

STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

This document represents the Board's state legislative program for the 2015 Session. While these priorities are intended to guide the County's advocacy efforts in Tallahassee, the list is not exhaustive and issues may arise or evolve that will require Board attention.

The most critical issues are not ranked in order of priority. Commissioners, staff and contract lobbyists will pursue all of the legislative policies approved by the Board and place appropriate priority on the issues given the opportunities that arise during the legislative process. As usual, items of emphasis will include maintaining the County's home rule authority and opposing cost shifts or unfunded mandates.

The state legislative session will begin on March 3, 2015 and is scheduled to conclude on May 1st.

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SUPPORT AND TRACKING ISSUES

BACKUP MATERIALS

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



JOHN MANNING – DISTRICT 1



CECIL L PENDERGRASS – DISTRICT 2



LARRY KIKER -- DISTRICT 3



**BRIAN HAMMAN -- DISTRICT 4
CHAIR**



**FRANK MANN -- DISTRICT 5
VICE-CHAIR**

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

PRIORITIES

1. **Bert Harris Act – SUPPORT** an exemption for local government adoption of Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Zone Maps. To date, the County has received nineteen notices of claim for inverse condemnation under the Bert J. Harris Act (alleging nearly \$44 million in damages) related to the County’s adoption of Federal Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Adoption of these maps is required by the federal government for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.
2. **Caloosahatchee River and Estuary Protection – SUPPORT** funding for the C-43 Water Quality Treatment Testing Facility on property purchased jointly by Lee County and the South Florida Water Management District (BOMA property); construction of the first cell of the C-43 Reservoir; and the Lake Hicpochee Shallow Storage and Hydrologic Enhancement Project.
3. **Bob Janes Triage Center – SUPPORT** fully funding the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Local Matching Grant Program at \$3,000,000. Services provided by the Bob Janes Triage Center have a proven to enhance public safety and reduce criminal justice expenditures.
4. **Transportation Projects Funding Requests –** Two critical infrastructure projects:
 - a) Widen Alico Road from a 2-lane rural arterial to 4-lanes (expandable to 6) in order to accelerate burgeoning development, including Florida Gulf Coast University’s Emerging Technology Institute at the I-HUB. This roadway improvement will spur three large-scale developments that are expected to create 3,000 full-time jobs. (\$5.3 million request with an equal Lee County match)
 - b) Conduct Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project Development & Environmental Study. The bridge is functionally obsolete and has been identified in the MPO’s long range plan as a State funded project. Lee County has earmarked \$19 million in its 5 year Capital Improvement Program for the estimated \$45.3 million project. State funding for the PD&E Study would facilitate project commencement under FDOT’s guidance. (\$2 million request; local project match as described)
5. **Amateur Sports Tourism Complex Funding Request –** \$2,820,00 (Lee County match of \$2,954,000) Phase I includes adding 6 new softball/youth baseball fields to the Lee County Sports Development Complex and lighting the existing ball fields. The enhanced complex will host a new baseball tournament drawing teams from all 50 states. In total, the project will generate annual direct economic impacts of over \$31 million and increase state sales tax collections by more than \$1 million.
6. **Water Quality Funding Requests –** \$6,925,000 (Lee County match of \$7,525,000) Most of these projects will help meet pollutant load reductions required for the Tidal Caloosahatchee TMDL, as well as provide flood control, habitat enhancement, additional water quality improvement and water recharge benefits.

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The Lee County Board of County Commissioners advocates for the preservation of local home rule and opposes any legislation, policies or regulations that would impose unfunded responsibilities upon the County.

SUPPORT ISSUES

Amendment 1 Implementation – **SUPPORT** an allocation policy that involves local government participation in project prioritization and community impact assessments. **PROVIDE** matching funds for local conservation projects.

Medicaid County Cost Cap – **SUPPORT** establishing a cap on growth in the individual county Medicaid costs under s. 409.915, F.S. to address the anticipated cost shifts that result from the transition to a Medicaid enrollee based cost-sharing system.

DJJ Cost Share – **SUPPORT** the state taking full responsibility for funding and operation of detention facilities serving juveniles, both for pre-disposition and post-disposition days. In the alternative, **SUPPORT** a 50/50 cost split for the secure detention as upheld by Florida's courts and allow counties to pay actual costs on a monthly reimbursement basis.

Communications Services Tax – **SUPPORT** revising current law in a manner that is: 1) *revenue neutral*; 2) simplifies administration and collection of the current tax; 3) provides for a broad and equitable tax base; 4) provides for enhanced stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government; and 5) provides the opportunity for market-based growth.

Enterprise Zones – **SUPPORT** legislation that reauthorizes statewide enterprise zone incentive programs to allow renewal of the Lee County/Fort Myers Enterprise Zone.

Beach Renourishment – **SUPPORT** continuation of a dedicated state funding source for beach renourishment; a cost-benefit and needs analysis of beach funding and an increase in state funding levels over the current amount of \$30 million, which is no longer sufficient to sustain the program; a significant increase in statutory funding levels for beach projects as part of implementing legislation of Amendment 1; and the revision of statutory criteria for the annual ranking of beach projects for state cost sharing, specifically, criteria that recognizes economic benefits and cost-effectiveness, the reduction in storm damage, and the ability to leverage federal dollars.

Taxis and Limousines – **SUPPORT** maintaining the integrity of home rule power, which allows counties to regulate taxis and limousines for the purpose of public safety and consumer protection.

Florida Retirement System (FRS) – **SUPPORT** a requirement that all legislation potentially increasing FRS contribution rates be analyzed and evaluated to determine the direct fiscal impact of proposed changes to all local and state government in order to be eligible for consideration.

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

SUPPORT ISSUES (Continued)

Fertilizer – **SUPPORT** the County’s authority to regulate the use and application of fertilizer to protect water quality.

Septic Tanks – **SUPPORT** the County’s authority to regulate use and inspection.

Water Well Construction – **SUPPORT** the County’s authority to promulgate and enforce construction standards. The County’s unique hydrology and geology requires local knowledge of its aquifers and compatible grout materials for the local conditions in order to prevent inter-aquifer intrusion.

Behavioral Health System – **SUPPORT** increased funding for core mental health and substance abuse services.

