

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

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Chautauqua Building

95 Circle Drive, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

GoToWebinar:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2001746025714608983>

Call To Order

Welcome and Introductions - Chair, Jeff Massey

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Recommendation of the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Project Ranking**
Roshita Taylor, ECRC Staff
- 2. Recommendation of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Ranking**
Roshita Taylor, ECRC Staff
- 3. Emerald Coast Smart Regions Plan**
Jill Nobles, ECRC Staff

PRESENTATIONS

- 4. Project Priorities Schedule**
Gary Kramer, ECRC Staff

INFORMATION PACKET

- Environmental Review: Holmes County Project Gateway

ADJOURNMENT

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

Introduzca la participación del público se solicita, sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. La OPC hará arreglos razonables para el acceso a esta reunión de acuerdo con el Americanas with Disabilities Act, y para los requisitos de idioma que no sea Inglés. Notifique a la Annie Arguello (annie.arguello@ecrc.org) de los requisitos de acceso o el idioma en el 850-332-7976 ext. 278 o 1-800-955-8771 para TTY- Florida al menos 48 horas de antelación.

RRTP TAC Agenda Item Number: 1

SUBJECT: Recommendation of the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Project Ranking

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside provides funding for programs and projects consistent with Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act under 23 U.S.C. 133(h). These set-aside funds include all projects and activities defined as TA: on - and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation, community improvement activities, environmental mitigation, and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of formerly divided highways.

FDOT Guidance: FDOT District 3 issued guidance on the 2025 TA Set-Aside cycle for the Fiscal Year 2027 – 2031 Tentative Work Program on November 1, 2024. The guidance specified ECRC may submit up to five (5) prioritized projects from the ECRC rural area.

The following four projects submitted will be ranked and submitted to FDOT:

- City of Bonifay – SR 79 Shared-Use Path (from Thomas Drive to US 90)
- City of Century – Complete Streets Master Plan
- City of Century – Freedom Road Safety Enhancement Project (from 700 Freedom Road to 742 Freedom Road)
- Walton County – Lake Jackson Multi-Use Path Phase 2 (along Lake Drive and Lake Road to SR 85)

Final 2025 TA applications and project evaluation worksheets may be found under the Transportation Alternatives dropdown menu at:

https://www.ecrc.org/programs/transportation_planning/northwest_florida_regional_tpo/plans_and_documents.php#outer-708

ECRC Submittal: Following action by the ECRC, final priority ranking is due to FDOT on April 25, 2025. ECRC staff will submit the final ranking from the TPO to FDOT.

Attached:

- Project Scores and Ranking
- Project Locations Maps

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Recommendation of the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Project Ranking. Please contact Roshita Taylor, ECRC staff, at roshita.taylor@ecrc.org or 850-332-7976 ext. 207 or Tanya Branton, FDOT staff, at Tanya.Branton@dot.state.fl.us if additional information is needed.



**FY 2027-2031 Rural Transportation Alternatives (TA)
Set-Aside Program Priority List**

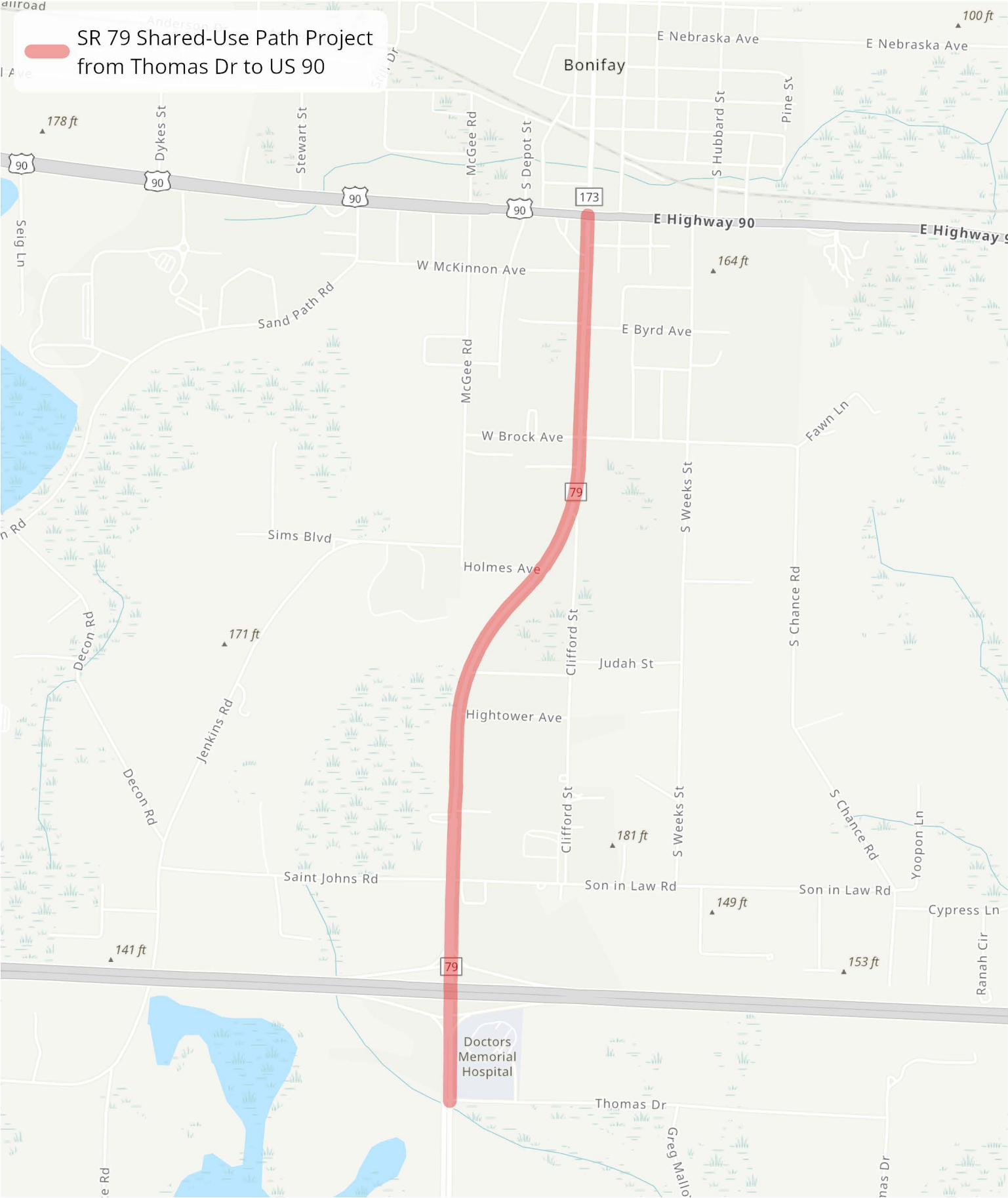
Jurisdiction (Alphabetical)	Project	Requested \$	Applicant Score	Final Score
Town of Century	Town of Century Complete Streets Master Plan	Preliminary Engineering/ Design, Construction, CEI, Other \$125,000	4	4
Town of Century	Freedom Ave	Preliminary Engineering/ Design, Construction, CEI, Other \$1,500,000	4	4
Walton County	Lake Jackson Multi-Use Path Ph. 2	Preliminary Engineering Design \$286,000	5	5
City of Bonifay	State Rd 79 Waukesha St. Shared Use Path	All Phases except ROW \$2.8 million	5	5

