



City of Port St. Lucie

2025 Proposed Federal Legislative Program

DRAFT: 11/19/24

WATER QUALITY/WATER SUPPLY

ST. LUCIE RIVER/C-23 WATER QUALITY PROJECT AT MCCARTY RANCH FUNDING, FEDERAL PERMITTING AND PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE PROJECT

BENEFIT:

This project will minimize the fresh water and nutrient discharges into the C-23 Canal, and then, into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. When the entire project is complete, it will take 1,871 acres of fallow citrus grove and convert it into a shallow water quality and treatment facility. Every year, this project will keep up to 21 percent of nutrient-laden discharges from entering the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, protecting the quality of its water.

REQUESTS:

- The City is seeking federal appropriations totaling \$10 million to support construction of Phase 7A of the St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Project at McCarty Ranch.
- The City is seeking federal partnerships, including opportunities to expedite permitting, to advance completion of the project, and improve water quality on the C-23 Canal and St. Lucie River.
- The City is seeking partnerships and funding to potentially purchase additional land for the project and other water quality projects.

RANGELINE ROAD REVERSE OSMOSIS WATER TREATMENT PLANT

REQUESTS: \$6 million to support design/build of this critical treatment plant.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

REAL-TIME PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS CENTER

REQUEST: Support for planning/design

This project would include a dedicated Emergency Operations Center, Realtime Crime Center and Traffic Operations Center to advance City traffic operations, improve our ability to effectively respond to the 250,000 residents in the City’s 121 square miles and remain the safest large city in Florida.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SOUTHERN GROVE & CITY JOBS CORRIDOR

BENEFIT:

The City's Jobs Corridor in Southern Grove is generating new jobs and opportunities in Port St. Lucie, a key priority of the City Council. The City is also seeking to develop job corridors in other locations of the City.

REQUEST:

- The City of Port St Lucie is seeking funding assistance for roadway and other infrastructure improvement projects in the City's current and future jobs corridors through available federal sources to advance job creation and economic development.

WALTON & ONE REVITALIZATION

BENEFIT:

The Walton & One project is a 46-acre mixed use redevelopment project located on U.S. 1 in Port St. Lucie. Walton & One is planned as a multi-year redevelopment project to create a vibrant, walkable destination consisting of retail, restaurant, and residential uses. It is anchored by the 100,000 square foot MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Event Center with 20,000 square feet of meeting space, a fitness center, art gallery, outdoor stage, interactive fountain, public parking garage, and open space network that includes pedestrian and bike friendly trails system.

The City has developed a cohesive, realistic, and attainable development plan. The City will then use this plan to pave a path for moving forward with future development at Walton & One and creating a destination for the east side of Port St. Lucie.

REQUEST:

- The City of Port St Lucie will seek federal grant assistance to support implementation of the Master Plan where federal priorities align.

TRANSPORTATION

ADVANCE KEY TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS

BENEFIT:

Federal investment will accelerate the construction of key transportation corridors necessary to support the City's infrastructure and serve the growing city

REQUEST:

The City is seeking federal appropriations support for the following roadways:

- SW California Boulevard Planning (currently included in the FY 24 Proposed House Budget) and Construction
- St. Lucie West Boulevard Planning and Construction

MARSHALL PARKWAY/I-95 INTERCHANGE STUDY

REQUEST: Support for study

The Marshall Parkway/I-95 interchange is a future interchange that requires studies, state approval and designated funding. The City supports advancing funding to begin to evaluate the interchange from Tom Mackie Boulevard to the Interchange given the growing population and to centrally service one of the larger employment and industrial freight activity zones in the region.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM

BENEFIT

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program that will provide \$3-4 billion in grants over the next 3 years. Funding supports regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

REQUEST

Support the City's future applications to carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STRENGTHENING MOBILITY AND REVOLUTIONIZING TRANSPORTATION (SMART) GRANT PROGRAM

BENEFIT

The Office of the Secretary's Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant program provides supplemental funding grants to rural, midsized, and large communities to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems in a variety of communities to improve transportation efficiency and safety.

In general, a Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grant may be used to carry out a project that demonstrates at least one of the following:

- Coordinates Automation
- Connected Vehicles
- Intelligent, sensor-based infrastructure
- Systems integration
- Commerce delivery and logistics
- Leveraging use of innovative aviation technology
- Smart grid
- Smart technology traffic signals

REQUEST

Support the City of Port St. Lucie’s applications to advance smart city technology in alignment with the strategic plan.

PARKS & RECREATION

OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PROGRAM

BENEFIT:

The state of Florida will be participating in the Outdoor Recreation Legacy grant this year, a long-time legislative priority of the City. The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program was established in 2014 and is funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. ORLP is a nationally competitive program targeting grant assistance to help economically disadvantaged urban communities with no, or almost no, access to publicly available, close-by, outdoor recreation. Funds can be used for the acquisition and/or development of, or to substantially renovate obsolete, public parks and other outdoor recreation spaces. Projects are selected for funding by the Director of the National Park Service.

