



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2857

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Water Transportation began in Pinellas County in 2015. Since then, growing ridership has proven the concept of using the free waterways to help alleviate traffic, keep less cars from challenging parking availability, and improve business economic development. The ferry service is asking for the state's support to help establish water transportation as a permanent option for citizens and tourists of Pinellas County.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	800,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,000,000	83%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	200,000	17%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	1,200,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

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.



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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

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

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

08/2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

04/2024

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.

Clearwater Ferry Services is the current public/private partner with the cities of Clearwater and Dunedin for execution of water transportation

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	Other: annual subsidy to servicer to provide a more permanent mode of water transportation	200,000
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	Replacement of existing outdated vessels and contribution to current dock renovations.	800,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

14. Program Performance

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

The initial Pilot Program that began in 2015, and the growing ridership in Clearwater, serves as "proof of concept" for permanent water transportation as a solution to both resident and tourist travel within Pinellas County, helping to alleviate parking availability issues and traffic congestion. The service has collected letters of support from area business owners and community leaders. In addition, both the cities of Clearwater and Dunedin have committed to provide additional funding to support the Clearwater Ferrys permanent operation. This service will also continue to work with the transportation partners at PSTA and Forward Pinellas to ensure efforts align with regional transportation solutions.



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

Providing frequent and reliable water transportation in Dunedin and Clearwater for the citizens of the community. This funding allows for increased departures and days of operation, providing an additional mode of transportation option for the community.

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

Water transportation

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

Both tourists and residents will be served. Depending on securing additional local funding, the service anticipates being able to serve between 75,000 to 100,000 riders annually.

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

Expected benefits include alleviating parking and traffic congestion, aiding economic activity in the waterfront merchant community by bringing tourists from Clearwater Beach directly to downtown Clearwater and Dunedin, increasing tourism throughout the Pinellas County communities, adding employment opportunities with the Clearwater Ferry, and helping to solve staffing challenges for local businesses by providing an alternative option of travel into work. Benefits will be measured by a survey of ridership following each trip.

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?

In the event agreed upon deliverables or performance measures are not met, the associated funding would be returned to the state.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **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)



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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