Smoking Regulation – **SUPPORT** legislation that repeals the state statutory preemption of smoking regulation by allowing local governments to enact local regulations that exceed state standards. In lieu of a total repeal of the preemption, **SUPPORT** legislation granting to local governments additional authority to restrict smoking on certain outdoor property.

Homelessness – **SUPPORT** developing a dedicated state funding source for homeless programs and streamlining current state statutes relating to homelessness and associated programs (including the funding allocation and appropriation processes). **SUPPORT** creation of a public records exemption for individual identifying information entered into the Homeless Management Information System.

Article V Court Funding – **SUPPORT** eliminating the mandates contained in Section 29.008(4)(a), F.S., that require counties to fund certain court expenditures by 1.5 percent over the prior county fiscal year.

Shift of Prison Inmates to Jails – **OPPOSE** any efforts to shift inmates with less than a year on their sentence at the time of sentencing to jails instead of prisons.

Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (UF/IFAS) – **SUPPORT** the South Florida Ag Council request for \$1.8 Million of the \$5.5 Million UF/IFAS budget request for recurring funding to provide for additional faculty positions, support staff, research operations and programming funding.

Oil & Gas Laws – **SUPPORT** comprehensive review of oil and gas extraction technologies and related regulations resulting in meaningful oil legislation reform.

C-43 Reservoir Project – Critical to Southwest Florida’s Economy

For nearly a century, the Caloosahatchee Estuary has been degraded by extremes in flow resulting from an inadequate water control system in the upstream basin. Low flows during critical dry periods adversely affect the estuary, resulting in harmful algal blooms and impacting critical fish and invertebrate spawning patterns. Conversely, high flows depress salinity levels to a point where important estuarine species are killed or flee the area. Both extremes impact the delicate ecosystem balance and economy of Southwest Florida.

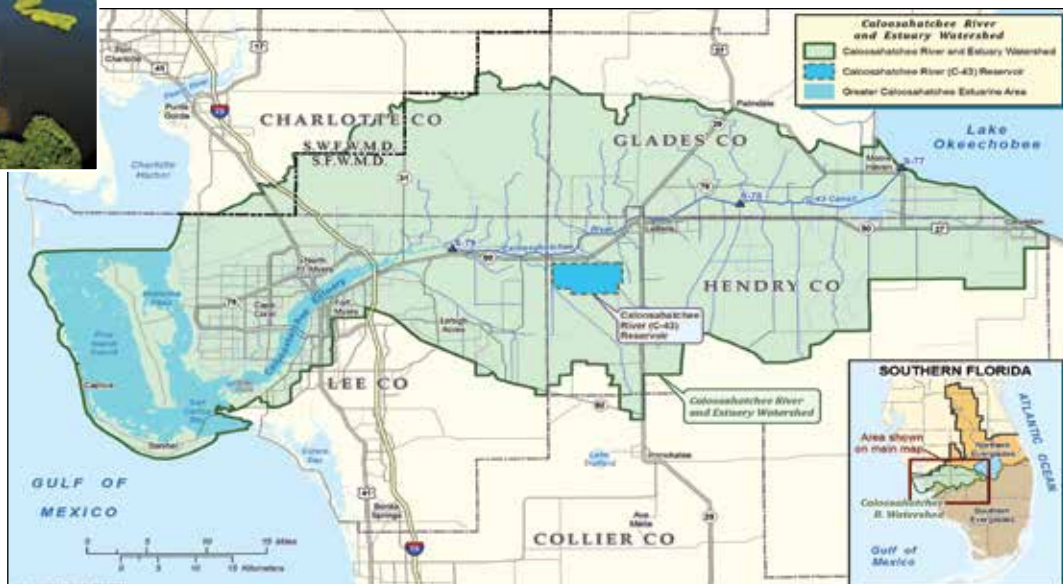
What can be done? The C-43 Reservoir project, a long time component of the greater CERP, was finally authorized in WRDA 2014 and will better manage both wet season and dry season flows to the estuary once completed. However, appropriating the funds to build the project will take years, and sensitive components of the estuary’s ecosystem will continue to be impacted.

The primary design criteria included creating sufficient capacity to attenuate excessive storm flows during the wet season while providing adequate storage to augment dry season flows to the estuary to protect ecological resources including sensitive oyster and SAV beds. As currently planned, the C-43 Reservoir will store

up to 170,000 ac-ft of basin storm water and overflow from Lake Okeechobee. The C-43 Reservoir is expected to supply enough water to meet the existing Minimum Flow and Level (300 cfs monthly average at S-79) for the Caloosahatchee River 80% of the time.

The project, with an estimated cost of more than \$500 million, was designed with two large cells, a single 1,500 cfs pump station, and a number of gated overflow and discharge structures. Under CERP, the State of Florida and South Florida Water Management District are each responsible for 50% of the total project costs. Historically, the State has generally satisfied their cost share through land acquisition. In this case, however, most of the land was purchased using federal dollars. As a result, the State will be responsible for paying for at least 50% of construction costs.

Given the importance of the Caloosahatchee Estuary and River to the region’s commercial, recreational, and ecological resources, it is in the State of Florida’s best interest to move forward with construction on the first cell of the C-43 Reservoir. The cost of the first cell is \$300 million over 3 years.



C-43 Water Quality Treatment Testing Facility Project Phase I: Vital to Southwest Florida's Economy

Unlike the Everglades where phosphorus is the constituent of concern, the Caloosahatchee Estuary is impacted more severely by nitrogen which can result in toxic algal blooms. As a result, the **C-43 Water Quality Treatment Facility**, also known as **BOMA**, is focused on finding treatment technologies and processes that have a greater success at nitrogen removal than traditional Stormwater Treatment Areas.

(particularly nitrogen) within the Caloosahatchee watershed.

Mesocosms, commonly referred to as test cells, are the first phase of a larger project, known as the **C-43 Water Quality Treatment and Testing Facility Project**, which will demonstrate and implement cost effective wetland-based strategies for reducing loadings of total nitrogen and other constituents, including total phosphorus and total suspended solids.

