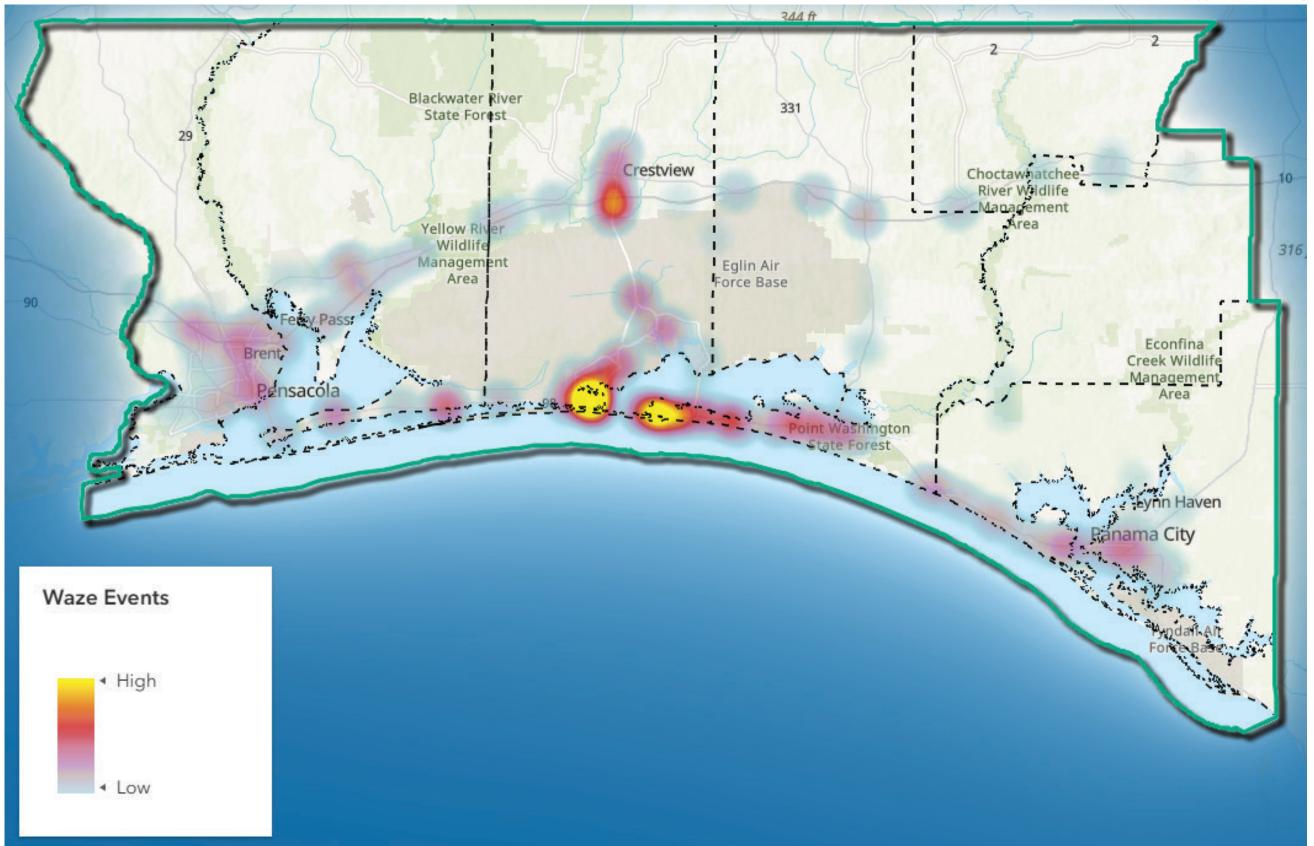
Map 8 shows the major freight corridors throughout the region based on the average volume of heavy vehicles (more than 2 axles) per day in 2023.



#### **Events**

Delays caused by crashes and other events, such as lane closures, are commonly reported by travelers in Waze, an app used for driving directions, live traffic updates, and road condition updates. Delays are also caused by events such as construction or debris on the road. Map 9 shows the hot spots for events reported on Waze in 2023.





# 5.3 System Bottlenecks

The Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) bottleneck tool, developed by the FHWA, was used to identify and rank the major roadway bottlenecks in 2023. The bottleneck ranking system organized the data based on total delay and includes the percent of capacity and events. The top 20 regionwide bottleneck intersections are summarized in Table 14. 41% of the total delay in the region is experienced at these 20 locations.

Map 10 shows the congested corridors as identified previously combined with the bottleneck locations weighted by total delay.

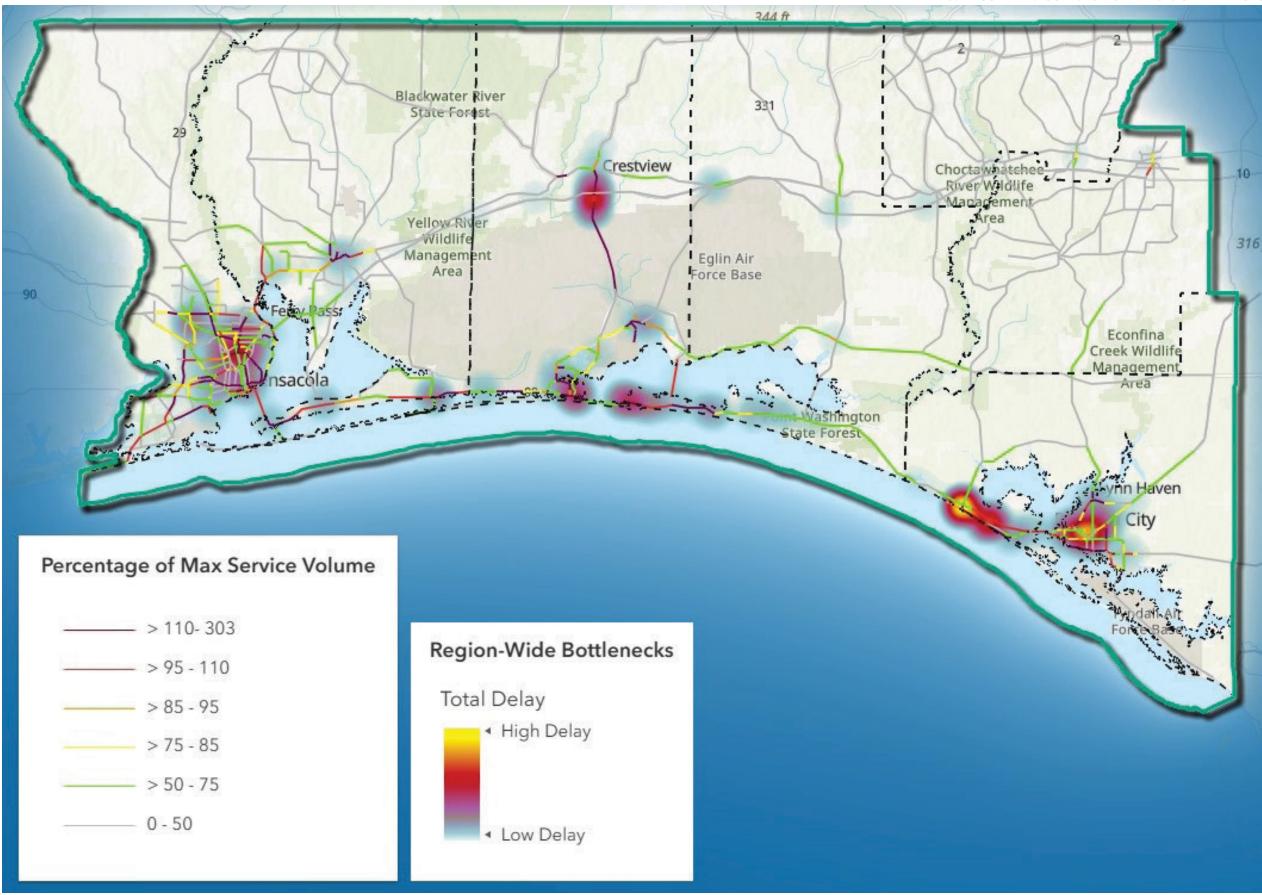
TABLE 14: TOP INTERSECTION BOTTLENECK LOCATIONS

	TABLE 14. TOP INTERSECTION BOTTLENECK LOCATIO			
County	Major Road	Minor Road		
Bay	SR-30/US-98	CR-392a Hutchison Boulevard		
Bay	SR-30/US-98 Panama City Beach Parkway	SR-79 Arnold Drive		
Bay	SR-368	SR-77 MLK Jr Boulevard		
Bay	US-98	US-231		
Escambia	Pine Forest Road	I-10		
Escambia	SR-291	SR-290/E Olive Road		
Bay	SR-30/US-98	SR-75/US-231 Harrison Avenue/ Airport Road		
Escambia	9th Avenue	Langley Avenue and Tippin Avenue		
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98	CR-30 Airport Road		
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98	Wynnehaven Beach		
Okaloosa	SR-85	I-10		
Okaloosa	SR-85	Live Oak Church Road		
Santa Rosa	SR-30/US-98	CR-393		
Santa Rosa	SR-30/US-98	CR-399 Navarre Beach Causeway		
Santa Rosa	SR-30/US-98	SR-281		
Walton	SR-30/US-98	Brooks Bridge Road		
Walton	SR-30/US-98	CR-2378		
Walton	SR-30/US-98	CR-30A		
Walton	SR-30/US-98	CR-30A (West)		
Walton	SR-30/US-98	CR-30A Calhoun Avenue		
Walton	SR-30/US-98	CR-30c Clara Avenue		

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

5-8 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 5-9

#### MAP 10: RECURRING CONGESTION AND BOTTLENECKS



# 5.4 Growth in Demand

Over time the demand on corridors changes and the facilities summarized in Table 15 experienced the greatest change in volume between 2019 and 2023.

TABLE 15: TOP 15 TOTAL AADT INCREASES 2019-2023

County	Road	Limits	Increase in AADT
Escambia	I-10	SR-291 to US-90	13,000
Bay	SR-30	US-98 to Thomas Drive	10,500
Bay	US-98	Cherry Street to Boat Race Road	10,500
Santa Rosa	SR-87	Vonnie Tolbert Road to E Bay Boulevard	8,500
Escambia	US-29	SR-184 to SR-297	7,500
Walton	SR-20	Madison Street to US-331	7,500
Bay	US-98	Dupont Bridge to US-98B	6,800
Bay	US-98	Tyndall Drive to Dupont Bridge	6,800
Escambia	Pensacola Beach Road	Fort Pickens Road to Pensacola Beach Toll Bridge	6,500
Escambia	Pensacola Beach Road	Pensacola Beach Toll Bridge to US-98	6,500
Walton	US-98	CR 30A to CR 393	6,500
Bay	US-98	SR-22 to Cherry Street	5,500
Okaloosa	I-10	Santa Rosa County Line to Log Lake Road	5,500
Santa Rosa	I-10	SR-87 to Santa Rosa/Okaloosa County Line	5,500
Escambia	I-10	US-90 to SR-297	5,260

# 5.5 Parking and Special Events

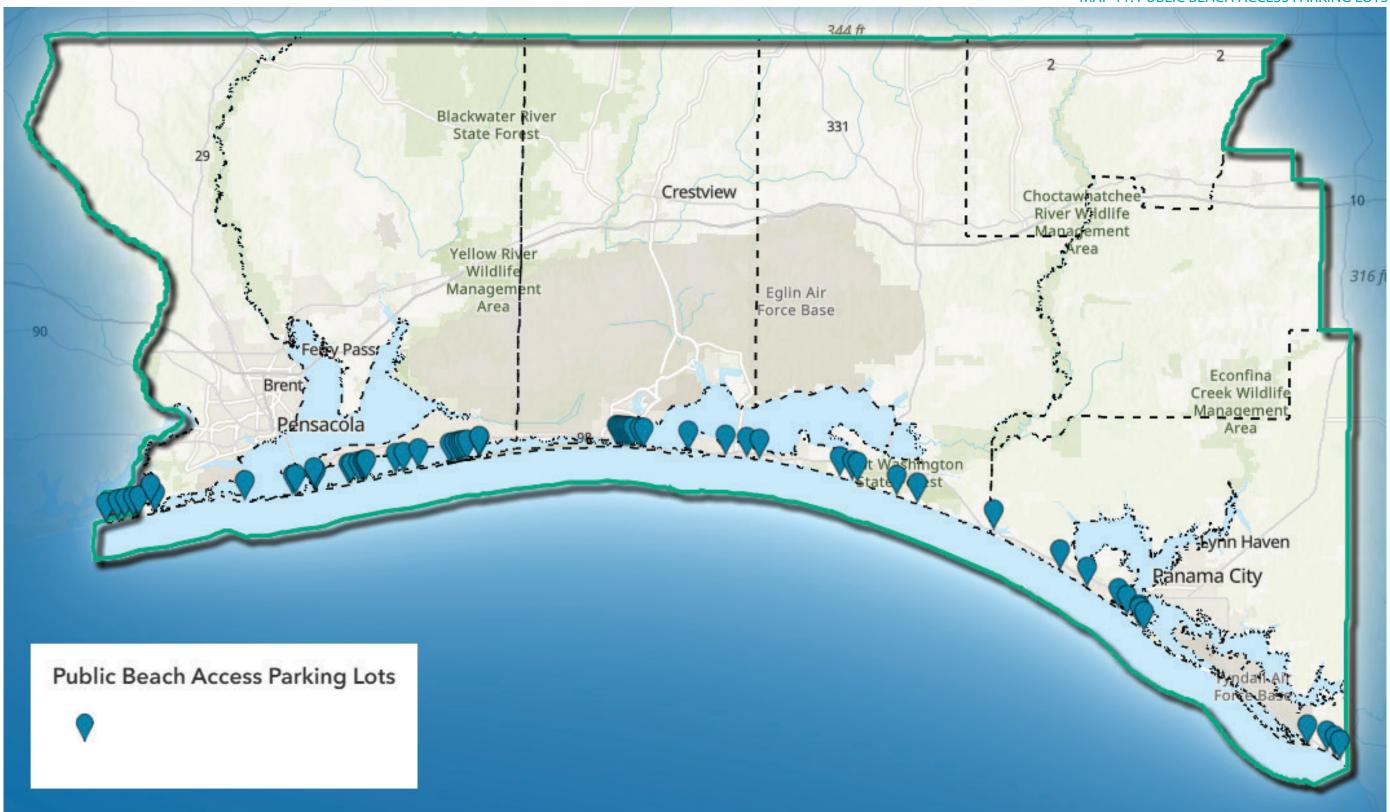
Map 11 displays the existing inventory of public beach access parking lots in the Emerald Coast. The largest special events held annually in the region are Mardi Gras in downtown Pensacola and the Pensacola Beach Air Show. Figure 18 shows the parking inventory in downtown Pensacola for the Mardi Gras event.

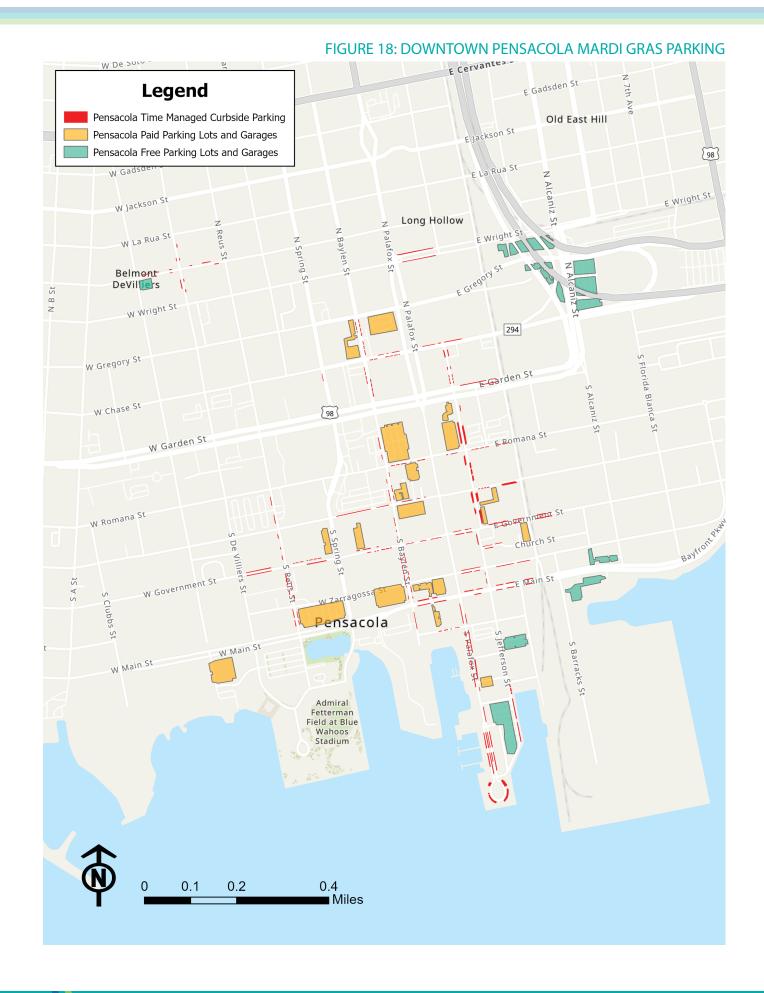
Managing delay to provide effective parking management for recurring congestion during the seasonal peaks and during special events has the potential to reduce congestion within the region.

