

2008
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR
SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA



★ Federal Funding Requests ★

As Congress prepares to begin work on appropriations legislation for FY 2009, Seminole County Government is requesting federal funding for the following projects:



State Road 46 – Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US 1)
The County respectfully requests \$4 million to develop State Road 46 from SR 415 to US Highway 1. The funds sought would cover a portion of the project development and environment phase of this project (estimated at a total cost of \$8.0 million), 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 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. Seminole County is seeking funding for this regional transportation project.



Commuter Rail Stations - \$2 million
On Nov. 30, 2007, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and CSX Transportation (CSXT) signed agreements to bring Commuter Rail to Central Florida, providing both convenience and new opportunities for Floridians who live and work along the 61.5-mile corridor, from Deland in Volusia County to Poinciana in Osceola County.

The project total is estimated to be \$615 million and will include four stations in Seminole County to be located in Sanford, Lake Mary, Longwood and Altamonte Springs. The project will help meet the growing needs of the state, reduce highway congestion, increase protection for the environment and enhance transportation capacity for consumer goods and other products. The FDOT also signed "Letters of Understanding" with bus providers Lynx and Votran to augment the Commuter Rail project. Funds are being sought by the cities from the Bus and Bus Facilities Program, a federal program by which there are potential earmark funds available for development of the stations. The station sites to be located at Altamonte, Lake Mary and Sanford have received the necessary environmental clearances to move forward with land acquisition. The project is funded primarily by state dollars for the first seven years. Seminole County supports additional funding to support the cities for enhancement of the standard rail stations through the Bus and Bus Facilities Program.



Regional Surface Water Facility at Yankee Lake
The County respectfully requests \$4 million for construction of a new regional alternative water treatment facility allowing Seminole County and other Central Florida regional utilities to meet state initiatives to reduce the reliance on groundwater.

This new facility will include a river intake, raw water pump station, and a pipeline to convey the raw water from the St. Johns River to the new treatment facility. The project will reduce Seminole County's reliance on fresh groundwater by increasing the production of reclaimed water and will protect the Wekiva Basin springflow. State funding requested to assist in the construction of the facility in the amount of \$10,000,000. Seminole County will provide \$38,000,000 in matching funds. The project is addressed in the Seminole County Comprehensive Plan and St. John's River Water Management District Water Supply Plan through the Water Resource Development Act. Seminole County is seeking additional funding to support the construction of the new regional alternative water treatment facility.



State Road 429 – Wekiva Parkway & SR 46 Bypass
The Wekiva Parkway, which is being developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – District 5 and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, is believed to be critical to accommodate intensifying growth and inter-county travel between Lake, Seminole, and Orange counties.

The 25-mile project would relieve congestion on US Highway 441, State Road 46 and local roads, and complete the beltway on the west side of Metropolitan Orlando. FDOT is overseeing development of the Lake and Seminole County portions of the roadway. An environmental study is pending by FDOT. Lake County listed this project as a legislative priority. Seminole County supports the development of the Wekiva Parkway.

★ Top Federal Legislative Issues for Monitoring ★

- ★ **Oppose unfunded mandates or any bills that preempt local government authority.**
- ★ **Support efforts to assist state and local governments with methamphetamine crisis.**
- ★ **Support funding of federal grant programs for public safety, emergency management, and affordable housing.**



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