

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Legislative Agenda – Federal Funding Requests Fiscal Year 2008

DEPARTMENT: County Manager's Office / County Attorney's Office

AUTHORIZED BY: Cindy Coto **CONTACT:** Susan Dietrich Lisa H. Spriggs **EXT** 5736
EXT. 7172

Agenda Date 2/13/07 Regular Consent Work Session Briefing
Public Hearing – 1:30 Public Hearing – 7:00

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Staff seeks Board direction on federal funding requests for the federal fiscal year 2008.

BACKGROUND:

Staff is seeking Board direction on the federal legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying activities for the federal fiscal year 2008. Attached is a draft of suggested federal funding requests and top legislative priorities. Staff has worked with our lobbyist to develop a funding request listing inclusive of four projects that were pursued for funding in the previous year. Additionally, we have added a request for funding for \$1 million toward Jetta Point Park Development.

Upon approval of the listing by the Board a federal funding requests letter will be executed to our congressional delegation, with includes Representatives Mica, Keller and Brown, and Senators Martinez and Nelson. In addition our lobbyist will complete the online appropriations forms for both House Members and Senators.

It is should be noted that in addition to specific funding requests identified by the Board, the County's legislative efforts also focus on issues in conjunction with the National Association of Counties (FAC).

In addition, our lobbyist have advised that as part of the 2007 appropriation cycle, many of the federal agencies received lump-sum funding for various programs that would typically be earmarked by the Congress. Therefore, the expectation is that the agencies will make money available to public entities via the competitive grant process. Therefore, staff will continue to monitor federal grant opportunities through the assistance of our federal lobbyist and grant consultants.

The following items have been previously distributed:

- National Association of Counties 2007 Legislative Priorities
- Alcalde & Fay Project Report Dated February 1, 2007 covering:
 - Outcome of the Fiscal Year 2007 Appropriations Cycle
 - Beginning the Fiscal Year 2008 Congressional Appropriations Process

Reviewed by:
Co Atty: _____
DFS: _____
Other: _____
DCM: _____
CM: _____
File No. LEG 43

Federal Funding Requests

Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & SR 426)	\$7,000,000
Cross FI Greenways Trail – Seminole County/Winter Springs	\$3,500,000
State Road 46 – Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US 1)	\$8,000,000
Computer Aided Dispatch System	\$2,500,000
Jetta Point	\$1,000,000

A. Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & SR 426) - \$7 Million

Request - \$7.0 million to construct a pedestrian overpass at the intersection of Howell Branch Road and State Road 426. The project serves as a regional trail/pedestrian link between Seminole and Orange Counties. It was approved by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025.

Recently, the County has completed the south link of the Cross Seminole Trail, which terminates at the Orange County Line. Orange County will be tying into this section of the trail which will provide a connection to the downtown Orlando Area. The trail serves both recreational and commuter users. In Seminole County it intersects with SR 426 and Howell Branch Road. Approximately 50,000 cars a day pass through this intersection. The pedestrian overpass will enhance the safety at this intersection. The total cost of the project is \$7.0 million for design, right-of-way and construction. Neither the County nor the State has funds at this time.

B. Cross FI Greenways Trail – Seminole County/Winter Springs - \$3.5 Million

Request - \$3.5 million to build the Cross Florida Greenways Trail in Seminole County/Winter Springs. The Cross Florida Greenways Trail is part of a planned connection to Orange County and a regional trail system connection to the Seminole County trail system and eventually part of the Florida National Scenic Trail System. The section of the trail in which the County is seeking funds is in Winter Springs between Layer Elementary School and Old Sanford/Oviedo Road. The project was approved by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025.

The trail serves work, recreational and school access purposes. It also is a “mission link” for a multi-county trail and; therefore, is significant in terms of need and importance. The total cost of the project is \$3.5 million. The County can contribute \$500,000 to this project.

C. State Road 46 – Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US 1) - \$8 Million

Request - \$8.0 million to upgrade state Road 46 from SR 415 to US Highway 1. The funds sought would cover the project development and environment phase of this project, which expands State Road 46 to 4-lanes from SR 415 to US Highway 1 in Brevard County. Widening State Road 46 would significantly improve travel on a regional basis and provide an upgraded hurricane evacuation route. The total cost

of the project is \$120.0 million. The project in Seminole County was approved and adopted by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025.

The County expects the funds to be provided by the Florida Department of Transportation which would be the agency to implement the project since it is a State roadway and serves traffic on a regional basis. As an evacuation route, it directly serves Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Brevard Counties. Indirectly, it would serve as a primary or secondary route for other coastal Counties along the east coast of Florida.

D. Computer Aided Dispatch System – \$2.5 Million

Request \$2.5 Million to replace the County's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System in support of first response for fire rescue and emergency management services. The County utilizes the current CAD system to provide the Public Safety Emergency Communications Center with an automated process to dispatch resources to fire/rescue emergencies in unincorporated Seminole County, all municipalities and the airport property. The CAD receives pertinent location information from the 911 phone data or caller and recommends the appropriate resource response to the emergency. The CAD has provided a fundamental adequacy in its performance, but the system is aging and has not met the integral needs of a system as complex as Seminole County.

The vision is to replace the current CAD system with a product that is compatible with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office CAD, will have a life span of approximately 10 years and will continue to serve all fire jurisdictions in Seminole County. The new CAD will be a resource, more than a dispatch tool. It will be a conduit from other sources to provide a wealth of information to all first responders regardless of geo-political boundary. With this vision in mind the new CAD will provide instantaneous data to the responders and be able to share data with other responding agencies.

The current CAD system does not fully interface with other applications. With jurisdictional issues and the changing demographics of our community, a CAD programmed with current technology will be both efficient and technically sound, demanding accuracy in dispatching to improve emergency response times. Public Safety operates with one CAD to dispatch fire/rescue responses to all Seminole County and municipal addresses. The Sheriff's Office also provides emergency communications services for the County and all local municipalities, culminating with 100% participation.

It is imperative to maintain a CAD system with the ability to interface with the Sheriff's Office. Since the event of 9/11, interoperability has been identified as a leading focus to bring communication centers together to improve system efficiency. Barriers are eliminated if both CAD's communicate effortlessly. Public Safety maintains information such as hazardous materials and occupancy, whereas the Sheriff's Office may maintain law enforcement information on the same address, currently this is not shared. With the ease of data transmissions, this information can be shared. The goal is, "When you access an address you will know everything the County knows about it." The CAD's will share information for a common and efficient response.

E. Jetta Point Park Development - \$1.0 Million

Request \$1.0 million toward the development of Jetta Point Park a \$9.9 million park development project. The remaining funding will come from general revenue of the county maximized by state grant funding. This is a 43-acre site with parcels purchased by Seminole County in 2002 and 2005 respectively. The property is adjacent to a trailhead with a 40 space parking lot and restroom that leads to Seminole County's Cross Seminole Trail which opened in 1998. The property is in the planning stage of development as a park. Economic impact is largely related to tourism, though the project may encourage further development in the area. Planned facilities include:

- 4 Lighted Multipurpose Athletic Fields
- 4 Lighted Fast Pitch Softball Fields
- Destination Playground & Tot Lot
- Pavilions and Restrooms
- Boardwalk

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