Top Ranked TA Projects to Submit to FDOT

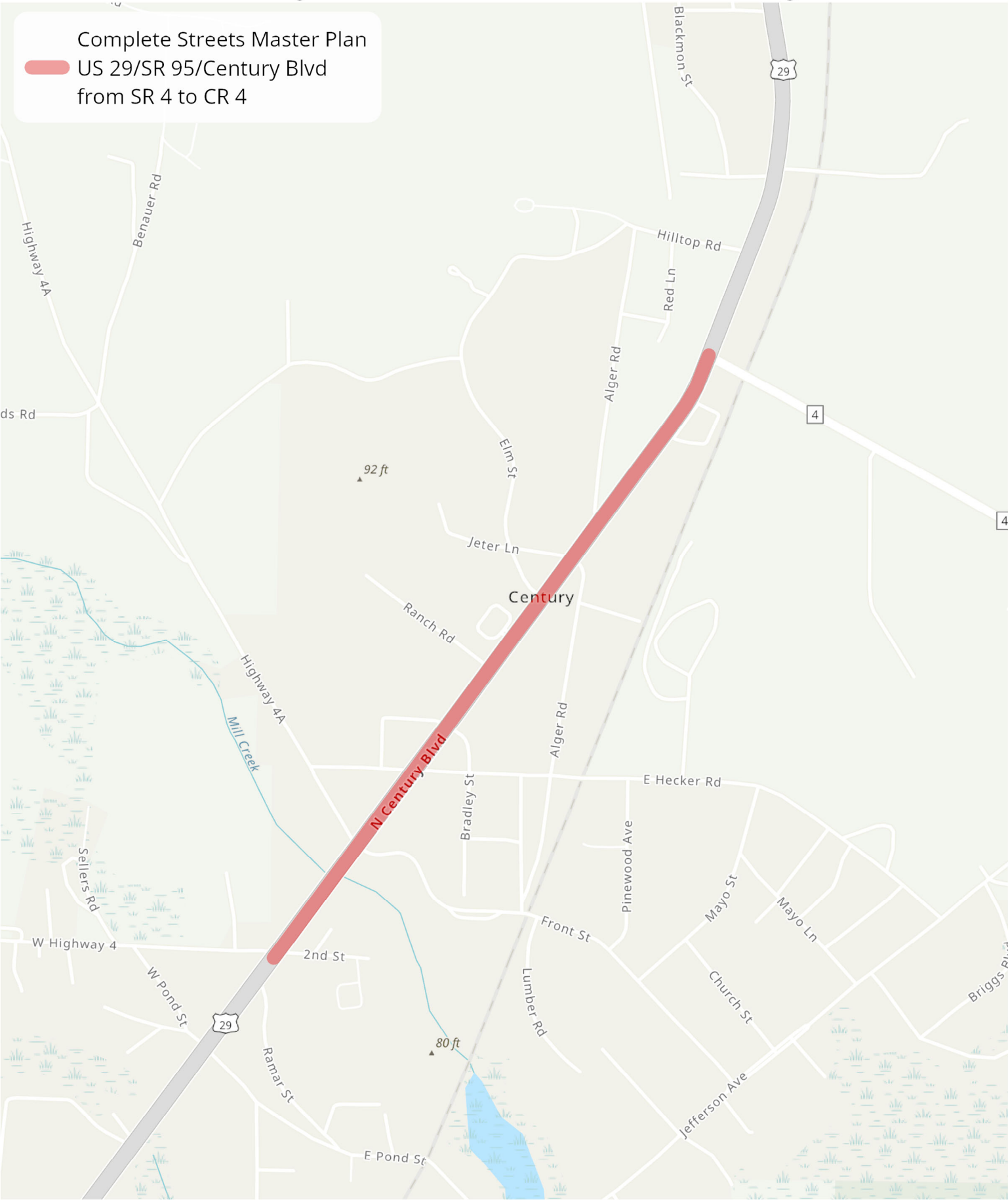
Lake Jackson Multi-Use Path Ph. 2	*1
State Rd. 79 Waukesha St.	2
Town of Century Complete Streets Master Plan	*3
Freedom Ave	4

**** In the event there is a tie in scoring the lowest cost project will take priority.***

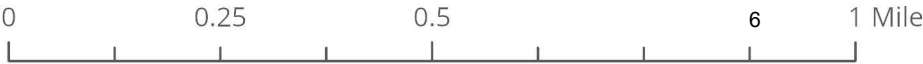
Rural Area - TA Project Locations - City of Bonifay



Rural Area - TA Project Locations - Town of Century



Rural Area - TA Project Locations - Town of Century



Rural Area - TA Project Locations - Walton County



RRTP TAC Agenda Item Number: 2

SUBJECT: Recommendation of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Ranking

ECRC is the designated Regional Transportation Area to serve the regional needs of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Washington, and Holmes counties. ECRC receives applications for TRIP projects and prioritizes them for submission to the FDOT when funds are available. Only projects on the regional network for the seven counties qualify for these funds through the ECRC.

Three (3) TRIP applications were submitted. Projects are listed in alphabetical order by local jurisdiction:

- Bay County – Pipeline Road Extension – Country Lake Drive to Nehi Road
The proposed project is described by the applicant as accomplishing the following:

The proposed project includes the design, construction, and construction engineering and inspection (CEI), of the Pipeline Road Extension Project. Work is to include, but not be limited to, the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimate package as a precursor to the advertisement and award of the eventual roadway construction project that will extend from just west of Amanda Circle on Country Lake Dr to Nehi Rd via Rainforest Rd and Henderson Rd (the latter two of which are existing dirt roadways). Upon completion, the project will result in a new two-lane asphalt roadway with paved shoulders in accordance with prevailing FDOT standards and specifications.

The project will improve regional mobility within the Regional Transportation Area (RTA) by constructing a connector (essentially a bypass) between two significant collector roadways (Pipeline Road and Nehi Road), both of which intersect the major arterial roadway of SR 75 (US 231). The project will enhance the movement of persons, goods, and services along the overall roadway network by providing additional roadway network capacity and will also provide for an alternate route and reduced travel times by emergency vehicles when necessary.

- Okaloosa County – Around the Mound Design
The proposed project is described by the applicant as accomplishing the following:

Design the preferred alternative identified by the Around the Mound PD&E Study (Financial Project Identification Number: 220260-3-22-01)

The purpose of this project is to address existing and future vehicular capacity and safety issues on US 98 as well as the high volumes of regional and commuter traffic traveling through downtown Fort Walton Beach. This project is needed to increase the capacity of US 98 to accommodate current and future traffic and to reduce regional and commuter traffic through downtown Fort Walton Beach.

