



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1869

1. Project Title
2. Senate Sponsor
3. Date of Request

**4. Project/Program Description**

Construction of a new 725-foot elevated boardwalk connecting a new public access pier to the zoo's existing main path. The ADA accessible bridging, 6 feet wide and featuring top and bottom rails and mesh in between, will safely accommodate thousands of visitors accessing the zoo by watercraft.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted?  Yes  No

**6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	200,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>200,000</b>

**7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	200,000	14%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,200,000	86%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  Yes  No

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?  Yes  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?**

Yes  No

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



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The zoo received approximately \$2.2 million in federal CARES Grant funding. This money was for payroll and fringe benefits costs. None of the money was for construction costs.

#### 11. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The funds requested will be expended to construct an elevated wooden boardwalk that will connect a locally funded boater access pier to the Zoo grounds/mainland.	200,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>200,000</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

Construction of a hassle-free 725-foot elevated boardwalk, in compliance with ADA Standards for Accessible Design, will provide easy public access for all guests arriving via watercraft, including people with mobility restrictions.

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

By constructing the bridging, the Zoo, in partnership with the City of Jacksonville's Parks, Recreation, and Community Services and the Jacksonville St. Johns River Taxi service, will once again allow public access to all guests that arrive via water. This funding would cover the cost of the boardwalk. The pier, which will connect to the boardwalk will cost \$1.1 million and be funded by the Zoo and the City of Jacksonville. The original pier, damaged during Hurricane Irma and unable to repair, was a popular attraction for boaters of all types from across the region.

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

During the construction phase, jobs will be provided. Once the elevated boardwalk is completed, additional jobs will be provided to manage the space.

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

Populations to be served by this project will include: all residents living along the Trout and St. Johns rivers; Jacksonville water taxi service riders; Visit Jacksonville; and downtown dwellers, including hotel guests, tenants and transient boaters (anywhere from hundreds to more than a thousand annually).

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

Benefits of the project include: improved zoo public access, community resources and development, as well as increased economic activity measured by a rise in attendance and zoo income.



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**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?**

Reversion of funds

**13. 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.**

The Zoo operates through a public/private partnership with the City of Jacksonville. All property, including animals, equipment, and improvements, belongs to the City of Jacksonville, which in turn contributes an annual subsidy to offset some of the Zoo's operating expenses. The City provides less than 9% of the Zoo's annual budget through this partnership, whereas the average contribution for city-owned zoos in the United States is between 40-50% of the budget. All other Zoo expenses are paid.



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#### 14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name   
b. Organization   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 15. 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

#### 16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name   
b. Firm Name   
c. E-mail Address   
d. Phone Number