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

5-12 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 5-13

#### MAP 11: PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS PARKING LOTS

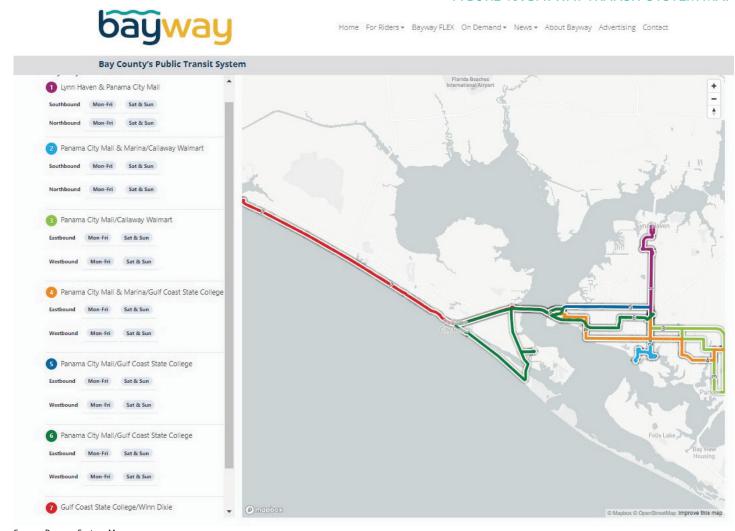




### **5.6 Transit Services**

Fixed-route transit services are provided in the Panama City area and in the Pensacola area. The system map for Bay County's public transit system, Bayway, is shown in Figure 19. The system map for Escambia County's public transit system, Escambia County Area Transit (ECAT), is shown in Figure 20. The EC Rider in Okaloosa County also provides commuter services, as shown in Figure 21. Park and Ride lots for carpool or vanpool are provided throughout the Emerald Coast and are managed by RideOn Commuter Services. These Park and Ride lots are shown in Map 12.

#### FIGURE 19: BAYWAY TRANSIT SYSTEM MAP



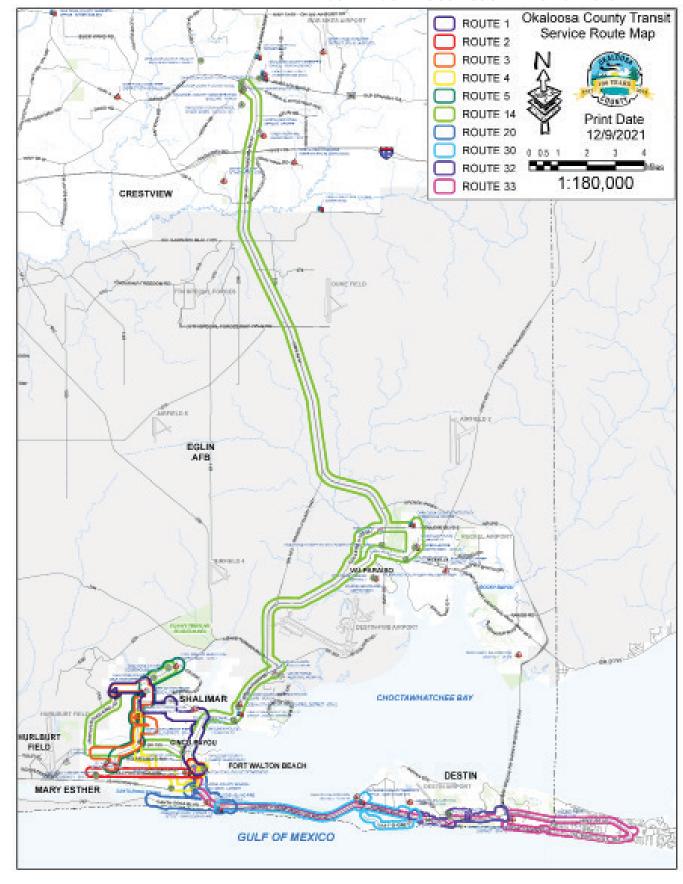
Source: Bayway System Map

5-16 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 5-17

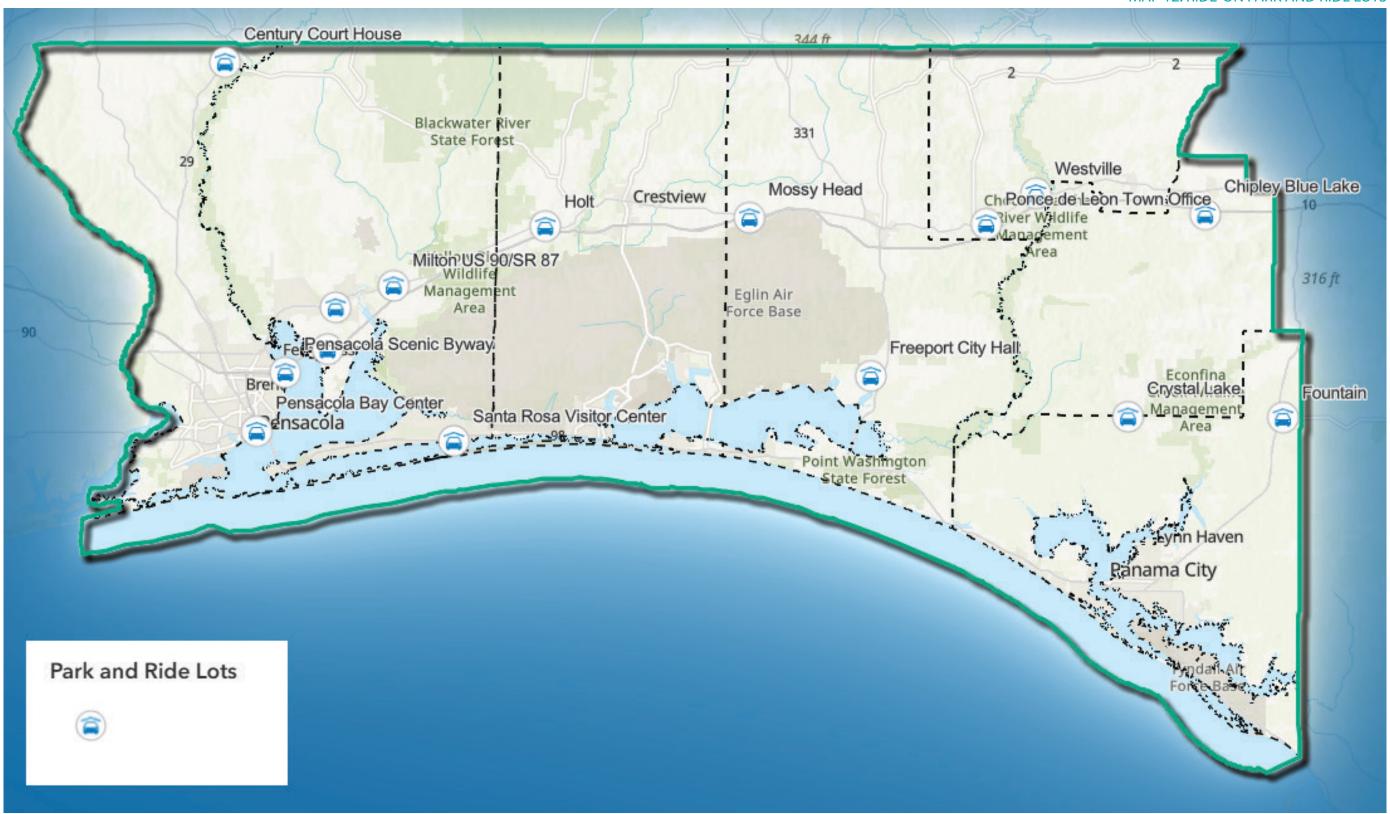
#### FIGURE 20: ESCAMBIA COUNTY AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM MAP

# System Map Escambia Bay or go to www.goecat.com and select ECAT Tracker Bay THIS AREA NO LONGER RECEIVES SERVICE Gulf of Mexico GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

#### FIGURE 21: OKALOOSA COUNTY EC RIDER SYSTEM MAP



#### MAP 12: RIDE-ON PARK AND RIDE LOTS



# 5.7 Strategies and Tactics

#### Surveillance and Incident Management Systems

Surveillance and incident detection and management systems consist of one or some combination of: roving tow or service vehicles, video, incident teams, traffic detectors, changeable message signs, closed circuit television surveillance, a communication system, and central computer control. A system of detectors connected to the central computer allows monitoring of conditions throughout the freeway system. Pertinent driver information is provided through the dynamic message sign system and radio traffic reports to alert drivers to congested conditions and allows diversion to alternate routes if necessary. Figure 22 shows a DMS on I-10.



#### **Advanced Traveler Information Systems**

Traveler information systems inform drivers on current roadway conditions – including delays, incidents, weatherrelated messages, travel times, emergency alerts, and alternative routes. Providing this information to drivers before and during trips allows them to make more effective travel decisions about changing routes, modes, departure times, or even destinations. More informed drivers result in more efficiently utilized roadway capacity. This means less gridlock and better traffic flow.

Travel information is generated by sensors reporting to a traffic management center or through private entities using data from in-vehicle location devices, or from smart phones communicating location and speed. This information is then disseminated via traditional broadband media, internet, mobile devices, or roadside messaging. Personalized travel messages and alerts enable individuals to get trip-specific information on demand, or have it pushed to them via email or text message subscription services.

**Advanced Traveler Information** Systems leverage congestion information and parking availability information collected in the strategies identified above and then use dynamic message signs or other means to disseminate the availability information to travelers. Providing advance information to travelers can allow them to reroute their trip to avoid congestion. Providing advance information on parking availability has the potential to reduce delay from vehicle circulation to find parking. Also, these systems combined with



transit shuttle or other service will allow drivers to avoid congested areas.

When combined with geofencing, messages can be "pushed" to travelers through apps with customized messages on parking. For example, "Parking at all public beach access locations near Grayton Beach are full. Consider using the Grayton Beach Tram that has parking near the Shops of Grayton." Colorado has a similar app in their Trip Planner app as shown in Figure 23.

This service could be implemented using a publicprivate partnership where the parking availability is provided to private apps such as the Visit Pensacola app to support better parking management as shown on Figure 24 which also provides geolocated information on the beaches, dinning, and special events.

#### **VISIT PENSACOLA APP**

Getting to Pensacola is easy, but leaving, that's the hard part, Whether you're in town on business or pleasure or one of the lucky locals, the Visit Pensacola App was built with you in mind. With geolocation features and an itinerary builder, finding what to do while in Pensacola is both fun, fast and easy! Use the VP App to find restaurants, events, attractions, entertainment and more

# FIGURE 24: VISIT PENSACOLA APP

#### **Active Traffic Management Systems**

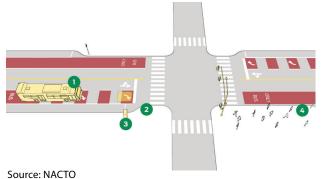
Active management systems regulate or direct traffic along arterial roads, employing traffic detectors, traffic signals, and various means of communicating information to travelers. These systems use information collected by traffic surveillance devices to smooth the flow of traffic along travel corridors. They also disseminate important information about travel conditions to travelers via technology such as DMS or highway advisory radio. Arterial management may include the following strategies: incident detection with service patrols, roving tow vehicles, motorist information systems, and incident teams; intersection

# FIGURE 25: ACTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT



surveillance and monitoring using loop detectors, interconnected signal systems, and video monitoring of intersections; parking control and management; integration of freeway and arterial management programs; and traffic surveillance and metering. An active traffic management system is shown in Figure 25.

#### FIGURE 26: TRANSIT SIGNAL PRIORITY

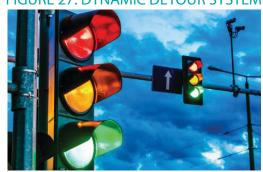


# Transit Signal Priority

Transit signal priority and transit signal preemption, shown in Figure 26, are standard traffic controller features that transfer normal signal operations to a special control mode to facilitate the passage of buses and emergency vehicles by prohibiting conflicting traffic flow. The primary objective is to improve intersection safety. For emergency vehicle services, an equally important objective is faster response times. Transit signal priority can be best implemented on traffic signals near railway crossings or on corridors with heavy transit use or designated express bus or bus rapid transit routes.

## **Dynamic Detours**

A dynamic detour is the concept of detouring traffic in real time based on FIGURE 27: DYNAMIC DETOUR SYSTEM real time traffic information. A major part of the dynamic detour system is the ITS component that collects real-time traffic information from the road network and disseminates information to travelers to help them make informed decisions on selecting an alternate route or continuing the original route. Detour routes are a common feature of the highway system. Many detours are planned in conjunction with work zones or special events, but the roadway used for the detour may not be able to accommodate the additional traffic without prior improvements. Improvements to detour routes are intended to improve the capacity of corridors. A dynamic detour system is shown in Figure 27.



### **Queue Warning Systems**

A queue warning system's basic principle is to inform travelers of the presence of downstream stop-and-go traffic (based on real-time traffic detection) using warning signs and flashing lights. Drivers can anticipate an upcoming situation of emergency breaking and slow down, avoid erratic behavior, and reduce queuing-related collisions,

as shown in Figure 28. Dynamic message signs show a symbol or word when stop-and-go traffic is near. Speed harmonization and lane control signals that provide incident management capabilities can be combined with queue warning. The system can be automated or controlled by a traffic management center operator. Work zones also benefit from queue warning with portable dynamic message sign units placed upstream of expected queue points.

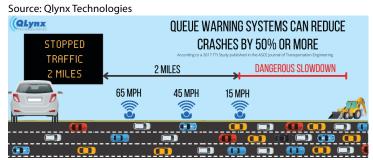


FIGURE 28: QUEUE WARNING SYSTEM

# Parking and Curb Management

In recent years, a variety of innovations have been deployed across cities seeking to improve parking management using smart, data-based solutions. The following sections offer examples of successful technology deployments supporting parking management.

#### Performance-Based Dynamic Parking Pricing

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has been dynamically setting rates for on-street parking (Figure 29) and hours of operations seasonally based on collected parking occupancy and availability data since 2010. The city examines the latest parking data to predict parking demand and adjusts ahead of seasonal price changes. With the goal of having one to two parking spaces available along each block in the city at any time, the result of the program has led to improved parking availability (seattle.gov).

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has been dynamically changing parking rates through SFpark, a similar dynamic pricing program, since it was piloted in 2011. To gather on-street parking occupancy and availability, the program originally installed wireless in-ground parking sensors, as seen in Figure 30, that detect vehicle arrival and departure. Since 2018, the city has relied on smart meters that transmit payment data to inform parking demand instead of sensors. The program additionally gathers off-street parking data from parking garages owned by the city, adjusting garage pricing as well. From the pilot phase alone, the city reported improved parking availability, increased ease in finding a parking space, and decreased vehicle miles traveled

5-24



from reported parking search times (sfmta.com). The city continues to see success in balancing parking demand since it expanded demand-responsive pricing citywide since 2018.

Arlington County in Virginia began collecting parking data in November 2023 through its Performance Parking Pilot program, installing approximately 4,500 in-pavement sensors in on-street parking spaces, like those used during the SFpark pilot. The county has seen minimal impact to parking behavior through two quarters of pricing changes, but has developed a stronger, data-based understanding of parking demand and payment compliance across the county.

FIGURE 30: STREET PARKING OCCUPANCY SENSORS (SAN FRANCISCO AND ARLINGTON COUNTY)





FIGURE 31: COMMERCIAL LOADING ZONE SIGN IN MIAMI



#### Smart Loading Zones: GPS-Based

Growing parking demand in Miami's commercial districts has led to increased cases of illegal parking in loading zones (Figure 31). In response, the Miami Parking Authority's Digital Smart Zone program allows enrolled commercial vehicles to park in paid parking areas without having to pay the meter or using an app. Instead, payments are calculated using GPS captured by an operator's existing on-board telematics device and the operator is invoiced quarterly. This allows commercial fleet operators seamless access to the curb, saving them time and allowing them to avoid parking tickets. The success of the program led it to be recognized by International Parking & Mobility Institute as an Honorable Mention in its 2024 awards for Innovation & Technology.

#### Smart Loading Zones: License Plate Reading

The Pittsburgh Parking Authority (PPA) implemented a similar smart loading zone solution to improve loading zone availability and reduce double parking by increasing parking turnover and decreasing the amount of time vehicles spend idling. The Pittsburg Smart Loading Zone (SLZ) program automatically bills drivers who park into designated loading zones by utilizing innovative digital cameras capable of license plate reading technology. The pilot initially installed SLZ technology at 20 zones within five neighborhoods across the city, an example of which is seen in Figure 32. The city has reported significant results, including a decrease of average park duration by nearly 25%, a decrease of average double-parking duration by 40%, and a turnover increase of nearly 25% (engage.pittsburghpa.gov). The number of double-parking events has been reduced month over month, by upwards of 30%.

FIGURE 32: SMART LOADING ZONE SIGN IN PITTSBURGH



# Candidate Projects for Congestion Managment

Table 16 shows locations that are candidates for congestion management strategies.

#### TABLE 16: CANDIDATE LOCATIONS FOR CONGESTION MANAGEMENT

County	Road	From	То	Bottleneck Location	Surveillance and Incident Management	Advanced Traveler Information Systems	Transit Signal Priority	Dynamic Detours	Queue Warning Systems	Parking and Curb Management Strategies
Bay	SR-30	US-98 (West)	US-98 (East)	SR-79 S Arnold Drive						
Вау	SR-368	Harrison Avenue	US-231	SR-77 MLK Jr Boulevard						
Bay	SR-30/ US-98	SR-79 Arnold Road	US-231/SR-75 Harrison Avenue	SR-79 Arnold Road	*	*	*	*		
				CR-30A (East)	*	*	*	*		
				US-231/SR-75 Harrison Avenue	*	*	*	*		
				CR-392a Hutchison Boulevard						
Escambia	SR-291	SR-30/US-98 Cervantes Street	SR-10/US-90 Scenic Highway	SR-290 E Olive Road						
Okaloosa	SR-85	7th Special Forces Way	I-10	I-10						
				Live Oak Church Road						
Okaloosa	SR-30/US 98	Santa Rosa County Line	CR-30A (East)	CR-30A (West)						
Okaloosa/ Santa Rosa	Live Oak	SR-281 (Santa Rosa County)	SR-393 Mary Esther Blvd (Okaloosa)	Wynnehaven Beach						
				CR-399 Navarre Beach Causeway						
				SR-281						
Walton	SR30/ US-98	SR-293 (Okaloosa County)	CR-30A (East)	CR-30 Airport Road						
				CR-30A Calhoun Avenue						
				Brooks Bridge Road						
				CR-30c Clara Avenue						
				CR-393						

= implemented as part of the US-98 Smart Bay project.