- Washington County – Greenhead Road Phase 1

The proposed project is described by the applicant as accomplishing the following:

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners desires to construct a new asphalt roadway on the currently graded Greenhead Road from SR 77 to Shaffer Dr. for a total project length of 1.25 miles. Greenhead Road is a major feeder road that traverses between SR 77 and Porter Pond Road in Washington County and provides access to the Econfina Creek Water Management Area. The existing right-of-way from the Washington County Property Appraisers website measures approximate 65'. The scope of services for Greenhead Road will include construction and construction engineering and inspection constructing a new asphalt roadway with two 11' travel lanes and 8' wide grassed shoulders. The proposed project will include drainage improvements.

The funding will be used to pave the beginning portion of Greenhead Road from SR-77 to Shaffer Drive. The paving of Greenhead Road will help divert traffic from Highway 20 to Highway 77 S Washington County. This will help cut the extra drive time and eliminate going into Bay County on North 77.

Final 2025 TRIP applications and project evaluation worksheets may be found under the Transportation Alternatives dropdown menu at:

https://www.ecrc.org/programs/transportation_planning/northwest_florida_regional_tpo/plans_and_documents.php#outer-708

ECRC Submittal: Following action by the ECRC, the final priority ranking is due to FDOT on April 25, 2025. ECRC staff will submit the final ranking from the ECRC to FDOT.

Attached:

- Project Scores and Ranking
- Project Locations Maps

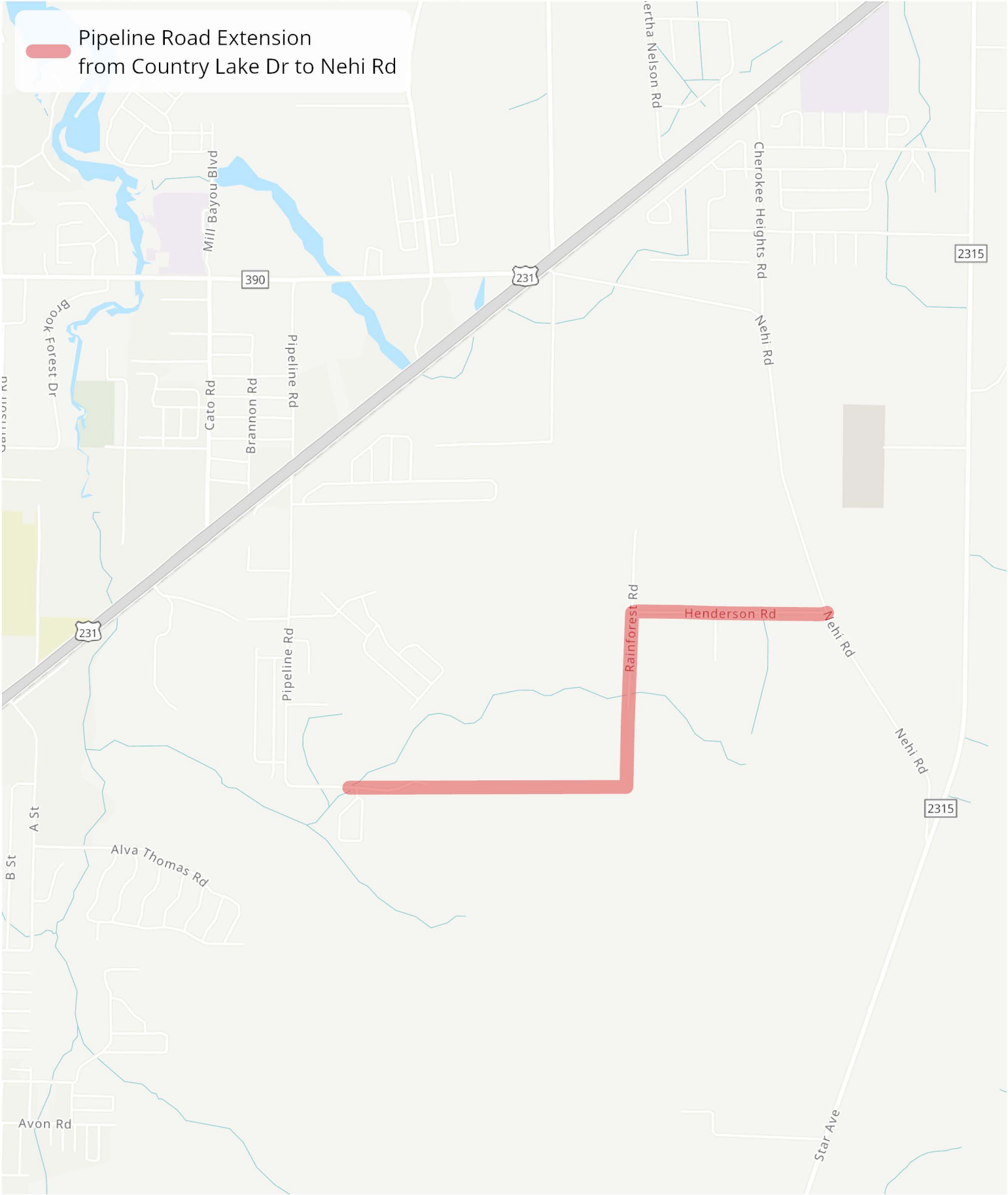
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Review and Adoption of the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Ranking. Please contact Roshita Taylor, ECRC staff, at roshita.taylor@ecrc.org or 850-332-7976 ext. 207 or Tanya Branton, FDOT staff, at Tanya.Branton@dot.state.fl.us if additional information is needed.



