

# 2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR





## STATE FUNDING REQUESTS



### A. Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & State Road 426) - \$7,000,000

#### Sponsorship: Senator Posey and Representative Simmons

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 Florida Greenways Trail – Seminole County/Winter Springs - \$3,500,000

#### Sponsorship: Senator Constantine and Representative Simmons

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 “missing 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) - \$8,000,000

#### Sponsorship: Senator Posey and Representative Adams

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. Sweetwater Cove - Tributary to the Wekiva River - \$200,000

#### Sponsorship: Senator Constantine and Representative Hays

Request - \$200,000 for hydraulic dredging to remove 55,000 cubic yards of sediment and provide stormwater treatment that will reduce nutrients in Sweetwater Cove, and which discharges into the Wekiva River. Nutrient reductions from this project will include a 34% reduction of nitrogen and 50% reduction of phosphorus. These treatment removal rates are in line with the draft Wekiva River and Rock Springs Run pollutant load reduction goals, August 2006, developed by the St. Johns River Water Management District. The project has been identified in the Restoration Plan for Sweetwater Cove.

Sweetwater Cove is a tributary which discharges directly into the Wekiva River, just downstream from Wekiwa Springs State Park. Sweetwater Cove is a 23 acre interconnected lake system. It has a watershed of 1,150 acres, which has minimal stormwater management facilities in a heavily urbanized area. This project will supplement the Sweetwater Creek and Tributary Erosion Control Project constructed in the fall of 2005, which installed weirs, wetland plantings and a sedimentation basin upstream of Sweetwater Cove.



### E. Museum of Seminole County History - Education Multi-Purpose Program Building- \$500,000

#### Sponsorship: Senator Constantine and Representative Mealor

Request - \$500,000 in grant funding through the Florida Department of State, Florida Arts Council, Cultural Facilities Grant Program to provide support in funding the renovation, construction, or acquisition of cultural facilities. Seminole County Government has submitted an application for the construction of the Museum of Seminole County History – Education Multi-Purpose Building in the amount of \$500,000 with county support of the project at \$1.5 million for a total project cost of \$2.0 million.

On the first level, the Museum of Seminole County History – Education Multi-Purpose Program Building will feature large pieces of farm equipment; space for receiving and processing new artifacts; and a holding space for traveling exhibits until they are assembled and displayed. The second level will be used for research and lecture spaces. All research and reference materials (i.e. books, micro-film reader and cabinet, maps and cabinet, computers, conference room tables and chairs) will be relocated to the new building, increasing available exhibit space in the original building. Also on the second floor will be meeting and lecture space for educational programs. At a 100-person capacity, this space will accommodate programs such as summer camp presentations for students, cultural and historical lectures, and other educational programs for both students and adults.

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- ★ **SUPPORT funding for Driver Education Programs for young adults.**
- ★ **SUPPORT Local Option Rental Car Surcharge legislation giving counties the authority to implement a local option rental car surcharge tax for transportation related improvements.**
- ★ **SUPPORT Charter County Transit System Surtax legislation authorizing all counties to implement the Charter County Transit System Surtax, provided, however, that such legislation does not impact or otherwise alter the existing authority of those counties currently permitted to levy the tax.**
- ★ **SUPPORT a holistic approach to Property Tax Reform that looks to modify the tax structure in an effort to rebalance the property tax system for all property owners.**
- ★ **OPPOSE Expenditure and Revenue Caps since they are not “one size fits all” for local governments and could negatively impact essential service delivery to our citizens.**
- ★ **OPPOSE efforts to diminish or eliminate County Home Rule Authority on items such as impact fees, protection of rural and environmentally sensitive lands, growth management, annexations, etc.**
- ★ **OPPOSE any Shifting of Costs for government services and programs from the state to counties, unless state and county elected officials deliberatively evaluate the appropriate funding and delivery of intergovernmental service responsibility.**

***Board of County Commissioners***

*Carlton Henley, Chairman*

*Brenda Carey, Vice Chairman*

*Bob Dallari, Commissioner*

*Mike McLean, Commissioner*

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