



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2719

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Project expands the rail capacity on 26 miles of track between Chattahoochee (Gadsden) and Marianna (Jackson). The project installs 11,000 railroad ties and improves the safety/resiliency of road crossings. Beneficiaries are Florida residents and businesses. Capacity expansion is needed to accommodate increased shipments of road building materials for highway and other infrastructure projects along the Panhandle. The project takes trucks off the interstate, reducing future highway capital expenditures.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	870,000
Total State Funds Requested	870,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	870,000	40%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,305,000	60%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	2,175,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	740,000	1915A	Yes

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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

Private funds.

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

No



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

11. 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	Project includes hiring a contractor to install 11,000 railroad ties, and repair/improve road crossings. The 26 miles of track (MP 810-784) will be regage and resurfaced. The railroad has committed 60% of the project funds, totaling \$1,305,000 of the total \$2,175,000 for the project.	870,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		870,000

12. Program Performance

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

The purpose of this track rehabilitation project is to increase train speed to ensure more timely service for customers and increase safety at road crossings which intersect with the railroad.

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

Improvements will increase the speed on the rail line, thereby improving the service to shippers and the efficiency of the railroad. This increased speed increases the capacity of the rail line, allowing more freight to move along the line. Investment in the road crossings improves the safety of the region in discrete locations.

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

Improved freight rail service in the Panhandle will allow today's industrial shippers that use rail to remain competitive in the global economy, directly benefitting their approximately 1,600 employees. Inconsistent/slow rail transit times lead to freight moving from rail to truck. Virtually all FGA's freight is subject to truck competition. This includes chemicals, fertilizer, rock, sand, ethanol, and lumber. Reductions in track speed will cause freight to move to truck, creating road congestion, safety issues, and increased wear and tear on Florida's roads. Rail transportation reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 75% when compared to truck transportation, so competitive rail service benefits all residents of the region.

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



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The target population that will benefit from increased train speeds is industrial shippers. Presently the railroad has over 30 companies that ship freight over its line. The second target population is the general public. The general public will benefit from the safety improvements at the road crossings. Also, the railroad is working to attract new business to the region at 6 industrial parks in several counties on the railroad including Santa Rosa Industrial (Santa Rosa), Shoal River Ranch (Okaloosa), Suwanee County Catalyst (Suwanee), Woodstock Industrial Park (Baker), North Florida Mega Industrial Park (Columbia), and Mid Point Business Park (Baker). Those industrial sites will be able to offer more competitive rail service and will benefit from this investment.

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

Increased train speed improves the railroad's efficiency and safety and will result in more freight moving by rail instead of truck. Industrial shippers require safe efficient rail service. Annual rail carload shipment count is a good measure of economic activity along the line. In 2021, FGA shipped approximately 28,000 carloads of freight.

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 meet deliverables will result in forfeit 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.

Florida Gulf and Atlantic Railroad owns the rail that will be repaired and upgraded. Local governments or the state may own the crossings in the panhandle counties that will be improved.



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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