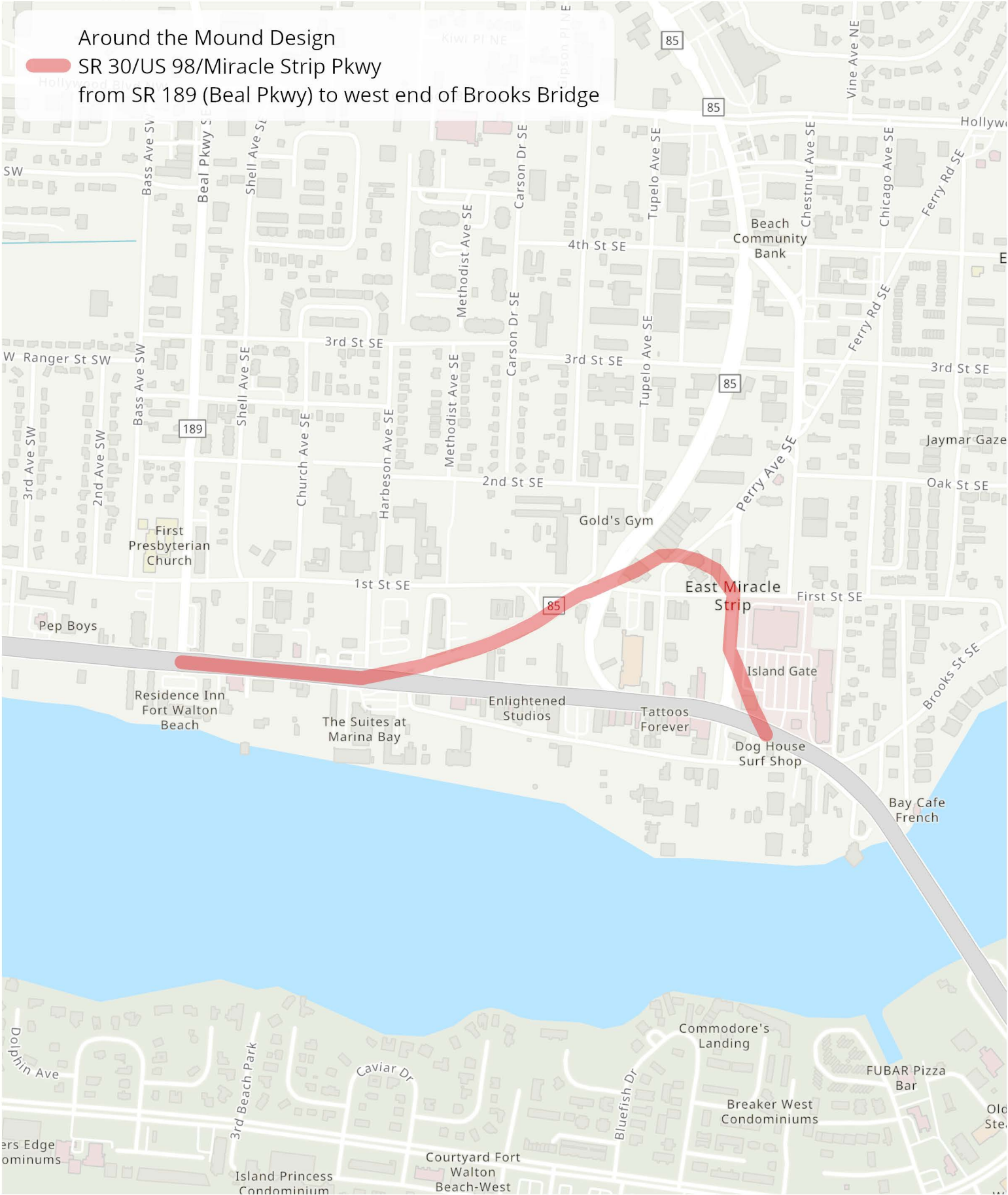
FY 2027-2031 TRIP Priority List

Project Sponsor	Project Name	Points Awarded from Criteria	Priority Ranking
Okaloosa County	Around.the.Mound.Design	13	1
Bay County	Pipeline.Road.Extension	10	2
Washington County	Greenhead.Road	6	3

TRIP Application - Bay County



TRIP Application - Okaloosa County



TRIP Application - Washington County





RRTP Agenda Item Number: 3

SUBJECT: Review and Recommendation of the Smart Regions Master Plan

BACKGROUND: The Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) in partnership with the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization has developed a comprehensive Smart Regions Master Plan to identify lifesaving technology concepts across the ECRC and the TPO areas. This plan is simply a resource for improvements and concepts should a local government wish to implement.

The draft Smart Regions Master Plan can be accessed on the project webpage at www.ecrc.org/7LayerProjects.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Recommendation of the Smart Regions Master Plan. This action is recommended to prioritize the strategies and countermeasures identified in the Smart Regions Master Plan. Please contact Jill Nobles, ECRC staff, at 850-332-7976, Ext. 212 or jill.nobles@ecrc.org if additional information is needed.

RRTP TAC Agenda Item Number: 4

SUBJECT: Regional Rural Transportation Project Priorities FY 2027-2031 Schedule

BACKGROUND: In February of 2023, a Regional Rural Transportation Plan (RRTP) was adopted. With the adoption of the RRTP Long Range Transportation Plan, a project priorities list was also adopted. This plan and process occurs every five years; however, each year, as with the TPO, the rural area project priorities will be reviewed and adopted.

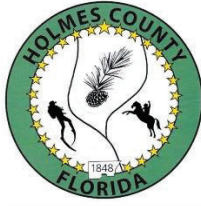
At the April 17, 2024 meeting, the ECRC Board opened the cycle for the RRTP process to move toward mirroring the TPOs' Project Priorities process. This will allow FDOT to fold in our rural area projects to the FDOT five-year work program. Three (3) Regional Rural Transportation Project Priorities workshops were held virtually and/or in person throughout the region.

The Project Priorities are the top ten priorities in each category. The RRTP Project Priorities will be updated based on the FY 2026-2030 FDOT Work Program. The following is the FY 2027-2031 Regional Rural Project Priorities schedule:

- March 19, 2025 - RRTP TAC Committee Workshop 10:00 a.m. Virtual
- Public Outreach
- April 24, 2025 - Public Workshop 10:30 a.m. Hybrid Crestview Library - 1445 Commerce Drive, Crestview, FL 32539-6944
- April 24, 2025 - RRTP TAC Committee Workshop 2:00 p.m. Hybrid Crestview Library - 1445 Commerce Drive, Crestview, FL 32539-6944
- May 21, 2025 - RRTP TAC meeting to recommend approval of FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities. 9:30 a.m. Chautauqua Building - 95 Circle Dr, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435-2542
- May 21, 2025 - ECRC meeting - approval of FY 2027-2031 Project Priorities. 11:30 a.m. Chautauqua Building - 95 Circle Dr, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435-2542

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This item is for review this month and adoption in May. Please contact Gary Kramer, ECRC staff, if additional information is needed at gary.kramer@ecrc.org or (850) 332-7976 Ext. 219.

INFORMATION PACKET



Holmes County, Florida
107 E Virginia Avenue
Bonifay, FL 32425

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Holmes County Project Gateway CDBG-Small Cities H2525

November 2024

HOLMES COUNTY PROJECT GATEWAY

Project Overview

The Holmes County Board of County Commissioners has been awarded \$3,300,000.00 under the CDBG Small Cities Economic Development program to meet the minimum infrastructure needs required to allow a participating party (Gateway) to open a new retail fuel and travel facility within the county. The CDBG funded activities include the construction of approximately 1,600 linear feet of new roadway access a quarter of a mile South of Interstate Road 10 on the West side of State Road 79. The new roadway access will include electrical improvements and installation of traffic signals, guardrails, and other appurtenant needs. The CDBG funded activity will also include new turn lanes for the retail fuel and travel facility. Additionally, as part of this project, the County has received \$1,870,700.00 from Florida Commerce's Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) program for the construction potable water and wastewater utilities to the site, including potable water lines, sanitary sewer lines and manholes, sanitary forcemain, a sanitary sewer pump station, and all associated appurtenances. Upon completion of the project, the utilities will be owned and operated by the City of Bonifay.

Detailed Project Summary

The project involves the construction of a new retail fuel and travel facility by Gateway. A twenty-five-acre facility site will be developed on the south-west side of I-10 and State Road 79 interchange. The Gateway facility will feature the construction of an approximately 55,000 square foot travel center facility supporting 44 passenger vehicle fuel pumps and 8 tractor trailer fuel pumps along with associated underground fueling tanks, utilities, stormwater, parking, and associated support infrastructure.