# Sustaining the Economy

Smart region strategies are an essential element in the economic competitiveness of a region to provide reliable and efficient mobility to employment centers, along fright corridors, and access for workforce development.

# **6.1 Military Installations**

The Department of Defense is the largest direct employer in the region. Each of the installations identified in Table 17 represent the largest employers in the county.

Origin-destination analyses were completed for each of the major military bases in the Emerald Coast. The difference in origin trips and AADTs from 2019 to 2023 for each of the major military bases is illustrated in the following figures. For the origin trips, Replica Origin-Destination data was extracted for each census block group in the study area. The data estimates the number of trips started in each block group and ended in the block group containing the point of interest. The time periods used in this comparison are Fall 2019 and Fall 2023. Map 13 through Map 18 illustrate the changes in origin trips and AADTs. Map 19 shows the segments with the greatest change.

The corridors where traffic management strategies are needed to support access to these installations and potential strategies for implementation are summarized in Table 18.

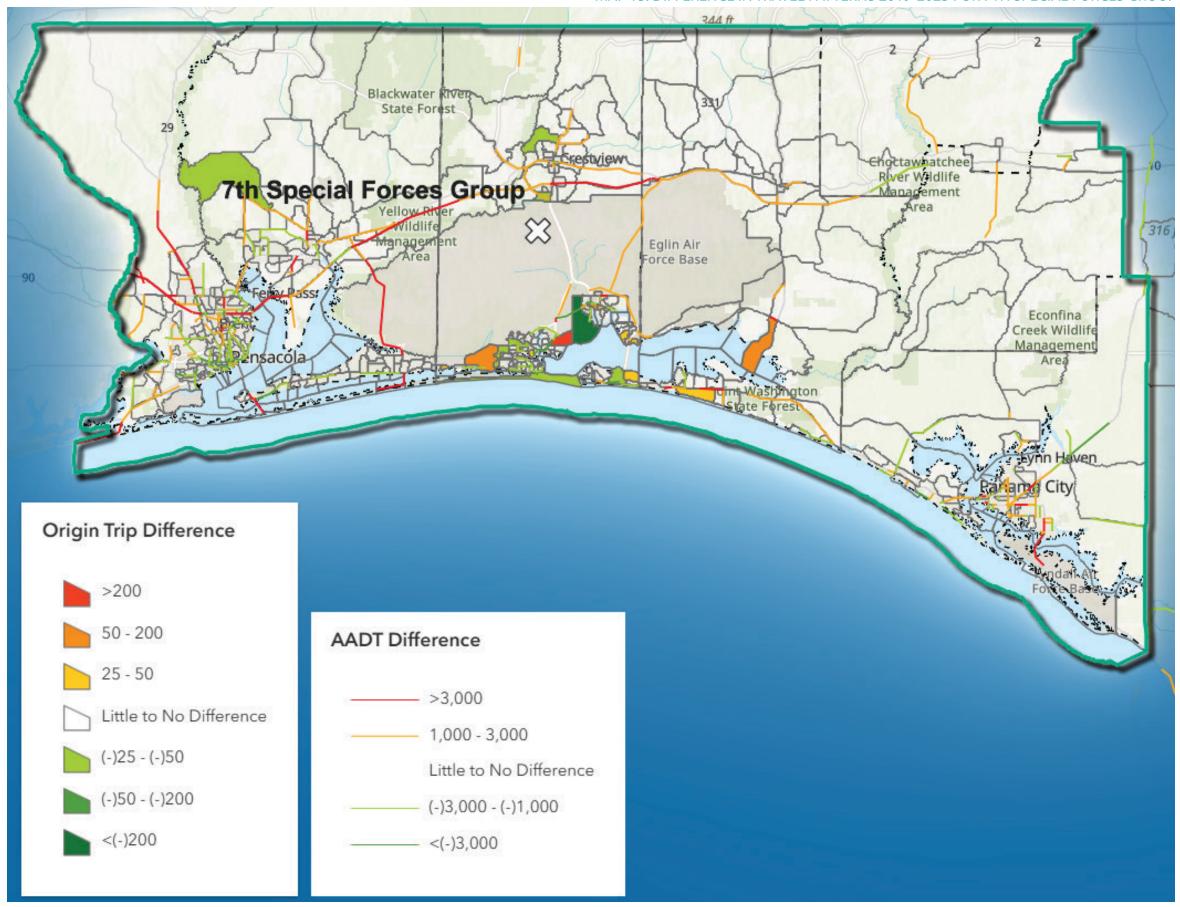
TABLE 17: MILITARY BASE DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

County	Installation	Population Type	Persons	Civilian Labor Force	% Labor Force (Civilian + Military)
	D. L.NAC	Military	17,000		
Escambia	Pensacola NAS	Civil Service and Contractors	5,000		
	Total	County Total	22,000	153,414	12.9%
	Hurlburt Field	Military	8,300		
	nuriburt riela	Civil Service and Contractors	3,200		
	5 !: (OIL )	Military	5,500		
Okaloosa	Eglin (Other)	Civil Service and Contractors	3,700		
	Eglin 7th Special	Military	2,500		
	Forces	Civil Service and Contractors	300		
	Total	County Total	23,500	104,686	19.4%
	NCA Davasas Citas	Military	1,200		
	NSA Panama City	Civil Service and Contractors	2,800		
Bay	<b>T</b>	Military	2,900		
	Tyndall	Civil Service and Contractors	1,500		
	Total	County Total	8,400	89,318	9.0%
	Whiting Field NAS	Military	2,000		
Santa Rosa	Whiting Field NAS	Civil Service and Contractors	1,500		
	Total	County Total	3,500	90,152	3.8%

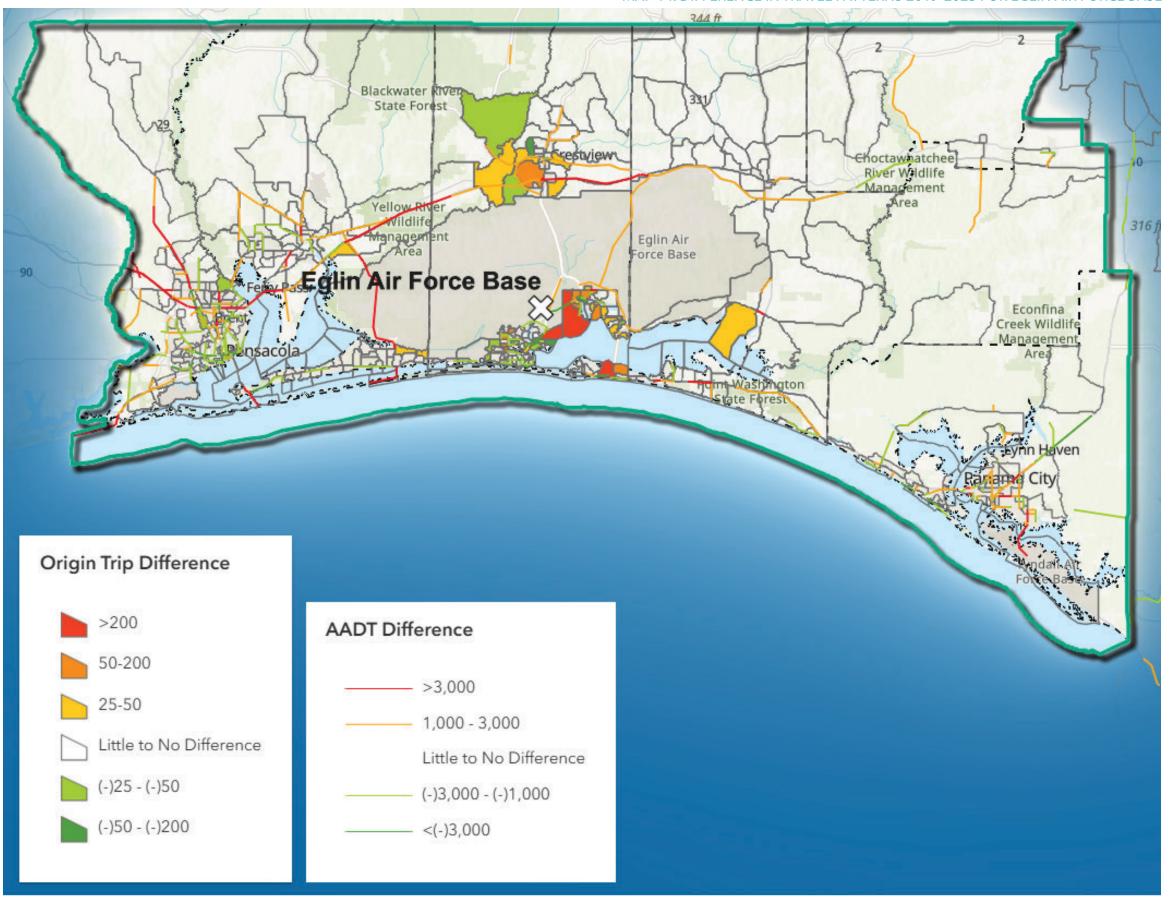
Employment Source: <a href="https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/view-all">https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/view-all</a>
Percent Labor Force Source: Total /(Civilian Labor Force +Military)

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

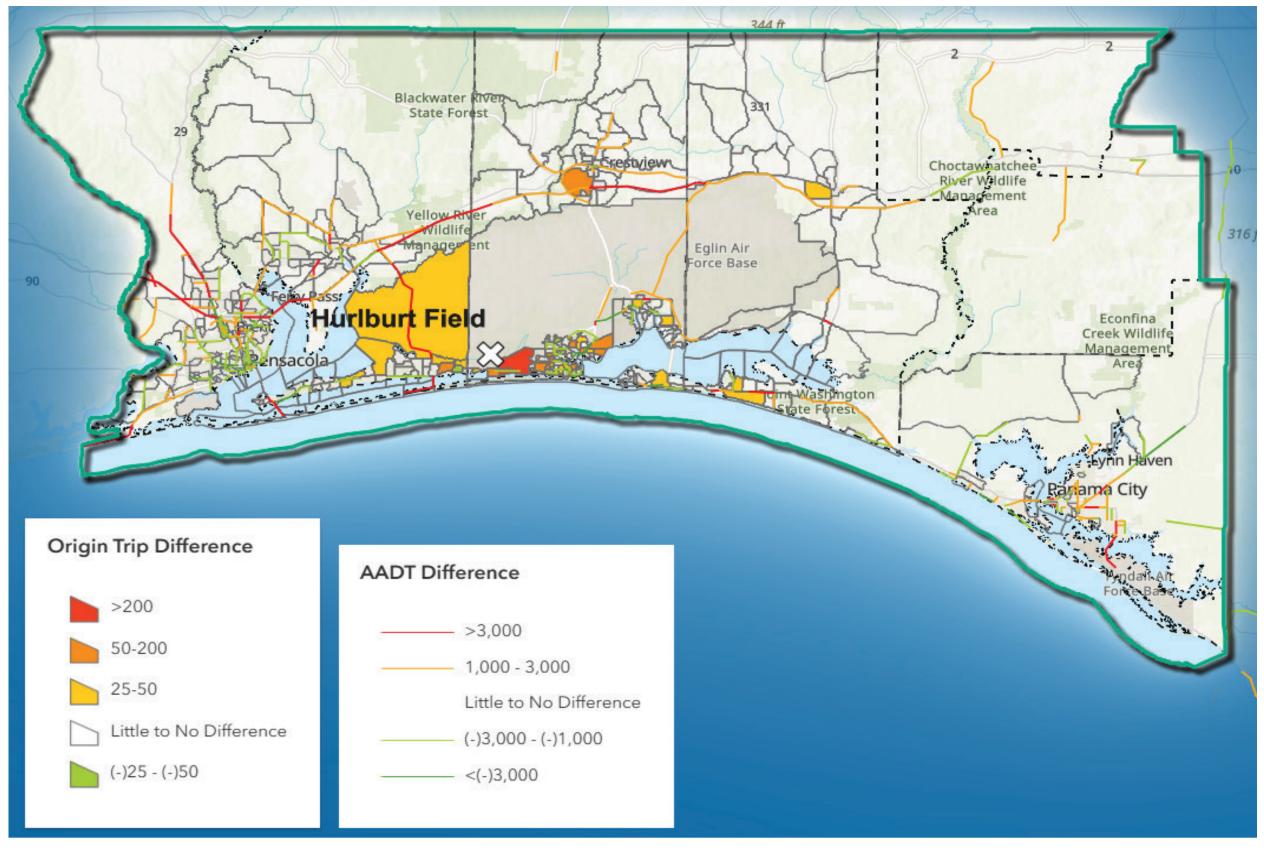
#### MAP 13: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR 7TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