Contingent upon future funding, the test and field-scale cell phases of the project are to be constructed, operated, and sampled in subsequent phases. Each phase of implementation will build upon the information and "lessons learned" of the previous phase with the goal of having the field-scale cells incorporated into a full-sized facility operating on site. It is anticipated that the knowledge gained from the demonstrations will be used to construct a full treatment facility at the site.

The Caloosahatchee Estuary has been degraded by extremes in flow and water quality for nearly a century. Of the critical large scale projects necessary to begin improving downstream ecosystems, the **C-43 Water Quality Treatment Testing Facility** is among the most important. The required land for this project was acquired by Lee County and the South Florida Water Management District more than 7 years ago at a cost of \$37 million for the purpose of providing water quality enhancement



Given the importance of the Caloosahatchee Estuary and River to the region's commercial, recreational, and ecological resources, it is in the State of Florida's best interest to move forward with construction of the full scale project. **The estimated project cost is \$5 million over eighteen months.**



Lake Hicpochee Enhancement Project

As part of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, the SFWMD is designing a project to improve water quality and enhance the distribution of C-19 discharges into Lake Hicpochee and the C-43 canal. The design components include a large, shallow storage compartment, similar to an FEB (Flow Equalization Basin) or a shallow reservoir, and a spreader canal along the northern margin of Lake Hicpochee. The southern portion of this project will create shallow storage in partnership with two local 298 districts. When completed, discharges from the C-19 will be collected in the shallow reservoir and discharged more gradually to Lake Hicpochee and the Caloosahatchee River. The District expects to realize measurable water quality and hydropattern benefits from the project.

This site is located in Glades County along the northern shore of Lake Hicpochee and just west of Lake Okeechobee. Lake Hicpochee was once a natural lake and part of the Caloosahatchee River headwaters before being bisected by the C-43 canal dredging in the late 1800s. Now over-drained, Lake Hicpochee can no longer support its once vibrant ecology nor buffer stormwater flows to the downstream estuary.

Phase I: Project design is expected to finish up in early 2015 and construction should begin later in the year. The total footprint for the project is 5,940 acres, which consists of the 640 acre shallow Reservoir and 1,500 acres of restored lake and wetland area. As of today, the project cost is estimated at \$18.4 million. The land required is already under state ownership.

Phase II: With the acquisition of the 640 acre reservoir property, the District also acquired an option on an additional approximately 2,480 acres of contiguous land for future expansion. The option land will provide approximately 9,000 acre feet of additional storage. The option for the property expires January 2017. Land acquisition for Phase II will cost \$17 million and construction is estimated at \$40 million.

Phase III: The final phase of Lake Hicpochee restoration includes redirecting flow across the southern 6,000 acres of the historic lake bed.

Given the importance of the Caloosahatchee Estuary and River to the region's commercial, recreational, and ecological resources, it is in the State of Florida's best interest to move forward with construction on Phase I at a cost of \$18.4 million and to purchase the land required for Phase II at a cost of \$17 million.





Vital Southwest Florida Economic Facts:

- More than 75% of Florida's population lives within an estuary watershed and 78% of Florida's GDP is generated within estuary regions.
- Southwest Florida is experiencing the fastest growth in population, employment, and GDP among all U.S. estuary regions. Protecting or enhancing the region's estuaries is essential to support the regional economy.
- Lee County tourism, which depends on a healthy natural ecosystem, employs 1 in 5 workers. This includes the restaurant and hotel industries as well as ecosystem-based industries such as fishing and boating.
- Sources: Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, South Florida Water Management District, and NOAA.

Resource	Hectares	Value per hectare	Total
Seagrasses	18,297	\$7697	\$140,832,009
Mangroves	1213	\$4010	\$4,864,130
Estuarine/Bay	9210	\$9247	\$85,164,502
			\$230,860,641 <i>per year</i>



Completed to Date:

- All necessary project lands have been acquired.
- The design is complete and can be subdivided into distinct components.
- The water reservation rule for the CERP Caloosahatchee (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir has been adopted.



For more information, please contact
Kurt Harclerode, Operations Manager
 Natural Resources Division
 Lee County Government
 KHarcloerode@leegov.com | 239-533-8146



**POTENTIAL FY 15/16 STATE FUNDING REQUESTS
FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

REQUEST #1

\$5,300,000

**AS A 50% MATCH TO ADVANCE BY 2 YEARS THE CONSTRUCTION AND CEI
PHASES OF THE ALICO ROAD 4-LANING FROM BEN HILL GRIFFIN PARKWAY TO
EAST OF AIRPORT HAUL ROAD**

Statewide Interest

The Alico Road widening project addresses a statewide and regional interest as it will ensure adequate roadway capacity for a section of the County's Research & Enterprise Diamond, an area targeted by Lee County for economic diversification and job creation, and anchored by a State University (Florida Gulf Coast University) and the Southwest Florida International Airport (which receives a significant amount of State and Federal funding.) The Research & Enterprise Diamond has several planned developments, most notably the FGCU Innovation Hub property which the State has already provided funding to help develop. The road widening through this eastern end of the Research & Enterprise Diamond will promote and facilitate private investment and critical research efforts, and aid in the creation of 3,000 permanent jobs in the immediate area. As Lee County emerges from the devastating effects of the recent recession, job creation and expansion combined with diversification of its economy (with less reliance on housing construction and tourism) is critical. In last year's session, the State Legislature provided a grant of \$761,250 to help fund the installation of a sanitary sewer forcemain along Alico Road to help ensure adequate and sustainable infrastructure for the anticipated developments, including the FGCU I-HUB.

Funding Request

Lee County is seeking State funding assistance in the amount of \$5,300,000, or 50% of the total cost to advance the construction and CEI phases of the Alico Road 4-laning project 2 years, from FY 2017/2018 to FY 2015/2016.

While Lee County does not have the projected local transportation revenues to advance the full cost of the construction and CEI phases to FY 2015/2016 on its own, it would have enough funds, through a combination of local option gas taxes and road impact fees, to fund a 50% match to the State funds. The State funds would allow the phases to be advanced by 2 years, to provide sufficient roadway capacity to support planned and permitted commercial and industrial development in the County's Research & Enterprise Diamond area, and the FGCU Innovation Hub (I-HUB) property in particular. Lee County currently maintains Alico Road and would continue to maintain it after the widening, and as such anticipates managing all phases of the project including building it to County standards.