There is currently no transportation access to the facility site. Improvements to transportation access are required for the facility to locate in Holmes County. The project involves constructing improvements to transportation access approximately .25 miles south of I-10 on West side of State Road 79. The County will construct all required roadway, signalization, and other appurtenant needs as part of the project.

The CDBG funded portion of the project involves the construction of an approximately 1,600 LF access roadway, including signalization and lighting at the SR-79 intersection as well as turn lanes on State Road 79, installation of concrete culverts, guardrails, performance turf, and roadway signage. The RIF funded portion of the project includes the construction of waterline improvements, sewer improvements, and other appurtenant needs for the Project Gateway Infrastructure.

More specifically, these proposed improvements will be for the extension of potable water mains from the connection point on the west side of SR 79 along the new roadway to provide potable water and fire flow services to the development. In addition, a new sanitary sewer pump station will be constructed within the proposed development area with a sanitary sewer forcemain from the station connecting to the existing sewer forcemain connection point on the west side of SR 79. A gravity sewer system consist of gravity sewer main and manholes will be constructed along the new entrance roadway to provide sewer service to the development and direct sewer flow to the sewer pump station. Upon completion of the project, the utilities will be owned and operated by the City of Bonifay, which is the Utility Service Provider in the area.

Use of Natural Infrastructure

The proposed roadway construction project will consist of new construction on land currently utilized for roadway infrastructure and has little to no natural infrastructure within the project limits that can be beneficial to the project. Project planning will seek to minimize effects on undisturbed areas near the project site. The project property identified for Gateway, depicted in the map above, is currently zoned commercial and is approved for the development of the retail center.

Completion of Work

County Staff will lead the implementation and management of the grant project with additional consultant support to manage construction projects and ensure Federal and State grant requirements are met. Therefore, the first step in completing the work tasks will be to procure a consulting firm with experience in CDBG implementation to support the administration of the project. This procurement will be conducted in compliance with 2 CFR 200 requirements along with applicable state and local requirements. Once under contract, the consultants will work with the County to coordinate environmental reviews and historic property compliance requirements needed in advance of construction. Once design work is completed and approved, the County, with assistance from its CDBG grants administration consultant, will procure construction services to complete the scope of work in a manner compliant with federal, state, and local requirements.

The scope of work will include:

- Hiring professionals to design and lead the construction of the project;
- Completing the competitive procurement process to engage a licensed contractor to complete the project scope of work;
- Construction of a various public infrastructure improvements

After completion, the CDBG-SC consultants will assist the County with closing out the grant. If any portions of the scope deemed ineligible for funding, the County will work with the Florida Department of Commerce to create a revised scope and budget that is compliant.

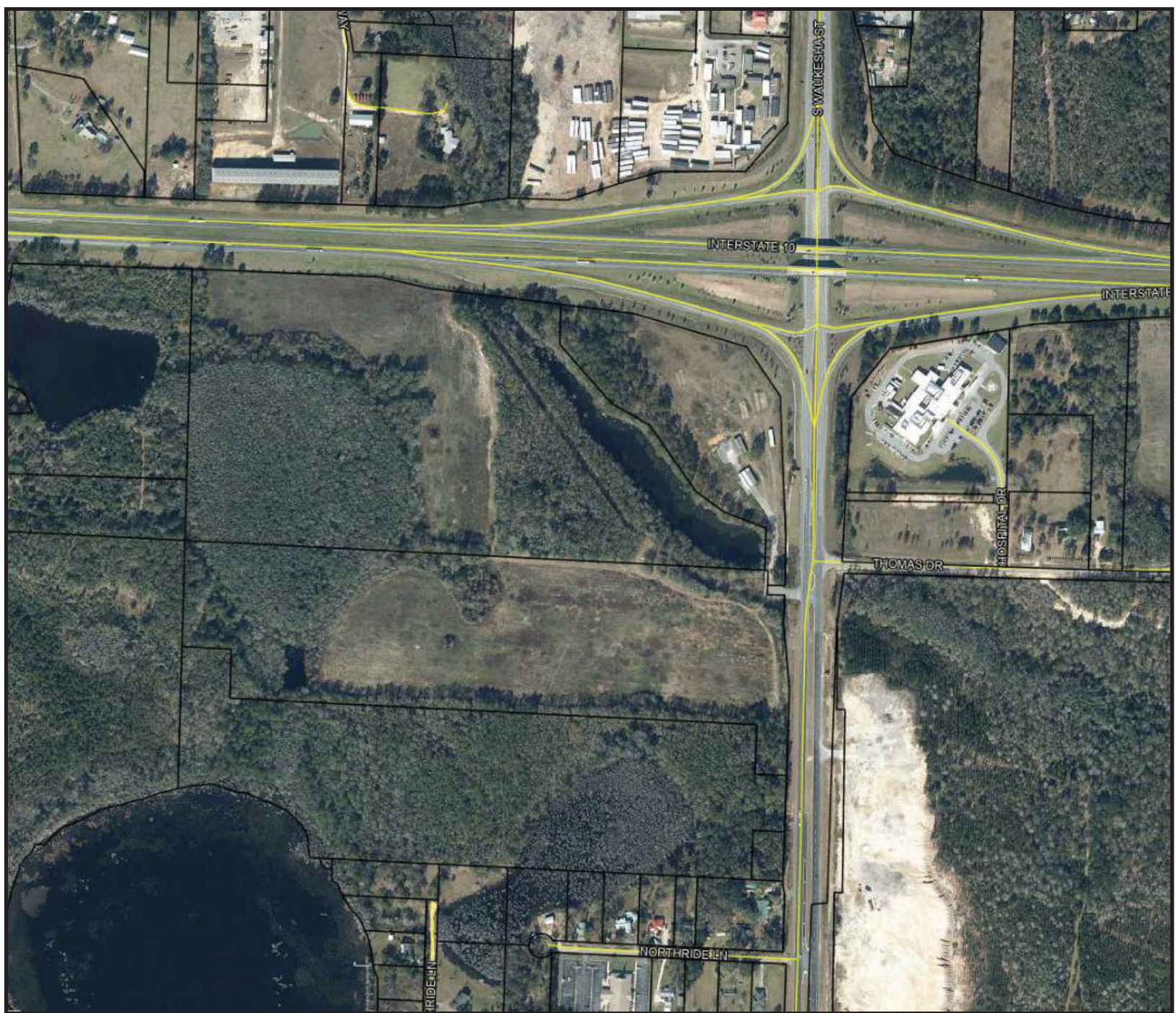
Anticipated Outcomes:

Gateway is a 27-year-old Florida corporation involved in the sale of fuel and transportation needs. Holmes County intends to construct infrastructure needs to support the facility that Gateway will construct near the intersection of I-10 and SR 79. Without this funding Gateway will be unable to locate in Holmes County. The total public infrastructure cost for Gateway is estimated to be \$5,170,700 with \$3,300,000 coming from CDBG funds and \$1,870,700 coming from a Rural Infrastructure Grant (RIF) also funded by the Florida Department of Commerce (D0233). Gateway will be making an initial capital investment of approximately \$20,000,000.

