



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3439

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The project involves seeking funding to extend the taxiway at the Whiting Aviation Industrial Park by approximately 500-600 linear feet. This extension aims to enhance the park's operational capacity, making it more attractive to aviation sector clients considering relocation to the State of Florida. The Whiting Aviation Industrial Park has established itself as a key hub for aviation-related businesses, providing a strategic location for companies involved in manufacturing, maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services, as well as flight training and logistics. By extending the taxiway, the project aims to create a more appealing environment for aviation sector clients, particularly those looking to relocate or expand operations in Florida. Improved facilities can attract a diverse range of businesses, from small startups to large corporations seeking a strategic location with access to necessary aviation infrastructure.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	850,000
Total State Funds Requested	850,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	850,000	16%
Matching Funds		
Federal	4,000,000	73%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	600,000	11%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	5,450,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	1,500,000	2341A	No

9. **Is future-year 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.**



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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. 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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

08/04/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/26/2026

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Maintenance of the taxiway will be paid by Santa Rosa County

11. 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.

Taxiway will be a county owned asset

12. 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		0
Operational Costs		
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	Construction of 500-600 linear foot taxiway	850,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		850,000

13. Program Performance

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

Extending the taxiway will enhance Whiting Aviation Industrial Park capacity to attract new businesses and aviation-related companies, stimulating local economic growth and job creation. With the availability of an extended taxiway, the area can attract federal and private investments, leveraging the initial state funding to generate a larger economic impact. As other regions invest in their aviation infrastructure, it's crucial for Whiting Aviation Industrial Park to enhance its capabilities to remain competitive and relevant in the aviation sector. Overall, the requested state appropriation is a strategic investment that promises significant returns in terms of economic vitality, and regional development.



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

Taxiway extension construction is the primary activity and will involve the physical construction of the extended taxiway, which will require site preparation, paving, and installation of necessary infrastructure.

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

- 1) Job Creation: The construction and subsequent operation of the extended taxiway will create both temporary and permanent job opportunities in various sectors, including construction, aviation services, and maintenance.
- 2) Economic Growth: As the industrial park attracts new aviation-related businesses, citizens will benefit from increased economic activity, leading to potential higher wages and improved local services.
- 3) Community Development: With the growth of local businesses, there may be investments in community facilities and services, enhancing the overall quality of life for residents.
- 4) Training and Skill Development Programs: Citizens may have access to training programs related to aviation, construction, and other relevant fields, helping them enhance their skills and employability.

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

- 1) Local Residents: Citizens living in the surrounding areas will benefit from job creation, improved access to aviation services, and economic growth that enhances their quality of life.
- 2) Job Seekers: Individuals looking for employment opportunities in construction, aviation, and related sectors will have access to new jobs generated by the project and the businesses it attracts.
- 3) Local Entrepreneurs: Small business owners and entrepreneurs in the area can take advantage of increased economic activity and demand for goods and services, potentially leading to partnerships and contracts with new tenants.
- 4) Educational Institutions: Local schools and vocational training centers may engage with the project to offer training programs, providing students with relevant skills for emerging job opportunities in aviation and construction. Once operational, the Industrial Park may support hundreds of permanent jobs across various aviation-related businesses.

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

Expected Benefits/Outcomes:

- 1) Economic Growth: Increased business activity and economic development in the region.
- 2) Job Creation: Generation of temporary construction jobs and permanent positions in new and existing businesses.
- 3) Expanded Business Opportunities: Attraction of new aviation-related companies, increasing the diversity of services offered in the park.
- 4) Increased Tax Revenues: Higher tax revenues that can be reinvested into community services and infrastructure.
- 5) Strengthened Regional Competitiveness: Positioning the park as a more attractive site for aviation businesses.

Measurement:

- 1) Number of new jobs, number of new companies establishing in the industrial park, changes in local GDP, and overall economic activity in the region,

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 in the contract?

Penalties could include:

- 1) Corrective Action Plan
- 2) Increase oversight
- 3) Withholding payments

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)



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b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)



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- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.