Project Description

Lee County is currently developing a roadway improvement project to widen a portion of Alico Road, which is currently a 2-lane rural arterial, to 4 lanes ultimately expandable to 6, from Ben Hill Griffin Parkway to east of Airport Haul Road. Alico Road is the main east-west

spine for a targeted area of commercial and industrial development in Lee County known as the Research & Enterprise Diamond, and west of Ben Hill Griffin Parkway it is already 6 lanes wide. The Research & Enterprise Diamond area is anchored to the south by Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and to the north by the Southwest Florida International Airport. The Research & Enterprise Diamond is envisioned as an innovation center with links to the university and the airport that includes several private-sector industrial, commercial and research-oriented developments in various stages of conception and approval, within land use classifications of Industrial, Interchange Commercial, Tradeport and University Community. Lee County has targeted this area to diversify its economy and create jobs, and is focused on ensuring the area has adequate infrastructure for that purpose. The Research & Enterprise Diamond area is anticipated to create over 25,000 jobs with an economic impact of over \$1 billion over a 10-year period. The planned developments within the area will create 4.9 million square feet of industrial uses, 1.5 million square feet of office, 1.2 million square feet of retail space, and 560 new hotel rooms. The Alico Road 4-laning from Ben Hill Griffin Parkway to east of Airport Haul Road will help facilitate at least three large-scale developments expected to create 3,000 permanent, high-quality technical jobs within the Research & Enterprise Diamond boundaries. One of the key developments is the FGCU Innovation Hub located at the east end of the road widening project, with proposed development of that site to reach 1.2 million square feet of research facilities geared towards renewable energy, wetlands research, bio-terrorism, and bio- technology.

Project Status

The County completed a corridor alignment study with Board approval of a preferred alignment in June, 2013, and is currently designing the widening project from Ben Hill Griffin Parkway to east of Airport Haul Road. The project is being designed for an initial 4-laning, ultimately expandable to 6 lanes in the future, and includes a realignment of the south end of Airport Haul Road to coincide with a planned north-south road to be built in the future. The County has been working with the adjacent property owners to provide the needed right-of-way through donations or in exchange for road impact fee credits, and already has a commitment for a donation of 75 feet from the property owner on the south side. The project should be shovel-ready in fiscal year 2015/2016, and the construction phase and related construction engineering inspection (CEI) phase were previously programmed in that year, but in November 2013 the Lee County Board of County Commissioners was forced to defer the construction/CEI phases two years to fiscal year 2017/2018 due to competing priorities and limited transportation revenues. The cost of the construction phase is currently estimated at \$9,500,000 and the CEI phase at \$1,100,000, for a total combined cost of \$10,600,000. At the time of the deferral, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners indicated its desire to restore the construction/CEI phases to fiscal year 2015/2016 if funding allowed, by including the following statement as part of its action: "*These phases could be advanced in the future at Board discretion should conditions warrant to support economic development initiatives, and if funding is available through government sources or private development sources.*"