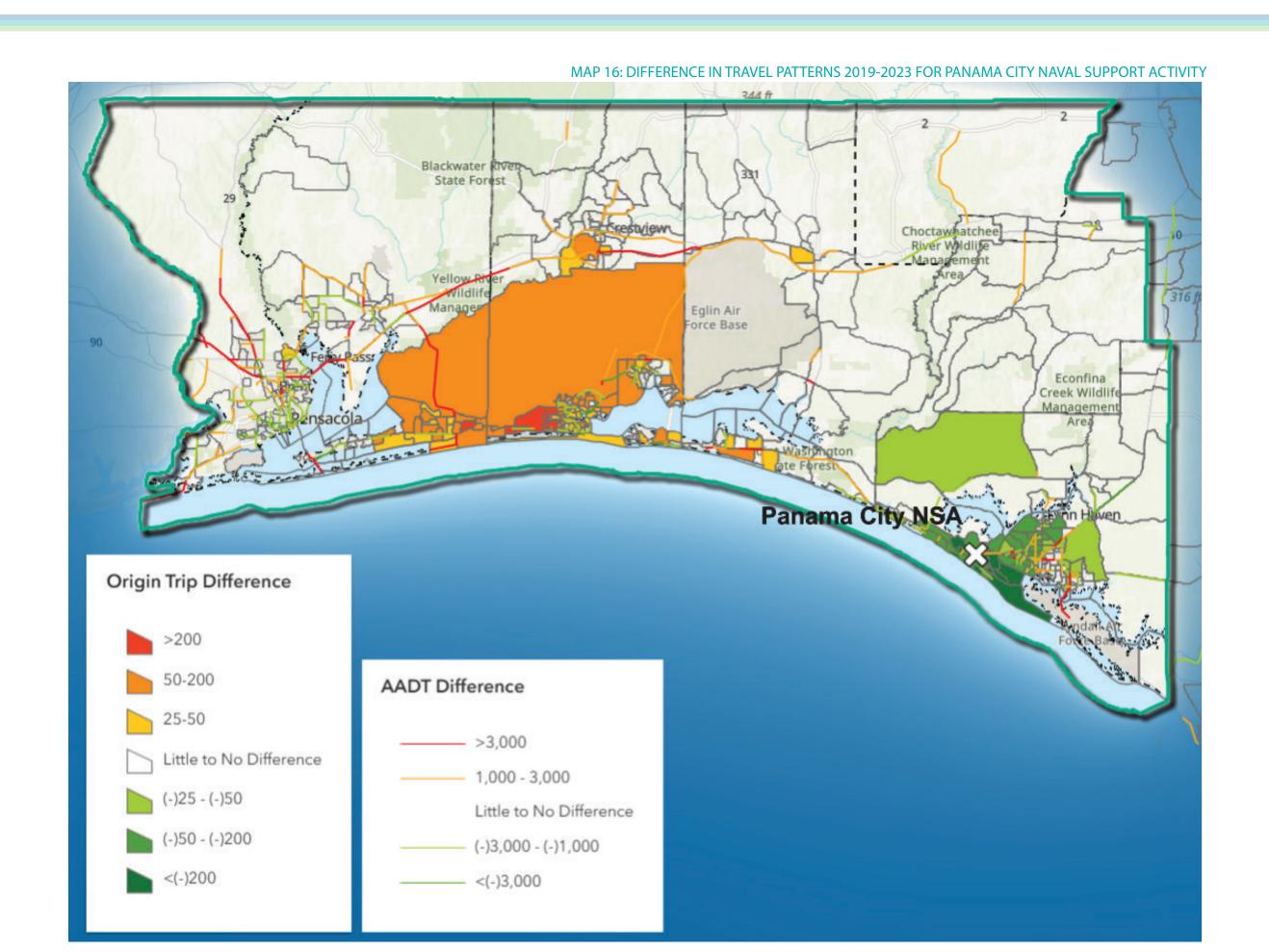


#### MAP 14: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE

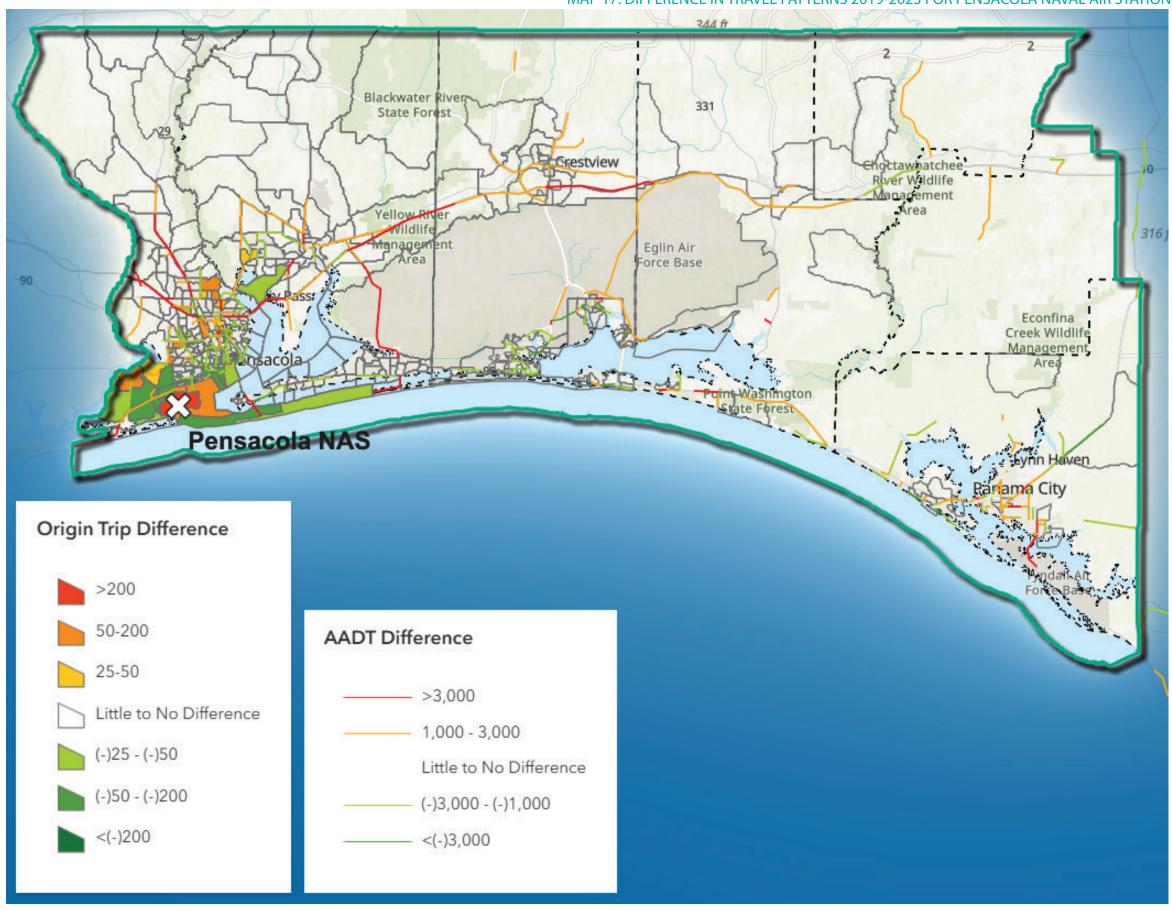


#### MAP 15: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR HURLBURT FIELD

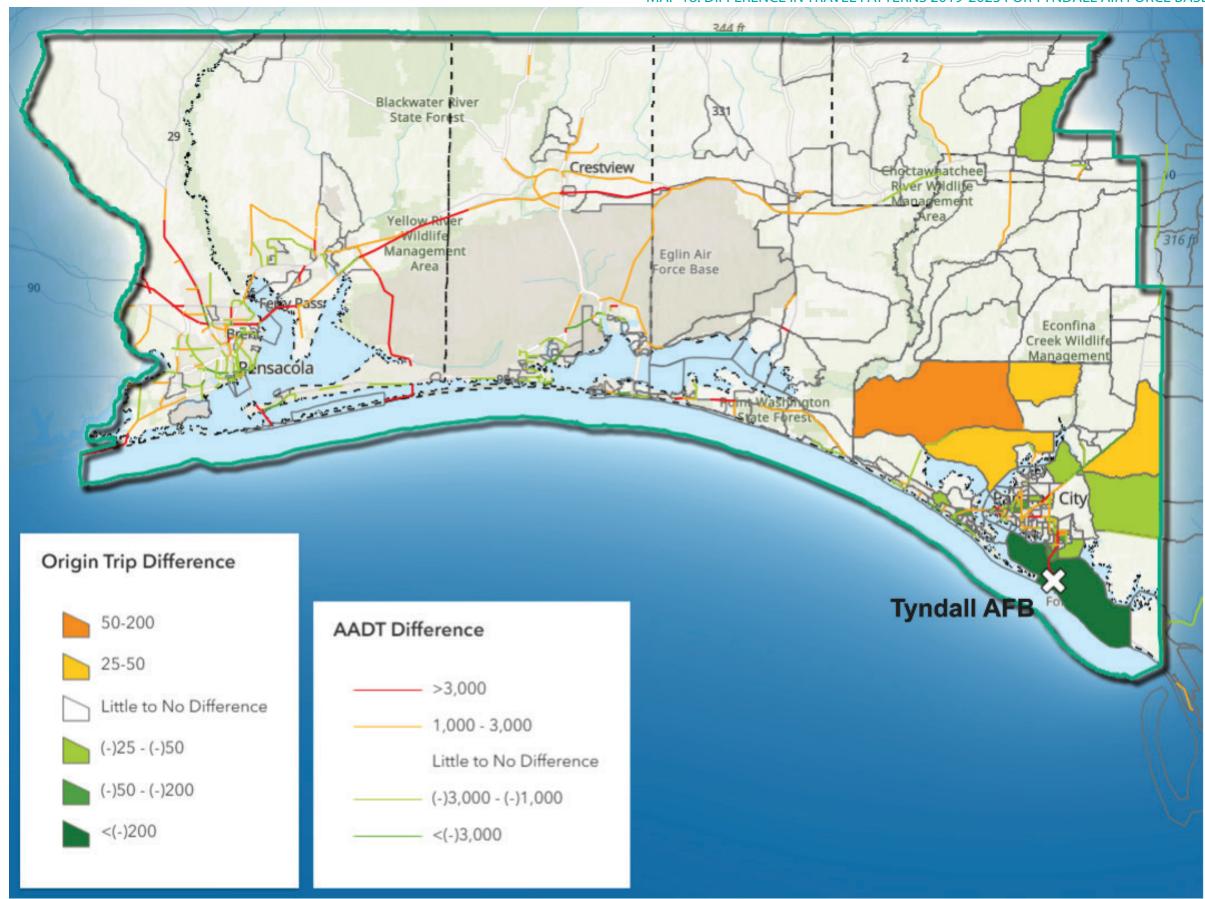




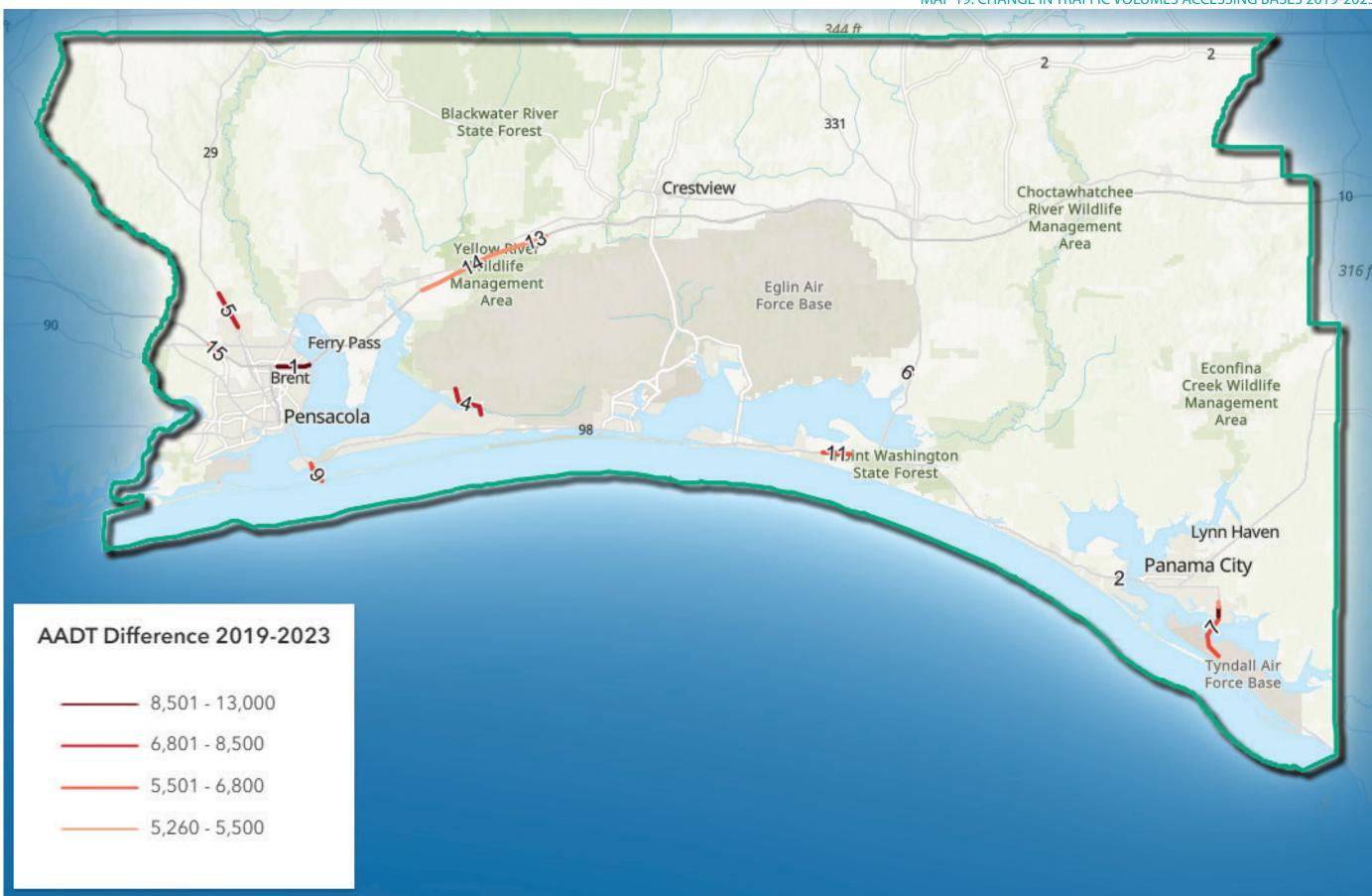
#### MAP 17: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR PENSACOLA NAVAL AIR STATION



#### MAP 18: DIFFERENCE IN TRAVEL PATTERNS 2019-2023 FOR TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE



#### MAP 19: CHANGE IN TRAFFIC VOLUMES ACCESSING BASES 2019-2023



6-17

## TABLE 18: BASE ACCESS ROADWAYS

Installation	Gate	Access Road	Arterial Traveler Information Systems	Priority Phasing During Quick Response Scenarios
	CID Main Gate	SR-292 to Duncan Road Bridge Over Bayou Grande to Taylor Road		
	Saufley Field	SR-292 to Duncan Road Bridge Over Bayou Grande to Taylor Road		
Pensacola NAS	Main Gate	SR-292 to Duncan Road Bridge Over Bayou Grande to Taylor Road		
	Corry Station	SR-292 to Duncan Road Bridge Over Bayou Grande to Taylor Road		
	West Gate	SR-173 and Gulf Beach Highway		
	Main Gate	US-98/Cody Avenue Interchange		
Hurlburt Field	Back Gate	SR-189 or SR-188 to MLK Boulevard to Independence Road		
	Kerwood Gate	(closed)		
	West Gate	SR-397 Eglin Parkway connect from SR-85 and SR-189		
5 II AFD	North Gate	SR-85		
Eglin AFB	East Gate	SR-397		
	ACC Gate	SR-397 Eglin Boulevard connect from SR-85 Eglin Parkway to SR-85 John Simms Parkway		
Eglin 7th Special	Visitor Center	SR-85 McWhorter Avenue interchange WB		
Forces	Duke Field	SR-85 McWhorter Avenue interchange EB		
NSA Panama City	Main Gate	US-98 to Thomas Drive		
	Louisiana South Gate	SR-30/US-98		
	Sabre Gate	SR-30/US-98		
Tyndall AFB	Airey (Main) Gate	SR-30/US-98		
	Flightline Gate	SR-30/US-98		
	Cleveland Commercial Gate	SR-30/US-98		
Whiting Field NAS	East Gate	Langley Street/SR 87A		
Williamy Field NAS	West Gate	Langley Street/SR 87A		

# **6.2 Private Employment**

According to the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Top 10 private employers in each county with 500 or more employees is summarized in Table 19.

TABLE 19: TOP 10 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS BY COUNTY WITH 500 OR MORE EMPLOYEES

County	County Rank	Company	Employees	Industry	
	1	Navy Federal Credit Union	9,188	Financial Service Center	
	2	Baptist Health Care	5,434	Healthcare	
	3	Sacred Heart Health Systems	4,820	Healthcare	
	4	University of West Florida	2,447	Education	
Escambia	5	Pensacola Christian College	1,584	Education	
ESCAMDIA	6	Ascend Performance Materials	1,288	Manufacturing	
	7	West Florida Healthcare	1,200	Healthcare	
	8	LifeView Group	1,199	Health and Human Services	
	9	Innisfree Hotels	750	Hospitality	
	10	GE Vernova	700	Manufacturing	
	1	Baptist Healthcare Systems	849	Hospital	
Santa	2	Wal-Mart Stores	800	Department Stores	
Rosa	3	Santa Rosa Medical Center	700	Hospital	
	4	Publix	500	Grocery	
	1	Takeda	1,300	Pharmaceutical	
Walton	2	Hitachi Astemo Americas	1,150	Manufacturing	
vvaiton	3	Walmart Distribution Center	880	Retail	
	4	Piedmont Walton Hospital	567	Hospital	
	1	Walmart Super Center (combined)	1,710	Retail	
	2	Florida Fort Walton-Destin Hospital	1,221	Hospital	
	3	Publix (combined)	1,050	Retail	
Okaloosa	4	North Okaloosa Medical Center	737	Hospital	
	5	Reliance Test & Technology	730	Defense Technology	
	6	Lockheed Martin	698	Defense Technology	

#### TABLE 19: TOP 10 PRIVATE EMPLOYERS BY COUNTY WITH 500 OR MORE EMPLOYEES CONT.

County	County Rank	Company	Employees	Industry	
	1	Maximus Federal	2,000	Financial	
	2	Eastern Shipbuilding	1,800	Manufacturing	
	3	Walmart and Sams Club	1,500	Retail	
Bay	4	Bay Medical Centers	1,000	Hospital	
	5	Trane	800	Manufacturing	
	6	6 Gulf Coast Medical Center		Hospital	
	7	Resort Collection	600	Hospitality	

# 6.3 Economic Opportunity

From the USDOT's "Ladders of Opportunity" initiative:

"America's highways, railways, airports, ports, and transit systems help drive our economy. There is a regrettable legacy of aligning and designing transportation projects that separated Americans along economic and even racial lines. At a time when our nation has so much infrastructure to repair and replace, we have a chance to do so in a much more inclusive way that will simultaneously expand economic opportunity and socioeconomic mobility throughout America. The choices we make about future transportation projects, the people they touch and places they connect, will play a role in determining how widely opportunity expands throughout America. Together, we can build a stronger and more connected nation, a healthier economy, and more vibrant communities."

Ladders of Opportunity help connect low-income, cash-based, and/or transit-dependent residents to critical destinations such as health services, grocery stores and jobs.

#### **Opportunity Zones**

Opportunity zones are census tracts in distressed economic states and whose local government has demonstrated a plan of action on how to use economic investment opportunities, as designated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). Map 20 shows the census tracts designated as opportunity zones in the Emerald Coast.

## Colleges, Universities, and Workforce Development

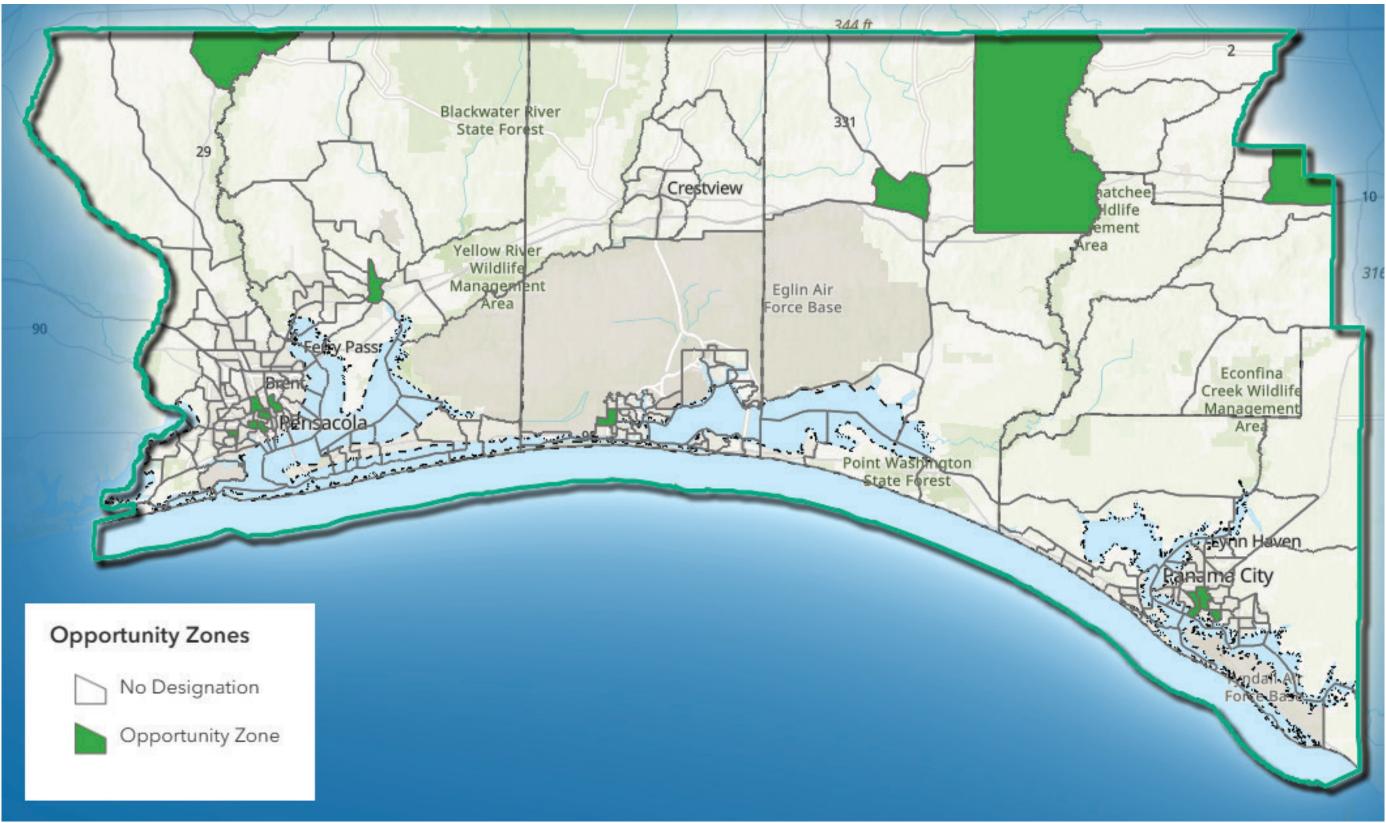
Map 21 shows the colleges and universities throughout the region. Providing efficient access to colleges will require a mix of congestion management and transit strategies.

