



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2974

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Funds are requested to begin project planning and completing permitting and design work for a pedestrian footbridge to cross the Yellow River in Okaloosa County to close a major gap of the Florida National Scenic Trail in Okaloosa County connecting the FNST section in Eglin Air Force Base to conservation lands managed by NFWFMD. This infrastructure is the missing link that will make possible a major re-route of the FNST from road walks onto footpaths on public land.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	900,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	900,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	900,000	90%
Matching Funds		
Federal	100,000	10%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future 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.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Okaloosa County BCC has expended approximately \$37 million in federal assistance for a variety of costs as a result of COVID. Okaloosa County is also receiving \$40 million in ARPA funding for a variety of projects.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. 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.

13. 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	Okaloosa County will contract with a professional engineering firm to complete site surveys, bridge design, acquisition of necessary permits, cultural/historical/environmental surveys and reviews and development of construction plans and specifications. The bridge will be designed consistent with the FNST Comprehensive Plan and FNST Strategic Plan.	900,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		900,000

14. Program Performance

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



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A successful outcome for this stage will include a site survey, bridge design, acquisition of all necessary permits, and compliance with all necessary cultural, historic, and environmental review processes. Okaloosa County, in partnership with the Florida Trail Association and USFS, will pursue local funding and grants to complete construction of the bridge and remaining trail gap.

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

Okaloosa County will contract with a professional engineering firm to complete site surveys, bridge design, acquisition of necessary permits, cultural/historical/environmental surveys and reviews and development of construction plans and specifications. The bridge will be designed consistent with the FNST Comprehensive Plan and FNST Strategic Plan.

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

Once the bridge and trail gap construction is complete, the provision of additional FNST routes will be available to citizens.

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

Our target population is primarily local recreational trail users from the communities of Crestview, Niceville, and Fort Walton Beach, as well as tourists from throughout Florida and beyond. The Florida National Scenic Trail also attracts a growing annual number of thru-hikers, visitors who intend to hike the entire length of the 1,500 mile trail, and who will benefit from a safe and protected route through this region. While we don't have trail counter data for this specific site, a location elsewhere in the Panhandle reported 4,557 annual users.

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

The expected outcome is to have construction ready plans and specifications to bid out the construction of the bridge.

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 the contract?

Standard contract penalties and/or revocation of grant funds to be considered for failing to meet deliverables or performance standards.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. 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



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University or College

Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number