Gateway will commit to an initial employment of 94 employees of which 51% will be Low and Moderate Income (LMI). Gateway intends to increase employment as the market increases in future years. This project will benefit Holmes County by increases in ad valorem tax base and employment at wages and benefits that are above the average wages and benefits of the area.

Future Maintenance

Maintenance of the public infrastructure improvements will follow the County's existing roadway maintenance guidelines to ensure the infrastructure is maintained year-round and working properly. The County's Road and Bridge Department will be responsible for on-site maintenance of roadway and equipment to ensure that it remains in top condition.





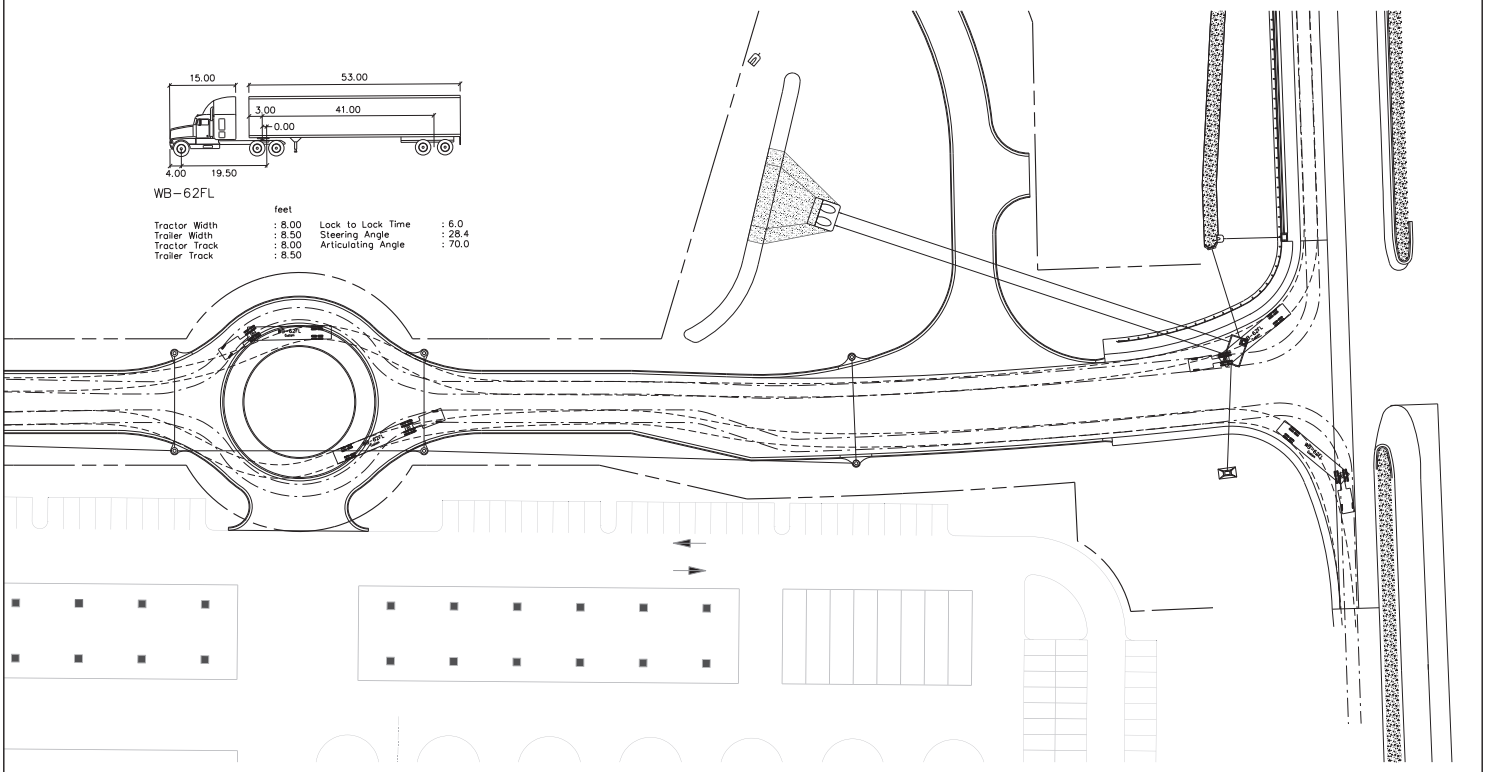
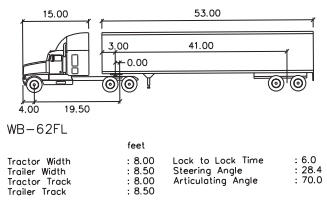
REVISIONS						PROJECT LAYOUT	SHEET NO. 13
DATE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	ROAD NO.	COUNTY		
				HOLMES	HOL2288		

DHM Melvin Engineering
 408 GRIFFIN STREET, WARREN, AL 36097
 (205) 482-3043 FAX (205) 482-3937
 (CERTIFICATE No. 18-0000837 - No. 15-0000373)
 ENGINEER OF RECORD: Rodney O. Adams, P.E.
 P.E. LICENSE NUMBER: 61559

