



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1180

1. Project Title Brevard County - Improve IRL Circulation by Bridging Sections of the Hwy 528 Causeway

2. Senate Sponsor Debbie Mayfield

3. Date of Request 10/17/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Modeling efforts completed for the IRL National Estuary Program and Canaveral Port Authority indicate that natural circulatory flow in the Banana River is disrupted by earthen causeways and contributes to poor water quality and algae blooms. A US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study will analyze how much the 528 causeway contributes to degraded water quality, habitat, flora and fauna. If found "feasible," federal legislation in WRDA Section 206 provides 65% federal cost share up to \$15 million to construct ecosystem restoration projects that improve circulation to reestablish habitat and passage for fish and wildlife. FDOT agreed to convert the road to low span bridges allowing for causeway removal, where found to be feasible.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	175,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	175,000

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)	175,000	25%
Matching Funds		
Federal	350,000	50%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	175,000	25%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	700,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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? 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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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

10/1/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

9/30/2031

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

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.

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	Funds would be transferred to the US Army Corps to complete the Feasibility Study	175,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		175,000

13. Program Performance

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

The goal is to improve understanding of the relationship between circulatory flow, water quality, algae blooms, seagrass cover and marine life in the northern Banana River, the most impaired section of the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem. This knowledge will be applied to federally funded solutions - removing sections of man-made causeway to improve circulation and foster natural recovery of ecosystem services.

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



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Alternatives will be fully developed in the Integrated Feasibility Report and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment. Management measures will be refined and combined to form conceptual alternatives. Alternatives will be screened by evaluation criteria to demonstrate each alternative's effectiveness in meeting project objectives. Additionally, the feasibility study will analyze sea level change (SLC) and qualitatively assess how the SLC rates impact project benefits for all applicable alternatives.

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

The implementation of the selected alternative will allow for the reestablishment and self-generation of seagrass beds and the water flow within the Banana River creating a healthier ecosystem for fish, foraging manatees, other marine life and human use.

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

The Brevard population is 660,000 however many tourists also enjoy using the Indian River Lagoon.

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

The feasibility study will determine the best alternative for improving lagoon health by modifying the 528 causeway. Implementation of the selected alternative will allow for the reestablishment and self-generation of seagrass beds and water flow within the Banana River, creating a healthier ecosystem.

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?

Past performance should be taken into account by bill sponsors. Brevard County continues to meet its deliverables, however there could be a penalty of non-payment until contractual obligations are met.

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):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- ☒ Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- ☐ Resilient Florida Grant Program
- ☐ Wastewater Revolving Loan
- ☐ Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- ☐ Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- ☐ N/A

18. What is the population economic status?

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

19. What is the status of construction?

Right of Way acquisition is scheduled to begin in fall of 2025

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%, FDOT funds for elevating the road have been delayed in their work plan

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

9/30/2031



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22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

23. 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.

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

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.