Enterprise Research Diamond

Daniels Pkwy

RSW International
Airport



Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy

Airport Haul Rd

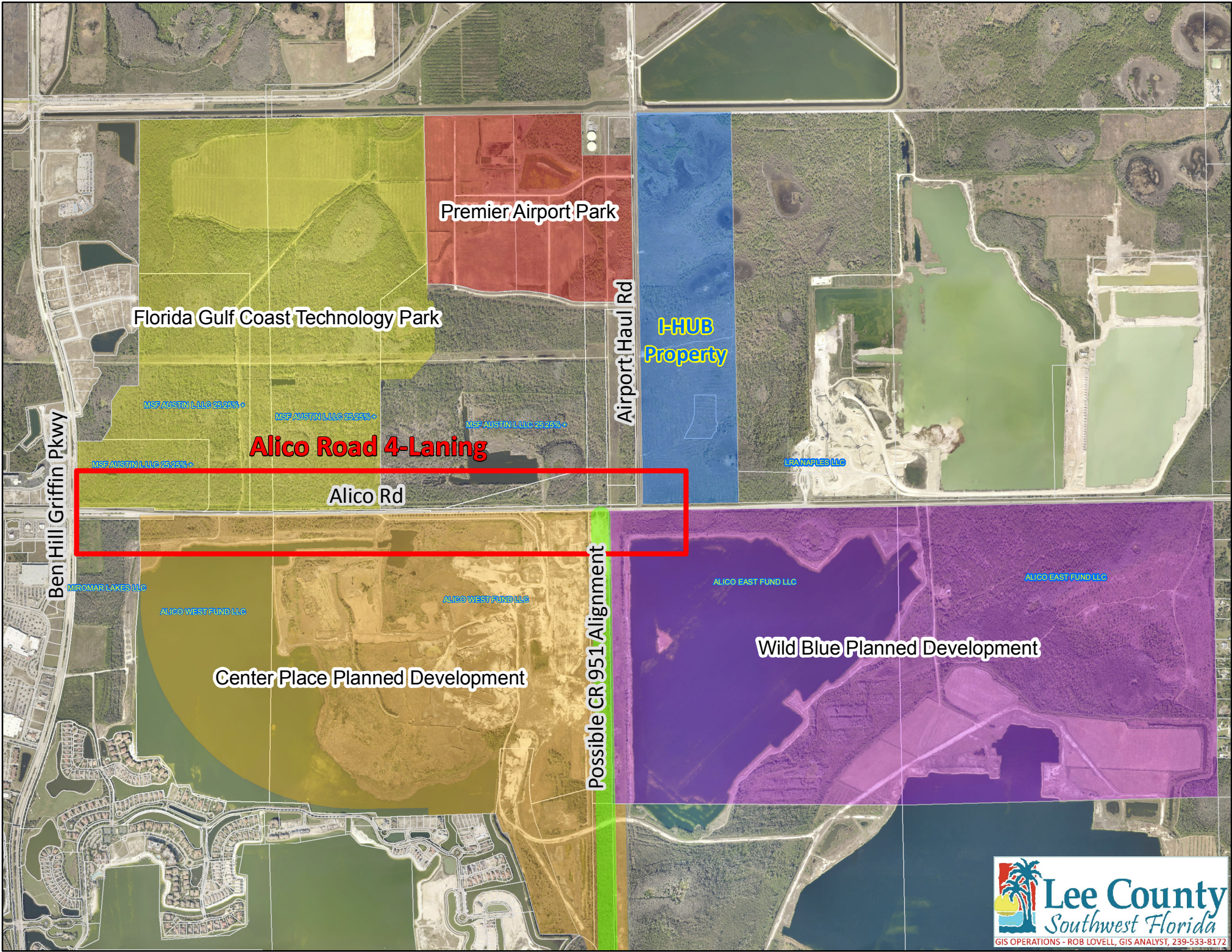
HUB
Property

Alico Road 4-Laning

Alico Rd

FGCU

Corkscrew Rd



Premier Airport Park

Florida Gulf Coast Technology Park

I-HUB Property

Alico Road 4-Laning

Alico Rd

Possible CR 951 Alignment

Center Place Planned Development

Wild Blue Planned Development

Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy

Airport Haul Rd

MSP AUSTIN I, LLC 25.25%

MSP AUSTIN I, LLC 25.25%

MSP AUSTIN I, LLC 25.25%

L'ANAPLES LLC

MIROMAR LAKES LLC

ALICO WEST FUND LLC

ALICO WEST FUND LLC

ALICO EAST FUND LLC

ALICO EAST FUND LLC

REQUEST #2:

\$2,000,000

FOR THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL (PD&E) STUDY FOR THE BIG CARLOS PASS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Statewide Interest

The Big Carlos Pass Bridge is part of a much longer, continuous corridor running along the southern coast of Lee County, encompassing Hickory Boulevard in the City of Bonita Springs, Estero Boulevard in Fort Myers Beach, and San Carlos Boulevard. The Matanzas Pass Bridge and San Carlos Boulevard are currently part of the State Highway System (SR 865). The Hickory Boulevard and Estero Boulevard segments used to be part of the State Highway System but were turned over to Lee County for maintenance in the 1980's. The corridor is recognized as a regional roadway as jointly designated by the Lee and Collier County MPO's and provides access to the primary parts of Lee County's beaches, which are regional and even international draws. The bridge is one of only two accesses to Estero Island and the Town of Fort Myers Beach, and provides a critical linkage between the Town and the City of Bonita Springs. The age and condition of the bridge, despite significant maintenance and rehabilitation expenditures, warrants its replacement by the year 2021 to ensure continuous, safe travel for the area residents and visitors.

Funding Request

Lee County is seeking State funding assistance in the amount of \$2,000,000 to fund the PD&E Study phase for the Big Carlos Pass Bridge Replacement.

Lee County would commit the \$19 million in local funds it has currently earmarked in its 5-year CIP as matching funds toward the overall project cost, estimated at \$45.3 million (including the cost of the PD&E Study.) The State funding assistance would allow the first project phase to move forward in a timely fashion under FDOT's guidance, to be able to advance to the other phases (Design, Construction, and Construction Engineering Inspection) so the bridge can be replaced as needed near the 2021 timeframe.

