

2007
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR
SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA



★ Federal Funding Requests ★

As Congress prepares to begin work on appropriations legislation for FY 2008, Seminole County Government is requesting federal funding for the following projects:



State Road 46 – Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US 1)
The County respectfully requests \$4 million under the Transportation and Community System and Preservation Program account in the Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation and Housing Appropriations Bill to develop State Road 46 from State Road 415 to US Highway 1. This project received \$726,000 in the House FY'07 Transportation and Housing Appropriations Bill.

The funds sought would cover 50 percent of the project development and environment (PD&E) phase of this project, which expands State Road 46 to 4-lanes from State Road 415 to US Highway 1 in Brevard County. Widening State Road 46 would significantly improve travel on a regional basis and provide an upgraded hurricane evacuation route.

The total cost of the PD&E phase for this project is \$8 million. The total cost for the entire project is \$120 million. The project in Seminole County was approved and adopted by the MetroPlan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan.

The County expects the funds to be provided by the Florida Department of Transportation which would be the agency to implement the project since it is a State roadway and serves traffic on a regional basis. As an evacuation route, it directly serves Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Brevard Counties. Indirectly, it would serve as a primary or secondary route for other coastal Counties along the east coast of Florida.



Computer Aided Dispatch System
The County respectfully requests \$1.25 million under the Law Enforcement Technology and Interoperability Grants program in the FY'08 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill for a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. This project received a 'soft earmark' in the House FY'07 Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations Bill.

The County utilizes the current CAD system to provide the Public Safety Emergency Communications Center with an automated process to dispatch resources to fire, rescue and law enforcement emergencies in unincorporated Seminole County, all municipalities and the airport property. The CAD receives pertinent location information from the 911 phone data or caller and recommends the appropriate resource response to the emergency. The CAD has provided a fundamental adequacy in its performance, but the system is aging and has not met the integral needs of a system as complex as Seminole County.

The vision is to replace the current CAD system with a product that is compatible with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office CAD, will have a life span of approximately 10 years and will continue to serve all fire jurisdictions in Seminole County. The new CAD will be a resource, more than a dispatch tool. It will be a conduit from other sources to provide a wealth of information to all first responders regardless of geo-political boundary. With this vision in mind the new CAD will provide instantaneous data to the responders and be able to share data with other responding agencies.

The current CAD system does not fully interface with other applications. With jurisdictional issues and the changing demographics of our community, a CAD programmed with current technology will be both efficient and technically sound, demanding accuracy in dispatching to improve emergency response times. Public Safety operates with one CAD to dispatch fire, rescue and law enforcement responses to all Seminole County and municipal addresses. The Sheriff's Office also provides emergency communications services for the County and all local municipalities, culminating with 100% participation.

It is imperative to maintain a CAD system with the ability to interface with the Sheriff's Office. Since the event of 9/11, interoperability has been identified as a leading focus to bring communication centers together to improve system efficiency. Barriers are eliminated if both CAD's communicate effortlessly. Public Safety maintains information such as hazardous materials and occupancy, whereas the Sheriff's Office may maintain law enforcement information on the same address, currently this is not shared. The CAD's will share information for a common and efficient response.

The total cost of this project is \$2.5 million, of which the County is seeking 50 percent.



Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & State Road 426)
The County respectfully requests \$3.5 million under the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Program account in Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation and Housing Appropriations Bill to construct a pedestrian overpass at the intersection of Howell Branch Road and State Road 426.

Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & State Road 426) - Continued

The project serves as a regional trail/pedestrian link between Seminole and Orange Counties. It was approved by the MetroPlan Orlando Board as part of the Long Range Plan 2025 in 2004.

Recently, the County has completed the south link of the Cross Seminole Trail, which terminates at the Orange County Line. Orange County will be tying into this section of the trail which will provide a connection to the downtown Orlando Area. The trail serves both recreational and commuter users. In Seminole County it intersects with State Road 426 and Howell Branch Road. Approximately 50,000 cars a day pass through this intersection. The pedestrian overpass will enhance the safety at this intersection.

The total cost of the project is \$7.0 million for design, right-of-way and construction. Neither the County nor the State has funds at this time. The County is currently seeking 50 percent for this project.



Jetta Point Park Development
The County respectfully requests \$1 million under the Economic Development Initiative account in Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation and Housing Appropriations Bill to construct a pavilion, boardwalk, athletic fields, and playgrounds at Jetta Point Park.

This is a 43-acre site with parcels purchased by Seminole County in 2002 and 2005 which borders the Seminole Expressway/Greenway to the east, SR 434 to the north and the Cross Seminole Trail to the south. The property is adjacent to a trailhead with a 40 space parking lot and restroom that leads to Seminole County's Cross Seminole Trail which opened in 1998. The property is in the planning stage of development as a park. Economic impact is largely related to tourism, though the project may encourage further development in the area.

Planned facilities include: (1) Pavilions and Restrooms; (2) Boardwalk; (3) 4 Lighted Multipurpose Athletic Fields; (4) 4 Lighted Fast Pitch Softball Fields; and (5) Destination Playground & Tot Lot.

In addition to these facilities, the park will also include several connections to the Cross Seminole Trail and an equestrian facility. The park is also located adjacent to various multimodal transportation facilities so that residents may access the park as cyclists, pedestrians, or drivers as appropriate to their recreation activities (softball, soccer, cycling, hiking, etc.).

The total cost of the project is \$9.9 million. The County has earmarked \$4.3 million in Fiscal Year 2007 toward this project, has been awarded state grant funding of \$200,000 and is seeking an additional \$200,000 through state grant programs at this time.



Cross Florida Greenways Trail – Seminole County/Winter Springs
The County respectfully requests \$3 million under the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Program account in the Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation and Housing Appropriations Bill to develop the Cross Florida Greenways Trail in Seminole County/Winter Springs.

The Cross Florida Greenways Trail is part of a planned connection to Orange County and a regional trail system connection to the Seminole County trail system and eventually part of the Florida National Scenic Trail System. The section of the trail in which the County is seeking funds is in Winter Springs between Layer Elementary School and Old Sanford/Oviedo Road.

The project was approved by the MetroPlan Orlando Board as part of the Long Range Plan 2025 in 2004.

The trail serves work, recreational and school access purposes. It also is a "missing link" for a multi-county trail and, therefore, is significant in terms of need and importance. The total cost of the project is \$3.5 million. The County can contribute \$500,000 to this project.

★ Top Federal Legislative Issues for Monitoring ★

- ★ **Oppose unfunded mandates or any bills that preempt local government authority.**
- ★ **Support efforts to assist state and local governments with methamphetamine crisis.**
- ★ **Support funding of federal grant programs for public safety, emergency management, and affordable housing.**



Board of County Commissioners

Carlton Henley, Chairman

Brenda Carey, Vice Chairman

Bob Dallari, Commissioner

Mike McLean, Commissioner

Dick Van Der Weide, Commissioner

Cynthia Coto, County Manager

Robert McMillan, County Attorney

***Seminole County Government
1101 East First Street
Sanford, FL 32771-1468***

***407-665-7211
407-665-7958 (Fax)***

www.seminolecountyfl.gov