REQUEST:

The City is in the process of identifying a project that qualifies for the program to prepare for the release of the new funding opportunities .This may include land acquisition and/or park amenities for the upcoming grant cycle. A 50% to 50% match is required. The City of Port St. Lucie will ultimately seek a \$1,000,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to support construction of parks and recreation amenities. The City requests support for this grant and other federal funding partnerships.

LAND ACQUISITION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN SPACES

REQUEST

The City is exploring acquiring parcels in areas outside of any 10 minute walking distance to a park in an area with high-population density. The City is seeking federal resources to support land acquisition.

BENEFIT

Acquisition would preserve and expand the tree canopy and provide high-performance public spaces.

OTHER REQUESTS:

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Request to support Design of Village Green Drive

REQUEST:

Thank the US DOT for their support of the City’s planning grant and prepare to seek construction funding from a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

Following conclusion of the design of the corridor, Port St. Lucie will seek RAISE construction funding to support construction of the Village Green Complete Street Corridor (from U.S. Highway 1 to SW Tiffany Avenue). DOT assistance will help Port St. Lucie complete infrastructure improvements to improve mobility, enhance pedestrian and biking opportunities, promote economic development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and advance equity.

U.S Department of Transportation Charging and Fuel Infrastructure Program

BENEFIT:

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) establishes the new Charging and Fuel Infrastructure Program, which offers grants to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure in the places people live and work. Funding is available to install charging stations in communities across America.

REQUEST:

Support the City’s future application seeking electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

INDIAN RIVER LAGOON-SOUTH (IRL-S)/COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (CERP)

REQUEST:

Support funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and the Indian River Lagoon-South Restoration Project (IRL-S). Specifically, the City supports the completion of the C-23 and C-24 reservoir projects and associated storm water treatment area. The City supports continuing implementation of all facets of Everglades restoration, including funding for continued work on the Central Everglades Planning Project, the Herbert Hoover Dike, and the Tamiami Trail bridging project to send more water south and reduce the need to send water through the St. Lucie River to the Indian River Lagoon during wet periods. The City supports funding partnerships with federal, state and local governments and improved policy and processes to advance restoration and water quality through local projects such as the McCarty Ranch Water Quality Project and continuing to advance the City’s septic to sewer conversion program, one of the nation’s largest municipal conversion programs.

VETERAN’S MENTAL HEALTH

THE ISSUE:

The U.S. Census estimates 15,464 veterans live in Port St. Lucie. Growing research is pointing to concerns and the need to support the mental health of our nation’s veterans. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, approximately “11–20% of veterans experience PTSD in a given year — significantly higher than past-year estimates for the general population at less than 4%. Suicide rates of military service members and veterans are also at an all-time high, with deaths by suicide having increased by 25% during 2020.”

REQUEST:

Support the National League of Cities statement that all levels of government have an obligation to support members of the armed services who have made sacrifices to preserve the freedom of the American people. Specifically, support the NLC’s request for ensuring comprehensive mental health services are available to veterans and their families. In addition, support funding for programs to help veterans address invisible wounds from service including the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, Mission Daybreak, and the Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

- Support maintaining funding for federal programs including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant and funding for any City federal or state grant application.
- Expand eligibility of FEMA’s Community Disaster Resilience Zones program to include Port St. Lucie, in order to receive targeted assistance for Hazard Resilience.
- Support opportunities for direct funding to cities such as direct funding to support cybersecurity, in alignment with the National League of Cities and Florida League of Cities.

KEY FEDERAL GRANTS THE CITY IS PURSUING IN 2025-2026:

National Park Service – Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant (up to \$5 million, 1:1 match - requires state participation)

National Park Service (through State) – Land & Water Conservation Fund

U.S. Department of Transportation – RAISE Grant

U.S. Department of Justice – Community Policing Development Microgrant (\$50,000) or Technology Microgrant for Training Facility

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

U.S. Department of Transportation Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program

National Endowment for the Arts – Our Town (up to \$200,000), Grants for Arts (\$200,000) – Implementation of Awarded Grants, Seeking Additional Funding

Federal Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant (through State)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (through State) – Hazard Mitigation Grants

Economic Development Administration – Public Works (up to \$3 million) if eligible project

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Building Blocks Technical Assistance

PROGRAMS WE ARE SUPPORTING:

ST. LUCIE COUNTY’S FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Support St. Lucie County’s Federal Legislative Agenda and common priorities in the areas of Water Resources and Environment, Health and Human Services and General Administration.

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES 2025 FEDERAL ACTION AGENDA

Support the Florida League of Cities 2023 Federal Action Agenda and the Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) and advocacy efforts.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES 2025 FEDERAL ACTION AGENDA

Support the National League of Cities Federal Action Agenda in areas of alignment with the City of Port St. Lucie’s priorities.