



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1166

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

To provide the multimodal construction of an expanded 4-lane River Road between US41 and Winchester Blvd. This is a portion of the River Road Regional Interstate Connector thereby protecting the health, safety and welfare of Florida residents by increasing capacity and improving resiliency of a flood-prone primary hurricane evacuation route for the Cape Haze Peninsula, including portions of Sarasota County, Charlotte County, Lee County and the City of North Port.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	10,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	10,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	10,000,000	16%
Matching Funds		
Federal	45,000,000	69%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	10,000,000	15%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	65,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

9. Is future-year 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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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10. 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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

03/01/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

03/02/2030

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Sarasota County Gas Tax Revenues

11. 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.

Sarasota County

12. 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		
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 costs, right-of-way acquisition, and supervision of construction to ensure project stays on time and within the budget.	10,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		10,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

To provide the multimodal construction of an expanded 4-lane River Road between US41 and Winchester Blvd. This is a portion of the River Road Regional Interstate Connector thereby protecting the health, safety and welfare of Florida residents by increasing capacity and improving resiliency of a flood-prone primary hurricane evacuation route for the Cape Haze Peninsula, including portions of Sarasota County, Charlotte County, Lee County and the City of North Port.

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



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In addition to relieving congestion and making the roadways safer by adding four-lanes of capacity to support hurricane evacuation, the road will be designed as a Complete Street, which is a concept that aims to integrate people, place and mobility for all roadway users into the planning, design, engineering, operating and maintenance of the transportation network. A multi-use recreational trail is also incorporated to enhance mobility for pedestrian and bicyclists.

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

Relief in traffic congestion and enhanced safety in the event of a hurricane or emergency situations will be the result of the funds appropriated. Increased roadway capacity to facilitate efficient routes to and from I75. A multi-modal connection will be made that provides bicycle lanes, sidewalks and multi-use path that will regionally connect to the planned statewide trail system.

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

All of Sarasota County residents and visitors in addition to travelers from adjacent counties and state travelers seeking alternative routes to the interstate system.

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

Increased safety, improved multi-modal access and capacity, upgraded stormwater facilities, enhanced aesthetics and reduced travel times to businesses and residential areas. Benefits and outcomes will be measured by responses to Sarasota County's annual citizen survey and traffic modeling to document capacity improvements.

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 in the contract?

Performance bond, contract retainage and liquidated damages. In severe cases of failure, vendors may be placed on a no-bid prohibition for related contracting.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:



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16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. 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 **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name



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c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.