- Florida State University Panama City
- George Technical College
- Gulf Coast State College
- Gulf Coast State College North Bay Campus
- Northwest Florida State College at Hurlburt Field
- Northwest Florida State College Crestview
- Northwest Florida State College Flagship
- Okaloosa Technical College
- Pensacola Christian College
- Pensacola State College at Gulf Breeze

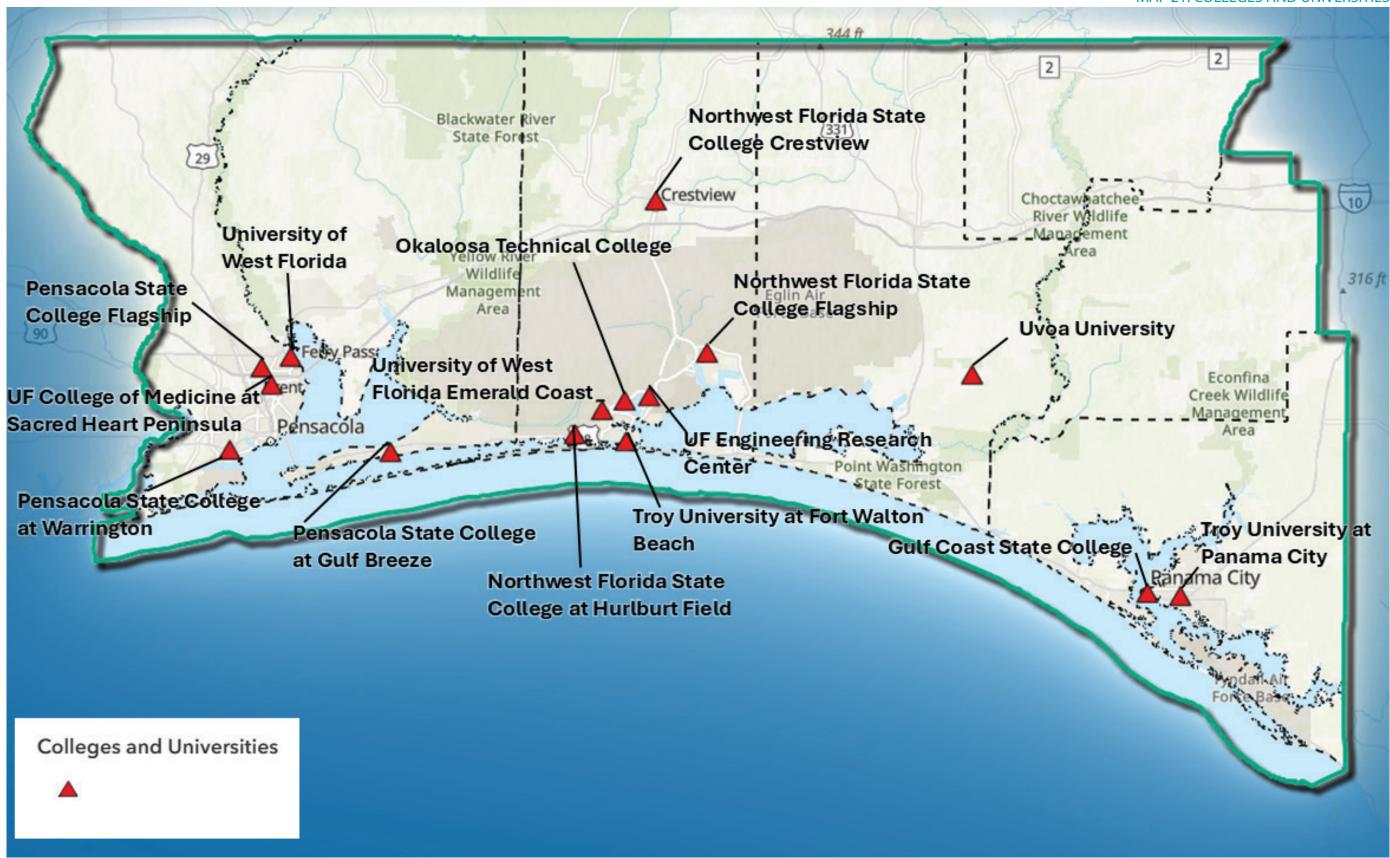
- Pensacola State College at Warrington
- Pensacola State College Flagship
- Pensacola State College Milton Campus
- Tom Haney Technical College
- Troy University at Fort Walton Beach
- Troy University at Panama City
- UF College of Medicine at Sacred Heart Peninsula
- UF Engineering Research Center
- University of West Florida Emerald Coast
- Uvoa University

6-20 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 6-21

#### MAP 20: OPPORTUNITY ZONES



#### MAP 21: COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



6-24 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 6-25

#### MAP 22: AREAS OF PERSISTENT POVERTY

#### **Underserved Populations**

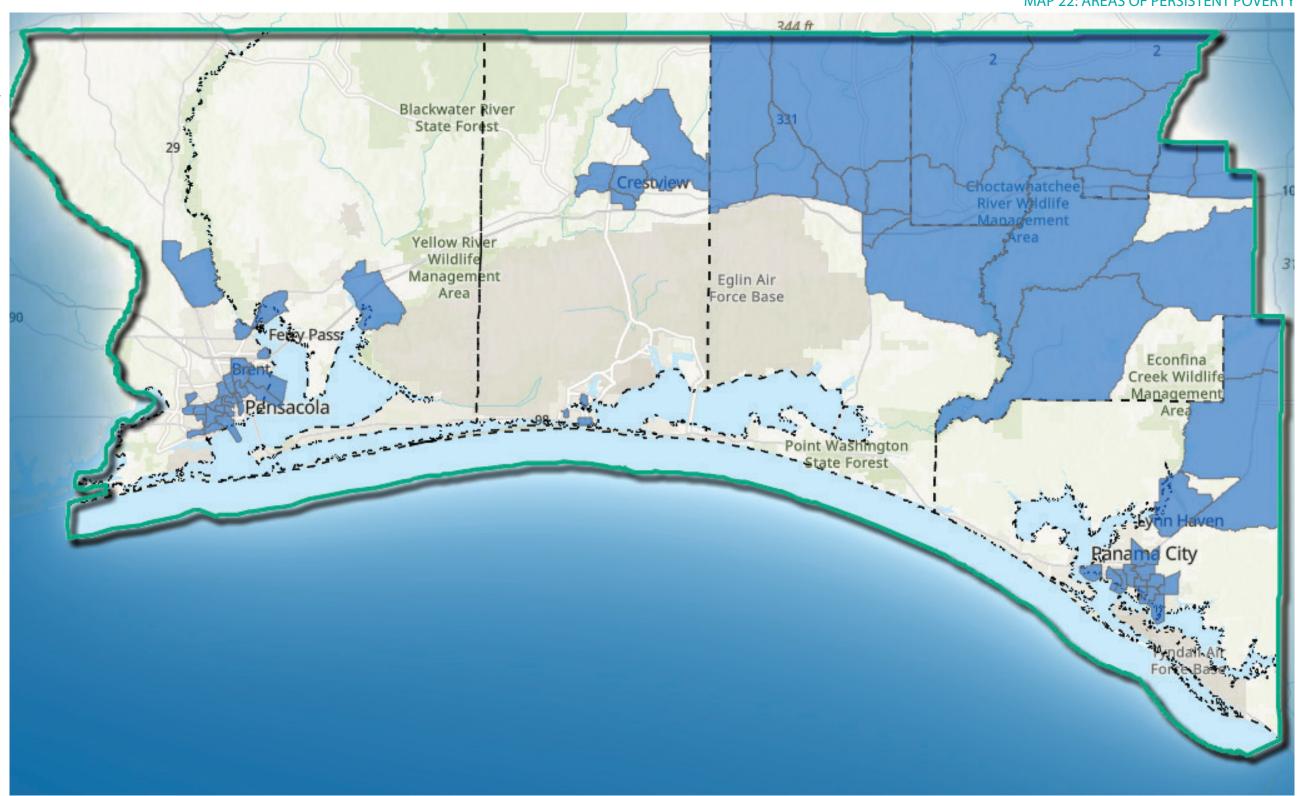
Areas of Persistent Poverty are defined by the USDOT using data from the 2020 Census. Map 22 shows the Areas of Persistent Poverty throughout the region.

A food desert is a census tract wherein at least 500 people or 1/3 of the total population within the tract lives further than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket, as designated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Map 23 shows the food deserts within the Emerald Coast.

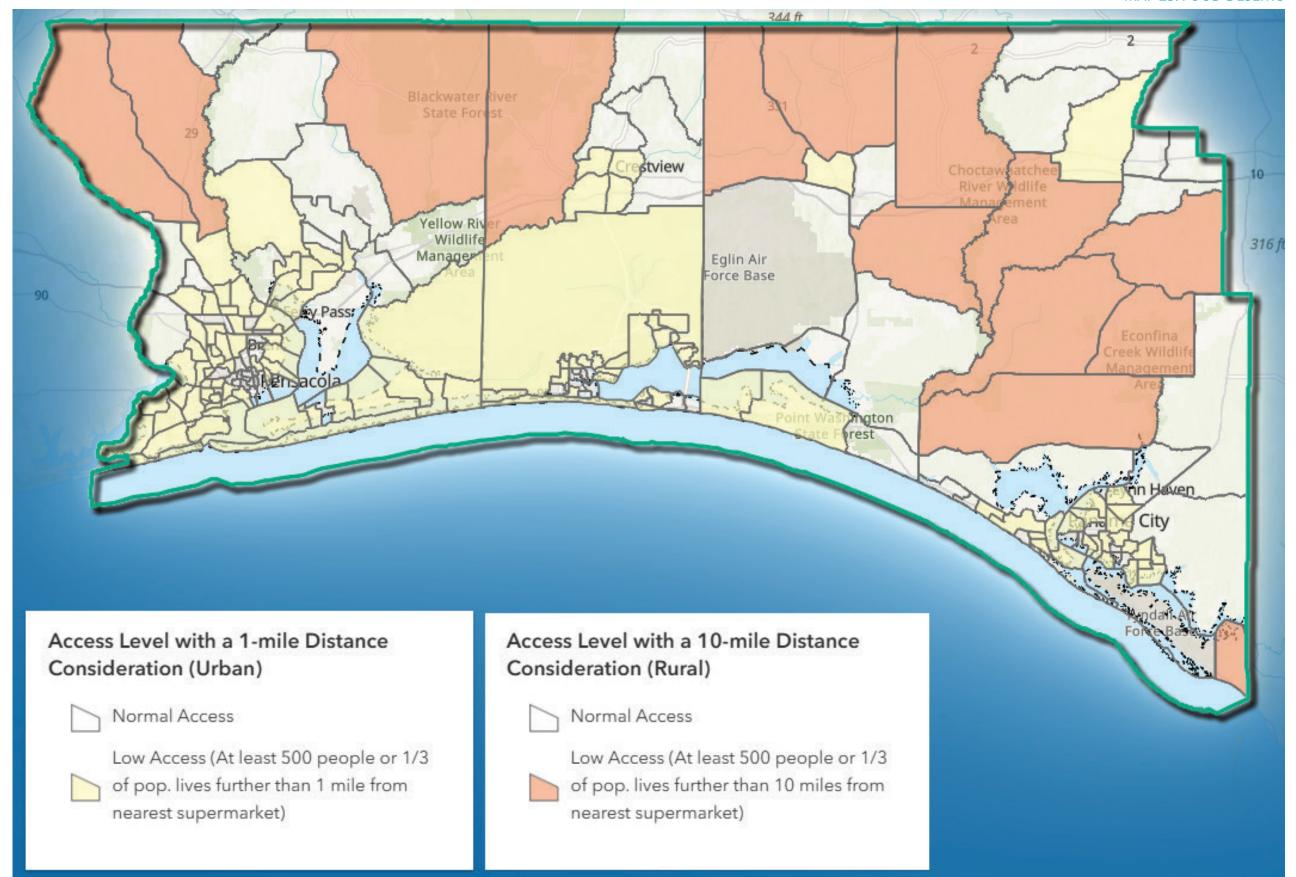
A medically underserved area is a census tract which lacks reasonable access to primary care health services, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Map 24 shows the medically underserved areas and populations within the Emerald Coast as designated by the HRSA.

Transportation barriers are the third leading cause of missing a medical appointment for older adults across the country.

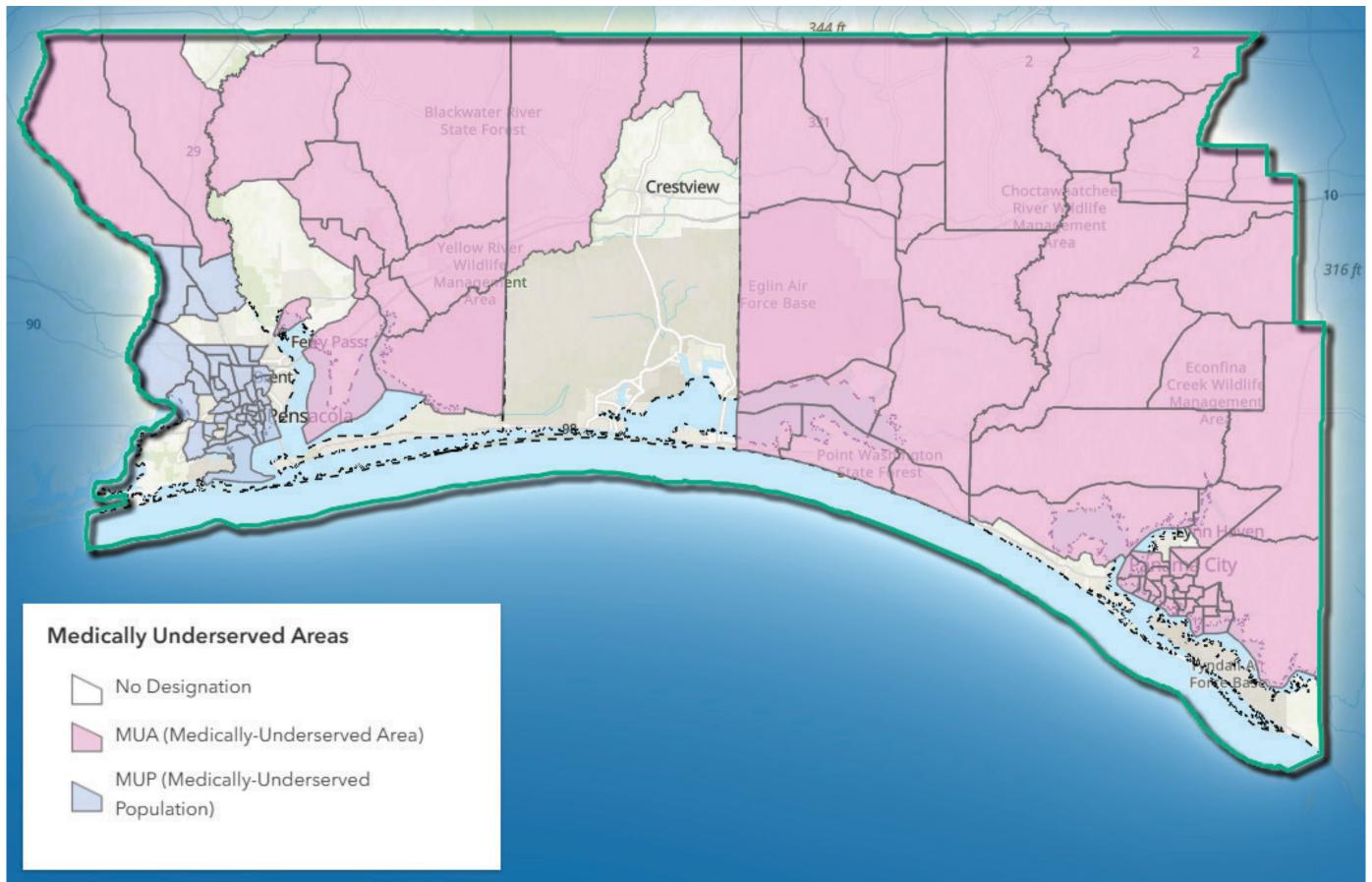
> —American Hospital Association, 2017



#### MAP 23: FOOD DESERTS



#### MAP 24: MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS



# 6.4 Strategies and Tactics

#### **Congestion Mitigation Strategies**

Investments in the corridors to provide reliable access to military installations and the major employers in the Emerald Coast follow the same approach to corridors identified in the section titled Reduce Congestion.