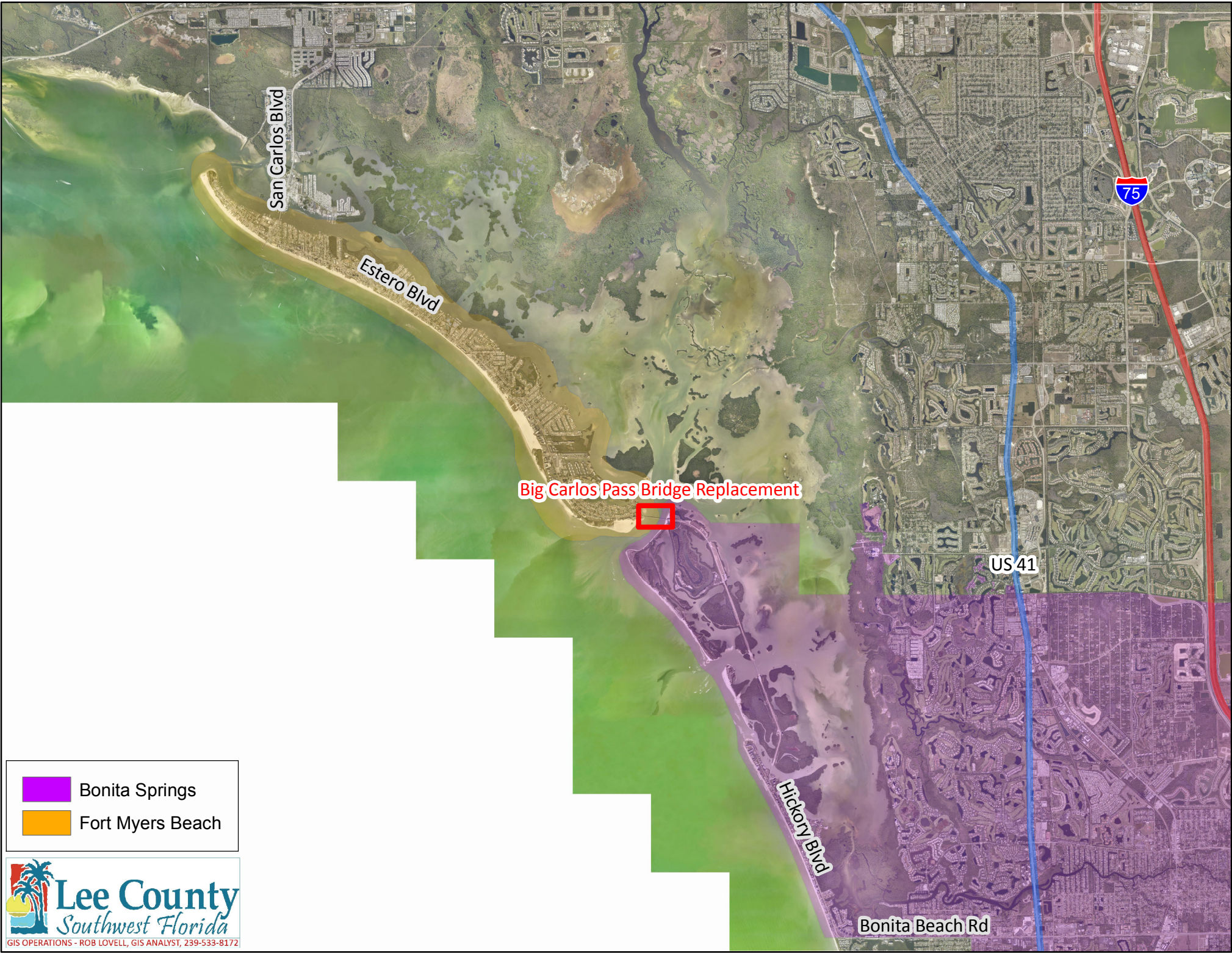
Project Description



The Big Carlos Pass Bridge is an almost 1700-foot long, 2-lane bridge linking the southern end of Estero Island (the Town of Fort Myers Beach) to the northern end of Lovers Key (within the City of Bonita Springs.) It is a bascule (draw) bridge that was built around 1965-1967, with a horizontal clearance of 25 feet. The most recent State inspection of the bridge, dated January 15, 2014 gave it a Health Index of 91.83 and a Sufficiency Rating of 49.0. The "Health Index" is a tool to identify the overall condition of the bridge; a health index below 85 generally indicates that some repairs are needed, although it doesn't mean the bridge is unsafe. As the health index drops down over time, it would indicate the need to make repairs or replace the bridge. The "Sufficiency Rating" is a tool to help determine whether a bridge that is structurally deficient or functionally obsolete should be repaired or just replaced, and is based on a Federal formula. The Big Carlos Pass Bridge meets the definition of "functionally obsolete", meaning because of when it was built it does not meet current design standards, and the Sufficiency Rating of 49.0 is considered low, in fact it is the lowest rating of the 124 Lee County-maintained bridges that are inspected by the State. Given its age and the rehabilitative repairs funded by Lee County, we anticipate the need to replace the bridge by the year 2021. Lee County is interested in replacing the bascule bridge with a high-level fixed span bridge (70 feet vertical clearance) to eliminate the operational and maintenance aspects of a movable bridge span in a salt-water

environment, if that proves feasible through the Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) Study evaluation.

Project Status

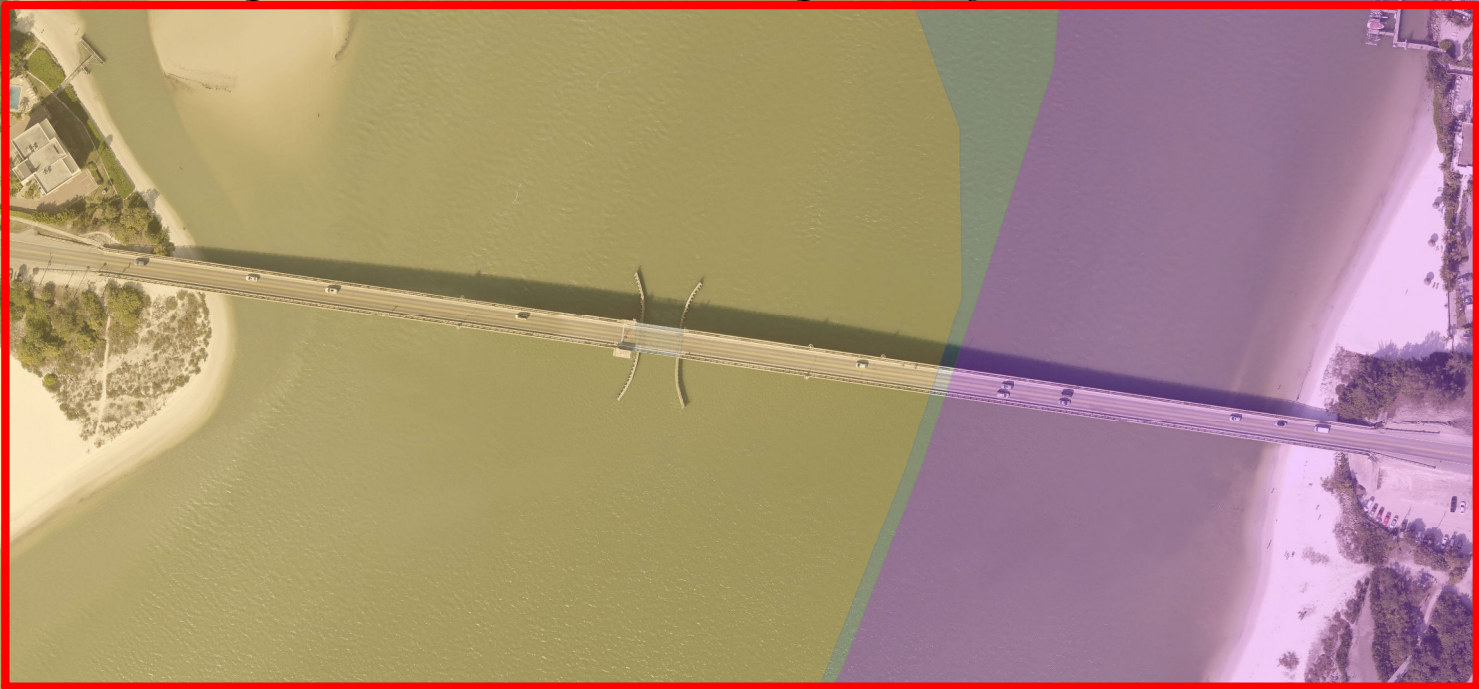
Lee County has begun earmarking funds in its five year Capital Improvement Program toward this project, with a total anticipated cost of \$45.3 million. The County has currently earmarked a total of \$19 million within the five-year window (through fiscal year 2018/2019), funded with anticipated surplus toll revenues from the Sanibel Bridge. The project has now been identified in the Lee County MPO long range transportation plan as a State-funded project, and we anticipate pursuing an agreement with FDOT to jointly fund the project to help get it replaced near the 2021 time-frame. The first phase that would be necessary is conducting a PD&E Study, which would evaluate construction alternatives and environmental impacts, and address permitting issues.