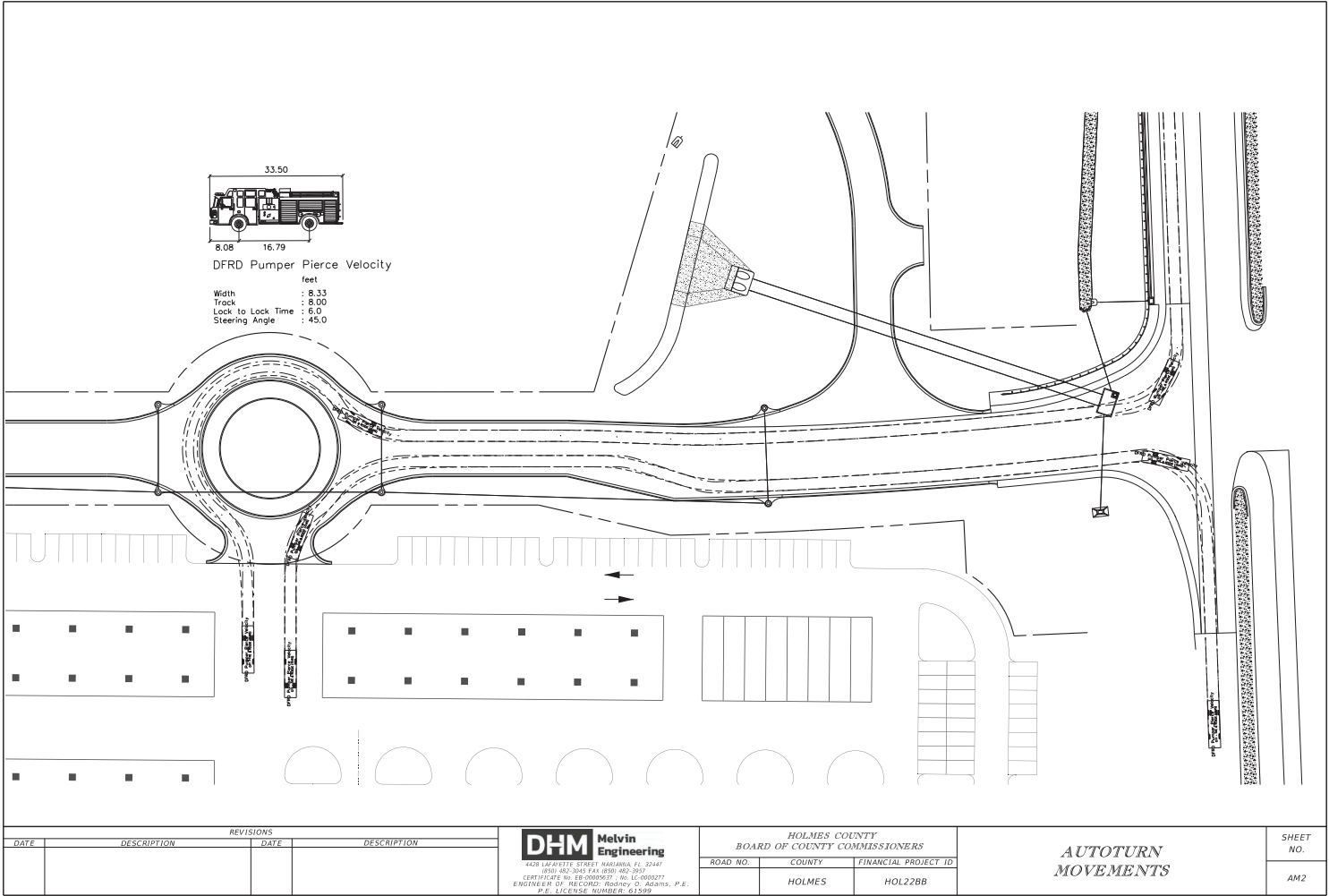
HOLMES COUNTY
 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 ROAD NO. COUNTY FINANCIAL PROJECT ID
 HOLMES HOL2288

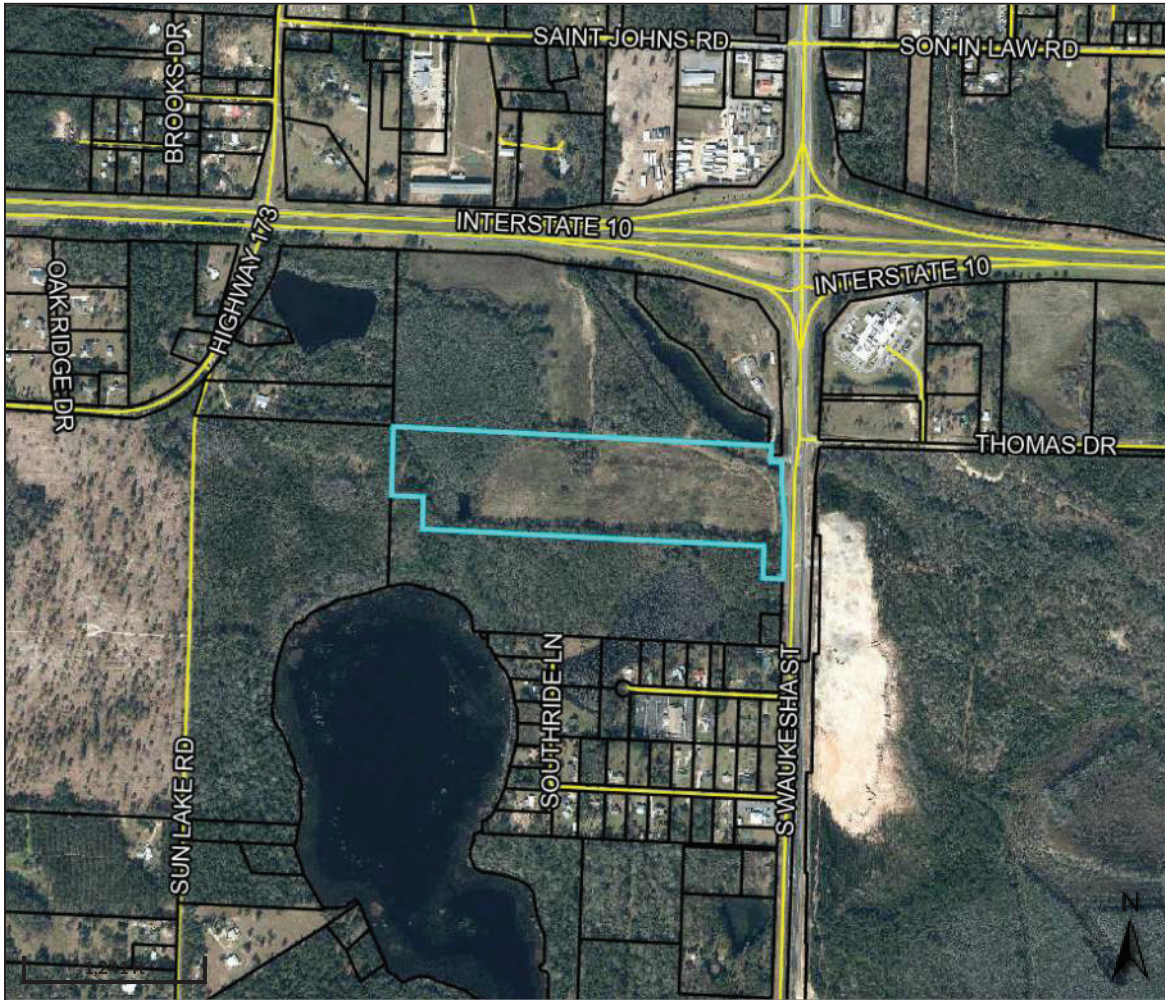
T:\Works\sets\FDOT\HOL2288_Busy Bee-Roadway\PLAYRDO\overal01.dgn - PROJECT.LAYOUT
 SUSERS SDATES STINES

THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THIS SHEET IS THE ELECTRONIC FILE DIGITALLY SIGNED AND SEALED UNDER RULE 61G15-23.004, F.A.C.