## **Information Technology Solutions**

Create a data exchange, targeted dashboards and reporting to assist non-governmental agencies, non-profits, and government agencies with easy access to data, maps, and analytics. This will improve our region's competitiveness for grant opportunities; develop greater synergies between agencies; and support evidence-based decision-making in considering new strategies to address the needs of our community. This data, combined with other stakeholder data in the Integrated Data Exchange, can be used to develop innovative approaches to improve mobility for these communities.

## **Strategies to Enhance Access**

#### **Expand Fixed Route Services**

Transit for underserved communities is one way to enhance access for under resourced communities. Each transit agency in the Emerald Coast regularly evaluates their routes and the needs of riders.

#### **Incentivize Shared Vehicles**

Evaluate opportunities to provide partnerships and incentives for shared-ownership vehicles such as Zipcar that include insurance, theft protection and financial access for the cash-dependent. These shared-ownership vehicle services may avoid some neighborhoods because of perceptions of crime and low demand. When incentives, additional insurance and cash-dependent access are made available, the demand for these services may increase. These programs offer subscription fees as low as \$70 per month plus per hour use fees making infrequent use of vehicles for medical care and shopping more affordable.

#### Incentivize Ridesharing and Transportation Network Companies (TNC)

Provide incentives to make TNCs (such as Uber and Lyft) more affordable, enhance services in underserved communities, allow cash payments and reduce costs in underserved areas. Several programs exist but are underutilized.

#### Incentivize Mobility for Remote Care

Continue to partner with local hospitals to provide on-demand transit services to all segments of the disadvantaged and underserved populations for preventative and emergency health care. Several initiatives are ongoing, and the lessons learned from those programs can be used to develop strategies to advance.

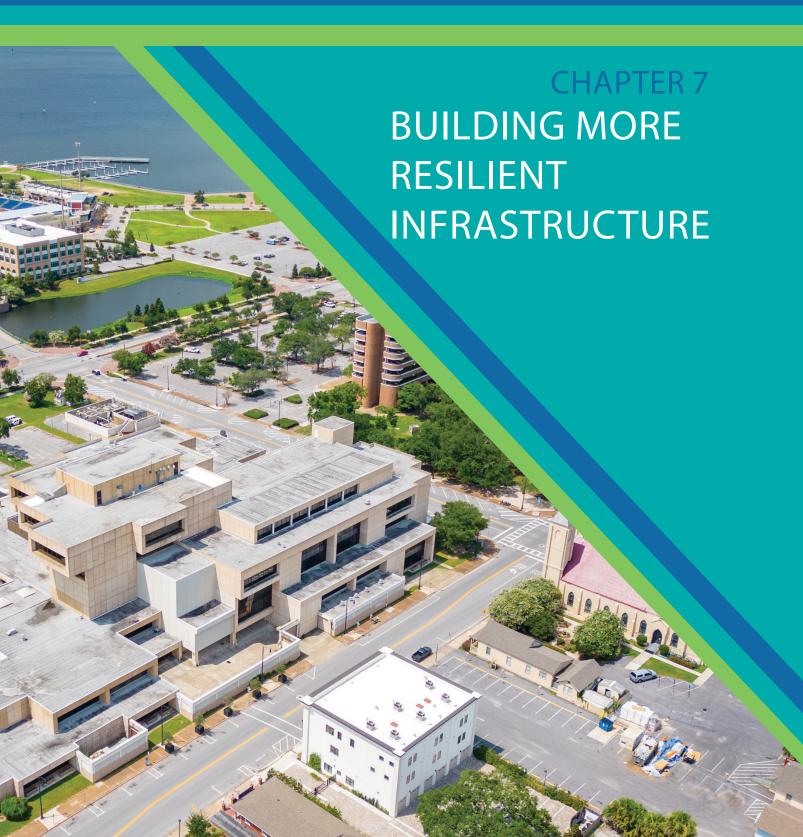
Table 20 summarizes the strategies that could be applied to serve these communities.

#### TABLE 20: STRATEGIES FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE UNDERSERVED

Strategy	Invest in Opportunity Zones	Access to Colleges and Universities	Households Living in Poverty	Medically Underserved	Food Insecure
Information Technology Solutions					
Expand Fixed Route Services					
Incentivize Shared ownership					
Promote Carpooling					
Incentivize TNCs					
Enhance Multilingual Services					
Incentivize Mobility for Remote Care					
Improve Access to Community Resources					

6-32 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 6-33





# **Building More Resilient Infrastructure**

## 7.1 Resilient Action Plan

An analysis was conducted to examine the exposure of roadway assets within the region to an array of flooding events. Flooding events considered included sea level rise projections for 2040, 2050, 2070, and 2100 for estimated 100 and 500-year flood events, and Category 1 through 5 hurricanes.

Map 25 shows the priorities identified in the FDOT's Resilient Action Plan.

# 7.2 Strategies and Tactics

Strategies and tactics for using smart technologies to create a more resilient infrastructure include:

Re-evaluating and improving building standards and regulations is one strategy to build more resilient infrastructure to protect its citizens and investors from the negative impacts of sea level rise. New data sources are needed to reflect these changing environments.

- Standards to set new minimum elevations for critical infrastructure such as traffic signal cabinets, sanitary sewer pump stations, and other infrastructure that can be damaged during flooding events.
- Rainfall intensity for storms that occur once every 5-years, 25-years, 50-years, or 100-years that are used in designing roads and ponds.

To develop the data needed to address these challenges, Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS) can be used to collect data on flooding events and provide engineers and planners with better information to assess design decisions.

Traveler information systems can also be used to identify when high winds occur. When wind bursts of 35 MPH or higher occur, high profile vehicles such as tractor-trailers are at-risk for being overturned. Locating weather sensors or working with other agencies to provide advance notification will result in safer travel.

#### MAP 25: RESILIENT ACTION PLAN STATE ROADWAYS AND BRIDGES

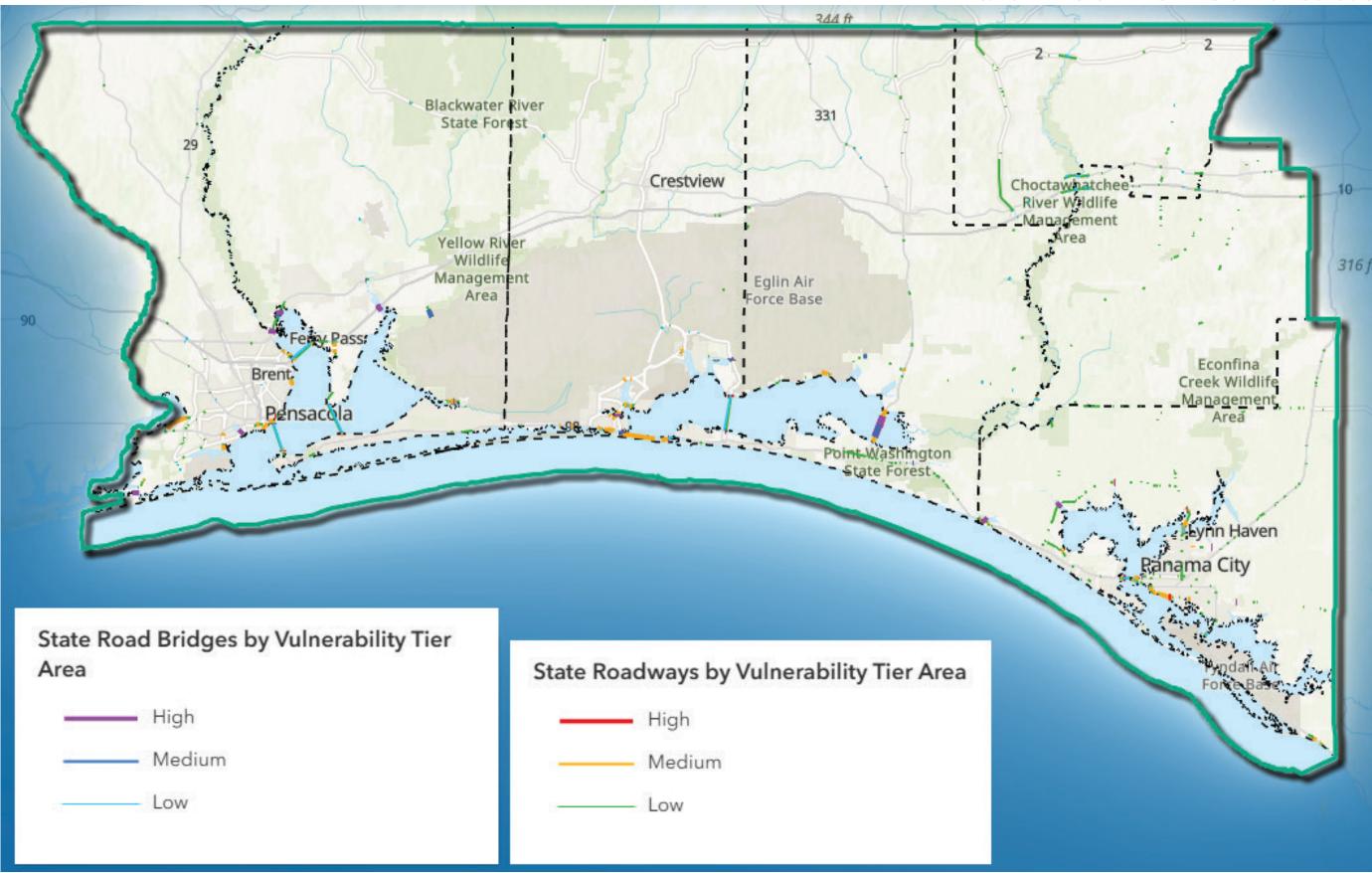


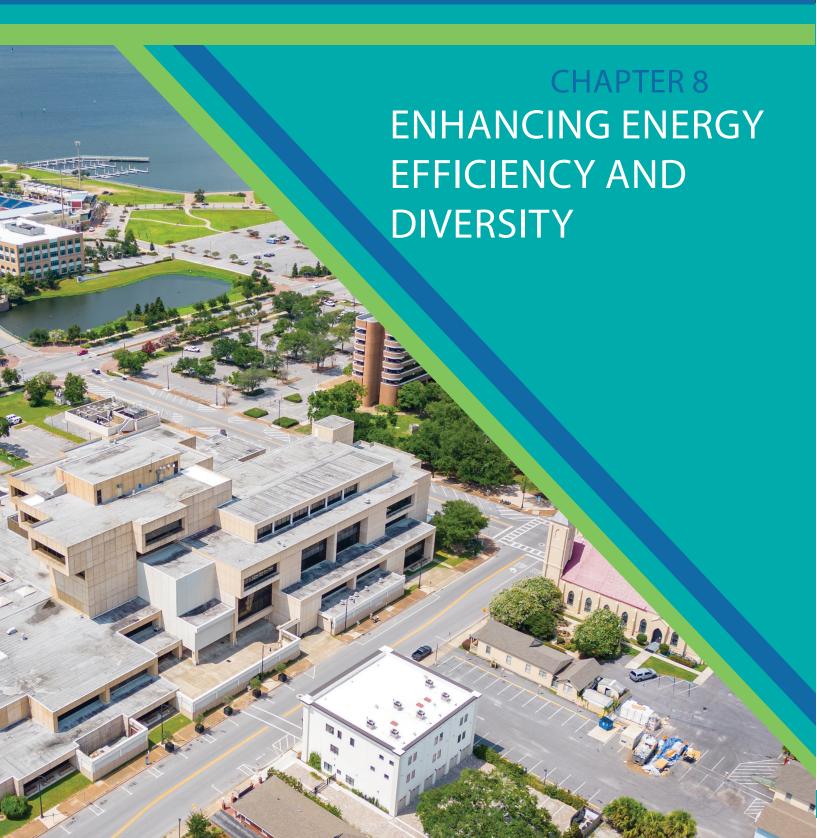
TABLE 21: RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNOLOGIES

County	Location	RWIS	Resilient Corridor Studies
Bay	SR-30/US-98 Bridge Over Philips Inlet		
Bay	SR-30/US-98 Hathaway Bridge Over Grand Lagoon		
Bay	SR-30/US-98 Tydall Parkway Bridge Over East Bay		
Bay	SR-79 Arnold Road from SR-30 Front Beach Road to CR-388; CR-388 from SR-79 to SR-77; SR-77 from CR-388 to North Bay Bridge		
Escambia	I-10 from US-90 to SR- 281		
Escambia	SR-10/US-90 from Alt. US-90 Davis Highway to Floridatown Road		
Escambia	SR-399 Pensacola Beach Boulevard Bridge Over Santa Rosa Sound		
Escambia	US-98 Pensacola Bay Bridge (General Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. Bridge)		
Escambia	US-98 Perido Bay Bridge		
Holmes/Washington	SR-10/US-98 Old Spanish Trail from Main Street to Wrights Creek Road		
Okaloosa	SR-283 Mid-Bay Toll Bridge Over Choctawhatchee Bay		
Okaloosa	SR-85 Eglin Parkway North Bridge Over Cinco Bayou		

#### TABLE 21: RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNOLOGIES CONT.

County	Location	RWIS	Resilient Corridor Studies
Okaloosa	SR-85 Eglin Parkway North Bridge Over Garnier Bayou		
Okaloosa	US-98 Bridge Over East Pass		
Okaloosa	US-98 Miracle Strip Parkway Bridge Over Santa Rosa Sound		
Regional	SR-30/US-98 Regional		
Santa Rosa	SR-281 Avalon Boulevard Bridge Over Pensacola Bay		
Santa Rosa	SR-399 Florida Scenic Trail Navarre Beach Bridge Over Santa Rosa Sound		
Walton	SR-81 Sampson Highway from SR-10/ US-90 to Reynolds Lane		
Walton	SR-83/US-331 Bridge Over Choctawhatchee Bay		





# **Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Diversity**

# 8.1 Need for Energy Efficiency and Diversity

Optimizing energy efficiency and diversity has the potential to achieve the following outcomes.

- Reduced costs of fueling, operating, and maintaining vehicles
- Improved operational performance (i.e., energy efficiency)
- Enhanced risk management (e.g., reduced-price volatility and/or supply volatility)
- Reduced dependence on foreign suppliers
- Economic development (e.g., infrastructure investment, new markets, etc.)
- Job creation
- Reduced nuisance (e.g., noise, odor, etc.)
- · Improved public health from improved air quality and reduced toxicity
- Better regulatory compliance
- Reduced toxicity (e.g., fuel spills and other accidents)
- Reduced local air pollution
- Decreased greenhouse gas emissions

# 8.2 National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program is a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Through this effort, two funding sources were created, a formula program with \$5B and a discretionary program with \$2.5B. The current focus of FDOT's NEVI program is on the formula funds.

EV charging infrastructure key considerations include:

- EV charging infrastructure must be public or to authorized commercial motor vehicle operators from more than one company.
- EV charging must be located along a designated Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC).
- States must prioritize charging locations along the Interstate Highway System.
- EV charging locations should be spaced at a maximum of 50 miles apart.
- States must prioritize charging locations along the Interstate Highway System.
- EV charging locations must meet certain power capabilities.
- States should prioritize rural, underserved, and disadvantaged communities for EV charging infrastructure.
- Sites should include access to with publicly restrooms, appropriate lighting, and sheltered seating areas

Florida's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan was published by FDOT in October 2023.

# 8.3 Strategies and Tactics

Electric vehicle chargers supply power to charge batteries for plug-in electric vehicles. There are numerous public charging network operators with thousands of public charging sites nationwide. Most of the network operators are profit driven and select charging sites based on the potential to generate revenue. Public agencies may have different priorities when selecting a public charging site, such as:

- Providing widespread access to public EV charging
- Filling gaps in charging network coverage
- Enabling residents to charge in locations convenient to their homes, schools, or workplaces
- Ensuring access to public chargers by lower-income residents and/or residents of multi-unit dwellings

Public agencies can also control the cost of charging at charging stations that they own and operate, which can further support access to electric vehicles for lower-income residents.

The need for public electric vehicle charging stations in the Emerald Coast community was examined via the following process:

- Identify and map existing public charging stations
- Identify and map indicators of community need, such as historically disadvantaged communities or multifamily housing communities
- Identify areas with a lack of public charging stations and high indicators of community need as priority areas for public charger deployment
- Within those priority areas, identify possible sites for public charger deployment

Map 26 shows the existing public charging stations throughout the region. Map 27 shows an example of the priority area selection process.

# 8.4 Candidate Projects for Energy Efficiency and Diversity Projects

Based on the analysis, the following priority areas were identified. Neighborhood names were assigned to each census tract based on the largest-area neighborhood in each tract according to Google Maps.