-  Bonita Springs
-  Fort Myers Beach

Big Carlos Pass Bridge Replacement

Estero Blvd



-  Bonita Springs
-  Fort Myers Beach

Amateur Sports Tourism Complex

Economic Impacts of New Facility

Phase I includes adding 6 new softball/youth baseball fields to the Lee County Sports Development Complex and lighting the existing ball fields. The enhanced complex will host new baseball tournaments drawing teams from all 50 states.

Phase One Estimated **NEW** Annual Impact

Number of teams:	616
Number of participants:	10,890
Number of spectators:	12,476
Hotel Impact:	38,141 total room nights
Direct Visitor Spending:	\$18.7 million
Total Economic Impact:	\$31.2 million
State Sales Tax Generated	\$1.1 million
Lee County Bed Tax Generated:	\$246,000

Site Analysis and Evaluation

County Owned Property:

The site is located within the 62 acre Lee County Player Development Complex and has been used as a horticultural dump. Lee County has commissioned two environmental studies on the proposed site. The first environmental study stated that there were no major environmental issues (wetlands and wildlife) that would prevent the County from moving forward with development plans of the site. The second environmental study is an environmental audit that will test the soil for contaminants and suitability to build.

Development Costs:

PROJECT A – FUTURE SPORTS COMPLEX EXPANSION

	Qty.	Unit Cost	
Youth Baseball Fields	6	\$200,000	\$1,200,000
Roads, Parking and Walks			\$240,000
Sports Lighting			\$900,000
Sports Lighting (for existing fields)	5		\$1,500,000
Site Utilities			\$240,000
Clearing and Rough Fill			\$750,000
Water Management			\$120,000
Subtotal			\$4,950,000

Soft Costs	20%	\$690,000
Total		\$5,640,000

Operational Cost:

Personnel Costs (includes all taxes and fringe benefits totaling 40%) - \$280,000

- 1 Supervisor - \$80,000
- 4 PRO/AM Grounds Crew - \$200,000

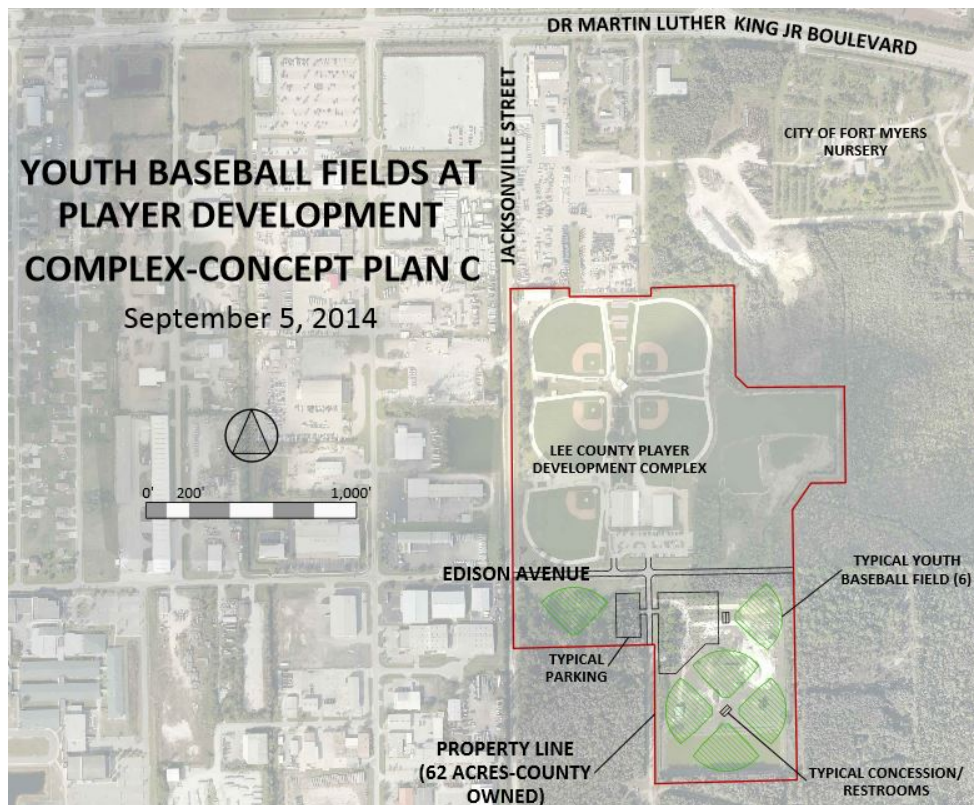
Operating Expenses - \$350,000

TOTAL OPERATIONAL COST - \$630,000

Equipment Expenses (initial purchase):

- 1 – sand pro - \$8,000
- 2 – utility carts - \$18,000
- 1 – mower - \$60,000
- 1 – large top-dresser - \$18,000
- 1 – tractor - \$30,000

TOTAL EQUIPMENT COST - \$134,000



Lee County Water Resources Projects Funding Request – December 2014 DRAFT

Rank # 1 - Project Name: Prairie Pines Preserve

Description: Project involves the restoration of historical flows through Prairie Pines Preserve. Consists of the rehydration of the preserve through the removal of manmade alterations to correct the natural sheetflow and hydrology. Project is expected to provide multiple benefits including flood control, habitat enhancement and water recharge. This project will assist in meeting pollutant load reductions required for the Tidal Caloosahatchee TMDL.

Project Status: No land acquisition is required. The project requires further design.

Estimated Cost: \$600,000

Requested Amount: \$300,000

#2 - Project Name: Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve Hydrologic Restoration

Description: Project will provide ecosystem restoration through hydrologic and water quality improvements within the disturbed portions of the Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve. Project is expected to provide multiple benefits including flood control, habitat enhancement, water quality improvements and water recharge. This project will assist in meeting pollutant load reductions required for the Tidal Caloosahatchee TMDL.

Project Status: Land acquired by SFWMD and managed by Lee County's Conservation 2020 program. Land Management Plan completed. Restoration projects underway.

Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Requested Amount: \$250,000

#3 - Project Name: Hydrologic Restoration of Telegraph Creek Preserve

Description: This project will help to restore the natural sheet flow from the 800-acre palmetto prairie and wet prairie/hydric flatwoods system into Telegraph Creek where ditches were installed by previous owners to help drain this portion of the preserve. Geowebbing and/or culverts will be installed along existing management trails that are eroding into the creek. The existing swale where the water formerly would have flowed to the creek will be graded and cleaned out. The washouts will be recontoured and plantings will be installed to reduce further soil erosion into the creek. Project is expected to provide multiple benefits including flood control, habitat enhancement, water quality improvements and water recharge. This project will assist in meeting pollutant load reductions required for the Tidal Caloosahatchee TMDL.

Project Status: No land acquisition is required. The project requires further design.

Lee County Water Resources Projects Funding Request – December 2014 DRAFT

Estimated Cost: \$250,000

Requested Amount: \$125,000

#4 - Project Name: FPL Powerline Easement Water Quality Improvement Project

Description: Located on and/or adjacent to the FPL transmission line, in North Fort Myers, FL, the project site includes all of the parcels along the FPL line which runs near the north end of Nalle Road and flows to the Caloosahatchee River (see location map below). During rainy season, this project will improve hydrology by creating a bypass system, which hydraulically connects all watersheds along the corridor. During dry season, the system is not used because of the lack of water. During wet season, each watershed will receive a base flow, and all excess flows will travel down the corridor system. As watershed base flows are met, water flows are released to the next watershed via a series of filter marsh corridor systems and weirs. Additional benefits includes: increase groundwater recharge and water supply for the Lee County public water supply pumping area, mitigate flooding, improve downstream water quality in the surface water flows to the Caloosahatchee river. This project will assist in meeting pollutant load reductions required for the Tidal Caloosahatchee TMDL.

Project Status: Project is in conceptual planning stage.

Estimated Cost: \$300,000

Requested Amount: \$ 100,000

#5 - Project Name: Spanish Creek Preserve Restoration

Description: Project involves recountouring existing berms around two borrow pits to collect stormwater to minimize run off and rehydrate nearby wetlands on the Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek. The borrow pits will be graded to have a minimum 4 horizontal to 1 vertical slope, the banks stabilized with grass or mulch to prevent erosion and littoral zones planted with native wetland vegetation. The perimeter of the borrow pits will be fenced to prevent cattle from grazing in the area. Project is expected to provide multiple benefits including flood control, habitat enhancement, water quality improvements and water recharge. This project will assist in meeting pollutant load reductions required for the Tidal Caloosahatchee TMDL.

Project Status: Phase 1 involving the rehydration of a portion of Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek was completed in 2014. Design is required to construct the storage component of the project and complete rehydration of Spanish Creek.

Estimated Cost: \$ 1,000,000

Requested Amount: \$800,000

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#6- Project Name: Hydrologic Restoration of Bob Janes Preserve

Description: Project will serve to restore the natural sheet flow and possibly impound water within the abandoned farm fields to allow aquifer recharge, reduce flows in a manmade ditch during the wet season. Project is expected to provide multiple benefits including flood control, habitat enhancement, water quality improvements and water recharge. This project will assist in meeting pollutant load reductions required for the Tidal Caloosahatchee TMDL.

Project Status: Phase I involving the restoration of former agricultural fields was completed in 2014. The second phase is in the design and permitting phase and awaiting construction funds. No land acquisition is required.

Estimated Cost: \$200,000

Requested Amount: \$100,000

#7 - Project Name: Deep Lagoon Preserve Hydrologic Restoration

Description: Project will provide ecosystem restoration through hydrologic and water quality improvements within the disturbed portions of the Deep Lagoon Preserve. Project is expected to provide multiple benefits including flood control, habitat enhancement, water quality improvements and water recharge. This project will assist in meeting pollutant load reductions required for the Tidal Caloosahatchee TMDL.

Project Status: Land acquired (432 acres) through Lee County's Conservation 2020 program. Land Management Plan completed. Project alternatives analysis underway. Engineering and permitting to begin within the next year.

Estimated Cost: \$3,000,000

Requested Amount: \$1,500,000

#8 - Project Name: Hendry Creek West Branch

Description: Project provides passive water quality treatment through use of a filter marsh and/or other best management practices along the west branch of Hendry Creek. This project will assist in meeting pollutant load reductions required for the Everglades West Coast-Hendry Creek TMDL.

Project Status: Lee County recently acquired parcel (9.3 acres) within the flood plain of Hendry Creek, just south of the outflow from Lakes Regional Park. Planning and permitting to begin within the next year.

Estimated Cost: \$2,500,000

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Requested Amount: \$1,200,000

#9 - Project Name: Fichter's Creek Restoration Project

Description: Project provides ecosystem restoration through hydrologic and water quality improvements in Fichter's Creek, and provides flood protection for neighboring areas; components include 3.2 acres of lakes, three dry detention areas (7.1 acres), culvert installation/ replacement, filter marsh creation, and berm work. This project will assist in meeting pollutant load reductions required for the Tidal Caloosahatchee TMDL.

Project Status: Project has been permitted; construction is planned to begin in FY16. Easement required.

Estimated Cost: \$1,800,000

Requested Amount: \$900,000

#10 - Project Name: Sunniland/Nine Mile Run Drainage Improvements

Description: Project involves the restoration of historical flows to Buckingham Trails Preserve. Consists of the rehydration of the preserve through the removal of manmade alterations to correct the natural sheetflow and hydrology. Project is expected to provide multiple benefits including flood control, habitat enhancement and water recharge.

Project Status: In the process of selection of an consultant to design and permit the project.

Estimated Cost: \$ 600,000

Requested Amount: \$ 300,000

#11- Project Name: Yellow Fever Creek/Gator Slough Transfer Facility Project

Description: Project involves the hydrologic restoration of the historical flows to the headwaters of Yellow Fever Creek. Project includes the construction of an interconnection facility between Gator Slough Canal and Yellow Fever Creek to transfer surface waters during high flow. Flows are currently intercepted by Gator Slough Canal and redirected to Matlacha Pass.

Project Status: Conceptual design is complete. Permitting to begin in FY15 pending further coordination between Lee County and City of Cape Coral.

Estimated Cost: \$ 700,000

Requested Amount: \$ 350,000