REVISIONS				<div> <div>DHM</div> <div>Melvin Engineering</div> <div>428 LAWRENCE STREET, HAWTHORNE, FL 32640</div> <div>(850) 482-3045 FAX (850) 482-2937</div> <div>CERTIFICATE NO. 08-00000537 NO. LC-0000277</div> <div>ENGINEER OF RECORD: Rodney D. Adams, P.E.</div> <div>P.E. LICENSE NUMBER: 61398</div> </div>	HOLMES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS		<div> <div>AUTOTURN MOVEMENTS</div> <div>T:\WorkSets\FDOT\HOL2288_Busy Bee\roadway\PLAN\RD\AutoTurnMovements01.dgn - SEWTRUCK</div> <div>dillanmelvin 11/8/2024 11:41:05 AM</div> </div>	SHEET NO.
DATE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION		ROAD NO.	COUNTY	FINANCIAL PROJECT ID	
						HOLMES	HOL2288	AM





Overview



Legend

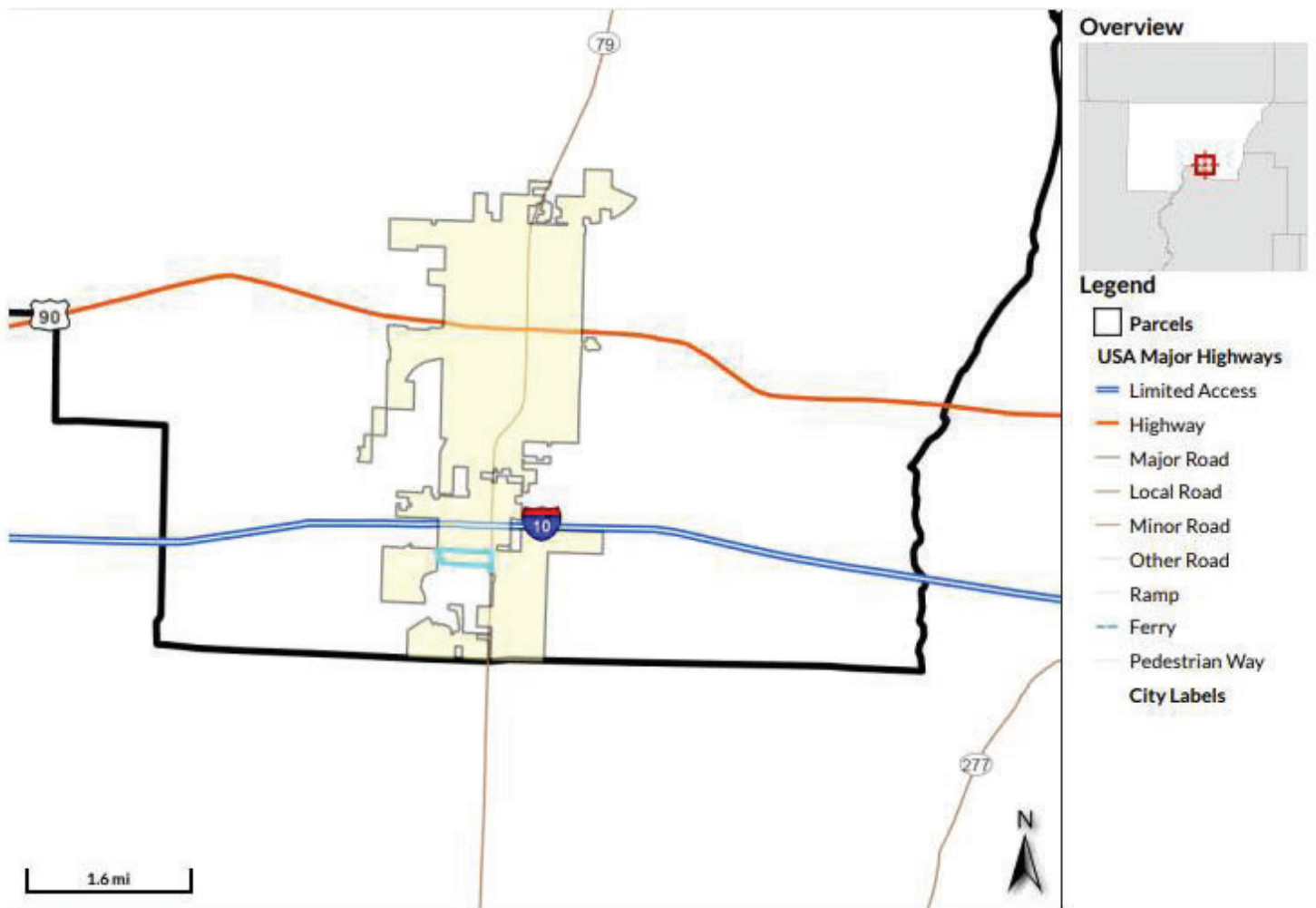
- Parcels
- Roads
- City Labels

Parcel ID	1013.00-000-000-001.000	Alternate ID	1013.0-0-0-1	Owner Address	HOLMES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMM
Sec/Twp/Rng	13-04-15	Class	VACANT COMMERCIAL		401 MCLAUGHLIN AVE
Property Address		Acreage	38.16		BONIFAY, FL 32425
District	2				
Brief Tax Description	N1/2 OF N1/2 OF NE1/4LESS 1				
	(Note: Not to be used on legal documents)				

Date created: 3/19/2024

Last Data Uploaded: 3/19/2024 6:30:09 AM

Developed by  **Schneider**
GEOSPATIAL



National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMMette

85°41'33"W 30°45'45"N



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet 1:6,000
Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map 2023

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)
		With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D
OTHER AREAS		NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
		Effective LOMRs
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D
		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES		Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance
		Water Surface Elevation
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
MAP PANELS		Coastal Transect Baseline
		Profile Baseline
		Hydrographic Feature
		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 3/19/2024 at 8:53 AM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



Summary

Based on the user-defined location and non-critical designation, the proposed action **is not** in the FFRMS floodplain. However, there are additional resilience measures you might consider. Check on the resources below to learn more.

Projects located in the FFRMS floodplain should be designed consistent with the applicable policies and directives of the agency taking or approving the action.

Proposed Action Details

Location centroid (Latitude, Longitude): **30°45'36"N 85°41'18.24"W**

Service criticality: **Non-critical** Service Life: **Through 2060**

Consult with the applicable agency to identify any agency-specific policies, guidance, protocols, or direction on the critical action determination. The services of a professional engineer, architect, or other licensed design professional are recommended for designing critical actions or assets with long intended service life, and for other situations where risk tolerance is low because of unique characteristics of the action.

Considerations of Freeboard approach at this location

- This proposed action intersects an area of complex mapping. AOI Issue Code: 1040.

Next Steps

This is the Step 1 of the 8-step decision-making process required in section 2(a) of Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management (Determine if the proposed action within the FFRMS floodplain). Follow the remainder of the 8-step process outlined in the [Implementation Guidelines \(2015\)](#), page 4, including Step 5 which include minimizing harm and restoring and preserving natural and beneficial values. (Please refer to the Nature Based Solutions section). A licensed design professional should be contacted for the design or engineering of the action. If an action is in the FFRMS floodplain and its location is the only practicable alternative, then you may need the services of a professional engineer, architect, or other licensed design professional to determine how to minimize the impacts of flood and make the action resilient (e.g., elevation, flood-proofing and/or nature-based solutions), especially when dealing with critical actions.

Assistance

To contact the FEMA Regional Floodplain Management & Insurance FFRMS Point of Contact for assistance, e-mail FEMA at FEMA-FFRMS-SUPPORT-REQUEST@fema.dhs.gov