- Priority areas within Pensacola
  - Census tract 4: Westpointe Heritage
  - Census tract 21: Edgewater
  - Census tract 28.03: Pinehurst
  - Census tract 35.05: Oakhurst
  - Census tract 34: Pine Springs Estates
  - Census tract 35.09: Drummond Park
  - Census tract 35.10: Carlisle Unit
  - Census tract 11.04: Belvedere Park

- Census tract 35.06: Northpoint
- Priority areas within Panama City
  - Census tract 22: Bayside
  - Census tract 24: Bay View Addition
  - Census tract 23: Meadowbrook Estates
  - Census tract 16: Coastal Lands
  - Census tract 17: Old Orchard
  - Census tract 8.03: Northern Callaway

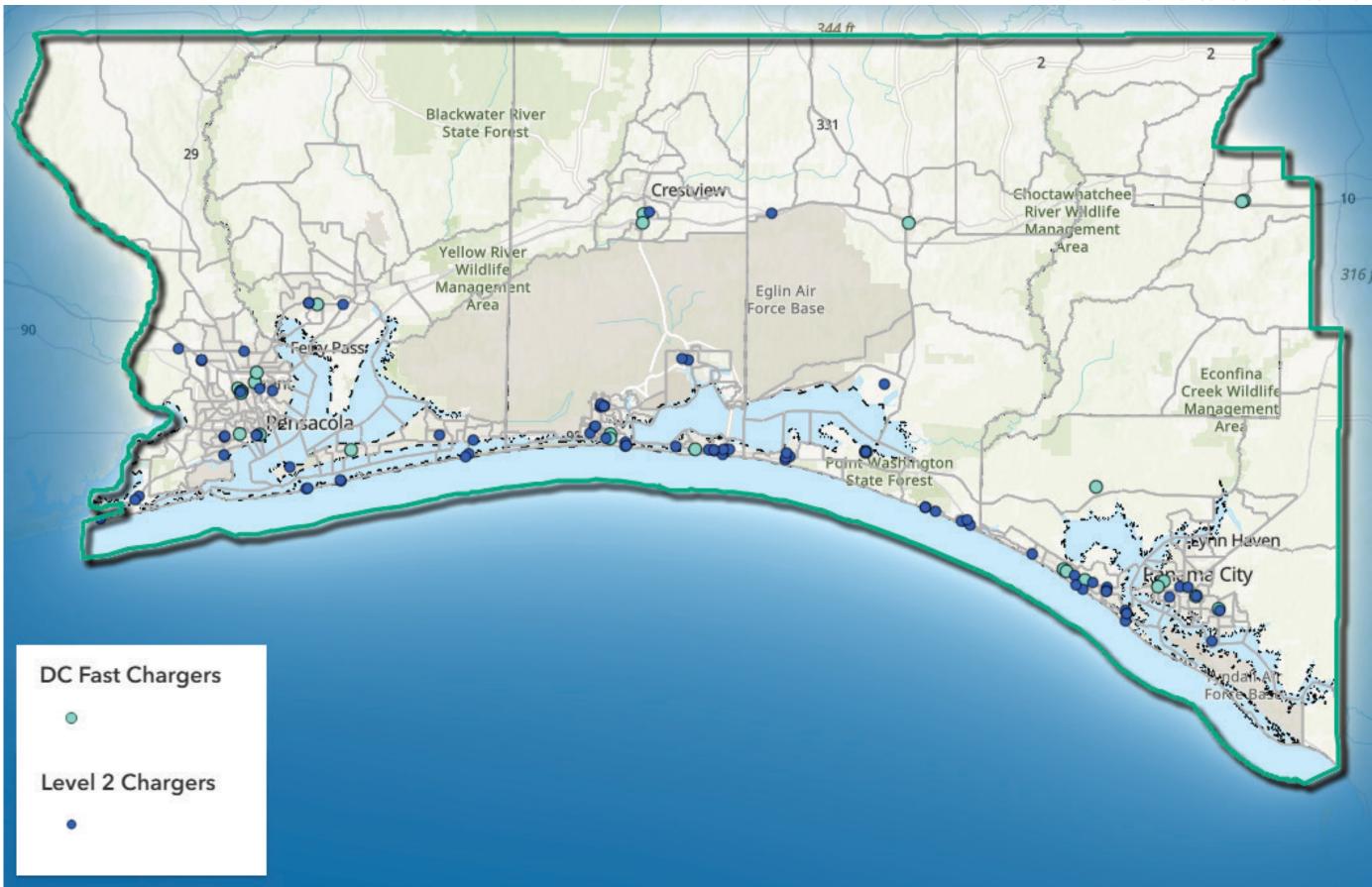
Although charger deployment can be costly, grants and incentives are available that support the deployment of public charging stations are available. Public-private partnerships with businesses in the priority areas should also be explored.

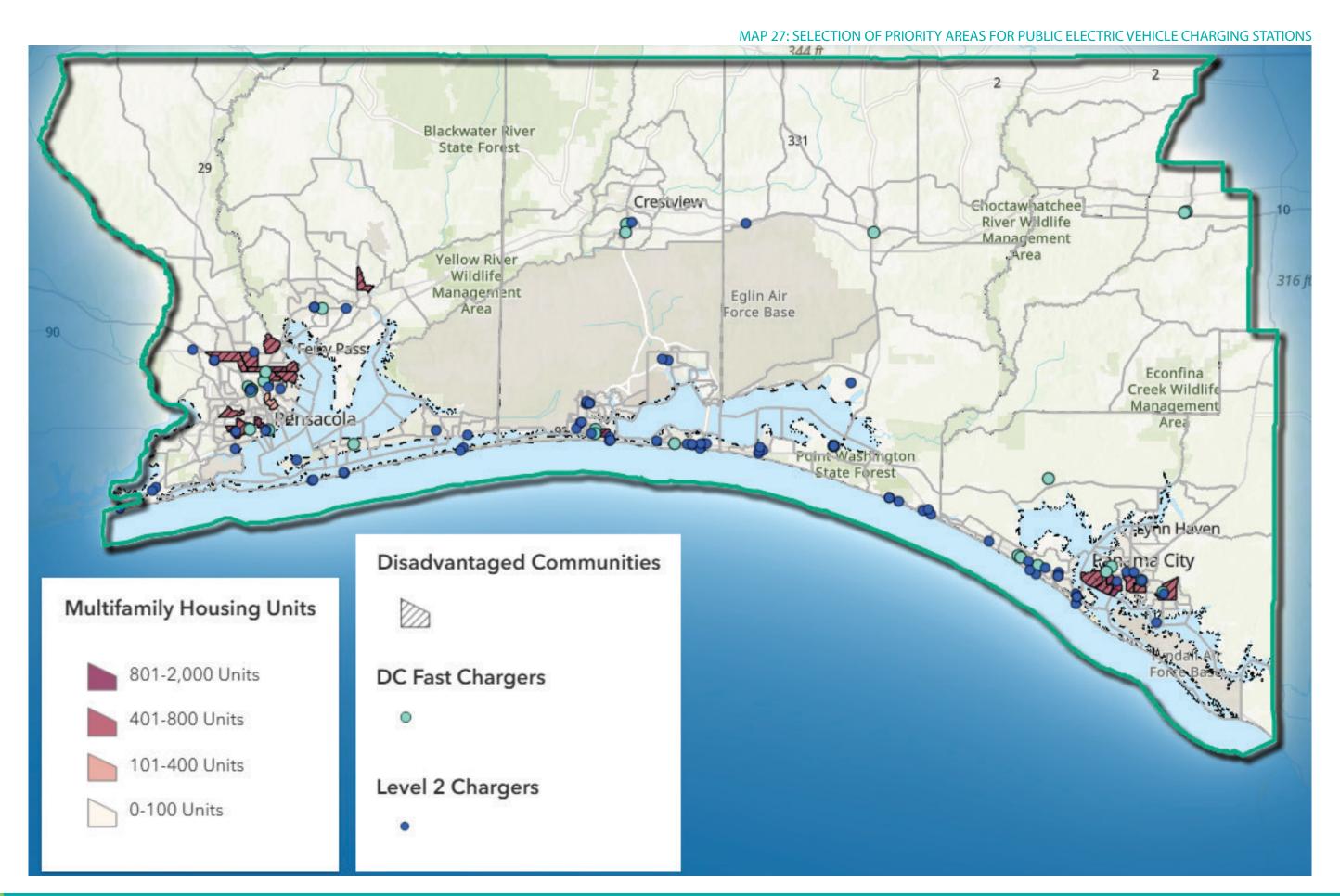
The following sites were then identified as possible public EV charging sites within the priority areas

- Fricker Community Center: 900 N F Street, Pensacola
- Grocery Advantage Shopping Center: 8084 N Davis Highway, Pensacola
- Oakland Terrace Recreation Center: 1900 W 11th Street, Panama City
- · Panama Plaza: 1328 15th Street, Panama City

#### MAP 26: EXISTING PUBLIC CHARGING STATION

8-5







# Leveraging Big Data

The Smart Regions Plan, underpinned by information and communication technologies, is a catalyst for change. Data platforms, a key element of this plan, enable us to compile, organize, and process vast data sets into accessible tools. These tools empower practitioners to anticipate system needs and make swift, informed decisions. Real-time data processing is instrumental in enhancing safety, reducing congestion, minimizing emissions, and improving overall quality of life, thereby bringing significant benefits to the region.

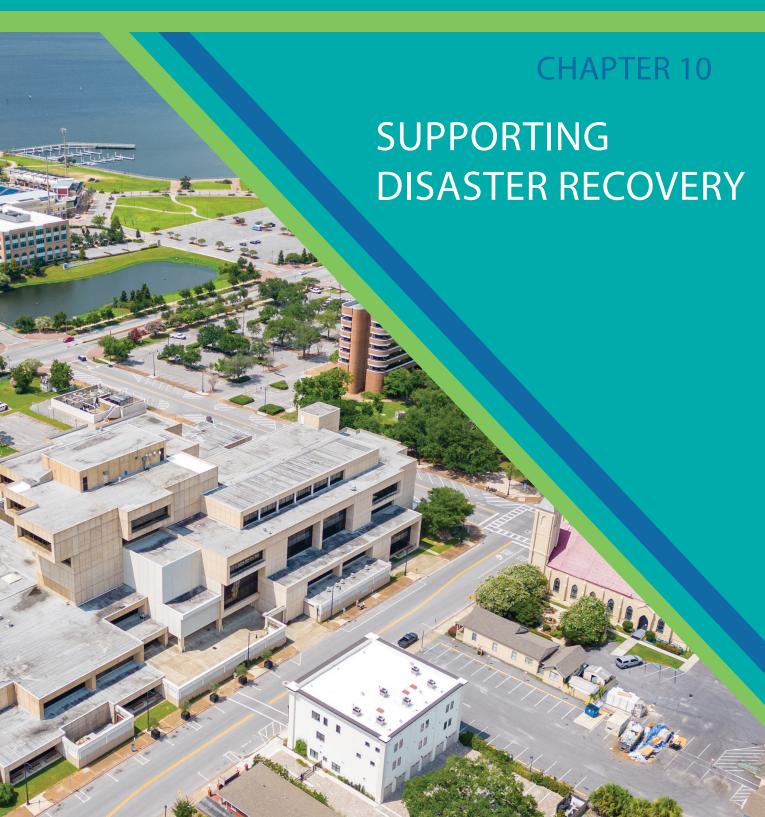
The Florida Alabama TPO is in the process of establishing a new traffic management center. This center, designed to house and aggregate intelligent transportation system information in a single location, is a pivotal step in our journey towards building a comprehensive data platform for the Emerald Coast.

Currently, 338 signals in the region are configured with MioVision hardware, a technology that allows users to access real-time data such as timing values, live camera feeds, and detector data. The region also benefits from fiber optic networks that provide traveler information and incident management services.

Data available through these technologies and other sources, such as RITIS, will be used to prepare a data platform that will be a cornerstone for the Smart Regions. The potential for the data platform is broad, but solutions will be developed to address the region's needs. Some of the potential solutions of the platform can include:

- · Congestion and traffic management
- Bottlenecks
- Signal optimization and priority systems
- Scenario-based planning
- Parking and curb management
- ATMS
- · Incident management
- Traveler information
- Queue warning systems
- Emergency vehicle prioritization systems





# Supporting Disaster Recovery

# 10.1 Background

56 of the 79 named tropical storms impacted the Emerald Coast as summarized in Table 22. An impact is defined as tropical storm force winds occurred within one of the counties within the ECRC planning boundary. Landfall could have occurred in another county. The storms are classified as:

- Tropical Wave 1
- Tropical Depression 1
- Tropical Storm 39
- Category 1 6
- Category 2 1
- Category 3 6
- Category 4 1
- Category 5 1

TABLE 22: HURRICANES IMPACTING THE EMERALD COAST SINCE 2000

Storm	Classification at Landfall in Emerald Coast	Year	Landfall Location	County
Helene	TS	2000	Fort Walton Beach	Walton
Gordon	TS	2000	Cedar Key	Levy
Helene	TS	2000	Pensacola	Escambia
Zeta	3	2000	Cocodrie, LA	-
Allison	TS	2001	Freeport, TX	
Barry	TS	2001	Santa Rosa Beach	Santa Rosa
Ida	3	2001	LaPlace, LA	-
Arthur	TW	2002	Panhandle	
Bertha	TS	2002	Boothville, LA	-
Hanna	TS	2,002	Alabama/Mississippi border	-
Isadore	TS	2002	Grand Isle, LA	-

#### TABLE 22: HURRICANES IMPACTING THE EMERALD COAST SINCE 2000 CONT.

	IAULL 22.	HOMMICANES IMPAC	THING THE EMENALD COAST	SINCE 2000 CONT.
Storm	Classification at Landfall in Emerald Coast	Year	Landfall Location	County
Lili	TS	2002	Intracoastal City, LA	-
Bill	TS	2003	Cocordrie, LA	-
Claudette	1	2003	Port O'Connor, TX	-
Bonnie	TS	2004	Apalachicola	Franklin
Frances	TS	2004	St. Marks*	Wakulla
Ivan	3	2004	West of Gulf Shores, Alabama*	Escambia
Matthew	TS	2004	Cocordrie, LA	-
Arlene	TS	2005	Pensacola	Escambia
Cindy	1	2005	Grand Isle, LA	-
Dennis	3	2005	Santa Rosa Island	Santa Rosa
Alberto	TS	2,006	Keaton Beach	Taylor
Ten	TD	2,007	Fort Walton Beach	Walton
Fay	TS	2,008	Carabelle	Franklin
Paloma	TS	2,008	Apalachicola	Wakulla
Claudette	TS	2,009	Santa Rosa Island	Santa Rosa
Ida	TS	2,009	Dauphine, AL	-
Five	TS	2,010	Pensacola	Escambia
Lee	TS	2,011	Grand Isle, LA	-
Debbie	TS	2012	Steinhatchee	Taylor
Andrea	TS	2013	Steinhatchee	Taylor
Karen	TS	2013	Panama City	Bay
-		2014		
-		2015		
Colin	TS	2016	Keaton Beach	Taylor
Hermine	1	2,016	St. Marks	Wakulla
Cindy	TS	2,017	Cameron, LA	-

10-2

#### TABLE 22: HURRICANES IMPACTING THE EMERALD COAST SINCE 2000 CONT.

Storm	Classification at Landfall in Emerald Coast	Year	Landfall Location	County
Harvey	TS	2014	Cameron, LA	-
Alberto	TS	2018	Laguna Beach	Bay
Gordon	TS	2,018	Pascagoula, MS	-
Michael	5	2,018	West of Mexico Beach	Bay
Barry	1	2,019	Intracoastal City, LA	-
Nestor	TS	2019	St. Vincent Island	Franklin
Cristobol	TS	2020	Pensacola	Escambia
Delta	3	2020	Creole, LA	-
Fay	TS	2,020	Panama City	Bay
Marco	1	2,020	No landfall	
Sally	2	2,020	Gulf Shores, AL	-
Zeta	TS	2,020	West Mobile, AL	-
Eta	TS	2020	Cedar Key	Levy
Caludette	TS	2021	Pensacola	Escambia
Elsa	TS	2021	Keaton Beach	Taylor
Fred	TS	2021	Mexico Beach	Bay
Mindy	TS	2021	St. Vincent Island	Franklin
Nicole	TS	2022	Cedar Key	Levy
Idalia	3	2023	Keaton Beach	Taylor
Debby	1	2024	Steinhatchee	Taylor
Helene	4	2024	Salem	Taylor

# **10.2 Strategies and Tactics**

Several of the smart city strategies and tactics previously identified support identifying (such as flood sensors) and providing traveler information services to reduce evacuation response and clearance times. Other strategies and tactics are also available.

## **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**

UAS, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) or drones are useful technologies to support all agencies during disaster recovery. These services include not just visual inspections but can be used to determine used to determine important intelligence more efficiently and effectively.

Drones can provide rapid service in emergencies, meaning they are the first to arrive at the location. Traditional first responders may take longer, especially in sites with difficult access. Drones can quickly and efficiently survey the area, provide information to emergency responders, and even perform specific tasks, such as delivering medical supplies or dropping water on a fire. Using drones as first responders can help save lives and reduce the impact of emergencies by providing immediate assistance and information. By being equipped with specialized sensors and tools, drones can provide real-time data to help emergency responders make informed decisions and allocate resources more effectively. <a href="https://votix.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/VOTIX-Drone-as-First-Responders-DFR.pdf">https://votix.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/VOTIX-Drone-as-First-Responders-DFR.pdf</a>

Drones can be used with Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) sensors to measure conditions in the field. A recent project completed by Smart North Florida leveraged drones equipped with LiDAR to estimate the cubic volume of eroded area for fill, the amount of asphalt effected, and length of guard rail effected by erosion/washout caused by a recent storm at six locations. This project demonstrated that the quantities needed can be estimated with an acceptable level of accuracy to deployment maintenance contractors to make repairs. An example is provided in Figure 33.

FIGURE 33: VOLUMETRIC FILL ESTIMATES USING DRONES





Drones can be used to estimate the volume of debris for removal during recovery efforts. Accurate estimates of the volume of debris are needed for federal reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Following Hurricane Ivan there were significant disputes between local agencies and FEMA.

