



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2838

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Fernandina Beach is a 200-year old city located on Amelia Island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Amelia River. The Fernandina Beach Downtown Historic District consists of a flourishing downtown commercial district, bustling with stores, restaurants and breweries, and cultural sites, and 60 blocks of expertly-preserved Victorian-era homes. In 2021, over 513,000, or 77.4%, of Amelia Island's 662,900 overnight visitors, ranked the Historic District as a "Top Activities Enjoyed," scoring higher than the beaches. To protect this thriving tourist, residential, and business district and economic engine from future sea-level rise flooding, the Fernandina Beach Historic Downtown Resiliency Seawall Construction Project consists of 6 phases of seawall construction, one of which is completed. This funding request is needed to construct an additional 2-3 segments of the seawall toward the goal of protecting Fernandina Beach, one of Florida's top historic gems, through her second 200 years.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	4,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	4,000,000	25%
Matching Funds		
Federal	12,000,000	75%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	16,000,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	1,000,000	1705A	Yes

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** No

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**



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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

\$6,595,742 which was allocated to City police and fire department first responders' salaries and benefits, as allowed by the American Rescue Plan Act Agreement Final Rule stipulations. An additional \$2,067,172 used for three Water projects (Area 5 Storm water, Water Projects on Broome Street and Wastewater Infrastructure at Citrona Drive and Amelia Road.)

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

All fixed capital outlay funding will be for construction on property fully-owned by the City of Fernandina Beach

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction of an additional 2-3 segments of the Fernandina Beach 1.1 mile protective resiliency seawall along it's historic downtown. Federal funding for the remaining construction is being pursued by the City of Fernandina Beach. Design on the project has been completed at the time of this funding request submission. Permitting will be completed by June 2024.	4,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		4,000,000



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14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

In 2023/early 2024, Fernandina Beach will complete engineering/permitting for a 5-phase construction project of a resiliency sea wall along the City's 1.1 mile historic downtown riverfront. One prior construction phase was completed. The \$4,000,000 requested will construct 2-3 phases of "Historic Downtown Fernandina Beach Resiliency Seawall" and the funds will serve as a 25% match for a federal appropriation of \$12,000,000 Fernandina Beach is seeking to complete the project.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Protection of historic Downtown Fernandina Beach provided by the construction of a seawall will allow residents and tourists to continue to enjoy the historic areas in the downtown Fernandina Beach and protect businesses and citizens located in this popular, densely-populated business, residential, and tourist destination.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Tourism is not only the economic engine for Nassau County, accounting for more than \$900 million in economic impact, but it is also the number one private employment sector – contributing almost 36% of the total jobs. This project will provide physical protection of persons and property in historic Downtown Fernandina Beach. Additionally, this project will preserve employment opportunities for local residents. Given that 77.4% of Amelia Island visitors ranked visiting the historic Downtown Fernandina Beach as one of their favorite activities when visiting, protection of the Historic District from flooding and destruction equates to local resident job protection and creation.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The City of Fernandina Beach has 13,401 residents and Amelia Island, on which Fernandina Beach is located, attracted 758,000 visitors (2022 data). Travel publications consistently rank Amelia Island one of best islands and beach destinations in the U.S. The Amelia Island Tourism Development Council estimated that Amelia Island's tourism generated more than \$1 billion, 27 million dollars in 2021. Historic downtown Fernandina Beach has popular festivals including the Shrimp Festival (May) and Dicken's Christmas (Dec.) that attract thousands of visitors each year. Given that 77.4% of Amelia Island 662,900 annual visitors in 2021 ranked visiting the historic Fernandina Beach downtown as one of their favorite activities when visiting, protection of the Historic District from flooding and destruction equates to significant job creation.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The benefit of this project will be increasing the resiliency of historic Downtown Fernandina Beach against sea level rise. Fernandina Beach is a business and residential district populated with 60 blocks of Victorian-aged business structures and homes which hosts cultural events and festivals that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. The outcome of this project can be measured through pre-and-post comparative data about Historic District flooding and flooding-related road closures and business closures. Additionally, the Downtown is home to the Port of Fernandina, the CSX railroad, and WestRock and Rayonier Mills, all of which generate over 1,000 local jobs. When flooding occurs the plants close, and the Railroad has to be taken off-line for weeks for cleaning and repair. This plan and rail downtime reduced productivity and profits. The outcome of this impact can be measured through pre-and-post comparative data about plant and rail closures due to flooding.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Failure to fully-satisfy each deliverable of the "Fernandina Beach Historic Downtown Resiliency Seawall Construction Project" project would make Fernandina Beach ineligible for reimbursement from the State of Florida.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address



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d. Phone Number (904)415-5181 Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

19. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)



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- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

20. What is the status of construction?

Not ready

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

11%

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2025