Aerial and underwater structural inspections can also be performed using drones to reduce exposure of field personnel to potential unsafe conditions. These inspections can apply to

- Bridges
- Buildings
- Roadways
- Overhead electrical and other utilities

Drones can also be used to provide equipment such as defibrillators. Emergency medical delivery services are being piloted throughout the nation and in the Netherlands to deliver defibrillators to heart attack patients when emergency vehicles can not arrive. For each minute after 8-minutes assistance is not provided during a heart attack, survival rates drop by 10% or more. (See <a href="https://www.skydio.com/customer-stories/anderson-pd-drone-to-help-monitor-heart-attack-response">https://www.skydio.com/customer-stories/anderson-pd-drone-to-help-monitor-heart-attack-response</a>)

#### **Digital Twins**

Digital twins are virtual models of systems. Developing and maintaining digital twins can be expensive but can provide benefits during emergencies by having a strong baseline of information to assess changes.





# Bringing It All Together

The ECRC's vision is to leverage smart technologies to enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors. This Smart Region Plan focuses on the following use cases to leverage information technologies to enhance quality of life.

This smart region plan focuses on identifying smart region technologies that meet specific project needs that were identified through data analysis and stakeholder coordination. The focus is on proposing technologies that will meet these goals on a focused network selected based on the frequency of fatalities and serious injuries.

Tables 23, 24, and 25 summarize the locations, strategies, and tactics proposed in this plan. In total, 105 locations have been identified. Table 23 represents the 52 locations that are present on the ECRC Safety Action Plan's High Injury Network. The 44 locations listed in Table 24 are not part of the High Injury Network. Table 25 features 9 locations where the rollout of strategies and tactics will be regionwide. Additional engineering and studies are needed to determine the feasibility.

# 11.1 Index of Strategies and Tactics

A variety of strategies and tactics have been recommended throughout this plan to address the transportation challenges faced by the Emerald Coast. These strategies and tactics rely on technology, integrated communication, and data collection to provide adaptive, responsive, and effective solutions. By employing these strategies, the Emerald Coast can achieve the connectivity, safety, mobility, resiliency, and sustainable energy goals necessary to maintain an effective and functional transportation network for all citizens.

An Index of Strategies and Tactics can be found below that describes the recommendations of in this plan. Each term is defined and provides an overview of the strategies and tactics that may be implemented regionwide, by local jurisdictions, or by other stakeholder organizations to achieve the Emerald Coast's Smart Region goals. The Index is divided by color, with each color corresponding to a different category. The categories may be found below.

- Fiber Connectivity
- Safety
- Mobility
- Resiliency
- Energy

#### FIBER CONNECTIVITY

Fiber optic connectivity is utilized as communications infrastructure to transmit data quickly over great distances. Within the Emerald Coast, fiber connectivity is the backbone of smart region technology. Technologies such as CCTV, VDS, Roadside Traveler Information, DMS, and other technological improvements are entirely reliant on fiber connectivity. Ensuring that fiber connectivity is robust along core corridors will allow the Emerald Coast to facilitate technology rollout needed to achieve a Smart Region.



# **VULNERABLE ROAD USERS**

VRUs include bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorcyclists who utilized the roadway without the protection of a vehicle. In the Emerald Coast, VRU crashes far exceed the national average, illustrating the need for swift action in the region. A number of strategies and actions may be undertaken to enhance roadway safety for VRUs.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon

In-Pavement Crosswalk Lighting

Connected Vehicle to Vulnerable Road Users System

Rectangular Rapid Flashing
Beacons

Automated Detection
Systems



Bicycle Loop Detector
Bicycle Video Detection
Microwave Radar Detection
Bicycle Detection Confirmation System

# **SPEED MANAGEMENT**

Within the Emerald Coast, speeding was involved in 36% of fatal and serious injury crashes. Speeding also contributed to crashes where the motorist lost control of the vehicle and left the roadway. Countermeasures to reduce speeding should be implemented to address these trends and reduce crashes overall.

Dynamic Speed Feedback
Signs

Dynamic Curve Warning
System

In-Pavement Lights Through
Curves

Variable Speed Limit Signs



# **CONGESTION AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT**

A variety of tools may be utilized to ease congestion and bottlenecks in major corridors within the Emerald Coast.

Surveillance and Incident Management Systems

Advanced Traveler Information Systems

Active Traffic Management Systems

**Transit Signal Priority** 

**Dynamic Detours** 

**Queue Warning Systems** 

Parking and Curb Management

Performance Based Dynamic Parking Pricing
Smart Loading Zones



-2 ECRC SMART REGIONS PLAN 11-3

# **BASE ACCESS STRATEGIES**

The Department of Defense is the largest direct employer within the Emerald Coast, with a number of military installations existing within the region. Ensuring that direct and efficient access to these military installations is maintained is of paramount importance for regular operations and scenarios requiring urgent response.

Arterial Traveler Information
Systems

Priority Phase During Quick Response Scenarios

Temporary Alternative Gate Configuration



# **MOBILITY FOR THE UNDERSERVED**

Several strategies may be undertaken to enhance transportation for historically underserved populations.

Expand Fixed Route Service

**Incentivize Shared Vehicles** 

Incentivize Transportation
Network Companies

Incentivize Mobility for Remote Care



## ROAD WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS) are data collection systems that can be used to consolidate data on flooding events within the Emerald Coast. This data can be utilized to provide engineers and planners with better information to assess design decisions and improve building standards to create more resilient infrastructure. RWIS may also be used to inform decisions about standards relating to new minimum elevations for critical infrastructure, including roadway and sewage infrastructure.



# **RESILIENT CORRIDOR STUDY**

RCS can be utilized to identify weaknesses within the transportation system. Within the Emerald Coast, RCS may focus on the exposure of roadways assets to flooding events, whether from rain events, hurricanes, or sea-level rise projections. Corridor studies may be implemented to prepare and fortify roadways for future conditions.



# **EV CHARGING**

Electric vehicle usage has a myriad of benefits, including reduction in fossil fuel usage, increased energy efficiency, reduced demand for foreign fuels, decreased air pollution, reduction in vehicle noise, and a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. Ensuring that EV charging infrastructure is widely available within the Emerald Coast region can support the adoption of electric vehicles. Charging infrastructure should be public or managed by authorized commercial motor vehicle operators, and should be located near AFCs or the Interstate Highway System to support motorists' charging needs. Gaps in existing charging infrastructure should be addressed to support EV readiness, and locations that lack infrastructure should be considered high-priority.



THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

# Smart Regions Locations also on the High Injury Network

#### TABLE 23: HIN SUMMARY OF NEEDS

										IADLL	23. 1111 3	JMMARY	OF NEEDS
County	Corridor	From	То	Fiber Connectivity	Vulnerable Road Users	Speed Management	Congestion and Incident Management	Base Access Strategies	Mobility for Underserved	RWIS	Corridor	EV Charging	Analytics Platform
Bay	CR-388	SR-79	SR-77										
Bay	SR-30	US-98 (Carllton Beach)	SR-30A/US-98 Front Beach Road										
Bay	SR-30/US-98	Bridge Over	Philips Inlet										
Bay	SR-30/US-98 (Tyndall AFB)	US-231 Harrison Avenue	Tyndall AFB Gate										
Bay	SR-30/US-98 Hathaway Bridge	Over Grand Lagoon											
Bay	SR-30A/US-98 Panama City Beach Parkway	SR-79 Arnold Road	SR-75/US-231 Harrison Road										
Bay	SR-368 NW 23rd Street	Harrison Avenue	US-231										
Bay	SR-79 Arnold Road	SR-30 Front Beach Road	CR-388										
Bay	Thomas Drive	Crescent Drive	Beach Access										
Escambia	Palafox Street	Main Street	Cervantes Street										
Escambia	SR-10/Alt. US-90 9-Mile Road	Beulah Road	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail										
Escambia	SR-10/Alt. US-90 9-Mile Road	Bowman Avenue	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail										
Escambia	SR-10A/US-90 Mobile Highway	SR-297 Pine Forest Road	SR-295 Fairfield Drive										
Escambia	SR-10/US-90	Alt. US-90 Davis Highway	Floridatown Road										
Escambia	SR-10/US-90 N. Davis Highway	Scenic Highway	Pea Ridge Connector										

#### TABLE 23: HIN SUMMARY OF NEEDS CONT.

												TI OI IVEL	
County	Corridor	From	То	Fiber Connectivity	Vulnerable Road Users	Speed Management	Congestion and Incident Management	Base Access Strategies	Mobility for Underserved	RWIS	Corridor	EV Charging	Analytics Platform
Escambia	SR-291 Davis Highway	SR-295 Fairfield Drive	SR-296 Brent Lane										
Escambia	SR-291 Davis Highway	SR-296 Brent Lane	SR-10/US-90 Scenic Highway										
Escambia	SR-291 MLK Parkway	SR-30/US-98 Cervantes Street	SR-295 Fairfield Drive										
Escambia	SR-295 Navy Boulevard/Duncan Road	Bayou Grand Bridge	SR-30/US-98										
Escambia	SR-295 Navy Boulevard/Duncan Road	Radford Boulevard	SR-292 Gulf Beach Highway										
Escambia	SR-296 Brent Lane	SR-95/US-29 Palafox Street	SR-95 Pensacola Boulevard										
Escambia	SR-296 Michigan Avenue	SR-10/US-90 Mobile Highway	Pipeline Road										
Escambia	SR-399 Pensacola Beach Boulevard	Bridge Over Santa Rosa Sound											
Escambia	SR-95 Pensacola Boulevard	W Street	SR-296 Brent Lane										
Escambia	SR-95/US-29 Palafox Street	Cervantes Street	SR-752 Texar Drive										
Holmes	SR-81 Samson Highway	SR-10/US-90	Reynolds Lane										
Holmes/ Washington	SR-10/US-90 Old Spanish Trail	Main Street	Wrights Creek Road										
Okaloosa	CR-2	SR-189 Beal Parkway N	Old River Road										
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98	Timberlake Drive	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail										
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98 Miracle Strip Parkway	Cedar Avenue	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail										

#### TABLE 23: HIN SUMMARY OF NEEDS CONT.

									17 (5	EE 23.1111	JOIVIIVII (I	TO THEE	D3 CONT.
County	Corridor	From	То	Fiber Connectivity	Vulnerable Road Users	Speed Management	Congestion and Incident Management	Base Access Strategies	Mobility for Underserved	RWIS	Corridor	EV Charging	Analytics Platform
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98 Miracle Strip Parkway	Santa Rosa County Line	Walton County Line										
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98 Miracle Strip Parkway	SR-393 Mary Ester Boulevard	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail										
Okaloosa	SR-85 Eglin Parkway	Bridge Over	Garnier Bayou										
Okaloosa	MLK Jr. Boulevard (Hurlburt Field)	CR-562 (Commercial Gate)	SR-189 Lewis Turner Boulevard										
Okaloosa	SR-85 Eglin Parkway (Eglin AFB)	Garnier Bayou Bridge	SR-397 W John Simms Parkway										<u> </u>
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98	Bridge Over	East Pass										
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98 (Hurlburt Field)	Cody Avenue (Main Gate)	Interchange										
Santa Rosa	Hamilton Bridge Road	Cora Street	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail										
Santa Rosa	Hamilton Bridge Road	Oakleaf Drive	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail										
Santa Rosa	SR-10/US-90 Caroline Street	Avalon Boulevard	Ward Basin Road										
Santa Rosa	SR-30/ US-98 Navarre Parkway	Sunrise Drive	Rosewood Drive										
Santa Rosa	SR-30/US-98	SR-281 Avalon Boulevard	Okaloosa County Line										
Santa Rosa	SR-30/US-98 Gulf Breeze Parkway	Tiger Point Boulevard	Sunrise Drive										
Santa Rosa	SR-30/US-98 Gulf Breeze Parkway	General Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. Bridge	Gondolier Boulevard										
Santa Rosa	SR-281 Avalon Boulevard	Bridge Over	Pensacola Bay										
Santa Rosa	SR-30/US-98 Gulf Breeze Parkway	General Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. Bridge	East Bay										

#### TABLE 23: HIN SUMMARY OF NEEDS CONT.

					þ								
County	Corridor	From	То	Fiber Connectivity	Vulnerable Road Users	Speed Management	Congestion and Incident Management	Base Access Strategies	Mobility for Underserved	RWIS	Corridor	EV Charging	Analytics Platform
Santa Rosa	SR-4	CR-399 County Mill Road	SR-87										
Walton	Black Creek Road	Philips Drive	SR-20										
Walton	SR-10/US-90 E Nelson Avenue	N Park Street	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail										
Walton	SR-30/US-98	Okaloosa County Line	CR-30A (Santa Rosa Beach)										
Regional	SR-30/US-98	Georgia State Line	Gulf County Line										

										ADLL 24. IV		UMIMANT	OF NEEDS
County	Corridor	From	То	Fiber Connectivity	Vulnerable Road Users	Speed Management	Congestion and Incident Management	Base Access Strategies	Mobility for Underserved	RWIS	Corridor	EV Charging	Analytics Platform
Bay	SR-30/US-98 Tyndall Parkway	Bridge Over East Bay											
Bay	SR-77	CR-388	North Bay Bridge										
Bay	Public EV Charging	Bayside											
Bay	Public EV Charging	Bay View Addition											
Bay	Public EV Charging	Meadowbrook Estates											
Bay	Public EV Charging	Coastal Lands											
Bay	Public EV Charging	Old Orchard											
Bay	Public EV Charging	Northern Callaway											
Escambia/ Santa Rosa	I-10	SR-10/IUS-90	SR-281										
Escambia	I-10	SR-297 Pine Forest Road	SR-95/US-29 Pensacola Boulevard										
Escambia	I-110	I-10 EB On Ramp											
Escambia	I-110	I-10 WB On Ramp											
Escambia	SR-173 Blue Angel Parkway	CR-292A Gulf Beach Parkway	Radford Boulevard										
Escambia	SR-295 Fairfield Drive	SR-10A/US-90 Mobile Highway	SR-752 Texar Drive										
Escambia	SR-296 Beverly Parkway	Pipeline Road	SR-95/US-29 Palafox Street										
Escambia	SR-95 Pensacola Boulevard	Kingsfield Road	9 & Half Mile Road										
Escambia	Parking Information System	Downtown											

## TABLE 24: NON-HIN SUMMARY OF NEEDS CONT.

County	Corridor	From	То	Fiber Connectivity	Vulnerable Road Users	Speed Management	Congestion and Incident Management	Base Access Strategies	Mobility for Underserved	RWIS	Corridor	EV Charging	Analytics Platform
				Co	Vuln	Ma	CC an	Ba	U M		)	EV	A F
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Westpoint Heritage											
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Edgewater											
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Pinehurst											
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Osceola County Club Estates											
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Oakhurst											
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Pine Springs Estates											
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Drummond Park											
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Carlisle Unit											
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Belvedere Park											
Escambia	Public EV Charging	Northpoint											
Okaloosa	SR-10/US-90 James Lee Boulevard	CR-188/Enzor Road	Unfunded Gap SUN Trail										
Okaloosa	SR-189 Beal Parkway N	SR-393 Mary Ester Boulevard	Lewis Street										
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98 Miracle Strip Parkway	Santa Rosa Boulevard	Programmed SUN Trail										
Okaloosa	SR-85 (7th Special Forces)	McWhorter Avenue	Interchange										
Okaloosa	SR-293 Mid-Bay Tollway	Bridge Over	Choctawhatchee Bay										
Okaloosa	SR-85 Eglin Parkway	Bridge Over	Cinco Bayou										
Okaloosa	SR-397 Eglin Boulevard (Eglin AFB)	SR-85 Eglin Parkway	SR-85 John Sims Parkway										

#### TABLE 24: NON-HIN SUMMARY OF NEEDS CONT.

									TABLE 24	: NON-HIN	I SUMMAI	RY OF NEE	DS CONT.
County	Corridor	From	То	Fiber Connectivity	Vulnerable Road Users	Speed Management	Congestion and Incident Management	Base Access Strategies	Mobility for Underserved	RWIS	Corridor	EV Charging	Analytics Platform
Okaloosa	SR-30/US-98 Miracle Strip	Bridge Over	Santa Rosa Sound										
Okaloosa	Parking Information System												
Okaloosa	CR-30A	Retreat Drive/Triggerfish Street	SUN Trail										
Santa Rosa	SR-399 Florida Scenic Trail	Bridge Over	Santa Rosa Sound										
Santa Rosa	Parking Information System												
Walton	CR-181	SR-83	SR-2										
Walton	Hurlburt Field Commercial Gate	Gate Improvements	Quick Response Force Scenarios										
Walton	I-10	SR-285	SR-83/US-331										
Walton	SR-83/US-331	Bridge Over	Choctawhatchee Bay										
Walton	Parking Information System												

Regional Locations

#### TABLE 25: REGIONAL SUMMARY OF NEEDS

									I <i>F</i>	NBLE 25: RE	GIONAL S	UMMARY	OF NEEDS
County	Corridor	From	То	Fiber Connectivity	Vulnerable Road Users	Speed Management	Congestion and Incident Management	Base Access Strategies	Mobility for Underserved	RWIS	Corridor	EV Charging	Analytics Platform
Regional	Enhance Multilingual Services												
Regional	Expand Fixed Route Services												
Regional	Improve Access to Community Resources												
Regional	Incentivize Mobility for Remote Care												
Regional	Incentivize Shared ownership												
Regional	Incentivize TNCs												
Regional	Information Technology Solutions												
Regional	Promote Carpooling												
Regional	Big Data Analytics Platform												

# MAP 28: SMART REGIONS LOCATIONS ALSO ON THE HIGH INJURY NETWORK Blackwater River State Forest 331 Crestview Choctawhatchee River Wildlife Yellow River Wildlife Management Area Eglin Air Force Base 90] Econfina Creek Wildlife Management Area Ranama City Smart Regions Locations also on the High Injury Network Fiber Connectivity Vulnerable Road Users Speed Management Congestion and Incident Management Base Access Strategies **RWIS** Corridor

